

All Maine Matters

Fishery Notes - Farming & Forestry, too!

Vol. 1, No. 5 May 2006

FREE

On the Nature of Government

by John Frary

When officials in this state and a number of others provided Viagra to sex offenders, they were carrying out a federal directive according to their best understanding. It appears that in most states, common sense prevailed while Maine's officials behaved in proper bureaucratic fashion. Regularity, objectivity, precision and predictability are the ideal virtues of bureaucracies. Rules, regulations and procedures are devised to embody these virtues and suppress the exercise of common sense.

Common sense is too variable. It is irregular and unpredictable because it addresses actual situations rather than the generalities and averages embodied in the rule books. It is subjective because it is based on individual human judgment. It lacks precision for the same reason.

The bureaucratic virtues are not useless or contemptible, but they virtually guarantee that the operations of government will be cumbersome, slow, expensive, and sometimes inane. Any reasonable person familiar with bureaucratic structures can provide examples illustrating this rule. I offer a few of my own.

Some time back in the late fifties, Frary Wood Turning Co. received a visit from a federal official who came to inventory its resources with a view to determining its role in a national mobilization to fight World War III. The man completed his inspection in an hour or so and, on his way out, my father inquired about a federal contract for the manufacture of tent pegs. An address was provided, an inquiry was sent, and in short order, a thick manila envelope arrived with information about

the necessary procedures. More envelopes followed until Frary Wood Turning Co. accumulated about three pounds of forms, rules, regulations, procedures, and copies of relevant statutes.

Now a small wood turner with expectation of a normal lifespan and only his wife to assist him in the office does not spend his time sifting through three pounds of federal paper. He feeds them into his steam boiler to heat the dry kiln and goes on with life.

Bearing in mind that, next to a dowel, a tent peg is about the easiest product a wood turner can turn, let us consider an order from a private company for a complicated ornamental curtain rod finial. It has three parts: a base with multiple curves fitted into a kind of trumpet, tipped with a little ball. A letter of one or two pages arrives accompanied by a blueprint of the design. The manufacturer sends back a letter of one or two pages quoting a price, proposing delivery times and, perhaps, recommending some changes profitable to both parties. A letter of acceptance or rejection is returned. The paperwork is done.

My father's reminiscence amplifies the point of this story. During World War I, my grandfather's company in western Massachusetts turned a couple million tent pegs, so many that Washington sent a resident inspector. This man had a good war. He showed up at the mill around ten in the morning, loafed around the office swilling coffee, broke for lunch and a spell of croquet around

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Lake Onawa: As seen from the boat ramp at Onawa.

America, While You Were Sleeping

by Vincent Fiore

The setting is a common room in Maspeth, Queens, an old and history-laden area within the sprawling metropolis that is New York. In the common room, about 15 to 20 tradesmen await the time-clock's imminent arrival of 3:00 p.m., and quitting time.

Always abuzz with the day's doings — job-related tales and technical jargon fit only for the ears of these technocrats of the Trades — I decide to liven it up (once again) by pursuing my favorite topic, politics.

Needless to say, most of the time I am poked fun at by my fellow mates. But once in a while, they seem to tolerate me and my fondness for political pursuits. The areas of discussion vary greatly, from drilling for oil in ANWAR, to whether Rudy Giuliani will run for office in 2008.

But the political flavor of the day this time was — in case you were comatose these last two weeks — immigration. Since the group was fairly representative of New York's

famed "melting pot," I thought that the discussion would be wide-ranging and informative.

I soon realized that my brother workers — my friends and fellow Americans — cared about immigration about as much as Bill Clinton cared about fidelity within the institution of marriage, specifically his. Yes, that much.

Try as I might — and I raised more than a few hackles here — nobody really seemed to care. I was even patronized by an otherwise even-headed and good-hearted friend who said to me: "Well, thank God the rest of us have you around to fight these battles for the rest of us," as he snickered aloud, thereby leading the way for the others to react in the same manner.

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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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The Token Conservative

by Jon Reisman

Ice Out, Peas and Global Warming

The ice on Cathance Lake went out on March 29th this year and I put my peas in on April 11th, my earliest ever. National Geographic, Time, Newsweek and Governor Baldacci all say global warming is real, the science is settled and we need to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions now. And it really won't cost that much. Really.

The climate is changing. It's always changing. Although Maine has actually cooled slightly over the last 125 years, temperatures have generally risen about a degree Fahrenheit or so. If there is such a thing as a "global average surface temperature", it rose from 1880 to 1940 or so, dipped from 1940 to 1975, and has risen, perhaps alarmingly so, since then. Of course, the satellite data, unless massaged, shows no warming.

In the early to mid seventies the environmentalists and supportive media were warning of a new ice age; there's a classic Newsweek story on global

cooling warning of dire consequences and speculating on expensive but vital climate engineering efforts. There was even a cold war element- the Russians were working on weather control technology. There was even "nuclear winter."

The global cooling threat evaporated but now we have global warming and climate change. Climate change happens. So too does climate change policy. And therein lays a tale.

Governor Baldacci and the environmental industry are insisting that global warming:

- is happening
- is really scary (rising sea levels, disappearing maple sugar shacks)
- is our fault
- can be stopped (check out the Natural Resources Council of Maine's web site) and
- really won't cost that much. Really.

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

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In Search of Excellence in Augusta

by Rep. Rich Cebra

In reflecting on the current situation in Augusta, it is hard to find, from this administration, any principles of sound government. I would like to share with you what I believe to be seven principles of good public policy. Think of them as guideposts to good government.

1. Free people are not equal and equal people are not free. I am not talking about equality before the law. It is a foundational principle of our rule of law that the law must treat us equally. What I am talking about is the different talents and abilities we all have that make us all better at some things than others. When it comes to employment, people who excel in an area should be compensated for those skills. It is an illusion that the state can make us financially equal. It cannot. If this were possible, and somehow the government made us all financially equal tomorrow, we would not all be financially equal next week, because we all have individual needs and priorities. The state often attempts to make us equal by redistributing wealth through government programs paid for with your taxes.

2. What is yours, you take care of, what belongs to everybody falls into disrepair. This is sometimes referred to as "the tragedy of the commons." Private property is taken care of by its owners. They are invested in their property, and it's important to them to protect what they have worked for. What belongs to the public needs to be taken care of by the government. It is one of the basic functions of government - to take care of what we as a society have invested our collective wealth in. I'm talking about such things as roads, parks, public lands and public schools. Unfortunately, when no one owns a particular thing, no one cares deeply about protecting it.

3. The long-term effects of what the government does must be considered before we enter into a new program or scheme. Someone once said that today is the tomorrow that government bad policy from yesterday is affecting. This is a true statement. Look at the condition of the state government. Many of the problems we are encountering today in the areas of health and human services, immigration, transportation, and public education are all borne out of the policies put in place in the past. For us to avoid future troubles, we need to look at the long-term effects of policy being discussed today without the cloud of special interest groups or an entrenched government bureaucracy lobbying to preserve their jobs.

4. When you encourage something, you get more of it; when you discourage something, you get less of it. This may sound simple, but as an example, look at the state of affairs in immigration. Had we encouraged people to enter this country legally and discouraged the underground economy of illegal immigration 20 years ago, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in today. There are many areas of government, on the federal, state and local levels, that provide examples of this, from long-term dependence on social programs to encouraging entrepreneurship.

5. No one spends someone else's money as well as they spend their own. One public policy theory states that there are only four ways to spend money. They are: You, spending your money on yourself. You, spending your money on someone else. You., spending someone else's money on yourself. And you, spending someone else's money on someone else. History shows us that some people in government find it very easy to spend other people's money on other people. That is obvious to the casual observer. Human nature shows us that when you spend your own money, you will be more responsible than when spending someone else's money. That's why we need to make it harder for government to take your money to begin with.

6. Government has nothing to give the people except what it first takes from the people. A government big enough to give people everything they want is big enough to take everything you have. Those of us who work toward less and smaller government understand this and are trying to keep the government intrusion in our lives in check. It is a constant battle between two vastly different points of view. Do we stand for free enterprise and people making something of themselves, or do we want the state to take care of us from cradle to grave with countless programs and benefits in a never ending social state on the working people's dime.

7. Liberty makes all the difference in the world. Liberty is defined as: The right and power to act, believe, or express oneself in a manner of one's own choosing; the ability to determine one's own future. We need to defend our liberties from those who are constantly trying to take them from us. Look at some countries that have completely stripped people of their liberties - Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge regime and currently North Korea, where there are no liberties. In both cases, almost one third of the population has died under government oppression. Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who sacrifice their liberties for the sake of security deserve neither liberty nor security." We need to listen to him. These seven principles of public policy are a good starting point in determining the success of the American experiment in self-government. If we follow these principles, and have the right kind of leadership, we can put the federal and state governments back on the right track.

Representative Rich Cebra, a small business owner, represents the 101st House District, including Casco, Naples and part of Poland. www.steamboatlandingminigolf.com. Married 14 years with two children, Rich is active in local affairs on the Naples Budget Committee and Naples Main Street revitalization committee. He is a charter member of the Naples Lions club, a life member of the NRA, a member of SAM and the Citizens Alliance of Maine, and is an active supporter of the Right to Life movement. He is active in supporting TABOR and promoting the idea of smaller more efficient government whenever he can.

" I am concerned for the security of our great nation; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within.

General Douglas MacArthur

Whatever Happened to Limited Government?

by Justin Darr

For some reason, Republicans are scratching their heads and wondering why their poll numbers are crashing, their public support waning, and the fact they might lose seats in Congress during the mid-term elections

Well, here is a reason or two why: over the last 6 years our Republican controlled government has produced the highest levels of government spending in history, soaring deficits, excessive government regulation that intrudes even further into the lives of regular Americans, the belief that the best way to solve the problems of a massive, government bureaucracy is to make it even larger, and the systematic replacement of the promises made to the Conservative base with lip service.

It might seem like a long time ago, but once, the Republicans were the party of limited government. A party that believed the best way to govern Americans was to let them govern themselves, make their own choices, and decide on their own what was right and wrong, rather than relying on some faceless bureaucrats. A party so bold as to make a "Contract with America," that challenged the voters to take them at their word, and if they did not live up to it, then elect them out of office.

Those days are just a dim memory today, because the Republican Party has fallen in love with big government.

Republicans have forgotten the obvious. The only thing government is good at doing is spending money and screwing up. And, for the past several years, Republicans have placed their faith in the ability of government agencies and legislation to solve our nation's problems rather than common sense and personal responsibility.

In the wake of September 11th, when our nation faced the new challenge of protecting itself at home from foreign enemies, the obvious solution to the problem was the mobilization of the American people to assist in their own defense. Our government should have urged us to be vigilant. Stay alert for suspicious activities and report them to the authorities for investigation, cooperate with law enforcement, and show solidarity for the war effort with our friends and neighbors.

However, this common sense approach to Homeland Security was, evidently, not quite politically correct enough for the Republicans. After all, simply acknowledging the fact that every one of the 9/11 terrorists was a young Muslim male of Mid-Eastern descent is now considered hate speech. Taking the next logical step and saying, "If there is ever another 9/11-type attack in America,

its perpetrators will almost definitely come from the exact same demographic," will get you branded with the Scarlet "I" of "intolerance" faster than you can say G.O.P.

Instead, our government chose to grant Islam "Most Favored Peaceful Religion Status," spend billions of dollars on the Department of Homeland Security and federalize airport security.

Do not let all those people killed and embassies burned because Mohammad was portrayed in a cartoon, or the fact that every instance of international terrorism over the past five years has been committed by Muslims fool you. Islam is a religion of peace and the best way to combat the subversive elements that seek to distort it is to harass business travelers with an extra carry-on bag, and a color coded threat assessment scale that would stay on yellow if the world was cracking in two.

Who knows, maybe the next Mohammad Atta will be Grandma Maynard with her walker. More than likely, this is not the case, and all the time, money, and resources spent so far on upgrading domestic security with the exclusion of actively profiling likely terrorists has made the entire endeavor a waste of time. But wasting time, money, and resources is what government is good at, so I guess in a perverted sort of way, we have got both our money's worth, and what we asked for.

The sad truth is the Republicans should have known better. The very fact that they chose this path is indicative of just how far they have moved away from their Conservative base.

Whether it is Republicans proposing nothing but expanding Federal authority and spending to solve the illegal immigration issue, or trying to address of the failures of Hurricane Katrina by making the federal bureaucracy even bigger by adding F.E.M.A. into the Department of Homeland Security, more and more the Republicans are looking like the Democrats they ousted from power over a decade ago. And, if the Republicans continue to act like the Democrats of the past, they will share their fate.

Justin Darr is a freelance writer living in the Philadelphia area with his wife and twin children. He can be read widely on the Internet and in publications across North America and in Europe. He is a staff writer for The New Media Alliance, and proud member of the MoveOff Network.

" Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of something. They know that there is a power somewhere so organized, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so pervasive, that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it.

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Lake Onawa: As seen from the boat ramp at Onawa.



Advertising

by Ken Anderson

Over the past several years, since I've been involved in conservative causes, I have often heard complaints about the liberal media, and I've sat in meetings where a topic of discussion was how we were going to get our conservative message out.

It wasn't until I began publishing a conservative newspaper, first online, and now with my involvement with All Maine Matters, that I began to realize a contributing cause to some of these valid complaints.

As conservatives, we don't support our own, at least not to the extent that liberals support those who carry their message.

This will be our fifth edition of All Maine Matters, and it still isn't paying for itself; not even the publishing expenses, let alone the cost of distribution, software, etc.

My wife and I have both spoken to conservative business owners, people who agree with us, yet who say that they are afraid to advertise with All Maine Matters because they don't want to involve their business in politics.

These people are not afraid to advertise in the Bangor Daily or the Portland Press.

Since we've been publishing All Maine Matters, I make a habit of picking up other small newspapers throughout the state, and it is quite clear that the most leftist publications you could imagine have no shortage of advertisers. While it may be true that conservative businesses owners don't make a habit of advertising in leftist publications, there is no doubt whatsoever that liberal business owners are not afraid of involving their businesses in politics.

When you wonder why we have a liberal media, one answer to that question might be because it pays. Liberals support their own while conservatives, as a rule, do not. That's one of the reasons we lose.

If you truly want to be on the winning side, you have to support the side that you're on. All Maine Matters is distributed throughout much of the state, and it is also available online. Our advertising rates are reasonable, and we'd love to hear from you.

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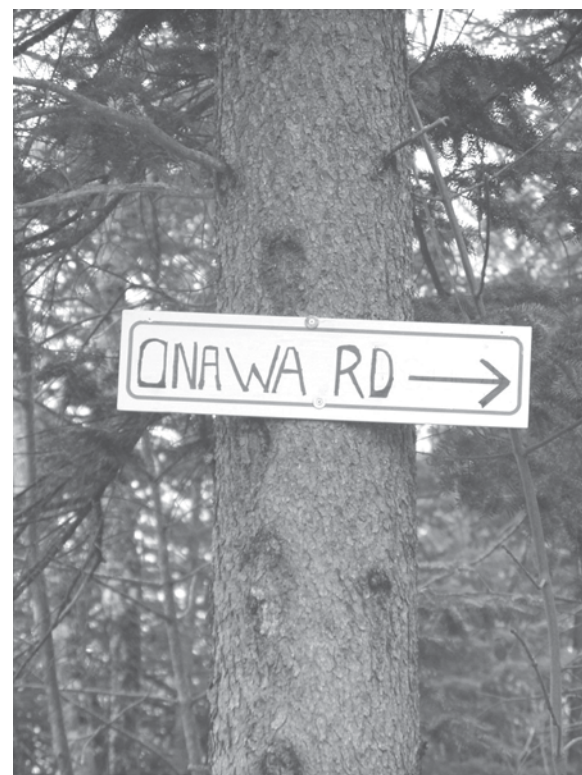
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Pacific Rim -10, Home Boys- 0

by Bob Sanders

Consumer Reports went ten for ten for Asian manufacturers in their last Dependability Rating's issue, and Jim Guest, the president of Consumer Reports, already had his flame suit ready for action. In the same issue he wrote: "Our test methods and test center, along with staff member's qualifications, have earned the respect of the auto industry and of our competition in the automotive testing and publishing field". Lori Queen, a GM executive, was sounding a little less than respectful when she wrote in Automotive News: "the editors and reporters who put together the Consumer Reports auto issue are the most unprofessional group of people I have ever worked with". She added: "They are totally nonobjective and go to great extremes to paint a picture for their paid subscription readers, who primarily buy Japanese cars." How did the Pacific Rim maker's lock up all 10 spots? Jim Guest says: "Overall, they outpointed the competition in our testing and in the reliability information we collect from hundreds of thousand of car owners."

The question, as always, is who's right and who's not so right.

It turns out there are some serious flaws in the data that CR collates and analyzes. Out of over 4 million questionnaires sent this year, the magazine received responses regarding about 480,000 vehicles. Since most households have at least two vehicles, this put the response rate at a measly 6%! (According to the Detroit News). When you factor in the likelihood, if not probability, that of this 6% of responses most are Consumer Reports Dittoheads, it is not hard to imagine these respondents chanting, in lemming fashion - "All Japanese, All The Time".

This is not a blatantly unfair jab at Consumer Reports, when this publication endorses ten Japanese vehicles to the

exclusion of anyone else in the auto manufacturing arena it says loud and clear, "Domestic vehicles are inferior". In the real world trenches of the repair field independent technicians routinely see broken Japanese vehicles in more or less direct proportion to their market share. This is blasphemy to the Consumer Reports faithful, but "Yes, Toyotas do break down."

Want some truly unbiased rating information on vehicles, from a company that doesn't just proclaim to have "the respect of the auto industry" but actually does? Check out J.D. Power ratings. While Consumer Reports has the adoration of Yuppiedom, J.D. Power has the same power over auto manufacturers all over the world that Merrill Lynch has over investors. (You know, when they speak, everyone listens). J.D. Power rates vehicles in an initial quality category, but more importantly they rate them in their third year of ownership to the original owner. This is the category that separates Lexuses from the Kia's, literally, because this is how most of us own cars, for the long haul, what you really want to know is how much money your vehicle is going to eat when the years and odometer start to roll by. This is the truest test of quality. Lincoln, Buick, Cadillac, and Mercury made the cut into the Top Ten Most Dependable. Lexus came in on top, Toyota was number seven. You can check out all the ratings at www.jdpower.com.

Here's a more than appropriate quote from an executive at General Motors, "The corporate battlefields of the world are littered with the corpses of companies that would destroy the American automobile industry."

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

Borestone Mountain: As seen from Onawa Road.



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What about Katahdin Lake?

by Senator Paul Davis

This article (attached) is adapted from the remarks made by Senator Paul Davis during Senate debate on Thursday, April 13, 2006

When plans for the state to take possession of the 6,000-plus acres at Katahdin Lake were first made public, my greatest fear was that this project would be a hasty deal to "git 'er done" for the "opportunity of the century." This opportunity is indeed historic, but did it warrant the haste and pressure of these past weeks? If this deal "has been in the works for more than three years" as we were told, why did it suddenly come down to a hundred yard dash, a matter of weeks, catching some of the stakeholders, if you will, completely off guard?

The Gardner family should be commended for making this offer possible. This is some beautiful property for the state to own. And, I've been there. And the Gardners also are looking out for their employees and the livelihood of the region.

But from my perspective, this land acquisition was planned and carried out by an elitist core of individuals looking at creating a lasting legacy of their own. They'll never compare to Percival Baxter, and they've tried to use his words and his work to justify this plan. There may still be a better plan.

That man was clear on his objectives. He wanted a sanctuary for the animals, but also for the residents of Maine to experience their Maine heritage, a rugged woods heritage filled with beautiful landscapes and wilderness experiences beyond the reach of civilization. But he also realized that part of that heritage was the traditions Mainers have always applied to their woods and wilderness experience, and a quarter of "his park" is open to many of those traditions. His intention was never to make the land inaccessible. Off-road vehicles we have today for all seasons weren't even considered when Baxter was creating his park or he may have found a way to incorporate them as well. With management, trails for off-road vehicles can make the park more accessible, and in more seasons, to more of Maine's people, not just the ones fortunate enough to travel by floatplane. If we were to be true to what is perceived as Baxter's wishes... would he condone access by floatplanes? Is that a wilderness experience? Does that contribute to the concept of a wildlife sanctuary?

Our mission should be to preserve the north Maine woods, not just this parcel, from over use and abuse, and that's possible, and still share it among the conservationists, environmentalists, recreationists and the traditions of the north woods.

Dropping titles onto these different groups, conservationists, preservationists, environmentalists, recreationists does nothing to benefit the debate about this land. We all fill those roles, perhaps in different ways, but we want the same thing... preservation of beautiful land, appreciation of our Maine landscapes, wildlife and wilderness. It is a large piece of land and it is possible to share it. Preventing any one group from using it as they always have is little more than theft... stealing part of their heritage, all of our heritage. It would be just as wrong to close off canoeing or hiking or birdwatching. Once we allow bits of these traditions and privileges to slip away they will be lost forever.

With this one parcel, we've lost traditional use of 4,000 acres, and only 2,000 acres will be left for traditional uses. With another parcel, we lost a complete township to any form of traditional uses. There will be more.

With this proposal, 7,000 acres in public lots will be sold. The group putting this plan together already has 14,000 acres. All to be traded for 6,000 acres at Katahdin Lake. The 6,000 acres are valued at \$13 million. If you do the math that means the 6,000 acres is worth about \$2,100 an acre and the 21,000 is worth about \$750 an acre. The lots will be turned over to private interests. They will cut the land to be sure, but they will also allow traditional use as these lands are open now to traditional use. One of the fears I have though is that when the ownership passes — and surely it will, — will the traditional use still be there for the people who now have the use of this land?

It troubles me that the Gardners wanted to be able to cut the wood. It troubles me that a deal couldn't have been made to cut that wood so that the lands could have been kept, as far as the public lots go, for traditional use to be there without selling them off. I don't think this is a good deal for my district or for Maine.

Local families are not going to be allowed to snowmobile on Katahdin Lake. This plan will not allow that anymore. Hunters won't be able to hunt there. There is a provision in the law that will allow floatplanes to land on the lake. Much has been said about Governor Baxter's vision and how we got to appreciate his vision. If you read and study about Governor Baxter you will find his opinion of floatplanes wasn't all that high.

A fellow told me, 'Sell the land that the people have always been able to use to buy land that they have always been able to use to turn the land over to a Governmental agency or entity and tell them they can't use it anymore. Using their treasure to get this land and now they can't use it the way they always have.' I cannot tell you the feelings of the Millinocket, Medway, East Millinocket, or Patten area; the hard feelings towards the park and the administration of it. I can tell you that there is a very adverse relationship. I fear that after this deal in a few years only a few people will be able to use the lake, probably the elite that have floatplanes will be the ones that will be going in there.

I think that a better deal could have been done. I believe this deal though it may be popular, it could be wrong.

There will always be more preservationists trying to preserve what we have, but without wanting us to use it, lest it be lost. Seems once the preservationists, stake their conservation claims many of our traditions and the land where we practiced them are lost. Have we really been such terrible stewards of the land, that now whole groups must be banned from using the land they have worked and appreciated for so many years?

Senator Davis (R-Sangerville) is in his fourth term and represents many towns and unorganized territories in Piscataquis County, and parts of Penobscot and Somerset Counties. Prior to his legislative service, he worked for the Maine State Police, retiring after 23 years. He serves as the leader of the Senate Republican caucus. Senator Davis is a graduate of the University of Maine and is involved with the local Kiwanis club in his community. He and his wife of 36 years, Patricia, have two children: Paul Davis, Jr. and his wife Rachael, and Heidi Dow and her husband Guy. Senator Davis and Patricia have four grandchildren.

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Liberals Silence Parents, Sacrifice Children at Altar of Tolerance

by Laura Adelman

The free-love generation that despised social restraint, the forever-reckless crowd that never grew up, is destroying our culture and sacrificing our young on the altar of tolerance.

Within 50 years, American culture has degenerated from a nation promoting sound ethics, manners, restraint and self-respect into a culture overrun with tattooed, pierced, drugged-up, sexualized reprobates of every kind.

For families in this over-sexed culture, America has become a battlefield, and it is our children on the front lines. They are attacked 24/7 with sex, pornography, violence, drugs, show-it-all fashion glamorized in filthy-language laced gangsta-rap. Impressionable, vulnerable and dependent, they need adults to demand a moral uprising.

But where is the justified parental outcry? It has been effectively silenced by politically-correct and morally bankrupt liberals using junior-high tactics like name-calling and labeling to silence opposition. All liberals have had to do is associate upright morals with historical outrages like slavery and racism to inoculate conservatives into utter cultural ineffectiveness.

Forcing conservatives into answering liberals' character-bashing charges before even broaching topics of morally right and ethically wrong dilutes the message and puts conservatives wrongly on the defensive. Effectively changing the debate, liberals smugly return to their prey: Our children.

Indoctrination in schools has become the norm. With parents distracted, liberals have metastasized in our schools, infecting our children with their deadly lies: Abortion is choice, not murder; capitalism is imperialism, not opportunity; abstinence is impossible, not healthy; and moral judgment is not

wisdom-in-action, but (intolerable!) intolerance. They are crushing our children's moral compass, leaving them vulnerable, unable to recognize wrong, much less understand evil.

We all know it is going on, and it's parents who are at fault for not standing up for truth. The enemy is relentless, and indoctrination is made easier by the liberal media. Every day that parents do not stand against the decaying culture and support moral truth, it is our children who are bearing battle scars, who are dying in this culture war. Conservatives need to take back our families, and stand against shock-radio, porn-infested Web sites, twisted sexual television and condom curriculum.

Stand up, speak out and demand accountability to traditional morals before they disappear with our generation.

Laura Adelman is a Staff Writer for the New Media Alliance. She is an award-winning investigative reporter and researcher who stands for the conservative Christian values that founded America. She has a passion for truth, integrity and accuracy, as well as a love of research. Her work, which includes news articles, investigative stories and opinion pieces, has appeared in Minnesota Christian Chronicle, Pro-Family News and numerous local newspapers in Dakota County, Minnesota. Laura has also written copy for conservative candidates running for state and national offices.

Letters to the Editor

This letter is addressed to anyone in Maine who cares about the future of this land and our families. There's a really dangerous piece of "Emergency" legislation in Augusta that's hiding behind the name "An Act To Ensure Proper Disposal of Debris and Protection of the Environment".

This bill, LD 141, will essentially market Maine as the dumping and incineration grounds of the Northeast and open Maine to a flood of out-of-state toxic trash. It will force into effect new DEP rules on the incineration of construction and demolition debris. These rules are based on information obtained from studies funded by the some of the same waste corporations that stand to benefit from the bill. The Board of Environmental Protection (BEP), a citizen's board which is charged with ensuring "credible, fair and responsible public participation in [DEP] decisions," has been studying these rules, which would allow for the incineration of millions of pounds a year of plastics, arsenic-treated wood, and wood coated with paint containing lead and mercury, and result in massive amounts of out-of-state waste being trucked into Maine. The BEP was not convinced that the rules would be protective of public health, and voted for a 30-day Public Comment period on the rules.

That Public Comment period would be eliminated by this bill, which would override the BEP's decision and force the Board to accept the DEP's rule changes on incineration of construction and demolition debris immediately.

Representative Joanne Twomey has proposed an amendment that would replace the current wording of the bill with a year long moratorium on any new permits for incineration of construction and demolition debris - whether she can get this moratorium voted on is not yet known.

This bill cannot go into effect until it is voted on by the House of Representatives and Senate. Community groups "We the People" in Old Town and CAPIT in Athens are encouraging people to call their representatives and to come down to Augusta to participate in the public process and be heard.

Information on when the vote takes place should be available through the Legislative Info Office at 800-301-3178. People concerned about this bill can find and post information online at maine.indymedia.org and www.wethepeoplemaine.com.

Sincerely,
Hillary Lister
Athens, ME

To All State Senators And Representatives,

You must vote no on LD141, unless they vote to include Senator Twomey's amendment.

IF YOU PLAN--- to ensure proper disposal of debris and to protect the environment.

IF YOU PLAN--- to protect the health of your family, your friends, the communities and the state.

IF YOU PLAN--- to allow the BEP and DEP to do their job properly: to protect the people and the state.

Then we expect you to vote for the right thing, or else you will be:

- allowing millions of tons of C.D.D. from out of state, to be burned and piled into our landfills here in Maine.
- allowing the burning of tens of millions of pounds a year of plastics, wood painted with paints containing lead and mercury and arsenic-treated wood. You will ok the release of poisons in the air.
- helping to pollute and to destroy Maine
- helping to ensure that pollution lawsuits from Canada and Europe plague the taxpayers for decades.
- helping a large waste disposal industry to purchase Maine for their own use and profit and to cause the demise of a great state - "so goes Maine" - lost to lack of leadership.

It appears to all of us that most politicians are more interested in helping the big industry - maybe thinking they can keep a few jobs here that will be going off shore. Anyway, get their votes and paycheck at the expense of all the people of Maine and live happily ever after away, from the CDD burning plants and the poisoned water; dirty burning and a bad picture.

Thank you for reading this, and for helping all the people. Please be sure to inform your constituents of your no vote on LD141 and your yes vote for Senator Twomey's admendment.

David Mercier & Family (USN -Ret)
Athens, ME 04912

“The real rulers in Washington are invisible and exercise their power from behind the scenes.”
Justice Felix Frankfurter, U.S. Supreme Court, 1939 - 1962

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.



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Green Perception / Deception: Which One Is It?

by David P. Cyr

Being a lifelong resident of Millinocket and caring about friends and family here has placed me in an awkward position.

Normally, when you lose your main source of income and discover that the entire business community has united to give you the "heave-ho," the best thing to do is leave for greener pastures. I will admit that it has crossed my mind. My kids are now in Arizona, Lisbon, Westbrook, and Brewer, and because my construction business is extremely portable, I can make a good living virtually anywhere.

But there is something about being driven out that brings out the stubborn French in me. The main reason for my staying put is that I discovered why my kids and your kids had to move away, which is: The Northern Forest Alliance.

It has been said that I have directed attacks towards certain groups that are here to help. The "attacks," as they are called, are truly an attempt to educate you. Their "help," as it is called, is in need of closer examination. Have they really helped at all?

The "help" that arrived here in the form of The Wilderness Society and The Nature Conservancy have a past. To ignore that past is unwise. When time and energy is being used to steer you away from their past, alarms should be going off, but forgetting about it is what they want you to do.

The Wilderness Society was incorporated in 1935. For seventy years, they have worked to make more wilderness "untrammeled by man." The New England director of The Wilderness Society, Michael Kellet, and LURC commissioner, Jym St. Pierre, joined forces in 2000 to form a radical group called "RESTORE." With their stated intention, to restore the North Woods back to their pre-European settlement condition, there is very little left to the imagination here. Their mission statement virtually reads: "The people and the industry gotta go."

The Nature Conservancy was incorporated in 1953. They incorporated their fourth chapter here in Maine, back in 1956. They now have 80 chapters, one in every state and one in thirty foreign countries. They also hold a seat in the United Nations and have 3.2 billion dollars in assets. Among those assets are 281 square miles along the St. John River following our border with Canada.

If you still believe in the "tooth fairy," then you can also believe that their involvement in the "Northern Forest Project" was indeed a gesture of help to provide needed cash for a near bankrupt company. If in fact you are still able to open at least one eye, a moderately intelligent person will realize that there is something very rotten here.

My eyes were opened forcefully when I realized I had spent a fortune to develop a mountain that they never intended to sell to me. When I first learned this, it was the presence of Woodlands personnel at the RESTORE meeting in Greenville that opened my eyes. My first reaction was embarrassment; I had spent a complete retirement and five years of my life on a con. I had always considered myself to be at least moderately intelligent, so how could this have happened? At the time, I had felt flattered to be given the personal attention. I never realized that they were just eliminating any possible paper trail to me.

I did find the single solitary letter on company letterhead that acknowledges my existence on their land. It was a letter of intent, containing 33 words, recognizing the company's intent to lease the land to me. Upon further investigation, I found several other letters of intent to other potential lessees. All of them were very different; they contained hundreds of words and many praises for hope and encouragement for their prospective businesses.

From that day forward, I knew that all was not as it seems. I had invested several hundred thousand dollars on land that they never intended to sell to me, and I had been conned for four years, believing they were indeed trying to help me obtain my land from the company. I was fooled.

At first, I got mad. Then I believed I should get even, but when the anger wore off, I decided to get educated instead. I had made mistakes dealing with people who claimed to be working for the company. Almost immediately, I discovered ties to The Nature Conservancy.

When Bowater appointed a new president in 1995, he would later be named as a trustee of The Nature Conservancy. He is also a co-founder of MAGIC. The appointment of Marcia McKeague as the president of Katahdin Timberlands, LLC seemed harmless enough, until I discovered that she was a board member of the "Land for Maine's Future" board, a board that was constructed by The Nature Conservancy back in 1987 to protect the land. It is my opinion that all the land in this area has been effectively controlled by TNC since the arrival of the new president of Bowater in 1995.

While local groups are pushing a phony "let's bring business to Millinocket" agenda," I have been trying to educate the public by asking them to look around.

Do you see any new business creation? We recently had a big disagreement in the town council over the need for annexation. The MAGIC side spoke in tandem with the land manager and

lied about the interest of anybody coming to see them with an interest in securing land for business development.

We have personal knowledge of at least 12 individuals who have tried and failed to obtain land through MAGIC and the land manager. These individuals still have no interest in calling them liars because of the positions they hold. Several councilors spoke at length against annexation due to the increased taxes that would be levied against subsidiaries of the Brascan Corp.

The facts do not lie. All corporations paying more than 50% of their taxes to a municipality receive every penny back in the form of a tax refund. In fact, Brascan currently pays 59% and would receive an additional \$1,100 beyond that. When the TIF agreement expires, Brascan will receive \$68,500.0 beyond that again.

The lie about the land, combined with the lie about the taxes, resulted in the denial of the rights of the citizens to vote on annexation. Both lies obtain the desired result of the Green Bloc transitioning Millinocket into a "gateway community."

Exactly one half of our town council has favored the introduction of The Wilderness Society into our small community. That half of the council has chosen to remain totally apathetic to the fact that The Wilderness Society used the spotted owl campaign to remove 87% of the logging and paper industry on the west coast. This is not a fabrication. This information is readily available on the internet.

The Green Bloc has not figured out that confidential business ideas will never be shared with any affiliation of The Wilderness Society, as it would certainly lead to the end of that business creation.

In effect, members of the Green Bloc have consciously become the tools needed to transition Millinocket into a gateway community by The Wilderness Society.

Efforts to keep RESTORE from creating a national park in our area came to a head in the fall of 2000. Millinocket and several other communities joined with the Counties and passed a resolve calling for united resistance against the formation of a national park in this area. Our town manager led the media assault against RESTORE with the production of bumper stickers and posters depicting the need for RESTORE to return to Boston and leave our Maine way of life alone.

The New England director of The Wilderness Society, Michael Kellet, and LURC commissioner Jym St. Pierre joined forces to create RESTORE, effectively making The Wilderness Society the parent company of RESTORE.

After signing the resolve put forth by the town council against RESTORE and the formation of a national park in September of 2000, Matt Polstein signed a grant application requesting \$75,000.00 from the Regional Economic Development Assistance Fund. The application was dated December 21, 2000.

As it is stated on the application, the express use of those funds is "to develop a comprehensive plan for the region's transition to a gateway community to the Northern Maine Forest.

As it was later learned from the minutes of a MAGIC board of directors' meeting, dated 6-19-2002, using The Wilderness Society was set as a priority project for transitioning the area into a gateway community.

The constant friction that has been maintained by Councilor Polstein is directly responsible for the bad press generated around the world. But the positive press machine that has become their most often used tool continually reverses the blame to me and my attempts to educate the public.

Thank God for KAT-TV. Now area viewers can see with their own eyes where the snow job is coming from.

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.



Future American Lawyers Take a Stand for Freedom

by Tom DeWeese

Many patriotic Americans have rightly worried about the nation's future in the hands of today's younger generation. Proven time and again is their lack of understanding for American ideals and principles of limited government, thanks to a woefully inadequate education from government schools.

However, such fears received at least a small reprieve on January 24, 2006, when a group of law students at Georgetown University Law School staged a dramatic protest during a speech by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

Gonzales was on the campus to defend the Bush Administration's use of domestic spying. As the Attorney General began his remarks, more than twenty law students stood and turned their backs on him as others unfurled a sign which read, "Those who would sacrifice liberty for security deserve

neither," a paraphrase of a famous quote from Benjamin Franklin.

Prior to becoming Attorney General, Gonzales helped write the infamous Patriot Act (which has no definition of a terrorist) and has been an outspoken supporter of increased surveillance on American citizens, all in the name of fighting terrorism. Gonzales has called the Geneva Convention, which has historically held nation's accountable for prisoner of war treatment, "quaint."

The Attorney General has argued that the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) does not apply in the Bush Administration's domestic spying. FISA clearly requires executive branch agencies to get approval for branch agencies to get approval for domestic surveillance requests from a special court, whose proceedings are secret and protect national security.

So, the law students at Georgetown

decided to let the Attorney General know they weren't supporters of Gonzales' brand of law, and staged their protest. Afterwards, a panel of experts was held to discuss what Gonzales had said. Members of the panel tore away at Gonzales' argument while supporting the student's actions.

Said Georgetown law professor and panel member David Cole, "When you're a law student, they tell you that if you can't argue the law, argue the facts. They also tell you if you can't argue the facts, argue the law. If you can't argue either, apparently, the solution is to go on a public relations offensive and make it a political issue (and) to say over and over again 'it's lawful,' and to think that the American people will somehow come to believe this if we say it often enough." Concluded Cole, "In light of this, I'm proud of the very civil disobedience that was shown here today."

No American should blindly accept reduction of their liberty simply because a government official says so. The choice is a nation of laws or a nation of whims. No liberty is possible with the latter, no matter how important the cause.

At Georgetown University, at least on this day, there were students who understood the difference - and that bodes well for the future of freedom.

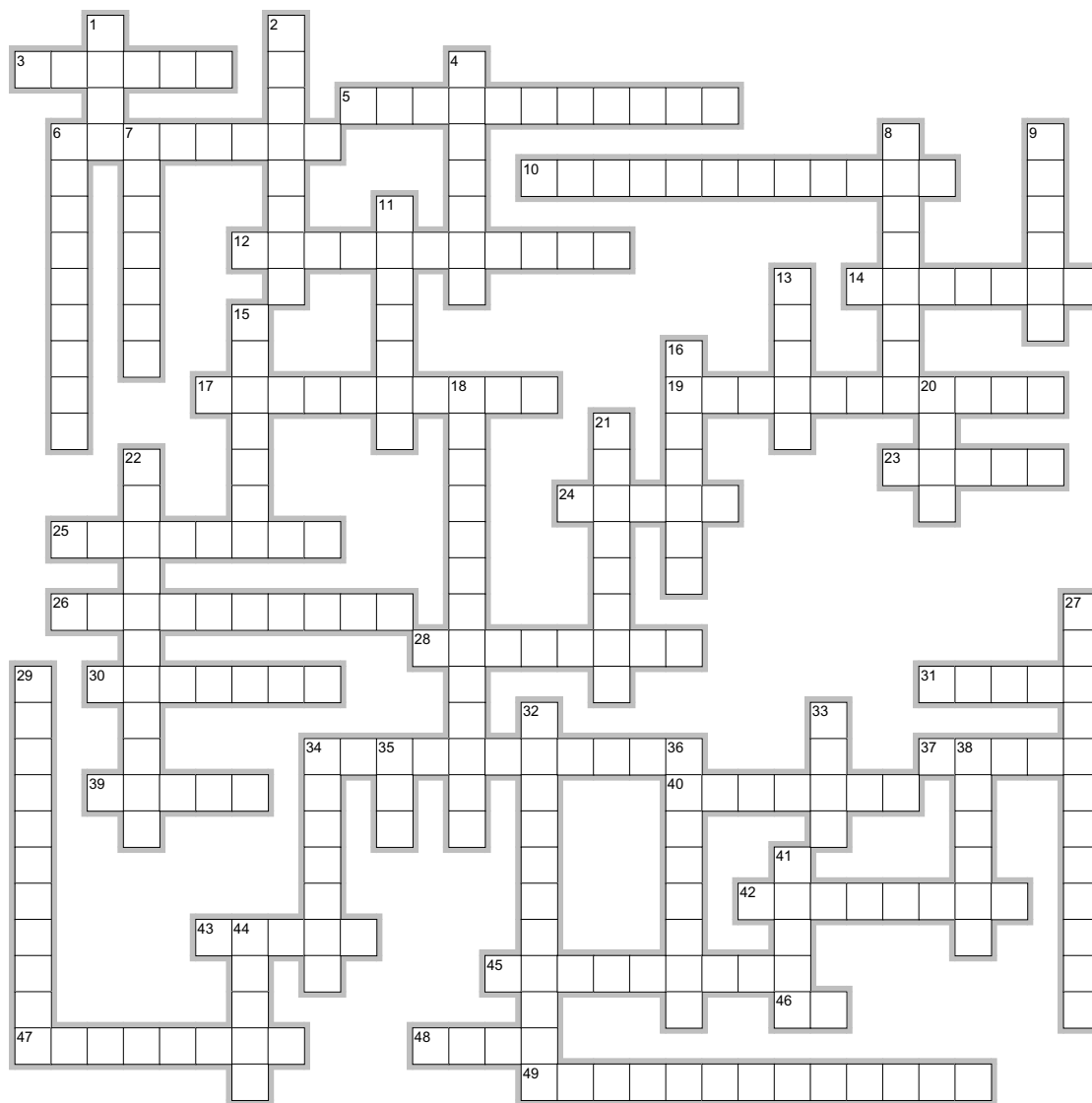
For over 31 years Tom DeWeese has been a businessman, grassroots activist, writer and publisher. As such, he has always advocated a firm belief in man's need to keep moving forward while protecting Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of property and individual freedom.

May 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 10.

Across

- 3. In his article, John Frary makes a reference to providing this to sex offenders. (6)
- 5. John Frary's front-page article is about this. (11)
- 6. Central to the existence of Onawa. (8)
- 10. Dustin Darr lives there. (12)
- 12. The name of the thread company that built a spool mill at the lower end of Lake Onawa in 1881. (11)
- 14. What sort of government does Justin Darr advocate in his article? (7)
- 17. In his advertisement, Roger Ek lists a nearly new camp on this lake in Burlington. (10)
- 19. The first part of Vincent Fiore's article is about this. (11)
- 23. Subject of this issue's community profile. (5)
- 24. Surname of a family that moved often between Onawa and Millinocket in the early 1900s. (5)
- 25. In his article, Rep. Cebra makes 7 points. His second point involves ... (8)
- 26. What type of ratings does Bob Sanders' article discuss? (10)
- 28. Jon Reisman begins his article with a reference to this lake. (8)
- 30. The first former president mentioned in Vincent Fiore's article. (7)
- 31. Reps. Trahan and McKane compare Maine's accounting practices to this company. (5)
- 34. David Cyr serves on its town council. (11)
- 37. The name of the mixed passenger-freight train that people depended on when traveling to Onawa. (5)



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

- 39. Jeff Lukens suggests this. (5)
- 40. Michael Fundalewicz lives there. (7)
- 42. Surname of the president of the Maine Leaseholder's Association. (8)
- 43. What type of waste does Michael Fundalewicz write of in the first part of his article? (5)
- 45. Mark Cenci is a ... (9)
- 46. Surname of "The Northern Maine Land Man." (2)
- 47. In his article, Rep. Cebra makes 7 points. The first point is about the fallacy of demanding ... (8)
- 48. Abbreviation for the federal government program that Walter Jeffries satirizes in his article. (4)
- 49. Politically, Onawa is a part of this entity. (13)

- 4. The token conservative. (7)
- 6. What is the second part of the article by Michael Fundalewicz about? (9)
- 7. What type of immigration does Jeff Lukens warn against in his article? (7)
- 8. Walter Jeffries lives there. (8)
- 9. Where should we build the fence, according to Jeff Lukens? (6)
- 11. The mailing address for All Maine Matters. (7)
- 13. Until recently, this was the only way to travel to Onawa. (5)
- 15. One of our advertisers, the new Internet monster. (7)
- 16. In his article, Rep. Cebra makes 7 points. His seventh point is about ... (7)
- 18. Jon Reisman's front-page article is about this. (two words) (13)
- 20. What kind of pegs did John Frary's father manufacture? (4)
- 21. Vincent Fiore suggests that Americans have been ... (8)
- 22. According to Sen. Davis, what was Governor Baxter not fond of? (11)
- 27. Matthew Jones is the head of the Maine branch of this political party. (12)

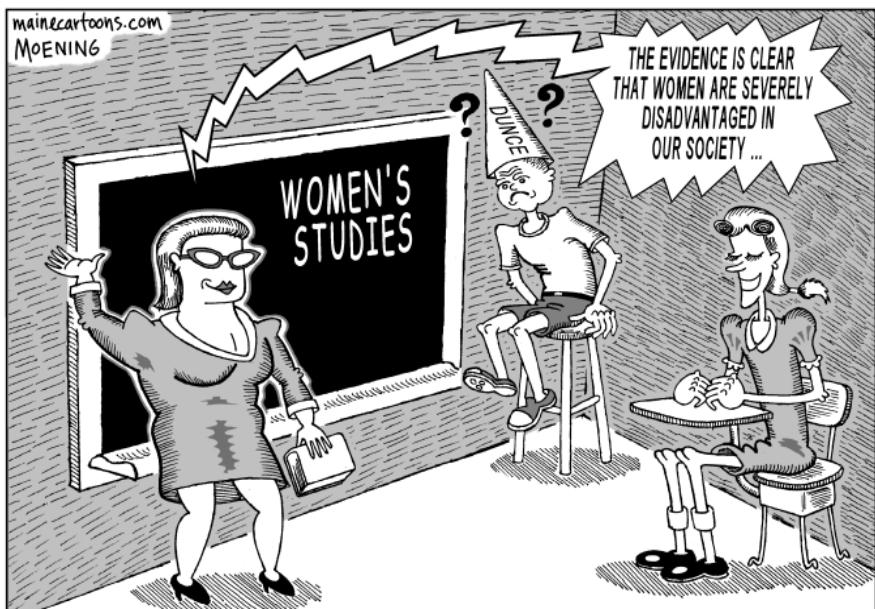
- 29. Sen. Paul Davis lives there. (11)
- 32. It is irregular and unpredictable, according to John Frary. (two words) (11)
- 33. What food does Jon Reisman reference in the title of his article? (4)
- 34. Surname of the Michigan Supreme Court Justice who authored an article on constitutional myths and realities. (7)
- 35. In his advertisement, The Northern Maine Land Man lists three acres on the South Road of this town. (3)
- 36. In his advertisement, Roger Ek lists a large four-bedroom home on a 70+ acre organic farm in this town, which was also a subject of a previous All Maine Matters community profile. (8)
- 38. Surname of the Chairman of the Constitution Party. (6)
- 41. The subject of an article by Michael Fundalewicz. (5)
- 44. The Old Sandy Stream Riding Club of ... (5)

Down

- 1. In the latter part of Jon Reisman's article, what church does he refer to? (4)
- 2. Which lake does Sen. Paul Davis discuss in his article? (8)

“ A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins. ”

Benjamin Franklin



Patrick Moening can be emailed at patm@mainecartoons.

Mystery Photo

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



Last month's mystery picture was taken on Route 1 in Searsport.

Profiles in Rural Maine

by Ken Anderson

Onawa, Maine



Onawa House: Built in 1890 by Alexander Arbo, who died there at the age of nineteen. Originally a sporting camp, the Onawa House served as the settlement's store and post office for most of its history, although it is now a private summer residence. Frank and Cheryl Hanscome were the last to run the store, buying the property in 1978 from Bruce and Sharon Andrews. The Hanscomes owned the business for only five years before selling to Kathy Read, an artist who had no interest in operating a store. The Hanscomes were the only owners of the store to have enjoyed roads, lights, and a telephone all at the same time.

Like many of you, I had never heard of Onawa before I came across it on the map and chose it as the subject of this month's profile. Yet, as a crow flies, it's not very far from where I live, in Millinocket. But I'm not a crow, and driving there is a little more difficult.

On a map, you can find Onawa by looking southeast of Greenville, northeast of Monson, or directly west of Brownville Junction. While it is quite a distance by car, by train Onawa is about as close to Brownville Junction as anything else. Not long ago, that was the only way to get to Onawa.

Well, not quite. American Indians followed a canoe route that left the head of Sebec Lake at Buck's Cove up Ship Pond Stream, with a short carry past a small set of falls. In the six miles to Onawa Lake, canoes were then paddled or poled up a stream that got progressively smaller, until the canoe finally had to be carried for the last three miles, either along the stream straight to the pond or northeast into Benson Pond, where the carry would be mostly downhill to Onawa Lake.

As the settlement at Onawa was mostly clustered along the railroad tracks, it was referred to as Onawa Siding, but it was a part of the greater entity called Elliottsville, or Township 8, Range 9, more commonly referred to as T8R9. Elliottsville was first granted to the heirs of William Vaughan by the state of Massachusetts in 1812, and the first land was cleared twelve years later by Captain Jordan, Joseph and Eben Sawyer. Coming from Buxton, the Sawyers were the first family to move to Elliottsville, followed by S.G. Bodfish, from Norridgewock, and others.

Named for Elliott Vaughan, Elliottsville was incorporated as a town in 1835, but its population peaked at 102 in 1850. With its population in decline, the town assumed plantation status only eight years later, and finally deorganized, becoming an unorganized territory in 1983.

With fifty to sixty people living there year-round, and as many as eighteen students enrolled in its school, and with two stores and a post office, Onawa became the de facto capitol of the larger geographical and political entity known as Elliottsville.

Four hundred million years ago, Onawa was buried beneath an ocean covering most of the earth. Over a period of millions of years, mud drained down through the water, depositing several thousands of feet of mud and shale on the floor of the ocean. When the water receded from the continent, the earth twisted, folded, and heated up, turning the mud and the shale into the vertical slates that are seen around Onawa today.

About fifty million years ago, molten rock, known as the Onawa pluton, forced its way into the crust of the earth, the heat hardening the slate for several feet around the pluton. As the earth cooled, the many thousands of feet of rock were eroded away by the effects of the ocean and the developing rivers. Finally, glaciers scooped out the softer rock of the Onawa pluton, reducing the surrounding slate into rolling hills. The ring of recrystallized slate surrounding the Onawa pluton remained, forming the mountains we know as Mounts Barren, Borestone, and Benson, which form the walls of the basin that holds Onawa Lake.

There are a few legends involving Onawa Lake in the time before the arrival of the Europeans, most of them involving Onawa as an Indian princess, either in love with a member of an enemy tribe or making war against them. The term "onawa" or "onaway" is a Chippewa word meaning "awake."

Although probably a coincidental use of the same Chippewa word, Longfellow mentioned Onawa when he wrote his poem, "Hiawatha."

*"Sang he softly, sang in this wise,
Onaway! Awake, beloved!"*

For years after the arrival of the Europeans, Onawa Lake was known as Ship Pond, a reference to the trees that grew in the area, tall and straight like the masts on a ship. Before that, it may have been referred to as "Obernecksombeck." It's not clear just when it first became known as Lake Onawa but, in 1891, a newspaper referred to the settlement around the lake as "Onaway."

Hattie Cleaves was the schoolteacher for the settlement in 1891.

In 1880, the Willimantic Thread Company of Connecticut built a spool factory at the head of Sebec Lake in Piscataquis County, an area that grew the fine white birch it needed. This mill expanded to employ as many as eighty men, not counting the many more who were employed cutting birch for the mill. In 1881, the company built a new mill at the lower end of Lake Onawa. Bars were hauled to the Merrick Thread Company mill in Willimantic on a road that went under the railroad trestle. The mill included sheds and dwellings for its employees.

In 1898, this company joined with twelve others to form the American Thread Company. The Willimantic mill is thought to have been the first to have employed electricity in the state.

While electrical power generated in Willimantic was extended to the company's mill in Onawa, the settlement at Onawa was not put on the power grid until 1976, almost a century later.

But even more central to the existence of Onawa was the Canadian Pacific Railway. From 1871 to 1875, Canada was trying to construct its first transcontinental railway. While the Maritime provinces had less to gain from the railway than other parts of the country, they stood to benefit from increased traffic, especially in the winter when the St. Lawrence wasn't navigable.

The railway already connected Montreal with St. John and Halifax, but its length made competition with its counterparts in the United States difficult.

So a "short line" was proposed, crossing Maine. By October of 1888, 64 miles of track had been laid between the end of the International section and Greenville, and by December the last rail to the Short Line was laid at Packard Brook, just east of Lake View.

Shortly after completion of the Short Line, a mixed passenger-freight train began running from Brownville Junction to Lake Megantic one day, and returning the next. Consisting of a few freight cars and seating for about forty passengers, the train also carried mail. This mixed train, called the Scoot, became the lifeline for points along its route, such as Onawa.

The Scoot hauled freight to the section men, and carried passenger to and from destinations along the way. Passengers got off to pick berries, to fish, or to hunt along the way, returning on the afternoon run. Any game

that was bagged was tagged and taken along on the Scoot.

The Onawa Post Office opened on January 25, 1895.

The first Onawa trestle was built of native timber in 1887. The second, made of steel, was constructed in 1896. Technically known as the Ship Pond Viaduct, the third - and current trestle - was built in 1931.

An immigrant, Axel Rudolph Carlson was an early settler at Onawa. Born in 1879 on a farm near Kalmar, Sweden, Carlson emigrated to the United States in 1900 to join his brother, Fred, at Greenville. He returned to Sweden only once, to get his bride-to-be, Selma Amanda Fossman.

The Carlsons soon settled in Onawa, where Axel became a section foreman for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Their children (Ernest, Mary, and Lilly) were born at the section house in Onawa, as well as two others who did not survive infancy.

One day Axel was riding a velocipede (a three-wheeled handcar) across the Onawa trestle when a strong wind blew him and the vehicle over the side. The handcar caught in telegraph wires, but Axel fell to the ground, a distance of nearly eighty feet. He landed on an ant hill, which he credited with saving his life. Alone but badly injured, Axel was able to climb the steep embankment and make his way to the railway station. His recuperation lasted five months, but he returned to his job, holding it until 1918, when he moved to Brownville Junction and transferred to the railroad's bridge crew. On his retirement in 1944, Axel often visited Onawa, picking berries in the woods, fishing, and talking with friends who remained there.

The Onawa Train Wreck

Due to some confusion having to do with a train running late, two trains collided shortly after one of the trains had passed Onawa Station on December 19, 1919.

The third section of Train No. 39, carrying 250 steerage-class passengers, was running late. Freight Train No. 78, with its 26 cars, waited on a siding at Moosehead, where it allowed the first two sections of the passenger train to pass. Somewhere east of Moosehead, the third section was running five hours late. The freight left Greenville at 6:40 a.m. By that time, the third section of No. 39 was in Brownville Junction, where its crew and engine were changed. It left Brownville Junction at 6:25, stopping at Barnard 25 minutes later. Meanwhile, the freight continued eastward, its crew mistakenly believing that the third section of No. 39 was running eight hours late, not five. As daylight approached, the third section passed Onawa Station at 7:09, and four minutes later the trains collided on a curve along the side of Little Greenwood Pond. More than twenty people died that day, while the badly injured numbered in the fifties. Both engineers and two firemen were killed instantly.

The Black Guards

During World War I, Vanceboro became the site of a major international incident when a German saboteur blew up the international bridge connecting Maine with Canada. Alert

to the possibility of sabotage, black bridge guards were stationed along the railway line, stationed in cars along the spur at Onawa.

Among the black guards stationed at Onawa was a Lieutenant Brooke who was later elected to the U.S. Senate as a Massachusetts Republican, the first African-American to be elected to the Senate by popular vote.

The guards were stationed at Onawa for three years, beginning in 1942, four of them on duty each shift, one at each end of the railroad trestle and two beneath. During these years, the guards outnumbered the native population of Onawa.

Paul Douglas

Paul Douglas was born in Massachusetts in 1892. His mother died when he was very young, and his father remarried a few years later. Because of his father's drinking, his stepmother left her husband, taking Paul with her to Onawa, where her uncle, Rodney Buxton, and her brother, Rodney Young, were starting a camp. She worked there, cooking, waitressing, and cleaning rooms. As a boy, Paul sometimes worked as a busboy.

Paul later reminisced about the pet fox he had at Onawa. And he came to respect the railroad men, the lumberjacks, and the other working men he had come to know as a child.

As a young man, he sided with the local section men during a major railroad strike. His tendency to fight for the underdog characterized his later political career, which led him to eighteen years in the U.S. Senate, where he was instrumental in passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Medicaid and Medicare, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Truth-in-Lending Act, the Hatch Act, reapportionment, and the minimum wage.

The Perrys

Everett and Lucinda Perry came to Onawa from Millinocket in the early 1900s, residing in a dwelling owned by a Mr. Blaisdell, and which now belongs to the McFarlands. Lucinda's brother, George Kneeland, once managed the Onawa House, which was a boarding house. The Perrys also took in boarders, mostly men who worked on the pushers, which were special engines that were kept at the spur and used to literally push trains up the steep tracks that headed out in either direction from Onawa Station.

Everett and Lucinda eventually returned to Millinocket, but Raymond and Lydia Perry brought their family to Onawa 1916. Raymond was the son of Lucinda, and a stepson of Everett. In Onawa, they lived in a large log camp above the Blaisdell house, later moving into the house itself, buying the property with help from their son, Lawrence.

In the first years, the Perrys moved back and forth between Onawa and Millinocket often, especially in the winter months, as Mrs. Perry's parents owned the Millinocket House, where Raymond sometimes cooked.

In all, they had eight children, many of whom were to figure prominently in Onawa's history. Their children included Eula, who worked at Young and Buxton's camps, and at George and Mary

Alfred A. Burke Memorial Chapel: Initially constructed in 1933 as a Roman Catholic Church, regular Catholic services were never held there due to the lack of either a road or Sunday passenger train service. It now serves as a multi-faith chapel during the months of July and August only.



Onawa, Maine

Falconer's camp on Borestone Mountain, where a man named Robert Moore operated a fox farm. Lawrence was the oldest of the Perry boys. As a youth, he worked in the camps around Onawa before being hired at an early age as a section worker. Esther was only a few days short of her fifth birthday when her parents brought her to Onawa. She also worked at Young and Buxton camps for a time before marrying Clifton Gerry from Mattawamkeag. The couple lived in Onawa for a few years before buying a farm in Wilimantic. Upon the death of her husband, Esther moved back to Onawa, where she met, and later married, George Wallace, from Milo. When the Perrys moved to Onawa, Leon was three. He resided in Onawa continuously for 23 years, marrying Axel Carlson's daughter, Mary, who had left Onawa when her parents moved to Brownville Junction, returning to Onawa to teach at the school there. Their youngest boy, Edgar, was born in Onawa, and spent his childhood there, as an adult moving to Brownville Junction, Portsmouth, Milo, Sebec, and Dover-Foxcroft.

Eleanor Perry, also born and raised in Onawa, met Sherwood Copeland, from Monson, who was then driving truck on the Monson to Elliottsville road with her brothers, Leon and Edgar. Sherwood bought a piece of land reaching from the tracks to the lake, and built a log cabin on the shore. After their marriage, the couple lived there for a time. Two of their children, Edwin and Ronald, were born at the camp, while their third, Sarah, was born in a house that their father built on land nearer to the track. For years, she and Sherwood were the only people residing in Onawa on a year-round basis.

By the time the Perrys got to Onawa, there were already a number of settlers there, including the Carlsons, the Clarks, the Bonseys, and the Beans. There were also the Burnetts, who took over as station agent and storekeeper, a business that was started by Ned Drew, who moved to Bodfish Valley in his later years. Rodney Young had taken over the store from Ned, who later passed it on to the Burnetts. The building remains today, but as a summer residence and not a store.

The post office supported the store, especially during the winter months, as the section men got most of their groceries in Brownville Junction or Greenville. At one time, there were two stores in Onawa. Located within the old Gilman place, the second store was run by Myron Clark and Guy McCluskey, who sold mostly groceries. The second store closed sometime in the late 1920s or early 1930s.

Before the building was moved, another early resident, John Bodfish, lived at a camp on a ledge by the Onawa House. John supported himself doing odd jobs until he became a caretaker at Deerfoot Camp. Frank Tomlin, who owned the Onawa House for a time, practiced dentistry there.

In the early 1900s, four passenger trains came through Onawa each night - two in each direction - while two mixed trains came through during the day. There were no public roads to Onawa at the time, as the current Onawa Road was built sometime in the 1960s.

Leamon McFarland: This fine man alone represents one-third of the year-round population of Onawa.

**The Bergs, the Johnsons, and the Moores**

Elmer and Mildred Berg came to Onawa from Brownville in 1937. In the winter of that year, Jim Burnett, who owned the Onawa House, took a job on the railroad in Brownville Junction, so the Bergs borrowed money to buy the store in Onawa, moving there in March of that year.

Shortly after he purchased the store, Elmer was appointed postmaster, serving in that capacity for more than thirty years. He also did carpentry work, shoveled roofs, and did odd jobs for the railroad. He was a registered Maine Guide for more than thirty years, and served as a Selectman in Elliottsville.

E. Stanley Johnson came to Onawa from Greenville as a station agent. The author of several articles about Onawa and railroad matters, Johnson was a key figure in the construction of the community hall there. He also organized a boy scout troop, teaching telegraphy to his scouts.

He later bought Sand Beach, later selling it to Ward Herbest and New Jersey Governor Alfred Driscoll.

Henry D. Moore, a wealthy man from Steuben, bought fifty acres of land at the head of Big Benson, where he had constructed a set of buildings for family vacations and business entertainment. Named after the stream that ran literally under the camp, it became known as "Noisy Brook Camp."

Henry often brought his son, Robert, with him on vacations and hunting trips. As an adult, Robert would later purchase land high on Borestone Mountain, building a log cabin there on the three small ponds, Smiley, Midday, and Sunset.

Robert also operated a fish hatchery on Borestone, as well as a private fishery for entertainment. He established several fox ranges on Borestone, and in Big Bear, California, operating under the name of Borestone Mountain Fox Company.

Robert had an aversion to cutting trees, except, apparently, for his own purposes, and would not permit land under his control to be harvested for lumber. Upon his death, his land was willed to the National Audubon Society, which maintains a wildlife sanctuary there. Interestingly, while people are generally free to hike or even camp in land owned by the paper industry, the Audubon Society charges \$4.00 a head to anyone wanting to hike its short nature trail.

Several other members of the Moore family were to migrate to Onawa, at least for short periods of time.

The Community Hall

When she resided at Onawa, Mrs. J. Fithian Tatem held church services on the porch of her cottage. With a goal of building a church, she first offered to donate a hundred dollars. While picking berries along the track, Eleanor Perry and her mother were discussing this offer, they determined that Onawa was more in need of a community hall. A box social was held at the school house, money was raised, and the community hall was built in 1931.

Alfred A. Burke Memorial Chapel

In the early 1900s, Rodney Young came to Onawa to die, having been diagnosed with tuberculosis. Onawa being considered a healthy place, he established a sporting camp there, which came to be known as the Young Camps.

While studying medicine in Maryland, he had studied under a female physician by the name of Dr. Staunton, who later came to Maine to vacation at Sebec Lake. While there, she hired a buckboard and visited with her former student, finding him operating a camp on land later owned by the Cloughs and the Hartshornes. Mr. Clough was Young's brother-in-law.

Dr. Staunton returned the next summer as a guest of at Young Camps, and her visits were followed by those of other female doctors, including Drs. Van Gaskin, Handy, Rose and Clark, all of whom were affiliated with the Women's Medical College of Philadelphia.

The visiting physicians were impressed with the area, but not with Young Camps. Before long, they built their own. Drs. Rose and Clark became joint owners of camps that were located on property later belonging to Joseph Tatem. Dr. Staunton established her own camp, as did Dr. Van Gaskin, whose camp later became Gray's Camp, and still later, D. Esterle's Camp. Dr. Handy bought a camp called Camp Dougherty from Rodney Young.

As Drs. Rose and Clark were Roman Catholics, as was another person in the settlement, an Alice Gagnon, who had a growing family and no church available for the necessary sacraments. The only road to Onawa was the railroad, and the Scoot didn't run on Sundays.

The two doctors began planning for a Roman Catholic Church in Onawa. Alfred Burke suggested a site in front of his house, and Dr. Clark wrote a check for a hundred dollars, becoming the first donor to the fund in 1933. In short time, \$2,000 was raised through teas, games, and other fundraisers, with many Protestants contributing.

Mr. Burke bought the lumber, and constructed the chapel, making the pews in his workshop in Brownville Junction, as well as the altar, the rail, the stand, and the lectern.

The result was a beautiful building but, because of the railroad schedule and the small number of Catholics in the settlement, regular Catholic services were never held there, although priests did come from Brownville Junction and Greenville for special occasions.

In 1957, Alfred Burke died and his son, J. Wilfred Burke found himself the owner of a Catholic Church, as the Catholic diocese had never accepted his father's donation of the land and building. He was immediately faced with repairs, giving the chapel a new coat of paint and making other repairs.

At that time, Protestants and other sects were meeting at the community hall so, after discussing the situation with Eleanor Copeland and Alfred Hempstead, Burke determined that the Protestants could use the chapel for summer services if they wished. They accepted and, in August of 1970, the first summer service was held. The younger Burke renamed the chapel for his father in recognition of all of the contributions he had made to it.

The chapel remains in wonderful condition, and services are held there during the months of July and August.

It took Eleanor Copeland nearly a decade to get a road to Onawa, and it was to take even longer to get electricity to the village. Long before electrical service was available from any power company, most of the camps were operated on electric generators. A 1975 list prepared by Central Maine Power Company shows that, at that time, they had twenty-three potential clients, only four of whom were year-round residents, and thirteen people who were not interested in electric service. After meetings in Onawa and Augusta, the Land Use Regulatory Commission approved Central Maine's application for a 4.5-mile extension to Onawa Lake, effective February 3, 1976. By that time, many camp owners had had telephones for quite some time. The project was completed on September 14, 1976, at a cost of \$68,000.

My own journey to Onawa was not to be by canoe or by train, but by car. Taking the Elliottsville Road from Monson, I stopped and took some pictures from the bridge over Big Wilson Stream. I turned right on Mountain Road, but missed the turnoff on Onawa Road, as I couldn't see the sign as I approached it from the north. Before long, I found Old Onawa Road, which was clearly marked, but I soon learned that my Ford Taurus wasn't going to get me very far on that road. Backtracking along Mountain Road, it wasn't long before I found the Onawa Road sign.

While it is unpaved, Onawa Road is easy enough to travel, although my wife would disagree with me. As I was approaching Onawa, I came across a man cutting firewood. He stopped to smile, and to wave at me as I went past.



Along the way, I photographed a couple of hand-painted signs, one just past the turn off to the boat landing, along Onawa Road, and another at the end of the public road. Both signs read, PLEASE DO NOT HARM ONAWA TAME FOX. That gave me a warm feeling as, when I was a child, we had a tame fox; not so much a pet as a welcomed guest, free to come and go as he pleased.

I came to the end of the public road, parked my car, and began taking some photographs, and as I did, I came across the man who had waved to me earlier. I learned that he was Leamon McFarland, who now owns the Blaisdell house which sits directly across the tracks from where Onawa Station and two of the section houses once were.

During our pleasant conversation in the rain, I also learned that I had just met fully one-third of the year-round residents of Onawa, as there is just he and his wife, and one other person there throughout the year now, while it gets much busier during the summer months.

We talked about the fox. He told me that there have been more than one, but that he hasn't seen the most recent one in awhile. He's not concerned because the fox has often disappeared for weeks or months at a time, only to reappear.

We stood just west of Onawa Memorial Gardens, built on the site of the old Onawa Station, and commemorating the people who have lived and worked in Onawa throughout the years. We stood on the spot where two of the section houses had been, with the community hall to the north of us, the old school building and the chapel only a short walk to the southwest.

Just as most small towns are arranged along the main road, or along the banks of a river, Onawa was settled along the railroad track, with camps also located along the shore of Lake Onawa, which is within site of the railroad track in most places.

From where we stood, Leamon was able to point to the locations of most of the historical sites in Onawa. As described, there were the section houses, no longer standing, and the foundation of Onawa Station, upon which were the memorial gardens, the community hall close to the lake, and the schoolhouse and chapel, within a few steps of one another. His own house, which was once the Blaisdell house, was across the tracks. Further east, along the tracks, was the foundation of the old water tower, and Onawa House, both of which I had already photographed.

Still further east was the Onawa trestle, which is said to be the longest and highest railroad trestle in New England. It was not a long walk, and I now regret letting the rain discourage me from making it. Rather than mailing some copies of our May issue to Mr. McFarland, I think I'll deliver them in person, and make the trek at that time.

In conclusion, I can only say that either I'm picking the best places in the state or it's really true that there is something special about every small town, plantation, or unorganized territory in Maine.

There are three lucky people in Onawa.

I relied heavily upon the text "Onawa Revisited," by William R. Sawtell, published in 1989, for historical information.

The Token Conservative

Ice Out, Peas and Global Warming

(Continued from page 1)

Here's the truth as I see it. Climate change:

- is happening. It happens all the time.
- is no more scary than our religion and technology make it.
- may or may not be our fault.
- if the models are correct, cannot be stopped by the proposed emissions reductions and
- will cost our economic growth, just for (ineffectual) starters

For some reason, environmental advocates and Governor Baldacci have been unwilling to answer two questions:

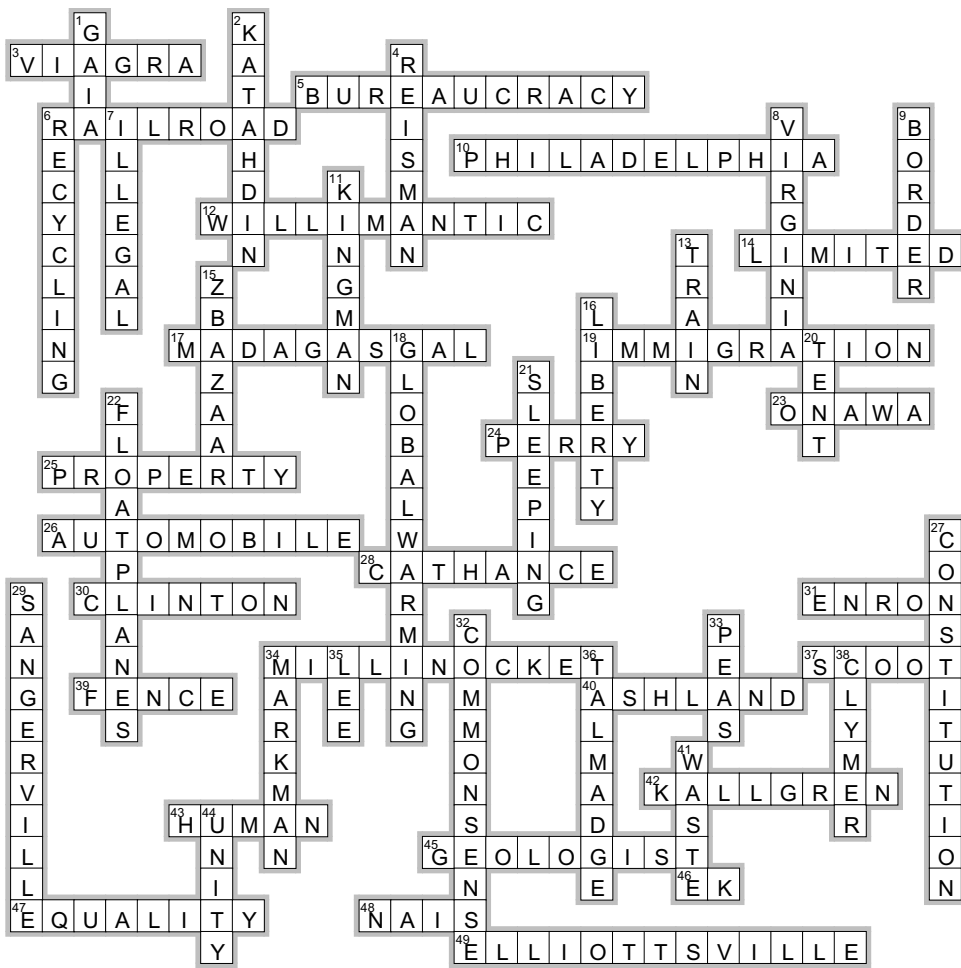
- How much global warming will be averted by their proposed reduction in GHG emissions?
- At what cost in terms of higher energy prices and reduced GDP?

If everyone complied with the proposed reductions in Kyoto and its progeny, including the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan and the

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the resulting reduction in global warming is estimated to about .14 degree Centigrade over the next century, at most, at a cost of 1-3% of GDP. I guess it's not surprising that the Governor doesn't want to be clear about the essentially nonexistent benefits and high cost of his efforts to fight global warming.

The benefits of global warming are almost never mentioned- a longer growing season, higher agricultural productivity, warmer winters, and more grants for global warming alarmists. Basically, the environmental industry and Governor Baldacci want us to make a symbolic sacrificial tithing to the church of Gaia to demonstrate our Green faith and moral superiority. I think it makes more sense to adapt and profit from climate change than to cower in precautionary principle fear and sacrifice our economic growth for nothing.

Jon Reisman is the University of Maine System's token conservative. He teaches Environmental Policy and Political Correctness in American Society



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Needed Reforms, Part 2: Waste Reduction

by Michael Fundalewicz

Over the years, I've worked in several food processing plants as a maintenance mechanic and had to tend to waste management either as part of my regular routine or filling in for absentees. I've seen the ins and outs of various operations and can honestly say there's a lot of room for improvement in all of them.

I'm going to try and address some possibilities for a few of the issues we normally take for granted.

First, there's human waste. I know it's a nasty subject but it's also one we face daily; human waste. What happens when you flush? Where does it go? How is it processed? How is it released? And where?

I'm not going to elaborate on the details because that's your job to know what's going on in your town. If you're concerned, and you very well should be, look into it and form your own conclusions; but these are the basics.

In Ashland, an "aerated lagoon system" is employed due to the low volume of flow. They use a system of solid-eating insects to break down the solids and a system of filtering ponds to clarify the wastewater prior to release, via a leaching field, into the Aroostook River. This is public information and is available to all who ask. This works for us, and it's clean, safe, and acceptable.

As for the larger cities, I can see an implementation of a "methane generating facility" prior to the use of the above system.

For your general information, methane is generated by bacteria that convert carbohydrates into methane gas that is not soluble in waste and therefore escapes.

To generate this methane, all that's needed is naturally found bacteria, (trust me, they'll find it on their own), a series of large floating tanks, instead of ponds, to trap any released methane, under pressure, and utilize it for the energy required to operate the aerators, pumps and such, just like normal energy sources would. Why waste it? It's there, it's free and natural; use it!

Any solids not degraded after this process can be safely neutralized and spread onto empty or dormant fields to bio-degrade further into harmless fertilizer and soil enhancement. Let's do some thinking folks ok?

Now, on to other forms of waste management. How about something a little more acceptable to those who choose not to face reality; redemptions. Ya, I said redemptions, in the context of returning the containers of the products you've purchased.

How many of you have returned your plastic peanut-butter or mayonnaise jars or ketchup and mustard, milk and sour cream containers? Your salad dressing bottles and the aluminum plates your frozen pie's came in. What about the oatmeal, shortening, dinner roll and paper coffee containers with metal ends ; just to name a few. Do you separate them? I doubt it! How about if there was a 5 cent bounty on some of them? Would you turn them in? Darn right! Anything for a nickel!

Well now, isn't that something to think about? How much do we normally throw into the trash that could be recycled? What about those cereal boxes, pasta, pancake, and paper egg cartons? These are paper too. There's no reason, short of laziness, that these can't be added to the list.

What about the styrofoam ones, have you thought about them? Egg cartons, cups, plates, old coolers, shipping peanuts, construction remnants and so on. What about them? They have a new use too.

We live in a "throw-away-society" and that is repugnant! We waste without thinking, we toss without conscience and we're losing without concept. Why??? Because we've been trained that this is the "norm".

So let's change it and see what happens. Let's reverse things for just a minute ok? How about we take those plastic items and recycle them. We can make other products by refining and recycling what we already have instead of something we have to dig up and process.

Most of us, in this area, and that's whom I'm addressing, are quite aware of the things that go into the local dumpsite. We know what's being thrown out and that which can be re-used; in one way or another. So take action and support the recycling effort. Turn your waste into re-usable products.

Here's a few examples: Your peanut-butter and mayonnaise jars can be used for parts, screws and nails. Coffee cans into the same. Your pie plates into garden pest controls. Your milk jugs into bird feeders or pest repellents. The list goes on and on. Why waste???

There are so many things that we can do with what we'd normally think of as waste. It's high time we considered utilizing it as an asset as apposed to being garbage. We need to rethink and adjust our attitudes or we'll wind up like the people in the big cities. Trash heaped up and over the dumpsters and rats all about. Disease is sure to follow and our ground water...well, you do the math!

Now, another subject. As I've said, I've worked in the food processing field for a number of years and I've seen "good" waste go to the dogs.

In one plant we had potato peelings, called "peanut butter" and miscellaneous vegetable by-products getting pumped into tankers and then poured on to old fields without utilization of their prospective properties. They could have been fermented into "E-85", or ethanol, first and then laid to rest as fertilizer to replace the depletion from former years of over-farming. Why wasn't this done... there's no money in it! It's not a matter of money anymore; it's viability. Will we be able to live off the ground we plant on in the future or will it be so toxic that it glows with pollutants?

Here's why, there's just no incentive to do anything progressive. We have rules and regulations about waste disposal but no incentives to comply. It's cheaper to pay the fines than it is to make good the ground you plant on; plain and simple! It breaks down to the "money thing". Is it worth the while to farm the "green" way? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Why? Because chemicals are abundant and cheap. Farmers are enticed to use those chemicals by the manufacturers by giving breaks if they're used exclusively; not withstanding their toxicity! Ever drive by a large field and see the small signs with perhaps brightly colored symbols advocating a fertilizer company's name on it? Here we go, it's money again!

I know for a fact that I don't like "Miracle Grow" in my coffee.

Please don't think I'm saying ban all chemicals; some may be needed here and there as a booster. But I do mean that a ban on flagrant stupidity and corporate greed at our expense should be mandated! And only YOU can do this by speaking out now, before it's too late!

Sorry folks, but what I do on my small and insignificant garden should apply to the conglomerates as well.

Mulch your leaves, grass clippings, household bio-garbage and brush chips in a compost system. Put it back into the soil you grow your tomatoes in and see what happens.

Industrial food processing plants should be required to do just the same.

The next time you plant a garden, think about this. Try something new and keep your environment green.

Have a great season! (Credits to Mr. "C")

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.

“Waiting periods are only a step. Registration is only a step. The prohibition of private firearms is the goal.”
Janet Reno (December 10th, 1993 [AP])

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On the Nature of Government

(Continued from page 1)

11:30 a.m., returned at 2:30 or 3:00, and ended the day in a contented and rested condition. His tranquil existence was briefly disrupted when a box arrived from some office in Washington. This box contained a stamping device with instructions to stamp every single tent peg, certifying it as fit for the use of the troops. This impossible mandate caused the poor fellow a couple of days of extreme stress. He tore his hair, rent his garments, wept salt tears, and cast about desperately for a solution.

Common sense soon revealed the way out of his dilemma and restored his tranquility. He figured that no one was going to be charged to inspect the tent pegs to insure that they had been inspected. He threw away the stamper and went on as before - guzzling coffee, lurching heartily, and knocking little wooden balls about on the village green.

The country marched on to the victory we commemorate every eleventh of November. The officials in Washington congratulated themselves on their careful stewardship of the nation's resources. Uncle Hubert reported that the soldiers at the front were grateful for the warmth from burning thousands of excess tent pegs.

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.

America, While You Were Sleeping

(Continued from page 1)

At that moment, I felt about as angry as I have felt in many a day. Not one to ever be accused of being a wallflower, I expressed my anger and defiance of their attitudes, condemning them and their flippant and grossly irresponsible behavior toward an issue that has generational consequences.

Because we are friends, all was essentially back to normal within two or three days, but not before I drew this little hot iron out of the fire to poke them with: "It isn't you who will bare the brunt of your cynicism and uncaring attitude towards the real problem of illegal immigration. It is not only your children, but your country which you betray today by your lack of concern."

Well, I can over-dramatize at times and be conspicuously over-emotional—even bombastic. Some say that is the Italian in me that is speaking out. But is it?

Hardly. It is the patriot in me, the American that loves the country, and the people that are in it. My question is this: how long will the rest of you continue to sleep while America and its ideals erode a little more each day? Not just the issue of illegal immigration, but all kinds of social ills that have crept upon us over the years and blotted out our practical sense of what is right.

America, while you were sleeping.

- We have opened the Pandora's Box of political correctness, and with no end in sight.
- There have been over 30 million killed; we still cannot agree that two arms, two legs, and a head constitute a baby, but is instead referred to by the pro-choice lobby as "fetal tissue."
- We have chased God out of the public square, and in His place have erected the hollow edifice of government.
- We have let the mainstream media go unchallenged far too long. The media has now almost become a political party unto themselves, and looks to sensationalize the news on behalf of their chosen political interest.
- We have allowed ourselves to believe that we're in total control of our government, but are now face to face with the reality of what decades of liberalism has cost — and will cost — all of us in the future.
- We have, for decades now, watched as judges throughout America attempt — and succeed — in making law as opposed to interpreting it. It seems all were lulled into thinking that judges were beyond political calculations. We were wrong.
- We have allowed "victimology" to become a way of life for the country's so-called minority populace. That would be everyone except white males.
- We have given title and importance to such low-brow political types as Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Michael Moore, and other liberal notables.
- We have witnessed the agenda of America's plastic people in Hollywood. That these actors and the like should be paid any heed at all when their entire lives are wrapped up within the elitist and narcissistic bubble they live in, is simply wrong, and wasteful.

- We have given too much latitude and forgiveness to America's Islamic leadership and citizenry within the United States. Where were their much-needed voices regarding 9/11? Where the hell are they now?
- We have watched the Congress of the United States — specifically the Republican-controlled House of Representatives — spend the taxpayers' money as if it were their own. Over 5,500 earmarked or pork-laden spending items is tantamount to theft. Where are the Gingrich Republicans of 1994?
- We have watched the Democratic Party declare that America's biggest threat is not Osama bin Laden, North Korea, or even Iran. It is George W. Bush. And because of this,
- We have watched as the Democratic Party has, without question, aided America's enemies through its ceaseless and tireless harangue against the "corrupt" and "scandalized" presidency of George W. Bush. Though nothing has been proven against this president, it is not necessarily intended to. This is done as a spring board for what the liberal Democratic Party hopes for most: the reacquisition of political power.
- We have watched millions of illegal aliens march through the streets of over 60 American cities demanding "immigration rights," when most Americans know that these marches have nothing to do with "rights," but with pressuring the Bush administration into granting a circuitous route towards amnesty. And stunningly.
- We have seen the political tin ear of George W. Bush regarding immigration, and it is unacceptable. By his inaction of not securing America's borders, this president endangers America, a concept that is hard to believe when one views this very same president's actions in the war on terrorism.
- Finally, we have tragically grown accustomed to the everyday ravages of all of the above, and pay them less and less attention. From the annoyance of trying to remove the word "Christmas" from, well, Christmas, to the ability of the states to take land from one private owner and transfer it to another, (Kelo v. New London) Americans have grown pre-occupied, and calloused.

Don't look now, America, but your country is in the process of becoming a shell of what it once was. But in actuality, it is we who are becoming shells of what we once were. While you were sleeping, America, the country you once knew has become, in many respects, the stuff of dreams.

Vincent Fiore is a freelance political writer who lives in New York City. His work can be seen on a host of sites, including the American Conservative Union, GOPUSA, ChronWatch, and the conservative-voice. Vincent is a staff writer for the New Media Alliance and a contributing writer for NewsBusters.org. He receives e-mail at: Anwar004@aol.com

“ It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything. ”
Joseph Stalin

The Old Sandy Stream Riding Club Show Dates

The Old Sandy Stream Riding Club of Unity would like to announce our show dates. June 10th, July 15th, August 19th and September 16th. Game Shows are June 18th, July 30th, August 13th, & September 24th. Prices are reasonable. For more information call Pat McCollar at 872-5301.



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

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

AMM: I can't remember where we left off last month, so can you tell me what we have on the table as of right now?

STU: Well, a lot of people have gotten their lease bills. All over the state, I'm hearing complaints that the prices are going up.

AMM: The reasons?

STU: The Bureau of Taxation has reassessed shorefront properties and, as a result, the values went up dramatically. On leased lots, what that does is compound the burden on the leaseholder because the landowner goes up on the lease as well.

AMM: So the leaseholder, who pays the taxes, is not only stuck with an increased tax burden, but the amount of his lease is also increased?

STU: Yes, when the taxes on the land goes up \$200, the lease goes up \$600, \$800, or more.

AMM: That hurts.

STU: The landowners blame the state, and the state simply says that this (the new evaluation) is what people are willing to pay for the land.

AMM: Isn't that fair?

STU: No, not really. We don't agree with that, especially on leased property. The landowners are not selling the land, so how can you put a value on something that can't be bought?

AMM: And then again, there is also the fact that this land would be worth hardly anything at all if the leaseholder hadn't added the value to it, by building the camp, and maintaining the property, right?

STU: I'm hearing the Howard Weymouth (Katahdin Timberlands) is even blaming the Maine Leaseholder's Association for the increase in valuations around the lakes. I don't know where he gets that because we've always maintained that these valuations were too high as it was. As you said, we're the ones who have improved the property, making it what it's worth today. The landowners have done nothing to improve the property. The leaseholders have built the camps, cleaned up the shorefront around the lakes. We have improved the property, not the landowners.

AMM: The last time we spoke, you had mentioned a letter requesting Governor Baldacci to set up a commission to study leaseholding issues. Has anything developed on that front?

STU: Last Tuesday, Al Mosca and I met with our representatives, Paul Davis and Herb Clark, as well as a couple of people from the Bureau of Taxation for the Unorganized Territories. The folks from the taxation bureau told us that all of the valuations in the UT were going up, but when we asked about land in tree growth, they said that the tax on tree growth was going to remain flat.

AMM: Go on.

STU: Leaseholders with camps, especially on lakes, are bearing the brunt of the tax increases. Because of it, the mill rates will go down, the result being that the large landowners will have a significant decrease in the taxes that they will be paying. While the leaseholders will be paying more in taxes and more on their lease, the tax burden on the landowners will be less.

AMM: Did you find anything out about the reevaluations?

STU: They are trying to justify the increase in valuation because people from out of state can afford to pay - and will pay - more than the land is worth, especially if the land includes lakefront property. What this is doing is taxing the citizens of Maine off of their property, and I can't imagine the citizens of Maine allowing this to happen.

AMM: I can. It's called rural cleansing.

STU: This is like something that organized crime might do. Getting back to your question about the governor setting up a commission to study the problem, the governor has the power to do something to stop this. We did go to his office, but he was out of state, so we talked to one of his aides.

AMM: Uh huh ...

STU: The governor can stop this tax increase right now, then once the commission has completed its study of the issues, then we can go on from there. The large landowners are reaping hundreds of thousands of dollars through these increases, not to mention the fact that the tax on his land in tree growth is going down.

AMM: What can be done?

STU: People need to get involved in their government. I've got to give credit to the people of Allagash for going down to Augusta in busloads, to lobby for their interests and to attend the hearings on issues that matter to them. If we are going to maintain our way of living, we have to be willing to get involved. Every year, more of our land is lost to large landowners from out of state, or out of the country.

AMM: That's pretty much what's happening here in Millinocket. This was a prosperous little town once, and now it's owned almost lock, stock, and barrel by someone from Massachusetts. But that's another issue.

STU: Right now, it's in the governor's lap. Let's see what he does with it. We'll see if he's really for the people, or not. We expect to hear something soon.

AMM: Anything else?

STU: I think that about does it for now. Please let any of the leaseholders know that, if they have any questions, they can always contact me at 723-44776.

AMM: Thanks, Stu. I'll see you next time.

Immigration Compromise Will Cause Republicans To Lose Senate

Lancaster, PA — If Senate Republicans who have compromised with the likes of Ted Kennedy on an immigration bill are successful in getting that bill passed into law, Republicans can kiss goodbye their control of the Senate, according to Constitution Party National Chairman Jim Clymer.

Said Clymer: "I think that this will be the final straw for conservatives who have held their nose and stuck with the Republican Party as they watched it trash nearly every core principle that identified it as a conservative party: protecting the peace, controlling spending, limiting government, and being strong on law and order. Placing illegal immigrants on a fast track to citizenship is a frontal assault on law and order. President Bush has deliberately chosen not to enforce our immigration laws, and then declared immigration to be out of control. I predict that the Republican rank-and-file will not follow their leaders in the 'Millionaire's Club' out this particular gangplank."

"The only way that Senate Republicans can avoid incurring the wrath of the voters this November is by backing away from this capitulation on principle," Clymer stated.

"This curious alliance between the leftists and much of the business community is an abdication of their duty and their oath to uphold the Constitution. It gives compromise a bad name," continued Clymer. He suggested that those like Sen. Jeff Sessions, who have

held onto their principles, will be okay; but that "the rest of these Republicans will need to look to the Democratic Party for their votes, and that flat-out won't happen."

"These 'progressive' Republican Senators may have been intimidated by seeing masses taking to the streets waving the Mexican flag. I predict that Republican voters will be looking for alternatives made of sterner stuff. Rather than just sitting out the next election, I welcome the many Republicans, who will be in need of recovery after having seen their party hijacked by the left and multinational business interests, into the ranks of the Constitution Party," concluded Clymer.

The Constitution Party is a national political party, registered with the Federal Election Commission. It has run candidates in every election for President and Vice President since 1992 and is running many candidates this year for U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives as well as for governor and many state legislative seats.

Jim Clymer has been Chairman of the Constitution Party since 1999. He is a practicing attorney in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who has twice run as a Constitution Party candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, and most recently, ran for U.S. Senate against Arlen Specter and Joe Hoefel, garnering more than 220,000 votes. The Constitution Party National Website is <http://www.constitutionparty.com>

Government's Big Lie: The "Crisis" of Babies With Undiagnosed Mental Illness

by Laura Adelmann

To the federal government, many newborns, toddlers and preschoolers are undiagnosed mental cases with dire need of "treatment" (read: drugs).

Following the appalling trend of labeling school children with an ever-expanding list of mental disorders and medicating them with the cocaine-class of drugs like Adderall and Ritalin, government is promoting universal mental health screening and treatment "beginning with babies."

The Federal Mental Health Action Agenda, the blueprint to implementing the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, is targeting America's youngest by promoting mental health screenings in places like daycares and schools.

In a 2003 speech, Kathryn Power director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, excitedly reported that mental health assessments "prevention and intervention" "are increasingly being conducted in "non-mental health settings." She commended one unnamed community for "placing mental health consultants in child care settings." Also touted was the federal "Prevention and Early Intervention Grant Program." Power noted the program's goal is to reach children "and babies" before they "have a diagnosable problem." At that time, Power stated, more than half of the administration's programs were to focus on infants and preschoolers.

Mandatory screening of children against government-defined criteria of what is "mentally healthy" is an Orwellian nightmare; the government will decide if citizens, starting at birth, are "mentally healthy."

Dr. Karen Effrem, a Johns Hopkins-trained pediatrician, researcher and expert on the government's movement toward universal mental health screening, has been sounding the alarm about the dangers of this Big Pharmaceutical movement for years.

She rightly states, "Government sponsored and controlled universal mental health screening, no matter how sweetly wrapped in the fig leaf of parental consent, should never, ever be implemented. It is never, EVER, the proper role of government to set norms for, assess or intervene in the thoughts and emotions of free citizens, much less innocent, vulnerable, and still developing children. It is our thoughts and emotions that make each of us uniquely and individually human, and we use these thoughts and emotions to understand the world and maintain our inalienable right to liberty."

Once a child has been screened, a highly subjective process, their personal medical information will become part of state records, potentially to be used as a screening tool for health care, employment, military or college admissions. An identified child would likely be ushered further into the psychological system for more assessments and "treatment," a term that's become a euphemism for Big Psychology's first methodology: Drug therapy. And the mental health establishment is not shy about drugging babies. Between 1995 and 1997, psychotropic drug prescriptions for children from 2 to 4 years old grew by 300 percent.

Under the universal screening system, an identified child's family like would also be brought into the equation. What happens to parents who refuse to obey the psychological establishment's recommendations to drug a baby? Would the parent be considered a child abuser? Perhaps there is a genetic component the government screeners may want examined. Indeed, the actual stated goal of the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health is much broader than just babies, it promotes mental health screening for all, including "Teen Screen," an on-line mental health questionnaire. Effrem said the program's author admits to an 84 percent false-positive rate. "Any other medical test with that high of a false-positive rate would be laughed out of the room," said Effrem in a March 2 speech, (to be available on DVD at www.edwatch.org).

But "universal" mental health screening programs are already being implemented, many through federal grant programs, in states around the nation, said Effrem. The Florida Strategic Plan for Infant Mental Health Plan's goal is to develop a system to prevent children from birth to age five from developing emotional and behavioral disorders.

"Are we going to put the kids in a bubble? Are the parents becoming breeders and feeders so that the government can provide this mental health nirvana for these children?" Effrem asked.

Minnesota's early childhood screening program is being integrated to "ensure" all children ages birth to 5 are screened "early and continuously" for "socio-emotional" (euphemism for mental health) to link "children and their families" to mental health services. In Illinois, "all children" are to receive social and emotional screens and the schools are to incorporate social and emotional standards as part of the state's learning standards.

Continued on page 13



The Fleecing of Maine: Enron-Style Accounting Takes Control of State Budget

by Reps. David Trahan and Jon McKane

When the financial empires of Enron and WorldCom began to crumble, their executives resorted to a series of gimmicks that eventually led them to federal prison. They moved money into accounts to inflate figures. They propped up revenue projections to pacify stock holders. And they hired their own accountants and directed them to hide financial losses.

About three years ago, not long after John Baldacci took office, and at the same time serious state budget problems started to rear their ugly heads, our own state leaders turned to similar gimmicks to hide our financial problems. Taxes and fees started to increase, billion-dollar deficits plagued state government, and budget gimmicks became the norm. Common sense and fiscal responsibility went out the window.

One of the most imprudent moves made by the governor and his legislative allies was leasing the Maine liquor business for a one-time windfall of \$125 million. In return for this quick cash infusion, Maine will lose \$26 million a year in revenue for 10 years, a total of \$260 million. At the very least, this was disastrous fiscal management. But it gets worse.

In an extraordinary example of perverse logic, the \$26-million loss of the liquor money, formerly recorded annually as tax revenue, is now listed as a tax reduction, the same as if the state had cut taxes by \$26 million. On paper, this gimmick appears to lower the tax burden. In addition, by recording this lost revenue in this fashion, a hole or void is created that allows the administration to raise taxes by the same \$26 million a year without appearing to do so. This is Enron style accounting gimmickry at its best – and it's our own state government doing it.

This liquor sale stunt is just one example of the "shell game" being used by the leaders of our state to manipulate tax dollars and fool the taxpayers. But as P.T. Barnum used to say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

In another scheme, an even bigger one, three major pools of money have been moved "off budget." The Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program (BETR), the Circuit Breaker, and the Expanded Circuit Breaker Programs – all totaling \$262 million – have been moved to what is called the unallocated income tax line in the budget. This line is not recorded as revenue as it is used to reimburse taxpayers who overpay taxes. This shake-and-bake maneuver does three disturbing things.

First, it artificially reduces the level of state spending. Last January, the legislature passed a weak spending cap that the governor had requested to limit spending by all levels of government – municipal, county and state. The spending cap in the new law allowed state government to increase spending just under three percent in fiscal year 2006. Politically, it was essential that state spending appear to be below this cap. By moving these three items off budget, \$262 million in spending disappeared. The governor could then claim that state spending had been successfully "capped."

We asked the non-partisan Office of Fiscal and Program Review to recalculate the budget with these programs added back. They reported that state spending exceeded the cap by \$32.8 million.

Second, this "off budget" gimmick, like the liquor sale gimmick, allows \$262 million in tax burden to disappear, creating an opportunity to raise the equivalent in taxes without appearing to do so, and that is exactly what happened.

Third – and of particular interest to municipal government officials – this gimmick changes the revenue-sharing formula under which state money is passed to town and city governments. Under state law, the portion of revenue sharing sent back to towns to help with the costs of fire, police and ambulance services is calculated as a percentage of state taxes collected (5.1%). By moving these revenues "off budget," the amount of taxes collected is artificially reduced. As a result, in

fiscal years 2006 and 2007, town and city governments will lose \$11.2 million in revenue sharing. Meanwhile, state government books the windfall. So much for property tax relief.

One of the most onerous examples of merciless and deceptive taxation is the automatic annual tax increase on gasoline. The revenue generated by gas tax "indexing," which started in 2004, is no longer recorded as a tax increase by the governor and his budget people. Instead, it is simply counted in future revenue projections. A wink and a nod and in fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007, just over \$82 million in real tax increases vanish as if they were never paid.

Many other problems interfere with accurate accounting – computer "glitches" wreaking havoc in the Medicaid program, funding shifts, claims of ineligible social service recipients, and the infamous "sick tax" on hospitals to artificially raise our Medicaid rates for higher federal reimbursement.

These gimmicks, schemes, and shell games are not only a misuse of taxpayer dollars; they are an insult to the trusting and honest people of Maine. How could we have gotten this far out of balance to become the most fiscally mismanaged state? The primary reason is that there is no longer a system of checks and balances in state government. One "team" has total control over every aspect of Maine's government. Now they have created Maine's own version of an Enron "perfect storm."

*Rep. David Trahan, a self-employed logger, lives in Waldoboro.
Rep. Jon McKane, an electrical contractor, lives in Newcastle.*

Government's Big Lie

(Continued from page 12)

U.S. Sen. Ron Paul (R-Texas) has been a vocal opponent of mental health screening. In his Sept., 2004 newsletter Texas Straight Talk, he wrote, "It's not hard to imagine a time 20 or 30 years from now when government psychiatrists stigmatize children whose religious, social, or political values do not comport with those of the politically correct, secular state."

It may not take that long; Effrem said some mental health and violence-prevention programs are already labeling children as mentally ill or potentially violent based on political and religious criteria.

The people need to speak out: There is no baby mental health crisis in America. Broad mental illness screening of babies is an outrageous overreaching intrusion into children's personal thoughts, behaviors and emotions, and it needs to be stopped.

Laura Adelmann is a Staff Writer for The New Media Alliance. Columns by this author can be read regularly on TheRealityCheck.org.



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Good Immigration Policy Starts With Building A Fence

by Jeff Lukens

Polling results are clear. Upwards of 80% of Americans want the federal government to get tougher on illegal immigration. While politicians pander to cheap labor and cheap votes, we the taxpayers pick up the tab for increased health-care, education, and other social services. As for dollars and the social fabric of our nation, cheap labor may not be so cheap after all.

While almost everyone welcomes legal immigrants to America, we know we can assimilate only so many newcomers at one time. The solution to our illegal immigration problem begins with controlling the border, and controlling the border means building a fence.

The income gap between the U.S. and Mexico is the largest between any two neighboring countries in the world. The Mexican economy does not provide living wages for its growing population, and their solution is to export their poor to our country.

No previous group of immigrants has had such a large inflow or access to their home country that this latest group has today. That's because no previous wave of immigrants could walk across our borders.

Earlier groups crossed oceans to come here and were assimilated into the culture in a gradual and measured way. This latest wave quite literally has only to walk right in, and they are doing so in a big way.

Most illegals do not conduct themselves like immigrants of the past. Okay, they work hard, but they are here against our laws and generally have little interest in learning English or the ways of our culture. Illegals generally come here merely to find a job, not necessarily to become citizens. And now they are protesting our generosity and good will.

These attitudes are offensive, and are the reason why most Americans want the border controlled. This is not about racism. It is about a distortion of the process that appalls African, Asian and other ethnic groups who are legally waiting in line to come here.

Once in the U.S., sending illegals back has become nearly impossible. With legal restrictions and limited enforcement resources, even when we catch them they are often released back on U.S. soil as if nothing happened. If we don't address this problem properly, in 20 years we may have an exponential number, say 20 or 30 million more illegals, to deal with.

The president has provided no leadership in this whole mess. Moreover, Congress refuses to let the INS enforce existing laws for fear of offending illegals as prospective new voters, or the political contributors who employ them. Until they understand that this new group is not behaving like traditional immigrants, public anger over the situation will continue to grow.

We should not allow Mexico to export their poverty as a way to avoid economic and social reform. Ultimately, this problem will not go away until Mexico reforms its systemic government and societal corruption, and their people can live prosperously in their own country.

So far, all efforts to secure the border have failed. Our priority should be enforcing our laws and not rewarding those who break them. More patrols alone will not do the job. Who knows, whatever funding is provided this year may be cut next year, and we are right back where we started. We need something tangible.

Our elected officials talk tough but do nothing. In plain English, enforcement at the border means building the fence. They need to authorize it, fund it, and start building it. We can even contract Mexican labor to do the work.

No, a fence will not stop illegal aliens from coming. It will be controversial and expensive, but it will reduce their flow to a manageable level. Once it is in place and we restore order, our ability to handle guest worker programs and related issues grows immensely. We really cannot address any other issue related to immigration until our border security is first restored.

There is an old saying that good fences make for good neighbors. This truism has never been more applicable than with our Southern neighbor. Good fences make good immigration policy too.

We have a proud history of accepting the world's poor in a system designed to provide gradual assimilation of new citizens into our language and culture. We need to control our border and allow that process to happen properly.

Jeff Lukens writes engaging opinion columns from a fresh, conservative point of view. He is also a Staff Writer for the New Media Alliance, Inc., a non-profit (501c3) coalition of writers and grass-roots media outlets. He can be contacted through his website at www.jeff-lukens.com

Visiting Your Representative How To Be Heard

by Carol W. LaGrasse

"Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." - Jesus of Nazareth, in the parable of the unjust judge, Luke 18:5 KJV

The most effective way to be heard in the halls of the legislature is by visiting your representative at the office in the Capitol. Many circumstances argue against this sacrifice of time and money, whether the office is at Washington, D.C., or in the Legislative Office Building at the State Capitol, but there is no substitute for this impressive mission. The visit to the Capitol office has incalculable influence, especially if it is repeated several times on the same issue during the same legislative session.

It is not necessarily possible to visit the Capitol, however. So a visit to the District Office of the representative creates an all-important opportunity to be heard in person. Letters and telephone calls to the representative are essential, but a personal visit to the representative's office is especially influential. The district office is the place where the representative reaches out to constituents and seeks to show the ability to satisfy the needs and complaints that they bring. And, it is often possible to make an appointment at the district office to discuss an issue directly with the representative, joined by the legislative aide. The important thing is to visit the representative in person.

There are three styles of visit to the representative: the informed individual citizen, the group visit by several members of your organization, and the rally or lobbying day style of visit.

The individual informed citizen can have a great deal of influence if the visit is well-planned and includes high-quality follow-up. The citizen should know exactly why he is making the visit and exactly what he is asking of the representative. He should know his situation or issue well and have a short, well-planned, but flexible, presentation. Finally, it is necessary to have materials to leave with the representative. One original item is worth a stack of hackneyed publications from other groups.

After the visit, a follow-up letter and telephone call are essential to tie down the specific nature of the request and the direction that was discussed at the meeting. Most representatives respond to citizen's letters by sending vague, sympathetic letters, rather than promising action. There is the danger that the visit to the representative will fall into the same trap, the effort of the citizen diffused by empty courtesy.

A request might be that a bill be submitted about an issue or that the representative intervene on a matter involving unjust treatment by a regulatory agency. The possibilities are numerous. The requests that property rights activists bring to a representative are more challenging for the official to satisfy than common constituent requests related to government benefits. The citizen should be able to knowledgeably discuss the ideas for a bill with the legislative aide.

The follow-up is as essential as the initial visit. With rare exceptions, the representative will drop the ball unless the citizen continues to visit, telephone and write letters. At the same time, the appearance of news articles about the issue or the grassroots group's activities, or letters to the editor, are like fertilizer on the ground that will grow the action by the legislature to deal effectively with your issue.

Whether involving three or thirty individuals, group visits are a big plus! The group visit demonstrates the strength and coherence of your organization. Even if the group carefully plans its spokespeople and the order of the meeting, a group visit tends to be less structured. Something may go wrong from the leader's point of view, such as a member being discourteous as a result of the intensity of the issue, but your organization will have validated its importance by successfully making a group visit to your representative.

A rally at the Capitol where a hundred or more individuals fan out and visit the offices of selected representatives is the ultimate lobbying event for a grassroots organization. Busloads of citizens at the Capitol to attend a hearing or lobby their representatives are an event. The leaders should exploit the event to strengthen the organization. Clear goals, advance notice to media, advance appointments with the representatives, and materials for the grassroots to distribute at the offices of their representatives are some of the key aspects of successful a Capitol rally. Follow-up after such an exciting event must be unstinting. A cause of the magnitude to attract hundreds of citizens to the Capitol can succeed if the leadership is committed to the legislative process from beginning to end.

The Check List

Here are some essentials to consider before embarking on the visit to your representative and to check off after you have taken that first step toward your goal.

Before Your Visit — Questions to Ask Yourself

1. What problem or issue do you face?
2. Because of this problem, what is the goal that you ultimately seek?
3. What would you like your representative to do to accomplish this goal, if you could ask anything you want that is within his power?
4. What else do you think that your representative could do to help that would solve the problem, at least for now?
5. What can you and your organization offer to make the effort a success?

Preparations

1. Make an appointment.
2. Use the telephone to "meet" the legislative aide who will deal with your issue, if possible.
3. Find out which legislative committees your representative serves on or chairs.
4. Make a copy of any letter to the editor that you have written that has been published on the issue, if applicable, and bring to meeting.
5. Make a copy of one or two documents related to the regulatory problem you face, if applicable, and bring to the meeting.
6. Make a short written summary of the issue or situation to bring to the meeting.
7. Plan to describe the issue or situation briefly.
8. If a group of several people is joining you at the meeting, make sure that all have understood the arrangements to arrive on time.

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“ It is the duty of the patriot to protect his country from its government. ”
Thomas Paine

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Constitutional Myths and Realities: Part II

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. It is the second half of Justice Markman's speech, the first having been printed in the April issue of *All Maine Matters*.

Myth or Misconception 6: The role of the judge in interpreting the Constitution is to do justice.

The role of a judge is to do justice under law, a very different concept. Each of us has his or her own innate sense of right and wrong. This is true of every judge I have ever met. But judges are not elected or appointed to impose their personal views of right and wrong upon the legal system. Rather, as Justice Felix Frankfurter once remarked, "The highest example of judicial duty is to subordinate one's personal will and one's private views to the law." The responsible judge must subordinate his personal sense of justice to the public justice of our Constitution and its representative and legal institutions.

I recall one judicial confirmation hearing a number of years ago when I was working for the Senate Judiciary Committee. The nominee was asked, "If a decision in a particular case was required by law or statute and yet that offended your conscience, what would you do?" The nominee answered, "Senator, I have to be honest with you. If I was faced with a situation like that and it ran against my conscience, I would follow my conscience." He went on to explain, "I was born and raised in this country, and I believe that I am steeped in its traditions, its mores, its beliefs and its philosophies, and if I felt strongly in a situation like that, I feel that it would be the product of my very being and upbringing. I would follow my conscience." To my mind, for a judge to render decisions according to his or her personal conscience rather than the law is itself unconscionable.

Myth or Misconception 7: The great debate over the proper judicial role is between judges who are activist and judges who are restrained.

In the same way that excessively "activist" judges may exceed the boundaries of the judicial power by concocting laws out of whole cloth, excessively "restrained" judges may unwarrantedly contract protections and rights conferred by the laws and the Constitution. It is inappropriate for a judge to exercise "restraint" when to do so is to neglect his obligation of judicial review – his obligation to compare the laws with the requirements set forth by the Constitution. Nor am I enamored

with the term "strict construction" to describe the proper duties of the judge, for it is the role of the judge to interpret the words of the law reasonably – not "strictly" or "loosely," not "broadly" or "narrowly," just reasonably.

I would prefer to characterize the contemporary judicial debate in terms of interpretivism versus non-interpretivism. In doing this, I would borrow the description of the judicial power used by Chief Justice John Marshall, who 200 years ago in *Marbury v. Madison* stated that it is the duty of the judge to say what the law is, not what it ought to be (which is the province of the legislature). For the interpretivist, the starting point, and usually the ending point, in giving meaning to the law are the plain words of the law. This is true whether we are construing the law of the Constitution, the law of a statute, or indeed the law of contracts and policies and deeds. In each instance, it is the duty of the judge to give faithful meaning to the words of the lawmaker and let the chips fall where they may.

One prominent illustration of the differing approaches of interpretivism and non-interpretivism arises in the context of the constitutionality of capital punishment. Despite the fact that there are at least six references in the Constitution to the possibility of capital punishment – for example, both the 5th and 14th Amendments assert that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law," from which it can clearly be inferred that a person I be deprived of these where there I due process – former Justice William Brennan held, in dissent, that capital punishment was unconstitutional on the grounds apparently that, since 1789, there had arisen an "evolving standard of decency marking the progress of a maturing society" on whose behalf he spoke. Purporting to speak for "generations yet unborn," Justice Brennan substituted his own opinions on capital punishment for the judgments reached in the Constitution by the Founders. His decision in this regard is the embodiment, but certainly not the only recent example, of non-interpretivism.

Myth or Misconception 8: The Constitution is a "living" document.

The debate between interpretivists and non-interpretivists over how to give meaning to the Constitution is often framed in the following terms: Is the Constitution a "living" document, in which judges "update" its provisions according to the "needs" of the times? Or is the Constitution an enduring document, in which its original meanings and principles are permanently main-

tained, subject only to changes adopted in accordance with its amending clause? I believe that it is better described in the latter sense. It is beyond dispute, of course, that the principles of the Constitution must be applied to new circumstances over time – the Fourth Amendment on searches and seizures to electronic wiretaps, the First Amendment on freedom of speech to radio and television and the internet, the interstate commerce clause to automobiles and planes, etc. However, that is distance from allowing the words and principles themselves to be altered based upon the preferences of individual judges.

Our Constitution would be an historical artifact – a genuinely dead letter – if its original sense became irrelevant, to be replaced by the views of successive waves of judges and justices intent on "updating" it, or replacing what some judges view as the "dead hand of the past": with contemporary moral theory. This is precisely what the Founders sought to avoid when they instituted a "government of laws, not of men."

There is no charter of government in the history of mankind that has more wisely set forth the proper relationship between the governed and their government than the American Constitution. For those of us who are committed to constitutional principles and fostering respect for that document, there is no better homage that we can pay it than to understand clearly its design and take care in the manner in which we describe it.

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.

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How To Be Heard

(Continued from page 15)

During Your Visit

1. Assume that you have at most twenty minutes to one-half hour.
2. Introduce yourself and, if you are not alone, everyone from your group, and write down the names of any members of the representative's team who attend.
3. Give a brief introduction to your issue or situation. If applicable, tell how your organization got started. Distribute copies of documents that you have brought. Describe your goal and ask for the assistance of the representative.
4. During the discussion, introduce your planned request for assistance.
5. As the need arises, discuss other alternatives that the representative and you have in mind.
6. As the time draws to a close, try to point to an accomplishment of the meeting, express your appreciation, distribute the summary of your issue or situation that you brought along, and leave with a promise to be in touch shortly.

Immediate Follow-up after Your Visit

1. Within two days, telephone the legislative aide who was at the meeting to express your appreciation and ask his viewpoint.
2. Write a brief follow-up letter of appreciation to the representative, pointing to an accomplishment of the meeting, discussing your goal, and reiterating the request you have in mind to accomplish your goal. Tell what you are doing to help. Make sure that the aide receives a copy of the letter.
3. Send any documents, clippings, and the like that you promised at the meeting.

Follow-up to Accomplish Your Goal

1. Work regularly with the legislative aide, visiting the office again if appropriate.
2. Regularly send the aide useful new material, including published letters to the editor, related to your cause.
3. If you are the citizen leader responsible to reach the legislative goal for a major issue, continue with the many tasks needed to bring your legislation to enactment, whether these are citizen rallies, working with the legislative aide to have a companion bill introduced, or other projects.
4. If you have visited your legislator to find regulatory relief from an unjust agency, keep abreast of the actions of the representative and his aide to meet with the agency and reach a solution that is fair to you.

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- Springfield: 47.3 acres in the back country where the deer are. Nicely wooded with cedar and spruce. Some high ground for a camp and some low ground where the deer hang out. 4WD access. Three lakes within a mile and many lakes nearby. \$25,000
- Lee: Three acres on the South Road. Nice level lot in quiet area and close to Silver lake. ATV and Snowmobile trails go right by. Town road with power and phone. Quiet area. \$11,900

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