



Rockland Buzz

Local Yokels

Issue 201, January 29, 2021, Rockland, Maine

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Stranger Beats
with
Jonny Black

Fridays
10 p.m. to midnight

Featuring a carefully selected blend of underground hip-hop & the deep cuts from the artists you love combined with conversations about ancient astronauts and pop culture.

A Concern About the Distribution of the Covid Vaccine

Joe Steinberger

My friend Cynthia, age 82, who lives in Geneva, Switzerland recently received a letter inviting her to be vaccinated. She went to a place near her home where the National Guard ran the operation using large emergency trailers. All went quickly and smoothly.

Switzerland is not a Communist country. It is a competent one. Here in the US we are having our problems.

I am 76. I would like to be vaccinated. I called my doctor, but he could do nothing for me. The vaccine is being distributed by Maine Health, the private hospital chain that owns all the hospitals in southern Maine. My doctor doesn't work for them, he is independent, so at first even he could not get a shot - Maine Health was reserving the vaccine for its employees only.

The Maine CDC website directs me to call Maine Health at 877-780-7545, the same number for all their hospitals. I called ten days ago and listened to a recording saying that I should try again tomorrow. Two days later I got through to a robot that took my phone number and my date of birth (but not my name) and told me that it would call me. Until today I had not heard back. I tried a couple more times. Still no reply. Then this morning a friend who knew I was trying to get the vaccine (and whose wife is a doctor) called me and urged me, right now, call the number again. I did, got the robot and left the same information as before. Three minutes later the phone rang and it was a human being, a polite woman from Maine Health, who gave me an appointment for next week to get my shot at the Samoset. I am grateful, but wondering what the heck is going on.

I wonder to what extent Maine Health is prioritizing its own patients. I wonder to what extent inside information gets you ahead in the line. I wonder to what extent the people who know the answers to these questions prefer not to talk about it.

A little more transparency would be nice.



Go Local, Yokel! Write for The Buzz

Do you live in Rockland or hereabouts? Do you write, draw, take photos, have something to say, something to share? If so, we want to include you in The Buzz.

In these times, as we become more spectators than actors, America is becoming a crowd, cheering and booing in a media colosseum. Give that up! Local means you count. We can save America, one community at a time.

The Buzz is just two sides of a broadsheet, so we have limited space - but we definitely have space for you! Email your contribution - a drawing, an essay, a photo, whatever you like: Steinberger@gwi.net



Rockland waterfront 1/28/2021

The Dog Ate My Homework

Isolated in this bag of saline water I imagine I am me. He is me and we are he....or are we? I can't answer that. Neither can another. They have those questions of themselves to answer first. They'll never get to me. Maybe we'll meet and compare notes on the other side. If our essence loosened from this reality floats to another existence and if souls gather there like wildebeest's at a watering hole. Is it whatever we believe that'll happen? Believe you and Jesus will be chums for eternity and you will be? Believe the devil will torture you forever and he will? Be careful what you imagine. The pessimist could well imagine that our time and place (Covid, Trump, impending doom TBA) is hell as they conceived it in their last life. The Christians consider the reward for obeying their rules an eternity with God. Muslims who die defending the faith get eternity with 72 virgins who are perpetually so (an important caveat). Buddhists believe that the end reward, the big pay off, the megabucks on the wheel of reincarnation....is to not exist. I sort of like that. It's very clean. In my limited knowledge of the way of the enlightened one, shedding everything takes many lives to accomplish. I hope I don't hoard spiritually as I do with cool electronic parts. Ostensibly I am an atheist and don't believe anything. What sort of after life would an atheist imagine? I should know what atheists expect, me being a fifth order enlightened anointed high priest of Atheism (Reformed, Eastern Rites). Is a religion real if it was just invented minutes ago?, on the fly? and if it has only one believer? As a Christian once told me with vigor, "You **MUST** believe **something!**" perhaps they were right. Sadly, I haven't settled on anything specific, yet. Maybe I'm not alone in this indecision. Maybe the path leading up to the pearly gates is lined with card tables covered in brochures and books. Old testament guys, long white beards, long white robes, standing behind the tables smile beatifically. "Adopt our faith and a blissful eternity is guaranteed" I'd pass. I'd go right up to those gates made of pearl and look Saint Pete in the eye and say....." ah., um, ah, the dog ate my homework" so much pressure!, that'd be all I could come up with. Well, it didn't work in second grade and it's a non starter at heaven's gate. Instead, like a pinball knocked dead center by a flipper I'd fly off & into the void. After some refurbishing and buffing up, my soul would be reformatted and I'd be inserted into an infant's grey matter. Then the whole friggin thing would start again, I'd remember nothing. One step forward two steps back. That's life all over again.

Glen Birbeck



Get on the Metro



Jump on the Metro from 5 and 6 pm on Wednesdays. Aboard, you can join a friendly conversation as we discuss topics of interest, local and global, with a variety of guests via Zoom. The Metro show is broadcast live on Maine Coast TV and on WRFR. Call in to 593-0013 with questions or comments, or Zoom in by emailing mainecoasttv@gmail.com and requesting a link.

Be there or be square. Check out the Rockland Metro show on radio or TV each Wednesday, and join us via your telephone or your computer. Maine Coast TV is cable channel 7, streams online at mainecoast.tv and is on Roku. WRFR broadcasts on 93.3 fm in Rockland, 99.3 in Camden, and online at wrfr.org.

by Phyllis Merriam



Unorthodox

Joe Steinberger

I received a pamphlet in the mail, 20 pages of dark colors on heavy glossy paper.

GEOENGINEERING: A CHRONICLE OF INDICTMENT. Exposing The Global Climate Engineering Cover-Up. Fact & Photo Summary.

It is mostly weird sky photos proving that chemicals are being sprayed into our atmosphere by thousands of airplanes. I have a friend who believes this, so had a general idea of the evidence.

My own view is that it is total nonsense, but the pamphlet inspired me to look up Climate Engineering in Wikipedia. The article said that global climate engineering was an idea being discussed among climate scientists who are concerned about global warming, but was, so far, not shown to be viable. The idea that climate engineering is being secretly put into practice on a grand scale is dismissed in two sentences. "Some extremists have proposed that there are secret government actions implementing geoengineering on a large scale, affecting weather to produce winter, or cooling, or large fires, or other detrimental effects. There is no evidence to substantiate these unorthodox claims."

I was struck by this use of the word unorthodox in such a clearly negative sense. I have been used to its being used more like "well its unorthodox, but..." - worth considering, in other words. But now it seems that unorthodox means incorrect, and orthodox means correct.

We are talking about science, or what is called science, of course. We all believe in science. We believe in it as an ideal, we believe in the scientific method, in intellectual honesty, in objective experiment, and open mindedness. We agree, now, with Galileo that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of the solar system, and we regret that he was forced to recant this unorthodox view on the command of the orthodoxy of his time. There is even more to regret, much more damage to our progress, much more cruelty, done in the name of orthodoxy. My friend Sergio took me to a monument in the Campo de' Fiori in Rome where Giovanni Bruno was burned at the stake in 1600. Bruno proposed that the stars were distant suns surrounded by their own planets. A highly unorthodox view at the time. Unlike Galileo, Bruno did not recant.

I reject the geoengineering conspiracy theory, not because it is heresy, but because the evidence I have seen is not convincing, and because my experience tells me that a global conspiracy of that enormous magnitude would be impossible to keep secret.

We are entering on a new era of orthodoxy, now political rather than religious, an era in which the mob has sway, and orthodoxy, rather than reason, carries the day. Let's stand up for reason.

I think one of the best photos from the inauguration was of the Biden's in a warm embrace just before they entered the White House as President and First Lady.

I went outside to take in some cold fresh air (my husband likes the heat cranked) and saw a pedestrian wearing a practical and safe headlamp that illuminated his forward path and had a bright red flashing light on the back. It made him look like a tall traffic hazard light or ET had landed to check out small town America.

Driving on Route 17 we noticed a local post office was advertising bottles for redemption. My husband said, "These must be hard financial times for the post offices, too, if they have to have bottle drives."

Made a quick stop at a mom-and-pop store on Route 17 where a sign on the door said, "No Mask No Service." Sounds great, I thought. All the employees wore masks except one at the checkout who wore a clear plastic device on wires similar to a hands-free harmonica player. They protect no one. I've seen a couple of these "masks" before in Rockland. PPH reports two Maine legislators are sporting them.

I read where a January 6th rioter, knowing the FBI was after him, left home to evade arrest and thought he'd be safe at the inauguration where he was promptly arrested. Plan B didn't work out so well.

Biden's female press secretary is polite and respectful toward reporters, knows most by name, said there will be Mon - Fri pressers, did not evade, disparage, knew the material and wore a mask when she wasn't at the podium. It was so remarkable. I thought I must have been living in an alternative universe the past four years.

I've been able to get better at trimming my husband's hair and short covid beard. I'm beginning to look like Einstein, myself. Maybe YouTube tutorials will give me the courage to DIY. Cutting the back is really hard when you're wearing your own head.

So far, my strategy to feed the crows without seagull interference is working. I now put out the food later than around 6 am. I have no idea why this is working.

My husband received his first vaccine shot today at the VA and a second is due Feb.

The whole VA processing was very well organized. Thank you VA and Moderna! I'm due to get mine Thursday in Belfast. I gave the phone numbers to relatives and several neighbors but for some reason I'm the only one who has gotten a callback.

Everyone will have at least one covid-birthday. My husband's was last weekend with a friend delivering a catered birthday meal and cake. By June, I will have had two. These are strange times, indeed, when time shifts, alters and plays games with us.



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The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: wrfr93.3@gmail.com