

Maine must change how it chooses state AG

Can we change how Maine chooses constitutional officers now? The latest dispute between Gov. Paul LePage's administration and Attorney General Janet Mills over which lawyers may lawyer for the state brings the problem into focus. Mills points to the statutory duties of her office, but the administration has a reasonable argument when it expresses concern over the objectivity of the advice it receives. The Maine supreme court's advisory opinion on the "how many days to veto" question last summer went against the governor — a fact everyone acknowledges. However, people seem to extrapolate that holding into a belief LePage has had no legal victories, especially when it comes to contesting legal interpretations of the attorney general. They are wrong. For example, the attorney general prevented the Department of Health and Human Services from adopting a rule prohibiting the provision of General Assistance to immigrants here unlawfully. The department cited federal statute as a basis, while the attorney general said the initiative was illegal. Prevented from completing the rulemaking process, DHHS adopted the policy anyway through a memorandum. This led to a lawsuit against the state from Portland and others, publicly backed by the attorney general and her interpretation. Ultimately, the court vindicated LePage's position. If that is not enough, you could consider the governor's triumph at the Law Court over the attorney general.

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MICHAEL CIANCHETTE



LePage



Mills

Focusing on how, not what, my daughter wants to be

After my parents separated when I was a kid, I lived with my father. At 52 years my senior, he could be difficult to connect with, particularly when it came to the minimal guidance and insights he could offer regarding preparation for the future. My father was old school. When some kids from a neighboring school district beat me up, he said, "Whatever you do, don't get the police involved. Get some friends together and take care of it yourselves." This insight had its roots in a series of experiences he had with MPs and local law enforcement while stationed in Europe during the Korean War. His career selection advice was equally out of touch. He still believed in the path of getting a job at a company and getting taken care of for life, pensions and all. As a teenager, though, I realized that this system and the expectations that went along with it were crumbling around me. I was skeptical. But my skepticism didn't prepare me for a future less certain than the one my father still believed in. Not long before he died at age 78, my father said to me, "Son, the Empire is waning and feels as England felt when I was a boy. I'm glad this isn't my future. Good luck to you." All in all, I had no idea what was ahead and really no sense of guidance. From 12 on, I always

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ALEX STEED



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The art of the steal

BY CHRISTOPHER BURNS  
BDN STAFF

Our data are a valuable commodity that cyber thieves trade in the backrooms of the Internet — far beyond the reach of Google and other common search engines. Those thieves exploit vulnerabilities in computer networks large and small to access consumer data that they then process and sell. The data fuels a vast underground economy that, as with any other marketable commodity, responds to the laws of supply and demand. The Maine attorney general's office last year received more than 250 data breach notifications, of which 28 affected 100 or more Mainers. The data from high-profile breaches — such as the 2013 cyber attack against Target in which thieves stole credit and debit card account information belonging to 40 million Americans, including more than 115,000 Mainers — often end up for sale in marketplaces on the "dark web." But following so many major breaches, the influx of data into the

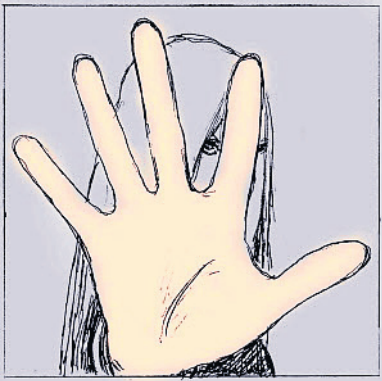
How cyber thieves trade your birthday for profit in a part of the Internet you can't find

underground marketplace has caused the value of our personal and financial data to plummet. Cyber thieves have responded by targeting different types of data, such as credentials for video and music streaming services. So data breaches, which already occur regularly, are likely to continue making headlines in 2016 as cyber thieves adapt, trying to come out ahead in the underground economy. Giving away the bank The dark web economy has evolved over the last few years to include offerings of all types of data, including log-in credentials for streaming services (Netflix and HBO Go), online shopping accounts (eBay and Amazon) and even payment services (PayPal), according to a 2015 report on the illicit data trade by Intel Security. Financial information, such as credit and debit card data, is among the most commonly sold product in these marketplaces. The prices for

these data products vary depending on their freshness, supply, balance and level of detail. If a buyer wants credit card data just to make purchases or withdraw money from ATMs, vendors offer a basic package with a card number, expiration date and three-digit security code for about \$5 per card, according to the Intel Security report. But if the buyer wants to more fully take control of a victim's bank and credit accounts, vendors offer a more detailed package with the victim's account number, name, address, Social Security number, date of birth and even mother's maiden name for as little as \$30 on some marketplaces. Back in 2011, this information would have cost hundreds of dollars per card, but the marketplace has been inundated with data after a number of high-profile breaches, forcing down the price, said Raj Samani, vice president and chief technical officer

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Victims in celebrity abuse cases have privacy rights, too



BY REGINA ROONEY  
SPECIAL THE TO BDN

Years ago, we did not speak about domestic violence. It was only when survivors started sharing their stories, and our communities began talking about it, that we began to change the cultural norms that let abusers act with impunity. Recently, we have heard many stories involving celebrities accused of perpetrating domestic and sexual violence. Such high-

profile cases nearly always touch off a great deal of public discussion — in the news, on social media and around our dinner tables. These conversations are as important today as they were 40 years ago. As we have them, we should be sure to remember the many lessons we have learned along the way as we have grown our community response to domestic violence. Here are a few things to keep in mind: Abusers are very good at ma-

nipulating people and systems. It is well documented that abusive people treat their partners differently than they do the rest of the world. Many abusers never appear abusive when they are outside of their homes. That ability to fly under the radar is a key part of what makes it possible for them to maintain control in the relationship. Anytime we hear reports of abuse, it is important that we hear them through this filter and not fall into the trap of disbelief.

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