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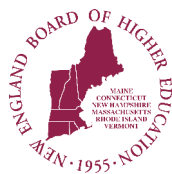
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## NEJHE's Paperless Future

After touching our toes in the digital waters, *NEJHE* is now taking the full dip. It's a deep plunge driven by economic realities and the shifting preferences of readers, many who are "digital natives" as likely to read news and commentary on small screens as in print.

A new integrated NEBHE website will feature "*NEJHE* Online" as its central focus and will capture ideas that have informed NEBHE's historical interest in education and economic development.

The site will be dynamic—a "content hub." We plan to feature: bylined commentaries and analyses, but refreshed more frequently than the old quarterly print schedule allowed; news and event listings, but refreshed more often than our biweekly *Newslink* allowed; and new dynamic content made available by digital technologies—web roundtables on pressing topics and videos and podcasts of NEBHE conferences and key events. We'll feature a slate of regular bloggers, including Boston University Dean Jay Halfond whose thoughts on higher education and the recession appear in this issue. Friends Paul Harrington and Neeta Fogg of Northeastern University who have shared their economic insights in hard copy have agreed to join us as regular bloggers on issues in access, retention and outcomes.

We'll also continue to present the richness of our annual "Trends & Indicators" feature, but again updated more frequently.

Among the clichés of this brave new world: Content wants to be free. This new hub will expand our content to a broader audience, whether it is content we *create* or content we *curate*—something like what we've been doing for more than two decades, but liberated and enriched, we hope, by the more flexible, more frequent digital format.

As often attributed to Otto von Bismarck, laws are like sausages; it's best not to see them being made. Though the same may be said of articles, the online presence will afford room to share some of the sometimes-illuminating back and forth that goes into writing and editing *NEJHE* articles.

It'll be nice to work on a new, more open canvas.

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*Marx Brothers*. "Decades of declining real wages with rising levels of exploitation and economic inequality, increasingly unaffordable energy costs, and a loss of the illusion of middle-class status. ... Declining state support for social welfare programs, privatization and deregulation, record levels of migration of people, growing urban slums, and increasingly authoritarian state interventions in the lives of ordinary citizens have become the norm in the past two decades." Sound like a lament of the Bush-Cheney era? Sort of. That's the teaser from the seventh annual conference of the *New Marxian Times*, which a dear friend (*I refuse to name names*) coaxed me to attend in November at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

With capitalism going through its own economic and social crises, the conference organizers asked, how can Marxism be re-thought to respond to today's challenges? Never mind that the proceedings were haunted by the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, something of a low-water mark for Marxists, the contrasts with capitalist collapse seemed to resonate with the surprisingly young crowd. Most seemed to be in their 20s. They may be the children of people worried that President Obama and a band of Socialists are going to make them get health insurance, but gathered in Amherst, they were speaking intellectually about abolishing private property amid a new multiplicity of states, corporations, global organizations and NGOs, and descending at times into "analytical reformulations of sexuality" and "medical tourism" and all manner of p.c. sympathies. As a colleague reminded me, "Some things survive in academia long after they've outlived their use in other surroundings."

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