

# All Maine Matters

Because All of Maine **DOES** Matter!  
Vol. 1, No. 8 August 2006

FREE

## Buying the Blaine House (With Your Money)

By Reps. Henry Joy and John Churchill

Is Governor John Baldacci using our tax dollars to buy his reelection? That would certainly appear to be the case.

The governor recently signed into law two bills that will immensely increase the tax burden on the people of Maine for years to come. The benefits will flow to special interest groups, who undoubtedly will return the favor on Election Day.

Simply stated, the governor is using our tax money to win four more years in the Blaine House. His lavish vote-buying schemes could hardly come at a worse time. Mainers already shoulder the heaviest tax burden in the country. Our state debts and unfunded liabilities exceed \$5.3 billion. Our job base is shrinking. And we will enter the next budget cycle with a projected shortfall of \$500 million.

Under these grim circumstances, the governor should be exercising utmost fiscal discipline. But plagued by dismal approval ratings, he is playing fast and loose with our financial future. His buying of votes is so naked and obvious that even newspaper editorials have denounced it.

The Portland Press Herald ran an editorial on June 5th under the headline "Police, firefighter benefit an election-year giveaway." After explaining how the plan works (more on that later), the editors summed it up thusly: "It's a blatant political move in a campaign year. Maine taxpayers will be paying for it for decades."

The Morning Sentinel, which serves much of Kennebec, Waldo, Somerset and Franklin counties, did not mince words. Its lead editorial on June 1 was entitled "Buying votes for the governor with our tax dollars." The authors made their objections clear. "By seeking votes through the state budget," they wrote, "the governor and his allies in the State House who helped pass this legislation – many of whom are running for reelection themselves – feed the public's cynicism about politics and politicians."

The Lewiston Sun Journal weighed in on June 3. Its editorial was entitled "Two new perks for public workers will cost us plenty." "The Legislature, with Democrats in control, took on two new financial obligations that seem certain to grow," the editors wrote. The editorial explained the new health care benefits for public safety workers, noting that they will cost the state \$1.3 million in 2008 and \$3.1 million in 2009. "But unless something miraculous happens, those costs will rapidly increase. Thus, the state has incurred another costly long-term obligation."

Needless to say, it is extremely rare when three major daily Maine newspapers all attack the governor on their editorial pages in the same week. Baldacci usually gets a pass from a friendly media.

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Route 11, Aroostook County.

## Taxpayer Bill of Rights

by Gary C. Foster

As expected, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights referendum is being sharply criticized and condemned by those who depend on taxpayers for their existence.

In a rather bizarre interpretation, the MMA and others suggest that Taxpayer Bill of Rights provision requiring a 2/3 vote for a legislative body to increase the financial hardship on Maine's taxpayers beyond that which is reasonable is a change to minority rule. Currently 51% of our legislature can choose to increase our tax burden. That means 49% of Maine's taxpayers are not represented in such a decision. Under TABOR, 67% of Maine's taxpayers would be represented, and the taxpayers themselves would participate in the decision. Coupled with consent of the voters, a supermajority would certainly be a much stronger consensus as to the necessity and legitimacy of increasing spending and taxes above the reasonable and sustainable level allowed under TABOR.

For years, Maine has led the nation in state and local tax burden. Incidentally, I doubt that this is what our state's founders had in mind when they adopted the motto "Dirigo." Even under the economic cure-all LD1, our state and local tax burden has risen from 13% to 13.5%, demonstrating that this dog and pony show hasn't worked.

What it really boils down to is the entitlement crowd's fear of the voters. The unbridled tax and spend practices of government demonstrate that the taxpayers are perceived as a limitless resource to be exploited. Therefore, allowing the taxpayers to participate in any decision to increase their tax burden is a threat to this practice and to any entity that feeds from the public trough.

Though our legislature is aware of the burden they have strapped on the backs of the taxpayers, for decades they have failed

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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

## Rural vs. Real

by Michael Pajak

When the editor asked that I write a piece on "any issue you think might of interest to conservatives in rural Maine" I suffered a mild panic attack. At this very moment I am at risk of missing the deadline that I agreed to meet out of fear of insulting the people of Maine who have historically been the backbone of our state.

What the heck do I know enough about to write on that might be of interest to conservatives in rural Maine? I haven't spent any substantial time north of the "Volvo Line" in years. My family and I have inhabited the People's Republic of Portland for almost two decades. When we recently decamped from the PRP to find our little piece of the wilderness to raise our youngest boy on we only got as far as Sagadahoc County, just barely across the Kennebec!

The closest I ever get to Washington County is eating blueberries while reading the Calais Advertiser or the DownEast Times. Aroostook County? Please pass the potatoes. I have some cherished photos of my last ascent of Mt. Katahdin and make frequent promises to my boy to take him there if I ever get a vacation. Other than that I haven't a clue, and cannot even make the claim of being a true Mainer. In fact, by all appearances, I am a member of the group representing the greatest threat to "rural Maine" – a person from away. I've even done time in New Jersey! All those excuses aside, I am fortunate to have a great many personal and professional

contacts who hail from above the fabled Volvo Line. Most of them tell me that line has been updated from its former demarcation just north of Augusta to somewhere north of Bangor and south of Dover-Foxcroft, perhaps Sangerville or Plymouth. I also hear that the name has been upgraded to reflect today's more modern standards. The line between the "two Maines" is now called "the Lexus Line."

During my ruminations for this little excursion north via these pages I had a thought. Perhaps it is time to stop referring to "rural Maine" as such. Down here in the land of subdivisions that are named after either the predominant specie of tree that was removed to make way for cul-de-sacs and three car garages, or the former view that was sacrificed for the three-story McMansion, the term "rural Maine" conjures up images of trailers and inbreeding... a land where the houses are on wheels and cars are up on blocks. In short, the deep south of New England.

It isn't a pretty image, and I am afraid it taints the way folks down here set policy with regard to how to "deal" with the "problems" up north. As one who toiled away in marketing and sales for too long to admit, I propose an image overhaul.

It is my suggestion that from this point forward whenever referring to the vast majority of the state of Maine, the sparsely populated, economically-challenged region often called "the other Maine," we call it like it is – The Real Maine.

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

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# Communism - Underground but Alive and Well in America

By Michael A. Beardsley

It's funny looking back, that for a couple of years, I thought Communism was pretty much dead. Sure there is China, Cuba and a few other 3rd world countries that still were communist but wasn't China charging headlong toward an industrial revolution that would be sure to make the society more free...perhaps even democratic (small d)? Wasn't Cuba just waiting around for Fidel to kick the bucket to become a free society again, where America's beautiful people would for a nights gambling and dancing in Havana.

All in all, I figured we had the commies licked. Then I shut off my TV, put down my remote, and started reading.

It all started with Ann Coulter's book *Treason* - somehow my US History teachers left out the part about how entrenched the Communists were in the FDR and Truman administrations.

Then I read Glenn Beck's book *The Real America: Messages from the Heart and Heartland*. While I don't agree with Beck on all things, a part of his book really startled me. It was the part where he detailed: **THE 45 GOALS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNIST PARTY** written in 1961.

Then it hit me. The Communists are still roaming the country - not in the uniform of a Soviet soldier marching in Red Square, but disguised under the cloak of liberalism.

Reading the 45 Goals, it is clear the Communists (*no not the more politically correct socialists, I mean Communists*) have found a home in the Democratic Party and judging by the rise of RINO's, particularly in the Northeast, their ideas are quickly taking hold right here in the Republican Party as well.

Take a look at the 45 Goals from 1961. Shocking how liberalism (as defined today) has welcomed Communist goals with open arms (I've put in **bold** some of my "favorites"):

1st Goal: U.S. acceptance of coexistence as the only alternative to atomic war.

2nd Goal: U.S. willingness to capitulate in preference to engaging in atomic war.

3rd Goal: Develop the illusion that total disarmament by the United States would be a demonstration of moral strength.

4th Goal: Permit free trade between all nations regardless of Communist affiliation and regardless of whether or not items could be used for war.

5th Goal: Extension of long-term loans to Russia and Soviet Satellites.

6th Goal: Provide American aid to all nations regardless of Communist domination.

7th Goal: Grant recognition of Red China. Admission of Red China to the U.N.

8th Goal: Set up East and West Germany as separate states in spite of Khrushchev's promise in 1955 to settle the Germany question by free elections under supervision of the U.N.



9th Goal: Prolong the conferences to ban atomic tests because the U.S. has agreed to suspend tests as long as negotiations are in progress.

10th Goal: Allow all Soviet satellites individual representation in the U.N. [page 260]

11th Goal: Promote the U.N. as the only hope for mankind. If its charter is rewritten, demand that it be set up as one-world government with its own independent armed forces. (Some Communist leaders believe the world can be taken over as easily by the U.N. as by Moscow. Sometimes these two centers compete with each other as they are now doing in the Congo.)

12th Goal: Resist any attempt to outlaw the Communist Party.

13th Goal: Do away with all loyalty oaths.

14th Goal: Continue giving Russia access to the U.S. Patent office.

15th Goal: **Capture one or both of the political parties in the United States.**

16th Goal: **Use technical decisions of the courts to weaken basic American institutions by claiming their activities violate civil rights.**

17th Goal: **Get control of the schools. Use them as transmission belts for socialism and current Communist propaganda. Soften the curriculum. Get control of teachers' associations. Put the party line in textbooks.**

18th Goal: Gain control of all student newspapers.

19th Goal: Use student riots to foment public protests against programs or organizations which are under Communist attack.

20th Goal: Infiltrate the press. Get control of book-review assignments, editorial writing, policy-making positions.

21st Goal: Gain control of key positions in radio, TV and motion pictures.

22nd Goal: Continue discrediting American culture by degrading all forms of artistic expression. An American Communist cell was told to "eliminate all good sculpture from parks and buildings, substitute shapeless, awkward and meaningless forms."

Continued on page 12

# Open Letter to the AARP Following Taxpayer Bill of Rights "Seminar"

By Pem Schaeffer

(Author's note: the AARP is a leading member of the "axis of opposition" to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights ballot initiative. AARP is joined with the Maine Municipal Association, the Maine Education (Teachers) Association, and AFSCME, the union of state and local government employees, to do everything in their power to defeat it. Together, these organizations have millions of dollars available to crush this citizens' movement to instill a sense of stability and control in government spending.)

Dear Mr. Dolphin & AARP Leaders:

I attended the AARP event held in June at the Doubletree Inn in Portland, ostensibly designed to educate your membership on the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. I am not surprised that you tried to make your best case against this citizens' referendum, and are looking for every opportunity to promote yours and AARP's opinion about the legislation. I would expect that you and your group would attempt to give the referendum a negative spin. There are a lot of problems with your position when you look at the details.

Your group, and your fellow members of the "gang of 75," hold many "informational meetings" to advocate your viewpoint to your members. You "inform" your members what you have learned about the Taxpayers Bill of Rights and why you oppose it, instead of presenting the facts and letting your members reach their own informed decisions. Quite frankly, I do not understand why you are so angry about the referendum.

At first, I found the atmosphere at your event cordial, but it soon became rather patronizing and gratuitous. I couldn't escape the impression that AARP's style is to talk down to the members, as if they are incompetent and unthinking "seniors" who need to be guided by AARP leaders paid to promote a particular point of view. At times I found your demeanor condescending, as if you were talking to your aged and doddering parents, instead of a group of competent, educated, and thinking adults.

I am surprised by the accusations and nasty tone of the presentations. People of good will can and do disagree without resorting to name-calling.

To begin with, after the "get to know your neighbor" exercise, you asked participants to identify those "benefits and services" provided by government (paid for by their taxes) that they hold dear. This was a prime example of "push questioning," in which you were subtly leading the group into a predetermined conclusion previously arrived at by AARP higher authorities.

You then scrupulously avoided leading the attendees in a critical thinking exercise to extend the process and examine all sides of the issue. After the first "question," in which participants named their beloved libraries, home

health care, trash collection, prescription drugs, "oil," meals on wheels, and other "public services" as their priorities, you should have asked:

- Why other states and towns are able to provide these same services with a much lower tax burden;
- What their priorities are for their own after tax incomes, such as food, housing, travel, medicines, entertainment, families, etc;
- Why Maine families in many cases have to pay nearly twice what families in other states pay to purchase health insurance;
- How Maine's highest in the nation tax burden has contributed to it's lowest in the nation economic health (tied with Katrina devastated Louisiana.);
- Why Maine has among the highest Medicaid enrollment and spending in the nation, and why enrollment is growing faster than virtually every other state.

Discussing these vital points would have provided useful and thoughtful insights, and counterpoint to simply listing typical government services.

Inexplicably, you chose not to provide a balanced discussion encompassing both supporters and opponents of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, even though you had been offered a knowledgeable supporter for your events. Instead, you invited only Kit St. John from the MECEP, who earns his living defending Maine's destructive status quo, and the continuous economic decline it has wrought. This alone is enough to demonstrate that educating your membership is not your first priority, but instead, is driving members to arrive at your foregone conclusion through a group-think process..

Let's examine briefly why the Taxpayer Bill of Rights is on the ballot. Maine's economy has been widely recognized as struggling and anemic by a number of authoritative sources. Alarminglly, census data shows that demographic trends in Maine are dreadfully negative. Our youth, who should be building careers, families, and futures here in their home state, are leaving in record numbers to seek opportunity elsewhere. We have growing state debt and unfunded liabilities, and per capita state and local taxes have grown by 25% in the last 6 years, according to the Maine Legislature's Office of Fiscal and Program Review. *Examining this set of realities* should be of a much higher priority for AARP members than libraries, etc, if Maine seniors want a secure future, and their family living in this state as well.

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FAX: (207) 463-3466  
E-MAIL: [hleej@ainop.com](mailto:hleej@ainop.com)  
LEGISLATIVE: (207) 287-1400  
TTY: (207) 287-4469  
CAPITOL TOLL FREE: (800) 423-2900

**HENRY L. JOY**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

P.O. BOX 103  
ISLAND FALLS, MAINE 04747

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**All Maine Matters  
PO Box 788  
Kingman, ME 04451**



## Guest Editorial: A Government For the People, By the People

By Naran Row-Spaulding

Long ago, during the sweltering summer of 1776, members of the Continental Congress labored in Philadelphia, to bring forth a new nation. It was an astounding, unprecedented idea for the times - a nation free of monarchy, free of absolute rulers.

A Democratic nation, where the people, no matter what their rank, had the right to speak their minds, participate in their own government, and control their own destinies. These rights would be paramount in our new nation.

A government "For the People, By the People."

Despite overwhelming odds, including death, imprisonment, and desperate years of bloody battles, those courageous people were successful. Today, I believe we can never fully comprehend what they endured to provide us with the freedom we enjoy in America, 2006.

Or, should enjoy.

230 years later, I wonder what the members of Continental Congress would think if they attended a selectmen's meeting in Kennebunk, Maine, or in some other small towns across our state.

Unfortunately, there has been a movement in many Maine towns, away from democratic government and free speech, to the quasi "Absolute Rulership" of some town selectmen, or town council members.

For instance, in Kennebunk, instead of "Government By the People," we have five minor potentates sitting at the head table. Instead of "Robert's Rules," we have "their way or the highway."

Would the Continental Congress detect glimpses of "king and command," when they witnessed residents being refused the right to comment on agenda issues at meetings? Would Ben Franklin object when the chairman shut off the microphone, because the chairman didn't care for the opinions being respectfully expressed by the voters?

Would John Hancock protest when 1,026 validated, certified petition signatures were summarily (and illegally) dismissed by the Kennebunk selectmen, and the board denied the residents a right to even vote on the petition issue?

Samuel Adams might also recognize the "aroma of monarchy" when the selectmen then denied a resident the opportunity to serve on a town committee. Why did they do so? Because that resident, rightfully displeased with the petition being thrown out, dared exercise his Constitutional right to seek legal redress against the town selectmen.

File suit against the town, and never serve on another volunteer committee or board? Is there a statute of limitations to this new, unwritten town "policy," or does the miscreant continue forever on the "Municipal Blacklist?" Is this Democracy, or is this "Regency by Retribution?"

Is this what the Continental Congress had in mind, when they wrote the Declaration of Independence, and then the American Constitution?

Another Kennebunk selectman recently spearheaded an effort to enact a "political action committee" ordinance. She doesn't care for local grassroots groups who produce informational flyers on town budget issues, or make campaign signs for political candidates. She would like to force us into declaring where every cent comes from, every time we spend \$20 on copies.

Why? Because she doesn't agree with our opinions, and because as a quasi-potentate, she can use her political office to try and suppress our Constitutional rights to participate in our own government, and to free speech.

All across Maine, in recent months I have read other accounts of similar oppression by town boards and councils. Stories of censorship, denial of legal rights, and roughshod treatment of good American citizens who want a voice, and a part in their own governments.

Is the idea of "monarchy" truly dead in Maine, or have our local boards and councils become home to petty rulers, people who would be king if they could?

Are we still a Republic, or have our local governments become a "Regency by Retribution?"

What would the Continental Congress say?

*Naran Row-Spaulding is a political activist and writer, and a Kennebunk Taxpayers Association steering committee member.*

# All Maine Matters

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## Farming & Forestry Too!

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Editor and Advertising  
Michelle Anderson

Distribution, Photography  
Ken Anderson

207.723.4456

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

This Month's Contributors:

Ken Anderson  
Michael Beardsley  
Beth Cyr  
Senator Paul Davis  
Roger Ek  
John Frary  
Rep. Henry Joy  
John R. Lott, Jr.  
Lenny Murphy  
Jon Reisman  
Bob Sanders

Michelle Anderson  
Rep. John Churchill  
Justin Darr  
Tom DeWeese  
Gary C. Foster  
Michael Fundalewicz  
Bud Landry  
Patrick Moening  
Michael Pajak  
Naran Row-Spaulding  
Pem Schaeffer

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## Candy Lydon (March 31, 1928 – July 23, 2006)

by Roger Ek

Joe Lydon died a few months ago. His wife Candy died last Saturday. Joe and Candy worked the gate on the Golden Road for several years. They really knew the West Branch country and were helpful to many venturing into the Great North Woods. Prior to that work, they ran the Mattawamkeag Wilderness Park for many years. That's where I met Joe and Candy. They were just as helpful to visitors there. Joe and Candy had a log cabin off the park road and that's where they wintered. It was snug and warm.

I used to run sled dogs and I trained them on the park road in Mattawamkeag. Joe asked me to stop in for coffee next time I was up. I had a 10 dog team and swung into his driveway, up the knoll and down into his dooryard. Standing in the middle of the driveway was Joe's goat. The goat went Baaaaa. The dog team thought "Supertime!" It was a 3-ring circus keeping my dog team away from Joe's goat. Eventually I got the team tangled up in enough trees that they could not get to the goat."

*Joe and I had our coffee and Joe had goat's milk in his. They were a fine couple and Northern Maine is the less for their loss.*

*Candace (Baldwin) Lydon, 78, wife of the late Joseph L. Lydon, died July 23, 2006, at her home, in Lee. She was born March 31, 1928, in Mattawamkeag, the daughter of William and Ethelyn (Dillingham) Baldwin. Candace was a most devoted wife and mother.*

*She is survived by two sons, Dennis of Raymond, New Hampshire and Mark of Durham; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter.*



Nichol's Nook, along Route 32 near Bremen.



Eagle Lake, as seen from the Overlook Motel.

“ A President is impeachable if he attempts to subvert the Constitution ”

President James Madison

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## Major Development Proposed in Maine’s North Woods

Matt Polstein’s project calls for resort outside Baxter State Park

A Millinocket town councilor and local businessman has expressed interest in building a resort in the backyard of Baxter State Park. Matt Polstein is proposing to rezone the area around Millinocket Lake allowing him the opportunity to build a lodge with 60 to 80 rooms, a restaurant, a cluster of 20 condominiums and a 20-room inn with spa and food service.

“The Hammond Ridge project will begin with expansion of the Twin Pines Camps, adding fifteen cabins,” according to information on Friends of Baxter’s website. “A subdivision on the side of Black Cap [sic] Mountain will provide land and building packages for private individuals.”

Polstein, who owns New England Outdoors Center and River Drivers Restaurant in Millinocket, refused to talk to **All Maine Matters** about his proposal.

The Hammond Ridge Development is located on part of 80,000 acres of Great Northern Paper land not included in an easement area because it already has some development on it, according to the announcement. Polstein said that he was going to apply for the necessary zone changes in January, 2006 and for permits after that. Polstein added that he hopes to be able to begin site work in the fall of 2006.

“Frankly, I haven’t heard from Matt in months now,” said Catherine Carol, a spokesperson at the state’s Land Use Regulation Commission. As of July 28, an application has not been filed with the LURC, according to Carol.

If an application is filed, the commission will review and distribute it to others including the state’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department

of Transportation, Maine Natural Areas, county commissioners, Maine State Soil Scientists, Maine Historic Preservation Commission and possibly the state’s Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Geological Survey and the state’s Department of Economic and Community Development. In addition, interested citizens including abutters, leaseholders and Millinocket councilors will be given the opportunity to review the proposal.

“It’s not uncommon for when an application comes in that it needs to be tweaked or adjusted when a proposal is made so there is no undue adverse impact,” Carol said.

Polstein is proposing to re-zone the area. In order to achieve that, he must petition for a development subdistrict. There is criteria that must be met, according to Carol. That criteria is very broad and can be found in title 12, 685-A subsection 8-A. A seven-member board (appointed by the governor) of the Land Use Regulation Commission will ultimately decide whether or not to rezone the area, according to Carol.

Included in that criteria is that the project create no adverse impact on the environment and a demonstrated need in the community – which is open to interpretation, Carol said.

“We did provide Matt with a ‘guidance document’ to try to help him make that argument,” Carol said. “We don’t leave it open and say to the applicant to figure it out themselves.”

Polstein told Friends of Baxter that it is his “goal is to build and operate a signature resort for Maine and New England

on and around Hammond Ridge. “We will build and operate this resort in a sustainable fashion and in a way that honors the spectacular natural beauty of Mount Katahdin, the West Branch Region, and Millinocket Lake,” he said.

If Polstein applies, LURC will hold a public hearing after he addresses areas of concern from all interested parties. The proposal will go through two phases. After rezoning approval Polstein must file an application for a development permit, which addresses technical criteria such as setback requirements, building heights, etc.

“We would then go through the same review process and request comment,” Carol said.

Carol suggested that the 1,000-acre project could “optimistically” take at least six months to review and receive approval.

“This is a highly contentious project,” Carol said. “This could go for some time.”

So far Polstein has shown a preliminary drawing and map to LURC officials, but hasn’t submitted an application.

Millinocket Lake is a rocky, 8,960-acre coldwater lake lies within sight of Mount Katahdin, Maine’s highest mountain. Millinocket Lake is noted for landlocked salmon and lake trout fishing, but it is also one of Maine’s best producers of bragging-size white perch, according to information provided by Trails.com.

Mount Katahdin is located in Baxter State Park. Baxter State Park consists of 200,000 acres of mountains, lakes streams and forest, all given in trust by Gov. Percival Baxter, who once said that the park “shall forever be kept and remain in the natural wild state.”



It’s Time For A Change!

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- ✓ Promote fiscal responsibility & reduced government spending.
- ✓ Encourage affordable healthcare by refraining from imposing unreasonable taxes on health insurance companies.
- ✓ Strengthen Maine’s economy.
- ✓ Sustainable jobs are created not by government, but by employers. Encourage an economic atmosphere which attracts businesses to Maine and to the Katahdin Region.
- ✓ Preserve Maine’s natural resources and traditions for generations to come.

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## Un-Debating Dirigo

By John Frary

Mr. David Offer, self-described liberal and editor of the *Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel* is fond of writing occasional editorials celebrating debate. “Debate is good,” he assures his readers. Assuming he is sincere, the evidence suggests that he has no clear idea of what it takes to make a debate.

No debate ever took place during the seven or eight months I wrote a weekly column for the central Maine newspapers. There were letters and e-mails from angry liberals and leftists denouncing me for this and that, but not a single one ever actually addressed the points made in my columns. Not one. I was never attacked for anything I actually wrote.

Indeed, I was often chided for things I never said and did not believe.

The one issue that was gradually developing to the point that it resembled a real debate was John Baldacci’s Dirigo Health Plan. After writing three columns I managed to lure the governor’s health czarina, Trish Riley, and the governor himself (in the guise of his communications director) into the arena. Delighted at the opportunity to bloody them up directly, I wrote a fourth column, only to find it rejected on the grounds that four columns on the same subject would bore the readers!

When I found that the spiked column had been replaced by a reprint of a column published in 1991, I had to wonder about the boredom pretext. So I submitted the same column all over and told Mr. Offer I would continue to resubmit it until he published it or fired me. So he fired me, as was his right as editor.

After a long delay he found a new conservative columnist, who has so far not prompted a single letter of opposition or criticism. As for

Dirigo’s problems, no hint of a debate has appeared since my departure.

For the record, I provide a slightly altered version of the column replying to Governor Baldacci’s spokesmammal

**ADVICE FROM THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE**

Lee Umphrey, Director of Communications in the Governor’s Office, sent me an e-mail informing me that the governor and his coterie are very, very disappointed. I am not the “thoughtful conservative” they had yearned for, he sobs, but a mere “partisan parrot.”

Now, I’ll concede that I have not been thinking the thoughts that the governor wishes me to think, but I must protest the parroting charge. Readers will have noticed that the three preceding columns included responses to Dirigo’s critics from the governor, Trish Riley, four Democratic legislators, and the chairmammal of Maine’s Democratic party.

The governor’s head parrot, like Trish Riley in her earlier guest column, accuses me of failing to seek information from the Augusta establishment.. This, he claims, means that my words are “without context or grounding.” More, I am “giving my readers only half the picture.” I assured him that I am not opposed in principle to dropping in on his office. The promise of a fresh doughnut, a decent cup of coffee and a list of vital facts that the DirigoGods have been withholding from the public record would bring me there freshly showered with shoes shined and hair combed. While awaiting this promised list, I proposed to confine myself to analyzing publicly available information. Any of my readers dissatisfied

with this method are free to seek their own inside dope. They will find Mr. Umphrey at State House Station One in Augusta.

The governor has a “bully pulpit,” the support of his legislative allies, and a whole office of communication to provide “the context and grounding.” I prefer to use my 800 words per week to provide the unlaundered half of the issue the governor’s team prefers not to discuss. Still, in the interests of fairness and balance I will try to summarize the Dirigo proponents’ arguments.

Based on the governor’s remarks and the pro-Dirigo letters and columns appearing all over the state, it amounts to this. The planning is a mess, but the program is a great success. Republicans are a pack of Reaganite wreckers who hate the uninsured and want them to die unattended. The governor welcomes criticism as long as people keep it to themselves. Insurance companies are evil.

And now back to the other half. A letter from Roger and Deborah Poulin of Skowhegan on December 12 described their own experience with Dirigo Choice and explained why they thought it was a good thing, although imperfect. This letter provided more substantive support for the program than the whole pack of professional advocates put together. It would be useful to see more such letters from citizens who have had personal experience as satisfied customers, and also from those who dropped the policy, or those who examined and rejected it. Then we would have a real debate going.

The Poulins report that they have two employees who average about 30 hours a week. One employee switched to Dirigo Choice from Medicaid and the other had been uninsured. This introduces a question. How many people now covered by the Dirigo product were previously covered?

In a May 2003 speech introducing his “bold and comprehensive approach to health system reform,” Governor Baldacci spoke of the 180,000 Maine people lacking insurance as if he planned to extend coverage to them all. No mention was made of including “under-insured” people.

Trish Riley, Director of the Governor’s Office of Health Policy and Finance, testified before the Joint Select Committee Health Care Reform on May 15, 2003. She spoke of 136,000 citizens who lacked health insurance and went on to “propose a four-year phase-in to full coverage of all the uninsured.” We have recently (written in December 2005) been hearing rhetoric about the Dirigo “success” in enrolling persons previously “under-insured” No mention of the category was

made in 2003. Is this a classic case of bureaucratic “mission creep” destined to expand the original 136,000 into some vastly greater figure? If so, the original planning failures have been transformed from a mess into utter chaos.

Early this week I received an e-mail message from a health care provider who prefers to remain anonymous for obvious reasons. He, or she, expands on the problem very neatly and I am content to parrot her, of his, words: “Dirigo has admittedly enrolled only 2500 previously uninsured families or individuals. While I suppose it’s possible, it seems highly unlikely to me that insuring 2500 people saved \$44 million in health care costs? Even if that is the case, so far the state coffers have spent over \$50 million in subsidizing and running Dirigo. At the very best, we’ve spent over \$50 million to save \$44 million.”

So that is that is the column I wrote in December 2005. Since that time Baldacci has appointed a commission to fix the problems which David Offer and his paper have never thought worth debating. Seven months have gone by and not a single editorial comment has appeared on this chaotic scheme.

Some debate.

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.





# Stock Market Cars

By Bob Sanders

I was picking up parts at the local Ford dealership a few months ago and the latest buzz whirling around the parts jockeys was the stratospheric price of some of the newer models of Mustang. On the counter there were pamphlets picturing the Mustang GT in all it's glossy, airbrushed glory, an American steel skinned beauty. I asked the boys just how stratospheric is the ransom on one of these ponies, they replied- 40 to 60 grand, the price depending on just how many bells and whistles you want. The majority opinion held that you would have to be dead from the neck up to plunk down 60 big ones on something that devastates equity like car.

Normally I would agree one thousand percent. I have always held the belief that cars are just the worst place to dump money, the absolute worst. As a rule, cars are nothing more than a consumable commodity, you use them up, and at the end of their life they are worth little or nothing. In fact, if you keep them until they resemble Freddie Flintstone Mobiles, with gaping holes where the floorboards used to be, they actually cost you money to get rid of them. But like all rules, there are rare exceptions. There have always been vehicles that due to variables such as rarity, cultural cache or nostalgia, actually gain value over the long haul.

The latest record setters have been the muscle cars of the middle 60's and early 70's, and they are fetching some truly orbital prices.

There have been some recent auctions of vintage pavement pounders that have gone into the rarefied seven figure zone! And just like investment grade anything, the key is to pick winners and take care of them while you wait for price appreciation. (A lot easier said than done.) A relatively common muscle car that sold in the late 60's for 3 to 4 thousand can now go for 150 to 350 grand, if it is a bona fide ultra low mileage, perfectly preserved, number matching, all original, absolutely Snow White pristine example. And if it happens to be a rare, special edi-

tion model of a popular model that developed a loyal following of gearheads who were lusting admirers from afar back in the Hippie Yippie days, then the price quickly gets bid up into 1 to 4 million dollar range.

Four million. You just gotta ask, "What in the world is going on here". It's simple. It's the market. It's wealth meeting demographics. Some of those long haired, greasy people who could only wistfully long for the ride of their dreams back in the days of Woodstock ain't dreaming any more. Now they have pockets as deep as the Grand Canyon, and they're paying prices as high as Mount Everest. The most recent record paid was 4 million, one hundred thousand for a 1971 Plymouth Cuda convertible. (Yeh, it's got a Hemi). It is one of only eleven built, one of only two with a special factory paint and striping scheme. It had so few miles that it still had the original tires on it. As one of the bidders remarked, "Hell, it still has the original 1971 air in the tires". Rarity and a being a cultural icon equals big bucks in the vintage auto auction market.

John Keats wrote; "A thing of beauty is a joy forever- it will never fade away into nothingness". And these cars are, very simply, absolutely beautiful examples of a bygone era. And one fact is undebatable- there will never be anymore made. The verified survivors that are all original, in perfect condition, are all there will ever be, and more than any other factor that is what will drive their value into the future and make them "investment grade". And just as surely there are models being sold today, maybe the Mustang GT 500 at 50 grand or perhaps the Ford GT at 150 grand, that sometime in the distant future will command prices that dwarf their original purchase price.

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

# The Token Conservative

By Jon Reisman  
Agenda Message

What's on the agenda for Maine? Ah, therein lays a question and quite possibly the elections.

The first and possibly most critical stage of the policy process is agenda setting. The agenda consists of the top issues the electorate and public opinion focus on. The agenda is influenced by current events, the economy, interest groups, the media and campaigns, not necessarily exclusively, independently or in that order.

What we choose to focus on shapes and shades the subsequent discussion and also implies what is not discussed. Interest groups and campaigns seek to promote and suppress certain issues, and to spin the discussion. The media, from Maine stream daily newspapers, to TV, radio and web play roles as both gatekeeper and interested parties.

Interest groups often benefit from successful efforts to influence the agenda in terms of financial support and political clout. Pols and political parties get power (or lose it). The media feeds and thrives on the whole spin cycle.

The environmental left has been especially effective in massaging the agenda to its advantage in Maine. The whole global warming/climate change opera is an excellent example, but that's a whole other column or four.

The agenda this fall will likely start with the economy, taxes and the business climate. The left would rather talk about anything else other than the consequences of their basic hostility

“Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the President.”

President Theodore Roosevelt

# Islam's Low Intensity Terrorism

by Justin Darr

Islam is like the neighbor everyone has that people say "is alright once you get to know him." However, the more you "get to know him," the more it seems that your first impression was correct. A jerk is a jerk. No matter how many times you see the guy place his trash cans neatly at the end of the drive on time for the Tuesday pick up, the silent aggressive stares let you know that this guy has something dysfunctional going on that sooner or later will erupt into big problems.

Usually, you just try to ignore these people as long as possible, just a simple "Hello," or wave on the way to work. Then comes the day when your son's football flies over the fence and, wham! The guy picks up the ball and locks it in his garage.

Now, you have the unpleasant task of going over and confronting this idiot about why he cannot exist by the rules of common civility that have served us so well for generations, risking the chance of the guy acting like the moron he is an chasing you across the yard with a garden rake.

It is not really that hard of a decision. Experience teaches that such blowhards usually have nothing to back up their words other than a glass chin and big mouth. So, you accept the risk because you understand the consequences of your inaction will lead to even grander displays of indecorousness by your neighbor and spending the rest of your life with your son wondering if the zipper is on the front or side of your pants.

This is the situation the western world faces with Islam. For a "religion of peace," Islam sure seems to have a mean streak. The facts regarding Islamic society's apparent inability to peacefully coexist with its non-Muslim neighbors, and endless litany of hatred and bloodlust spewed by its religious leaders toward anyone who happens to disagree with them, has left nothing to conclude except Islam makes anything but a good neighbor.

Here is a quick test to see my point. Do a survey of all the areas of the world counting sizable Muslim populations abutting large non-Muslim populations that are NOT in a near perpetual state of violent conflict. Hope you have one hand ready.

In other areas, where Muslims are not actively killing those around them, they choose to promote their agendas by making thinly veiled threats of unless others stop "provoking" them, they will be unable to stop the simmering violence that lurks just under the surface of their communities from erupting. This is an attempt to take advantage of the western world's obsession with political correctness where it is far easier to give into demands, no matter how ridiculous, than deal with the fools who are making them and be declared "insensitive." However, no matter what the excuses or justifications, the actions of many Muslim leaders amount to low intensity terrorism.

Nothing demonstrates this point better than the current situations with the Muslim world's vicious overreaction to a few political cartoons out of Europe depicting the prophet Mohammad wearing a bomb as a turban, and the breakdown of negotiations with Iran over its nuclear fuel enrichment program.

Curiously, despite the differences in these situations, the Muslims involved are using the same low intensity terrorist tactics to achieve their ends.

In Europe, cartoonists have fled into hiding in fear of their lives as Muslims have marauded through hotels in the Gaza Strip searching for Westerners to kidnap, and protestors dressed as suicide bombers, prayed for further terrorist attacks in western civilians, and carried signs saying, "Freedom Go To Hell," "Europe You Will Pay, Your 3/11 Is On the Way," and "Butcher Those Who Insult Islam," in London, England.

In Iran, 1979 American Embassy terrorist leader now turned Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is threatening to cut off all foreign oil exports, "wipe Israel off the map," launch insurgent attacks into Iraq and Afghanistan, and restarted full uranium enrichment efforts and in the wake of the IAEA referring Iran to the Security Council.

In both cases, the responses enormously outweigh the initial "provocation."

Iran is threatening to destroy the world economy and destabilize the entire Middle East just because we understand that a nation that has spent its entire history supporting and engaging in terrorism has no business possessing highly enriched uranium for any reason.

And, Muslims around the world are threatening us with widespread violence if we do not toss aside our most cherished freedoms and silence a few cartoonists who noticed that the vast majority of terrorists just happen to be emulating the words and deeds of Mohammad.

The disproportionate nature of these responses is less of a reaction to any actual offense that may have occurred than it is an attempt to intimidate those who might dare to affront or oppose Islam in the future. In both cases the message is clear: If you ever cross us again, you will be responsible for the violence that ensues.

There is no clearer definition of low intensity terrorism than these heavy-handed attempts to blackmail the free world.

The civilized world is now faced with a choice. Do we allow ourselves to be intimidated by Islam's low intensity terrorism because we feel that it is a better alternative than the more overt terrorism so many Muslims love, sacrificing our freedom and security in the process? Or, do we decide to stand up for what we know is right?

I do not know about you, but I think it is time to go get our football.

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

to capitalism, profit seeking and economic freedom. The presence of the TABOR initiative on the ballot will make changing the subject harder to do.

The "Blueprint Project" is a coalition of "progressive" interest groups in Maine that has reportedly received an initial \$800,000 to change the subject and massage public opinion and the agenda. The funding, from the George Soros backed Proteus Fund, goes to a collection of more than 40 groups, including the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Education Association, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Maine People's Alliance, the American Association of Retired Persons, Common Cause, Environment Maine, the Maine AFL-CIO, the Maine Center for Economic Policy, Maine Equal Justice and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England. Their first task is defeat TABOR.

The left has billionaire George Soros, an alphabet soup of elitist NGO Blue culture warriors, the daily newspapers, Maine Public Radio, and the academy. The right has Mary Adams, the Maine Heritage Policy Center, the internet, Fox News and talk radio. This fall the election will be a referendum on the culture war- capitalism, freedom and TABOR or socialism, serfdom and the nanny state.

Jon Reisman in the University of Maine System's token conservative.



Eagle Lake, as seen from the Overlook Motel.

## Thoughts on Education

By Lenny Murphy

We must see that the over-inflated cost of so-called Education is about half of the expense of the yearly cost of living!

We must start taking many new avenues in the area of what we call Education! We need to help people with their Education. We can not educate people -- or should I say help people with their education -- if they do not want to learn what you are forcing all of them to know, while we hide the ABC's?

Has our society become too competitive? We don't need people that can compete; we need people that can participate in a productive effort! Competition puts up walls and isolates, which is a primitive premise at best!

To move on, in theory, if everyone home-schooled their children, it would cut the taxes in half! We should offer people the opportunity to home school by giving them 1/3 of what it would cost us to keep them in the public schools! Then if some schools consolidated, the rate of students per teacher would not change, as it would otherwise!

If we want fewer students per teacher, it would be counterproductive to combine schools! There is at least one way to get something extra for the taxes we are about to raise: by giving new teachers more money! Money will not fix a hole in the dam! Why do we not need new young teachers from away to be teaching our young? Just the edicts of The State? I ask you, would you want your child taught how to drive a car by a youth that just received a driving license from The State?

The young teacher may have energy, but without experience, the youth have no experienced mentors to help them develop self-esteem, etc.

We need to attract older, experienced people from all trades to truly help the students advance themselves and the future of The Planet Earth! Will get into more detail of a new tax format soon, take care!

# Spin Machine Breaks Down In Speaker’s Office

by Senator Paul Davis

On Wednesday Speaker of the House John Richardson held an impromptu news conference. Press accounts of the event have left me wondering exactly what the Democrats are thinking. While the Speaker may have appeared tan and well-rested, what took place in his office might suggest that he could use a little more R&R this summer. I’m guessing that he’s been dodging bullets for so long trying to defend the economic mess the state is in that he’s getting tired.

I should begin by telling you that in addition to being a personal friend of Senator Woodcock, I also serve as co-Chair of his campaign team. But that relationship doesn’t color my impression of Wednesday’s news conference.

Speaker Richardson called the conference to express his outrage at comments he claimed were made by Senator and gubernatorial candidate Chandler Woodcock. Apparently he went on at length describing how it was a dishonest flip-flop for Chandler to suggest that the surplus claimed by the Governor should be returned to the taxpayers of Maine when the Senator was among those in the Legislature calling for the “rainy day fund” to be built back up during the 122nd Session.

The Speaker said he expected more from a lay minister than flip-flopping (he used the term three times) when he could have, at any time during the 122nd, offered amendments to the \$36 million, bi-partisan agreement hashed out last Spring. Speaker Richardson called into question Chandler’s trustworthiness and criticized his position on social issues. He said candidate Woodcock has failed to define himself and accused him of hiding from the press. He said he was “hopping mad” when a College Republican handed out Woodcock’s response to the Governor’s claim of a surplus during his news conference the previous afternoon. I guess that while the Governor thinks he can hold his press conferences in the Cabinet Room so that he can hide, the CR’s think differently. Meanwhile, Speaker Richardson sounded more like an opponent of Woodcock than Speaker of the House.

The Speaker went on to blame President Bush, which seems to have become a sort of Tourette’s Syndrome among Democrats. He apparently vented for a good while until he felt he had exhausted his criticisms of Chandler Woodcock’s criticisms of the Governor.

The trouble is Chandler never said what Speaker Richardson claimed he said. Unfortunately for the Speaker there were several members of the press in the room who quickly corrected his error. The first question from the press was, “When did Chandler Woodcock say anything about returning the surplus to the people of Maine?” The Speaker said he read it in one of news stories written by another member of the press who was in the room. This individual asked quizzically, “Where in my story did I say that? Did I miss something?”

This hastily scheduled news conference should give us all a greater respect for the reporters who were present. They obviously take good notes and were quick to point out that any reference to returning the surplus to the taxpayers was made by Republican leadership, including myself, and not the Republican candidate for governor. The Speaker seemed contrite after being made aware of that fact, but that did not prevent him from accusing Chandler of flip-flopping one more time.

It is true that we have suspicions about the Governor’s claim of a surplus. It is a surplus at the expense of paying down our enormous debt. It is a surplus that comes at the cost of increased fees and taxes on everything in sight. It a surplus designed to hide the reality that Maine is last in many national indexes that we would rather be first in, and first in those that we ought to be striving to be last in. I’ve said it before, and it’s worth repeating: only two states in the nation had slowing economies last year, Louisiana and Maine. We all know Louisiana was hit by Hurricane Katrina. You can guess for yourself what it was that hit Maine.

Regardless, it is unfortunate to see the Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives resorting to inaccurate accusations of a candidate for office that he himself is not even campaigning for, let alone slinging personal attacks against the character of an honorable man like Chandler Woodcock. I would hope we hear an apology from the Speaker. I would also hope that he apologizes to the right person.

Senator Davis lives with his wife in Sangerville and represents Senate District 27 and is also the Senate Minority Leader.

# Some Maine Legislators Do Not Trust Their Constituents

by Bud Landry

I attended a workshop Mar. 16, 2005 on LD 103 an act to establish the Fully Informed Jury Act. It was a lesson in the distrust a great many of our Maine legislators have for the honesty and common sense of their constituents.

There were only 9 members present, and all went on record as being opposed to informing their constituents of their constitutional rights as a juror. It took from Mar. 16 until Mar.28, 2005 to get the results from the other five members of the judiciary committee. Not one of these representatives of the people argued or denied that the people have this right, but they did agree that this right should be kept secret from the people. Below is a list of the Judiciary committee members who do not trust in the honesty of their constituents, or in their ability to be Fully Informed Jurors:

- Senator Barry J. Hobbin [D-York], Chair
- Senator Lynn Bromley [D-Cumberland]
- Senator David R. Hastings 111 [R-Oxford]
- Rep. Deborah L. Pelletier-Simpson [D-Auborn,] Chair
- Rep. Sean Faircloth [D-Bangor]
- Rep. Stan Gerzofsky [D-Brunswick]
- Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan [D-Waterville]
- Rep Mark E. Bryant [D-Windham]
- Rep. Micheal Edward Dunn [D-Bangor]
- Rep. Roger L. Sherman [R-Hodgdon]--Ranking Minority Member
- Rep.Roderick W. Carr [R- Lincoln]
- Rep. Donna M. Loring [Penobscot Nation]
- Rep. Joan M. Nass [R -Acton]
- Rep. Joan Bryant Deschenes [R-Turner]

All this Fully Informed Jury Act does is to give the defendant the right to a trial by a jury informed of their constitutional power to judge the law as well as all the evidence and render a verdict dictated by conscientious consideration.

This is an inherent right that, as English citizens, the colonists retained when they

emerged from the revolution. They did not surrender any rights when they formed the United States. The Ninth Amendment of our Bill of Rights states “**The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.**”

This right has been upheld by the Supreme Court from its very first jury trial in 1789 to the present. In the 1890s, a Supreme Court decision said that the jury does indeed have veto power but they need not be told of it. Up until that time juries were informed of their power. After this decision, this knowledge was gradually withheld from the people until today many juries are informed by the judge that they must judge only the facts in a case and that the court will judge the law.

They lie when they say this as a juror has the right to judge both the law and the facts of the case and render a verdict based on their conscience. As a matter of fact the judge is not much more than a moderator in a properly run jury trial. There are actually 12 judges, and they sit in the jury box.

The reason the legislators vote against this bill is that it reminds the people they have the right to veto bad law. This would be a great loss of power to those who make law and do not wish their wisdom to be questioned. The state and it’s employees surrender power hard. Most of our representatives take office with high intentions to serve their constituents, but most of them succumb to their position of power and start to serve the state instead of the people who put them in that position of power. The few who remain dedicated to their constituents are usually badly outnumbered by those who do not. Yet, the people continue to reelect these servants of the state. We the people do get the kind of government we elect and deserve.

For those who would like to further research this matter, I would suggest you go to yahoo, type in ‘fully informed jury’ and you can read for hours on the constitutionality and the importance of this “secret constitutional right” that WE THE PEOPLE have.

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The bridges at Soldier Pond, as seen from the east side.



Soldier Pond Road, near the post office.

## Straight From Nana Beth’s Kitchen!

This is one of my family’s favorite cakes in the summer. I save it for special occasions and it’s always a big hit with friends and relatives. The difference in this recipe from others is that there is a meringue that you prepare and fold the cake batter into, making the cake really moist.

I used to go out and pick the blueberries, but now I just buy them in the store. You can use frozen too, if you prefer. Either way, this is a wonderful treat.

Bake at 350\*  
40 minutes

- |                    |                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 eggs, separated  | 1 ½ cup of flour            |
| 1 cup of sugar     | 1 teaspoon of baking powder |
| ½ cup shortening   | 1/3 cup of milk             |
| ½ teaspoon of salt | 1 ½ cup floured blueberries |

Place egg whites in medium bowl, beat until stiff then add ½ cup of the sugar to them to keep stiff. Set aside.

Cream shortening. Add salt and remaining sugar to shortening, along with unbeaten egg yolks. Beat until creamy.

Sift flour, then measure flour and sift together with baking powder. Add to creamed mixture, alternating with milk. Fold in blueberries that have been coated with flour.

Fold in beaten egg whites and sugar.

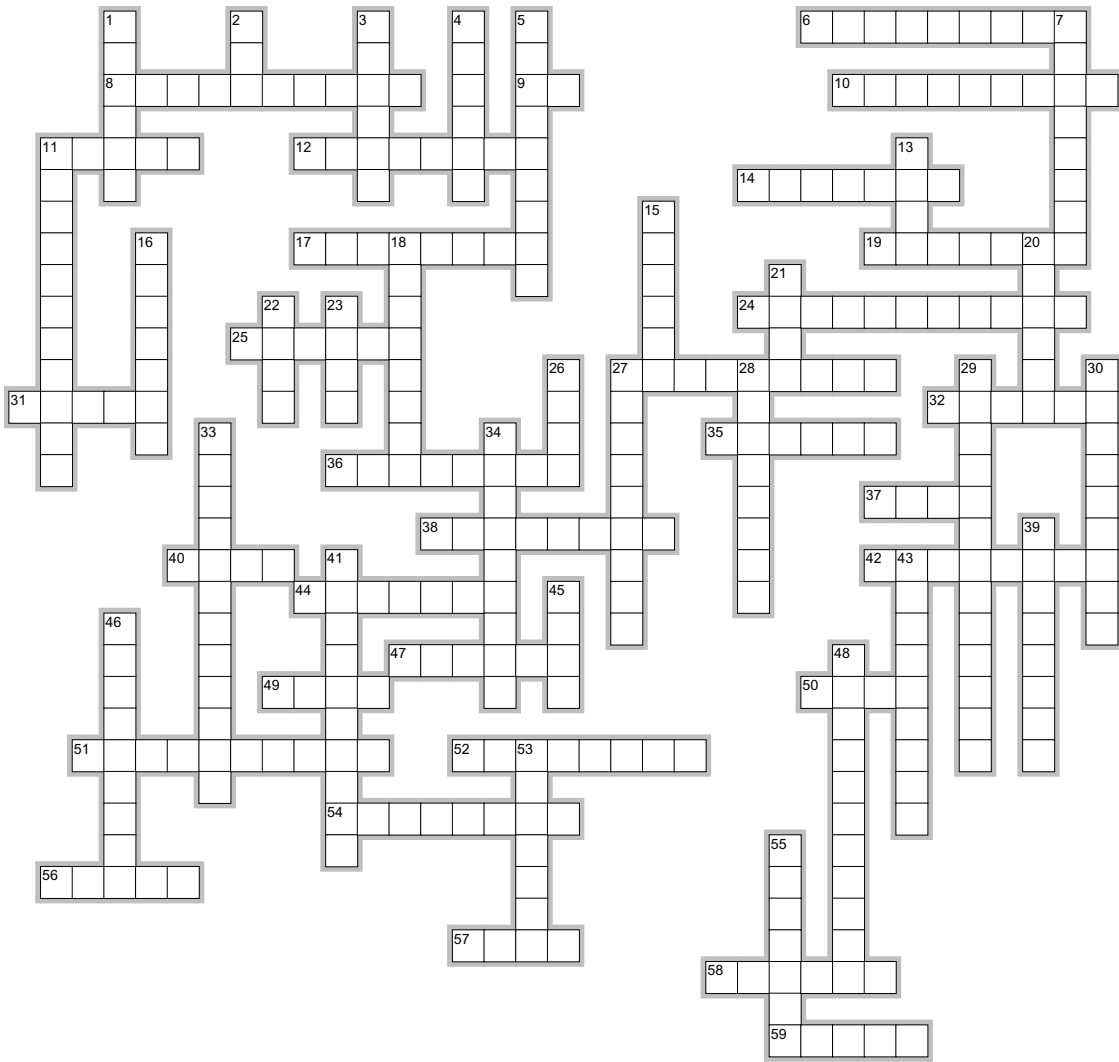
Pour into a well-greased 8”x8” pan. Sprinkle top lightly with of a mixture of sugar and cinnamon.

This recipe can be doubled and put in a 13” x 9” baking pan. As always the cake is done when the center is firm.

August Crossword: - Answers on page 10.

Across

6. The local government referred to in Naran Row-Spaulling's guest editorial. (9)  
8. The last name of the person who Sen. Paul Davis is responding to in his column. (10)  
9. Last name of "The Northern Maine Land Man." (2)  
10. Michael Beardsley lives there. (9)  
11. In his column, Tom DeWeese is responding to this man. (5)  
12. Wants to build a resort on Hammond Ridge, in sight of Mount Katahdin. (8)  
14. The New Internet ... (7)  
17. John Frary lives in this county. (8)  
19. Mailing address for All Maine Matters. (7)  
24. Matt Polstein operates camps on which lake? (11)  
25. Acadians who found their way to Louisiana are known as ... (6)  
27. Which state congressman co-authored an article with Rep. Henry Joy in this issue of All Maine Matters? (9)  
31. Signs by ... (5)  
32. The Portland Press ... (6)  
35. A resident of Soldier Pond and author of several books on local history. (6)  
36. Ken Anderson spoke of this in his article. (8)  
37. The Magic City Morning ... (4)  
38. Michael Pajak only recently moved from ... (8)  
40. Representative from Acton. (4)  
42. Which governor do Reps. Henry Joy and John Churchill refer to in their front page article? (8)  
44. Roger Ek advertises 43.7 acres on a ridge here. (7)  
47. Author of our front-page article about the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. (6)  
49. Michael Pajak suggests we start referring to rural Maine as this. (4)  
50. The subject of Bob Sanders' column. (4)  
51. The August issue contains two articles about Islamic terrorism. The author of one of them is ... (first and last name) (10)  
52. Senator from Oxford. (8)  
54. A newspaper for much of Kennebec, Waldo, Somerset, and Franklin counties is known as The Morning ... (8)  
56. Rep. Joy's first name is ... (5)  
57. John R. Lott, Jr. writes of the media bias against ... (4)  
58. Bob Sanders works there. (6)  
59. What kind of growth means no growth at all? (5)



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Down

1. Subject of John Frary's column in this edition. (6)  
2. Organization that is actively opposing the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (acronym). (3)  
3. "A government by the ..." (6)  
4. Bud Landry, in his column, writes about legislation affecting ... (6)  
5. Sustainable development seeks to bring about rural ... (9)  
7. The highest mountain in Maine is Mount ... (8)  
11. Subject of the August profiles in rural Maine (two words). (11)  
13. Maine Economic Research Institute (4)  
15. The primary language spoken in the St. John Valley prior to the Aroostook War, and still a common language in that area. (6)  
16. The author of "Globally-Acceptable Truths in the Land of Eden." (7)  
18. The Acadians were descendants of the ... (8)  
20. What's the message from our token conservative? (6)  
21. Which river runs through Soldier Pond? (4)  
22. Organization that Pem Schaeffer refers to, as opposing the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (acronym). (4)  
23. If Matthew Polstein wants to build his resort, he will have to apply for a permit from which state regulatory commission? (acronym) (4)  
26. The cost for an issue of All Maine Matters. (4)  
27. The topic of Michael Beardsley's column. (9)  
28. Primary religion of the St. John Valley. (8)  
29. The AARP is supposed to represent ... (2 words) (13)  
30. Lenny Murphy's subject in this issue. (9)  
33. The Continental Congress was headquartered in this city. (12)  
34. Representative from Bangor. (9)  
39. Aside from the Malecites, the Micmacs, and any other indigenous people who may have come before them, who were the first settlers of the St. John Valley? (8)  
41. Soldier Pond is in ... (10)  
43. "The County" (9)  
45. Representative from Lincoln. (4)  
46. The treaty that settled the Aroostook War. (9)  
48. Paul Davis lives here. (11)  
53. Representative from Hodgdon. (7)  
55. All Maine ... (7)



Nichol's Nook, along Route 32 near Bremen.

Mystery Photo

Where was the picture below taken? Mail your answer to us at PO Box 788, Kingman, ME 04451. Or email us at [mystery@allmainematters.com](mailto:mystery@allmainematters.com) Winners will be put in a hat and a grand winner will be chosen. Grand prize: 1 year subscription to All Maine Matters. The winner will be announced in the September issue.



Last month's mystery picture was taken on Tomah Road in Codyville Plantation.



Patrick Moening can be emailed at [patm@mainecartoons.com](mailto:patm@mainecartoons.com).



# Profiles in Rural Maine

By Ken Anderson

## Wallagrass & Soldier Pond, Maine



Route 11, Wallagrass

When my wife and I first decided to move to Maine, we drove throughout much of central and northern Maine, including the St. John Valley. One of the most beautiful, idyllic settlements I’ve ever come across was Soldier Pond. Looking down from Soldier Pond Road, across the Fish River, with the white steeple of the Catholic Church to the left of the bridge, a small store to the right, a post office, some houses, and the wide spot in the river known as Soldier Pond, that was my choice in a place to settle.

One of the down sides to being married is that you don’t always get to make your own choices about such things however, so we ended up in Millinocket, much to the distress of the ruling classes here. But I’ve visited Soldier Pond often in the past six years, taking photographs and making the acquaintance of some of the folks who do live there, and who have been there for many years, most notably Rita Stadig, the author of eleven books on local history, with even more in the works. I spent an afternoon with her a few years ago, and was pleased to find that she remembered me when I dropped in on her again a few days ago.



Rita Stadig

Most of what I know about the history of Wallagrass and Soldier Pond was derived from conversations with Rita Stadig, and from her books. I only hope that I don’t screw it up too badly.

I am spared two pages in each issue of All Maine Matters, for the purpose of introducing you to another Maine community. My profile of Millinocket in the July issue exceeded this number of pages, so I’ve promised never to do that again.

While Soldier Pond has always had its own identity and, until a few years ago, its own postal address, it’s always been a part of Wallagrass, deriving its name from the soldiers who were stationed there during the Aroostook War.

Before that, of course, there were the Malecites and the Micmacs, who settled the area before the French, the Acadians, and the English came. The Acadians and the French were not the same people, as many think. The Acadians were descendants of the Norsemen who invaded the part of France known as Normandy, settling there many centuries before coming to the American continent. There, over the generations, they learned the French language and developed their own identity and culture.

Because they were distinct from the French Canadians, the Acadians did not enjoy the protection of the French, resulting in their being persecuted and repeatedly driven out of their homes and their lands by the English. Expelled from their homes in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, many settled along the eastern coast of the United States, and a large segment of their population found their way to Louisiana where they became known as the Cajuns. Others crossed the St. John River, settling in what was to become the Maine part of the St. John Valley, where they enjoyed good relationships with the Indians.

vious year, two blockhouses and a barracks were built at Soldier Pond, known then as Little Lake. Fearing its capture by the British, the blockhouse was burned by the three American soldiers who were stationed there at the time. The railroad has since been built over the site. A wooden sign and an American flag mark the spot where two American soldiers, perhaps the only casualties of the Aroostook War, were said to have been buried after drowning in the Fish River.

I need to move on, but if you are interested in the Aroostook War, Rita Stadig has written a short book, based on her own research, which deals mostly with the role played by the Soldier Pond region; and a much longer and more comprehensive book has been written by Geraldine Tidd Scott, entitled “Ties of Common Blood: A History of Maine’s Northeast Boundary Dispute with Great Britain.”

The Aroostook War was settled by the Ashburton Treaty in 1840. The Madawaska Territory was broken off from the lands on the Canadian side of the border belonging to England, separating two groups of people on both sides of the St. John River. This included the American towns of Fort Kent, Wallagrass, Eagle Lake, Van Buren, Grand Isle, Madawaska, Hamlin, and Saint Francis. Frenchville, Saint Agatha, Presque Isle, and Caribou were also considered part of the American portion of the St. John Valley.

Township 17 was known as Wallagrass Plantation, which was at one time divided up between only three or four families. In the early 1900s, additional grants were sold, depriving some of these families of their land.

Up until the time of the Aroostook War, there were no schools in Wallagrass Plantation, although families had lived there for years. Between the years of 1820 and 1850, the state legislature began paying attention to the education of children in the rural areas, yet because much of the St. John Valley remained in dispute until after the Aroostook War, the state’s northernmost areas were not well served by the educational system.

Still, Wallagrass had elementary schools as early as 1820, although many of them met in the homes of the teachers, who were not routinely paid for their work with the children.

In all, Wallagrass built five schools: the St. George School; St. Euzebe, near Wallagrass Stream; St. Anthony, located at the Belanger Settlement; St. Elizabeth, at Sly Brook; and the Wilson School, on the Strip Road.

Photographs of rural Maine taken by Ken Anderson, unless otherwise attributed.

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In 1873, the schools were turned over to local control, and Wallagrass developed a system of education; but since the law dictated that only forty cents per inhabitant could be spent on education, those in the rural areas did not benefit as much as those in the more highly populated regions. Under local control, only the towns had the authority to raise money for the schools. There were no free high schools until 1875.

An almost entirely Catholic community, divorce was rare. People married early, and were self sufficient at a very young age. The primary occupations were farming, logging, and trapping. People grew, hunted, or fished for most of what they needed as food.

Some of the early Wallagrass settlers were Romain Michaud, who settled, as a squatter, at the north end of the Wallagrass Stream Bridge in 1830. His land followed the stream as far as the Fish River. His children included Domase, Albert, Paul, Marjorie, Joseph, Fred, Marguerite, Julie, Marie, Adele, and Zeb.

Romain had lots on both sides of the Fish River, some of which were sold his eldest son, Albert. His youngest son, Zeb, came to own land along the Wallagrass Stream, south of the bridge. Romain also sold a portion of his land to Philomen Michaud, who settled on the west side of the road near Wallagrass Stream.

Most of the land in Wallagrass were what was known as treaty lots, improved upon by the settlers at the time of the Aroostook War, then conveyed to the State of Maine and Massachusetts, which still held title to much of Aroostook County.



Flag and marker for the soldiers' gravesite.



Soldier Pond, from the west side of the river.



## Wallagrass & Soldier Pond, Maine

It was successfully argued that the settlers upon these lots were entitled to deeds to their land under the provisions of the treaty ending the Aroostook War. Still, many waited many years to be deeded their land, while others grew tired of waiting and abandoned their homes. In some cases, more than one person held deeds to the same property.

Massachusetts grants in Wallagrass Plantation were deeded to settlers, in lots of ten acres each, who would agree to cut timber to build fences, clear a certain amount of land, build a home, and pay \$22 to the state. If they failed to make payments or to fulfill the other provisions of the grant, they would lose all rights to the land, which would be granted to someone else.

Other early settlers included Henry West, who purchased 1,714 acres of land from the State of Maine for \$428, with the stipulation that he cut only enough timber as was necessary for building and improving the land until such time as it was paid off.

Domase Michaud was a squatter who came to own land on the northeast side of the Fish River, and on the eastern side of Soldier Pond. This land later changed hands within the family several times, various portions being owned by T.T. Michaud, John Michaud, Henry Michaud, and Vincent Michaud.



St. Joseph's Parish in Wallagrass.



Route 11 between Wallagrass Station and Wallagrass.

Eighty acres of Michaud land on the eastern side of Soldier Pond were sold to Steve Pelletier in 1914. On that land he built his home and store.

Fred Willy also owned land on the eastern side of Soldier Pond.

In 1902, lots were surveyed in Wallagrass Plantation, owned by Joseph Belonga, Eli Berube, August Caron, James Clark, Joe Cote, Elise Dupre, Frank Fournier, Margroire Gagnon, Marguerette Gagnon, Peter Gagnon, George Labbe, Peter Labbe, Charles Labe, Cypreine Labe, Docite Labe, Maxime Labe, Napoleon Labe, Romuld Labe, J.A. Laliberte, Jas Madore, Cyrile Martin, Denis Michaud, John Michaud, William Michaud, Catherine Moro, George Page, Jeremiah Perowe, Romule Persoult, Marcil Pinette, Andrew Saucier, Horace Saucier, Jerry Saucier, Joe Saucier, Ropheal Saucier, Napoleon Shaw, Angus Thereault, and Vincent Theriault.

Aroostook County has long been known for its potatoes, and Soldier Pond was no exception to this rule. In 1914, a group of Soldier Pond farmers met at the Soldier Pond School House for the purpose of forming the Soldier Pond Farmers Union, its purpose being to buy and sell shares, and to handle product. Its board of directors included Louis Perrowe, Napoleon Labbie, Thomas Z. Michaud, Theophel Freeman, Theophile Labonte, and Ulysses Theriault, Louis Perrowe being its president, and Napoleon Labbie treasurer.

In 1914, Soldier Pond had a mill, known as the Daigle Mill, as well as several potato houses along the railroad tracks. A couple of the potato houses was demolished only a couple of years ago, while another remains. I don't know if it's still in use.

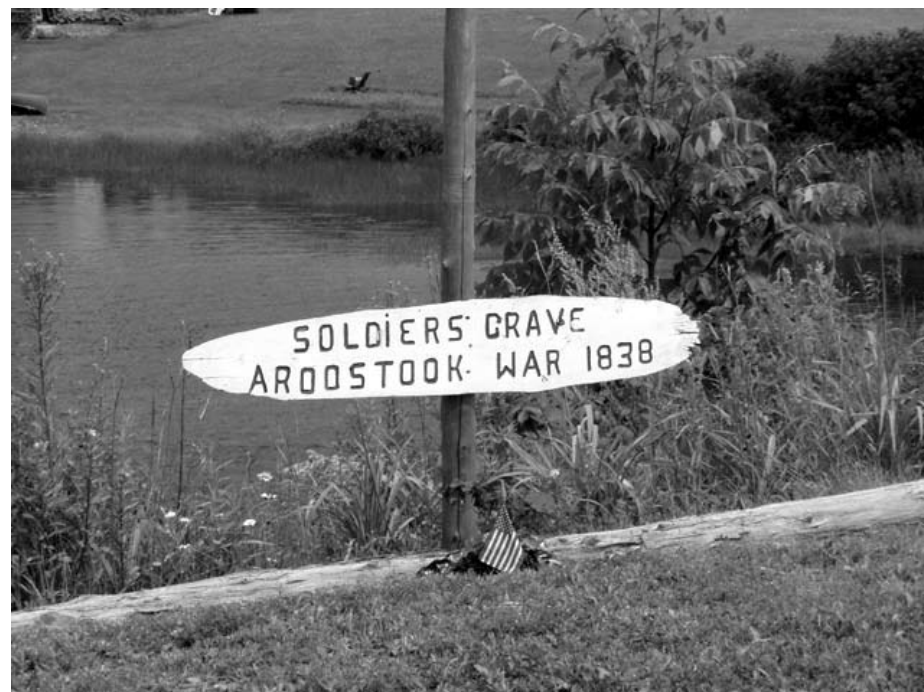
Today, Soldier Pond remains as a place that could have come out of a Norman Rockwell painting. Since I first put up my photos of Soldier Pond in 2000, I've heard from several people who had grown up there, but none of whom were still living there. Everyone said that it was the perfect place to be as a child, but many said that there wasn't much to do as a teenager, and they all agreed that there were no ways of earning a living there as an adult.

Most, if not all, of those who wrote me said that they'd love to be able to move back to Soldier Pond, but they don't know what they would do there. Gone are the days when you can earn a living in the woods and oddly enough, since people haven't quit eating potatoes, even the farmers are struggling.

It's a familiar story. It's the story of rural America.

Soldier Pond remains, I am sure, a wonderful place to raise a family. A raft sits in the water at Soldier Pond, and there were children who would probably be in trouble if their parents saw them jumping off the bridge into the water, happily enjoying a warm summer afternoon.

For the most part, houses in Soldier Pond are pleasant and well maintained. Yards are large and well-maintained, perfect for large families. A store and cafe has only recently



reopened just across and to the right of the bridge and, with another store on Sly Brook Road, everything is within easy walking distance and most anywhere in Soldier Pond.

Wallagrass itself, and Wallagrass Station, the part of it along Route 11, is busy with traffic passing rapidly through carrying people on their way to somewhere else. With no shoulders, there are few places to pull over and stop. And with few businesses, I doubt that very many people even want to.

But if you turn off anywhere to the east of Route 11, you'll find houses crowded along the Fish River; perhaps a few too many, but I suspect that several of them are left empty once summer is over.

On the west side of Route 11, you'll find houses built on high ground overlooking the lake, but not much else. The houses are pleasant and, while some are too close to the road for my liking, most of them sit up high on the ledge abutting the road, providing a measure of solitude and a respite from traffic.



Dean's Ice Cream and Paula's Cooking.



Soldier Pond home.



Route 11, Wallagrass.

There are some farms yet, and I could see some cattle grazing on a distant field. Nearby, in New Canada, east of Soldier Pond, you can still find active potato farms.

To the west of Route 11, other than the houses lining the roadway and some farmland, everything is timberland.

I drove off onto Carter Brook Tote Road, west of Route 11 and Wallagrass proper. It was such a pleasant drive, that I continued for about a dozen miles, well after it turned into Wallagrass Road, and was able to get some nice photos of the woods, the mountains and the hills that could be seen in all directions, the streams, and a long, narrow, winding road.

Unfortunately, not long after this drive I had car trouble and was unable to do any further exploring. But I'll be back. I'll always come back to Soldier Pond.



St. Joseph's Parish in Soldier Pond.

### Recommended Reading:

- \* Twelve Thousand Years: American Indians in Maine, by Bruce J. Bourque. Published 2001.
- \* The St. John Valley Story: Wallagrass 1830 to 1920, by Rita Stadig. Published 1989.
- \* The Communities of Western Aroostook County, by Jackie Greaves & Christie Cochran. Published 1995.
- \* Ties of Common Blood: A History of Maine's Northeast Boundary Dispute with Great Britain 1783-1842. Published 1992.
- \* Aroostook War: Our Maine Heritage Volume V, by Rita Stadig. Published 1994.



Route 11, Wallagrass.

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

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

Buying the Blaine House (With Your Money)

(Continued from page 1)

Under one of the new laws, minimum salaries for Maine’s public school teachers will be set at \$30,000. The \$30,000 figure first surfaced in the governor’s State of the State address, last January. He later submitted legislation to bring the plan to fruition. Admittedly, it was a shrewd political move. It had the dual purpose of cementing the support of the teachers union while casting those who oppose the scheme in a bad light – as “anti-teacher” or “anti-education.”

As legislators examined the plan, we immediately saw trouble. The governor’s proposal included only about \$4 million to bring all teachers making less than \$30,000 up to that level. It was one-time money, for one year. After that, the money disappears.

For all the years that follow, the extra cost will have to be covered by local school districts – in effect, the people who pay property taxes. With Maine’s property tax burden already the heaviest in the country, the idea of forcing taxes even higher struck Republicans as unconscionable.

Moreover, the property tax increase will not be \$4 million. Instead, it will total between \$50 million and \$75 million per year, as calculated by the Maine School Management Association. The discrepancy is the projected cost of the “ratchet effect.”

If starting teachers make \$30,000, the salaries of more experienced teachers will rise to avoid “wage compression.” A teacher with 10 years of classroom experience who makes \$35,000 might demand \$40,000 to maintain a respectable edge over a rookie. Multiply that example by Maine’s 15,000 active teachers and you begin talking real money. The governor has basically pushed an unfunded mandate on every school district in the state and eviscerated local control. That’s why the Maine Municipal Association so vigorously opposed this legislation.

All Maine taxpayers will suffer from another upshot of the plan. Teachers’

pensions are based on their three highest earning years. Ratcheting up all salaries translates to higher retirement benefits. But the Maine State Retirement System, which pays out those pensions, already has an unfunded liability of \$3.1 billion. That’s right – \$3.1 billion. By the time that debt is retired, in 2028, it will cost us \$7.9 billion, including interest. The impact of higher benefit payments for higher-paid teachers will make it harder to keep the retirement system solvent.

The second new law will pay 45 percent of the health insurance premiums for retired police officers and firefighters until they hit age 65, when Medicare takes over. Traditionally, their benefits have come through collective bargaining agreements with the municipalities where they work. Now they will be drawing benefits from the state’s Retiree Health Insurance Fund for retired teachers and state workers.

This health insurance fund itself has an unfunded liability of \$1.2 billion, and the cost of the new benefits is expected to grow dramatically in the future. Taxpayers who are hard-pressed to afford health insurance for themselves will be paying even higher taxes to keep the state system afloat.

John Baldacci may not care that he is saddling us with heavier taxation. The worst fiscal havoc will not strike the state until he is gone, even if he should win a second term. In effect, he will leave a financial time bomb for future governors to deal with. His actions are irresponsible and an abrogation of good faith governing. They are also a slap in the face to the maxed-out taxpayers of Maine.

Rep. Henry Joy (R-Crystal), a retired educator, serves on the Legislature’s Natural Resources Committee. Rep. John Churchill (R-Washburn), retired from the Maine State Police, serves on the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

{Continued from page 1}

to address unrestrained spending and taxation, instead trying everything imaginable to avoid prudent fiscal management and to conceal Maine’s looming economic train wreck.

Consider an analogy posed by Frederic Bastiat, a 19th century French economist: “You compare the nation, perhaps, to a parched tract of land, and the tax to a fertilizing rain. Be it so. But you ought also to ask yourself where are the sources of this rain and whether it is not the tax itself which draws away the moisture from the ground and dries it up? Again, you ought to ask yourself whether it is possible that the soil can receive as much of this precious water by rain as it loses by evaporation?”

Not surprisingly, decades of increased spending and taxation have not produced prosperity in our state, yet our elected officials and those who gain from the labors of the taxpayer continue to promote it.

The Maine Taxpayer Bill of Rights is the only legitimate proposal to maintain a sustainable rate of growth in government in our State. Contrary to what opponents are saying, this proposal does not establish minority rule, but supermajority rule and voter participation. It does not impose budget cuts; it manages the growth of spending by tying it to inflation and population growth. It does not require a 2/3 vote to approve a budget; it requires 2/3 of the governing body and majority of the voters only to exceed the allowable rate of growth. In addition, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights also returns 80% of surpluses to the taxpayers and the remaining 20% to a budget stabilization fund to be used only in the event of a revenue shortfall.

With our legislature demonstrating no attempt at meaningful tax reform, a group of citizens exercised their right to initiate the Taxpayer Bill of Rights initiative for Maine. It is a well researched, well thought out fiscal management tool, crafted for Maine by Maine citizens.

Remember, government has no rights; it has only those powers granted by the people. This

is illustrated in The Declaration of Independence: “...Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed...” We should not, and must not, succumb to the will of government. In November, we have the opportunity to exercise our rights and powers by supporting the Taxpayer Bill of Rights initiative to keep our government within its bounds and within our control.

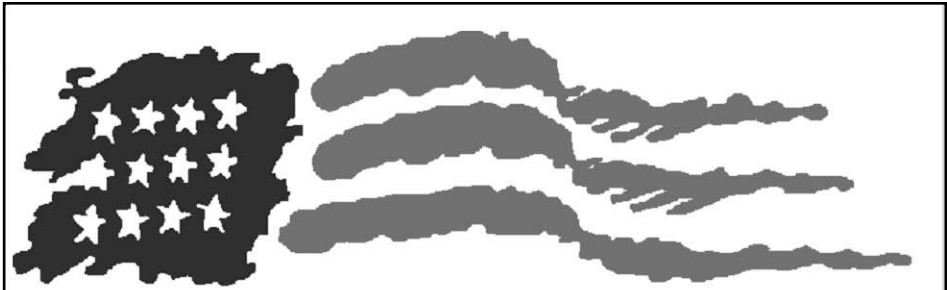
In closing, consider the following observation from Thomas Jefferson, and compare it to our current state of affairs here in Maine: “We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debt, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our calling and our creeds... we [will] have no time to think, no means of calling our miss-managers to account but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers.”

For more information on the Maine Taxpayer Bill of Rights, go to [www.taxpayerbillofrights.com](http://www.taxpayerbillofrights.com).

Gary Foster has been involved in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights effort since initial meeting back in May of 2004, when the initiative was conceived. He is also one of the five "Founding Fathers" as Mary Adams calls them, who signed the application to petition, and who delivered the petitions to the Secretary of State last October. He is currently serving his third year on the Gray Town Council, and second year as Chair. As a side note, the Gray Town Council, in May of this year, approved a Resolution endorsing the Taxpayer Bill of Rights in a 4-1 vote.

In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce and brave man, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot.

Mark Twain



# TABOR

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS.COM

## It's What MAINE Needs

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Route 11, Wallagrass



Magic City Morning Star  
146 Katahdin Avenue  
Millinocket, Maine 04462  
(207) 723-4456  
[editor@magic-city-news.com](mailto:editor@magic-city-news.com)  
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# Globally-Acceptable Truths in the Land of Eden

By Tom DeWeese

I've written many times of the assault on individual thought through behavior modification techniques such as "Critical Thinking" as a tool to lash out at one's values system, and the use of "situation ethics" problems to challenge attitudes, values and beliefs.

These tools are fully employed in today's government school classrooms as a means to create a new kind of thinking that is coordinated to fit a specific world-view. "Thought control" is a much easier way to describe it.

It's vital to understand this process and to be aware of its tactics so one doesn't fall victim to its use. The pressure to rethink ones values is seemingly everywhere, from textbooks and classrooms to television commercials to on-the-job training courses. We are constantly asked how we can be so certain about anything. We are told there are no absolutes. We are told to just live for the moment. History is eliminated from civics courses. Math is questioned as to whether it is exact. Science is ignored for political gain.

How did we lose our common sense? When did the ability to think rational thought become replaced with a whine? Where do these ideas come from?

Much to my annoyance, one of the perpetrators of this anti-reason idiocy thrust his own pompous irrationality on me through a series of astonishing e-mail letters that I tried hard to ignore. His name is Donald Sagar and he is president of his own think tank called the Eden Institute. He is also a representative to the United Nations for the Association for World Education. One has to view his website at [www.edenorg.com](http://www.edenorg.com) to fully appreciate his delusion.

Mr. Sagar wrote to me one quiet Sunday afternoon to disagree with my articles dealing with global warming, which he most certainly had found while playing with his Google keys on his computer.

His first line told me everything I needed to know about Mr. Sagar's value system. The e-mail began, "Science aside..." Obviously Mr. Sagar didn't want to be bothered by mere science when he had loftier goals in mind. But he went on, "It is inherently illogical and otherwise irresponsible to suggest that human activity does not possess the potential to alter the Earth's climate." Yeah, I've gotten this kind of stuff before in response to my articles. What he's saying is, no matter what science tells us, I "FEEL" that man is damaging the Earth, therefore I insist that it be true.

He then went into an orgy of really big words like quantitative and qualitative to prove his point. The guy really needs a course in people communications. He pushed the point that there are "6.6 billion people on earth destroying some 25 million acres of forest annually." Of course, with the population growing, more and more destruction was the only result we could ever expect, according to Mr. Sagar. (These dire statements, by the way, have been proven time and again to be untrue.)

Incredibly, he then argued that "energy usage worldwide is increasing at an alarming rate of speed as 3rd world countries continue to modernize." My first thought was he could help cut down on some of that energy use if only he would shut off his computer and leave me alone. But one must not miss the completely astonishing rationale of his statement. He apparently believes that people who live in third world countries are simply animals who should always live in mud huts, walk 5 miles a day for their filthy water and cook over the quaint campfire in the center of the village.

Such arrogance. Such irrational stupidity. I was tempted to fire off a fast finger burner to inform this idiot that modernization and the higher standard of living that comes with it is the only way individuals can actually take time to think about protecting the environment. But I really didn't want to encourage him into thinking I wanted to have a dialog.

He then ended his correspondence with his real purpose for writing, saying, "What I would ask of you is to stop disseminating misinformation, so that those of us who are trying to make a real difference in the world have one less obstacle to overcome."

I thought better of making a case. I really didn't feel like wasting my time on such a fop. Instead, against my better judgment, I sent him a brief reply designed to make my feeling known and to make it plain I didn't want a dialog. I said, "Science aside??? I think that says it all about your argument, no matter how many big words you use. Don't bother me with your pretentious intellectual claptrap. It bores me."

However, experience has taught me that this wouldn't be the end of it. Sure enough, the next day, there he was again. He was on a mission to save my soul. He wrote back, saying, "This response just goes to show what a self-consumed digit you really are, Tom." Then he started using that word "quantitative" again. That was followed by an incredible attack on science: "Science has absolutely no idea of what preceded the current universe... and no way to hazard a guess about what the future holds for mankind - unless of course the creations of science are used to definitively destroy that future."

Are you getting this? According to Mr. Sagar, science knows nothing and is only a destructive force. We used to call these guys Luddites. But he is bordering on Neanderthal. Yet he kept challenging me to see how "intellectually adept" I am.

What an incredible waste of human life, and my time, this guy was becoming. So, again, I sighed, and fired off the message that would surely end this silly exercise. (Yes, I know. If I had simply deleted the message I wouldn't risk getting another reply, but this was too outrageous to let go.) So I wrote, "I thought I made it clear. I have no interest in what you have to say. I consider you people to be Nazis and thugs. And nothing you have to say means a rat's a-- to me. I have to deal with the victims of your lies. Can I be any clearer? Do not write me again."

Comes the answer: "Tom, You've become so obsessed with your own thinking that you're incapable of hearing anybody else's ideas any more. I don't know where this God complex came from, but it is definitely counterproductive to the message you are trying to get out." Now, two messages back, he was saying he wanted me to stop getting my message out. Now he is giving me pointers on how to do it better - as long as I use his logic and message of course.

He then went on to say, "As far as your association of me to the 'nazis' is concerned, perhaps you subconsciously see a parallel to yourself here. Why else would you bring up such a thing?" He then said I was like "listening to a skin head with hair."

So who is Donald Sagar and why does he care what I have to say? Why do you and I care what he has to say? He has created the Eden Project, which "provides a realistic way to create a dynamic global model for identifying, collecting, analyzing, and distributing cultural information relative to the resolution of critical issues."

Wow. Now what does that mean? Well, by reading on one finds that Mr. Sagar assures us he has developed the ability to define "certainty." Apparently this is something no human has ever been able to do before. He now claims, having done this incredible feat, that he can prove the existence of God.

He goes on to say the Eden Project can now define our problems on earth and fix them. Here is what the problem is, according to Mr. Sagar: "Because of the relentless increase in the quantity and complexity of knowledge in the world, we are experiencing a clash between cultures that prevents all but the most capable of surviving with any meaningful identity in tact." Did you catch that? The reason we have wars, poverty and misery is because there is too much knowledge.

But, according to his website, he hasn't just dreamed up his incredible feat. No, no, no. According to the opening paragraph

which describes what the Eden Project is, he says, "This project will provide decision makers with a 'pre-qualified' 'option' for stemming mankind's current slide into chaos." Now reading further one finds that this "pre-qualified" option means that he simply asked a bunch of ivory tower types to critique his work. They agreed and, poof, we have a new way of thinking. Facts don't matter. He already said science knows nothing. Difference of opinion isn't to be considered. They could only mess up our new well-ordered thought process.

Simply put, Mr. Sagar begins with what he considers to be certain "globally acceptable" truths, such as Global Warming; human beings are destructive to the environment; men are unthinking brutes who must be controlled from their own actions. It doesn't matter if any of this gibberish is true. Once this premise is established then Mr. Sagar's theories are easy to put into place.

Now he is free to establish a "group think" pattern that disallows contrary thought. It attacks anyone who thinks "outside the box." Propaganda becomes universal truth. All he needs now is for those in power and their ability to apply force to make it so. Now you know why I compared him to Nazis.

In fact, he is in desperate need to get the rest of us to stop thinking and using our own experiences along with academic and scientific absolutes to draw our own conclusions. Once that is established, it is easy to reject morality, and then only a short step to accepting the idea that people of third world nations should live out their days in total poverty - for the common good. It is then a very short journey to accepting euthanasia as a means to rid us of the elderly who are no longer useful for the village. And then on to accepting the final solution of forced abortion for population control.

This is the reason why your children are being deliberately "Dumbed Down" in government schools. The premise of "globally-acceptable truth" is the very root of today's public school curriculum. This is the foundation on which our new society is to be based, according to Mr. Sagar. And he says I have a God complex?!

He is dangerous to you and me because he is not alone. His ideas have been endorsed by very influential global mouthpieces. Who they are is almost as astonishing as what they say about the Eden Project, which they all endorse. You'll find the letters posted on the Eden Project website.

First there is the letter from Susan Reed from the World Education Fellowship, who praises the Eden Project as being in the same spirit of the original charter of the UN. "I feel that the Eden project is a meaningful step in the direction that mankind must go..."

Then comes the letter from none other than Robert Muller, Assistant Secretary General of the UN and one of the main players in the global agenda to reorder society. He says, "I am referring to the need to establish a body of objective, globally acceptable information to serve as a foundation for global education... Its (Eden Project) formula for identifying universally acceptable objective data is truly unique. It achieves this distinction by establishing a global standard for inquiry."

Other supporters include K.B. Mathur, Director General of UNESCO, Dale Ott, of the World Council of Churches, and many more heads of global and international organizations who seek to impose a new way of thinking on the world for their own political agenda. Most telling was a quote from Keith Smiley, President of Mohonk Consultations: "The planet earth and its people have been experiencing an information explosion. The uncontrolled expansion of information is dangerous since it tends to diffuse meaning and purpose."

These people are telling us that humans armed with knowledge are dangerous to the new order they are trying to impose

on us. Yet it is their policies which have created chaos and poverty throughout the world, the very issues they now seek to remedy with their new thought process. They seek to pull the strings to stop anyone from using reason and knowledge to fix it.

Poverty and ignorance are not natural states for human beings. It is fixable. It is simply a result of very bad government which prevents individuals from being free to use their abilities to achieve their own happiness, prosperity, and personal security.

Governments which deny individual commercial action among free individuals; deny the ability to own and control private property; and tax the self-earned wealth from the industrious are the root of poverty and misery and consequently, damaged environment.

We used to call such policies communism. Today we have a much gentler sounding name -- Sustainable Development, now the official policy of the United States, all 50 states and nearly every city and small town in the nation. Sustainable Development is, of course, a top-down control of every aspect of our lives, from land use to community development to job availability to transportation to the foods we eat to our children's education system. It is the policy Mr. Sagar's "new think" was created to help implement.

Sustainable Development is restructuring our lives, and is targeting our children through an educational regime that seeks to develop collective attitudes, values and beliefs. Sustainable Development documents expressly call for the elimination of private property and freedom that private property supports. It supplants longstanding State laws, and causes irreparable harm to our economy and our society. Yet to Mr. Sagar, these concepts we call freedom are nothing more than delusions.

He and his fellow travelers are very dangerous people. They use every sort of deception, half-truth and non-science to implement this concept of virtual captivity for the human spirit. In support of such hysteria as global warming, they move to implement heavy restrictions on development through policies with names like Smart Growth and The Wildlands Project. All of it is heavily funded through taxpayer dollars and wealthy foundations promoting the policy's political agenda.

The looming battle of ideas should be recognized as a classic -- and perhaps ultimate - battle between Liberty and Tyranny. The social, economic, and political transformations Sustainable Development requires will mean the suppression of unalienable rights for all people.

Mr. Sagar and his Eden Project intend to box in the parameters of allowable thought and innovation. His goal is to control the voice of individuals he and his ilk deem to be renegades who will just muck up the order of things. That is why he found my writings so disturbing and was so desperate to engage me in debate.

So, here Mr. Sagar, is my response. Yours is a philosophy of death, designed to control and kill the spirit of Man. I view you to be the enemy of all that I hold valuable, including reason and knowledge. Do not write me again. I have no interest in light-hearted, spirited, intellectual word play with a killer of reason.

Tom DeWeese is president of the American Policy Center and editor of the DeWeese Report. Contact information: [apcmail@americanpolicy.org](mailto:apcmail@americanpolicy.org)



Soldier Pond, as seen from the west side.

"I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

”

James Baldwin

Communism - Underground but Alive and Well in America  
(Continued from page 2)

- 23rd Goal: Control art critics and directors of art museums. "Our plan is to promote ugliness, repulsive meaningless art."
- 24th Goal: Eliminate all laws governing obscenity by calling [page 261] them "censorship" and a violation of free speech and free press.
- 25th Goal: Break down cultural standards of morality by promoting pornography and obscenity in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio and TV.
- 26th Goal: Present homosexuality, degeneracy and promiscuity as "normal, natural, healthy."
- 27th Goal: Infiltrate the churches and replace revealed religion with "social" religion. Discredit the Bible and emphasize the need for intellectual maturity which does not need a "religious crutch."
- 28th Goal: Eliminate prayer or any phase of religious expression in the schools on the ground that it violates the principle of "separation of church and state."
- 29th Goal: Discredit the American Constitution by calling it inadequate, old-fashioned, out of step with modern needs, a hindrance to cooperation between nations on a world-wide basis.
- 30th Goal: Discredit the American founding fathers. Present them as selfish aristocrats who had no concern for the "common man."
- 31st Goal: Belittle all forms of American culture and discourage the teaching of American history on the ground that it was only a minor part of "the big picture." Give more emphasis to Russian history since the Communists took over.
- 32nd Goal: Support any socialist movement to give centralized control over any part of the culture -- education, social agencies, welfare programs, mental health clinics, etc.
- 33rd Goal: Eliminate all laws or procedures which interfere with the operation of the Communist apparatus.
- 34th Goal: Eliminate the House Committee on Un-American Activities.
- 35th Goal: Discredit and eventually dismantle the FBI.

- 36th Goal: Infiltrate and gain control of more unions.
- 37th Goal: Infiltrate and gain control of big business.
- 38th Goal: Transfer some of the powers of arrest from the police [page 262] to social agencies. Treat all behavioral problems as psychiatric disorders which no one but psychiatrists can understand or treat.
- 39th Goal: Dominate the psychiatric profession and use mental health laws as a means of gaining coercive control over those who oppose Communist goals.
- 40th Goal: Discredit the family as an institution. Encourage promiscuity and easy divorce.
- 41st Goal: Emphasize the need to raise children away from the negative influence of parents. Attribute prejudices, mental blocks and retarding of children to suppressive influence of parents.
- 42nd Goal: Create the impression that violence and insurrection are legitimate aspects of the American tradition; that students and special-interest groups should rise up and use "united force" to solve economic, political or social problems.
- 43rd Goal: Overthrow all colonial governments before native populations are ready for self-government.
- 44th Goal: Internationalize the Panama Canal.
- 45th Goal: Repeal the Connally Reservation so the U.S. cannot prevent the World Court from seizing jurisdiction over domestic problems. Give the World Court jurisdiction over nations and individuals alike.
- As a kid we used to hear "the Russians are coming" an admonishment to stay ever vigilant. Somewhere between Andy Griffith and American Idol the communists arrived and infected our country.

Note: All 45 Goals above are from "The Naked Communist," by W. Cleon Skousen, Nov. 1961 pp 259-262, a book that I think you can still get from places like WorldnetDaily.com.

Michael Beardsley is a Christian Conservative. He lives in Ellsworth with his wife, Leslie.

“All men having power ought to be mistrusted.”  
James Madison

Rural vs. Real  
(Continued from page 1)

The increasingly rare areas where rugged individualism has not been usurped by condominium associations; where people still pull logs out of the woods instead of pulling their SUV out of the garage; where men and women haul fish out of the lakes instead of hauling overflowing shopping carts out of Wal-Mart; this is the real Maine.


I would further argue that there is still a significant and growing part of Maine that can be referred to as "rural." It may surprise you that I consider this last vestige of rurality to be in the southern part of the state. I suggest that in addition to crafting a positive image for the real Maine, a counter-offensive be simultaneously launched on the image of that part of the state that is inhabited by a near-majority of out-of-staters like me. Somewhere just south of the Lexus Line we should begin to refer to the region as "rural Boston." This new geographic moniker would exemplify the fact that one can practically drive from Camden to Boston and beyond without fear of running out of gas and having to push the car more than a 1/2 mile for a refill and a can of diet Pepsi.

Adopting this simple semantical change, I feel, will clearly define the debate in the months and years ahead as the people from rural Boston attempt to write legislation, pool financial resources, or take any other myriad measures to set aside large tracts of the real Maine to use as their private wilderness playground, free from human intervention. Or worse, when they simply wish to go to bed at night presuming that they have done their part from their air-conditioned office in rural Boston, to preserve another 202,000 acres of "pristine" forest land, which the state cannot possibly afford to maintain, and which was previously squandered by something as frivolous as supporting the rural lifestyle that was once known throughout the real Maine.

Mike Pajak lives with his family in Days Ferry where they are building a compound in which to weather the future. His e-mail address is mwpajak@yahoo.com.

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Open Letter to the AARP Following Taxpayer Bill of Rights "Seminar"  
(Continued from page 2)

You showed an anti-Taxpayer Bill of Rights video produced by the CBPP, the founding force behind the MECEP here in Maine, which Kit St. John heads. It showed a number of individuals who complained about the negative effects of the Colorado Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The video failed to mention that voters in that state, after approving that provision, subsequently approved an education funding mandate that was in direct conflict.

Let's be honest about the video; it is expensive produced, and slick and artful propaganda. On the other hand, for every grievance in that video, there are young people leaving this state to find lower taxes and economic opportunity elsewhere. For every complaint, there are seniors who can no longer afford to live in their homes because of constantly increasing property taxes and other burdens that result directly from state and local policy. For every grievance, there are Mainers choosing to live elsewhere and declare residency in more welcoming states. For every complaint, there are businesses closing down, moving out of state, and choosing not to expand in Maine, depriving the state of jobs and economic health.

Importantly, Colorado's circumstances are a flawed and weak basis for argument against the Maine Taxpayer Bill of Rights, which is substantially different. Colorado's plan limits revenue growth, causing a "ratchet down" effect in lean revenue years. Maine's plan avoids this by limiting spending growth instead, thereby avoiding the ratchet down syndrome.

One of the primary arguments the video made against the Taxpayer Bill of Rights is that governments buy different things than taxpayers, and that items government buys go up faster in price than the CPI. The direct presumption is that we, as taxpayers, see only CPI proportionate growth in our living expenses, while government sees far higher growth. I take vigorous exception to such claims.

Here are some reasons why. Our health care premiums have increased by over \$900 a month in the last 4 years, and our office visit co-pay has gone from \$5 to \$25 in the same period. Our heating oil bills have tripled in the last 8 years. Our gasoline bills have more than doubled in the same time frame. Our property taxes have increased by nearly 50% in that period. Our school teachers have a current contract that gives them raises ranging from 11%-25% in a two year period, and we are all "buying" their salaries and extremely generous benefits.

Quick calculations will show that each of these items has grown at rates that make the CPI largely irrelevant. Further, these expenses are critical, or in the case of property taxes, confiscatory by force of law. I'm confident that any senior attending your session could quickly have taken pencil and paper and personally disproved this specific claim in the video, if only you were objective enough to lead them in that exercise. They could easily have come up with personal spending cuts they've had to make, I'm sure, in order to pay for these major increases.

For some reason, opponents focus only on so-called "hard choices" government and elected officials have to make, completely ignoring the agonizing daily choices made by those who pay for continuously growing government spending, often from fixed or inflexible incomes. Perhaps the next time your group meets, you could ask for individual testimony from attendees, and engender the same kind of sympathy for individuals-real people-instead of promoting sympathy for impersonal and detached governments.

Opponents, including the AARP and others, love to talk about cuts, cuts, cuts, that will be caused by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. I have been following state and local politics long enough to know that the word "cut" is purposefully and horribly abused by government growth advocates. Most often, any reduction in annual growth in a budget item (for example, lowering the increase from 15% to 10%) is called a "cut." That's like saying you're losing weight because you were gaining 5 pounds a month, but you're new diet has you gaining only 3 pounds a month. Or that you were hoping for a 10% raise in salary, but your employer only gave you 6%, so therefore your salary was "cut." This is clearly abuse of plain English to serve political purposes. Furthermore, the Maine initiative doesn't call for cutting anything, anymore than LD 1 and its so-called spending caps do.

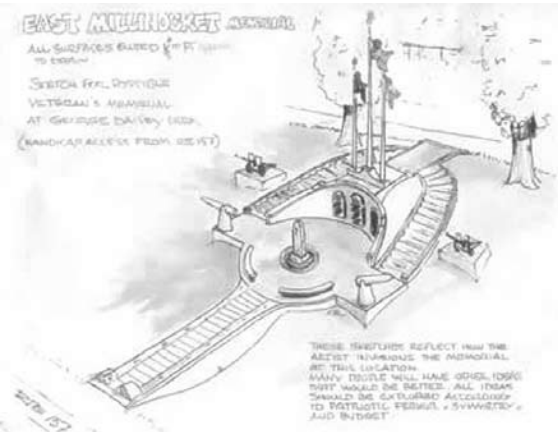
Now that I think of it, perhaps you can tell me why our leaders (and no doubt the AARP, MECEP, and others in the "gang of 75") see their LD 1 spending caps as "historic," yet similar concepts proposed by the public are labeled "meat-axes" and "dangerous?" Could it be that the LD 1 "caps" have no teeth, and therefore are of no real concern to those who would ignore them, like the Governor has?

The essence of the Maine Taxpayer Bill of Rights is simply that our elected "public servants" must exercise choice in managing public budgets; just as private citizens who pay for government must as we manage our personal budgets. Furthermore, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights provides for overriding scheduled limits, when deemed necessary, and increasing tax revenue, by making a case to the public and gaining voter agreement. This is flexibility we as private individuals don't have; we can't go to the voters for an increase in our salaries or pensions or nest eggs.

As the election approaches, I am sure that many people will engage in debate with you and your group, hopefully with a civil tone.

Thank you for publicly sharing your viewpoint with those who attended; I only wish you had done it in a format that provided all the facts and perspectives, and respected members' ability to make their own informed decisions.

Pem Schaeffer  
Retired in Brunswick, Maine  
798-6919  
Former AARP member



In East Millinocket, a War Memorial is being built in order to commemorate those who gave their lives fighting for our country. The memorial is being built in George Daisey Park, and the current memorial will be moved to Daisey Park as well and expanded to include veterans who gave their lives fighting wars starting with WWI. If you know of anyone whose name should be included on the memorial wall, or if you want to donate to the memorial, you are asked to contact Ralph Dhuy at 746-3388 or the American Legion Post #13 c/o Veterans' Memorial Fund, PO Box 446, East Millinocket, ME 04430.



## And Now for Something Completely Different

by Michael Fundalewicz

I'm forced to deviate from my original format, once again, to address the current conflagration going on in the Middle East.

I've been listening to the news reports lately and find myself sickened by the inundation, by the news agencies covering these stories, of their opined reports by various parties. Opinions are like, well, you-know-what, and everyone has one. But is it necessary? Absolutely not!

The shocking picture I saw today, circa 2000, of U. N. President Kofi Annan and the Hezbollah leader, Sheikh Nasrallah, shaking hands was, to me, an assimilation to the unthinkable vision of President Roosevelt shaking hands with Adolph Hitler: TOTALLY OUT OF REALITY! What was he thinking? Why not have a party in Sudan's Darfur District and visit with Pol Pot and Kim Jong Il and Ahmedinijahd? Any other terrorists we can invite? It's B.Y.O.B. (bury your own bodies) but you're all welcome boys! Ya, that's really ethical for a U.N. President to reflect!!! How about a picture with Bin Laden with both of them holding matching AK's for a photo-op?

Kofi, you are a political pervert! Nothing else.

And then he has the audacity to criticize Israel for defending itself??? Hey Mr. Annan, what kind of hypocrite are you. "Sidewinder"!

We cannot deal with those who cannot be dealt with; it's as simple as that! Unless you can change the mind-set of a person, there's nothing one can do but overwhelm them physically. Our prisons and the gangs that trash our neighborhoods are a prime example.

The conflict between Israel and these corrupted factions is tantamount to a "blood-feud". Nothing is going to quell it but annihilation of one or the other. Leave them be! Get our people out, move the populace out of the way and let them have at it once and for all!

And to all of you in the Hezbollah and Hamas and Jihad Islamia and whatever other so-called "freedom fighters" group you may be in, I say this: Put on a uniform, stand up for what you believe in the open and in public and stop hiding behind the skirts and shirts of the women and children that you've been putting in mortal danger and fight like a man, not the snakes that you are!

There's no difference between this battle and the one we've been facing with the terrorists who are threatening the very fabric of our society. Unless you can change attitudes, what have you gained? NOTHING! Their ultimate goal remains; KILL ALL INFIDELS!

Their goal is to disrupt and destroy anything in their path that does not conform to their twisted, so called, beliefs. They've stated this on the news, the websites and in their actions.

I've read the Qur'an, in parts, and it is a great book. I encourage all to at least read some of it so you'll know it is NOTHING at all what they claim to their prime directive. Horse feathers! In fact, it's the direct opposite of their claim.

What does it take for us to realize that this is never going to go away unless we completely change their mind-set? And this is never going to happen so long as they exist.

This is indeed a war like none other. We're fighting an enemy that has no boundaries, no uniform, no political agenda, no geo-political ulterior motive but the destruction of Israel and if this is accomplished, what's next? WE ARE!!!!

Sorry folks but this situation was written and made known long ago. It has finally come to light and here we are, right in the middle of it. There's nothing we can do, as far as I'm concerned, but watch our borders, keep our people safe and continue to defend the very land we stand on. Otherwise, we have nothing!

I have nothing against any nationality whatsoever. I hold no prejudice but for one. And that is, if you want to live here, do so legally. Don't cross over the fence, go through the gate and be counted. Illegals need to go back; PE-RIOD!

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

## Language and Liberty

by Ken Anderson

From one perspective, history is a struggle for the minds, bodies, and property of other human beings; from another, it is essentially a struggle for their souls. But in all respects, it is one in which control of language can have great impact. At Babel, language was confused by God in order to bring about a diversity in thinking, with the possibility of separate and distinct developments.

However, we fail to understand one another not only when we speak different languages, but also when we use the same words with contradictory meanings. George Orwell, the author of the bestselling novel, "1984," would be able to appreciate the world in which we live today.

Does the word "republic" mean anything to anyone anymore? I suppose it does, but it means so many different things to so many different people that it may as well have no definition at all.

This is true even within this country, where we can no longer come up with a reasonable answer to the question of what it means to be a Republican, or what it means to be a Democrat, whose reasons for remaining opposing political parties are more greatly blurred with each election cycle.

The meaning of the word "liberty" is not clarified by its dictionary definitions, but has as many faces as there are political parties and religions. Perhaps the most common definition of the word would imply that my side wins, whichever side I might be on.

How many times have you been told that our founding fathers were "deists" and not Christians? No, I assure you that our founding fathers haven't abandoned their faith in the last two hundred and thirty years, but the meaning of the word has changed somewhat over the years. By ascribing today's definition to someone who lived more than two hundred years ago, we are led to believe that our founding fathers weren't really Christians at all.

The slight changes in the definition of the word may have been a natural occurrence, but it is being used to the advantage of those whose agenda calls for a rejection of the role that Christianity played in the formation of the United States of America.

In some ways, the very fact that we share a common language, and use the same words, can confuse the issues more than if we were speaking foreign languages; because then, at least we could find an interpreter.

Part of this is due to a natural evolution of language. In general usage, words and other forms of communication change over time, often so slowly as to be almost imperceptible.

But other changes are assumed, and intended to bring about confusion, perhaps to bring about a change in perception. There was a time when parents wanted their children to be gay, but not homosexual. The word has, for all practical purposes, been hijacked by people who perhaps hope that, while the definition has changed, the perception would remain the same.

Our language is very much in flux today, not so much due to the natural order of such things, but intentionally. Turbulence in language and communication can bring about cultural confusion, which is often used to bring about a change in the way that we look at things.

Thus, policies that are intended to harm the economy and reduce the populations in rural areas are known as "smart growth" or "sustainable development," while the non-profit organizations that bring this about are called "economic development organizations."

The word "conspiracy" is now automatically followed by the word "theory," no matter how many facts there are to prove that the conspiracy genuinely exists, while the "theory of evolution" is taught to our children as fact.

The deliberate misuse of language is apparent all around us. The term "equal rights" is used to ensure that some people are granted more rights under the law than others, for example.

Some of us may be old enough to remember when "fundamental" was a good word, and not something that can be used as an excuse for imprisoning or shooting you.

God confused the language at Babel for His purposes, but Satan is doing so today.



## Ask

*Alvina*

Alvina is on vacation this month but will return in our September issue.

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

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WISHES  
& DREAMS...  
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**Maine Leaseholder's Annual Meeting  
August 19, 2006 at 12:00 noon  
Perley Wheaton Ford Garage  
Millinocket, ME**

# Letters to the Editor

## Maine Needs a Governor Like Chandler Woodcock

The first reason for my strong support of Chandler Woodcock has to do with character. As a Pastor, I have to believe that character is the most important measure of a man. I have known Chandler Woodcock for about five years. During that time, he and I have formed a friendship that has allowed me the privilege of witnessing the character of the man. He is a decent and compassionate man with solid principles and convictions. He is trustworthy and reliable. I know Chandler and I know some of his family. He is a good man. He demonstrates uncommon grace and discernment.

The second reason for my strong support of Chandler Woodcock has to do with leadership. Along with pastoring, I have worked as a legislative aide and as chief of staff in the Maine Senate Republican office. For two years, Chandler was the assistant Republican leader. Chandler brought out the best in the entire staff. We found ourselves wanting to do not only more, but better work because of him. That is a quality of leadership that is needed in government. Working for him always included a sense of trust and accountability. Chandler knows how to bring out the best in people and is not afraid to hold them accountable.

That brings me to policy issues. I do not mean to minimize the importance of fiscal issues or any of the other matters than a governor must deal with. I have listened to and watched Chandler Woodcock as he had dealt with these. He understands these matters and is prepared to deal with them. I would be hard pressed to find an area of disagreement with him. But the issues of life and morality are most important to me personally. And on these, I wholeheartedly support the positions taken by Chandler. He has been firmly on the side of protecting children, born and unborn. The same is true with issues of marriage and family. Our state government has overstepped its proper role with attempts to redefine marriage. Chandler supports a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Perhaps more important than specific legislative actions, Chandler Woodcock understands the need to change the attitude of state government. State agencies and officials often seem to promote behaviors that are offensive to most of us. I do not believe that state agencies under the authority of Governor Woodcock would be allowed to promote such behaviors or to hide information about them. I believe that Chandler Woodcock would expect and encourage churches, religious organizations and individuals to work toward improving Maine's culture without undue government interference. Chandler Woodcock supports giving parents more control over education, including home schooling.

I believe Chandler Woodcock is the best choice to be our next Governor.

Sincerely,  
Bob Emrich, Plymouth, Maine  
bemrich@midmaine.com

### This and That

I'd like to comment on a few of the articles you published in the July issue of All Maine Matters, and maybe some other things that are on my mind. But first, I'd like to say that I enjoy the photos that adorn the pages of each issue. Your cover photo showed an interesting perspective, with the white church steeple peaking over the roof tops of Millinocket.

For a proposal that seems to have the enthusiastic support of the larger percentage of people in Maine, and one that is so necessary if we are ever going to become truly sustainable as a state, I don't read very many positive articles about the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. It seems that the mainstream press is working overtime in its efforts to kill this idea, rather than to simply report on it. Thank you for giving us the other side of that story.

Chandler Woodcock is my choice for governor in November, but I wish he had the courage to speak out more on social issues. I trust that he holds many of the same values that are important to conservative Christians in Maine, but he seems to be afraid that these positions would lose more votes than they would gain.

I disagree. More than ever, I believe that we need someone who is unafraid to stand on principles, and when people have been able to demonstrate the courage to do this, they have won and they have served us well.

Not in Maine? Well, if that's true then we may as well give it up and not waste our time at the polling place.

Unless I've missed notice of his appearances, Chandler seems to be ignoring everything north of Bangor. Baldacci seems to be everywhere, while Chandler has been concentrating on the larger population centers, whose votes are likely to go to his opposition anyhow.

I'm not complaining. Given the alternatives, I think he's the right man for the job. I'd just like to see him get there, and there are far too many people in central and northern Maine who don't even know who he is.

I enjoyed the profile on Millinocket, a town that has more history than the years it's been around might indicate. It's a shame what's being allowed to happen to it. Tourism works well for the owners of the larger established tourist businesses, but it does little or nothing for those who are employed in the industry, trying to get by on part-time, seasonal, and non-benefited jobs. Plus, when you ally yourself with environmental interests, you can only limit your growth in every area, including tourism. It's a scheme that is intended to make a few people rich and leave the environmental organization holding the larger portion of the pie. Good luck, Millinocket. You're going to need it.

I've been reading the leaseholder's column regularly, and I'll have to admit that this is an issue that I've never understood well, not being a leaseholder. I think that most people look upon this issue as they would renters who are looking for a deed to property they merely rent, unaware that these are property owners too, now at the mercy of foreign interests that couldn't care less about Maine or the people who live here. That's a message that needs to be repeated often because, to be honest, most people don't get it.

I'm not sure how I feel about the Iraqi war. I'm uneasy with the explanations we've been given for why we're there to begin with, yet I don't believe that it's in anyone's best interests for us to cut and run, since that sets a precedent that can't possibly serve us well in the future.

Still, I don't trust Bush or any of the globalists that he has surrounded himself with. I fear that we err when we place our trust in someone just because of the letter that he has after his name.

At this point, I can't think of anyone who I could vote for in the next presidential election, at least not anyone who appears to have a chance of winning. Rep. Ron Paul from Texas comes to mind, as does Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado. There may be others, but I'm not aware of any at this time. Of those whose names have been bandied about at possible Republican candidates, there are none that I could support. John McCain versus Hillary Clinton? They ought to be running mates, not political opponents, since I doubt that either one of them ever had an idea that the other couldn't support.

That's about all that I have for now. Keep on doing what you're doing, and I'll support your advertisers whenever I can.

J. Jones, Presque Isle, Maine

## Proposed Presque Isle (PI) By-Pass

Based on a July Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by Maine DOT consultants, I want to say the following about the projected economic benefits and permanent environmental costs, of the proposed Presque Isle (PI) By-Pass.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that an SDEIS put environmental concerns on equal footing with economic outcomes. This lengthy report succeeds! Environmental issues are as weakly assessed as the economic returns to the public.

The proposed new bridge near Presque Isle would be built about a mile downstream of our current 4-lane bridge. MDOT says they "will coordinate with Maine DEP" during bridge design to ensure the crossing meets all criteria with regard to aquatic and wildlife habitat, water quality, recreational access, and minimizing visual impacts.

However, it's my understanding through Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (Title 38 Chapter 3 §480-P) that the lower Aroostook River is among Maine's "outstanding river segments" afforded special (ORS) protection under Article 5-A.

I also understand through §480-D (8) that crossing the river with a new bridge requires that MDOT demonstrate to Maine DEP, in a future NRPA permitting application, that no reasonable alternative exists which would have less adverse effect upon the natural and recreational features of the river segment.

MDOT consultants dismiss this protection, saying the existing bridge carrying Route 1 over the Aroostook River would not satisfy the project's "Purpose and Need."

But, a 2002 draft environmental assessment for the Easton Industrial Access Road (MDOT PIN 6462.11), with a connector terminating at Route 163/167 (without crossing the river), was deemed satisfactory in meeting that project's Purpose and Need – providing "immediate benefit to the Easton/Presque Isle transportation system by improving safety, access, and mobility for materials and finished product." Annual Vehicle Hours Traveled to Easton Station would be reduced at least a third.

Furthermore, this SDEIS declares the US Army Corps of Engineers said (July 11, 2005) the "Presque Isle By-Pass" project's purpose is to "improve east-west and north-south traffic movements in and around the City of Presque Isle along Routes 1, 163/167, 10, and 227 in order to improve public safety and relieve traffic congestion."

MDOT consultants now say the intersection at Route 1/Route 163 is a High Crash Location. That label deserves a definition. How many crashes have occurred at that intersection in the last 10 years involving medium or heavy trucks?

MDOT consultants also hasten to note there are no EPA-designated "sole source aquifers" used as public water sources in the area. If there were any, EPA review would be required -- which could prevent a commitment of Federal funding.

The highly-productive sand and gravel aquifer surrounding and under the Aroostook River, that publicly supplies Washburn, Fort Fairfield, and recently Presque Isle and Caribou, would likely qualify for sole-source status -- if only someone petitioned for it.

Should this aquifer become contaminated, alternative sources of surface water may no longer be economically available due to EPA drinking water standards and the large excess of phosphorus from major point sources documented by Maine DEP in a report simply footnoted in this SDEIS. The proposed new bridge would be about 2,500 feet from Presque Isle's new drinking water wells, even closer to McCain Foods supply wells.

The SDEIS gives no consideration to the adverse effects on the community having to live near the proposed by-pass. Basically deceptive, consultants say the area north of the river, where the preferred option would cross, is generally agricultural. From my vantage point, the corridor would also cross acres of wetlands and Raymond Brook, and destroy the environment of a cluster of homes on the Higgins Road and Reach Road.

For economic analysis, MDOT consultants used the regional economic model REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.). Widely used by government agencies throughout the nation, one major criticism of REMI is that it contains no government budget constraints. Tax expenditures on projects are treated as cost-free. Although the model has important scientific merits, REMI inevitably exaggerates the benefits of government projects.

REMI is a complex model that most can't assess; the claim the best scientific model available shows x dollars of personal income created by the project often carries the day.

In reviewing the Report, I paused on Table 2-7 "Effects of SDEIS Corridors on Aroostook County Economy (2035)." For the proposed PI By-Pass, I'm not even sure REMI can carry the day. During construction of the PI By-Pass, the \$120.8 million dollar cost would yield only \$3.79 million in aggregate personal income to the year 2035.

After construction, change in personal income is shown by REMI to be minimal – meaning most personal income would be construction payroll. A number of economists, including this one, question whether a project's short-term construction wages should be part of long-term public benefits.

REMI predicted the cumulative change in retail sales due to the proposed Presque Isle By-Pass as a minuscule \$230,000 from 2008 to 2035. The Presque Isle public, while bearing significant environmental impacts and risks, has to truly strain to see any gain.

Let's spare our local farmland, wetlands, forest lands, streams, and citizens. And spare the Aroostook River an unnecessary bridge. Choose the No-Build Option.

Sincerely,  
Steve Sutter, Presque Isle, ME

“ If ever time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin. ”

Samuel Adams

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

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

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



# Letters to the Editor

## A Man With a Plan

Recently, Down East Magazine printed an article which contained an interview with Matt Polstein. I will tell you it was not very flattering to the citizens of Millinocket and for that reason I felt the magazine could use a little education on the subject. Although I don't expect to hear back from them, I felt they needed to know "OUR" side of the story, and that will never occur if only Polstein is interviewed.

Following is a letter I have sent to that publication:

### TO THE EDITOR:

As with every story, there are usually two sides - re: your featured article "Man With A Plan" by Joshua F. Moore. Here is the other side. Perhaps the most provocative statement of this article is your lead-in, "This controversial Millinocket rafting guide turned developer doesn't believe ecotourism should be a dirty word in the North Woods."

On the surface, Mr. Polstein appears to be an energetic, articulate entrepreneur, but what also lurks under the facade is a cold, calculating and self-serving, want-to-be businessman who exhibits almost complete disregard for those who disagree with him, especially those of us in Millinocket whose very lifestyle is threatened by his project.

To understand this enigma, one must first recognize his ongoing association with many of the preservation (not conservation or environment) groups, such as The Nature Conservancy, The Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society, to name a few. His ambitions came to light in the mid 1980's at Great Northern Paper's hearing in Augusta on the "Big A" dam project, where his intervener status allowed him to address the possible infringement of the dam on his white water rafting business. It continued with his move, in 1995, to Millinocket where his restaurant hosted The Sierra Club out of which came the Allagash Wilderness Waterway agreement and further continued with the introduction of The Wilderness Society of Millinocket through our economic council, namely, "MAGIC".

The failure of Great Northern to gain approval for its proposed dam project became the forerunner to the demise of that company. Eventually over 1500 workers lost their livelihood due in part to Polstein's opposition to the project and to further his business. He now employs 24 local people, not a very good tradeoff for our town or the surrounding area.

Referencing the above mentioned preservation groups, many restrictions, including access points, came out of the Sierra Club's, Allagash "River driver's" Agreement (so named after Polstein's restaurant). These are now being challenged, in Augusta, by John Martin of Eagle Lake and the controversy is currently receiving much needed media attention.

Fast forward to The Wilderness Society. TWS was introduced to Millinocket by "MAGIC", our supposed economic development council. I say "supposed"

since this was how it was presented to the citizens of Millinocket who believed it would help spur our economy and who have supported it with in excess of a quarter million dollars over the last 5-6 years.

MAGIC is an acronym for the "Millinocket Area Growth and Investment Council". NOTE: nowhere is there mention of economic development! Founded by Polstein, who served 3 years as its president (while also serving on the council and voting approval of taxpayer's financial support), MAGIC has done little to attract successful businesses to the area, unless tourist related. (READ: low-paying jobs).

In 2003 MAGIC accepted a \$25,000 grant from T. W. S. which created havoc and discord in the Katahdin Region. MAGIC's "council-approved" funding was reduced, that same year, by a referendum vote by the citizens, and is still striving to recover from the bad publicity while Polstein was pressured into stepping down, though he still is listed on the Board of Directors.

To further substantiate Polstein's affiliation with these preservation groups, one must examine his vocabulary. I did mention he was articulate. It is rife with key phrases such as "ecotourism, gateway, sustainability, resource space, vision, conspriacy theory, and my favorite, value-added spectrum (?). And the list goes on - but all can be found in an instructional workbook issued by TWS in their effort to win public support and approval of their organization.

Yes, the people have voted him into the office of town councilor. Unfortunately for our community, Polstein speaks a "good speak" but his actions do not necessarily agree with his spoken word. I did mention that he was articulate. His voting record and persuasive tactics have resulted in Millinocket's inability to "move forward" (another catch phrase) economically due to his and MAGIC's efforts to discourage the manufacturing sector. This in turn has jeopardized the financial stability of Millinocket.

In support of theis assumption, I offer the following. Under the auspices and support from Polstein and MAGIC, two manufacturing companies were indeed introduced to Millinocket. Neither met with the citizens' initial approval as seeming to be viable. The first was Brims Ness, a water sensor company which had been sustained for many, many years on grant monies but which still did not have a finished product. Brims Ness has now moved to Ohio, in search of further grant money, but not before leaving behind a \$50,000 debt to Millinocket's CBDG fund, plus another \$250,000 debt for a state grant/loan, a payment which falls on Millinocket. The second is Allagash Valve and Control which set up its primay business in Medway, a neighboring town, but wishing to expand has instead incurred another \$250,000 state grant/loan, with the responsibility for payment left solely on the Millinocket taxpayers, and which appears to be going in the same direction.

Then we have the issue of annexation which Polstein adamantly opposes. Citizens and other councilors offered the annexation proposal in an effort to enlarge Millinocket's physical boundaries (we are a small town in area). This hopefully would have allowed for the possible introduction or expansion of manufacturing or retail facilities and would have enlarged our tax base which is made up primarily of retirees on fixed incomes and which was precipitated by the mill's reduced workforce. None of these reasons appealed to Polstein since they would have interfered with the plan to establish his business in "unorganized territory" thereby allowing him to avoid paying taxes to Millinocket and reduce his tax liability. The annexation also ran counter to the views of the current mill with whom Polstein was in negotiations, behind closed doors I might add, in an effort to purchase the land upon which he wishes to build his resort.

Perhaps the most contentious point has been his ability to engineer an option to purchase 1450 acres from Katahdin Paper Company. Again, this runs counter to Millinocket's heritage and culture. For years camp owners have leased land from the various paper companies. The accelerated costs associated with those leases, along with the many changes in the lease agreements themselves, prompted these property owners (camps are indeed property) to express their desire to purchase their lots, only to be informed "the company" has NO land for sale. Why then has it been made possible for Polstein to purchase 1450 acres, conveniently left out of the TNC easements? Could it be because of "undue influence" when voting on issues that favor that company regardless of the ramifications to the town of Millinocket? Isn't that a "conflict of interest"?

And yet there is still more! Although Polstein compliments our municipal airport, there is no mention that he has been a driving force behind his ambitious plan to have our town's financial contribution upgrade that very airport, designed only to accommodate his needs, and to make an investment in a shuttle bus service ultimately geared to transport guests to his resort. Nor is there mention of his ongoing efforts to gain Millinocket's support in enlisting the services of Maine's D. O. T. to improve conditions of State Highway #157, which will lead to his complex. Now, one can compliment him on his business acumen, but one could also assume he expects the taxpayers to absorb the peripheral costs of making his dream come to fruition. Quite a concept! and all for the privilege of low paying jobs and a loss of the very same peace and tranquility that he intends to offer his paying customers from outside the area, at a sacrifice, of the same, for the camp owners of the area who will be impacted by his resort.

On a more personal note, I'll conclude with the "other side" of his view of Millinocket's citizenry which is both misleading and insulting. This, in relation to the

hate mail he has reportedly received, which took exception to his Jewish background, and which he contends came from the local populace. He failed to mention that the postmarks on that correspondence was from far outside the state and while they were supposedly received a year prior, were not publicized until shortly before his last run for the council seat. With that in mind, might he have been seeking a sympathy vote? If so, it seems his strategy worked. Over the years Millinocket has entertained several business owners of Jewish descent. Never have the people stooped to the level that Polstein suggests. Food for thought! Polstein has also described the business climate of our town to be "hostile" and concluded he might consider taking his business elsewhere. With his stated view of our town and its people, maybe that would be best for all concerned.

As mentioned earlier, Polstein may come across as energetic and articulate, his record contradicts this perception. Rather, it shows him to be cold, calculating and self serving and should he NOT want ecotourism to be a dirty word in the North Woods, he and his preservation groups could start by respecting the rights of those who have lived here all their lives, rather than forcing major changes that run counter to their culture and heritage.

I also realize the purpose of your magazine is to spotlight MAINE people striving to accomplish positive things for MAINE. I would suggest you be more selective and investigate more thoroughly before you make that choice in the future.

Alyce Maragus, Millinocket, Maine



Carter Brook tote road, about 7 miles in. Buying

“

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter

”

Reverend Martin Luther King

## KEN ANDERSON

- Former paperworker, chief shop steward & VP of his UPIU Local
- 20 years of experience as an EMT & Paramedic as well as EMT Instructor
- Retired small business owner - private ambulance company providing services to several communities
- Co-publisher of All Maine Matters - a monthly newspaper for rural Maine
- Board Member of the Katahdin Time Exchange
- Board Member of the Maine Woods Coalition

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# Media Bias Against Guns

John R. Lott, Jr

*The following is adapted from a speech delivered on May 25, 2004, at a Hillsdale College National Leadership Seminar in Seattle, Washington.*

People are very surprised to learn that survey data show that guns are used defensively by private citizens in the U.S. from 1.5 to 3.4 million times a year, at least three times more frequently than guns are used to commit crimes. A question I hear repeatedly is: "If defensive gun use occurs so often, why haven't I ever heard of even one story?"

Anecdotal stories published in newspapers obviously can't prove how numerous these events are, but they can at least answer the question of whether these events even occur. Here are a few examples of the 20 cases that I found reported in newspapers as occurring during the first two weeks of May 2004: Lawrenceville, Georgia - At 3:00 a.m., an estranged former boyfriend kicked in a woman's front door. She had received a protective order against the ex-boyfriend because of "a history of drug addiction, violent behavior and threats." He was shot four times as he entered the apartment. Police said that the attacker, if he survived his injuries, would likely face charges of burglary and aggravated stalking.

Albuquerque, New Mexico - At just after 5:00 a.m., a homeowner called police saying that someone was trying to break into his home. Police reported that while waiting for help to arrive, the homeowner defended himself by shooting the intruder in the arm.

Louisville, Kentucky - As a robber tried to hold up a Shelby Food Mart, he was shot by a store clerk. The judge who heard the case said that the clerk had acted responsibly and that he "was viciously attacked by this animal."

Raceland, Louisiana - A man and his girlfriend offered two men a ride. One of the hitchhikers drew a gun and told the girlfriend to stop the car. The man then drew his own gun, fatally shooting the hitchhiker who was threatening them.

Toledo, Ohio - A store employee wounded one of two men who tried to rob a West Toledo carryout. The employee had received his concealed handgun permit just three days earlier. The employee's father said, "My son did what he had to do . . . Money can be replaced; lives can't."

These life and death stories represent only a tiny fraction of defensive gun uses. A survey of 1,015 people I conducted during November 2002 indicates that about 2.3 million defensive gun uses occurred nationwide over the previous year. Larger surveys have found similar results. Guns do make it easier to commit bad deeds, but they also make it easier for people to defend themselves where few alternatives are available. That is why it is so important that people receive an accurate, balanced accounting of how guns are used. Unfortunately, the media are doing a very poor job of that today.

Though my survey indicates that simply brandishing a gun stops crimes 95 percent of the time, it is very rare to see a story of such an event reported in the media. A dead gunshot victim on the ground is highly newsworthy, while a criminal fleeing after a woman points a gun is often not considered news at all. That's not impossible to understand; after all, no shots were fired, no crime was committed, and no one is even sure what crime would have been committed had a weapon not been drawn.

Even though fewer than one out of 1,000 defensive gun uses result in the death of the attacker, the newsman's penchant for drama means that the bloodier cases are usually covered. Even in the rare cases in which guns are used to shoot someone, injuries are about six times more frequent than deaths. You wouldn't know this from the stories the media choose to report.

### A CASE STUDY IN BIAS

But much more than a bias toward bad news and drama goes into the media's selective reporting on gun usage. Why, for instance, does the torrential coverage of public shooting sprees fail to acknowledge when such attacks are aborted by citizens with guns? In January 2002, a shooting left three dead at the Appalachian Law School in Virginia. The event made international headlines and produced more calls for gun control. Yet one critical fact was missing from virtually all the news coverage: The attack was stopped by two students who had guns in their cars.

The fast responses of Mikael Gross and Tracy Bridges undoubtedly saved many lives. Mikael was outside the law school returning from lunch when Peter Odighizuwa started shooting. Tracy was in a classroom waiting for class to start. When the shots rang out, chaos erupted. Mikael and Tracy were prepared to do something more constructive: Both immediately ran to their cars and got their guns, then approached the shooter from different sides. Thus confronted, the attacker threw his gun down.

Isn't it remarkable that out of 218 unique news stories (from a LexisNexis search) in the week after the event, just four mentioned that the students who stopped the shooter had guns? Here is a typical description of the event from the Washington Post: "Three students pounced on the gunman and held him until help arrived." New York's Newsday noted only that the attacker was "restrained by students." Many stories mentioned the law-enforcement or military backgrounds of these student heroes, but virtually all of the media, in discussing how the killer was stopped, failed to mention the students' guns.

A week and a half after the assault, I appeared on a radio program in Los Angeles along with Tracy Bridges, one of the Appalachian Law School heroes. Tracy related how he had carefully described to over 50 reporters what had happened,

explaining how he had to point his gun at the attacker and yell at him to drop his gun. Yet the media had consistently reported that the incident had ended by the students "tackling" the killer. Tracy specifically mentioned that he had spent a considerable amount of time talking face-to-face with reporter Maria Glod of the Washington Post. He seemed stunned that this conversation had not resulted in a more accurate rendition of what had occurred.

After finishing the radio show, I telephoned the Post, and Ms. Glod confirmed that she had talked to both Tracy Bridges and Mikael Gross, and that both had told her the same story. She said that describing the students as pouncing, and failing to mention their guns, was not "intentional." It had been due to space constraints.

I later spoke with Mike Getler, the ombudsman for the Post. Getler was quoted in the Kansas City Star as saying that the reporters simply did not know that bystanders had gotten their guns. After I informed him that Glod had been told by the students about using their guns, Getler said, "She should have included it." But he said that he had no power to do anything about it. He noted that readers had sent in letters expressing concern about how the attack had been covered. But none of these letters was ever published.

It was not until February 28, 2004, after the preliminary hearing where testimony verified again what had happened, that the Washington Post published one brief sentence containing the truth: "[The killer] was subdued without incident by armed students."

The Kansas City Star printed a particularly telling interview with Jack Stokes, media relations manager at the Associated Press, who "dismissed accusations that news groups deliberately downplayed the role gun owners may have played in stopping" the shooting. But Stokes "did acknowledge being 'shocked' upon learning that students carrying guns had helped subdue the gunman. 'I thought, my God, they're putting into jeopardy even more people by bringing out these guns.'"

Selective reporting of crimes such as the Appalachian Law School incident isn't just poor journalism; it could actually endanger people's lives. By turning a case of defensive gun use into a situation where students merely "overpowered a gunman," the media give potential victims the wrong impression about what works when confronted with violence. Research consistently shows that having a gun (usually just brandishing it is enough) is the safest way to respond to any type of criminal

### EVIDENCE OF UNBALANCED COVERAGE

I conducted searches of the nation's three largest newspapers - USA Today, the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times - for the year 2001 and found that only the Times carried even a single news story on defensive gun use. (The instance involved a retired New York City Depart-

ment of Corrections worker who shot a man attempting to hold up a gas station.) Broadening my search to the top ten newspapers in the country, I learned that the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Chicago Tribune each managed to report three such stories in a year.

During 2001, the New York Times published 104 gun crime news articles - ranging from a short blurb about a bar fight to a front-page story on a school shooting - for a total of 50,745 words. In comparison, its single story about a gun used in self-defense amounted to all of 163 words. USA Today printed 5,660 words on crimes committed with guns, and not a single word on defensive gun use. The least lopsided coverage was provided by the Washington Post, with 46,884 words on crimes committed with guns and 953 words on defensive stories - again, not exactly a balanced treatment.

Moreover, the few defensive gun-use incidents that received coverage were almost all reported locally. Though articles about gun crimes are treated as both local and national stories, defensive uses of guns are given only local coverage in the rare instances they run at all. In the full sample of defensive gun-use stories I have collected, less than one percent ran outside the local coverage area. News about guns only seems to travel if it's bad.

This helps explain why residents of urban areas favor gun control. Most crime occurs in big cities, and urbanites are bombarded with tales of gun-facilitated crime. It happens that most defensive gun uses also occur in these same cities, but they simply aren't reported.

*John R. Lott, Jr., a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Los Angeles. He has been a senior research scholar at the Yale University School of Law, a fellow at the University of Chicago School of Law, a visiting fellow at Cornell University Law School and a Hoover Institution fellow. He has taught at the University of Chicago, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, UCLA, Rice University and Texas A&M University. In 1988 and 1989, he was chief economist for the U.S. Sentencing Commission. He is the author of More Guns, Less Crime and The Bias Against Guns.*

All Maine Matters will print Part 2 of Mr. Lott's speech in our September issue.

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

## THE NORTHERN MAINE LAND MAN

Roger W. Ek

207-738-5505 Voice Fax 207-738-4050  
mequest@telplus.net

This month we have some bargains to look at. You just don't see properties like this very much any more.

- **Indian Purchase: South Twin Lake.** Beautiful old classic camp with huge stone fireplace. Located on a point to take advantage of the views with water on 3 sides. Nice breeze and a view of Jo Mary Mountain. Screened-in porch. The inside is all natural wood with hand peeled logs for rafters and purlins. Classic wood cook stove, but gas stove and refrigerator too. Boat access and no neighbors. Very secluded. Great fishing in the chain of lakes. Boat to all of them. **\$129,000**
- **Carroll: 43.7 acres on a ridge.** Bare ledge in places so your camp will never move with the frost. Land looks to the southeast with possible lake views if you trim some trees. This property abuts some 30,000 acres of timber company land. Snowmobile trail goes right by. **\$16,400**
- **Carroll: 56.6 acres on a ridge with a breeze.** Good gravel road access and a view of the distant lakes. Nicely wooded and full of moose and deer. **\$28,300**
- **Carroll: 44.8 acres on both sides of a crystal clear spring fed babbling brook.** Some deep holes in the brook where you can fish for trout or get in and cool off in the summer. Nice spot to build a camp. Good road access. Snowmobile trail goes right by. **\$24,000**
- **Greenbush: 42.7 acres surrounded on 3 sides by timber company land.** Gently sloping and well wooded ground. Good spot for a get-away or hunting camp. This won't last long. **\$19,900**
- **Lowell: 45 acres on a paved road with power and phone.** Trim some trees for a mountain view. Driveway and 2 acres of old field to build in. Indian Purchase: South Twin Lake. Beautiful old classic camp with huge stone fireplace. Located on a point to take advantage of the views with water on 3 sides. Nice breeze and a view of Jo Mary Mountain. Screened in porch. The inside is all natural wood with hand peeled logs for rafters and purlins. Classic wood cook stove, but gas stove and refrigerator too. Boat access and no neighbors. Very secluded. Great fishing in the chain of lakes. Boat to all of them. **\$129,000**

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