

All Maine Matters

Fishery Notes - Farming & Forestry, too!

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FREE

Attacking TABOR

by John Frary

On Tuesday, February 26, the Secretary of State certified that the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) petitions have enough signatures to place the measure before the voters in a referendum. If passed TABOR would tie the amount of state taxes and fees to the nation's official rate of inflation and Maine's population growth. Any increase over this limit would require the consent of a majority of the voters. Twenty percent of any state revenue in excess of the limit would set aside in a reserve fund to cover shortfalls due to periods of economic downturns and the remaining 80% returned to taxpayers. Similar limits would apply to local taxes.

The key to TABOR is this: Maine's taxpayers must consent to increases beyond the stated limits.

The immediate reaction of our masters in Augusta tells us that we can expect no response to this key point in the months to come. All manner of fearful consequences will be predicted, but we will hear no opponent arguing that taxpayers should be denied a direct say about the burdens imposed upon them.

Planning Director Martha Freeman, speaking on behalf of Governor Baldacci, provided the initial response. She assures us that "Taxpayer concerns already have been addressed very well in LD1." If that's true, then TABOR is done for. Happy and satisfied taxpayers will troop to the polls and vote it down. Speaking for myself, I rather doubt that Director Freeman is all that confident of the Maine taxpayers' contentment with LD1. If she is, a day trip to Auburn is certain to shake her confidence a bit.

Apart from doubts one may have about the voters' enthusiasm for LD1, it is flagrantly illogical for the Democrats to boast of reforming a mess they created in the first place. I would be surprised if Maine's taxpayers, studying their own tax bills, will be much impressed by assurances that "four studies have shown that LD 1 is succeeding."

House Speaker John Richardson enthusiastically characterizes TABOR as "the calamity from Colorado." He warns us that "it will only create problems that will hurt Maine's school children, and our families, our seniors and our communities." What he really means, of course, is that the voters will create problems if they are allowed to interfere with business that properly belongs to John Richardson, the Boo-Boo from Brunswick, and his colleagues. Not that we will be hearing them say that in so many words. Nor will we be hearing a lot about the dubious achievements of LD1.

Fear will be the key to the anti-TABOR campaign. Official sources aided by every organized interest group dependent on gouging the taxpayer and abetted by a liberal-minded press will bombard the voters with vague warnings of disasters if they are allowed to have a say in taxation.

The objective of all this will not be to inform the voters, but to create unease and uncertainty. Mary Adams, Jack Wibby, the Maine Heritage Policy Center and other TABOR advocates will be out-spent by a wide margin in the campaign to come. Every word they speak will be countered by ten or a hundred.

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Ruland Farm in Parkman, Maine.

The Token Conservative

by Jon Reisman

The resurrection of All Maine Matters and the opportunity to pen a monthly column herein is cause for optimism and good cheer. A column is a great chance to think and talk about Maine politics and policy. It's a chance to influence the agenda, educate and pontificate. For a conservative academic wordsmith, what's not to like?

In the (hopefully hugely profitable) issues to come, I will write about national and state politics and policy, global warming, the culture war, intellectual pluralism, entrepreneurship, blue, red and purple America, and more. House Republican leader David Bowles once introduced me as the University of Maine System's token conservative, and with a gentle jab at the "native conservative" SAM's George Smith, I've adopted

that phrase for my column. It's pithy and accurate, a standard I will strive for. Here's where I'm coming from:

I was born in Buffalo, NY 50 years ago. I grew up in Philadelphia. My family summered in the early 60's on Long Lake in Naples, and I spent a total of 10 summers as a camper and counselor at a camp there. I first traveled to Washington County as a 13 year old canoeist in 1969, and the beauty, wilderness and poverty I saw those many years ago haunts me still. I went to college at Colby (majoring in both environmental studies and economics, a combination that raised some eyebrows thirty years ago). I studied economics in graduate school, married a Maine girl and moved to

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

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

Endangered Species - Making Mom and Dad Extinct

By Tim Russell

For millennia, societies around the world have held that the cornerstone of the foundation for their existence has been the traditional family - a mother, a father united in monogamous marriage raising children. Marriage was not created by the law or the Constitution. Marriage is not a legal statement, but an anthropological and sociological reality, created and sanctioned by God.

Marriage laws merely recognize and regulate an institution already in existence for thousands of years. Societal archives, throughout many civilizations, are filled with many volumes of documented social science evidence attesting to a child's mental, physical, economic and emotional well being when raised in a traditional family setting.

Pitirim Sorokin, founder and first chair of the Sociology Department at Harvard, proclaimed, fifty years ago, the importance of married parents.

*"The most essential sociocultural patterning of a newborn human organism is achieved by the family. It is the first and most efficient sculptor of human material, shaping the physical, behavioral, mental, moral and sociocultural characteristics of practically every individual. ...From remotest past, married parents have been the most effective teachers of their children."*¹

The Center for Law and Social Policy, a liberal child advocacy organization, reported in 2003, "Most researchers now agree that...studies support the notion that, on average, children do best when raised by their two married biological parents..."²

A Child Trends Research Brief also reports "An extensive body of research tells us that children do best when they grow up with both biological parents..."³

Tragically, this traditional meaning and understanding of the family is no longer held by many in today's society.

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What Maine Needs Now

by Matt McDonald

Why do people choose to live in the State of Maine? This is the question that I have been posing to myself over the last couple of weeks. You have probably asked yourself the same question. With the beauty of Maine's vast forests, pristine coastline, and untouched wilderness, the state is certainly in a class all by itself.

The citizens of Maine are known for being good hearted as well as hardworking. There is hardly any pollution or crime, and a number of studies places Maine as one of the top places to raise children. Yet with all these positive characteristics, the state of Maine is one of the hardest — if not the hardest — places to live and to make a living, and if things do not change soon, the only people who will be enjoying all the beauty of this fine state will be those who vacation here in the summer because all the good hearted and hardworking Maine citizens will have to move because of the lack of good paying jobs and the terrible tax burden that citizens of Maine are being forced to carry.

What needs to change? First of all there is the obvious: There has to be tax reform brought to Maine. As the great tax reform patriot Mary Adams says, "It's time to rein in government spending."

The state of Maine has a great spending problem. At the time of the writing of this article the State of Maine has appropriated \$6,911,419,180 (that's almost seven billion dollars) to spend in this fiscal year. This money represents the funds that will be used in the General fund, the Highway fund, Internal Service funds, Bond funds, and other state service funds.

What the nearly seven billion dollar budget funding does not represent is education spending that is derived from local tax sources, nor does it include federal funds that do not go through state agencies, such as Social Security, Medicare, and agriculture subsidies.

If one were to calculate what the State of Maine spends a day it comes out to nearly \$19,000,000. The underpaid and overtaxed people of Maine are being asked to ante up nearly \$19,000,000 a day so that the current governor and his administration can recklessly and carelessly spend it. This should not be so.

Another challenge that the citizens of Maine are being forced to carry is the terrible cost of healthcare. In 2003, Governor Baldacci introduced socialized medicine into Maine under the guise of Dirigo Choice. The Governor promised that Dirigo Choice would be the answer to the nearly one hundred thirty thousand uninsured citizens of Maine.

Nearly three years and fifty three million dollars later, there are only two thousand newly enrolled people in Dirigo Choice. That is certainly a far cry from what the Governor promised.

Instead of reforming or getting rid of this failure of a healthcare plan, the Governor is asking for more time and more tax dollars to fund it. What is the answer to the terrible cost of healthcare in Maine? It is found in a free market where the individual is able to choose what type of coverage he or she needs based upon their needs and wants, not based on what the State of Maine says that they need. It is based in a free market where an interstate insurance sale is available. It is found in a free market where a Maine family can purchase an insurance plan at the same rate as a family in New Hampshire.

The citizens of Maine should not have to suffer with such high healthcare costs when the answer is simply found in a free market approach to healthcare.

A final challenge that the citizens of the State of Maine have to deal with is that we have a person in the Blaine House who should not be there. He has done nothing but fail the people that he is supposed to be governing.

The people of Maine cried out for tax reform and tax relief. The Governor provided LD1. LD1 has done nothing to bring tax reform or tax relief to the people of Maine.

The people of Maine have cried out for healthcare reform and relief from high healthcare costs. The Governor introduced socialized healthcare via Dirigo Choice, which has been nothing but a tax burden to the Maine citizens.

The Governor has vetoed and discouraged the will of the majority of the citizens of Maine on multiple occasions. This can be seen with his introduction of sexual orientation into the Maine Civil Rights Act and with his stalling of the Racino in Bangor, even though the majority of the voters voted it in.

This November the citizens of Maine have a great opportunity to remove a man from the Blaine House who has shown himself to be nothing more than a failure of a governor.

Maine is a great place to live, and with change it will be a great place for our children to live.

(Facts and figures from the article can be found on taxpayersbillofrights.com, mainegop.com, mainepolicy.org and maine.gov.)

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Continuing 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: Stu, I understand you've met with the Judiciary Committee on LD1646, which we talked about last month. Can you tell me something about your meeting?

STU: Quite a few leaseholders showed up for it. The bill was sponsored by Herbie Clark, who introduced it. He then introduced Jim Giffune, who had been invited to speak on it. In the end, the committee decided to table the bill. They wanted us to try to speak to the landowners again.

AMM: Did you do that?

STU: We did go down to Portland on Tuesday the 21st, and spoke with an attorney for Katahdin Timberlands.

AMM: Was it productive?

STU: I think it was more of a feeling out process myself. He asked what we didn't like about the 15-year lease they had come up with. The attorney who came up with the 15-year lease was also there.

AMM: And what is it that you don't like about the fifteen-year lease?

STU: Basically, the 15-year lease is nothing more than three 5-year leases put together. Katahdin Timberlands is trying to sell it as offering more protection for the leaseholder when it really doesn't.

AMM: Why?

STU: If someone were to assume ownership of the property, they could still terminate the lease at any time. Also, with the 15-year lease, every five years the lease can be modified. Anything can change - the rates, the terms, even the complete wording of the lease. It's basically a 5-year lease in three different parts.

AMM: And the main problem with that is?

STU: Security. There's no security there whatsoever.

AMM: Are there any other problems associated with the Katahdin Timberland leases?

STU: Well, the Katahdin Timberlands leases are not the only group of leaseholders that we represent. We represent all of the leaseholders in the state of Maine. We're not going to make a deal for one group that leaves the others out.

AMM: This has been something that the Maine Leaseholder's Association has been working on for a long time. What's the bottom line?

STU: The bottom line is that the Legislature has to do something about the situation. That's the bottom line. Instead, they want to sit back, do nothing, and hope that something will come out of our negotiations with the landowners.

AMM: Isn't it reasonable to ask you to try to work things out for yourselves first?

STU: The problem is that that isn't going to happen unless there's a hammer over their head.

AMM: Go on.

STU: The best case scenario. The Judiciary Committee asks the Governor to set up a commission to study leasing - seasonal, year-round, and commercial. The traditional leases here in northern Maine are seasonal and year-round.

AMM: What is the outcome you're looking for?

STU: The outcome desired is one that protects the landowner's rights, but which also protects the property that sits on the land. Everyone should have the same lease. Anyone who leases land should have the same wording in the lease.

AMM: What is the advantage in that?

STU: The leaseholder's property is protected. We know what we have, and that we're not going to be suddenly faced with exorbitant increases in the cost of our lease. The landowner won't be able to extort more money from the leaseholder who is otherwise trapped, unable to move his property, yet unable to pay new and unreasonable costs.

AMM: And who would regulate this?

STU: The commission.

AMM: Do you believe that this is feasible or likely?

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State of the State Response

by Sen. Paul Davis

In our February issue, we published Governor Baldacci's "State of the State" speech and the responses of several Republican legislators. One of those legislators was Sen. Paul Davis. We inadvertently left the last part of his response out of the piece, and we are publishing the entire response in this issue. We apologize for any inconvenience.

There are two vastly different views of the role government should play when it comes to job creation and economic development. One view is that government ought to be in the business of creating jobs. The other view, and the view the Republican Party subscribes to, is that the role of government should be to foster an environment that allows businesses to create the jobs that will grow the economy. In other words, government has to make it safe and practical for business to operate, and then get out of the way!

When we encourage businesses to thrive, the result is always going to be healthy economic development, the investment and the entrepreneurship that generate jobs and income levels that enable Maine people to support their families. The fact is Maine competes with 49 other states as a location for businesses to call home. Job relocation to other states is twice as common as "outsourcing" overseas.

Maine routinely appears on the list of the ten states having the worst business tax climate in the country. Our tax rate is #1 in the nation and is a major cause for both the lack of new businesses coming to Maine and the high number of businesses leaving the state. Maine also has a corporate tax rate that removes businesses incentive to set up shop here. We have a complex, high-rate Unemployment Insurance tax system riddled with add-on benefits and surtaxes that frustrate business owners and practically pit them against the best interests of their employees.

The Republican vision for the State of Maine begins by lowering the tax burden on both the citizens of our state and the businesses that employ our citizens. Job growth and economic development will not become a reality under our current philosophy, which looks at our business community as something that has to be taxed in order to support our state government.

A fundamental part of the Republican approach to economic development is avoiding gimmicks and short term fixes. One example of these gimmicks that we have seen

over the years is the so-called "Pine Tree Opportunity Zone." Pine Tree Zones offer a combination of tax incentives to spur economic development in targeted areas of the state. Benefits include: paying reduced or even no Maine income taxes for the first several years; sales tax exemption for sales to construction contractors; sales tax exemption for sales of personal property to a qualifying business; and reimbursement of employee withholding taxes for qualified employees in a Pine Tree Zone.

Another qualification, or more accurately a limitation of Pine Tree Zones is that they may only be located in areas of relatively high unemployment or low wages. Seems to me like the entire state of Maine ought to be designated a Pine Tree Zone. That, I suspect, would bring real economic development to Maine.

Another of the other gimmicks we need to be careful to avoid is going to be the upcoming campaign to establish a "living wage" in Maine. Just what is a living wage? It usually means enough income to support a family on one paycheck. What the so-called living wage really amounts to is a local minimum wage policy requiring much higher pay rates than the federal minimum wage law. It's a new minimum wage. And just like the old minimum wage, it never helps those it was originally intended to help, and promises unintended consequences. The fact is, when goods are over-priced, fewer of them get purchased. Labor is no different. Fewer people get hired at artificially higher wages. The living wage crusade will create the very real problem of low-skilled workers having trouble finding a job at all.

We spend a fortune to educate our kids, but then they have to leave Maine to find satisfying careers. That's very sad.

On the bright side, we may finally get rid of the tax on business equipment. For years, this has been a major impediment to businesses trying to grow and create more jobs. And for years, Republicans have argued that this tax is counter-productive. Now, finally, the governor and the Democrats may be joining with us to end it. We welcome them aboard.

Maine is a beautiful state with tremendous assets. It's a wonderful place to live and raise children. There is no reason we can't maintain a great quality of life while also building a strong economy with good jobs and good incomes for our citizens. That is the Republican vision.

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WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY ARTICLE OR AD
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Mothers

Anonymous

Cindy Sheehan asked President Bush, "Why did my son have to die in Iraq?"

Another mother asked President Kennedy, "Why did my son have to die in Viet Nam?"

Another mother asked President Truman, "Why did my son have to die in Korea?"

Another mother asked President F.D. Roosevelt, "Why did my son have to die at Iwo Jima?"

Another mother asked President W. Wilson, "Why did my son have to die on the battlefield of France?"

Yet another mother asked President Lincoln, "Why did my son have to die at Gettysburg?"

And yet another mother asked President G. Washington, "Why did my son have to die near Valley Forge?"

Then, long, long ago, a mother asked, "Heavenly Father, why did my Son have to die on a cross outside of Jerusalem?"

The answer to all these is the same: "That others may have life and dwell in peace, happiness and freedom."

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Undue Influence: Katahdin Region, Part 3

by David P. Cyr

A while ago, I announced that there was credible evidence on State of Maine letterhead to prove that the paper industry did not fall down. There are mountains of paperwork depicting the states closure of its northern half because the State is, and has been, the primary pawn of the Northern Forest Alliance. All you have to do is go back to 1985, when the "Big A Dam" was the first project in recorded history to be killed by a State Agency, demanding guaranteed employment levels from the parent company. The death of the "Big A" at the hands of our State Government also marked the beginning of the end for Millinocket, for it would be only a few short years before the dissection of our land, dams, and industry would begin with the arrival of ... BOWATER, and their "New Beginning".

We have been very gullible when it comes to our State leaders; part of being a Mainer is our need to trust in those who have been elected as our leaders. But that trust has been abused by the green movement. They have used their power, wealth, and influence to carefully mold the careers of those politicians who will do their dirty work. Why do you think it has taken more than a decade and two Governors to achieve and maintain our status of being the most anti-business state in the union?

When a state collects the titles of, "Highest State Tax," "Highest Corporate Tax," "Highest Workers Compensation," "Highest Healthcare Cost," and "Highest Unemployment Insurance." All this, while almost sharing a border with New Hampshire, one the lowest taxed states in the country. Why do you think our Governor and the Land for Maine's Future Board has been pushing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to purchase and protect land from development? Land that is already within the boundaries of the most anti-entrepreneurial and environmentally protected State in the Country doesn't need to be further protected. What they are after is governmental control of the land. My research has uncovered the roots and origin of the "Land For Maine's Future Board" that was set up back in 1987. The Nature Conservancy was the driving force behind the installation of a green bank within our State's already overloaded bureaucracy.

The cold, cruel facts are as simple as this; to make a park in this state the people and industry must go. No one wants to explore the arrogance that follows. Simply put, they decided decades ago that our forefathers have settled into a portion of these United States that must now be uninhabited. Our forefathers made a big mistake; they cut trees, built homes and fed their families in the wrong place. Wrong according to whom? I despise the arrogance of those who sit behind the protection of a computer screen, while they use their self-proclaimed superior intellect to manipulate the rural population of a poor state. They make O Sama Bin Laden look kind. The Northern Forest Alliance has decided for us, that in order to achieve the largest continuous tract of uninhabited Wilderness in our great country, all of Northern Maine must be empty. Nothing personal, just don't let the door hit you in the butt on the way out.

In order to understand this level of arrogance, we must first see the results of their arrogance: de-population. My wife and I attended the RESTORE "Bar-B-Que" in Greenville back in 2000. Upon our arrival we passed by and collected a variety of hand-outs available on a well placed table, we must have reached into something sacred, because we came home with a de-population list, and a map illustrating Route 11 as the perimeter road for the new park. The map dictates the towns eliminated within the new park, the list dictates the percentage of de-population projected in the areas allowed to exist. (See footnote) Back in 2000, I placed very little concern on RESTORE's ability to obtain its goals. Today I am looking at the accuracy of their four-year-old projections, asking, "What happened?"

When we left the Greenville "RESTORE Roast", I believed they were defeated. The following day, they cancelled their scheduled meeting in Millinocket. We Won! I, like others, believed that this victory was permanent, their announcement of their intentions to remove the camps and reclaim the land was so outrageous it would be their undoing. But I

was wrong. To the Northern Forest Alliance this was only a minor set back. The ease of removing the camps in New York State, Vermont and New Hampshire (see footnote) was not going to happen here. It was time to go to plan B.

Michael Kellet, former New England Director of the Wilderness Society, Founder and Executive Director of RESTORE, made no apologies for his need to remove the people from his new Park. In fact, at an environmental leadership conference, held at Tufts University, both Kellet and Brock Evans of the Audubon Society, urged the audience to "Be unreasonable. You can do it. Yesterday's heresy is today's common wisdom." It happens over and over again. So I would say lets take it back. Let's take it ALL back." (see footnote) While Evans and Kellet strongly proclaimed the need of Massachusetts to take Maine back and repair the "damage" that had occurred during three hundred years of European settlement, that message only provoked outrage in Maine. So the "alliance" changed its tactics and allowed the Nature Conservancy to take the lead.

In the 1800's, President Roosevelt led the charge to build several National Parks and preserve the true Natural jewels in this great country. The Sierra Club, at the time, was the original founder of the green movement, and was instrumental in recognizing and prioritizing our first National Parks. What had begun as a beneficial relationship between the Government and a private club has evolved into an entire society of public/private partnerships called the Northern Forest Alliance.

In 1935, a radical right wing spur was hatched from the Sierra Club called the "Wilderness Society." Its goals, as stated, were to create true "Wilderness" where man is not even a visitor; or to use their own words "Untrammeled by Man."

In 1953, The Nature Conservancy was incorporated, leaving the radicals from previous clubs behind. To give you some idea of the degree of importance that The Nature Conservancy placed on the acquisition of Maine, you need to understand that there are now 80 Chapters of the TNC: One in all 50 States, and in 30 foreign countries, they also hold a seat in the United Nations. They apparently have enough clout to be compared to a Sovereign Nation, but Maine was important enough to become their fourth chapter, incorporated way back in 1956.

You may ask, "What have they been doing here for the past 50 years?"

Look around you, do you see thriving paper companies or multiplying green groups? You cannot have both. Remember, only eighteen years ago there was softwood stacked two stories high, for miles on both sides of the Golden Road, and not a single soul knew about the TNC or the Alliance back then. Today, you would be hard pressed to find any softwood on the Golden road, but you would have no problem finding mention of several different green groups in all of the local publications, mostly trying to convince you of how great they are. The TNC was formed using a new format, building on the successes of the Public/Private Partnerships. Within these new guidelines, The Nature Conservancy was able to become the largest and most the powerful non-profit of its kind in the world.

The bulldozer style of the Wilderness Society gave the Northern Forest Alliance public relation problems across the country, especially after the Spotted Owl Campaign successfully removed 87% of the logging industry jobs from the West Coast. The success of that campaign was based largely on a lie. The green movement uses pseudo-science and half-truths to achieve its goals. While studies showing the Spotted Owl's near extinction at the hands of the logging industry were being used to de-populate the west coast, scientific studies that were performed to report on the owl's adaptability in learning to feed on new growth forest were not released until after the campaign was complete.

To sum it up, they used the fact that the owl is very small and has used the high canopy of "Old Growth" forest to escape predation from larger species and support itself as a reason to end logging, when in fact, the studies performed showing the owl's ability to live in new growth forest and adapt to a changing environment never saw the light of

day, at least not until it was too late for the forest industry on the west coast.

We have the same lie here in Maine today; they are called Atlantic Salmon. 400 years ago, Salmon running free into the ocean were of pure lineage and unique to Maine. Europeans brought new breeding lines to Maine in an attempt to produce larger, faster growing salmon in fish farms. Over time, leaks in the farming pens have allowed the European strains to breed with our native stock. The results of this mix was the watering down of the original Native Stock. With salmon lying in riverbeds like cordwood, we are led to believe they are near extinction. Our Government and the Northern Forest Alliance will use the sins of our forefathers, who allowed the pure breed to become mixed, to federally protect our waterways, to no good end.

Now that sounds harmless enough, right? Wrong! The Alliance has spent over three decades planning to use this, and when they finally light this candle, it will likely do the same for Maine as the Spotted Owl did for the West Coast. Why do you think you hear all these new terms in the press and on the tube? Terms like "urban interface", "fringe habitat", "underground aquifer;" these and several dozen other green phrases are now the products of the Northern Forest Alliance's war on civilization. By naming and re-cording every point of origin and every point of release of a single drop of water, from a collection basin to a watershed, the Alliance has connected all of Maine's 5,000 rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams, both underground and above ground. As we widen the protection areas around our waterways and find exciting new colorful names for disgusting swamps, I predict that there will be only two trailer parks and a land fill remaining that is not connected to a water supply somewhere in Maine. When they finally use the federal government to protect our waterways, they will also connect all the land.

While the Wilderness Society enjoyed the aggressive approach, there are only so many jobs, factories and people that you can eliminate before someone notices. The Nature Conservancy, however, invented a system by which everybody wins. Take Millinocket, for example. We were led to believe that the TNC was instrumental in helping Great Northern in the final months prior to its 1/10/03 bankruptcy filing.

While we are hearing how the TNC does "good things," their actions simply do not reflect that result. We have lost 41,000 acres at Debsconeag, 3,500 acres at Trout Mountain.

And we are supposed to believe that removing all that land from timber production forever is the best thing for our local paper company. Bowater's downsizing of 2.1 million acres to now under 400,000 acres, has left our local paper company looking to ship stock from Canada to keep the Millinocket mill going. Senator Mike Michaud claims that this is a new door opening for trade, when in fact it is the door closing on our mill's future. The result is plain for all to see.

Instead of cutting trees in this area and making stock with those trees, here at our mills, we are supposed to believe that using Canada's trees, processed into stock at a Canadian mill, pressed into blocks to ship, transported to a port, shipped to a port in Maine, off-loaded into a warehouse, and finally shipped to a mill in Millinocket ... This is a cost-effective way to make paper?

It doesn't take a college degree to understand that adding five steps to a one-step process will not enhance profit. What it does enhance, however, is the public's perception that all of these entities are here to help.

If in fact, the TNC was here to help, they could, out of the goodness of their hearts, give back the 44,500 acres they removed from use, even while claiming to be helping us. In fact, if their motive, as stated, was to help, we would see some results. With \$3.2 Billion in liquid assets, the TNC could purchase many third world countries. If in fact, the stability and well-being of a struggling paper company was a concern, they could return the 44,500 acres they helped themselves to, and find more available land to stabilize Katahdin Papers' lack of land/stock issues.

You will have to live a long time before you actually see a member of the Northern Forest Alliance help the logging industry.

With the removal of 87% of the logging industry jobs on the West Coast and the successful removal of 17,000 manufacturing jobs in Maine, from 2000 to 2003, The Alliance has developed a new form of help - called an "Eco-Park." This is where they tell you that we need to say goodbye to the old paper industry, give it a proper burial, and let go of the past.

When you hear this often enough it eventually becomes almost believable. The same thing occurs with the "Eco-Park" lie. The basic theory and workings are possible, but the application is a stretch from reality. If in fact the Eco-Park was a good alternative to replace logging and Paper industry jobs, they would be able to show you shining examples of actual places where these Eco-Parks are functioning. That is not the case, however.

By showing you a successful Eco-Park, you would then learn about other communities which have had their industry taken away by the Northern Forest Alliance. You would also learn how difficult it really is to make it work. For an Eco-Park to work, the theory is simple: When you collect a bunch of small woodworking businesses on the road, the waste can be used to generate low cost heat and electricity, that would indeed benefit all in theory. In reality, this process is already fatally flawed, when a business attempts to open in the Eco-Park, it must overcome two major hurdles. First, Maine is the most Anti-entrepreneurial state in the country. While other states work to provide incentives for businesses, Maine works to provide the appearance of being business friendly (Pine Tree Zones), even while working full time to overregulate all northern Maine business out of business. Second, Eco-Park residents will need wood to cut and use, and once again, land is the issue. The land, fractured by the Bowater dissection of the 90's, will still be controlled by the Alliance.

First, we must believe that we are now somehow better off sending trinkets down the road, receiving peanuts for our efforts, than we were when we were sending truckloads of paper down the road to keep good paying jobs with benefits here. The only beneficiaries of the reduction of exports from truckloads to toothpicks are the Northern Forest Alliance and the outdoor enthusiast industry (rafting/tourism). The removal of good-paying jobs with benefits is absolutely necessary for the growth of tourism. If tourism has to compete with living wage jobs to fill its needs, anything above minimum wage will reduce profit and growth.

It may be time to ask some very pertinent questions: "Why would any tourism-based business owner promote any manufacturing in his own community? Why would any tourism-based business owner partner up with the Northern Forest Alliance?"

The answers are coming.

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

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

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

The Man of Steel

by Mark J. Ellis

"You can't hurt the man of steel," I would claim victoriously with my hands on my hips in the most rigid pose I could muster.

Sam would smile and retreat with tired arms and smarting fists. He was completely aware that the torrent of punches he had just delivered to his dad's abdomen had no affect at all.

The last time I remember playing The Man of Steel with my son Sam was seven years ago at the mall. We were waiting for Mom and Sister to finish their well choreographed but excruciating ballet to and from the fitting rooms at Filene's. Amid the annoying squeak and click of hangers on the clothing racks, six-year-old Sam and I snuck away to an isolated aisle. We played our game to our hearts' content and it ended the same way it always did - the man of steel was unscathed.

"Okay Sam, it's my turn. And you better watch out! I'm going to knock you into next week," I growled jokingly as I added a new twist to our game.

The menacing sneer on my face came easily as I tapped into the mood of the rainy Sunday afternoon. At first, Sam was surprised and shrank back like a frightened mouse that had been trapped in a corner by a big, hungry cat. And then, as he took a brave step forward, an expression of sincere hope quickly blossomed on his face.

"Dad, can you send me to Friday? That's the day of our school roller skating party," he announced.

I knelt down and hugged him as I laughed my way to tears. Sam's cleverness had taken me by surprise. Then I took pause as I recognized that his re-

sponse had been engineered by his desire to discover opportunities where none should exist. At that moment, the grand piano of parental responsibility came crashing down on me from the top floor. Once again, I was reminded of my most important job as a parent.

Maintaining an environment that promotes the growth of high self-esteem is just as vital to raising children as providing the staples of food, clothing, education, and shelter. It is the hinge on which the door to all of our relationships opens and closes. High self-esteem is the key to the Golden Rule of treating others the way we want to be treated.

With high self-esteem, our children will develop into caring and contributing members of the communities we love. They will make the best decisions in the most difficult of circumstances and they will choose light and life in a culture of darkness and death.

As parents, the most precious tool we have to help us instill high self-esteem in our children is time. Time is the resource that, if not invested in early and often with our young ones, will compound exponentially into corrective requirements that will burden our communities unnecessarily in the future.

Living in the highest taxed state in the union, parents in Maine are being robbed of precious time. The Tax Foundation (www.taxfoundation.org) reported that in 2005, Mainers had to work from January 1st to April 23rd just to pay their taxes. That is six days longer than the national average and approximately ten days more than what is required to purchase food, clothing, and medical care combined.

In the upcoming campaign for state offices, we will hear from our liberal friends that increases in state and local taxes are to be blamed on the federal government and, more specifically, President Bush's policies that have cut federal contributions to the states. The fact of the matter is that even as the federal portion of our tax burden has decreased since 2000, federal aid to states has increased 31%. During the same period, state government spending in Maine has increased 18% -- the second highest increase in the nation.

Pardon me for stating the obvious but, Maine doesn't have a tax problem; we have a spending problem!

The size and scope of our state government have reached crisis proportions. We need to reverse the trend of government growth so that families can spend more time together and less time paying their tax burden. We need to change course before we lose another generation to the culture of irresponsibility and dependency.

Giving time back to parents will be, in a phrase often used by liberals, "good for the children."

Mark J. Ellis is the Director of Information Technology at Douglas Dynamics, LLC and is the State Chairman of the Maine Republican Party. He resides in Augusta with his wife Rachel and their three children.

Straight from Nana Beth's Kitchen!

This month's recipe: Bread Pudding

Bake @ 375* 30-45 min.

Ingredients:

- Bread
- Milk
- Eggs
- Can of Apple Pie Filling
- Raisons
- Sugar
- Salt
- Cinnamon
- Nutmeg

In a 3 qt. saucepan:

At least 2 1/2 cups of milk, heated; take off stove

Add - 3 beaten eggs
2 tsps. of vanilla
2 pinches of salt
3/4 cups of sugar

Crumble up 4 - 5 slices of bread into small pieces and add 1/2 tsp. of cinnamon and raisins .

Stir all ingredients together and spray casserole dish with Pam.

Cover entire bottom of the dish with full slices of bread .

Spread 1 can of apple pie filling on top of bread slices.

Pour custard mixture with raisons on top and sprinkle lightly with nutmeg.

Serve warm with whipped cream or cool whip.

Needed Reforms: Part 1

by Michael Fundalewicz

Growing up in a rural area of Massachusetts during the 60s and 70s was totally different from what it is now.

We went to school, listened to our teachers and respected our elders. When we came home, we changed our clothes, did our homework without question and then headed off to do our daily chores. Mine was to tend to the garden, cut the lawn, feed the chickens and whatever else we had, clean out their pens and then get ready for supper.

During the meal we'd chat about each other's day and relax. Then it was my time to help out with the dishes; after all, Ma cooked and cleaned all day, Dad worked his butt off for menial pay and their shifts were done.

Then, and only then, the black and white TV came on and we watched the news and then a few other shows. By 8 o'clock it was time for bed and again, no questions were needed. It was just done that way.

What happened to those days?

Life was simple. The only time I'd hear a head-fit going on is if Ma burned something on the stove or I ran over a rock with the lawn mower.

Kids and parents actually got along because the kids knew where they stood and were taught respect for their elders no matter who they were. Any step out of line was immediately followed up with a quick reminder; and it usually stung too.

Let me ask you folks, when's the last time you saw a family with kids who took the initiative to cut the lawn, rake the leaves or do any chores without a fight breaking out or the demand for some sort of payment? I wouldn't have dreamed of asking my folks for money, I knew my home was dry, paid for, warm and there was food on the table.

Let me ask you folks, when's the last time you saw a family with kids who took the initiative to cut the lawn, rake the leaves or do any chores without a fight breaking out or the demand for some sort of payment? I wouldn't have dreamed of asking my folks for money, I knew my home was dry, paid for, warm and there was food on the table.

The only time a reward was issued was when my school grades met the mandatory

minimum or above and that was usually a B- or above.

My parents didn't blow their budget on Christmas either. I was glad to get whatever and cherished it. A list was intended for Santa and not a purchase order.

Fast food in my house was considered to be either a peanut butter and jelly sandwich or whatever left-overs Ma had in the fridge. The only time that we as a family, and that was only once a month maybe, went out and splurged on "fast food" was either at the "Venus Cafe" where the pizza's were under \$3.00 or the "Burger Boy" where burgers were \$.15 and fries \$.25; and we're talking a full pound too. Ya, the prices have changed but so have the priorities.

What ever happened to taking your bikes, as kids, and going fishing or camping or just riding around the block for that matter. Or just laying around in the field watching the stars or just catching fireflies. I remember playing "war games" as a 17 year old in my back field with several friends until the "wee" hours of the

night on a weekend just dreaming. Our parents knew where we were and we were safe, contained and accounted for. Is that the case now? Nope! God only knows where they are or what they're doing. Good thing we have cell phones now. By the way, who paid for them?

We didn't "tool around town" in the cars our parents bought us and waste gas, even at \$.50 a gallon. We bought our own cars and worked for the money to get and maintain them. We paid our own way. Why? Because that's the way it was. You work, you play and you pay your own way; plain and simple!

And another "law" we had was "when the street lights come on, you'd best be home". Never mind this staying out all night bull that goes on now. School night, in by the lights. Weekends, in by 10 PM, period!

Let's take a soft step back folks and remember what we, as well as our kids, have lost in the interim and in the name of advancement and progress. Is it really all it's cut out to be or is it a cursed trap we've let ourselves fall into?

I know that we all want the best for our kids, I do too, but are we honestly doing it??? I don't really think so. DO YOU?

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Is Big Brother Gonna Be Riding Shotgun?

by Bob Sanders

Here we go on a little educational adventure into the land of Check Engine lights and the engine management systems that are busy controlling a myriad of devices on your vehicle that keep you motoring along the highway. And, more importantly to the EPA, that part of management software that controls activation of the Check Engine light due to a malfunction in the emission control package.

It has been my experience that the public shakes out into two very distinct schools of philosophy when it comes to their reaction to this particular "idiot light" staring back at them from their instrument clusters.

One school mimics Barney Fife and acts just about as cool and collected as Barney when it was time to put his one bullet in his revolver, and the other group follows the Alfred E. Newman "What, Me Worry" indifference.

Since most emission related failures don't make a lot of difference in vehicle performance, the majority of people simply ignore it when it becomes obvious that the car runs "just fine".

The ostrich-like behavior of most of the public when it comes to responding to Check Engine lights would come to an end if the EPA had its druthers. The emission monitoring level that has been in place since 1996 on all vehicles sold in the USA is known as OBD II. The next generation of emission monitoring is going to be called OBD III, and if some federal agencies were King of the World, then OBD III would have some real enforcement teeth built right into the software.

It would work something like this:

If your engine management system monitored a malfunction in the emission package that allowed emissions to exceed a predetermined maximum, the Check Engine light would be activated, just like now. But that would be just the beginning.

At the same time of light activation, the code data your system is generating when your Check Engine light is on would be relayed to a data collection center via the cell phone network.

If the code indicates malfunctions in areas of emission control, (most of them do), then this info is processed and the vehicle owner is sent a letter informing them that they have ten days to have the problem rectified and a certificate of compliance sent back to the gummint.

If you haven't complied with all of this, the next letter in your mailbox will tell you how much your fine is. (Ain't this getting fun?)

And, of course, if you ignore this, then things really start to get ugly.

Don't like that version? Here's another: Instead of the greetings from the EPA telling you how much you get to contribute to Uncle Sam, we just change the software. If you don't send in your compliance verification, after so many days, your vehicle's software will command a maximum vehicle speed that is progressively 5 MPH lower every start/shutdown cycle, down to a minimum of 15 MPH. (It's gonna take longer and longer to get to work.)

Or how about this: The software disables all the HVAC functions. You know, no heat, no air (climate dependant, of course), they'll either freeze you out or roast you.

There was another version that was run up the ol' flagpole that simply commanded engine shutdown after a prescribed amount of time, but that version was thrown out for fear of engine shutdown just when the wife and her six kids in the Caravan were straddling the B&A railroad tracks. (These guys are all heart!)

Is this Orwellian nightmare gonna happen? Not likely. Simply because of the legal questions of who actually owns the software when you buy your car, and for that matter, who owns the car.

You can see that if this were all to come to pass, then government agencies would be wielding considerable control over the functions of your property. Right now, you own the family sedan, but if the legal issues could be sidestepped, then the EPA would drag everybody into the Barney Fife Family of Motoring, dropping into an absolute panic every time the little yellow light came on.

Struggling with GOP Membership

By Ray Richardson

As you may have heard, I have been struggling with my membership in the Republican Party. I have struggled because I have loved this Party for as long as I can remember and it has pained me to see it stray so far from its foundation and its ideals. I went so far last week as to get a voter registration card with the idea to "quietly" un-enroll, becoming an Independent. So much for that plan as word leaked out to a point where I had to address it on my program Friday morning.

I have been a Republican in spirit since I was ten years old and a Republican in fact since I was 18. Being a part of this Party and the ideals it has stood for has been a very important part of my life. I worked for Richard Nixon's re-election in 1972 by going door-to-door handing out fliers (no, my parents did not push me, the reason is a long story for another day), did just about everything you can think of for Ronald Reagan during his two elections and have supported the current President Bush as much as I can.

I have loved being a Republican because, like being from Maine, it means something. The ideals of the Republican Party have always represented the very best about being an American. Lately, however, the principles have been compromised and the identity has been muddled. Our mantra used to be "This is what we believe and we want you to join us in our cause which is noble and just." Unfortunately it has become "What do we need to do to get you to join us." I reject that idea. Its adoption has watered down our identity to the point that most Mainers and most Americans have a hard time telling the difference between a Democrat and a Republican. It made me consider leaving this Party that I love, but after much soul-searching, I refuse to be driven out of my Party by those who do not truly believe in the ideals that we have long held.

What I haven't figured out is why this trend started. Is it because we lost a few elections and became more worried about winning than being true to our beliefs? I know something about that. Every mistake I have ever made, every consequence I have ever suffered is because I abandoned what I believed, even when I realized that is exactly what I was doing.

What good is winning elections, gaining the majority which allows you to set the agenda, if when you get there, those who make-up your majority do not share your ideas? Pandering for votes is the worst offense an elected person can commit. It means that winning the election is more important than serving the best interest of your constituents. What has been accomplished if you think you elected an elephant, but once they got to office, you realize you really elected a RINO?

The Republican Party has historically stood for great ideals and attracted people to the Party because our cause was/is noble and just. I am not a "big tent" Republican because I believe we do not adjust our principles simply to attract new members. Does that mean we don't accept those who do not share our foundational ideas? Of course we accept them; however, we do it by drawing them to our noble cause, not by changing who we are for a few lousy votes.

The Republican Party has always been Pro-Life, Pro-Opportunity, Pro-Equality (meaning merit and character, not anything else) for Limited Government Intrusion in our lives, Limited Taxation and giving our neighbors a helping hand up when they are in need and a kick in the pants to get them going when they need it. We also believe in a strong economy that allows us to prosper and gives us the ability to support and provide for those who are not capable of providing for themselves. We believe a strong

Continued on page 11

Ask

Alvina

Dear Alvina:

I was born December 31, 1960. I married at age 29 and have been married for 16 years. The problem is that I do not want to be married any more. I have a wonderful wife, two great children and I am even attached to my dog.

I just started my own business and feel I am doing very well and feel I have to break up because I am so unhappy. This is making my family unhappy too because they know I do not want to be tied down. We have tried marriage counseling and I have had talks with my minister but the constant urge to leave is with me.

Am I crazy? Am I imagining things will be better if I leave?

Attached.

Dear Attached:

As a Capricorn, you are in a space where there is transition and reorganization. This is also a space where there are secrets and suspicions around you. I feel you are not telling me all the story, that you have a secret you have not told your family and that secret is weighing you down.

It also seems that soon you will receive an inheritance and have the feeling that you will be able to travel and do things that you cannot do with the responsibilities of family and a dog. You are learning the lesson of "YOURS, MINE AND OURS."

Your moon is in Gemini and in an aspect that leads me to believe your emotional duality tears you apart in many areas of your life not just in your marriage. You are not crazy, it is just that you cannot make the move to leave on your own, therefore, you probably want someone else to make it for you. They won't . . . you will.

Keyword: TRUTH

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

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

Dear Alvina:

My problem is that I know that soon I will be very sad and lonely. I have a great roommate. We have been together for many years. We jointly own our beautiful home and have found we love each other. We are both women.

The thing is that she has to go across the country to stay with her sick aging mother. She thinks that she will ultimately stay there because her siblings and their children and her own children live there. I have bought her out as far as the house goes, we both went 50/50 when we bought it. We are both sad, and I fear being alone as I have no family here.

My birthday is February 25, 1941, and her birthday is February 19, 1946.

In grief

Dear in Grief:

You are a very intuitive and sensitive woman. At this time in your life you are in the space where you are learning the difference between being of SERVICE and being a SERVANT. When I see your roommate's chart I feel that you have carried the burden of many things in her life. She is in disarray and seems to need someone to take care of her. I am wondering if she will be able to care for her sick mother. She is needy and you like to be needed.

Of course you will miss her company and taking care of her crisis periods. I see that you will feel free to roll up your sleeves and get into deep, serious activity that will take your attention. You will now become of SERVICE and leave the SERVANT behind. I know that in the community you live in you can soon find places where you can cooperate with others in volunteering to do the kind of work you dreamed of way back in 1988 to 1991. It is in an area you love. You won't be lonely long, you will be too busy.

Keyword: PRODUCE

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Freedom of Thought?

by Joseph J. Nugent III

A follow up to "Is This Still the Land of the Free?" from last month's issue. I had what I considered to be a really neat conversation with a young mother and her son back in January. It was as eye opening for me as it was confirming. Like many families in America today this family is having to deal with a separation due to one parent's work in the country presently known as Iraq.

How challenging or worrisome a separation like that must be. Only someone who is affected by it can truly know. But what was interesting to me is that while the son's mother was telling me about her husband's work and the concern she has for him despite assurances of his safety, her young son politely spoke with the surety and confidence that comes from growing up in a loving home, "But if we don't want him for President anymore, we can vote him out, and end the war," he said looking up at me, and hanging on to a door knob twisting both it and his body as any normal eight- or nine-year old boy might do.

I have to tell you how this conversation made my day. This article isn't to proselytize for or against the war in Iraq, but to celebrate America, and the freedom to think that we still have in America even if you're an eight-year old. Despite what the television, or mainstream print newspaper tells us, this youngster was able to express exactly why, for the time being, it is still great to be an American.

We form our own opinions, and people have died for our right to vote. We can express our opinions to others. We can go to church, or not. We can believe what we want to, or not. We can discuss our opinions with our neighbors on the sidewalk, in the coffee shop, at a town meeting, or in some newspapers, like here at All Maine Matters, where people who pick up this kind of information are people who care to keep themselves informed.

As Americans, we're lucky because we can even change our mind, about war, about leaders, about the media. And, at least for now, we can still be the change we'd like to see.

But our freedoms are being eroded, and a media that is now more and more in the hands of a small corporately owned elite has far more ability to shape your opinion, twist their stories, and tell you and your children what to believe than ever before. As Americans, we have to stay vigilant, remain informed, and ever on guard for if it is us that is shaping our ideas or decisions, or not. The power of the media in a small collective is a concern for us all.

Without free news outlets, there may not be many free thinkers, true leaders, or smart as a whip eight-year olds who want their Dad to come home from Iraq, and do so soon.

I was grateful for this conversation because it reminded me of how important a role a mother can play in raising her children: encouraging them to think, to read, to think, and to express. It reminded me how my own mother did that, and how powerful those conversations were.

America is a country built on leadership. We encouraged other nations to give us their tired, their hungry, and their poor. We made a place, not intended to work them like slaves, but a place to give freedom where they could work and enjoy the freedoms of life, liberty, property, and to pursue happiness.

But today we are a nation under attack. We are not only under attack because of a war against fear, but we are a nation under attack because we've allowed fear to dictate how we live and how we think.

We are a nation under attack against thought, our ability to express, and more importantly a war against our own willingness to think outside the box. I'm not sure this war is being fought against us as much by terrorists as it is by ourselves, and by corporate entities.

If you don't think I'm correct, then do a little research on who owns the newspapers which form public opinion in Maine. Who are they owned by, and who owns them? Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, you'll find more and more that these are large corporately owned media companies whose interests cross state lines, and even cross the nation.

Laws were passed not very long ago to maximize investment opportunity from Wall Street to help corporations acquire smaller opinions — I mean media companies, and bring them into the fold or larger opinions — I mean conglomerates. These type of companies now exist under more relaxed rules of how many media segments a company or conglomerate can own.

America, a nation of free thinkers, used to regulate how many newspapers, radio stations, magazines, or television news outlets a company could own in given markets. But watch out because these regulations have been relaxed, and perhaps without you knowing it.

Your ability to glean the information necessary to form your own opinion has come under attack. Have things been changing in your opinion? Is it just a generation gap, or are people thinking differently? Are the reasons and the causes healthy in your opinion? Is America still the place you want it to be? More importantly, will America, or Maine for that matter, remain the place you want it to be? Will your children be able to make it their own, or will it be a place that is an America that someone else makes it for them to be?

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this: staying informed is one of the responsibilities that we all have as Americans. Thank you for reading, contributing, or advertising in All Maine Matters. It's papers like this that help keep America free.

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

A SOP to Socialized Medicine

Tarren Bragdon and Adam Brackemyre

Maine has to raise taxes to pay for all the "savings" of its health-care program.

PORTLAND, Maine--Welcome to the Pine Tree state, where a program that the governor claims has saved the state millions of dollars means that your taxes go . . . up. Maine is the home of Democratic Gov. John Baldacci's Dirigo Health, which regulates the state's health-care system and includes a subsidized health-insurance program. (Dirigo is the state's motto, Latin for "I lead.") When the law creating Dirigo Health was signed, proponents said it would reduce cost-shifting and health-system costs and ultimately cover all 130,000 uninsured Mainers within five years, including 31,000 uninsured in year one.

It hasn't worked out that way. Through the first nine months only 1,600 previously uninsured individuals enrolled in Dirigo Health's insurance product, called DirigoChoice. The other 6,000 who enrolled simply traded their private health insurance for taxpayer-subsidized DirigoChoice. The program continues to spend millions subsidizing insurance for those already insured.

Gov. Baldacci promised that his new program would insure the uninsured and save the state money. It's a bit hard to see how, when it cost \$19.5 million to cover 1,600 previously uninsured people. Nevertheless, the governor says that it does--and that now Mainers must pay it all back! The reasoning goes like this. By enrolling the uninsured, Dirigo Health would reduce "cost shifting," which happens when unpaid bills are passed along to other paying patients in the form of higher costs. So when individuals have coverage, the insurer pays most of the bills, reducing the chance of unpaid bills. This reduction in bad debt would become savings--which Maine could claim for the state.

The Dirigo Health board of directors hired an outside firm to examine health-care system spending in Maine to determine Dirigo Health's savings. Initially, the governor claimed that Dirigo saved the system about \$137 million. That didn't seem right--how could a program that covered a mere 1,600 uninsured people save \$137 million?

The insurance commissioner revised the claimed savings to approximately \$44 million. Ultimately, less than \$3 million was attributed to reductions in uncompensated care. Most of the rest was due to Dirigo regulations that asked the state's hospitals to cap their cost increases at 3% a year. Maine hospitals did so, accounting for almost \$34 million in savings, compared with what the governor projected costs would have increased.

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The insurance commissioner revised the claimed savings to approximately \$44 million. Ultimately, less than \$3 million was attributed to reductions in uncompensated care. Most of the rest was due to Dirigo regulations that asked the state's hospitals to cap their cost increases at 3% a year. Maine hospitals did so, accounting for almost \$34 million in savings, compared with what the governor projected costs would have increased.

Looking further into the issue, one consultant tested the formulas that Maine used to calculate the hospital-generated savings by feeding in data from New Hampshire--which does not have Dirigo Health regulations or subsidies for uninsured health insurance, and which should presumably not show any savings at all. Nevertheless the model showed tens of millions in savings for New Hampshire hospitals. This puzzling result raised questions about the accuracy of the savings that resulted from Dirigo Health. But for now, the \$44 million figure stands--and Gov. Baldacci has used it as the excuse to raise taxes.

The Dirigo board is levying a Savings Offset Payment, or SOP--a remarkably innovative name for a new claims tax--to "recover" every dollar that the state says it has "saved." This SOP is similar to a sales tax; a 2.4% surcharge is added to all paid health-care claims. When applied, this new tax will cost the average individual about \$70 and the average family about \$200 a year--at a time when most individual insurance policyholders are already absorbing a 16% increase in their insurance premiums.

But, you may ask, if the program is saving all this money, why is a new tax necessary? The answer is that without the SOP, Dirigo Health's high costs would bankrupt the program.

The SOP, effective last month, applies only to individuals, small businesses and other businesses buying health insurance from a Maine insurer or using a third-party administrator. By raising insurance costs, this tax may end up compelling some individuals to drop their coverage. But, hey, maybe they too can get subsidized coverage under Dirigo.

Currently, SOP is being challenged in court, for both the calculations of the savings and the ability of the state to tax certain large employers. Some insurers have included a notice on policies highlighting the new tax--and consumers are furious. On Tuesday the Legislature held a public hearing for a bill that would forbid insurers from passing along the cost of the SOP to policyholders. Gov. Baldacci supports this proposal even though it sets the dangerous precedent of the state limiting a private business's ability to pass along a cost of doing business. It also threatens the very financial viability of the private insurance market in Maine. The legislative proposal shows their political concern over the public's reaction to the SOP.

Continued on page 10

Photographs of rural Maine
by Ken Anderson

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Profiles in Rural Maine

by Ken Anderson

Parkman, Maine



Parkman Baptist Church

“The history of Parkman is not exciting. It is the history of a homeloving, hardworking people who have ‘done their best’ quietly and faithfully. There are some dark blots on their fair pages, but no page is really dark.”

Thus reads a portion of the introduction to “Parkman’s Centeseptuquinary,” a tribute that was compiled in 1997, and that seems to be an accurate summary.

Located on Route 150, just south of Guilford, in what is now Piscataquis County, Parkman has never been a large town by today’s standards, but it once rivaled any other town in the area.

T5R6, located “north of the Waldo Patent” in the District of Maine, was laid out for the General Court of Massachusetts some time prior to 1794. Parkman was an irregular township, its east-west boundary being longer than its north-south boundary.

Native Americans traveled through the township en route to Penobscot River, apparently following the Sebasticook River to Sucker Brook, which led them into Harlow Pond and the Piscataquis River.

A Massachusetts land speculator by the name of Andre Craigie, bought the township from Massachusetts in 1794, with a stipulation that at least forty families be settled in the area within eight years. There is no record of anyone having settled the area, and Craigie lost ownership of it in 1802 after failing to meet the conditions of the sale.

Samuel Parkman purchased the township in 1804, paying \$7,285. Parkman owned land in several parts of Maine, including Willimantic, which he later donated to Harvard in return for a Chair of Theology. Parkman only lived in the town that bears his name for about ten years, moving in 1814.

Stephen Weston was hired to T5 in 1807, laying the township out in 200-acre lots. To fulfill the stipulations placed on his purchase of the township, Parkman offered the first forty lots at \$1.00 an acre. Land was first cleared in 1810, and the first families moved into Parkman between 1810 and 1812, all moving to the area from Greene, Maine.

In September of 1814, Samuel Parkman was in the township with Samuel Elkins of Dexter, who acted as the Justice of the Peace. He offered lots to more than twenty settlers, mostly by mortgage.

Most of the early settlers had been involved in the War of 1812.

Ephraim Andrews had served one enlistment as a privateer, during which time he was captured and paroled. He then served three enlistments in the ground forces, including the siege at Boston in 1775. While in Parkman, he is said to have become mentally ill and sufficiently dangerous to have been locked inside a cage at his home, and left in the care of his sons.

Edward Soule, who moved to Parkman from Freeport, had been captured three times by the British while privateering in the War of 1812.

Phillip Judkins, a New Hampshire native, had served under Captain John Parker at Lexington and Concord. He also served in a New Hampshire regiment organized by Colonel John Stark, taking part in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He was then recruited into the Continental Army by George Washington’s top aide, Henry Dearborn, and probably took part in the Battle of Yorktown. After the war, he lived in Parkman until his death in 1851 at the age of 103.

Another early Parkman resident was Samuel Pingree, who came to the area as Samuel Parkman’s agent, remaining in Parkman after his employer left, settling in what was to become known as Pingree Center. He built a grist mill and a saw mill, but the flow of water was not sufficient to permit full-time operations. He also worked as a hatter, an occupation he had maintained while living in New Gloucester earlier, and served as the Justice of the Peace for the area. A Federalist, he was not in political sympathy with most of the townspeople. Still, Parkman’s first town meeting was held on March 4, 1822, at the home of Samuel Pingree.

Samuel Parkman visited the township again in 1816, and by that time it had become known as Parkman Plantation, although there is no record of it having actually been incorporated as a plantation.

By 1820, Parkman had a population of 255.

The earliest settlers in Parkman were those who moved to the area from Greene. They were Baptists and, while lay services were held in Parkman occasionally, regular worshippers traveled to the Baptist church in Guilford Center on Sundays. In May of 1818, several people from Parkman Plantation were baptized, prompting the Parkman Baptists to found a church of their own. Sixteen Parkman residents were approved as members in May of 1818, and five more were baptized into the church that same day. Elder Zenas Hall, of Guilford, was ordained as the town’s first minister.

Samuel Parkman died in 1824, leaving his property to his widow. Upon her death, the estate was divided equally among his eight remaining children and their heirs. The Parkman lands came into the possession of Dr. George Parkman, a physician associated with Harvard Medical School. Dr. Parkman never resided in Parkman, but visited the area often, collecting payments for land in cattle, which he then sold. Although there were foreclosures, he is remembered for being a fair man. In December of 1849, Dr. Parkman was hacked to death by a faculty rival, leading to a trial that dominated the newspapers for more than a year.

On the death of Dr. Parkman, the remaining lands passed to a nephew, Samuel P. Shaw, who came to Parkman as an alcoholic, settling in Parkman Corner. Shaw came under the influence of the Sons of Temp-

erance, quit drinking, and rose to prominence in town and county politics. The last of the Parkman lands were sold in 1858, and Shaw returned to Boston.

More typical of the early settlers were the farmers. Lewis and Emeline Harlow lived in a tent while they were clearing land and building their homestead. Zenas Hall, the town’s first minister, once raised a beet that weighed eight pounds without the stalk. Jo Bunker promoted agriculture through a series of letters to the editor. In 1846, Parkman was home to 2,621 sheep, 120 horses, 279 oxen, 366 cows, 497 younger stock, and 191 swine. In 1838, Parkman farmers raised 6,151 bushels of wheat; and the following year the number had risen to 7,671 bushels of wheat and 618 bushels of corn.

By 1830, the population of Parkman had grown to 802, approximately what it is today. In 1840, 1,205 people were living in Parkman, most of them under the age of five. At the time of the 1850 census, its population had peaked at 1,243, never again to exceed that number. In 1848, there were 572 students in 14 Parkman schools.

All of the potential mill sites were developed between the years of 1820 and 1850, the lack of a dependable water flow hampering the operations of each.

The Sturtevant Mill was a saw mill, built in 1820 along Center Stream, just south of Parkman Corner. It washed out when the dam at Pingree Center broke in 1828.

The Curtiss Brothers Mill was built at the site of the Sturtevant Mill, adding a grist mill to the operations. The site became known as “Slab City.” Ira York build what became known as the York Mill on Cummings Brook in southeast Parkman. Both of these mills were used into the 20th century, but were not suited for full-time or large-scale operations due to a weak water flow.

The Pease Mill, located on the Southwest Branch of the Piscataquis River, was built by Isaac and David Pease in 1849. David sold his share to Captain Isaac and his son, Jerome Pease. When the Belfast and Moosehead Railroad never extended that far north, mill operations ceased.

By the mid-1800’s, religion dominated the social and political structures of the community. The pastors of the Methodist and Universalist congregations were involved in the organization of a Sons of Temperance unit in 1843, Parkman’s being the first in the county.

The Baptists still represented the majority of the population in Parkman, but they were split over issues relating to temperance and doctrinal concerns.

Even after the divisions, the Calvinistic Baptists shared a church building with, not only the Free Will Baptists, who had formed their own congregation, but the Methodists as well. In 1839, there were sixteen different church groups, with a combined membership of 807, including ten ordained ministers, meeting in various places around town.

While Zenas Hall was elected 1st Selectman in 1822, William Brewster served in that capacity from 1823 through 1843, except for one year. A direct descendent of the Mayflower Brewsters, he was also the great-grandfather of Maine’s governor and senator, Ralph Owen Brewster. In 1837, Brewster, a Democrat, was displaced by Thomas B. Seabury, a Whig, although he remained on the Board of Selectmen. Brewster was reelected to that position the following year, Seabury later retook it and held it from 1851 through 1858, except for one year.

In the period between the Brewster and Seabury administrations, Samuel Shaw served in that position from 1844 through 1850. Shaw also served as town clerk, treasurer, and pound keeper, as it was not unusual for people to hold multiple offices at that time. Shaw, a Whig, didn’t fare well in his several bids for state office, however; sometimes even losing the Parkman vote.

The first store in Parkman was built by Thomas Seabury at Parkman Corner.

Nelson Dingley, Sr., a peddler, bought a farm near Parkman Corner in 1833, moving his family to Parkman in the middle of the winter. His brother, William Dingley, followed soon thereafter. The Dingley brothers worked the farm for two years, while Nelson continued to peddle his wares. He joined Isaiah Vickery in 1835 in the purchase of a hotel and store at the Corner, while his younger brother continued to work the farm.

When his son, Nelson Jr., was six-years-old, his family moved to Unity. Nelson held onto some of his Parkman associations, however. His father’s partner, Isaiah Vickery, remained a close friend of the family, and Nelson Jr. visited Parkman off and on while he was a student in Waterville. Nelson Dingley, Jr. was elected governor of Maine twice, as well as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives. Later elected to the U.S. Congress, he served as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and was the author of the Dingley Tariff. While his father, uncle, and close family friends were active in the Whig Party, he ran and served as a Republican.

William McKissick came to Parkman from Limerick in the late 1830’s. A farmer, and a generous man, he kept what was known as a “Pilgrim’s tavern,” which was free to anyone who came. His family, many



Farm on Merrill Road.

Parkman, Maine



Parkman Baptist Church cemetery.

of whom changed the spelling of their name to McKusick, remained in the area, becoming prominent in town affairs. Parkman's existing elementary school is named after this family.

In 1839, during the Aroostook War, Parkman sent twelve men on an expedition to the state's northern frontier. They were Sylvanus B. Cummings, Chandler Harlow, Stephen Larrabee, Daniel McDaniel, E.C. Hall, Sumner Crockett, Jabez Prince, Parkman Pingree, Ezra Cox, Rice King, Asa Pratt, and Jeremiah Leavitt, each of whom were paid \$1.50 for their service.

Even before secession, Parkman expressed Southern sympathies in its vote. In 1860, only 19.3% of Maine Democrats voted for the Southerner, Breckenridge, rather than Douglas, the Northern Democratic choice. But 61.3% of Parkman Democrats preferred the Southern choice. A large number of supporters of both parties stayed home from the general election. Lincoln carried Parkman, but only because the Democrat vote was split between Breckenridge and Douglas.

When the Civil War began, the 1861 vote showed even greater contrasts. State-wide, 52.6% of Democrats endorsed C.D. Jameson, the War Democrat, for governor, as opposed to the regular Peace candidate. In Parkman, only 8.1% did the same, with Jameson receiving only 11 votes. When the War Democrats are added to the Republican votes, supporters of the war had only a 4 vote majority in Parkman.

Still, Parkman supplied many enthusiasts for the Union army, comparing favorably with many other towns. Parkman sent 94 men to active service during the Civil War, with at least one out of every ten residents serving in the military, not counting substitutes which the town provided in place of residents. There were three desertions, which was lower than the national average; one was captured by the enemy; eight died; and nineteen suffered serious wounds or illnesses.

While Parkman demonstrated an opposition to the war effort, it did its part.

The period between 1854 and 1890 were tough economic times for Parkman. Like many towns, Parkman found itself deeply in debt following the Civil War and, rather than going deeper into debt in order to pay off its obligations, the townspeople elected to pay it off as soon as possible.

Following the Civil War, the townspeople were mostly unwilling to serve in the armed forces themselves, and were unwilling to appropriate enough money to hire substitutes competitively. Nevertheless, elected officials were expected to meet the legal demands of state and federal quotas; and given the limitations put on them by the voters, they found themselves in a tight spot. Funds were appropriated, only to be rescinded or reduced by the voters weeks later. Selectmen were forced to raise money to meet these quotas on their own.

Efforts to gain support for building a town hall were unsuccessful until 1888, when the voters finally agreed to the purchase. Voters

agreed to buy a town farm for the purpose of caring for the poor, but the decision was rescinded three weeks later. Parkman taxpayers were asked to contribute to the repair of the Pease Bridge, but since the Southwest Branch of the Piscataquis River flowed for only a mile or two on the northern boundary with Abbot, Parkman voters saw no great advantage to maintaining the bridge. When it washed out three times in twenty years, the town refused to rebuilt it, resulting in a lawsuit which the state won against the town.

During this period, Parkman voters made the decision not to subsidize the building of a railroad through town. This decision probably had as much to do with local sentiment against the subsidizing of railroads as to the town's economic status, as Parkman voters voted 114 to 7 against an 1859 referendum to aid the Aroostook Railroad. In 1867, 1873, and again in 1886, Parkman voters opposed the appropriation of funds to assist in the building of a railroad through town. In the end, Dexter's railroad linked with Dover rather than Parkman, a decision that many believe contributed to a decline in Parkman's relative importance among other area towns.

Nevertheless, Parkman sent its share of men to the state house. Serving in the State House of Representatives were Jesse Nutting (1858), Eben D. Wade (1864), Dr. A.J.W. Stevens (1872), Ireson Briggs (1879), and Charles Rand (1883-1884). It is interesting to note that Wade, Stevens, and Rand (all Republicans) did not carry the Parkman vote, while Nutting and Briggs (Democrats) carried their own town. Before changing parties, Briggs had won, and lost, as a Republican.

In 1859, Jesse Nutting was elected 1st Selectman, replacing Thomas Seabury, who turned his attention to county and state politics. Nutting served until 1868, after which a succession of people held the office through 1877, including Shepherd Fletcher, H.E. Curtis, Dr. Stevens, Lamont Tyler, S. Leighton, and E.G. Eastman.

In 1886, Hazen O. Ayer played a part in the formation of the new Prohibition Party, and received its nomination for the State Senate. He received only a few votes, but several Parkman residents joined his cause. In referendum questions, the majority of Parkman voters who voted on the question favored restrictions on drinking, but even greater numbers left the referendum question blank.

In the mid-1860's, agriculture remained the focus of Parkman's economy, but there was a transition from subsistence to commercial farming. By the late 1800's however, agriculture declined while the forest industry gained in prominence. People began leaving Parkman to work in the timberlands to the north and west. Many never returned, some of them settling in the western states.

Agriculture continued to be a significant part of the economy, though. Parkman residents active in agriculture included Elisha Briggs, who raised sheep, as well as Ireson Briggs, a speculator who dealt in cattle, sheep, and horses. Daniel Haines grew apples commercially, and W.H. Green kept bees for honey. In 1871, Parkman was home

to a Farmer's Club; and a Farmer's Institute was formed in 1887. The Parkman Grange, organized in 1889 with nineteen charter members, became an important social and educational influence in the town.

In the middle of the 1890's, farmers began to switch from sheep to dairy cattle. Shepherd Fletcher produced 984 pounds of wool from 123 sheep as late as 1900, but Ireson Briggs was the town's only large producer of wool in the 20th century. There was a brief interest in raising swine, but it didn't last. In 1896, there were 1,843 pigs in Parkman, but by 1922 that number had fallen to 131.

S.B. Drew built the first silo in town in 1891. By 1910, creameries were collecting milk in town, particularly the Solon & Guilford creameries. By 1912, the D. Whitney Company of Boston had a collection route in Parkman. The rise of the dairy industry created a market for ice, and M.A. Green built an ice house in 1889.

By 1896, horses had all but replaced oxen.

Parkman politics tilted strongly toward neighborhood government. In the mid- to late-1800's, Parkman had 15 school districts and 42 highway districts.

In 1878, Z. Gould Manter was elected 1st Selectman. Although a Democrat, he had served in the Civil War with distinction, earning the respect of the townspeople. In the period from 1885 to 1888, Republican C.N. Rand replaced him as 1st Selectman; and another Republican, A.S. Merrill, served in that position from 1889-1890, but Manter remained on the board during this entire period. Manter was to become an intense rival of Merrill, with the balance of power shifting from year to year.

Things were changing in Parkman. In the early 1900's, there were sixteen one-room schools in Parkman. By 1925, there were only seven left, including the Dorr School, Manter School, Smart School, Southwest School, Pond School, Pease School, and Parkman Corner School. High school students attended school in either Dexter or Guilford. In 1955, the one-room schools were closed and students were bussed to the new Carroll McKusick School, which then had four rooms and a kitchen.

In 1904, the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company extended its lines from Guilford to Parkman Corner from the north. The following year, the Cambridge Telephone Company extended its lines to the Corner from the south. The town gave its permission for the Cambridge Telephone Company to overlap its lines with the other company as long as both companies agreed.

In 1912, Greenville Light and Power ran its electric lines to Parkman from Guilford.

Economically, Parkman had great challenges. Geographically isolated on the divide between the Kennebec and Penobscot Rivers, the town had no reliable waterways for water power, and the routes of travel often missed the town. Parkman had no large mills, and no railroad. Initially situated on the edge of Somerset County, the town later found itself in a corner of the newly created Piscataquis County, and unhappy with it, Parkman petitioned to be re-annexed with

Somerset County, but this was not granted.

Politically, the town also found itself often on the edge of things. While the rest of the state was becoming Republican, Parkman voters were Democrat. Its residents favored local autonomy and strong neighborhood governments; while, to them, the Republican Party represented federal interference, a draft, national banks, an income tax, tariffs, welfare, and railroad subsidies.

It might be argued that Parkman made bad choices. If so, it would seem that it did so out of a strong sense of integrity and frugality. Perhaps it could be said that Parkman voters chose a quality of life over a growing population.

Today, Parkman is smaller than it was 176 years ago, but its residents enjoy living there, exhibiting a pride in their community, their history, and in their homes.

One couple that I spoke to were William and Mary Kay Santoro, who live on the beautiful Ruland Farm along Route 150. Their farm had originally been in the Briggs family, who raised sheep there. The home has been in Mrs. Santoro's family since 1911, when it was purchased by her great-grandparents, John and Neva Ruland, who farmed the land, raised cattle, and did some logging. Mary Kay spent much of her childhood in the house, while her grandparents, Kenneth and Hazel Ruland, were living there. Kenneth was a well-known hunter and trapper in the area. He and his wife had two children: Warren, and Alice, Mary Kay's mother.

The house was vacant for a year and a half before the Santoros purchased it. They have been working to restore the house, with much respect given to the original architecture. The original barn, which sat closer to Route 150, was taken by eminent domain in 1966 and removed for the purpose of building the new road, and another building was moved to another part of the property, but the house is very much like it was.

There are several other beautiful farms and homes in and around Parkman, some dating back to the town's early years. I only wish I had had the time to have visited some of the others, and to have gotten to know the people of Parkman beyond the brief conversations that I've had with several of them.

I'd like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Santoro for allowing me to visit with them, and for the photo of their home without the electrical wires. I'd also like to thank Mr. Merrill Bridges, who was also very kind to me during our brief visit.

Much of the information used in this profile was obtained from the following texts:

- The History of Parkman, by Roger C. Storms, published in 1969.
- Parkman's Centeseptquinary 1822-1997, published in 1997.

Any errors contained in this profile were probably my own.

Ken is, among other things, the editor of the online news outlet, Magic City Morning Star, on the web at <http://magic-city-news.com>.



Old Harrington Farm

The Token Conservative

(Continued from page 1)

Washington County in 1984 when the University of Maine at Machias offered me a job. I was a moderate to conservative Democrat at the time. In 1988 I was Washington County chair for another moderate to conservative Democrat...Al Gore. People change.

In 1994 I helped Angus King get elected Governor. I advised him to oppose car-testing and his decision to do so was decisive. I worked for Angus for almost a year. When I returned home to Washington County, I made a fateful decision to publicly oppose the Atlantic salmon endangered species listing. That decision moved me rightward out of the moderate middle. As a conservative, I would never have been hired or tenured by a public university. My rightward shift and vocal opposition to the endangered species listing alienated the environmental left and many of my academic colleagues.

In 1998 I ran for Congress against John Baldacci and was soundly thrashed. In 1999 I led the opposition to the \$50 million lands bond, hacking a watermelon (green on the outside, red on the inside) with a machete in the Hall of Flags. The lands bond passed overwhelmingly, although almost 100 small communities in northern and eastern Maine voted against it (we could see the target on our backs). Since then 20% of the money (\$10 million) has been spent converting Washington County salmon watershed habitat from private to public ownership and control.

The environmental left has successfully used public money to damage and collectivize the rural economy. They have not, however, done the salmon or the people one bit of good.

I believe in capitalism and the constitution, which puts me at odds with environmentalists, who generally believe in neither. I believe environmentalism is essentially Maine's state religion, and I long for a little more separation of church and state. I want an environmental policy based on capitalism, science and facts instead of socialism, religion and fear.

I think our public universities believe in every kind of diversity except intellectual diversity. Our campuses have become hostile environments for conservatives of either secular or religious stripe, and no Republican legislator should support more funding for the University until and unless this is honestly addressed. Before it can be addressed, the university needs to get past denial.

I live in a red County in a blue state. It's interesting that the two poorest Counties, Washington and Piscataquis, are red-kind of difficult to explain from a Marxist perspective. But the reality is a mosaic of reds and blues that at a distance is really purple.

Red Maine is pretty disenfranchised these days, but with a spirited GOP gubernatorial primary and a resurrected All Maine Matters, maybe things are looking up.

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

Attacking TABOR

(Continued from page 1)

Confusion is the ally of our Masters in this contest. Confusion is the mother of unease and fear. It will help the voters to cut through the fog of propaganda if they keep their minds fixed on a few key questions.

First, should the taxpayer be allowed to have a direct say in taxation?

Second, is it reasonable to tie taxes and fees to the rate of inflation and population growth?

Third, is it unreasonable for the State of Maine to compete for number one rating in tax burden with states having far more economic resources?

Fourth, do you regard tax-home pay an allowance granted by the state?

Other questions might be asked, but these have priority and should be answered first. The voters should ask themselves whether Gov. Baldacci, Speaker Richardson, et al., are responding to them.

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.

A SOP to Socialized Medicine

(Continued from page 7)

A better alternative for uninsured individuals in Maine is Health Savings Accounts, a tax-deductible personal fund coupled with a high-deductible health-insurance policy. The savings account permits a person to take federal income tax deductions for account contributions and, in most cases, state income tax deductions--though not in Maine. The high-deductible insurance plan, like all insurance, protects the insured from financial loss. And HSAs would cost the state far less than Dirigo.

If Dirigo truly saved money, the program's benefits would exceed its costs. Elementary math indicates that this is not the case; every dollar questionably identified by the state as having been "saved" is taken from consumers thanks to the SOP. Perhaps not surprisingly, several other states are asking whether Maine's Dirigo Health could be a model for them. It could, if they too want to increase taxes, meanwhile doing virtually nothing to help the uninsured. "Dirigo" might come to mean "Don't be misled."

And if legal attempts to challenge it fail, then the Dirigo Savings Offset Payment will probably become permanent and grow in future years. The cry in Maine soon may become "Dirigo, your savings are too taxing."

Mr. Bragdon is the director of health reform initiatives at the Maine Heritage Policy Center. Mr. Brackemyre is the assistant director of legislative affairs for the Council for Affordable Health Insurance.

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

(Continued from page 2)

STU: Right now, the Legislature doesn't know what to do. They don't understand the issues. They need to learn the history of what we had before before they can be expected to understand where we are today.

AMM: Go on.

STU: When the paper industry was still a viable industry in Maine, leasing wasn't a primary source of income for the paper companies. Today, multinationals and wealthy individuals are buying huge chunks of land with non intention of using it for forestry or forest harvesting. The leases are paying the taxes on their land - on all of their land. These new landowners are using old state laws, putting their land in tree growth.

AMM: In tree growth? Do you mean a special tax classification?

STU: Yes, but tree growth wasn't set up for that. Tree growth was set up for companies that are using the land to supply mills and, more importantly, to employ people. The new landowners are using tax breaks that were intended to keep people working, but they're not doing this.

AMM: I see. In the past, the paper companies were given a break on their taxes and, in return, these same companies were employing people and contributing to the economy.

STU: Yes, and for many years that worked, and worked well.

AMM: What went wrong?

STU: As regulations, taxes, and the economy began to worsen, the paper companies put their capital investments elsewhere, outside of Maine. Our mills were not upgraded, and eventually became old mills. As other states and countries came on line with new machines and new technologies, Maine's mills could no longer compete. Environmental groups started coming in, buying conservation easements and bringing

lawsuits against those companies that were still trying to operate here. These conservation easements are going to dramatically affect the entire forest industry in Maine.

AMM: Haven't they already?

STU: Yes. Twenty years ago, we had twenty paper machines operating here. But the most significant problem with these conservation easements are that they are in perpetuity.

AMM: In perpetuity?

STU: Yes, they never end. This leaves us with no hope for the future, and severely limits the options for those who come after us.

AMM: Yes, I can see how that would be a problem, for us as well as for our children and grandchildren. Is there anything else?

STU: Non-profit groups, such as the Nature Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Wilderness Society, are buying huge chunks of land in Maine. How long is it going to be before they say, we're non-profit organizations, we shouldn't be paying taxes? Who is going to make up the difference then? We are.

AMM: Bringing it back to LD1646, is there anything else you'd like to add?

STU: This bill needs to move forward. People need to call their representatives, and call them again. We need to have a commission set up, and this commission needs to develop a program that protects all of the property owners in the state of Maine, not just the landowners.

AMM: Thank you, Stu. I look forward to continuing our discussion on this and other issues next month.

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

\$75,000 For Another Study?

by Rep. Rich Cebra

I have received several calls to my District Legislative Office this week regarding LD 10. The bill asks for \$75,000 for a study by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission regarding the provision of health care benefits to volunteer firefighters.

The argument in favor of the bill is that the ranks of volunteer firefighters are declining and paying for health insurance would provide a strong incentive to stay on or recruit new members. They want to study how much it will cost. It passed the House 98-48; as of my writing, the Senate has yet to act.

This being an election year, I am sure many of my colleagues in the House voted for this simply to appear, on the surface, to be the volunteer fireman's best friend. I believe my vote against this study was the best thing to do in the interests of our local volunteer firefighters and our communities as a whole.

I voted against this bill for several reasons. First off, I believe that this is a local issue. The state should not get involved in researching something at a \$75,000 price tag that those municipalities who would be interested in providing health insurance for their volunteers could do for free. Town managers and the local fire chiefs are in the best position to know what is best for their individual communities - they are the experts at addressing local problems. Any town manager could easily pick up the phone and ask a representative of the town's health insurance provider what it would cost to add the volunteers to the town's health insurance policy. The cost? Zero.

This is one of many issues where a state-imposed, top-down solution would, for obvious reasons, not work everywhere. But that is, without a doubt, where they are heading with this study.

This study would cost the taxpayers of this state \$75,000. I was told by a lobbyist before voting not to worry about the cost, that \$75,000 is "peanuts" to the state government. I am a firm believer however, that when you start adding up all those needless \$75,000 expenditures it starts to look like, what they call in Augusta, "real money." Any amount of wasted taxpayer money is too much.

Providing health insurance for volunteer firefighters may be one method of retaining and recruiting members. However, local issues are best dealt with locally and the state should stick to trying to straighten out its own issues and let us run our local towns the way we see fit.

I can be reached for comments at: repprich.cebra@maine.legislature.gov or at my district office at 693-4951.

Representative Rich Cebra, a small business owner, represents the 101st House District, including Casco, Naples and part of Poland. 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.

Endangered Species – Making Mom and Dad Extinct

(Continued from page 1)

And not coincidentally, laws are being enacted or changed to drastically redefine the traditional meaning of family, with direct and devastating consequences on our children and, ultimately, society. The State of Maine is now looking at redefining how children will be raised with LD 1526, An Act to Enact the Uniform Parentage Act and Conforming Amendments and Additional Amendments to Laws Concerning Probate, Adoption, Child Support, Child Protection and Other Family Law Issues; which came before the Judiciary Committee and may have already been reported out to the full legislature for action, as you read this.

The issues dealing with LD 1526, An Act to Enact the Uniform Parentage Act... must first begin with a little background information. According to the Center for Law and Social Policy, in 2000, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) approved a new Uniform Parentage Act. To be used by all states as a sort of standard, so individual state laws would not conflict too drastically with each other and at the same time fall within the parameters of federal law. At the request of several committees of the American Bar Association (ABA) some changes were subsequently made in the Act. It was then approved by the ABA and is now known as the Uniform Parentage Act 2002 (UPA 2002). This Act provides a comprehensive framework for establishing the parents of children born to both married and unmarried couples whether those children were conceived through sexual intercourse, assisted reproduction, or through a gestational agreement. The UPA (2002) reflects both federal requirements and state best practices in areas dealing with paternity.

Several important highlights of UPA 2002 include:

- A comprehensive scheme for establishing paternity through voluntary acknowledgment.
- Standards for ordering genetic tests and rules for the administration, admissibility, and payment of such tests.
- A detailed process for establishing paternity through adjudication as well as rules for disestablishing paternity when appropriate.

With the above in mind what does LD 1526, if passed, hold for Maine's children, (their mother's and father's) and our society? This proposed legislation completely ignores as much as irrationally possible gender specific language, when it comes to dealing with husband, father, man, and paternity; inserting instead gender neutral language (e.g. parent, person, parentage).

As the details of this proposed bill are fleshed out, one objective becomes very apparent – it seeks to establish in law that the unmarried heterosexual and homosexual households are the moral and legal equivalent of heterosexual married households in raising children. Thus ignoring what is fundamental to the health of a child by disregarding the overwhelming positive evidence concerning the economic, emotional, psychological, and physical development of a child nurtured in home with a married mother and father.

LD 1526 would transform marriage and father/mother roles into states of being wholly meaningless to the procreating, raising, and caring of a child. It reduces the very existence of a child's biological father and mother to be of the most minor importance with respect to any legal designation of "parent". Thereby creating a simple and automatic legal path for unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples to be granted the same authority and rights as those that today's biological father's and mother's now have.

Most shocking, LD 1526 would create new legal designations and definitions of "parent", giving not only the court express power to make these determinations but also a state agency; ultimately

giving lawful sanction to 3, 4, 5, or more legal parents of a child. Let me repeat, LD 1526 will permit a child to have 3, 4, 5 or more legal parents. What types of parents will a child have, as defined in LD 1526? A child could have a Marital Presumed Parent; Non-Marital Presumed Parent; Acknowledged Parent; Adjudicated Parent; Artificial Reproductive Technology (ART) Parent; Gestational Agreement Parent; and a De Facto Parent. Notice the gender specific language in these categories, e.g. man/woman or mother/father or maternity/paternity, is conspicuously absent.

Again, a child could have all 7 of these (or more) as legal parents at the same time, all with the same co-equal legal rights and authority over how they will be raised, cared for, schooled - in short live their childhood years.

Below are several specific examples of what LD 1526 would codify if passed by Maine's Legislature this session. These examples use references to the legislative bill itself and are by no means inclusive of how this bill would further legalize the extinction of the traditional family in Maine. But will give you an idea of the direction the state is headed with regard to what it means to be a mother and father in Maine raising children; not to mention what this would portend for society in general.

Example 1: §1841 – Establishment of parent-child relationship
LD 1526 removes all gender specific terms, the result: homosexual couples can be declared the "presumed parents" (cross §1844).

- Maine courts are given the authority to rule in such a way that the child ends up with more than 2 parents. p. 13, "4" (Note: point "4" is unique to Maine, not included in the UPA, 2002.).

Example 2: §1844 – Presumption of Parentage (Paternity in the UPA 2002)

The UPA 2002 version limits presumptions of paternity to those related to marriage (p. 18, lines 18-26). The UPA 2002 includes valid/invalid marriage, but still between a man and a woman, p. 18. LD 1526 is more radical than the UPA 2002 version by making some of these presumptions to be gender neutral. The results:

- An illegal gay marriage partner could be presumed to be the parent – even when Maine does not have homosexual marriage. p. 17, points "C", "D", "E".
- Enlarges the possible number of legal parents from two to more than two as a presumed parent cannot prevent a child from being a child of more than 2 parents. p. 17, points "3" & "4" (Unique to Maine).

Example 3: §1845 – De Facto parentage (Cross to §1833 Maine Comment, p. 11 for de facto parentage summary)

- Unique to Maine: this section does not exist under the UPA, 2002.
- Addresses who might be deemed "parents" of older children, not born to persons who might be parents and possibly not living with these two persons for the first two years of life.
- Makes it easier for homosexual couples to become parents of older children by establishing de facto parentage based upon the 'quality' of relationship. p. 20.
- Courts are expressly given the power to make the determination of whether de facto parentage has been established.
- A court establishment of de facto parentage does not preempt the rights of other parents, presumed or otherwise. The result, again, is that the child could end up with more than two legal parents.

Example 4: §1846 – Acknowledgment of establishment of parentage of non-marital presumed parent. This section crosses to §1844, 1E – "for the first 2 years of life, resided in the same household with the child and openly held out the child to be 'persons' own."

- Permits a "person" to acknowledge parentage by filing with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics; this "person" becomes an 'acknowledged' parent as though adjudicate in the court system with all the rights and authority of a legal parent. P. 21. "2".
- Result: A gay/lesbian couple could 'acknowledge' a child who lived with them for the first 2 years of his/her/their lives – and after 2 years put their names on the birth certificate.
- The effect of non-acknowledgment on a non-marital presumed parent: they are not given notice of an expedited paternity process. The non-marital presumed parent may, however, still be a 'presumed parent' if they fulfill the requirements of §1844.

Example 5: §1941 – Admissibility of results of genetic testing; expenses.

- If the child has a presumed parent (see notes above re: §1844) the results of genetic testing might not be admissible in court if the child's presumed parent objects (unless ordered by the court). p. 64, "3".
- The result: A genetic father could be blocked from establishing his parentage as against a homosexual couple who were illegally married to each other at the time the child was born.

Example 6: §1963 – "Parentage" of child of assisted reproduction. (Paternity in UPA 2002)

- Makes it possible for a lesbian couple to be the natural parents of a child by one woman donating the egg (genetic mother) for the other woman (gestational mother) to carry the child. p. 77.
- Hinges on the person's "intent" to be parent.

Editorial Note: As this publication was going to press the Judiciary Committee held a Work Session for LD 1526. Once discussion of the bill started, a motion of "Ought Not to Pass" was almost immediately put forward. Further discussion and support for the motion included the caveat that the bill be sent back to the Family Law Advisory Commission (FLAC) for revision with more specific instructions and be re-submitted during the next legislative session. The motion of "Ought Not to Pass" was unanimously approved, along with a motion to send the bill back to FLAC for a re-write, including a Committee letter outlining more specific directions FLAC should follow. This bill will be back before Maine's Legislature next legislative session.

1 Pitirim Sorokin, Society, Culture, and Personality (New York: Harper and Row, 1947), pp. 246-247; The American Sex Revolution (Boston: Porter Sargent, 1956), p. 5.

2 Mary Parke, "Are Married Parents Really Better for Children?" Center for Law and Social Policy Policy Brief, May 2003, p. 1.

3 Kristin Anderson Moore, et al., "Marriage From a Child's Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can We Do about It?" Child Trends Research Brief, June 2002, p. 1.

Tim Russell is the Legislative Liaison for the Christian Civic League of Maine.

GOP Membership

(Continued from page 6)

military is our surest course to safety at home and abroad. We never lost a battle because we are too strong.

There is more and I will continue to talk about these ideas. They are larger than any one person and transcend time. Being a Republican, like being an American, should mean that your membership identifies you and your values. Changing those values because some pollster said the wind is blowing a certain way on a certain day is wrong.

People want to be a part of something that is larger than they are. People are attracted to an organization because of its ideals and what it places value in.

I invite you to join the Republican Party, not because we asked you what you need us to become for you to join, but because we have stood on a set of ideals that has inspired you and made you want to be a part of a cause that is noble and just.

Ray Richardson is the host of the WLOB Morning News heard weekday mornings on News/FOX WLOB. For almost a decade, Ray has been one of a very few conservative newspaper columnists in the State of Maine. He serves as the Chair of the Westbrook Republican Party and sits on the Cumberland County GOP Executive Committee. He is a grassroots political activist whose activities reach back well over two decades in Maine and Florida. Ray has organized over 50 rallies throughout Maine, focusing on issues such as limited government, lower taxes and support of our troops and the war in Iraq. Ray lives with his wife Dee Dee and their four children in Westbrook.



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- 27. Coxhall (5)
- 28. Sterlington (5)
- 30. Chandlerville (7)
- 31. Bagaduce (7)
- 32. Sudbury-Canada (6)
- 34. New Marblehead (7)
- 35. Little Falls Village (6)
- 38. Collegetown (7)
- 39. Sunkhaze (7)
- 40. Buckstown (9)
- 41. New Sandwich (5)
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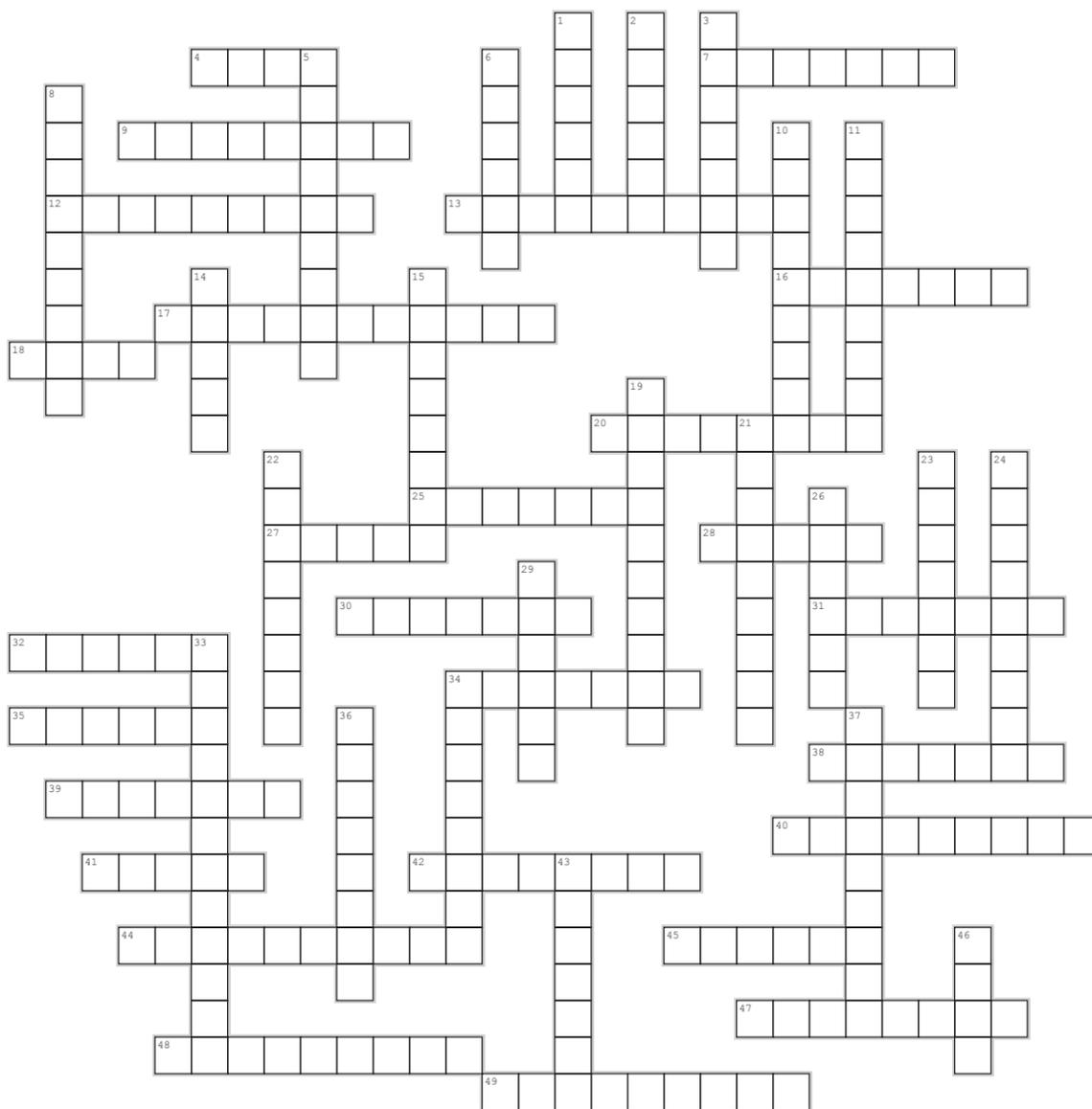
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- 2. Sheppardsfield (6)
- 3. Sterling (7)
- 5. Massabesic (9)
- 6. Little Falls (6)
- 8. Bloomfield (9)
- 10. Chandler River (9)
- 11. Ballstown (9)
- 14. Harlem (5)
- 15. Gardnerstown (8)
- 19. Condeskeag (10)
- 21. Pejepsco (9)
- 22. Casco Bay (8)
- 23. Hancock Plantation (7)
- 24. New Worcester (9)
- 26. Bakerstown (6)
- 29. Goshen (6)
- 33. Ducktrap (12)
- 34. Pondtown (8)
- 36. Pearsontown (8)
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- 46. New Boston (4)

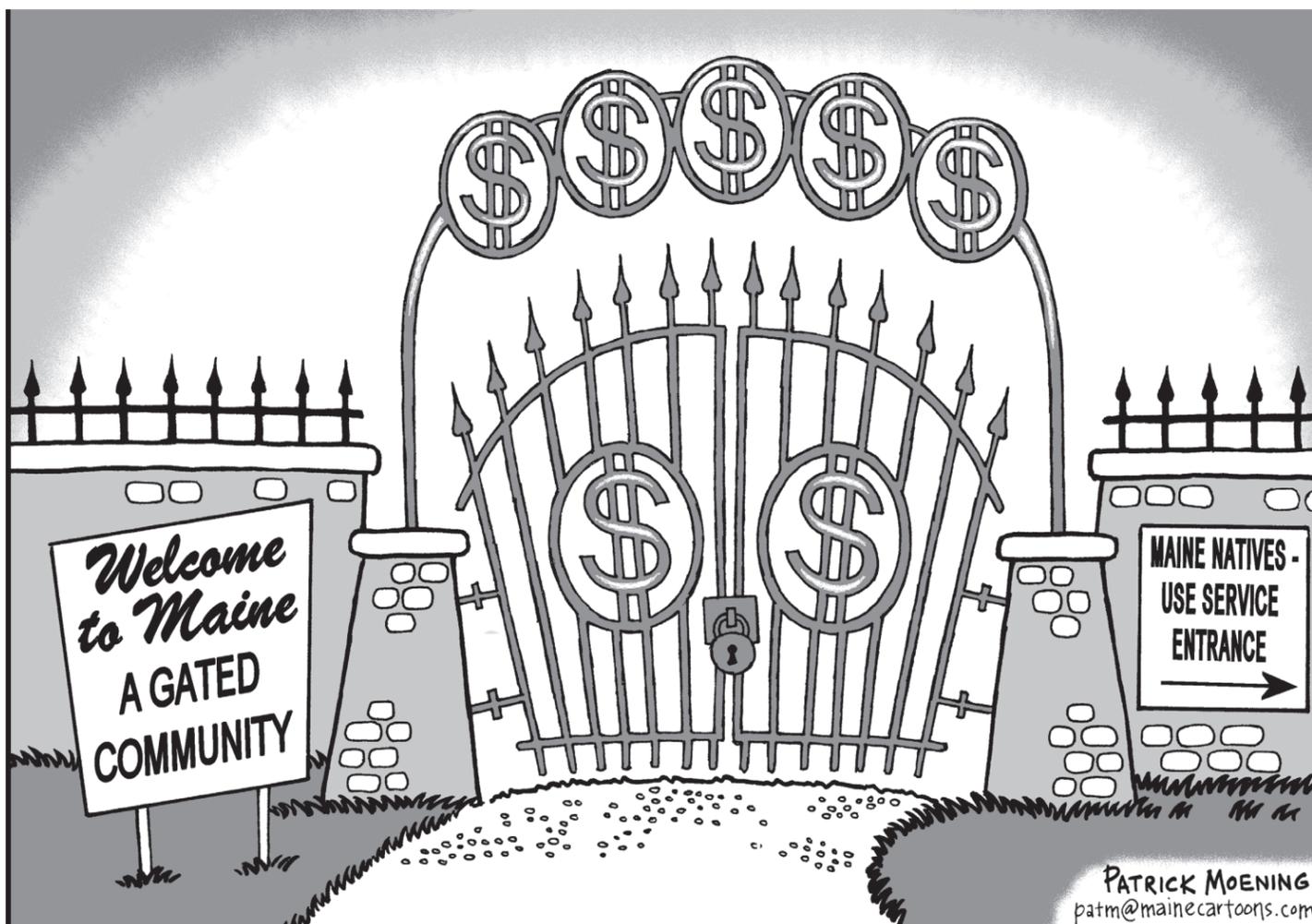
March Crossword

The clue is the name of the Maine town or place at the time of the Revolutionary War or before. The answer is the name of the town or place today.

Answers on page 14.



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An American Perestroika

by Laura Adelman

America is in the midst of a broad, radical perestroika — a complete restructuring of our society, orchestrated internationally and played out locally.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called the radical reformation which creates global governance a “quiet revolution.” This revolution, much of its Marxist/Communist/Socialist principles bleached in marketing language of “sustainable development,” seeks control of every aspect of human life. It is being implemented in cities across America through an anti-capitalist system of public/private contracted “partnerships” involving government, business, regional unelected governing boards and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They jointly fund initiatives which, by astounding coincidence, carry out plans conceived at the United Nations (U.N.).

For years, American patriots like Tom DeWeese and Henry Lamb and have reported extensively on U.N. plans to destroy our freedom by controlling our lives and natural resources. Just as they have predicted, in a myriad of ways, U.N. goals are being implemented locally. For example, regional governing boards, often comprised of unelected, “representatives,” are implementing mandates that will limit or prohibit citizen’s access to natural resources and create “human habitats.” These regional “Metropolitan Councils” control development by dictating the spread of necessary infrastructure, like water, sewer pipes and roads. They also control the distribution of state and federal transportation and development funding. To get project money, municipalities must compete with each other by presenting the development plan that most reflects the terms dictated by the council. Not by coincidence, these terms mirror U.N. sustainability principles of human settlement areas and feature stacked housing, near train and bus lines and walking-distance businesses.

Another U.N. goal is government control of property. In part, this goal is being met in hometown America through conservation easements, spreading like a plague across the nation. Marketed as a way to “protect” green space, conservation easements eliminate private property ownership. Under this binding agreement, a property owner sells for a fraction of its worth — forever — some or all of the following: the right to control, use, possess, develop, lease, modify or sell their land. The owner is reduced to a “fee title holder,” a mere tenant but responsible for paying property taxes and employing land management practices the easement holder mandates. All current and future “owners” have no say in who owns the conservation easement or how many times it changes hands. But they may have a tough time selling their fee title because the easement encumbrance is upon the land forever, impacting its value and thus limiting potential buyers. The encumbered

property could even become impossible to sell on the regular market.

But the most concerning thing about conservation easements is that it seems a system set up to turn property ownership to government. Often, environmental NGOs initially negotiate and fund the purchase of easements, but later sell them to government. With control over the property’s use, government takes full ownership of all its natural resources; productivity of the land is then government-controlled and restricted. The citizen has become a dependent-servant of government — what the U.N. terms a “global citizen.”

There is probably no better place to see the U.N. goals in action locally than in our own children’s classrooms. As across this country, parents are working to pay their ever-bloating tax burden, government schools are indoctrinating our children to hate America, to willfully turn from her freedom and embrace a new “global society.” For at least 13 years, our children are brainwashed to believe patriotism is elitist, sovereignty intolerant and American culture irrelevant. Those children exhibiting any kind of curiosity or spirit are targeted to be drugged — but only after being permanently labeled as having a “disease” or learning disability so the government indoctrination center (school) can use them to get more federal funding. It is by design that our entire public education system has been internationalized, radically reinvented from a system designed to teach children a broad-base of facts and knowledge to live as a free people into a dumbed-down workforce training system that employs a failed command economy as exemplified in the Soviet Union.

That is the road we are on, and it is easy to see the U.N. agenda being implemented locally. It appears in board resolutions, during visioning processes and facilitated meetings; it shows up in sustainability reports and trial programs. City by city, inch by inch, the restructuring perestroika of America is underway in your own neighborhood.

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. You can reach her at ladelmann@thenma.org.

Controlling the Last Free Voice in the World

by Tom DeWeese

The American people simply have no idea what it’s like to live in a totalitarian society. We go where we want; watch movies and television shows or any kind; start new businesses on a whim; shop in huge supermarkets that carry any item imaginable; even sit in public places and say anything we want about political leaders.

Today in our modern society, many of us sit at our computer for hours on end sending e-mails, corresponding, web surfing, researching, subscribing to web sites, gaining information, booking hotels and airline reservations, buying gifts, even creating personal web sites - or blogs - where any average citizen can vent on the political issues of the day and send it to the world. Frankly, there is simply no end to what we Americans can do sitting in our own homes behind our trusty computer. The Internet is fast becoming the most valued root of our free society.

To better understand the vast scope of such American freedom, contrast it with a recent new story out of Beijing, China. The Associated Press (AP) report details how the Communist government has forced Microsoft Corporation to shut down the Internet journal of a Chinese blogger who discussed “politically sensitive” issues, including a recent strike at a Beijing newspaper.

The AP report says, “Although Beijing has supported Internet use for education and business, it fiercely polices content. Filters block objectionable foreign Web sites, and regulations ban perceived subversive or pornographic content and require service providers to enforce censorship rules.” In its defense, poor Microsoft admits to being a pawn to whatever gang of thugs is in charge. “When we operate in markets around the world, we have to ensure that our service complies with global laws as well as local laws and norms,” said Brooke Richardson, Microsoft spokeswoman.

Of course the “local norm” in Communist China is to ban anything that criticizes the brutal totalitarian government. The communists call literature like the Declaration of Independence “pornographic.” The fact that Microsoft caved so quickly on this obvious censorship, for fear of losing the Chinese market speaks volumes about corporate globalism which pledges no allegiance to any country or idea other than profit’s sake.

Imagine what would have happened had the Bush Administration even remotely suggested any form of censorship of the Internet. Microsoft would

have had their well-paid lawyers, lobbyists and public relations people on a full frontal assault against the very idea. They would have done it because they don’t fear the U.S. government and so they can. Not so in Communist China. But imagine what could have been accomplished in Communist China had Microsoft worried less about losing a market and more about gaining some freedom for an oppressed people. Imagine if Microsoft had reacted to the Communist order by refusing, instead shutting down its operation in China and using its formidable press operation to tell why. China would have blinked and quite possibly relented.

Why is the China story so important? To fully understand, switch to another recent news story. That story is the unrelenting control of the Internet by the United Nations. Things got serious in the UN’s bid last November at an international confab held in Tunis.

Focus of the meeting was a desire by several UN member nations to wrestle control of the Internet from the U.S.- based International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a quasi-governmental non-profit organization that oversees the day-to-day operation of the Internet. ICANN doesn’t control who uses the Internet and it doesn’t censor content. It’s a free market and ICANN’s mission is to preserve it as such. To make it even better, though today ICANN operates under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce, in November, it will actually become a fully private corporation, breaking all of its governmental ties.

The UN argues that the Internet is international in scope and needs much grander oversight. Who better to handle the chore, of course than the body that fancies itself an international government? The Internet is fast becoming the biggest international prize as the greatest source of information and human involvement. It offers the UN huge opportunity for creating tax revenues and controlling commerce. It is also the place to control the flow of ideas. What totalitarian can resist a bid to control the Internet?

The assault on ICANN was fierce at the Tunis meeting, but the Bush Administration thought it was able to argue its way out -- for the time being keeping ICANN in control. However, the Administration made a fatal error when it agreed to let the UN create a permanent standing body called the “Internet Governance Forum” (IGF), which intends to keep up a long-term campaign to finally achieve UN control over the Internet.

Continued on page 14ga

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- Burlington: Nearly new camp on Madagasgal Lake. Owned land! Insulated, wired for generator and neatly finished with knotty pine inside. This camp looks west at the sunset. Prevailing west wind keeps the bugs away. Great fishing for the accomplished sportsman and kids both. Snowmobile and ATV right from the camp. Trails connect with the new ATV regional system. Sandy bottom for swimming and there is a babbling brook beside the camp. A perfect four season getaway. Madagasgal Lake is a quiet lake with many camps owned by area families. Don’t wait til spring. \$139,000
- Waite: Secluded camp just off a paved road. Power and phone at the road. This camp sleeps 8 to 10 and has water to the camp. Screened in porch. This land goes back a half mile and backs up against timber company land. Camp is hidden, but only 300 feet from the road so it could have power to the camp. Great fishing nearby and the area has moose, deer and bear. Owned land. \$55,000
- 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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Letters to the Editor

Thank You, Governor Baldacci!

I would like to thank Gov. Baldacci for his amazing and outstanding job that he is doing for the great state of Maine. His years of business oriented thinking, that he must have picked up from his family's business, has really done amazing things for the state. He really knows how the American dollar works.

There are something's that I have noticed just by listening to other people and reading news papers. Here are some of them.

What I find amazing is how he can stand in front of the people who voted him in and the tax payer, that pays his wages, and outright lies, seems, manipulates and sticks it to the tax payer and still has a positive attitude with a smile.

Well Governor, I have a problem with all that you stand for. Your outright underhanded "Executive Order" for aliens is downright theft.

Your stealing tax dollars from the legal Mainers and giving it away like it was yours. Who do you think you are, Robin Hood?

Maybe you need to read that book. (Robin Hood) It's steal from the rich and give to the poor. Not, steal from the tax payer and give to the illegal.

While I'm on the subject of tax payer. You have stated that Maine is doing well. I don't see it. I personally have decided that I have a very difficult time with corporate companies and the government anything. I have had many jobs in my short career. I have worked in lumber mills where you break your back for someone else and your only a number.

I have worked for local towns where if anything has happened in the past they hold it against you. I have worked for a town where their local government was so new that they have no idea how departments work. I have worked seasonal construction for many years and the new council who don't have a clue calls me a liar. Who would put up with that?

I also work as an Emergency Medical Technician. For those of you who are unsure of what a person in that capacity does, well, we are the ones who help save lives outside of the hospitals. Anyway, a job of that caliber, you'd think that there would be good money in it. Well there is, outside of Maine, especially outside of Aroostook. I get paid \$7.07/hour after 3 years of being with this company.

So, let's get down to tooth and nail. I work what I can, when I can. I find a great job (what I think is) and for some reason a government entity comes up with stupid things to wind me up to the point that I quit.

But, the worst part is that at least 30% of my wages goes to support illegal aliens and bull flop programs that I don't qualify for unless I'm broke.

What would the tax payer think if they knew that a homeless shelter is a regular hangout for people from Texas, California, overseas, etc.? Why would they want to come to Northern Maine in the winter? WHY!!!!? I'll tell you. These people have stated that Maine is the easiest state to get disability and welfare. Aroostook is great because there are no lines to wait in.

Well, I don't know about anybody else, but I'm getting tired of paying for someone else's free ride. It happens even in Lewiston at the Social Security office. Illegal immigrants who are fresh off the boat with no papers, green card or anything, walk in and ask for "THE FREE" "I WANT THE FREE!"

HELLO!! Does this seem wrong? This is just a few things that I know about. How many other problems are out there that people don't talk about unless they are in the local coffee shop or at a gathering where it doesn't really matter?

So, finally, if things are going to change then the people of Maine (legal residence and preferably not on the system) need to speak up, raise your voice, pound your fists, point your fingers and speak your minds. Call it a uprising if you want, it doesn't matter to me, but I'm ready to use the constitution that the forefathers fought to get for the legitimate Americans and throw a fit.

So, Governor Baldacci, THANK YOU for sticking it to everybody. I'd ask for assistance to take it better, but I don't Medicare, Mainecare, or Dirigo, so it looks like I have to take it dry.

Thanks again. GREAT JOB. You need another 4 years.

Respectfully,

Ticked off tax payer
Perry Charette
Nashville Plt,Me.

Re: Cebra's Illegal Immigration Article

To the Editors:

I thought that Rep. Richard Cebra's article on illegal immigration in Maine (AMM February 2006) should not pass without some comments. Immigration policy is a serious issue, and deserves an important place in our political debates. Sadly, Rep. Cebra's article contributes little to the discussion, and merely stirs up worry and anger about fictitious problems like "Third World momentum," while distracting people from the real issues and trade-offs involved in the immigration debate.

This is the bottom line: the majority of illegal immigrants work. They work on farms and orchards. They work in restaurants and hotels. They work in construction and landscaping. Most often, they are forced to work for sub-standard wages without any job security. This is not any easy life. These people risk death getting here to live out the American Dream, just like my ancestors did and just like many of yours too. They do not risk death for welfare handouts. Rep. Cebra tries to paint them as common criminals. Do some make foolish choices and wind up in prison? Sure, but so have some of our neighbors. There are criminals in every community.

Rep. Cebra worries us about the great cost of sharing our social services given the state's limited finances. It is true that these people do not pay income tax. This is because they're paid under the table. However, these people actually do contribute money to the state coffers. They pay sales taxes, and they spend their wages in their local communities. If issued a drivers license, few are going to run out and vote as Rep. Cebra alleges. They are going to save up and buy a used car, fill it with gas, go buy groceries and shop at Wal-Mart — just like the rest of us. Their low wage labor also helps the businesses which employ them to grow, because their payrolls are smaller. These businesses pay taxes. Plus, low labor costs help businesses keep prices low. In effect, their inexpensive labor subsidizes the prices of many products which we all enjoy, from cheap eggs and apples to lower prices when we go out to eat. The economics are a little more complex than Rep. Cebra describes.

The problem is, like many Americans, these people do not make enough money to be able to afford private healthcare plans. Many do not make enough money to provide adequate nutritious food for their families. So, like many Americans, some are forced to take advantage of the safety nets which Maine has provided to the poorest and most vulnerable. We may have problems with poverty, but the United States is still the wealthiest and most powerful nation on Earth. Is it morally right to force someone to go without medical care or to deny their children food simply because they do not have a green card?

Rep. Cebra considers this executive order an example of a "loss of rule of law." He even cites federal statutes to prove it. However, this is not really a case of "loss of rule of law." Allocation of state funds is a states' rights issue. The governor of

Maine has seen fit to extend support to all of the state's residents. If the people of Maine disagree, they can vote him out of office. It is none of Washington's business.

Rep. Cebra characterizes these people as coming from "virtually every failed country on earth." How dare he refer to these nations as "failed"? How is he measuring failure? Sure, many people come to America from countries with developing economies and high rates of poverty. However, most of these countries have histories of slavery, colonization and unfair trade relationships which are responsible for today's widespread poverty. To simply brush aside the poor nations of the world as "failures" betrays ignorance of history, foreign relations, and economics.

In his article's climax, Rep. Cebra continues to spread fear by claiming our "language, culture, environment, crime rate, and quality of life will be changed utterly." He is right. The future will always bring change, often in ways we don't expect. It is likely that our language, culture, and all the rest will be different in the future, whether illegal immigrants come to work in Maine or not. The things he wants to protect are shaped by many factors. Illegal immigration is just a drop in the bucket! International trade agreements, personal and business tax rates, and the marketing of the entertainment industry, just to name a few, have a much greater effect than immigration policy on these things.

Rep. Cebra is trying to use illegal immigrants as scapegoats for other problems. These same arguments have been used during earlier waves of legal immigration, when Italians, Irish, Poles and others were subjected to discrimination as they arrived on our shores to start a new life. We do not need to repeat this.

Growing up in Maine, I did not meet an illegal immigrant until my mid-twenties when I moved down to New York City. As you would expect, many illegal immigrants have chosen to live here. I have gotten to know a few of them, and to learn their stories. And I have been struck by what hard working, family-oriented people they are. By and large, these people that I am proud to make room for at my table.

My wife and I are planning to return to Maine in a few years to start a family. And as far as I see it, if someone is hard working, a good neighbor, and minds their own business, they deserve a place in the community whether they are a citizen or not. There is no denying that we need to fix our immigration policies. As we work towards this goal, it is critical to keep in mind that we are talking about a complex problem, with many trade-offs. This demands level heads and sensitivity. We cannot resort simply to fear mongering and name-calling. We cannot follow Rep. Cebra's example.

Respectfully,
Andrew Roberts
Bronx, NY

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Good Sunday morning,

I juts picked up your paper last night at the Oriental Jade in Bangor. I usally pick up anything that looks readable and was duly impressed with your publication.

I know the state is a mess with our current administration, but didnt realize how bad it really was until I read some of the articles this morning.

Keep up the good word and I will have our company send some advertising your way.

Howard Dunn
Glenburn, ME

Grateful to Read AMM

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I picked up your newspaper at a local café this morning, and I have read it from front to back now and am looking forward to your next issue.

This is the newspaper I've been praying for! No liberal blather. No filler. Just news and thoughtful, compelling opinion. And what a great list of distinguished contributors!

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Marcia K.
South Portland

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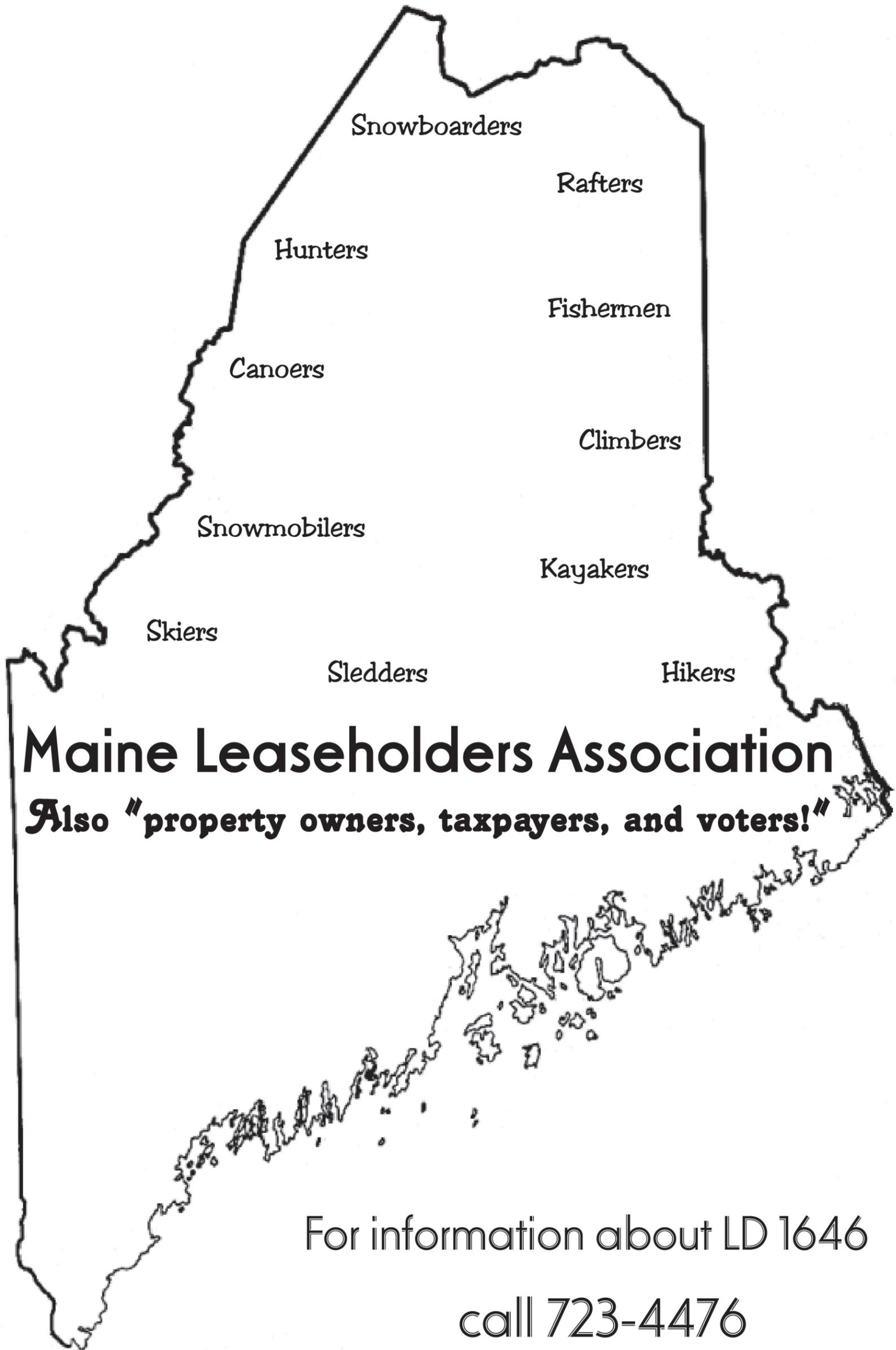
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