



The Buzz

All That Fits We Print

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The Old School
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“Why Don’t You Just Drive?”

by Hank Garfield

I sing the praises of the Concord Coach bus system. It gets me from Bangor to Rockland and back at times of day that suit my schedule. The bus trip takes only a few minutes longer than the drive. And the price -- \$36 round trip – is reasonable.

Every day at 7 a.m., and also at 11 a.m. in the summer, two buses leave the Concord Coach station on Union Street in Bangor. One is the express to Portland and Boston, with a single stop in Augusta. The other is the coastal route, which serves Rockland and several other towns. The express is often packed and never less than half-full. As I write this, I’ve just left Bangor on the 11 o’clock coastal bus with three other passengers.

The bus always picks up more passengers in Belfast, Camden, and at stops in Rockland and beyond. Most of them are bound for Portland or Boston, like their counterparts who boarded the express in Bangor. But I often wonder why this part of the route is so thinly used. Why don’t more Bangorians visit the midcoast by bus?

I think it’s because they don’t think about it. Or if they do, driving seems more straightforward and cost-effective. We are conditioned to think this way by the car culture we all grew up in, and the economic decisions we make reflect those values.

But we Americans live in a rigged market, where every incentive favors driving. It’s not this way everywhere, as I learned during my time in Bulgaria.

The driving distance between Bangor and Rockland is 63 miles. The driving distance between Blagoevgrad and Sofia is 105 kilometers, or 65 miles – the same, for the purpose of the rough comparison I will do here. The time it takes to drive is likewise similar.

A bus ticket from Bangor to Rockland costs \$18 if you buy a round-trip ticket; the one-way fare is \$20. The return ticket is good for a year. A ticket from Blagoevgrad to Sofia is 10 leva, or about \$6, with no open-ended round-trip discount. The price of gas in Maine is currently around \$2.50 per gallon. The price of gas in Bulgaria is about 2.2 leva per liter, or about \$4.70 (in U.S. dollars) per U.S. gallon.

Let’s say you own a car that gets 25 miles per gallon. A driver in Bangor is going to spend six dollars for the gas to get to Rockland. (Of course, there are other expenses to driving, but that average American car owner, who is already absorbing those costs, thinks primarily about the cost of gas.) A driver in Bulgaria will spend the equivalent of around \$11 to drive the same distance.

In Maine, the bus ticket costs three times the price of the gas to drive the same route. In Bulgaria, the gas costs twice as much as the bus ticket. So the average American weighs the costs and says, “I’ll just drive,” while the average Bulgarian makes the opposite choice. It helps, too, that the Bulgarian buses run every hour rather than just twice a day.

I can also tell you that in both Sofia and Blagoevgrad the bus station is right next to the train station. It’s easy to transition from one form of transportation to another. The Concord Coach station in Bangor is close to the airport, but not walkable, and there’s no regularly scheduled shuttle. It requires a cab. And the local Community Connector bus system stops running fifteen minutes before the evening buses from Rockland and Boston pull in, leaving passengers hung out to dry. The Greyhound stop, over the horizon in Hermon, is even worse.

The Rockland bus station is at the ferry terminal, in the center of town. But most of the Concord Coach stops aren’t nearly as accessible. The stop for Camden, for example, is at a convenience store (convenient for drivers) two miles out of town. It’s one of the least friendly bus stops I’ve ever seen. The store is often closed when the bus arrives. One can only take from this that Camden doesn’t want, or at best, doesn’t care about, visitors who arrive by bus.

Obviously, the smart thing to do would be to raise gas taxes and put the money into improved and expanded public transportation. But it’s a tough sell in a rigged market. Even American liberals, who express concern about climate change and environmental degradation and sprawl, become protective of their car culture when it impacts their daily lives. Why shouldn’t they? It’s all they’ve ever known.

Follow Hank Garfield’s blog, *Slower Traffic*, on Facebook and at slowertraffic.net



"Rockland Classic" Bike Ride

With community support from WRFR, and The Old School, The Rockland Bicycle Club is proud to announce their first annual Rockland Classic. The bike ride will be held on Saturday, September 14th, 2019. It will be a self-contained, no-drop ride beginning at South School, 30 Broadway, Rockland. Start time is at 9am. The scenic 50 miles course will travel along the St George peninsula with the Marshall Point Lighthouse as destination. All levels of bicyclists are encouraged to join us for this fun and exciting ride. For more information, email rstaschak@gmail.com.

Democracy does not start with DNC

By Steve Carroll

The National Democratic committee has finalized the Presidential candidate debate schedule for September and by all appearances has decided once again they know better than us who is the best candidate to face Donald Trump in next year's election.

In 2016 Bernie Sanders was thrown under the bus by the leaders of the DNC in favor of Hillary Clinton who then lost to Donald Trump. DNC chair Debbie Wasserman Schultz was afterwards forced to resign when Wikileaks released emails linking her to Clinton and showing a bias against Sanders.

Four years later the progressive wing of the democratic party again struggles to be heard. Presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard recently told Fox News host Tucker Carleson, “I think the bigger problem is that the whole process really lacks transparency. People deserve having that transparency because ultimately it’s the people who will decide who our democratic nominee will be. DNC’s standards were opaque and helped propagate the notion that national politics are controlled by a cabal of political elites.”

This seems to be the case as we see candidates with new ideas being pushed out in favor of more orthodox candidates. It seems as if the DNC once again wants to make our choices for us. Shouldn’t the people decide who they want their candidates to be? Shouldn’t the American public decide what issues they wish the candidates to speak on?

The DNC is effectively controlling national exposure to a host of candidates who if forced off stage would struggle for exposure and most likely eventually drop out of the race. Henry Ford once said, “we will sell you any color you wish, as long as it’s black”. All viable candidates deserve that their ideas be heard.

Conspiracy Theories—or Planned Events?

by Richard King

As we again pass the anniversary of the destruction of the World Trade Center towers, people are finally beginning to question the official story. We’ve been told that 19 radical “terrorists” with little piloting experience, supposedly armed with box cutters, hijacked several flights, two of which struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center. In the scene repeated ad nauseam, the two towers implode, pancaking downward neatly into their own footprints. Not

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Farmers' Markets: Camden Saturday Market: 9 a.m. to noon at Tannery Park... Rockland Thursday Market: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Harbor Park... Union Friday Market: 3-6 p.m. on Union Common...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6:

- The Art Loft, 385 Main Street, Rockland will display the works of its two resident artists for September, Katharina Gifford and Naomi Howe, 5 to 8 p.m.
- Millay Arts & Poetry Festival with Pop-Up Poets on Friday, from 5 to 8 p.m. during the First Friday Art Walk, with a reading of her poems on the roof of Harbor Square Gallery.
- Rockland First Friday Art Walk, September 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. Farnsworth Art Museum and Center for Maine Contemporary Art offer free admission, and two dozen galleries open their doors and offer new art, refreshments, music and more. Get a map at ArtsInRockland.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7:

Millay Arts & Poetry Festival continues:

- Children's poetry workshop at the Farnsworth Art Museum at 10 a.m.
- A screening of "Burning Candles: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay" at Bartlett Woods Retirement Community at 10:30 a.m.
- Wesley McNair, a Maine poet laureate, will speak and read poems at the Farnsworth from 2 to 4 p.m. and "Three Songs for Voice and Piano" by Millay and Efrem Zimbalist will be performed by pianist Sojourner Crowley and soprano Erin Chenard.
- Poetry slam at Fog Bar & Cafe, 328 Main Street, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., with an open mic for poets before and after the slam – you can sign up at MillayHouseRockland.org.
- Kites & Ice Cream for Kids at Beech Hill Preserve, in Rockport, on Saturday, September 7, from 1 to 4 p.m. Each child who registers gets a free kite and a coupon for an ice cream (which will be on sale for grownups and for kids who don't register): info@CoastalMountains.org.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8:

- Emotional Intelligence Workshop at Cushing Public Library, 2 to 4 p.m. Waite Maclin introduces emotional intelligence, which assesses the capability of people to recognize their own emotions and those of others and then use those insights to guide their thinking and behavior.
- Sunday Jams in Rockland, Sail, Power, & Steam Museum, 75 Mechanic Street, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9:

- Free Adult Art Classes at Rockland Public Library, 11 a.m.
- Monday Jams at St. George Grange, at Wiley's Corner, 7 to 9 p.m. through October. Country, gospel, folk, bluegrass.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10:

- "The Scrimshaw Worm," 7 p.m. at Camden Public Library. Daniel Dunkle on his new novel, set on an 1851 whaling ship lost at sea. Dunkle is editor of *The Courier-Gazette* and *The Camden Herald*.
- Tuesday Jams in Thomaston, Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street, at 7 p.m. Folk, country, blues, gospel. FMI: 273-2914.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:

- Baby Time at Rockland Public Library, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Thursdays for newborns to 2-year-olds, with older siblings welcome. Miss Katie will guide fun with rhymes, finger plays and stories.
- Climate Matters Town Hall in Thomaston, at Watts Hall, 174 Main Street, at 6 p.m. Chloe Maxmin, the state rep who has proposed a Green New Deal for Maine, talks about organizing to fight the climate crisis. Then break-out sessions are offered on specific climate-related issues. Hosted by Climate Matters Maine and Maine chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America.

- Threats to Wabanaki Basketmaking Topic of Talk, 6:30 p.m. at Rockland Public Library. Penobscot Nation member Dr. Darren Ranco on the work he and a team of researchers began in 2009 to brace for the arrival of the emerald ash borer and its effect on the tradition of using ash trees to make baskets.
- Thursday Jams in Warren, Saint George River Cafe, 310 Main Street, 6 p.m. and Friday Open Mics, second and fourth Fridays, at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14:

- Thomaston Open Studios, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sculptors, painters, ceramic artists and others invite the public to check out their work spaces. Participating artists include Nancy Baker, Susan Van Campen, Autumn Cipala, Cynthia McGuirl, James Murdock, Linden O'Ryan, Tim Van Campen, Amy Williams, Kevin Beers, Lorena Stackpole and Greta Van Campen. Details: ThomastonOpenStudios.com.

Around Town is compiled each week by C.O.H.Gifford, Jr. Please submit calendar items to gowfr@gmail.com Our thanks to The Free Press for sharing its calendar.

Conspiracy... cont. from p. 1

so commonly known is the collapse of Building 7, a forty-seven-story building—also a part of the WTC complex.

Like the twin towers, Building 7 fell straight down into its own footprint—reportedly due to the burning furniture and other contents. If this is true, then it is the first steel-framed building in history to do so. A building such as this has fireproofing on all of its structure and the burning of contents would not reach the temperature required to melt steel—let alone on all structural columns at the same moment, which would be required to cause the vertical free fall. A draft version of a report being released by the University of Alaska (in association with ae911truth.org) states that fire did not bring down World Trade Center Building 7. In addition, New York Fire Commissioners have called for new 9/11 investigation about "pre-planted explosives."

There are several other unusual coincidences associated with that horrible day. For example:

- The BBC in London was broadcasting a live video feed of the scene in NYC while reporting the demise of Building 7. The anomaly was that the report was 23 minutes before the building fell—it was clearly in the scene behind the presenter.
- A U. S. military war games exercise was in progress, which added extra confusion to the FAA flight control system.
- In April 2001, the towers were privatized and over-insured by a consortium of investors led by Silverstein Properties, which retained the exclusive right to rebuild in the event of a disaster. Some 4.5 billion dollars of insurance settlement was collected by the consortium.
- It is fact that the PATRIOT Act was written many, many years before 9/11, and according to some, the attacks simply provided an opportunity for some people to do what they wanted to do (i.e. begin the establishment of the surveillance state).

The internet has a plethora of information on 9/11 and other topics (false flags, cover-ups, deep state) to be explored and digested. Somewhere between the official stories and the alligator lizard people in the sky lies the truth about our situation. Are we sleepwalking into the world envisioned by Huxley and Orwell? Check your telescreen, err, I mean smart phone.

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