

All Maine Matters

Because All of Maine **DOES** Matter!
Vol. 1, No. 9 September 2006

FREE

Taxes & Rural Cleansing

by Ken Anderson

Rural cleansing takes another step forward, as Maine seeks ways in which to tax people out of the rural areas and into the cities and other designated service center communities throughout the state.

It's nothing new. Citing concerns about sprawl, and pushed by groups such as GrowSmart Maine, Governor Angus King supported "smart growth" policies intended to depopulate the state's rural areas, making the land available only to the state, federal government, and a very wealthy elite that includes several environmental organizations. Governor John Baldacci continued the agenda with his regionalization plans, designed to suck the life out of already struggling rural communities throughout the state, placing them under the jurisdiction of larger service center communities, which were designated by the state.

In support of his regionalization plans, Baldacci referred to the "Australian model" of regionalization, but without mentioning that the Australian model was not very popular among Australians, particularly those who had hoped to be able to reside in the rural towns and villages that had been their home for generations. Governor Baldacci forgot to tell you that the Australian model was one in which some, mostly larger, cities and towns were arbitrarily chosen to become service center communities, and to preside over the deaths of their more rural neighbors.

If you research globalization plans, you'll find Australia named, along with China, as the leaders in regionalization. This isn't about communities working together at all; it's about some select cities and towns splitting the spoils that are left after planned economic disadvantages depopulate the rural areas of our state.

At a recent conference organized by GrowSmart Maine, Governor Baldacci spoke of the cost of sprawl to taxpayers. According to the governor, Maine spends millions of dollars each

year expanding public infrastructure, not because of a growth in the state's population but because people are moving away from the service centers, where he would like to confine them. As a result, those who live in service center communities are footing the bill for those who live in the rural areas.

Yet, the people who live in the unorganized territories pay for their own schools, roads, and firefighting needs. As compared to the service center communities, which are always looking for a handout from the state, the UT receives little or no aid from Augusta. In fact, those who live in the UT don't even get to vote for the people who are charged with representing them.

Still, the state of Maine is moving forward with its agenda of depopulating the rural areas through economic hardship, a withdrawal of opportunities, and now, a plan to force rural citizens to pay taxes to nearby larger cities and towns which they may never even visit, let alone depend upon.

Last year, the governor convened a commission for the purpose of drafting legislation which would impose higher taxes upon the residents of Maine's unorganized territories, the additional revenue to be distributed to the state's designated service center communities.

The stated argument is that those who live in the UT are making use of services, facilities, and infrastructure contained in the service center communities for which they are not paying their fair share, the idea being that if Bangor decided that it needed a new civic center, people from all of the surrounding areas should be required to help them pay for it.

Other reasons given for benefiting designated service center communities at the expense of other communities are concerns about sprawl, as people move from the larger cities and towns

Continued on page 5



Cemetery in Kingman during the Labor Day weekend.

TABOR Will Terminate Tax Relief Scams

by Senator Paul Davis

Let's say you bought a horse, and every time you tried to ride it the thing bucked you off and then bit you. Would you keep it, or would you trade it for a friendlier animal? This question faces Maine voters every election cycle. Each time, they hear the same promise of coming tax relief, only to get the heave ho and a good chomp on the behind.

It is time for a change, and that change is the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, or TABOR. In 2004, if you recall, Maine was in the midst of a full-blown revolt over property taxes. The Palesky tax cap initiative was on the ballot, and politicians and municipal officials were predicting an apocalypse. If it passed, we were warned, life as we knew it would end. Those dire predictions, plus a promise from Governor Baldacci to put forward a plan of his own, were enough to buy politicians' time. But the tax revolt was still simmering just beneath the surface.

At the same time, voters passed the Maine Municipal Association's initiative to require that the state pay 55 percent of the cost of K-12 public education. All the stars were aligned for state leaders

to step up and deliver desperately needed-tax relief and prove they were listening to Maine people.

What happened over the next two years can only be described as a failure on the level of the 1986 World Series blunder by Boston Red Sox first basemen Bill Buckner.

In January of 2005, the Legislature and Governor Baldacci delivered on their plan to reduce property taxes. LD 1, "An Act to Increase the State Share of Education Costs, and Reduce Government Spending at all Levels," was passed. There were several components to LD 1 that, in theory, should have cut property taxes. The most prominent were spending caps, a four-year ramp up of education funding, and the expansion of two property tax relief programs - the circuit breaker and the Homestead Exemption.

Upon passage of LD 1, politicians were high-fiving each other in a kind of victory festival. On January 2, 2005, in the Portland Press Herald, Governor Baldacci himself proclaimed "a historic moment for the people of this state."

Continued on page 5

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

The Forgotten Anniversaries

by Matthew Jones

September 2006 brings us two very different anniversaries which are tied together in a very intense way. On September 11, 2006, we mark the five year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our country. Nearly 3,000 people were brutally murdered by the hands of Islamic -- the religion of peace? -- terrorists. This anniversary will be marked by vigils across the country. Undoubtedly, and rightfully so, the press will cover these events.

The President himself may address the country. The question we must ask is this: Will the government celebrate by announcing the capture of Osama Bin-Laden?

That is highly unlikely given the recent revelation that the government entity responsible for tracking and capturing OBL has been disbanded. Has our own government forgotten? While pursuing an unconstitutional war in Iraq, our own government has seemingly forgotten who orchestrated the attacks in the first place. While casualties mount in Iraq -- to prop up their "democracy"....at least I think that is what the war is about now -- OBL walks free.

September 17, 2006, we will celebrate the 219th anniversary of the ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America. This anniversary will probably not get that much coverage.

There are groups of constitutionalists who mark the anniversary, but there is no longer much hype. The truth is, our Constitution does not mean much to those in power. Our elected officials may swear to uphold it, but how many have actually

read it?

The government will not celebrate Constitution Day. They will go on with business as usual: tapping the phone lines of law-abiding citizens, searching Grandmother before she gets on the plane, stealing that family farm so a shopping center can be built, removing that 10 Commandments bust from that government building, threatening that Church with the IRS following a politically-charged sermon, building that super-highway from Mexico to Canada -- visit the site at www.nascocorridor.com for more info -- while telling us they are tough on the border, forbidding that scared rape victim from carrying a concealed handgun because it is "illegal" in that city, etc...

Need I go on? The government spits on our Constitution every day. This is not my opinion; this is fact. The only government action regarding 9-11 is to use it as a hammer to chip away our constitutional liberties.

What are constitutionalists to do? We need to clean house. All incumbents must go. Those who are in an off-year need to be hammered until they remember to celebrate both anniversaries. They first need to read the US Constitution, then they need to spring into action. We must do the same.

If you have never actually read the Constitution, you can download it at www.constitutionparty.com.

Continued on page 5

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

This Month's Contents

Taxpayers Bill of Rights Will Terminate Tax Relief Scams	1
Taxes and Rural Cleansing	1
The Forgotten Anniversaries	1
Neoconservatism	2
Agenda for Change: Getting Maine Back on Track	2
Plans Moving Forward to Create a North American Union	3
The Government They Deserve	4
Token Conservative	4
Profit Motive or the Soul of Man	4
Made in China	5
How Some of our Legislators Think	6
Bioterrorism & Hauling Hay	6
Profiles in Rural Maine: Smyrna	8
Needed Reforms	10
Media Bias Against Guns	11
Decade of Sustainable Development: Marxist Indoctrination of Children	12
The Evolution of Homeowner Associations	12
The Fall Webworm	13
Why We Must Advance the Principles of Freedom	15
Letters to the Editor	14
A Man Worth Knowing	16
Cartoon/Puzzle Page	7
Straight from Nana Beth's Kitchen	10

Neoconservatism

by John Frary

In his new book, *Our Endangered Values*, Our Rev. President Jimmy Carter admits that he doesn't quite understand what neoconservatism is, though he somehow knows it is allied with religious fundamentalism and he doesn't like it. He's by no means unique in his ignorant hostility. For many the word has become a kind of epithet whose synonym is SOB.

I am not an adherent of neoconservatism myself but I have followed the development of its ideas from their origin in the nineteen seventies; I have read their books and subscribed to their journals. The first and crucial point is that founders of neoconservatism are former liberals or leftists. As Irving Kristol, the movement's godfather once explained, a neo-conservative is "a liberal who has been mugged by reality." A large fraction of them were and are non-observant Jews. Its founders were Democrats and supporters of Kennedy's New Frontier and Johnson's Great Society. Some helped directly or indirectly design the policies of those administrations.

The realities that mugged them were the failure of the Great Society programs and the collapse of liberal support for the Kennedy-Johnson foreign policy, i.e., "Cold War liberalism."

This gets a little complicated. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who never accepted the label, was once spoken of as a neo-conservative because of his analyses of government failures, which neoconservatives admired. Moynihan's purpose was to learn from failure in order to identify the rules for workable government programs. Some intellectuals like George Gilder, once an intellectual leader of liberal Republicanism, moved from neoconservatism to undiluted conservatism.

Conservative political thought before neoconservatism was primarily philosophical. Apart from the economists, its intellectuals had little to say about policy formation. A faction of traditional conservatives regard the neoconservatives with distaste. They loathe their foreign policy and resent their promotion of "big government conservatism." I was told by one of their outstanding intellectual speakers that he had come to "hate" them more than the communists.

President Bush, Vice President Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld had never been identified with neoconservatism before 9/11. All their previous history identified them as members of the "realist" tradition of American foreign policy which was most clearly articulated with former secretary of state Henry Kissinger. In simplest terms this meant the US should be concerned only with its own interests and that these interests are best served by maintaining a stable status quo throughout the world. George H.W. Bush belonged to the realist school. The Gulf War was carried out under the nominal auspices of the UN. Its objective was achieved when Iraq was expelled from Kuwait and status quo restored. The policy of containment, not the liquidation, of Saddam Hussein's hideous regime continued this policy.

Neocon ideas came to dominate the George W. administration's foreign policy after 9/11. The Bush Doctrine that emerged was summed up by the president shortly after his re-election: "The defense of freedom requires the advance of freedom." The assertion and deployment of American power, unilateralism, and a willingness to preempt threats are not necessarily philosophically rejected by the realists, but they are integral to the ambitious neoconservative foreign policy project. It sees world-wide democracy, not maintenance of the status quo, as the long-term guarantee of stability.

The identification of neoconservatism with "Zionism", i.e., support for Israel, arises because of the prominence of Jews in the neoconservative foreign policy "establishment." This overlooks the fact that support for Israel as a working democracy is completely consistent with their broader beliefs. Accusations of anti-semitism are far too cheap and easy, but fretting about excessive "Jewish influence" is an integral part of that odious creed, and it has some influence on the enemies of neoconservatism.

The neoconservative influence on domestic policy is harder to define because the calculation of political advantage is mixed with Irving Kristol's vision of a "conservative welfare state." There is an obvious political advantage in stealing two popular liberal Democratic issues but the No Child Left Behind Act and the pharmaceutical entitlement program are bureaucratic monstrosities that clearly violate Moynihan's principle that the only administratively simple policies succeed. On the other hand, some neoconservatives support these programs because they are compatible with their ideas of activist government.

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

An Agenda for Change Getting Maine Back on Track

by Senator Chandler Woodcock

Immediately following the Republican primary election – a cordial and respectful campaign – the Governor's allies began to mislabel me and mislead you about my agenda for Maine. I believe it will get worse. Beginning soon, I expect you will hear and see ads by special interest groups that attack me personally because my opponents want to change the subject – they don't want to change Augusta. So when you hear these ads, ask yourself, "Who are these people? And what is their agenda for Maine?"

I'm running for Governor because I believe we need to get Maine back on track. I'm focused on improving our business climate, reducing taxes, making health insurance more affordable and implementing real spending reform. That's my agenda.

I am not a career politician. In fact, my background is probably similar to yours. I'm a retired high school English teacher and basketball coach. I served Farmington as a selectman and served western Maine in the Senate. I served our country in Vietnam. I've been married for 33 years and have four children and three grandchildren. I want what is best for my family, but I'm concerned about what the current Governor's policies will mean for the future of this state.

I am not satisfied with the lack of progress we've made the past four years. Last year, Maine was one of only two states in the entire nation whose economy did not grow. The other state was hurricane-ravaged Louisiana. Maine cannot blame its poor standing on a natural disaster. Instead we have been victimized by an unnatural disaster: state spending.

State spending has increased by nearly one billion dollars under our current Governor. No wonder our taxes are the highest in the nation. The time has come to limit the growth of government in a responsible manner. That is why I support the Taxpayers Bill of Rights as a means of real spending reform.

Recently Forbes.com released a study titled, "The Best States for Business." States were ranked by categories ranging from business costs to quality of life. The results for Maine were not pretty. Our state is listed as the 46th best state to do business

in. The cost of doing business in Maine, driven in part by our regulatory environment, is costing us jobs.

We need leadership in Augusta that recognizes employers create jobs, not government. Government's role is to give businesses the opportunity to succeed by creating an environment where employers view Maine as a predictable and reliable place to do business and invest in the future.

Despite spending tens of millions of dollars on Dirigo Health, health insurance in Maine is still unaffordable for small businesses and working families. According to federal statistics, a Maine small business pays the 8th highest premiums in the country, more than 10% higher than the national average.

If you want to see the cost of Maine regulations, visit Anthem.com. Anthem provides health insurance in Maine and New Hampshire for small businesses and individuals. For a Maine family of four buying insurance on their own, an Anthem policy with a \$1,000 deductible costs a staggering \$1,831 a month. For an identical New Hampshire family, an Anthem policy with a \$1,000 deductible costs \$537 a month.

Augusta has overregulated and overtaxed the health insurance market, and has failed to pay its bills to Maine hospitals. As Governor, I intend to improve Maine's healthcare system by empowering consumers with more choices. We must allow Mainers to shop for and purchase health insurance policies from other states and fix regulations that prohibit a variety of plans tailored to the needs of various populations.

This campaign is about improving Maine, but first we need to improve the tone in Augusta. Mainers will hold those of us seeking office to a high standard of discourse during these challenging times. They are not interested in smears and innuendo. Our challenges are not so great that we cannot emerge from them, but it will take a leader who is willing to be candid with the people of Maine about our economic standing, make tough choices – and stand by them.

Chandler Woodcock is the Republican candidate for Governor.



“ Abuse of words has been the great instrument of sophistry and chicanery, of party, faction, and division of society. ”

John Adams



“No Really...
I support a strong Maine economy.”

Get the Facts. Don't be fooled into supporting politicians who are "Economic Wolves in Sheep's Clothing." Subscribe to the **Maine Economic Research Institute's (MERI)** analyses and publications (www.fixmaine.com). Call 622-9075 or email info@me-ri.org ...**today.**

Powerful Information for Effective Action®



RESIDENCE: (207) 463-2507
FAX: (207) 463-3466
E-MAIL: 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
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002



**Mark Cenci
Geologic, Inc.**

- CERTIFIED GEOLOGIST/LICENSED SITE EVALUATOR
- Soil Tests
 - Site Evaluations
 - Groundwater Studies
 - Septic System Designs
 - Wetland Delineation & Permitting

Cell: 207.329.3524
Home: 207.772.8702
Fax: 207.772.8702
Info@markcenci.com
www.markcenci.com



We can do your
Desktop Publishing
including:

- Newspaper Layout
- Web Design
- Search Engine Placement
- Brochures
- Business Cards
- Mass Mailings
- Manuscript Layout
- Proofreading
- Medical & Legal Transcription

Call us for a quote.
723-4456

If you would like to carry All Maine Matters in your store, restaurant, motel, or other place of business, please call Ken Anderson at 723.4456, or email us at distribution@allmainematters.com. Or you can mail us at:

**All Maine Matters
PO Box 788
Kingman, ME 04451**

Plans Moving Forward to Create a North American Union

I know you have fought hard to preserve and protect the freedoms of our beloved nation, the United States.

But I must tell you now that if you and I don't take immediate, strong action, no other issues will ever matter again because there will not be a United States of America to defend.

Those are not idle words.

I'm sorry to tell you that the Administration of President George W. Bush is moving rapidly, and in secret, to create a North American Union with Mexico and Canada.

The facts cannot be denied.

On March 23, 2005, President Bush, Vicente Fox, President of Mexico and (then) Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin agreed to create the "Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP).

Since then, over 20 "working groups" have been established to implement a blueprint for a North American Union. That blueprint was written by the Council on Foreign Relations.

And the working groups, operating out of the Department of Commerce – on your tax dollars, have been following that blueprint almost to the letter.

They are creating a European Union in America. You and I must move immediately to stop them – or lose our nation forever.

First, I have prepared a special report to provide you with all of the facts. Please read it – and then pass it on to all of your friends and family and contacts.

Second, I have included addresses and phone numbers for President Bush and to both the House and Senate leadership. Call them and demand they stop this effort immediately. See all the details below.

There is no time to lose.

If we don't stop the North American Union, all will be lost. Issues like property rights, privacy rights, illegal immigration, voluntary prayer will all be lost at one time.

It's urgent that you and I sound the alarm and expose it.

You and I must stop the North American Union – or it will be the end of the dreams of Washington, Jefferson and the great men who founded this nation. And it's the end of your dreams of living in freedom. It is the end of the United States.

NORTH AMERICAN UNION FACT SHEET

The effort is in its infancy, however the Bush Administration has been operating in secret for at least two years to establish what can only be described as a North American Union with Mexico and Canada, along the same lines as the European Union. It eventually means an end to the U.S. Constitution as our ruling document, replaced instead with a new North American Government

It will eventually lead to the surrender of U.S. sovereignty, independence, and national borders. It will result in the establishment of a North American currency called the "Amero," as the dollar is junked.

The U.S. will provide the army for defense. The U.S. will provide Social Security benefits for those who are now citizens of Mexico and Canada. Gone will be U.S. citizenship. Gone will be any kind of border control between the three nations of North America.

Plans are well underway to establish a NAFTA Super Highway, to be the width of eight football fields. It will run from Mexico to Canada, running through the middle of the United States. No tariffs or no inspections will be enforced as trucks from Mexico and Canada drive through this nation.

Kansas City, MO has been tapped to serve as an "inland port" to handle imports and exports among the three nations. Operating quietly, Kansas City has already designated \$2.5 million of its taxpayer's money to establish the port. Now, some say the land the port sits on will become officially Mexican sovereign territory.

The effort began on March 23, 2005, after a summit, held in Waco, TX. It was attended by President Bush, Mexican President Vicente Fox, and (then) Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. The three leaders signed an agreement to create common policies concerning various economic and security areas among the three nations.

For obvious cover of official deniability, the term "North American Union" is not being used. Instead, the agreement officially authorized eight tri-national "working groups" to establish the "Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). The concept is being sold as simply a new framework within which the member nations can create free trade and security within the North American continent. However, based on working documents, the intent to create the North American Union is impossible to hide.

The trilateral agreement, signed as a joint declaration, has not been submitted to Congress for review. There is no congressional oversight.

SECURITY AND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP (SPP)

The joint statement on the SPP, issued on March, 23, 2005 described it as an initiative to: "...establish a common approach to security to protect North America from external threats, prevent and respond to threats within North America, and further streamline the security and efficient movement of legitimate, low-risk traffic across our shared borders."

The working groups are now laying the foundation for a European Union-style integration of the North American continent.

The White House has established the SPP office in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) office in the U.S. Department of Commerce, where it has worked in virtual secrecy for two years. As the process proceeds, the SPP groups have not released public reports on their activities.

Over the past two years, at least 20 SPP working groups have produced a number of memorandums of understanding and trilateral declarations of agreement. These agreements cover a wide variety of issues including, e-commerce, aviation policy, border and immigration policy, and the means for multiple governmental agencies to interact. They may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.spp.gov>.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS BLUE PRINT

Many SPP working groups appear to be working toward achieving specific objectives as defined by a May, 2005 Council on Foreign Relations(CFR) task force report, which presented a blueprint for expanding the SPP agreement into a North American Union that would merge the U.S., Canada and Mexico into a new governmental form.

The CFR report is entitled "Building a North American Community," and is essentially a five year plan for implementing the North American Union. It may be viewed at the CFR Internet web sight at <http://www.cfr.org>.

A member of the CFR taskforce, Dr. Robert Pastor, wrote a book, published in 2001, titled "Toward a North American Commission." The CFR taskforce report and the official SPP agreement carry almost identical language as the Pastor's book.

The book, the CFR task force and the SPP agreement call for the establishment of a North American Competitiveness Council to pull in the private sector to the SPP process. In addition, all three call for the establishment of a "North American Advisory Council," which is to be an "independent body of advisors," composed of "eminent persons from outside the government."

In 2002, Dr. Pastor addressed the Trilateral Commission, calling for the establishment of a North American Investment Fund that would supplement World Bank funds expended in a trilateral effort to develop Mexico economically. The May, 2005 CFR report called for the same fund. Efforts are now underway in the SPP to officially establish the fund.

The CFR Task Force calls for the "creation by 2010 of a North American community to enhance security, prosperity, and opportunity. We propose a community based on the principle affirmed in the March, 2005 Joint Statement of the three leaders (of the three nations) that 'our security and prosperity are mutually dependent and complementary.' Its boundaries will be defined by a common external tariff and an outer security perimeter within the movement of people, products and capital will be legal, orderly, and safe."

To those ends, the CFR report called for establishment of a common security border perimeter around North America by 2010, along with free movement of people, commerce and capital to be facilitated by the establishment of a North American Border Pass that would replace a U.S. passport for travel between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Also envisioned by the CFR task force include a North American Court, a North American inter-parliamentary group, A North American Executive Commission, a North American Military Defense Command, a North American Customs Office and a North American Development Bank.

The task force report is important to the debate over the official Security and Prosperity Partnership because the language used in the CFR task force report and SPP documents, so far, have proven to be nearly identical. Clearly the CFR task force report is being used as the blue print to establish the North American Union.

NO CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION OR OVERSIGHT

To date, Congress has passed no specific legislation to authorize the activities of the SPP, nor to funds it is spending. Congress has had no official involvement in the process and has no oversight.

Continued on page 11

All Maine Matters

Fishery Notes

Farming & Forestry Too!

Published by Maine Free Press, LLC

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:

Laura Adelman	Ken Anderson
Michelle Anderson	Shu Bartholomew
Beth Cyr	Senator Paul Davis
Tom DeWeese	John Frary
Michael Fundalewicz	Matthew Jones
Bud Landry	John R. Lott, Jr.
David McCullough	Matt McDonald
Patrick Moening	Lenny Murphy
Jon Reisman	Bob Sanders
Fritz Spencer	Senator Chandler Woodcock

11,000 copies distributed throughout rural Maine from Machias to Kittery, North to Fort Fairfield, Stockholm, and Fort Kent, west to Greenville, Dover-Foxcroft, Dexter, Rumford, and Bethel, and points in between and beyond!

Published the first week of each month

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY ARTICLE OR AD SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION.

Thoughts on Taxes

by Lenny Murphy

On the tree growth law, people with wealth need to pay a bigger share, if they can afford the tax without selling their property? The tree growth law should have nothing to do with taxes, if it does it should go to the towns and not to The State! Let the towns decide what to charge the land owners, if the land owners do not like a increase then they can get the town to reevaluate the situation! The uniform property tax system that we have at this time, and the tree growth program, undid everything that they tried to do by starting the tree growth program to slow down urban-sprawl! Will explain more and will focus on the property tax problems within 24 hours!

“ It is only when the people become ignorant and corrupt, when they degenerate into a populace, that they are incapable of exercising their sovereignty.

”

James Monroe



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

The Government They Deserve

by Matt McDonald

“People get the government that they deserve.” That is the phrase that has been floating in my head the last couple of weeks. I have heard that phrase many times working in the arena of politics, and I have heard it once or twice in conversation around the dinner table, but is it true?

This is the question that I have challenged myself with while composing this article. Do people really deserve the government that they get? My mind first races to the people of days gone by. The peoples of Germany, Poland, France and Western Europe who had to live under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime, or the Russian people who had to live behind the iron curtain of the Soviet Union. Certainly no one deserved the death camp of Nazi Germany or the slave labor camps of Siberia. Next my mind races to those living in the oppressed Nations of today like North Korea, or Iran. Surely the people of North Korea do not deserve to starve to death or the people of Iran forced to live under strict Islamic law.

As thoughts of people living in oppressed nations pass through my head, I cannot help but think about the citizens of our fair State of Maine. Now certainly I am not comparing our State to Nazi Germany or Communist Russia, but one cannot argue the fact that the citizens of our state are certainly oppressed. We may

not have death camps or slave labor camps but nonetheless the people of Maine are being forced to carry the weight of a burden that they do not deserve to carry. The iron fisted state government of the State of Maine is forcing the people of Maine to bear the largest tax burden in the entire Union.

If you are like me and are tired of the exodus of young people from the State of Maine because they can't afford to live here, and you are tired of hearing about people being forced to sell their homes because they can no longer afford the property tax, then this November, we, as the citizens of Maine, have an opportunity to bring change to this state, because the hardworking and good people of this state do not deserve the terrible government that we currently have.

As the voting season draws ever so close, do not just vote for those who support serious tax reform and serious change to the state government, go and tell your friends and family to support these candidates as well because we know that if change for good is to come to the State of Maine it is going to come from the citizens of the state and not from the state government.

Matt McDonald can be reached at matthewthomasmcdonald@yahoo.com

The Token Conservative

By Jon Reisman

Accountability Blues, But Thank the Founders for Federalism

Maine has been the mirror image of the national government for the past four years. One party has controlled both the executive and legislative branches. In Washington, I think the Republicans have governed poorly, although for very different reasons than the left. In Maine, I know the Democrats have governed badly. In both cases, if the public and press hold the respective Parties accountable for their performance, a change will occur in November. That's rather a big if, given the RATHERESQUE biases and omissions of the Maine stream press. But there it is.

In Washington, the Republicans have become the Party of conservative big government. George Bush should be impeached for signing the odious campaign finance reform law advanced by Senator McCain and his two help mates, Senators Collins and Snowe. That law has shredded the 1st Amendment and promoted judicial activism. Exactly what part of "Congress shall make law... abridging the freedom of speech" did they not understand?

The President is a day late and a dollar short in finally naming our enemy as Islamic fascism. He has irretrievably lost the country on Iraq. The critical effort to change the status quo in the Middle East deserved more honesty and less spin. Instead we are a country both at war and at the mall. Many in fact, don't think we are or need to be at war at all, and are convinced that if we are nicer to the Islamic fascists and more humble ourselves, things will be just fine. And the President has told us that we should, in fact, be at the mall. Why did it take almost 5 years for him to name the enemy for what they are?

I am under no illusions that the Cut, Run and Surrender Democrats will be any better. They will, in fact, be much worse. The left is ready to throw Israel, the West, capitalism and freedom under the bus to appease Islamic fascists. But the left is not in power in Washington (yet), and the press is more likely to enforce accountability on the right as opposed to the left. The country thinks the Republicans have governed badly. They're right. Accountability demands the Republicans lose their majorities in the U.S. House and Senate. And despite gerrymandering, incumbency and the incumbent protection aspects of the aforementioned odious campaign finance reform act, that's what's going to happen. Welcome Speaker Pelosi and Leader Reid.

There is one bright spot though. Minority status will reduce the damage Olympia and Susan can do. And two years of Democratic Congressional control might give the Republicans a chance to keep the White House in 2008. Romney/Rice anyone?

Here in Maine, despite the best efforts of the daily newspapers, the public has correctly perceived that the Democrats have governed badly. Accountability demands a change in leadership and control. And that's exactly what's going to happen. Welcome Governor Woodcock, Speaker Tardy and Senate President Weston. You'll have your hands full trying to steer Maine towards freedom and prosperity. The moonbats will be flying over Washington, D.C., but thanks to the Founders embrace of Federalism, some sanity may yet reign

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



It's Time For A Change!

ANDERSON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ Reduce Maine's highest in the nation tax burden.
- ✓ 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.

Paid for and authorized by Kenneth Anderson for State Representative



Profit Motive or the Soul of Man

by Fritz Spencer

As summer slowly turns to autumn, Mainers have a chance to see a sight as rare and beautiful as the world has to offer. The setting sun fills our fields and meadows with a shimmering golden light, while the wildflowers seem to raise their heads to reach out for the light which has fed them gently and tenderly throughout the brief Maine summer. The careful observer will see that the sun, by its mysterious power of warmth and light, has recreated each flower in its own image. And as the cycle of life nears completion, the goldenrod and meadow lily blaze out in a final moment of fullness, glory, and strength.

This mutual embrace of sun and meadow tells the questioning onlooker that the world was indeed created by love. In the same way that nature is willed into being through the power of love, the works of man proceed from the desires of his own heart. Who can deny that the work of the inventor laboring for long years without pay is a work of love? Who can deny that the Olympic champion racing towards the finish line is motivated by a love of his sport? Who can deny that the artist painting seascapes of Monhegan Island is inspired by a love of his native land?

Yet some would claim there is a more powerful creative force in the world, and that is the love of profit. Let men be free, they say, to pursue their own financial interest, and Heaven will at long last be brought down to earth. Poverty, war, and social injustice will end; and freedom, liberty, and prosperity will be had in abundance. This new utopia will be built with

gold, dug up hard and cold from the subterranean reaches of the earth. This same gold, possessed in abundance, will make each man good. What a tragic misunderstanding of the nature of man! Those who believe that money is the answer to all the ills of society overlook man's inborn capacity for good and evil. They forget that man's hidden inclinations cannot be blocked by a mountain of gold, or shunted aside by the cold winds of misfortune, since they lie within the realm of the spirit, beyond the reach of the world.

Our nation became great through the power of the spirit. We must keep uppermost in our minds that the hallmark of our civilization is the preference for the spiritual over the material. No other nation has been as productive or as humane and democratic, precisely because no other civilization has had such a high a view of humanity and its duty to preserve the eternal, moral law.

But a new doctrine has replaced the idealism of our forefathers, and that is the cold and heartless doctrine of materialism. Materialism in its purest form teaches that each man is a soulless clump of matter, whose needs can be understood in purely economic terms. But economics is only one small part of the life of the individual and society as a whole. Nonetheless, we are told by politicians and opinion-makers that all our problems will disappear if only we are given a better economy. We hear no mention of how life, individually and collectively, amounts to more than wealth. Instead, spokesmen for both political parties tell us to turn our eyes away from the hearts of our fellow man, and towards our bank accounts and balance sheets.

This new doctrine of materialism, in which the values of the marketplace take center stage, represents an ominous break with our own traditions. It also heralds the demise of our unique culture, as an economy based on natural resources and self-reliance gives way to the values of a global economy and mutual interdependence. The wise man can see that the future belongs to those who will bring these high values - our patrimony as New Englanders - before the eyes of our people once again.

For what will happen to a democracy whose leaders fail to encourage the values which preserve the bonds of justice and equity between its citizens? What will happen to a citizenry in which the ties of mutual obligation and affection are replaced by the officially-sanctioned pursuit of self-interest? What will happen when Maine aspires to become like New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, and Rome in the mistaken belief that society is better off for being richer? Clearly, a view of society which sees man in purely economic terms can only result in disaster. And on this, left and right, Republican and Democrat, should be able to agree.

“If you want total security, go to prison. There you're fed, clothed, given medical care and so on. The only thing lacking... is freedom.”
Dwight D. Eisenhower

The BIG APPLE
Food Stores

Start Your Day the Big Apple Way
Need Snacks? Cold Drinks? Gas?
Stop by your Big Apple today!

First Step PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

Suz Kasprzak
Executive Director

Roxanne Hayes
Administrative Director

263 State Street
Bangor, ME 04401
Phone: (207) 942-1611
e-mail: firststeppregnancy@msn.com
www.firststeppregnancy.com

Nicole Eggert
Assistant Director

TABOR Will Terminate Tax Relief Scams

(Continued from Page 1)

Newspapers reported taxes would fall by over \$200 per household. In an op-ed piece dated January 17, 2005, the architect of LD 1, Martha Freeman, director of the State Planning Office, wrote, "Overall, the governor's proposal and the committee work permit an 8 percent reduction in the property tax burden for Maine residents in the first year - with more to come." To quote Dr. Phil, "How's that workin' for ya?"

Within months it was obvious LD 1 was a complete fraud. Newspaper headlines said it best. "Officials: Tax relief solution 'pathetic'" (Bangor Daily News, February 14, 2005). "Dexter manager says tax relief plans a scam" (BDN, February 19th, 2005). Phippsburg Selectmen Michael Rice said, "It's a sham" (Times Record, March 24, 2005). The Courier Gazette, of Rockland, warned, "Don't be fooled. What is being touted by many politicians and the governor as Maine's first step in 'meaningful' tax reform is little more than a sham."

LD 1 failed for several reasons, but the most obvious is the Legislature's lack of will. Almost as fast as the politicians were lining up for photo ops and back slapping, special interest groups were shredding the legislation.

Education lobbyists balked at the notion that the new \$250-million in education money would be directed at reducing property taxes. That critical component of the legislation - indeed, the very reason for the legislation - was quickly scrapped. State government budget writers feverishly drafted legislation that used clever accounting gimmicks to exempt several big ticket programs from the new "spending caps." The Legislature's own Office of Fiscal and Program Review calculated that in 2006, when all spending gimmicks were accounted for, the Legislature exceeded its own spending cap by \$108 million.

Finally, as one last chomp on the backside, selectmen and municipal officials from across the state were told that in order to pay for the expansion of the Homestead Exemption they had to raise property tax mill rates by \$35 million. Yes, that's right - raise property taxes to give a property tax rebate.

Do not despair. The Taxpayers Bill of Rights will end this vicious cycle and restore Maine to its rightful owners - we the people. The TABOR legislation contains spending caps that are fairly applied to all levels of government. No longer will Augusta politicians have the freedom to hide spending. The easy road that allows the governor to raise taxes and fees will have a stop sign that says: "Whoa boy! If you wanna raise taxes, you're gonna have to get the taxpayers' permission."

Adios to the days when the citizens of this state felt hopeless and frustrated as they watched their paychecks disappear, as they watched senior citizens taxed out of their homes. Perhaps finally, in the most savagely taxed state in the nation, we'll see genuine tax relief.

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

The Forgotten Anniversaries

(Continued from Page 1)

Read it from cover to cover and then begin to look at our government's actions. You will see that almost every single action the federal government takes is not authorized by the Constitution. This includes giving our president the authority to declare war -- exactly what happened with Iraq. Do not let this month pass without taking action.

If we continue to allow our government to rip up the Constitution, we will soon lose everything our founding fathers fought for. We must celebrate 9-11 by aggressively defending our own country (as opposed to propping up democracy elsewhere).

"The penalty good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men." -- Plato
Never forget.

Matthew Jones is a businessman and Christian political activist from Chelsea, Maine. He is the head of the Constitution Party of Maine where principle overpowers politics. He can be reached at mattykid91@yahoo.com. For information on the Constitution Party please visit www.ConstitutionParty.com or call 1-800-2-VETO-IRS.

Ralph Dhuy Denture Arts

- *Repairs
- *Relines
- *New Dentures Same Day

Ralph Dhuy, Dental Lab.

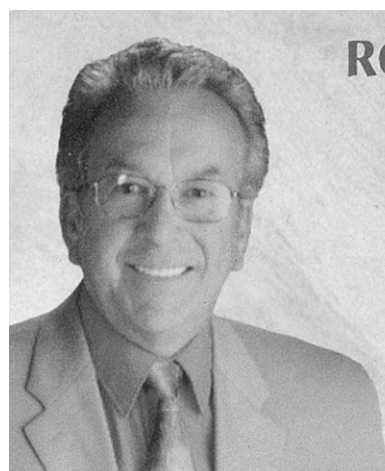
746-3388
447-0254 (cell)
Medway, Maine

rdhuy@yahoo.com

“ Abortion is advocated only by persons who have themselves been born.

”

Ronald Reagan



ROBERT A. BERUBE

Real Estate Broker, CPM®

Direct: 689-9850

Cell: (207) 577-2144

Fax: (207) 689-9801

Residence: (207) 353-4059

E-mail: BobBerube@kw.com

KELLER WILLIAMS.
REALTY
MID MAINE

34 Center Street, Auburn, ME 04210

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Made In China?

by Bob Sanders

The more appropriate question would be "What isn't made in China?" In the field of auto repair, we are seeing a slow but deliberate increase in the number of aftermarket parts that are stamped "Made in China". While the amount of parts that are made in China is disturbing, what is even more disturbing is the fact that these components are of very high quality. They easily compare to anything made not just in the US, but anywhere else for that matter. But there is one sector of the economy that up until now has escaped the onslaught of the Chinese invasion: automobiles.

All of that is gonna change in the very near future. Nanjing Automotive, a Chinese automaker, bought the MG brand name for 100 million dollars from the former British automaker after its assets were in receivership. MG's hard assets were negligible in value. What Nanjing bought was the MG label and the legal right to sell under the MG banner.

They have plans to completely revamp the MG, totally modernizing the mechanical and electrical systems of the line while capitalizing on the nostalgia factor and the beauty of the MG. In other words, they will build an MG that will actually run and look absolutely stunning doing it.

How am I so sure of this? China has a much more mature auto manufacturing industry than most people realize.

You might expect Chinese automobiles to be archaic versions of Communist era Russian cars. You know, those big, ugly, lumbering hulks of iron that would have as much appeal in the American market as a Yugo. If you were to see a minivan manufactured by Brilliance China Automotive, another Chinese auto manufacturer, winding down your street you would never pick it out from other minivans except for the unfamiliar logos plastered on them. They are fuel injected, with a full comple-

ment of creature comforts and engine control systems, in just about every sense a thoroughly modern automobile.

Although these vehicles do not meet all the EPA and FHTSA requirements for the US market in their present production configuration, this hurdle could be passed by retooling their product line. It is the opinion of auto industry execs that the Chinese auto industry got up to speed so quickly by buying technology and components from other Pacific Rim manufacturers, namely Toyota.

Brilliance has a working arrangement with BMW to accelerate the level of technology in their vehicles, to bring them up to the same plane of their worldwide peers. Brilliance's assembly plants are as modern as any in the world, and they have located them in areas where there are pools of educated workers available, and the Chinese culture, just like the Japanese, naturally lends itself to producing nothing but the very best quality their systems allow them to achieve.

And the Chinese will have pricing power when they invade the American market. The minivans that Brilliance China produces sell for under 10 grand in equivalent Yankee dollars. They would be priced higher in the American market, but like all Chinese goods, they would come in at an extremely aggressive price structure. For decades the Japanese juggernaut has been competing very successfully in the American auto market. Soon the Chinese marauders will be giving everyone in the auto manufacturing business, including the Japanese, a corporate case of ulcers.

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

Taxes & Rural Cleansing

(Continued from Page 1)

to more peaceful areas of the state, whereas the state's regionalization and globalization plans would have them instead herded into assigned human habitat areas.

At this point, only homeowners in the unorganized territories are being targeted for this new tax, as large landowners are exempt.

Currently, the taxes assessed in the unorganized territories are based on the cost of services provided by state and county government, such as fire protection and law enforcement, but the largest portion going to public education. The UT does not receive school subsidies from the state.

Nevertheless, the minimal services in the unorganized territories have typically resulted in lower property taxes. Yet despite the minimal services provided to residents of the UT, advocates of the new regional tax view these lower tax rates as an disparity that needs to be corrected.

If enacted, this new regional tax would reduce the amount of money available for projects within the unorganized territories, leaving property owners to make up the difference through higher mill rates in the UT, except for the larger landowners, who will be exempted. Meanwhile, the costs of services provided to residents in the UT would not go down, other than from people moving from the rural areas to the larger towns and cities, nor would any new services be added.

With the state's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) currently assessing Plum Creek's development plan for the Moosehead Lake region, Greenville has latched onto the regional tax plan as a means in which that service center community can get its fingers into the Plum Creek pie.

Greenville's town manager, John Simko, suggests that half the property tax revenue collected from the UT be distributed to service center communities, including Greenville, rather than used to provide services to those within the unorganized territories who are paying the tax. Simko argues that this revenue, in the case of the Plum Creek development, would be used to help pay the cost of new infrastructure necessary to meet the increasing demands that are likely to be placed on the town of Greenville.

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>.

If, as Simko suggests, the Plum Creek project would put such unreasonable demands upon the town of Greenville, one might wonder why he was such an avid supporter of it. His strong support for the Plum Creek project would indicate to me that he sees it as presenting positive, rather than negative results for the town that he represents. Otherwise, he wasn't properly representing the town that he serves.

If the Plum Creek project is such a threat to the town of Greenville, Simko should be working against it rather than supporting it, and then expecting someone else to foot the bill. As residents of the UT do not vote in Greenville municipal elections, they should not be expected to pay taxes to the town of Greenville.

If the citizens of Bangor feel that they need a new Civic Center, then Bangor taxpayers should pay for it.

Something about taxation without representation comes to mind.

“ Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

”

Abraham Lincoln

affordable

SIGNS by JONES

From Houlton to Bangor

765-2068

**CARVED · GOLD LEAF
TRUCKS · MAGNETICS
CAMP SIGNS**

**RT. 170
KINGMAN**

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

How Some of Our Legislators Think

by Bud Landry

I was in Augusta March 16, 2005 to testify on LD 103 an act to establish the Fully Informed Jury Act. This bill was turned down by the the Judiciary Committee with a unanimous vote. I have since contacted some committee members and I received an answer from one. This one was Representative Rod Carr from the Lincoln area.

I will post a copy of my letter to Rod and also his answer:

Rod, I have written a series of five articles on the subject of LD 103, an act to establish a Fully Informed Jury and on how LD 103 was received by the Judiciary Committee. I do not expect these articles to change your mind as I do believe your loyalty is to the state, not your constituents. Below is a copy of the first article....

To give Rod credit, I did receive a timely answer to my letter which was not the case with other committee members. Below is Representative Carr's answer;

"Bud, Thank you for the E-mail. But I do need to correct you, my loyalty lies with what is right and wrong. Having spent 30 years in law enforcement I believe I have some experience in how the system works and as the constitution reads. I am afraid that jury trials would end up being decided NOT BY THE EVIDENCE, but by which, SAD STORY, the jury believed....I always welcome your thoughts, but some times friends do not agree.... Thanks again, Rod Carr"

Over the months I have read and re-read this letter many times and have decided it does need a public answer. I believe Representative Carr is wrong and should not be a representative of the people. He puts his judgment of what is right or wrong over the the judgment of supreme court justices that found for a Fully Informed Jury from the first court case in the United States in 1798 to court cases as late as 1972. He places his judgment over the judgment of our founding fathers, such men as Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Patrick Henry, Lysander Spooner and others.

Rod seems to be saying that his constituents, friends, neighbors and other Maine people are simpletons, unable to reach a proper decision without the aid of the state.

Does Representative Carr really believe that Maine people have reached this stage of senility? Does Representative Carr really believe a Maine jury would turn murderers and rapists loose if they told a sad story? This is what he said; is this what he meant? How would State Police Officer Carr want the jury to be formed? Would he want a smaller jury? Would he want a state trained jury? Would he want a panel of jurists appointed by the state? Would he want the judge to have the power to tell the jury how to decide? Or does he want a jury that will do as it is told by a man of his experience? It is almost that way now as a judge says which evidence can be heard and which cannot. He can give the jury instructions that are very favorable to the State's case. If a defendant or his attorney tries to tell the jury of their true power he can and has fined or jailed them for contempt of court.

I have come to believe that Rod Carr is a very honest man, but his massive belief and ego concerning his judgment and

experience makes him so superior to his constituents, it leaves him totally unable to represent his constituents. The entire Judiciary Committee seems to have this same flaw, and it is spread widely throughout the legislature in Augusta. I would respectfully suggest his constituents elect a person who will represent them instead of himself.

Is the fully informed Jury part of our U.S. Constitution?

Yes, it dates back to before the days of the signing of our Constitution. Many famous people have noted this as one of our inherent constitutional rights:

LYSANDER SPOONER "AN ESSAY ON THE TRIAL BY JURY;" 1852

"For more than six hundred years-that is, since the Magna Carta, in 1215, there has been no clearer principle of English or American constitutional law, than that, in criminal cases, it is not only the right and duty of juries to judge what are the facts, what is the law, and what was the moral intent of the accused; but that it is also their right , and their primary and paramount duty, to judge of the justice of the law, and to hold all laws invalid, that are, in their opinion, unjust or oppressive, and all persons guiltless on violating, or resisting the execution of such laws."

"WE THE PEOPLE," must relearn a desperately needed lesson in civics. The truth, of whether or not we have a constitutional right to a Fully Informed Jury has been answered by many testimonies and historical events;

JURY RIGHTS

"The jury has the right to judge of both the law as well as the fact in controversy." John Jay, 1st Chief Justice - U.S Supreme Court 1789.

"The jury has the right to determine both the law and the facts." Samuel Chase, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1796- Signer of the Unanimous Declaration of Independence.

"The jury has the right to bring a verdict in the teeth of both law and fact." Oliver Wendell Holmes, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1902.

"The law itself is on trial quite as much as the cause which is to be decided." Harlan F. Stone, 12th Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1941.

"The pages of history shine on instances of the juries exercise of it's prerogative to disregard the instructions of the judge." (U.S vs Dougherty, 473F 2nd 1113, 1139, 1972.)

The Judiciary Committee in Augusta had all this information before it on March 16th when they unanimously decided to keep secret the fact their constituents had a right to the knowledge of Fully Informed Jury rights. While THEY apparently thought they had the honesty and ability to act as jurors with this knowledge they said their constituents did not. They apparently do not trust their neighbors or their constituents.

Bud Landry lives in Abbott, Maine and can be reached at Landry@midmaine.com

Bioterrorism & Hauling Hay

by Ken Anderson

The federal government's efforts to control the nation's food supplies have already affected everyone from large-scale cattlegrowers to backyard farmers. Now they're coming after the hay supply.

As a part of the Bioterrorism Act of 2002, the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has established stringent requirements for farmers who sell hay. In order to comply with these regulations, farmers must maintain records that include, among other things, the field that each load came from, the truck that hauled it, the route that the truck took, and the names and contact information of the driver, as well as anyone who helped load or unload it. Also, the buyer's name and address, along with the delivery date, must be on record.

At this point, there is no set format in which the records must be kept, as long as the federal government has access to them within twenty-four hours, if requested.

According to the law, these regulations apply to those who manufacture, process, pack, transport, distribute, receive, hold or import food, and animal feed is explicitly included in the FDA's definition of food. Feed manufacturers, grain elevators, alfalfa processors, and any other entities which process or store farm products must comply.

Currently, most farms are exempt, but commercial hay growers are not. Most hay producers, brokers, and haulers will have to comply with these regulations. Operations with eleven or more full-time employees were to have complied by June 6

of this year, while smaller operations will have until December 9.

The definition of a farm, in the eyes of the FDA, is: "A facility in one general physical location devoted to the growing and harvesting of crops, the raising of animals (including seafood), or both."

Most farms, to a some extent, are exempted from the law, as long as the "farm" includes: "facilities that pack or store food, provided that all food used in such activities is grown, raised or consumed on that farm or another farm under the same ownership."

Those who grow cotton seed, hay, and even gin trash that is sold to be used as animal feed, fall under these regulations.

Since the first phase of this law became effective on June 6, 2006, trucks hauling hay to the eastern states have been stopped at the scales because they did not have the required paperwork. The FDA has the right, under the law, to shut down these trucks until they have the required paperwork.

Hay producers and trucking companies who do not comply with this law will face consequences. Consumers, of course, will have to pay for the considerable extra cost involved in complying with these regulations.

The regulations of the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 seem to go hand in hand with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) requirements, which we have written about in previous editions of All Maine Matters.



“A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine.”
Thomas Jefferson

FEELING LEFT OUT?

Are your friends talking about issues you don't understand?

Understand all the issues
By getting all the issues!

Order back issues. Call 723.4456.
Or email backissues@allmainematters.com.
Or mail us the form below.

Would you like this paper mailed to you?

The cost is \$18.00 per year, to cover shipping and handling.
Back issues cost \$1.50 per issue.

Name _____ Address _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

If you are requesting back issues, please enclose a list of issues you wish to have mailed to you.

Fill out this form and mail it, along with your check or money order, to:

All Maine Matters
PO Box 788
Kingman, ME 04451

Or sign up at <http://allmainematters.com/subscribe.html>



Route 2 in Dyer Brook

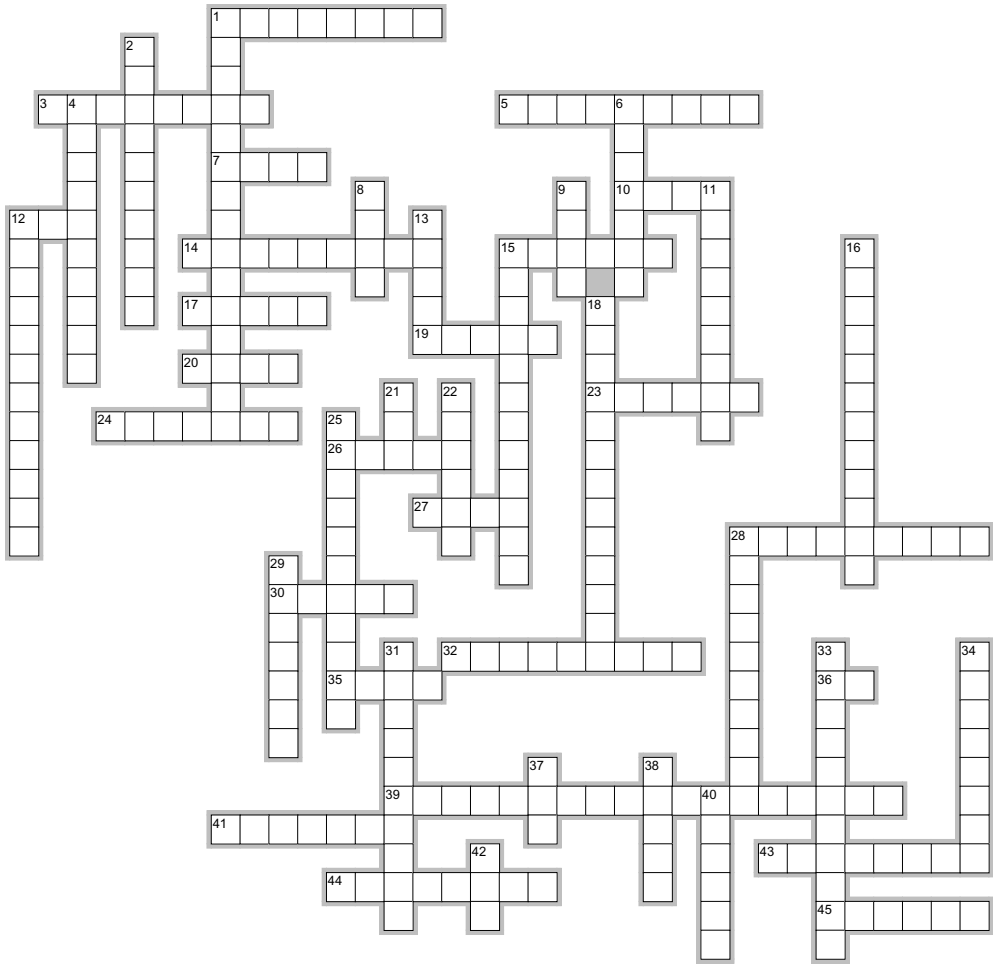
Across

- 1. First name of the Methodist minister who obtained a grant for the township that is now Smyrna (8)
- 3. Maine's current governor (8)
- 5. Development project in the Moosehead Lake region (two words) (9)
- 7. National Animal Identification System (4)
- 10. Land Use Regulation Commission (4)
- 12. Maine Municipal Association (3)
- 14. Roger Ek lists 42.7 acres here (9)
- 15. In the beginning of his article, John Frary discusses a book by this former president. (6)
- 17. Taxpayer Bill of Rights (5)
- 19. A Mennonite group which settled in Smyrna in 1996 (5)
- 20. Maine's governor before Baldacci. (4)
- 23. The subject of this month's Profiles in Rural Maine article (6)
- 24. Signs by Jones, an All Maine Matters advertiser, is located in this rural community (7)
- 26. An All Maine Matters advertiser: The Big ... (5)
- 27. Maine Economic Research Institute (4)
- 28. Smyrna is located in this county (9)
- 30. The subject of David McCullough's article (5)
- 32. When Smyrna was first incorporated, it was a part of this county (9)
- 35. Ken Anderson is the editor of the Magic City Morning ... (4)
- 36. Unorganized Territories (2)
- 39. Mexico, the United States, and Canada, by 2010; unless we put a stop to it (three words) (18)
- 41. Traditionally, Smyrna residents were engaged in lumbering and ... (7)
- 43. GOP candidate for governor (8)
- 44. The Republican gubernatorial candidate (8)
- 45. Farm now located near the area first settled by Nehemiah Leavitt in 1830 (6)

Down

- 1. In this month's issue, John Frary wrote about ... (15)
- 2. Among other things, Jon Reisman writes of this (10)
- 4. The Mennonites were a part of this Christian movement which took place at the same time as the Protestant Reformation (10)
- 6. Matthew Jones, the head of the Constitution Party of Maine, lives here (7)
- 8. All Maine Matters advertiser, and a denturist from Medway (4)
- 9. The subject of Bud Landry's article (4)
- 11. Maine's policies toward the rural areas can be described as rural ... (9)
- 12. The East Branch of this river runs through Smyrna (12)
- 13. Bob Sanders writes about products made in this country (5)
- 15. Which holiday is the United States unlikely to celebrate this September, according to a front-page article by Matthew Jones? (12)
- 16. New regulations governing the transportation of hay are a part of this act (12)
- 18. All Maine Matters advertiser who does desktop publishing (two words) (13)
- 21. Security and Prosperity Partnership (3)
- 22. Bob Sanders is a Master Auto Technician who works here (6)
- 25. Fritz Spencer writes about the new doctrine of ... (11)
- 28. The regionalization model cited by Governor Baldacci near the beginning of his term in office (from Ken Anderson's front-page article) (10)
- 29. Roger Ek lists 43.7 acres on a ridge here (7)
- 31. John Frary lives here (10)
- 33. The type of "development" written about by Laura Adelman (11)
- 34. Custom Builder, an All Maine Matters advertiser from Lincoln (8)
- 37. Ken Anderson wrote a brief article about a new regulation governing those who grow or transport this (3)
- 38. Greenville's town manager (5)
- 40. Bud Landry lives here (6)
- 42. State representative from Crystal, although he has an Island Falls address (3)

September Crossword: - Answers on page 10.



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsescrossword.com



“ I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

”

James Madison

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 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 October issue.

The winner of August's Mystery Photo contest is Jim Cyr of Caribou.



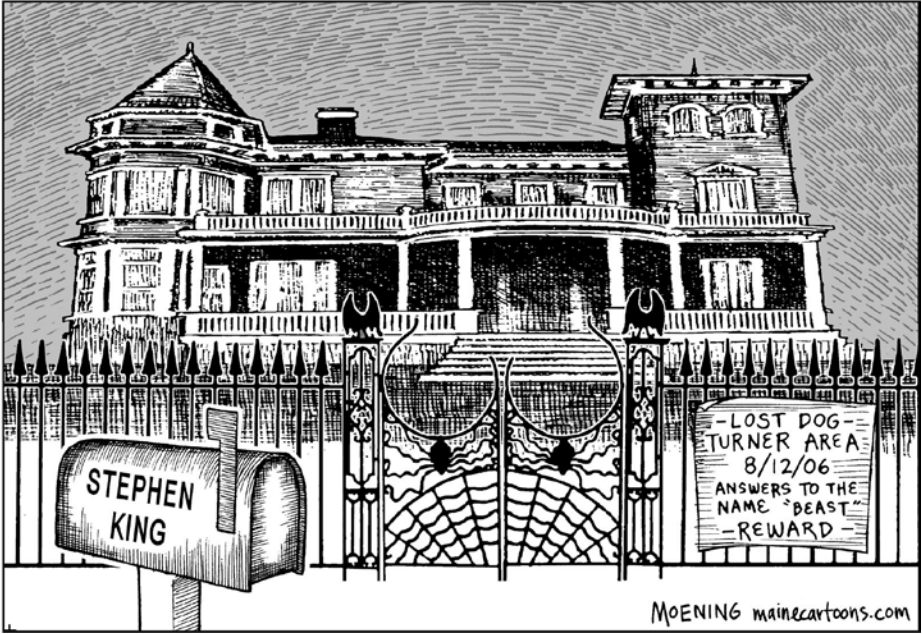
Last month's mystery picture was taken on Route 11 as you cross into Aroostook County.

“

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

”

Ronald Reagan



Patrick Moening can be emailed at patm@mainecartoons.com.

Profiles in Rural Maine

By Ken Anderson

Smyrna, Maine



United Methodist Church

Located north of Island Falls and west of Houlton, in Maine's Aroostook County, Smyrna is home to just over four hundred people, about as many as were ever there.

With Smyrna Mills as its principle settlement, Smyrna was settled in about 1830, when the State of Maine granted a township to a Methodist minister and land surveyor from Royalton, Vermont, with the understanding that he would populate the land with at least a hundred settlers within five years, build a saw mill, a grist mill, and a schoolhouse. The minister, Nehemiah Leavitt, chose as his home, a site near where Lilley Farms is now located, on Smyrna Center Road; there he built a cabin for he and his wife.

Unable to fulfill the requirements of the grant, Leavitt asked for and received a five-year extension, but was still unable to meet his part of the bargain. He did, however, survey and incorporate the Town of Smyrna on March 7, 1839, shortly before selling his claim of 23,000 acres to a Mr. Dunn and a Mr. Jefferds, who built saw mill on the east side of the East Branch of the Mattawamkeag River.

Leavitt had wanted to name the town Royalton, after his place of birth, but other settlers prevented him from doing this. Bitter, perhaps about this, but also discouraged about having to quit his claim on the township, legend has it that he named the town Smyrna, after the Turkish city by that name, which was known for being a wicked city.

According to the town's web site, the original charter shows that the name was penned in as "Royalton" with a notation from the Secretary of State's office to strike out the word "Royalton" and replace it with "Smyrna."

Initially, Smyrna was a part of Penobscot County, since Aroostook County was itself incorporated in 1839, nine days after the town. When "The County" was incorporated on March 16, 1839, the land lying north of Mattawamkeag, Kingman and Drew Plantation were taken from Penobscot County and made a part of Aroostook County.

Apart from Nehemiah Leavitt and his wife, the early settlers of Smyrna included John Marley of England, who had lived in Boston for a time before moving north to Smyrna. Even today, there are Marleys living in Smyrna Township, descendants of this early settler.

Being a Methodist minister, other Methodist moves to Smyrna; including the Loughtons, Lyons, and Oaks, as well as other Leavitts, related to the original settler.

William Corliss came to Smyrna from Lubec in 1833, followed shortly thereafter by Elias and Franklin Blodgett. Samuel Drew, a Free Will Baptist minister, came to Smyrna from New Limerick in 1835. Rev. Drew's son, Moses, bought land from his father and built a farm and hotel; running the Yerxa Hotel for twelve years before selling it to build a larger one near the river in town. Moses Drew married John Marley's daughter, who was the first child to be born in Smyrna.

Other early settlers include Alexander Herrick, who came from Norridgewock, and Thomas Hassett from Ireland. William Irish moved to Smyrna from Buckfield, and later moved to Sherman, becoming a Representative to the state legislature, then a Senator representing Aroostook County.

Jonathan Sleeper was an early Smyrna resident, along with his sons, Moses, Daniel, Willam, and Jonathan Jr. George Taylor came from New Hampshire; and Sheubael West from Industry, who is said to have been later committed to an insane asylum in Augusta. William Woods came to Smyrna from Rhode Island. Two brothers, Elias and Ephraim Wiggins, are early settlers, as was Thomas McGary, who came from Ireland, and Ira Webber, from Limerick.

These were the people who were named as residents of Smyrna when the town was incorporated in 1839. Of course, there were women as well, but they were not named, except as someone's wife or daughter.

The 1840 census indicates settlers in Smyrna carrying the following surnames: Adams, Blodgett, Bradbury, Cobwell, Collis, Coodenow, Dilling, Drew, Frost, Hassett, Herrick, Irish, Loughton, Levitt, Lions, Marley, McGary, Oaks, Pingry, Pirkins, Sleeper, Taylor, Webber, White, Wiggins, and Wood.

The 1850 census lists the following surnames: Atherton, Berry, Blodgett, Briggs, Clark, Corliss, Donnelly, Drew, Emerson, Estes, Fisher, Garey, Gooch, Goodnough, Green, Ham, Hanscomb, Haskell, Hassett, Hill, Hoyt, Huntley, Jackman, Leavett, Marley, McGarey, McKee, Morrison, Perry, Pingrey, Royal, Sleeper, Steward, Timony, Vernor, Ward, White, and Young.

In 1870, the population of Smyrna was 159. The number had increased to 237 by 1880.

According to George Varney, who published the Gazetteer of Maine in 1881, Smyrna was then a local hub of activity, and a supply center for the area, and supported three public schools.

Although there have been other churches in Smyrna, including a Baptist Church, there are currently only two: the United Methodist Church and the Amish meeting hall, nearer to Smyrna Center. The original Methodist Church burned in 1932. Rebuilt that same year, it stands today in Smyrna Mills. Other Christian denominations met in schools and in private homes.

Traditionally, a farming and lumbering town, many Smyrna residents are still engaged in these activities, although perhaps to a lesser extent.



Today, Smyrna plays host to an Amish community consisting of about fifteen families, who live and operate a variety of businesses along Route 2, just south of Smyrna Center. Among the Amish businesses are Kauffman Metals, Mt. Timoney Cycle Center, Smyrna Sheds, Sturdi-Bilt Storage Buildings, The Pioneer Place U.S.A., Northeastern Rustic Furniture, and Wholesome Valley Farms as well as other farming operations.

The Amish came to Smyrna in 1996, seeking a rural area in which to found a new community based on Amish faith and tradition, and supported by a work ethic that has proven successful wherever it has been practiced. Headed by Norman Kauffman, the original five families grew to the fifteen that reside there today.

The Amish assist one another as needs arise, as was once seen within most American communities, in a time when people knew and loved their neighbors, but they do not live in community, in the sense of sharing goods in common, as do some other Mennonite groups.

The Amish are Mennonites, who have their roots in the Anabaptist movement which took place at the same time as the Protestant Reformation. While early Anabaptist leaders were initially allied with some of the leaders of the Protestant movement, Anabaptists were later persecuted by Catholics and Protestants alike.

In 1536, Menno Simons, a Dutch Catholic priest, joined the Anabaptist movement. His teachings united a group of Anabaptists who were to be called Mennonites.

In 1693, a Swiss bishop by the name of Jacob Amman broke from the Mennonite Church on issues of church discipline, among others. His followers became the Amish. The Amish and Mennonites share similar beliefs concerning baptism and non-resistance, but differ on matters of dress, technology, form of worship, and in some interpretations of Scripture.



Route 2, Smyrna Mills

Old Order Amish drive horses and buggies rather than cars, do not have electricity in their homes, and send their children to private, one-room schoolhouses rather than to public school, and they attend school only through the eighth grade.

They do, however, use technology when it is necessary for the operations of their businesses, at which many are quite adept, and each Amish colony is unique, in dress as well as their use of technology.

In Smyrna, the Amish use battery-powered devices such as calculators and recorders, and they might even generate their own electricity when



Route 2, Smyrna Mills

Smyrna, Maine



necessary for the efficient operation of their businesses. But they don't drive cars or use electricity for the purposes of comfort or entertainment, so you won't find television sets or computers in use, either in their homes or in their businesses. There are a few telephones in the colony, for business purposes, which ring often since business is good.

Their dress is simple, but not uniform. The men wear simple shirts and pants, mostly without pockets, held up by suspenders. The women wear unpatterned frocks, darks stockings and head coverings, not unlike much of rural America before the 1950s.

Families tend to be large, as there is much to be done and each member plays an integral part in ensuring the livelihood and security of the family, each in his or her own way.

While the Amish in Smyrna have in the past generally permitted themselves to be photographed, I strongly suspect that they'd rather not be subjected to tourists (or even newspeople) with cameras, and may object to being photographed on moral grounds, citing Exodus 20:4, considering a photograph to be a graven image. For these

reasons, other than to photograph their business operations for the purpose of this profile, I did not photograph the Amish people in Smyrna.

Farming is the traditional occupation of the Amish. When members of the Smyrna community came to Maine from Iowa, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee, they found the long winters and short growing seasons in Aroostook County to be a challenge, but one that they could meet. Making use of heated greenhouses and nurseries, they found that they could get an early start on the growing season, and their organic produce is sought after.

The Amish in Smyrna have also made use of another traditional Amish trait: craftsmanship. One of their businesses, Sturdi-Bilt, owned and operated by the Hochstetler family, employs roughly half the men in the community, constructing an assortment of buildings that can be used for garages, storage buildings, camps, and even residences.

Kauffman Metals manufactures metal roofs and siding. The business is owned by Norman Kauffman, a sharply intelligent man, who is probably older than he looks. Another Amish family in Smyrna operates Mt. Timoney Cycle Center, repairing and customizing bicycles. Durable rustic furniture is designed and built by Northeastern Rustic Furniture, operated by the Esch family.

Leather goods and horse harnesses can be found at the Cedar Meadow Harness Shop, and people come from all over the state for the organic produce which can be found at Pioneer Place U.S.A., a store operated by Chris Hilmy and his family, selling a large and diverse selection of products.



Lilley Farms is located in the same area, along Smyrna Center Road, that was settled by Nehemiah Leavitt around 1830.

For considerations of price, selection, and quality, you would do well to buy from the Amish in Smyrna.

While the greatest hub of activity in Smyrna today is centered around the Amish community, there are several other active farms in and around Smyrna, including Lilley Farms on Smyrna Center Road. R.C. Logging Supplies seemed to be doing a brisk business, as were other small businesses operating out of homes and small storefronts along Route 2 and 212.

Others have obviously closed long ago. Several empty and collapsing warehouses or potato barns can be seen along the tracks on Station Street, while only the one nearest to Route 2 appears to have been in recent use. Acres of rusting mill or farm machinery can be seen along the south side of Route 2 in Smyrna Mills, none of which seems likely to serve any future purpose except as scrap metal or the subject of photographs taken by curious passersby.

There are a few houses in Smyrna Mills itself, but most of Smyrna's population resides in the rural areas surrounding the town itself; on farms, many of them, or in country houses with large yards that were once in cultivation.



Kauffman Metals



A farm along Smyrna Center Road.



View from Route 2, near the Amish Colony



The East Branch of the Mattawamkeag River.

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

Copyright 2006

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>.

THE NORTHERN MAINE LAND MAN

Roger W. Ek

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

Heard about a real estate slump? Not here. I chose not to participate.
People want to be in Maine.

- 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
- Prentiss: 5 acres on a paved road with power and phone. Nice knoll for a camp or house, apple trees, driveway all in and a tractor trailer box will be left on site if you want it. It will be gone if you don't want it. \$11,900
- 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. Only 20 minutes from the university and a half hour to Bangor. 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. Heavily wooded and not cut for over 20 years. Close enough to Bangor and colleges to commute. \$35,000

Land, Camps, Farms, Businesses and even Homes. 3 acres to 20,000 acres. Buy your Maine land while you still can. ERA McPhail Realty, Lincoln, Maine

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

Straight From Nana Beth’s Kitchen!

Fall is my favorite time of year! My thoughts immediately go to apples ripe for picking, pumpkins on the vine and colored leaves. So, with fall in the air, I was trying to come up with a recipe that reminds me of that time of year, and the scent of apples hit me, (probably the scent of the candle I was burning, but hey, it works). So anyway, in an attempt to come up with a fall recipe, and the fact that apples are almost ready to pick, I thought this recipe might be appropriate. We all like the comfort foods that are associated with the cooler weather, and if you’ve got a good meatloaf recipe, this would be a great dessert to go with it, or try the Buttermilk Country Fried Chicken recipe I’ve included below, with your favorite veggies, for the main meal.

Apple Crisp with a Peanut Butter Twist

Bake at 350*
40 minutes or until golden brown

- 6 –8 green apples, pared and sliced

½ cup of water

2 Tablespoons of lemon juice

1 Tablespoon of cinnamon
- ¾ cup of flour

¾ cup of brown sugar

1/3 cup of peanut butter

¼ cup of margarine

Arrange apple slices in the bottom of a lightly oiled 9”x13” pan. Mix lemon juice & water, pouring over the apples. Sprinkle cinnamon on top. Mix remaining ingredients until crumbly. Spread evenly over the apples.

Serve with a small scoop of vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

Mix 2 Tablespoons of caramel sauce with a Tablespoon of peanut butter, heat till smooth and pour over the dessert for a decadent sauce.

Buttermilk Country Fried Chicken

Prep. Time: 30 minutes (Ready in 2 hours and 30 minutes)

1. In large shallow nonmetal dish or large resealable food storage plastic bag, combine all marinade ingredients; mix well. Add chicken pieces; turn to coat. Refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight to marinate.

- MARINADE

1 cup buttermilk

1 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)

½ teaspoon of salt

1 garlic clove, minced
- CHICKEN

2 lbs. Boneless, skinless chicken breasts halves and /or thighs

¾ cup all-purpose flour

2 Tablespoons cornstarch

1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

1 teaspoon paprika

Oil for frying

2. In pie pan, combine flour and all remaining chicken ingredients except oil; mix well. Heat about ½ inch oil in 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat.

3. Remove chicken pieces from marinade a few at a time, allowing excess to drip off. Roll chicken in flour mixture until well coated. Add chicken to hot oil in skillet, a few pieces at a time until all pieces are in skillet. Cover, cook over medium-high heat for 10 minutes or until deep golden brown. Discard marinade.

4. Uncover skillet. Turn chicken: cook an additional 5 to 8 minutes or until chicken is fork-ender and juices run clear. Drain chicken on several layers of paper towels. Serve warm, or refrigerate and serve cold.

8 servings.

If there are recipes you’d like to find, or have one to share, please email me at ec06@localnet.com or through the All Maine Matters email. Happy cooking!

Needed Reforms: Part 6 & 7

by Michael Fundalewicz

First, a note to our readers. I’m going to be adding another title to my articles’ list to refine their designation.

“Needed Reforms” was intended to, and will continue, address the domestic ills and needs of those of us who live in Maine, primarily, as well as the rest of the nation in general. These topics have covered issues ranging from alternative fuels to the zealalousness in our political hypocrisies. Though I had placed a finite number of article titles in this category, it has since expanded into an ongoing venture.

“What’s Next”, my new title, will deal with both foreign and domestic issues which do not directly effect us in our day to day lives. Articles ranging in subjects like the Middle East, Korea and the H5N1 Bird Flu to today’s headline news will be addressed in this category.

Now, to get back on track. For those of you who haven’t followed this column, # 6 deals with a “People’s Car” and # 7 is relative to President Kennedy’s “Space Race” time line.

Pete’s sake, hasn’t the administration put forth a decree to mandate the automobile manufacturers design and build a simple, efficient and cheap car that we can all drive using E-85? And to incorporate the “Kennedy” factor, why hasn’t a timed goal been established. This is nuts!

All we’ve been hearing is rhetoric about how we “can” change things. What’s changed? Anything? YUP...the price of gas; and it’s not going down either.

In addition to the meadow-muffins they’ve been serving us via promises of grandeur in a new efficient world that relies on something not yet tangible, nor have the foundations of such a fantasy even been laid, they’ve instead jeopardized the “dream” by creating further tension in the Middle East; Iran in particular. Though I agree Iran has to be stopped but let’s get real here; don’t go threatening the stability of yet another nation without first surveying our own situation first.

The same goes for the transportation industry. They’d rather fuel up an 18-wheeler and ship 3 cars from here to Florida on a flat-bed instead of putting them on a flat-car and short-hauling them to their final destination. Now that makes real sense doesn’t it!

Unless we ALL get off our duffs, snap out of our luxury-car-coma and demand that changes be made immediately, we’re gonna be in it for the long-haul and nothing will be left for our infants. That’s fact folks! Let ponder this and hard ok. Why, for And what about the “super-safe Alaskan Pipeline” that wasn’t supposed to effect the environment whatsoever? Well, since they had the infinite wis-

dom to turn things over to B.P., that’s “British Petroleum” for those who aren’t aware, why weren’t they making sure this company was minding the maintenance like they should have. Ultimately, due to the lack of intelligence, and you can take that as you see fit, we’ve now lost 40% of its production. And that’s not even counting the cost of the clean-up for the spills or the repairs.

Yes, we do have a few new “hybrid vehicles” on the road now. I’ll grant them that much. They’ve managed to make them somewhat efficient using hydrogen/electric, gas/electric and some newer ones can run on E-85. My first question is, however, have YOU seen one? And secondly, can YOU afford one? They cost more than the average house! I just hope they come with heat and hot running water so they’re livable.

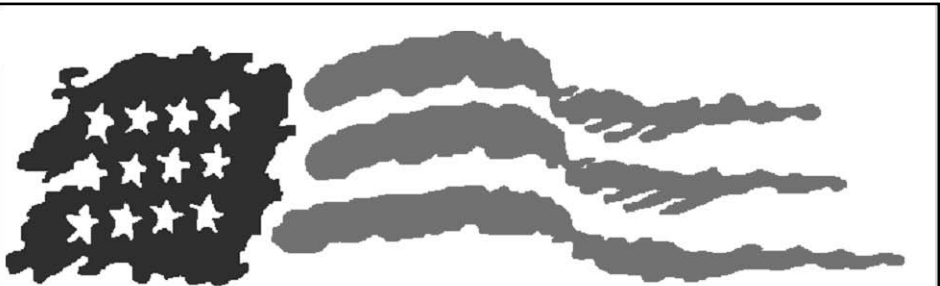
To top that off, where’s the nearest E-85 station? And to accommodate the hybrids, do local establishments or workplaces have metered outlets available to re-charge them? What’s the current price for a cubic foot of hydrogen? Can anyone out there give me an answer?

In short: We don’t have an affordable alternative vehicle and I truly don’t foresee one being made available within the next 20 years. In my opinion, the reason no on has put a timed goal on this “dreamscape” is because it’s just that, a dreamscape; for now.

Has anyone, in recent history brought up the subject of “mass-transit”? What if we had a passenger train that went north to south, Fort Kent to Boston. Would you take it? I would, in a heartbeat! From wherever I stopped, I could either take a hybrid taxi or rent an electric car, depending on the distance I needed to travel.

The Japanese, the Germans, the French and the British have been dependant on mass transit for years. That’s why we’re the largest consumers of fossil fuels on the planet. We prefer to utilize gas-guzzling road-hogs instead of common sense.

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.



TABOR

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS.COM

It's What MAINE Needs



Magic City Morning Star

146 Katahdin Avenue

Millinocket, Maine 04462

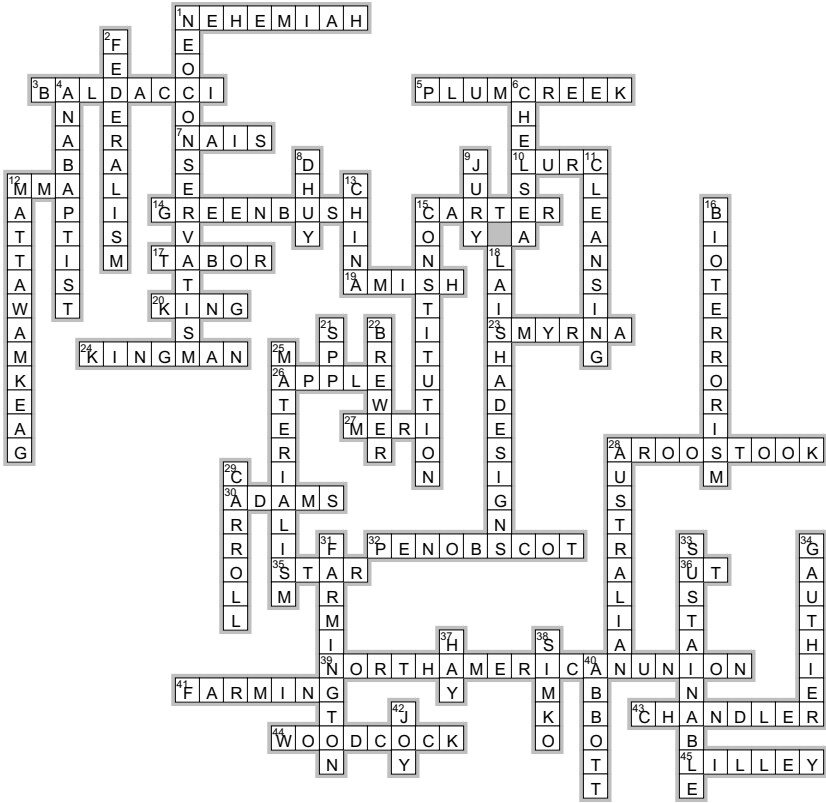
(207) 723-4456

editor@magic-city-news.com

A publication of the Maine Free Press LLC

“all the news that interests me”

http://magic-city-news.com



Created with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com

Media Bias Against Guns, Part 2

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.

The 1999 special issue of Newsweek entitled “America Under the Gun” provided over 15,000 words and numerous graphics on the topic of gun ownership, but not one mention of self-defense with a firearm. Under the heading “America’s Weapons of Choice,” the table captions were: “Top firearms traced to crimes, 1998”; “Firearm deaths per 100,000 people”; and “Percent of homicides using firearms.” There was nothing at all on “Top firearms used in self-defense” or “Rapes, homicides, and other crimes averted with firearms.” The magazine’s graphic, gut-wrenching pictures all showed people who had been wounded by guns. No images were offered of people who had used guns to save lives or prevent injuries.

To investigate television coverage, I collected stories reported during 2001 on the evening news broadcasts and morning news shows of ABC, CBS and NBC. Several segments focused on the increase in gun sales after September 11, and a few of these shows actually went so far as to list the desire for self-defense as a reason for that increase. But despite over 190,000 words of coverage on gun crimes, a mere 580 words, on a single news broadcast, were devoted to the use of a gun to prevent crime - a story about an off-duty police officer who helped stop a school shooting.

Another sign of bias is in the choice of authorities quoted. An analysis of New York Times news articles over a two-year period shows that Times reporters overwhelmingly cite pro-gun control academics in their articles. From February 2000 to February 2002, the Times cited nine strongly pro-control academics a total of 20 times; one neutral academic once; and no academic who was skeptical that gun control reduces crime.

It’s not that anti-control academics are non-existent. In 1999, 294 academics from institutions as diverse as Harvard,

Stanford, Northwestern, the University of Pennsylvania and UCLA released an open letter to Congress stating that the new gun laws being proposed at that time were “ill-advised.” None of these academics was quoted in New York Times reports on guns over a two-year period.

MISLEADING POLLS

While polls can provide us with important insights about people’s views, they can also mislead in subtle ways. In the case of weapons, poll questions are almost always phrased with the assumption that gun control is either a good thing or, at worst, merely ineffective. The possibility that it could increase crime is never acknowledged. Consider these questions from some well-known national polls:

- Do you think that stricter gun control laws would reduce the amount of violent crime in this country a lot, a little, or not at all? (Pew Research Center/Newsweek) Do you think stricter gun control laws would reduce the amount of violent crime in this country, or not? (ABC News/Washington Post)
- Do you think stricter gun control laws would, or would not, reduce violent crime? (CBS News)

I reviewed 17 national and seven state surveys and found that not one offered respondents a chance to consider whether gun control might increase crime. This omission of a “would increase crime” option creates a bias in two different ways. First, there is an “anchoring” effect. We know that the range of options people are offered in a poll affects how they answer, because many respondents instinctively choose the “middle ground.” By only providing the choices that gun control reduces crime somewhere between “a lot” to “not at all,” the middle ground becomes “a little.” Second, when the possibility that gun control could increase crime is removed from polls, this affects the terms of the national debate. When people who hold this view never even

hear their opinions mentioned in polls and news stories, they begin to think no one else shares their view.

There are other subtle biases in the construction of these surveys. When a survey questions whether gun control will be “very important” for the respondent at the voting booth, the media often hear a “yes” answer as evidence that the person wants more gun control. Rarely do they consider that someone might regard a politician’s position on gun control as important because he or she opposes it.

This blurring of opposite positions in one question causes gun control to be ranked more highly as an election issue than it should be.

DEBUNKING THE MYTH OF ACCIDENTAL SHOOTINGS

A final area strongly affected by the media’s anti-gun bias is that of accidental shootings. When it comes to this topic, reporters are eager to write about guns. Many of us have seen the public service ads showing the voices or pictures of children between the ages of four and eight, which imply that there is an epidemic of accidental deaths of these young children.

Data I have collected show that accidental shooters overwhelmingly are adults with long histories of arrests for violent crimes, alcoholism, suspended or revoked driver’s licenses and involvement in car crashes. Meanwhile, the annual number of accidental gun deaths involving children under ten - most of these being cases where someone older shoots the child - is consistently a single digit number. It is a kind of media archetype story to report on “naturally curious” children shooting themselves or other children - though in the five years from 1997 to 2001 the entire United States averaged only ten cases a year where a child under ten accidentally shot himself or another child.

In contrast, in 2001 bicycles were much more likely to result in accidental deaths than guns. Fully 93 children under the age of ten drowned accidentally in bathtubs. Thirty-six children under five drowned in buckets in 1998. Yet few reporters crusade against buckets or bathtubs.

When crimes are committed with guns, there is a somewhat natural inclination toward eliminating all guns. While understandable, this reaction actually endangers people’s lives because it ignores how important guns are in protecting people from harm. Unbalanced media coverage exaggerates this, leaving most Americans with a glaringly incomplete picture of the dangers and benefits of firearms. This is how the media bias against guns hurts society and costs lives.

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 printed Part 1 of Mr. Lott’s speech in our August issue.

Reprinted by permission from Imprimis, the national speech digest of Hillsdale College, www.hillsdale.edu.

“Concentrated power has always been the enemy of liberty.”
Ronald Reagan

To Take Action

1. CALL OR WRITE BOTH OF YOUR UNITED STATES SENATORS AND YOUR CONGRESSMAN. *Tell them you oppose the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) and you want a Congressional investigation into the secret efforts by SPP working groups now underway at the Department of Commerce. Tell them you demand full disclosure of these activities.*

HOW TO CALL: Place a call to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121 Ask for your Senators and Representative by name and the switchboard operator will connect you to his/her office.

HOW TO WRITE:

Senator _____
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

2. CALL OR WRITE THE WHITE HOUSE AND PROTEST THE SPP

The more pressure we put on the White House, the greater chance to kill the efforts to create the North American Union. They are operating in secret because they don’t want you to know. Let them know you are on to the scheme and demand that it be stopped.

HOW TO CALL THE WHITE HOUSE: 202-456-1111 - leave your message

HOW TO WRITE:
President of the United States
The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500

3. Share your “Fact Sheet” and this alert with as many friends and neighbors as possible. Permission is granted to reprint as many copies as you can.

Plans Moving Forward to Create a North American Union

Congressman Tom Tancredo, (R-Colo) has demanded that the Bush Administration fully disclose the activities of the SPP working groups, including revealing the names of the members of those groups. No answers to his demands have yet been received from the Bush Administration, though the activity continues to move forward.

NAFTA SUPER HIGHWAY

Quietly, the Bush Administration is working to advance a plan to build super highways through the heart of the United States to transport goods from Mexico and Canada. The highways are part of the original North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA). The plan is now being advanced through an operation called “North America’s SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc” (NASCO). Since being exposed to the general public, NASCO is now denying it is building the highways, but plans go forward.

Beginning at the southern tip of Mexico, passing through Laredo, TX, the highway heads to an “inland port” in Kansas City, where a “Sentry System” will electronically inspect the cargos, before they head East or West, or continue on North through Duluth, Minnesota and into Canada.

The Super Transnational System includes multiple lanes for cars and trucks. Speed limits will be relaxed as well as safety inspections for vehicles from Mexico and Canada. Trucks will be allowed to carry extra tonnage and be extra long. A Railway system will travel up the center of the highway.

Several such highways are contemplated. Environmental impact studies have already been completed. In Texas, efforts are already underway as 584,000 acres have been targets for takings through Eminent Domain.

KANSAS CITY CUSTOMS PORT TO BE MEXICAN SOIL

Kansas City will serve as an “inland port” for the NAFTA Superhighway. It will be the first, and perhaps ONLY check point and disbursement center for trucks bringing their cargos into this country from Mexico and Canada. The official organization in charge of setting up the port is KCSmartPort.

As part of the inland port, a Mexican Customs office is being established. The Kansas City Council has voted a \$2.5 million loan to KCSmartPort to build the Mexican customs facility in the West Bottoms near Kemper Area on city-owned land east of Liberty Street and mostly south of Interstate 670.

According to e-mails and other documents obtained by World Net Daily, top executives with the KCSmartPort project, suggest the facility “would need to be designated as Mexican sovereign territory and meet certain requirements.”

The negotiations with Mexico and the U.S. State Department for the final approval of the Mexican Customs office are proceeding in secret.

THE “AMERO,” MERGING U.S., CANADIAN AND MEXICAN CURRENCIES

Though it will take some years to finalize, plans are being laid to create a new currency for the coming North American Union, much like the Euro replaced the currencies of individual countries of the European Union. The Amero would replace the U.S. Dollar, Peso and Canadian Dollar.

The plan has been specifically promoted through Dr. Pastor’s book, the blueprint for the rest of the SPP plan, and now may be officially moving through the establishment of a new SPP effort called the “Financial Services Work Group.” To date, it is too early to tell exactly when such a change would move forward, but it is being discussed in high places.

The issue is so controversial that U.S. officials deny it has even been discussed.

A NEW GOVERNMENT FOR NORTH AMERICA

Many Americans simply do not believe that the United States would voluntarily give up its sovereignty to a North American Union. Those who think this way somehow believe that there will be a vote of the American people to decide.

It is little understood that such actions are done incrementally, behind closed doors, until the plans are so far along that stopping them becomes nearly impossible. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was sold as simply a way for American producers to broaden their markets. So too, was the European Union sold to the proud, ancient nations

of that continent. Today, a new, socialist government rules them, complete with a ruling body, a new currency, a tax system, court system and a defense system -- all the ingredients necessary for a government.

Operating in secret, SPP working groups are efficiently laying the groundwork for the destruction of the United States of America. Once the North American Union is in place, we will then have to compromise our very unique nation of protected freedoms with the socialist nations of Mexico and Canada, where property rights, justice, economics and natural rights are not recognized. Government decides.

The Security and Prosperity Partnership is about neither. It is not a plan simply to help sell American goods to larger markets. It is not a plan to help keep our nation safer in a security partnership with Mexico and Canada. Shutting our borders, not opening them, would do far more to accomplish that goal. The SPP is about creating a continental government.

The SPP is an invasion of our culture and our economy. It’s about the redistribution of American wealth and industry. It is the end of over 250 years of an historic experiment in freedom – unless Americans across the nation say no – now.

This report is produced by The American Policy Center, 70 Main Street, Suite 23, Warrenton, VA 20186. 540-341-8911 <http://www.americapolicy.org>. Much of the information for this report was contained in material produced by investigative journalist Jerome Corsi. His reports on the North American Union may be found on World Net Daily, <http://www.worldnetdaily.com>. Human Events, <http://www.humanevents.com>. More information was provided by Dr. Steven Yates, "The United States of North America," The ecologic Powerhouse, <http://www.freedom.org>. The blueprint for the North American Union may be viewed in it’s entirety on the web site of the Council on Foreign Relations, <http://www.cfr.org> and the official reports of the SPP working groups, now operating out of the U.S. Department of Commerce, may be viewed at <http://www.spp.gov>.

Decade of Sustainable Development: Marxist Indoctrination of Children

by Laura Adelman

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DESTROYS FREEDOM, CREATES TYRANNY

The goal of public schools is not to educate children but to indoctrinate them.

Soaked in Marxist/Communist propaganda, earth worship, and anti-Christian bias, national standards - the federal curriculum in all public schools since 1994 - are intended for the transformation of American society into a government-controlled collective. As Dr. Shirley McCune stated in a 1989 Governor's Conference on Education, "We no longer see the teaching of facts and information as the primary outcome of education." The senior director of the Mid-continent Educational Laboratory, McCune explained further, "What's happening in America today is a total transformation of our society. We have moved into a new era."

By its very definition, the "total transformation of our society" first requires every aspect of our life as we know it be destroyed: Government, economy and lifestyle. To accomplish the destruction is a tool called "sustainable development."

At first blush, you'd think sustainable development would pertain to construction or physical planning, which - in part - it does. Sustainable development is connected to mass transit, stacked, crowded housing plans and the creation of millions of acres of wild areas where human access is restricted or banned. But the scope of sustainable development is much broader, and is being implemented to impact every facet of human life.

Imposed by the United Nations, sustainable development is key to the destruction of American culture, values, ethics and foundational principles; it is designed to dictate everything people do, think and believe, and will recreate how government and business operate. Our tax dollars are funding this societal transformation as evidenced in our public schools, where 2005-2014 is declared the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN's Earth Charter is an "important ethical framework" and "educational tool" for use in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. The Earth Charter, says UNESCO, "contains fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society." A global society, also called "one-world government" is the true purpose of sustainable development. Particularly revealing is one of the primary principles emphasized by the Earth Charter.

Under this principle, there will be "acceptance of the constraints imposed by preservation of the common good is indispensable to the exercise of freedom." Translation: The people will meekly submit to imposed restrictions for whatever most benefits government - also known as "the common good," a Communist precept. And, though enslaved, people will be told they are free. This principle is one of several classified by the UN as being "of

the utmost importance," and to which all member nations (including the United States) must embrace.

Under Earth Charter/sustainable development principles, freedom is redefined as acceptance of constraints, a bold-face lie. The lies are necessary, because for sustainable development to rule, true freedom - America, the land of the free - needs to be destroyed. Enter the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the transformation of society.

This is why our children know very little of their blessed heritage, our Founding Fathers and the freedom they won through prayer and battle, sacrifice, honor, commitment and wisdom. American independence was defined upon this basic truth: That freedom, life, liberty, property, is granted not by man, but from the Creator God (of the Bible), and it is government's primary responsibility is to defend those unalienable rights. Under sustainable development, public schools, led by useful idiots or those too scared to speak up for truth, are indoctrinating for the destruction of freedom. Our culture, history, beliefs, economic system and founding must be washed from the minds of the next generation, because sustainable development principles, as defined in the Earth Charter, are completely antithetical to America and freedom.

So, instead of preserving our heritage, kids are taught radical environmentalism, an efficient tool to implement the sustainable development system. Under the radical green-washing curriculum, human existence is subjugated to that of toads and hoot owls because each person's "ecological footprint" could destroy "critical habitat" for a salamander, impacting the whole of nature. Therefore, government must dictate how we work, what we eat, where we live, where we go, how we get there, the goal is to control our behaviors and decisions.

Sustainable development and it's founding Earth Charter is integral to the new purpose of public schools: As McCune accurately described it, "the transformation of [American] society." The next generation is being indoctrinated to not only accept the radical enslavement that is sustainable development, but to encourage its emergence. Its principles are intended to establish world government, a tyrannical power.

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

The Evolution of Homeowner Associations

by Shu Bartholomew

A conservative estimate has it that one in six Americans, or over 57 million people live in some 270,000 mandatory membership common ownership developments across the country. These include condominiums, cooperatives, townhouses and single-family homes that are all part of a homeowners' association. Those numbers keep growing.

Today, over half of all new housing built nationally is part of an association. However, many municipal jurisdictions mandate HOAs so in those towns, cities and counties virtually all new housing includes automatic membership in an association. In fact, in some of the fast growing areas of the country it is impossible to buy a house that does not include an association of some sort.

Contrary to the glossy ads promising carefree living, recreational amenities for pennies a day and the promise of protected and enhance property values, far from an asset, HOAs are a liability.

The first thing housing consumers should understand is that associations were never intended to benefit them. They benefit municipal governments, builders/developers and the growing industry that feeds off associations. This \$30 billion annual industry includes managers, attorneys, landscape companies, pool companies, CPAs, insurance companies and now, banks as well.

One of the main purposes of an association, and the reason they are required to be part of all new construction in many parts of the country, is that of a vehicle for local governments to shunt their responsibilities off onto the private sector, while still taxing the citizens - at the full rate. What this means for the taxpayer, homeowner and voter, is that they are not only double taxed but also living under the auspices of another layer of government - a private government - one that is not bound by the protections afforded in the Constitution.

Because homeowners associations are "private" enclaves, developers can increase density, thus building- and selling - more units than would otherwise be permissible. Moreover, since the streets, sidewalks, lighting and other facilities will be maintained privately, they are not always built to code. Since substandard construction is considerably less expensive, this maximizes the builders' profits but saddles the homeowners with the cost of maintaining expensive infrastructure that all too often breaks down.

Another equally important fact to keep in mind is that failure by the association to properly maintain the common areas will adversely affect property values. Furthermore, unfunded future repairs and replacements could easily result in enormous special

assessments. Special assessments of \$10,000, \$20,000, \$50,000 even \$90,000 are not unheard of. Associations have the power to foreclose to collect these assessments.

However, the physical condition of the common elements of the association is not the only thing the homeowners are left holding the bag on. Because associations are private entities, local governments and law enforcement are reluctant to get involved in the event of problems. Citizens who seek protection from their elected and appointed officials for illegal actions are often told that their problems are civil matters to be litigated in court, since they occurred on "private property".

Homeowner's associations enforce enormous powers - powers real government can only dream of having. These powers, and their abuses by boards and management often lead to arbitrary rules that give the governing committee power over property owners. For example, recorded deed restrictions have gone from as few as one page to hundreds of pages long, controlling everything from the weight of a dog to the exact shade of white of the interior window treatments. Along the way, some associations have even taken it upon themselves to approve reading material and clothing articles kept on the premises. As completely ridiculous as this may seem, newspaper archives and court records are full of such stories and cases.

And state legislators, at the insistence of the homeowner association industry, amend state statutes increasing the powers associations already enjoy. The most heinous of these laws are the statutory power to fine and then to foreclose, in some states, to foreclose non-judicially. In the absence of any adult supervision and oversight, these powers are being misused and abused on a daily basis.

Consider the case of Wenonah Blevins, an 82 year old Texas widow, whose mortgage free \$150,000 house was sold on the courthouse steps for \$5,000 to satisfy an \$814 assessment. What is so incredible about this case is that Mrs. Blevins had remitted a check for the full amount shown on her bill from the association but the association refused to accept her payment, preferring to foreclose instead.

There are many myths and misstatements associated with this type of housing. Do not be fooled by the glossy ads promising carefree living, enhanced property values, recreational amenities and yes, even romance. The reality is very different. It means giving up part of the American dream. It means leaving the American zone.

Shu Bartholomew hosts an online radio show called "On the Commons" dedicated to exposing the problems of Homeowner's associations. Her website is Onthecommons.com.



Route 2, Dyer Brook Road

CUSTOM BUILDER

Robert Gauthier

P.O. Box 760, Lincoln, Maine 04457

SPECIALIZING IN LOG HOMES

Fax207-794-6463

Telephone207-794-8540

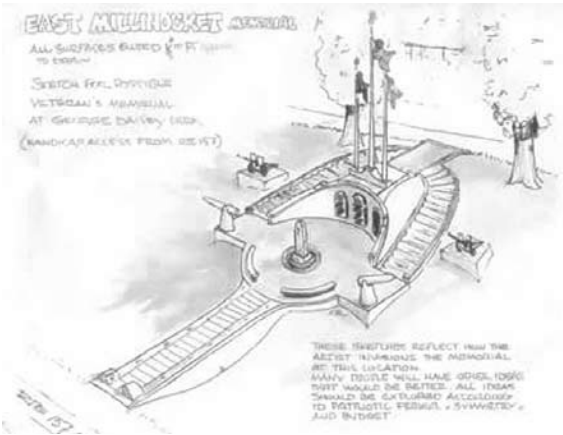
Cellular207-290-2032

MAINE is #1

IN TAX BURDEN

IT'S YOUR MONEY!

SUPPORT TABOR!



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 Daisy Park, and the current memorial will be moved to Daisy 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.

Why We Must Advance the Principles of Freedom

by Tom DeWeese

“Freedom.” It’s the most used, most misunderstood, most misused word in the English language.

Every movement, every revolution, every special-interest campaign uses the word Freedom to explain their motives and to draw us in to their cause.

Everybody wants freedom. We fight under the banner of “Live Free or Die.” But, no cause ever won a campaign or a war under the banner “be happy under tyranny.”

But “Freedom” is also a word that can be used to enslave us. The word “Freedom,” in the wrong hands, with the wrong motives or agenda can be a butcher’s knife.

What do you mean when you cry out for freedom? Che Guevara, the man who helped set up the brutal communist regime in Cuba, was called a Freedom Fighter. Mao Tse Tung was called a Freedom Fighter. “Free the masses,” cried Lenin.

There are those who tell us that that a hungry man is not free. That for everyone to be free we must all first be sure everyone is fed. We must all take the responsibility to share the wealth to assure that every man, woman and child marches forward together before any of us can be free.

Others tell us that we can’t truly be free until we are all safe. We cannot be free, they say, as long as people own guns. How many times have you heard it said, “I would gladly give up some of my freedoms to be safe from the threat of terrorism?” Or my favorite: “If you have nothing to hide then you have nothing to fear from intrusive government searches and data banks. We need these intrusions to preserve our freedoms.”

Some say that the only way to assure we are free is to live a healthy life. The only way for that to happen, according to them, is for government to rule, regulate and control what they eat.

Others believe that fencing in property takes away everyone’s freedom of movement. The Indians, they tell us, were free of fences. Private property, they say, stifles freedom. And still more tell us that borders among countries close us off from each other and stifle trade and commerce. Open the borders and give us “Free Trade.”

There are whole schools of economics teaching us that taxing the rich evens the playing field and frees everyone else of the burden of having to be responsible for earning a living. Some people, say these academics, just aren’t cut out for such tasks. Life is oppressive. We must free people of the burdens of life.

The new government school curriculum frees the children from the burden of having to know how to spell properly, or memorize boring dates or multiplication tables. That gives them the freedom to be creative and to think loftier thoughts beyond stifling academic rules.

But if you truly mean to live a life in freedom, be very careful about how the word is being used. Because such use of metaphors and ambiguous weasel words are really a trap. In these cases, the goal isn’t freedom. It’s total control. It feeds on your good will and generous nature. But it doesn’t mean freedom.

George Orwell once wrote, “Political language...is designed to make lies sound truthful...and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.”

TYRANNY VS FREEDOM

So what is “Freedom?” In the political sense, there is only one crucial principle that separates freedom from slavery: the absence of physical coercion from government.

There isn’t good slavery Vs bad slavery. There aren’t good dictatorships Vs bad dictatorships. The good gang Vs the bad gang. There is Freedom Vs Tyranny.

If you truly stand for Freedom, then you are accepting the premise that you have natural or God-given rights. Rights you were born with. It means you stand for individual liberty. That you have the right to your own life; that you have the right to the fruits of your labor; and you have the right to pursue your own happiness.

Only a totalitarian would tell you there is no time for joy. Only one who wants to own your life would say that the drive to win a ball game, or a boat race, or a track meet are a waste of time. Human joy and voluntary action are the rewards of freedom.

And it’s vital to protect intellectual freedom -- the freedom to own your thoughts and ideas. Intellectual freedom cannot exist without economic freedom.

If you accept the premise of Freedom, then, in order to achieve it, you must also uphold a political system that guarantees and protects these rights. There is only one such system. Capitalism. Free Enterprise. And I don’t mean the misnamed euphemism: “Free Trade.”

All of these things are the essential tools of maintaining a free society. Step on any of them, for any reason, and you begin to destroy the existence of a free society.

In a Free Society there is no need for agents of the government to fan out among us to gather data, inspect the quality of products or license services. You do that with your freely made decisions and dollars.

You choose which products to buy and which services to use. That creates competition. To attract your dollars, companies lower prices, improve the quality of products and services. Those who don’t, go out of business. No need for meat inspectors, health inspectors, building inspectors and the like. No need for government to set utility rates, cable rates, or regulate phone companies.

In a Free Society, government shouldn’t be in the energy business. It shouldn’t be holding congressional hearings to rule on the kind of toilet you should have in your home.

And in a Free Society -- monopolies cannot exist. Today, we like to blame big corporations for many of the bad things in our lives. It’s true many are run by some very nasty people. They use their wealth and power to promote their own political agendas. They can flood the marketplace with inferior products, charge outrageous prices and suck the life out of their competition. But, you see, they can only do that if we let go of our control over the government and allow them to use it against us for their own gain.

Today, big corporations work hand in hand with government. They spend big bucks to buy politicians to pass laws to hurt competition or to give themselves most favored status. And that’s why we have monopolies.

A monopoly can only exist through the sanction of some function of government, either through licensing, franchising or some other sort of protection. In fact, by watching this process, one major truth comes screaming out at you -- the bigger government becomes -- the more power major corporations have over our lives.

That’s because free enterprise -- your right to choose -- and your individual ability to control the free market - disappears. Corporations spend more of their time and resources padding the pockets of politicians in order to gain special favors, than caring about the products they want to sell you.

The politicians get more powerful. More agencies spring up in Washington. The corporations get a bigger share of the pot. And the consumer is just the pawn in the game.

In a free society, you are never the pawn. You control the game. If you want to limit the power of corporations, limit the size and power of government. It’s that simple.

Now, if this all sounds completely bizarre, or utopian, or quaint, or old fashioned to you, then that is a testimony of how far we have come from the Free Society our Founding Fathers created for us. Because all of these things were once American ideals and policies. And it was during that time in American history that the United States became the most advanced, prosperous, healthy, happy place on earth to live.

Ever-growing government power and the end of reason.

What changed? We surrendered the ability to reason and to take responsibility for our own lives -- instead giving it to government to make sure we are safe.

There is an endless supply of examples to show how government intrusion into the market place and our personal lives destroy a free society. In fact, what was once a slow process by government-- perhaps moving so slowly that many didn’t even notice -- has become a tsunami.

The public school system is a major one. Here, the very ideals of liberty and a free society are being totally obliterated as public schools become used at propaganda tools rather than a place for teaching basic academics.

Government education is an oxy moron. Government school curriculum is simply the political agenda of whatever gang is in charge at the time.

Today, schools are busy making patients out of our children in order to pump them with mind altering drugs and strip search their souls through government sanctioned mental health screening. And the Bush Administration actually called such mental health screening the New Freedom Commission.

There are now more psychologists on the payroll of public schools than teachers, as we, the taxpayers, are forced to pay an average of \$10,000 per year, per student to educate our children in government institutions that teach no academics. The result is an abuse of innocent children beyond description.

These things don’t happen in a free society. Because teachers in a free society understand they are your children and not just a resource for a global village.

The imposition of environmental regulations has become the greatest threat to ownership and control of private property.

Our Supreme Court has now declared that there is no private property and that any community is free to take any property it wants for private development. Again, the Sustainable Development public/private partnerships help the elite to profit from someone else’s pain.

The politicians get more power. Their buddies, the chosen developers, make money building the project. The real estate agents have a new product to sell. The community makes more tax revenue. Everybody’s happy in the well-ordered society. Of course the property owner has his dreams shattered, but the common good must always be considered over a few malcontents.

The legalized assault on private property has given rise to a horde of powerful non-elected government agencies like planning commissions, transportation commissions, homeowner associations, neighborhood councils, and stakeholders consensus councils.

It provides a power structure to an army of activists called non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who work in partnership with all the councils and associations to make and enforce policy. There is no place in a Free Society for the legalized theft of private property.

Now we see these controls spreading to new areas of our lives. Most recent is a new kind of tag system is now being imposed on the farms of the nation, called the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

Its purpose is the same tired excuse -- protect the common good. Well, they don’t exactly say it that way. This time it’s to protect the national food system from Mad Cow and other dreamed up disasters.

Small farmers find they have to tag all of their animals and register them with the US Department of Agriculture. So extreme are the regulations, that, for example, owners have to register and tag every single animal on the farm. If they move even one, they have to notify the USDA.

The financial burden is so great on the small, mom and pop farms, the only possible result will be for them to go out of business -- leaving all of our food to be grown by massive farm corporations.

No one is served by such idiocy. Of course, it’s not really about protection of anyone. It’s about control. The end result is a soft fascism leading to a police state.

Ban it! Ban it! Ban it!

The true purpose of these policies is the implementation of Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development has three components: global land use, global education, and global population control and reduction. Sustainable Development is anti-free enterprise, anti- individual liberty and anti-limited government. Sustainable Development has no place in a free society.

A free society protects its property owners and businesses and helps them to go about their lives, unencumbered.

A free society doesn’t set up spy mechanisms to track the whereabouts of all of its people through a national ID card, as has now been established in the Patriot Act and the Real ID Act -- no matter what the excuse or current crisis.

A free society doesn’t close down whole industries and towns at the whim of special interests groups who use made up excuses like spotted owls.

A free society honors its borders and protects its people from outside invasion. It doesn’t give the hard earned wealth of its people to criminals who ignore our laws and our borders to invade us.

And in a free society, government doesn’t tell its citizens where they can or can’t place a manger scene at Christmas.

But today, now that the floodgates are open to allow government intrusion into any and all aspects of our lives, politics has become a power struggle between two very similar camps. Republicans. Democrats. Left. Right. Liberals. Conservatives. Twiddle Dum. Twiddle Dee.

The bigger government gets, the more money there is for politicians to make and the more power they have to wield -- the less interest they have in a quaint idea about limited government and human freedom.

Political parties that have become drunk with power are not sober enough to remember their platforms, their histories, their promises, or their oath of office.

And so the dream of a free society grows ever dimmer. Instead we grow almost immune to the daily invasion by government into our lives. We endure massive restraints on the free market as vital products are banned.

DDT is banned, because a special interest group says so. Now millions over the world die needlessly because there’s now nothing strong enough to counter the swarms of mosquitoes that carry malaria. Our own cities are threatened by West Nile Disease. It doesn’t have to be that way.

Oil companies are banned from drilling oil we so desperately need. In ANWR, and in the Gulf of Mexico, there is more oil than we may ever need. We could completely end our dependency of any foreign oil. It could end the threat of terrorism. We could watch the economy soar. But we can’t because the agenda of those with power and money control the Congress. It doesn’t have to be that way.

There are movements to ban over the counter natural supplements, and fast food, and air conditioning, and recreational vehicles, and the consumption of meat, and cars, and suburban housing, and the family pet, and plastics, and fireplaces, and on and on.

All because one or one hundred special interests have a political agenda to do it. And because we have surrendered to them control of our government. The floodgates have been opened.

Ban it. Ban it. Ban it. Ban it. These are the sounds of the bombs going off in a war for control. The war against freedom.

The one statement that should never be uttered in a free society is: “ban it.” A free society cannot exist under this weight.

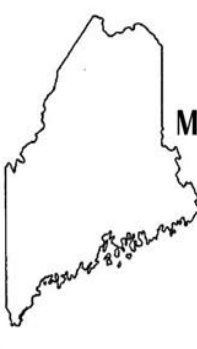
Tom DeWeese is president of the American Policy Center and editor of the DeWeese Report. Contact information: apcmail@americanpolicy.org



“If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.”

”

James Madison



Maine Leaseholders Association

For information, call
723-4476

Letters to the Editor

Celebrating the So-Called Surplus

Speaker Richardson and Governor Baldacci are hiding 800 pound gorillas in their state house offices, while showing us a yellowbird gaily flitting outside their windows.

That’s how they boast about a “state surplus,” when Augusta owes hundreds of millions to hospitals, and has an unfunded liability of \$5 billion.

If these failures, with the worst economy in the nation, aren’t gloom, what is? If raising fees by over \$1 Billion and exceeding LD 1 spending caps doesn’t highlight their failure, what will? If losing the most youth and the highest tax burden doesn’t invite doom, what does?

Richardson glibly offers flim and flam on behalf of the Governor and his Democrat Majority. He’s mastered the Simpson defense; as Homer told Bart, the best excuse is always: “It was like this when I got here.”

Richardson says Senator Woodcock “is not being candid.” Just how candid are Richardson and Baldacci? How do they reconcile their Catholic faith with support for aborting the lives of infants? How do they reconcile hiding the facts from us?

Richardson doubtless knows legislators who believe in “open marriage,” a right to extramarital “recreation.” Is he worried about them proposing to eliminate adultery as grounds for divorce? Or that those guilty of OUI will propose the elimination of drunk driving laws? If not, why is Richardson so concerned about Senator Woodcock’s personal beliefs?

Because Baldacci and hit man Richardson are terrified you’ll notice the 800 pound gorilla that is their failed economy.

Joy Schaeffer
Brunswick

DUI Trumps Murder??

It’s very puzzling that Mel Gibson’s photo and details of his DUI make front page news for days, yet on the same day of his arrest, a man walked into a Jewish Federation office in Seattle, shot and killed one woman, and then wounded five other women. Both happened on the same day with different takes.

USA Today had Gibson’s picture on its front page while the murder was put on page three with one small paragraph. Gibson not only got big headlines, but even was written about in USA Today’s forum.

Boy! Talk about notoriety! Also, even the Anti-Definition League, on its website, gave second billing to the murder, and the ADL’s heading “Mel Gibson’s Apology for Tirade Insufficient” was put first, before the murder? Please explain THAT, ADL!

Where is the outrage by the Jewish community about the murder and woundings? It appears getting Gibson is more important than a murder of a woman and wounding of five others. Sticks & stones be damned! This is poor judgement when murder becomes secondary to some idiot mouthing off while drunk!

Speaking of outrage, why is none coming from all the Arabs and others who came from middle east countries and living in the US and also Maine now? I’m speaking, of course, about Hezbollah. Pro or con? Who knows? Are they afraid to show their true loyalties? Note to them: When you become an American and take the oath, your loyalties are to America and no other country, no matter where you lived in the past. No ifs, ands, or buts about it!

I’ll close with this elongated view: Some people make mountains out of molehills and vice versa. I taught college with an Arab and a Jew many years ago. Suffice it to say that after two years working with them, it became apparent that they hated each other. I won’t go into details, but they did. So, concerning this outrageous battle between Hezbollah and Israel, who is to say which is the worst combatant? Both sides are killing civilians. As a retired old warrior, I recall an old song from the 60s: “Nobody is right if everybody is wrong.”

I can’t recall ever being told by generals, from World War II to the present, to hate your enemy. But in the case of Arabs and Jews, this is not only taught, but it is both sides war cry, sad to say. And of course, we are talking about a religious war just like our crusade in Iraq.

Don’t think it’s true? Just move a Somali community to a Jewish one and watch the sparks. Of course, in Maine, we are now being instructed by the federal government to integrate ASAP. My view is slow down and give all Mainers time to digest this influx so we can become integrated, not en masse.

Our military men and women are stuck in the Middle East losing arms and legs via IEDs versus Arabs hacking them off. Sorri, but I don’t respect any culture – AKA “multiculturalism” -- in this country or anywhere who have such a lack of respect for humanity. Ask an American woman how they treat their women. Enough said?

I hope people coming to Maine forget their culture. If they think treating their women as second class citizens is okay, go home!

Frank “Smiling Jack” Slason, Somerville, ME

It Happens Every Day!

Forwarded from real estate advertiser Roger Ek with the subject line “It Happens Every Day”:

Hello,

While on vacation in maine last week i picked up the “All Maine Matters” paper and found some land for sale I might be interested in buying. I was wondering if you can send me some more info on the 45 acres in lowell maine and any others of at least 20 acres. Thank you for your time.

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

Regarding John Churchill

In your August issue, ou published an article co-authored by Rep. John Churchill. Your readers should be aware that in the 2004 election, Mr. Churchill received an “F” rating from the NRA.

Mr. Churchill, a retired state trooper, has made statements that only police should have guns. His kind have no respect for the Constitution and in return have no credibility in my book.

On a positive note, you publish a fine newspaper. I will not allow one bad apple to ruin the whole barrel.

Blackstone
Sherman, ME

Mystery Photo Winner

I recognize the barn well. It’s on Route 11 and greets one as they cross into “The County,” on the east side of the road.

I always thought it was a shame that this magnificent barn wasn’t preserved by the state....but they have focused all of their efforts on southern Maine farms/barns.

Awesome newspaper, guys!

Jim Cyr
Caribou

Editor’s Note: Jim Cyr was the winner of last month’s “Mystery Photo.” He has won a year’s subscription to All Maine Matters. Our thanks to all who entered and all who got it right! We have another contest this month. See page 7 for details!

Children In Danger in the Water

This week end my friend and I took our grandchildren to Maine. She stayed at the Mic Mac Hotel in York

We took the four boys to the pool out back. While we where getting settled, the boys -- brothers Ryan (7 years old), Shawn (5 years old), and Colon (6 years old) and brothers Devin (3 years old) -- were told to stay at the edge on the steps until we got in the pool.

We were close by and getting in ourselves when Shawn decided to get off the edge and stepped into the pool. He then realized he could not touch bottom and started to cry and splash, trying to keeping his head above the water. No one around us realized he was in trouble, I saw him and was heading in to get him.

Three-year old Devin also saw Shawn and thought he needed help, Devin held on to the railing protecting himself and stretched out as far as he could and extended his hand to Shawn pulling him onto the steps.

Well, we were amazed that a three-year-old had that kind of instinct to think and act that fast. We told him that he was a hero and that he saved Shawn.

The one thing that I did not understand is why no one around the pool -- and there must have been at least seven people -- could see the danger Shawn was in and not one person moved to help.

I later found out that it is a known fact that children when in the water and in danger do not yell for help.

WHY????

We must educate them and let them know that you should yell “Help!” when in danger in the water.

Lorraine Harris

Big Brother, No Child Left Behind, and MaineCare

Why is it that according to latest information, the State of Maine in 2006 owes Maine’s hospitals over \$300,000,000 in unpaid bills? This is resulting in some institutions deciding to not take patients on MaineCare, which is a euphemism for Medicaid, albeit partially subsidized by the federal government? Add to this our billions in loan debt, and we can finally see why Maine is not growing economically. Also, as the #2 in taxes gives you some insight.

The State of Maine, in my opinion, is stagnant. Do you know any citizen on the street who will tell you they can’t survive with both spouses working and most working part-time jobs to supplement their meager wages, and at the same time, our elected officials voted down a minimum wage while giving them all a very lucrative raise unbeknownst to the voting public. After hours, eh?

Maine had better wake up! The Federal Government is in your pocket, and no matter what you do or say, it won’t matter. This is how countries were established over the years. Maine was, for years, out of the reach of Big Brother until it found out about your pristine state and all those people surviving on minimum wage. That was the door for them. Now we have No Child Left Behind, in my opinion as a former educator, the worst implementation to occur. NCLB was the door to finally make all -- even Maine -- succumb to Big Brother’s will.

Think I’m kidding? Hidden in the NCLB was an order that all schools will submit a list of high school graduates eligible for the draft and submit that list of eligible people to the Department of Defense or recruiting stations.

Another subject: So a dope rolled a pig head into a mosque. Big deal! If any other act upon another religion – let’s say rolling a beef into a Catholic place of worship on a Friday – would have been laughed about. Hate crimes; come on!

I’ll leave you all with this message: If you people in Maine are so worried about your new-found friends, why don’t those hypocrites who “hate” people from away show some of your compassion to your true friends?

I rest my case.

Frank “Smiling Jack” Slason, Somerville, ME

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.

The Fall Webworm (hyphantria cunea)

If you've done any driving around Maine this fall, you've seen them. And you're right; there are many more of them than usual. The ugly, loosely constructed, silken nests (webs) that you've seen in trees and shrubs everywhere this year are produced by hairy caterpillars known as the fall webworm.

They have stripped parts, or even the whole of some trees of their leaves, detracting greatly from the attractiveness of a drive in the country; or from your lawn, if you've been cursed with them this year. A single nest or colony can consist of hundreds of writhing caterpillars, ravaging the leaves on your trees.

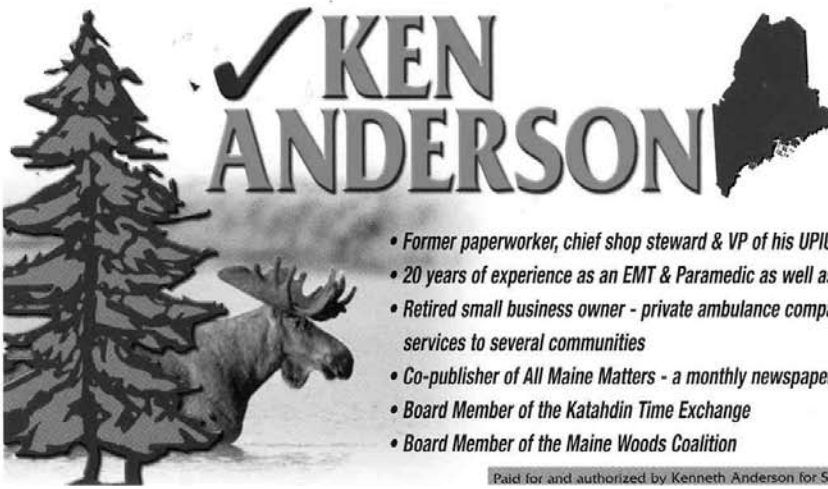
The fall webworm particularly enjoys apple, cherry, ash, willow, oak, birch, elm, and other deciduous species.



State officials insist that they are not considered a threat to hardwood forests, nor do they represent a significant threat to the health of infested trees as it occurs too late in the season after trees have already stored up much of their food reserves. If they should return to the same areas for a few consecutive years, damage could be done to the affected branches, however.

It is not recommended that you torch your tree in an effort to remove the pests, as this could be harmful to the tree. In small trees, the nests may be removed by hand, or cut out and destroyed. A forked stick or a stick with a nail in it may be inserted into larger webs and by twisting it the loose webs may be twisted off from the trees.

Thorough spraying with pesticides labeled for use against tent caterpillars, which include carbaryl, diazinon, or acephate as soon as the small webs and caterpillars are seen will arrest the growth of the caterpillars and their nests. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) a microbial product, is also registered for use against this pest. Apply the insecticide as directed on the container. However, the optimal timing for spraying would have been about mid-July.



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

Paid for and authorized by Kenneth Anderson for State Representative

It's Time For A
Change!
**KEN
ANDERSON**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
(207) 723-4456
146 Katahdin Avenue
Millinocket, ME
04462



“Democracy... while it lasts is more bloody than either aristocracy or monarchy. Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There is never a democracy that did not commit suicide.”

John Adams



R.C. Logging Supplies in Smyrna Mills.

Ask

Alvina

Alvina will return in our October 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



VISIONS,
WISHES
& DREAMS...
OH MY!

Alvina

America's outstanding
astrologer, Alvina,
imparts her formula
so you can understand
and use your time
to your advantage!
alvinastar.com

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

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



Inside the Pioneer Place, U.S.A. in Smyrna.

A Man Worth Knowing

by David McCullough

I think that we need history as much as we need bread or water or love. To make the point, I want to discuss a single human being and why we should know him. And the first thing I want to say about him is that he is an example of the transforming miracle of education. When he and others wrote in the Declaration of Independence about “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” what they meant by “happiness” wasn’t longer vacations or more material goods. They were talking about the enlargement of the human experience through the life of the mind and the life of the spirit. And they knew that the system of government they were setting up wouldn’t work if the people weren’t educated. “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization,” Jefferson wrote, “it expects what never was and never will be.”

John Adams was born into a poor farm family. He is often imagined as a rich Boston blueblood. He was none of those. His one great advantage, or break, was a scholarship to college—to Harvard College, which at that time had all of four buildings and a faculty of seven. Adams entered Harvard when he was 15 and discovered books. After that, he later recalled, “I read forever.”

At a young age, he began to keep a diary—it was about the size of the palm of your hand, and his handwriting so small you need a magnifying glass to read it—with the idea that by reckoning day-by-day his moral assets and liabilities, he could improve himself: “Oh! that I could wear out of my mind every mean and base affectation, conquer my natural pride and conceit,” he wrote. His natural pride and conceit would be among the things his critics would throw at him for the rest of his life. What’s so interesting here is that he recognized this himself so early.

On July 21, 1756, at the age of 20, he wrote this memorable entry:

I am resolved to rise with the sun and to study Scriptures on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, and to study some Latin author the other three mornings. Noons and nights I intend to read English authors I will rouse up my mind and fix my attention. I will stand collected within myself and think upon what I read and what I see. I will strive with all my soul to be something more than persons who have had less advantages than myself.

But the next morning he slept until seven, and in a one-line entry the following week he wrote: “A very rainy day. Dreamed away the time.” There was so much that he wanted to know and do, and he would have moments when he thought life was passing him by: “I have no books, no time, no friends. I must therefore be contented to live and die an ignorant, obscure fellow.”

Adams went to Harvard with the implicit understanding that he would become a minister, but he was never really drawn to that calling. In August 1756, he signed a contract with a young Worcester attorney to stay under his inspection (as they put it) for two years. The day after, inspired by a sermon he had heard and also perhaps by a feeling of relief over his decision, he walked outside and recounted that the night sky was an “amazing concave of Heaven sprinkled and glittering with stars” that threw him “into a kind of transport,” such that he knew such wonders to be gifts of God. “But all the provisions that [God] has [made] for the gratifications of our senses,” he continued,

are much inferior to the provision, the wonderful provision, that He has made for the gratification of our nobler powers of intelligence and reason. He has given us reason to find out the truth, and the real design and true end of our existence.

Making It Happen

Adams quickly rose in his profession and took an interest in politics. By the time he became president in 1796, he had served a multitude of duties for his country. He had been one of those who explained the philosophy and principles of the American Revolution to the people of the time through what he wrote in newspapers. He had defended the hated British soldiers who were arrested and put on trial after the so-called Boston Massacre, when nobody else would defend them. Asked to do so, and knowing that it might destroy his political career, he thought it his duty in a society governed by law. And it didn’t hurt his career one bit because people saw that he was a man of conviction. He had served brilliantly in the Continental Congress. Among other accomplishments, he was the man who put the name of George Washington in nomination to become the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army; he chose Thomas Jefferson to write the Declaration of Independence; later on he would put John Marshall on the Supreme Court. If he had done nothing but these three things, he would be someone we should know.

Adams more than anyone got the Continental Congress to vote for the Declaration. We have no records of what he said. Deliberations took place behind closed doors, out of fear of spies in Philadelphia. Keep in mind that only about a third of the country supported the Revolution. Another third was opposed—the Loyalists or Tories, who saw themselves as the true patriots because they

were standing by their King. The remaining third, in the human way, were waiting to see who won. But Adams got the Congress to vote for the Declaration and many wrote about it afterwards. If you’ve seen the musical 1776, you’ll remember that he is the central character. That’s as it should be. And there are many people in it singing, “Why don’t you be quiet, John Adams?” or “Why are you so obnoxious, John Adams?” When I was working on my biography, I tried to find out who called him obnoxious, and I found only one—Adams himself. He wrote to a friend many years later that he must have been rather obnoxious back then, but that he felt he had to make it happen.

Answering the Call

Adams never failed to answer the call of his country to serve, and he was called upon again and again, always to the detriment of his livelihood and often with risk to his life. He was asked to go to France during the Revolution, and set sail with his 10-year-old son, John Quincy, in the dead of winter. British cruisers were lying off the coast of Massachusetts, just waiting for someone like Adams to make a run for it to try to obtain French war support. Had he been captured, he would have been taken to England, to the Tower of London, and hanged. Keep in mind that everybody who signed the Declaration was putting his head in a noose. When our Founders pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, that wasn’t just rhetoric. Keep in mind, too, that they were up against the greatest military power on earth and had very little military experience. They had no money—there wasn’t a bank in all of America in 1776. And no colonial people had ever successfully revolted against the mother country. Everything was against them.

Adams and his son took a boat out to the frigate Boston on February 13, 1777, from a place called Houghs Neck, near Braintree. I went with my own son to that point on February 13 at about the same time, just at dusk. It was about 28 degrees, whereas I think it was 24 or 25 degrees in 1777. We got out of a nice warm car to walk down to the shore wearing good down coats and we stood there with those big, green rollers coming in and the clouds looking very ominous and the wind blowing, and we were freezing. We thought to ourselves, how in the world did they have the courage to do it? Adams had never set foot on a ship before. The crossing would take weeks, perhaps months, if they made it. And as it turned out, everything that could have gone wrong went wrong. They were hit by a hurricane. They encountered an enemy ship and fought a battle. They were becalmed for a long period. But they eventually made it. Adams served in France for about a year, then was called home.

Returning, he wrote the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts—the oldest written constitution still in use anywhere in the world today—which is a rough sketch of our national Constitution ten years later. It was complete with a bill of rights and with a paragraph unlike anything in any previous constitution. Listen to it, and remember that it was written in wartime, and by a man who was the first of his family to have an education:

Wisdom and knowledge, as well as virtue, diffused generally among the body of the people being necessary for the preservation of their rights and liberties; and as these depend on spreading the opportunities and advantages of education in various parts of the country, and among the different orders of the people, it shall be the duty of legislators and magistrates in all future periods of this commonwealth to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences

Many people today are saying that we should be teaching morals in our schools. They could find support in the closing line of this section of the Commonwealth Constitution, which speaks of the necessity “to countenance and inculcate the principles of humanity and general benevolence, public and private charity, industry and frugality, honesty and punctuality in their dealings, sincerity, good humor, and all social affections, and generous sentiments among the people.” Again, if Adams had done nothing but write this remarkable document, he would be someone whose character would deserve our attention. And no sooner had he finished it than he was called upon again to go to France.

No Simpler Times

Let me say a word about Abigail Adams. She probably had better political sense than her husband, and was a better judge of people. And she loved politics. There is a wonderful scene in the White House after Adams had been defeated for re-election by Jefferson. Jefferson was invited to come over and have dinner, as were many members of the Senate and the House. He sat at the table beside Abigail, asking “Who’s that man over there?” and “Who’s this one over here?” And she told him everything about them—where they came from, what their constituency was, what their interests were. She was as bright as can be and had a backbone of iron. She probably didn’t weigh 100 pounds, standing only about five feet one. I think she’s one of the greatest Americans of all time. And you can discover her, too, in her marvelous correspondence with her husband during his long absences

Something I always like to emphasize is that there never was a simpler past. We hear often, “Oh, that was a simpler time,” but it’s always wrong. Imagine Abigail’s life. Up in the morning at about 5 to light the fireplace that served as the kitchen, call to the children to come down, cook the breakfast, tend the stock, try to keep the farm solvent during the whole war with her husband gone and with inflation and with shortages of everything. Schools were closed, so she had to educate the children at home. Her day didn’t end until 9 or 10 at night when the children would go upstairs to their bedrooms, where it could be so cold that the water in the bowls that they used to wash their faces was iced over. And then she would sit down at the kitchen table with a single candle and write some of the greatest letters ever written by any American.

In one plaintive letter, she writes: “Posterity who are to reap the blessings will scarcely be able to conceive the hardships and sufferings of their ancestors.” And we don’t. We don’t know what they went through—epidemics of smallpox or dysentery, which could take the lives of hundreds of people just in the little town of Quincy, Massachusetts. It was by no means a simpler time. They had to worry about things that we don’t even think about any more, and suffer discomforts and inconveniences of a kind that we never even imagine. We have little idea of how tough they were. Imagine John Adams setting off in the middle of winter to ride nearly 400 miles on horseback to get to Congress. Try riding even 40 miles sometime. John and Abigail were separated, in all, more than ten years because of his service to the country.

Much is written about Adams’ vice presidency under Washington, and about his presidency. But his diplomatic duties were as important as anything else he did. Primarily, he got the Dutch to give us massive loans, which really saved our Revolution—we would probably have lost the war with England had it not been for Holland. He went to the Netherlands on his own, knowing nobody. He didn’t speak Dutch. He didn’t have authorization from Congress because he was out of touch with Congress. But he succeeded. He once said that if anything were written on his tombstone, it should be that he was the man who got the Dutch to provide the loans to win the war. Yet this fact is little known or understood by most Americans.

Later on, Adams would say the same thing about being the president who kept us out of war with France. His presidency is often associated with the war frenzy that led to the Alien and Sedition Acts, which Adams signed and which would always stand, appropriately, as a black mark against him. Adams was not a great president. But he was a very good one and I think he should be judged as more presidents should be judged—not just by what he did, but what he didn’t do. He didn’t go to war with France. Had he done so, he would have been re-elected, and he knew it. As it was, the 1800 election was extremely close. A change in about 300 votes in New York City would have re-elected him. And let us not forget that one of the most important turning points in our country, even in the world, was that election, because there was a peaceful transition, following a bitter election, from one party to another. It was not contested by armed opposition, which was the historical norm. Adams went home to Quincy—having traveled more in the service of his country than any other American of that time—and never went anywhere ever again, although he lived for 25 more years.

The Inward Journey

Writing a biography and realizing that your subject is going to stay at home his final 25 years, you wonder how you are going to sustain the rest of the book. But there are all kinds of surprises in life, and to me the great surprise of the last part of Adams’ life is that in many ways it’s the most interesting. It’s at this point that the inward journey begins. He suffers as he has never suffered before. He loses not only Abigail, but their beloved daughter of the same name. Those who say that people then lived in a simpler time should imagine their daughter having a mastectomy in a bedroom of their house with no anesthetic. Adams lost his wife and daughter, he lost a son to alcoholism, he lost his teeth and hair, he lost friends, he lost all of his power, his prestige, his influence. But he kept going. In fact, curiously, having in many ways been seen as a pessimist, he became increasingly an optimist. It’s in this last part of his life especially that you feel his real fiber.

John Adams, a farm boy, became the most widely and deeply read of any American of that bookish time—more so even than Jefferson. At the age of 80, he launched into a 16-volume history of France in French, which he had taught himself on his Atlantic crossings. And he pours out his innermost feelings to a few remaining friends and to some of his family, including John Quincy. Let me read you two excerpts. The first deals with his growing sense of wonder:

I never delighted much in contemplating com-mas and colons, or in spelling or measuring syllables; but now, if I attempt to look at these little objects, I find my imagination, in spite of all my exertions, roaming in the Milky Way, among the nebulae, those mighty orbs, and stupendous orbits of suns, planets, satellites, and comets, which compose the incomprehensible universe; and if I do not sink into noth-

ing in my own estimation, I feel an irresistible impulse to fall on my knees, in adoration of the power that moves, the wisdom that directs, the benevolence that sanctifies this wonderful whole.

One of the few things that Adams had left that he adored in his last years were his fruit trees. But then came one March night a terrible ice storm, and he woke up the next morning to see all of his trees shattered. This could have broken him, but it didn’t. Listen to what he wrote:

A rain had fallen from some warmer region in the skies when the cold here below was intense to an extreme. Every drop was frozen wherever it fell in the trees, and clung to the limbs and sprigs as if it had been fastened by hooks of steel. The earth was never more universally covered with snow, and the rain had frozen upon a crust on the surface which shone with the brightness of burnished silver. The icicles on every sprig glowed in all the luster of diamonds. Every tree was a chandelier of cut glass. I have seen a queen of France with 18 millions of livres of diamonds upon her person and I declare that all the charms of her face and figure added to all the glitter of her jewels did not make an impression on me equal to that presented by every shrub. The whole world was glittering with precious stones.

Adams died, as many of you know, the same day Jefferson died. Jefferson had been his closest friend, then his political rival, then his political enemy. After twelve years of neither speaking to each other, Adams initiated the first letter of what was to be one of the great reconciliations in our history. The correspondence between these former presidents lasted until their deaths, and is some of the most wonderful letters in the English language. And then they died on the same day, each in his own bed, surrounded by his books. And it wasn’t just any day. It was the 4th of July, 50 years after the Declaration of Independence. People at the time saw it as the clearest sign imaginable that the hand of God was involved with the destiny of the United States and who could blame them?

Citizen and Leader

In ending, I’d like to go back to an incident that took place while Adams was in the White House, after he had been defeated for re-election. On the night of January 20, 1801, a fire broke out across the lawn at the old Treasury Building. Adams saw the fire from his window and was immediately out the door and across the way to lend a hand in a bucket brigade. Think about that. He obviously didn’t do it because it might look good and help him to get re-elected. And he wasn’t doing it because it was in the job description of the president. He did it because he was a good citizen. He had grown up in a community where people helped each other in times of trouble. And he did it also for another reason. As a leader, he knew he ought to set an example. This is how a newspaper in Washington described the event the next morning:

The fire for some time threatened the most destructive effects—but through the exertions of the citizens, animated by the example of the President of the United States (who on this occasion fell into the ranks and aided in passing the buckets), was the fire at length subdued.

Adams said once, “I am but an ordinary man. The times alone have destined me to fame.” But don’t believe that for a minute. Certainly they were the most interesting times imaginable. But he was an extraordinary man.

His faith in God and the hereafter remained unshaken. He was as devout a Christian as ever served in our highest office. His fundamental creed he had reduced to a single sentence: “He who loves the Workman and his work and does what he can to preserve and improve it, shall be accepted of Him.” His confidence in the future of his country was, in the final years of his life, greater than ever. Human nature had not changed, however, for all the improvements his generation had brought about. Nor would it, he was sure. Nor did he love life any less for its pain and uncertainties. Once, in a letter to his old friend Francis van der Kemp in the Netherlands, he’d written: “Griefs upon griefs! Disappointments upon disappointments. What then? This is a gay, merry old world, notwithstanding.” It could have been his epitaph.

David McCullough was born in 1933 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was educated there and at Yale University. Author of 1776, John Adams, Truman, Brave Companions, The Path Between the Seas, Mornings on Horseback, The Great Bridge and The Johnstown Flood, he has twice received the Pulitzer Prize and twice the National Book Award, as well as the Francis Parkman Prize and the Los Angeles Times Book Award.

Reprinted by permission from Imprimis, the national speech digest of Hillsdale College, www.hillsdale.edu.