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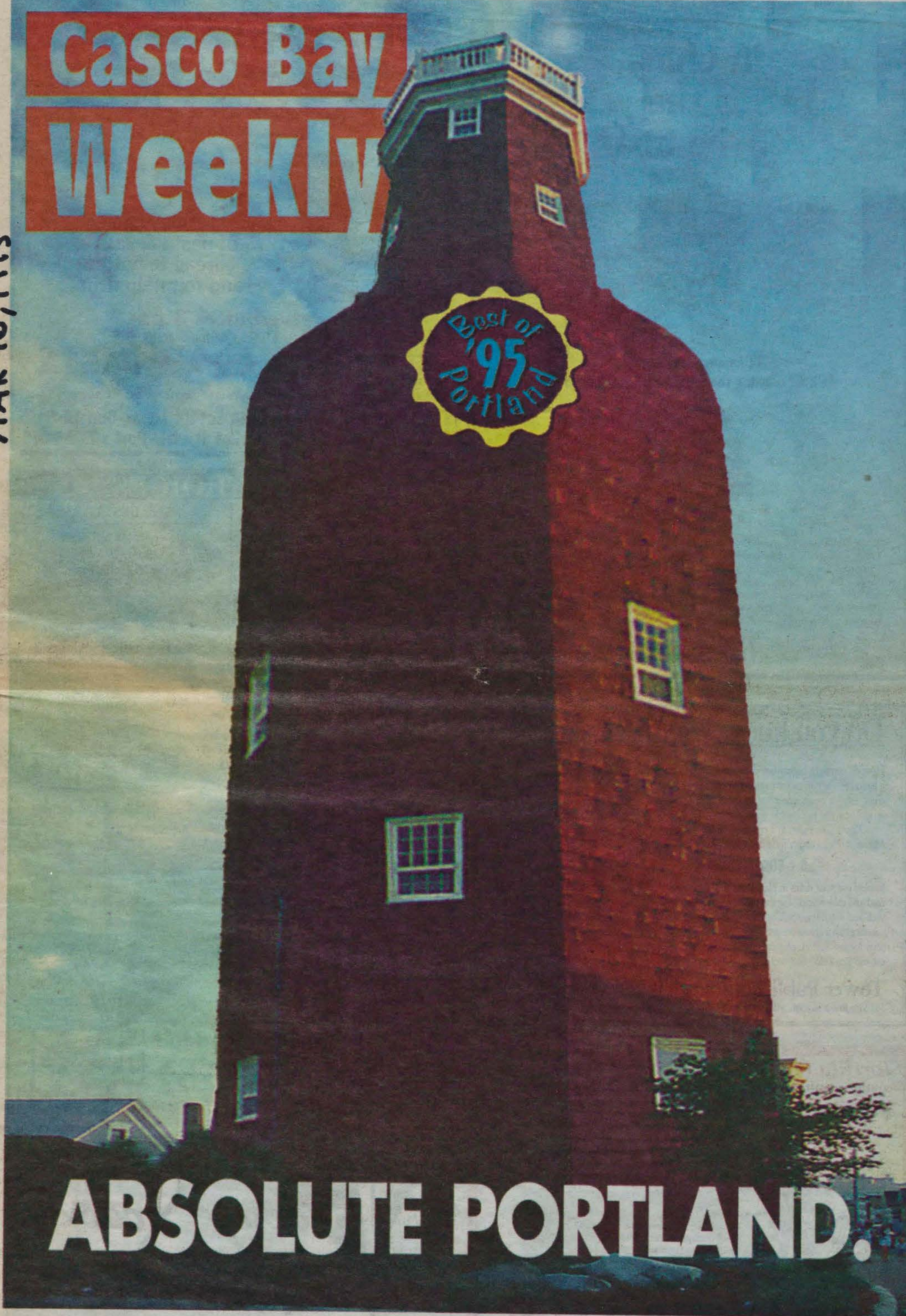
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MARCH 16, 1995 ■ VOL VII, NO 11 ■ GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION ■ FREE

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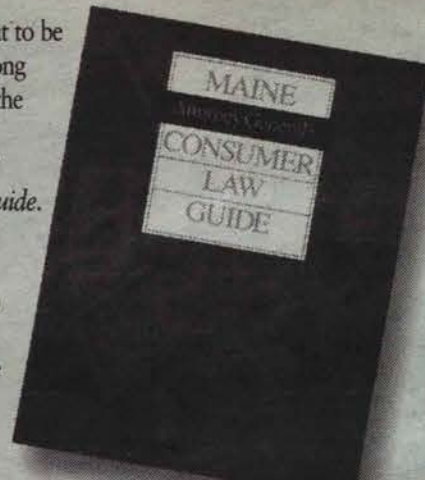
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A conversation with **Gerald Polley**



Gerald Polley (with his wife, Linda): "I live constantly in two worlds. It's like I'm standing up against a door — on one side is the material world, on the other the spirit world. I am a conduit for power and energy, constantly in service, 24 hours a day."

The Rev. Speaker Gerald Polley of Portland publishes a small metaphysical magazine called "Voices From the Spirit" with his wife, Linda. The Polleys call themselves "Spiritists," after a group in England with similar beliefs in reincarnation and the afterlife. The magazine consists of interviews with dead celebrities, whom Polley channels from the spirit world. His interview with Babe Ruth recently appeared in the February issue of *Harpers* magazine.

talk

When did you discover you could channel?
More than 20 years ago. Spirits began to come and talk to me in my dreams. I had what would be called a revelation, or enlightenment.

What happens when you channel a spirit?
Sometimes the spirits come right through me and talk directly to my wife. She has to do the hard part. I'm functionally illiterate, so she writes it all down longhand.

I depend on my agents in the spirit world to get ahold of people. I have representatives there at my beck and call, although some people we can't get, because they no longer exist — or they don't want to do interviews.

John Lennon won't do interviews, or that woman singer — Janis Joplin. She's doing quite well over there, but she won't talk, even with the influence I have in the spirit world.

Who has been the most challenging or difficult to talk with?

When people have just passed away it's very difficult to work with them. They're just not ready to

communicate — they haven't adjusted to the spirit realm. The longer somebody's been dead, the easier it is for them to deal with both the afterlife and the material world.

Recently we channeled Bruce Lee and he was very hostile. Now Lou Costello, that was a great experience. Even though he had some hard feelings about the IRS, he was an absolute joy to work with — so happy.

Have you channeled people who didn't meet your expectations?

Yes. Vlad the Impaler — Dracula, you know. He got a very bad rap. I found him a very kind and sincere individual. He has just gotten some very bad press.

By Tanya Whiton; photo by Colin Malakie

<p>State Theatre</p> <p>609 Congress Street, Portland 879-1112</p> <p>Cash, Visa, M/C, Discover</p> <p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Dayton Dance Company March 18 Children's Museum Auction March 25 Ben Hur (Movie) April 15 Wizard of Oz (Movie) April 17-23 Tish Hinogosa's Border Tour-May 2</p> <p>Most tickets available at these outlets: Record Records, Kennebunk, 885-3970 Play It Again, Yarmouth 846-4711</p>	<p>Bobby McFerrin</p> <p>Guest Conductor for the San Francisco Symphony and the Boston Pops. See this special one night engagement with his vocal ensemble Hard Choral.</p> <p>Thursday, March 30th</p> <p>Cabaret Seats \$22.50 plus \$10.50 Entree Ticket General Admission \$19.50 Special Student Discount \$15.00 Doors 6pm / Show 8pm</p>	<p>Windy Gipsy & The State Theatre present Widespread Panic w/ From Good Homes</p> <p>WCLZ 98.9</p> <p>Saturday, April 1st</p> <p>\$16.50 all seats Doors 7pm / Show 8pm</p>	<p>Nanci Griffith w/ Sara Hickman</p> <p>Monday, April 10th</p> <p>General Admission \$23.50 Cabaret Doors 6pm General Ad. Doors 7pm Show 8pm</p>	<p>Mel Tormé</p> <p>Friday, April 1st</p> <p>Cabaret \$28.50 (plus \$10.50 entree ticket) Reserved Seating \$25.50 Cabaret Doors 6pm Reserv. Seat Doors 7pm Show 8pm</p>
	<p>Belly w/ Cold Water Flat</p> <p>World Tour Kick Off!</p> <p>Tuesday, April 4th</p> <p>General Admission \$15 (\$17 day of show) Doors 6:30 / Show 7:30 on sale March 16th</p>	<p>Joe Jackson</p> <p>Only Northeast Appearance!</p> <p>Monday, April 17th</p> <p>Cabaret \$27.50 (plus \$10.50 entree ticket) General Admission \$26.50, \$23.50, \$22.50 Doors 7pm, Show 8pm On Sale March 17th</p>	<p>Patsy Cline by Dean Regan</p> <p>Saturday, April 22nd</p> <p>Cabaret \$19.50 (plus \$10.50 entree ticket) Reserved Seating \$16.50 & \$15.50 Cabaret Doors 6pm, Show 8pm Reserved Seat Doors 7pm, Show 8pm</p>	

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newsreal

A review of the top news stories affecting Greater Portland March 8 through 14.

Sam DiPietro wants a bigger cut of booze profits for his South Portland market. The Democratic state representative is pushing measures that would give private agency stores, such as his, a greater percentage of the net income from selling liquor.

Under current law, agency stores buy their alcohol from the state, and are allowed to mark it up just eight percent. DiPietro introduced a bill to increase that to 20 percent by reducing the state's share of the gain. "Eight percent is not enough," he says. "If you break a bottle or somebody steals a bottle, bye-bye profit."

DiPietro also complains that such meager margins make it impossible for small retailers to offer credit card sales of liquor, since the card companies take three percent of the sales price.

The proposed profit shift would not affect consumers, because it would come out of the state's share of liquor profits, currently 25 percent. DiPietro, who sits on the Appropriations Committee, admits the state may not be able to afford his plan, which would cost the general fund an estimated \$10 million over the next two years. "But if we're going to get the state out of the liquor business," he says, "they're going to have to find a way to make it affordable."

Asked whether he was concerned his bill might be a conflict of interest for an agency store owner, DiPietro said, "People in the business asked me to submit it. There's no conflict in submitting a bill. I don't feel I should vote on this issue, but I would like to be able to talk about it in committee and on the floor of the legislature." Nevertheless, he plans to withdraw his bill in favor of three proposals sponsored by other legislators to do the same thing.

Brew pub row is growing. Portland may soon have four bars that brew their own beers stretching along a mile of Fore Street. In addition to the Gritty McDuff's at 396 Fore and the still-in-the-negotiating-stages Stone Coast Brewing Co. at Gorham Corners, two more projects have surfaced.

The India Street Brewing Co. plans to open at the former Dos Locos and Bruno's location at Fore and India Streets as the Hedgehog Brew Pub. Head brewer Carl Hinsman says the bar and restaurant will be back in business within a month, but actual beer production won't begin until late summer or early fall.

Unidentified investors are said to be interested in turning the former Richard Parks Gallery at 288 Fore Street into a small brewery and bar. But, according to Maine liquor tax auditor Jeff Austin, no applications for state or federal permits for that project have yet been filed.

A medication subsidy for poor people was rejected by Republicans in the Maine House, sending the last remnant of the Maine Health Care Program to the junk heap — for now. The March 14 defeat of the drug program also signaled a defeat for Gov. Angus King, who lobbied on its behalf.

The program — which would have continued some prescription drug payments for about 2,500 Mainers — needed two-thirds approval in the House to be extended to June 30. But it fell seven votes short of the 101 votes required. Nine legislators were absent.

Greater Portland Republicans who voted against the bill included John Buck of Yarmouth, Jan Labrecque of Gorham, Jean Ginn Marvin of Cape Elizabeth, Robert Pendleton of Scarborough, Gary Reed of Falmouth and Joe Taylor of Cumberland.

"The governor never promised he could sell this to Republicans," said King spokesman Dennis Bailey. "We're disappointed. But we still feel there's a chance next week."

A parliamentary move following the vote made it possible for the bill to be reconsidered. Bailey predicted it will resurface when the Legislature reconvenes March 21.

No age discrimination for drug dealers. Joseph Grant, 73, and Alice Grant, 68, of Anderson Street in Portland each spent a week in jail for trafficking in scheduled drugs. The Maine Drug Enforcement Agency nabbed the Grants in a sting operation that involved having an informant make buys from dealers he knew.

According to the Grants' lawyer, George Milliken, the case involved "elderly people on Social Security just trying to make a buck to supplement their income. They sold a couple of pills, that's all." Milliken says the pills were prescription medications that had been obtained legally. "It's really a waste of time and money for the state to go after somebody like that," he said.

The Grants were sentenced to 90 days imprisonment with all but a week suspended. They'll also serve a year's probation during which they'll be subject to random searches and drug testing.

The candidates keep on coming...and going. Sixteen people have taken out nominating papers for the three seats up for grabs on the Portland City Council in the May 2 election. But at least two of them have already decided not to run.

Activist Ivan Suzman says he's quitting because of his health. Twice-defeated council hopeful John Connors is dropping out due to frustration. "I can't work with those clowns," he said. Connors cited the council inaction on problems with the county jail and a downtown development strategy he thinks is wrongheaded. "I don't want to be bothered," he said, "with the new art thing we're supposed to do."

The defection of Connors and Suzman from the at-large race still leaves a healthy field. In addition to incumbent councilors John McDonough and Kerl Lord, it includes Giovano Fusco, Anthony Holt, Bruce Webber, Austin West, Mark Hider, Stephen Lovejoy, Peter Rickett, Paula Agopian and Daniel Foster.

In District 3, where incumbent Tom Allen is not seeking reelection, Nancy Sawyer, Tom Kane and Patricia Bernard are circulating petitions in hopes of taking Allen's place.

Nominating papers are due at the city clerk's office March 28.

Pearl Jam will play in Maine hopes local concert promoter Jim Ahearne. But he's not making any promises. "We don't know if they're coming," Ahearne said. But Pearl Jam will probably have a northeast leg of their summer tour, Ahearne said. So he and Steve Bailey of the State Theatre have applied for a mass-gathering permit for the Cumberland Fairgrounds for an Aug. 23 concert.

"We need to be able to tell the band that we have a facility that is approved and available before they would agree to come," Ahearne said. The Cumberland Town Council will hold a hearing April 3 to decide whether to allow the concert.

Reports that Ahearne and Bailey are also considering the Oxford Plains Speedway are bogus, Ahearne said. "If we were looking at Oxford, we'd be talking to the people of Oxford."

Concert promoters from New Hampshire and Vermont are also vying to book the rock band, Ahearne said.

Maine is the safest state in the country, according to a Kansas company that ranks states and cities based on 14 factors. Maine bested Vermont, last year's winner, which is now ranked second. West Virginia, New Hampshire and North Dakota round out the top five.

Louisiana was named the country's most dangerous state for the second year in a row. And it's no wonder. The New Orleans Police Department makes Harvey Keitel's "Bad Lieutenant" — who cheated his colleagues on bets, stole evidence, snorted coke and heroin, and masturbated in front of girls — look like Mr. Rogers.

Since 1992 more than 30 of New Orleans' cops have been charged with felonies, and in less than a year, four officers have been accused of murder. In 1994, New Orleans had 421 homicides. Maine had 28.

The ratings were compiled by Morgan Quitno Press, which analyzed a variety of violent crime and prison population statistics.

weird news A pair of locally made boat shoes may have saved the life of an Australian yacht crew member competing in the America's Cup. When the yacht, *oneAustralia* sank last week, Skipper John Bertrand commanded his crew to take off their sea boots and abandon ship, according to a breathless press release issued by Sebago, the Westbrook shoe manufacturer.

But one crew member, David Barnes, refused to part with his new Sebago Docksides sea boots. "I'd never give up those boots," Barnes said in the press release. "I stuffed them into my jacket, and I reckon they were full of air and kept me afloat. I'll not return to sea without them — ever."

Reported by Chris Barry, Al Diamon, Bob Young and The Associated Press; illustrated by Steve Kurth.



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Gay rights bill shelved

Leading gay rights advocates will not introduce an anti-discrimination bill, even though Gov. Angus King has said he would sign it into law.

"We don't want to confuse the voters," explained Pat Ryan, director of the Maine Human Rights Commission (MHRC). But confusion reigns as an Auburn lawyer, who worked against gay rights in Lewiston, is pushing his own statewide anti-discrimination proposal.

Here's the logic of gay rights advocates in postponing a 1995 bill: Mainers will be voting in November on a referendum to ban gay rights initiated by Carolyn Cosby's

newsreal

Concerned Maine Families (CMF). And under Maine's Constitution, if the Legislature adopts a law that competes

with a citizen-sponsored referendum already on the ballot, then both measures would have to appear on the ballot. So if a gay rights law was passed, voters would have to choose between the two "competing measures."

Gay rights activists believe voters will reject the CMF referendum, which would also undermine local control by abolishing municipal anti-discrimination ordinances like Portland's. And activists don't want to risk losing voters by having two different proposals to choose between.

"Carolyn Cosby has purposely worded [her] referendum in a confusing way," charged Karen Geraghty, president of the

Maine Lesbian/Gay Alliance. "We felt it best to... bring a little clarity to the November elections."

But Cosby claimed that activists want legislators, and not voters, to deal with their proposal. "We've said from the beginning that the militant gay activists have always avoided direct contact with the voters," Cosby argued. "This is just another way around the issue."

Sen. Dale McCormick, who would have sponsored the bill in this legislative session, disagreed with Cosby. "I respect the referendum process and I trust the judgement of the people in Maine," she said. "I see no benefit in having two conflicting measures on the ballot. It will only serve to confuse matters."

To confuse matters even more, Auburn lawyer Mike Poulin has drafted an anti-discrimination bill that he claims would be more appealing to moderate voters than the bills traditionally proposed in the Legislature.

"I've heard that both Dale McCormick and Carolyn Cosby are equally upset with the bill," Poulin said.

Indeed, McCormick is unhappy with Poulin's effort. She stressed that Poulin worked to repeal a gay rights measure that Lewiston's City Council adopted in 1993. (In defending his position, Poulin said he opposed the Lewiston ordinance because gay rights shouldn't be decided by municipalities.)

Lewiston state Sen. Georgette Berube said she would sponsor Poulin's bill but will suggest he wait til next year.

Chris Barry

Hospital merger cleared

Two Portland hospitals are now one, but some doctors are worried about the deal.

Brighton and Maine Medical Centers cleared the final obstacle to a merger when the Federal Trade Commission announced March 13 it would not consider the hospital merger to be a violation of anti-trust laws. A new nonprofit corporation, the Maine Medical Center Foundation will oversee both hospitals, though each will retain its name and location.

Hospital administrators praised the merger, saying it would make the hospitals more efficient and would lower health care costs in the region. Maine Medical president Don McDowell said expensive major equipment would be purchased by one facility rather than both to save money. The merger would also eliminate duplication of medical services offered by both hospitals. Procedures like childbirth will likely be shifted to one of the two hospitals.

But McDowell admitted that the merger could hurt consumers. "One of the drawbacks is... it will start to limit choice," he said.

Dr. John Padavano, chief of orthopedic surgery at Brighton Medical Center agreed that some patients will lose their right to choose a health care provider. "There used to be three hospitals people in Portland could choose from," Padavano said. "Now there are only two."

He also fears that administrators concentrated on business

and financial interests when considering the merger, while downplaying health care issues.

Brighton Medical, an osteopathic community hospital, is smaller than Maine Medical Center. With the merger, Padavano believes that patients who have been going to Brighton for years "will be forced to go to the big trauma center and funnelled into a system that might not be in their best interest... but in the best interest of corporate America."

Physicians' philosophical differences have been overlooked as well, Padavano said. Brighton physicians are osteopaths, who believe body alignment is essential to curing illnesses and injuries. Maine Medical doctors are allopaths, relying primarily on drugs and surgery for cures.

While physicians will have privileges to practice at both hospitals, osteopaths will be at a disadvantage, Padavano contended. That's because some services now offered at Brighton — such as an emergency room visits — may be shifted to Maine Med. And patients shifted to Maine Med will be referred to Maine Med doctors. Padavano believes this is unfair. "All throughout the country, osteopaths and allopaths have been treated equally... why is it different in Portland?" he asked.

Hospital officials hesitate to say when the merger will be complete but estimate it will take at least one year. It's too early, McDowell said, to know how hospital fees will be affected by the merger.

Chris Barry

Nuke tubes cracked

Another severely cracked steam tube was found at Maine Yankee, raising questions about the nuclear plant's ability to detect defects and the dangers associated with the cracks.

Inspectors at the Maine's only nuclear power plant discovered a second steam generator tube cracked more than 80 percent through — or beyond the 79 percent threshold that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) considers safe. A tube that was cracked 83 percent was found March 4, and a tube cracked 81 percent was found March 12. The tubes play a key safety role by carrying steam heat from the plant's radioactive reactor to generators that create electricity.

The severe cracks have prompted plant critics to warn that the rupture of multiple tubes, and a potentially harmful release of radioactivity, are inevitable. Plant officials countered that problems can be spotted and corrected before such a release occurred. But plant spokesman Marshall Murphy did admit that the recent crack discoveries suggest that Maine Yankee may not be able to predict the cracks as accurately as the company hoped.

Maine Yankee's steam tubes came under scrutiny last July when a tube leak caused the plant to be shutdown. In searching for the leak, engineers were surprised to find more than 300 tubes with cracks all the way around them. To be detected, the cracks had to cut through 40 percent of the tube wall, which is about as wide as the edge of a quarter. Four tubes had cracks that penetrated 90 percent of their walls.

The NRC allowed the plant to restart and run until its

scheduled refueling which is now under way. All 17,000 of the tubes are being tested.

So far, tests have found about 140 tubes with cracks, in addition to the 300 discovered this summer. The nuclear power industry has been keeping tabs on the inspection because tubes in plants similar to Maine Yankee have been corroding faster than anticipated.

"The bottom line here is that deterioration is ongoing. Consequently, the longer the plant operates the more deteriorated it becomes. Each day the margin of safety is reduced and the public should be aware of that," said Paul Gunter of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, a private watchdog group based in Washington, D.C.

But Murphy argued that Maine Yankee has the ability to detect leaks before they cause tubes to burst. "First, the history of ruptures at nuclear power plants is minor in nature," Murphy said. "Second, the tubes in steam generators have shown a propensity to develop leaks long in advance of any possible rupture. We have the ability to monitor [the tubes] and we can take conservative actions to bring the plant off-line before there's a rupture."

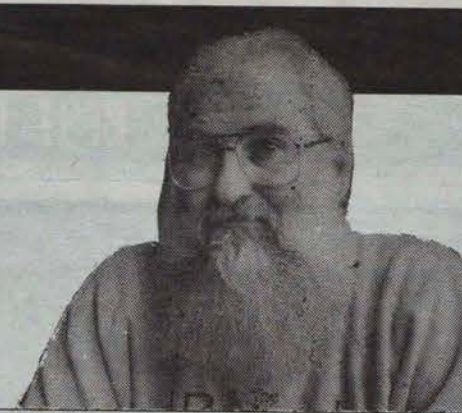
Tube inspections should be finished within a week, Murphy said. The plant is slated to start up again in April.

But Gunter was dismayed about the possibility. "It's a little like starting on a cross-country trip knowing you've got a crack in your steering column," he said.

Bob Young & The Associated Press

politics & other mistakes

By Al Diamond



The giving tree

The Sierra Club is circulating a list of campaign contributions by the forest products industry that shows the companies gave heavily to legislators who ended up on key committees overseeing regulation of the Maine woods.

On the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, for instance, seven of the 13 members got cash from the paper industry or related sources. Senate chairman Vinton Cassidy of Calais collected \$3,300 from the likes of International Paper, Georgia-Pacific and ScottPAC. His fellow Republican, Senator Willis Lord of North Water-boro, raked in \$4,900 from Bowater, Boise Cascade, Fraser and Hancock Lumber, among others. Democratic Senator Judy Paradis of Frenchville got just \$400 from Fraser and its employee credit union, but that could have something to do with Paradis' 60 percent rating from the Maine League of Conservation Voters (MLCV) during the previous legislative session. Lord, by contrast, had a 10 percent rating.

House committee members benefiting from the lumber largess include Republicans Ed Dexter of Kingfield (\$1,200) and Robert Spear of Noble-boro (\$1,000), and Democrats Thomas Tyler of Windham (\$511) and Douglas Ahearn of Madawaska (\$300). Ahearn received his cash even though he didn't have an opponent in the general election.

The Natural Resources Committee's members got their campaign resources from similar sources. Lord and his \$4,900 sit on this committee as well. They're kept company by Democratic House chairman Richard Gould of Greenville (\$1,450), Republican Senate chairman John Hathaway of Kennebunkport (\$250), Democratic Senator Richard Ruhlman of Brewer (\$1000), Democratic Representative Thomas Poulin of Oakland (\$500) and Republican Representatives Ernest Greenlaw of Standish (\$1,000) and Catherine Damren of Belgrade (\$750).

The average MLCV rating for legislators who earned the fruits of the forest products industry was 21 percent. The average rating for those who got nothing but sawdust was 33 percent.

Lawyers, guns and money

Republican Congressman Jim Longley doesn't always pay his bills on time, and his tardiness may be infecting one of his employees. The Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar reported Feb. 24 that Longley chief of staff Floyd Rutherford had been suspended as a lawyer for failure to pay his annual bar registration fee.

"Oh, God," Rutherford said when informed of his transgression, "I must

have overlooked it with all the hubbub bubble down here [in Washington]." He promised to send a check immediately.

Longley, who got some press attention during the campaign for his overdue property tax bills, and for being sued by a former partner for allegedly failing to settle debts, made financial news of a different kind in February. The Center for Responsive Politics' newsletter, "Capital Eye," reported Longley was one of just three freshman elected to Congress in 1994 who spent less than \$200,000 on their campaigns. His total was \$194,220, making him the second cheapest winner in Washington.

What the newsletter didn't mention is the reason for the low figure, namely the disorganization in the Longley campaign that disrupted fundraising efforts until shortly before the election.

As to which freshman ran an even more frugal campaign than Longley, it was Republican Michael Flanagan of Illinois. Flanagan's victory cost just \$120,000, but was aided by a 17-count indictment against his opponent, Democratic Congressman Dan Rostenkowski.

Teenage wasteland

Gov. Angus King wasn't born with his talent for talking on the tube. When King made his initial television appearance back in 1961, he was visibly nervous and had little to say.

King, then a senior at Francis Hammond High School in Alexandria, Va., competed as part of a three-student team on the quiz show "It's Academic," broadcast in the Washington, D.C., area. His group won the contest, but King contributed little. In fact, the future governor missed the only question with a connection to Maine, failing to identify a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

The show did reveal one hitherto unreported fact about the gov. His nickname is "Gus."

Blast from the past

Last month I rashly claimed the list of Republican candidates for major office who had dared to support gay rights legislation was "exactly one name long." It's actually more like two. While I correctly cited 1994 gubernatorial candidate Susan Collins, I forgot all about 1988 1st District congressional hopeful Ted O'Meara.

Deep in the hearts of politicians, / Midst lust, avarice and ambitions, / Lies an egotistical hint, / They love to get into print, / Even from indictment for seditions. (Help them out by sending tips to this column, care of Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by calling 775-6601.)

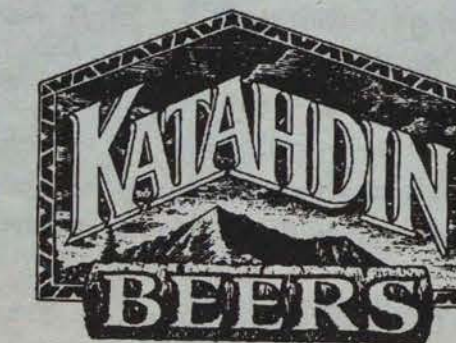


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IF Portland were New Orleans we'd be frolicking half-naked down Exchange Street until 3 a.m. If it were San Francisco, we'd be sipping the best damn little latte you ever tasted while watching the fog roll past Spring Point Light. If it were Baltimore, we'd be hanging out by the big and fancy fish house at the harbor, cheering the arrival of the tourists. But Portland ain't any of those places. We're not even close.

Just look at the ranking of metropolitan areas — we weigh in at 164th in size nationwide. Or to put it in perspective: metro Portland falls well behind 111th-ranked metro Visalia, Calif.

Portland may not have the size or sweep of other U.S. cities, but the little city that could handily makes up for its stature with quirkiness and quality. We've got deep pockets of high-quality stuff and people and places, and an urban feel of a city four times our size. Yeah, Visalia may have more meat on its bones. But just try scaring up a shishkebob abduallah or an early Werner Herzog film at the local video store.

It's Portland's remarkable depth and range that CBW readers celebrate each year in our "Best of Portland" issue. For a dinky city, it's a pretty bitchin' place.

There were no big surprises in our readers' survey this year. Many of the usual suspects swept their categories.

One change of note was the strong showing among newcomers. Most years, the new contenders lag well behind the pack, then gain momentum the second and third years. But Bull Moose Records edged out Amadeus this year, and other upstarts — like Bella Bella, the Congress Street Diner, Café Uffa, Java Joe's, and WCYY — made impressive showings for freshmen. And let's not even mention the microbrews that crashed the exclusive Gritty's-Geary's party of years past.

This year we also asked readers to make up their own categories and entries. You applied considerable zeal to the task, causing the editors to grow fatigued in the reading. And, frankly, these entries made us feel inadequate. We thought we were the creative ones. Look for the "Reader's Choice" seal on entries throughout. Also look for the "Editor's Choice" contributions. What can we say? The meddlesome staff and freelancers would not be silenced.

Hope you enjoy our annual look at the "Best of Portland." If not, there's always Visalia.

— The Editors

Cover photograph: Nance Trucworthy
Digital surgery: Mike Timberlake

BEST PEOPLE



file photo/Tonee Harbert

Best unsung hero: Frannie Peabody

Let's say somebody asks you to sum what you like best about Portland in two words.

Easy: Frannie Peabody.

Peabody has become a Portland institution in the hallowed New England way. She's built a reputation slowly, steadily and without intending to do so, through quiet deeds rather than flashy words.

Born in New Mexico 93 years ago, Frannie came east to attend Smith College, went into business and eventually rose to become vice president of a Massachusetts shoe company. After moving to Portland in 1957, she became part of the city's fabric, helping out with numerous civic causes. She was a key player in the founding of Portland Landmarks, which has moved mountains to preserve the city's brick-hued character.

More recently, she's given of herself to AIDS education and advocacy, helping found The AIDS Project and involving herself in other endeavors. The recent opening of the Peabody House hospice for people with AIDS was a welcome honor, but it was only one small step toward recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the city.

Most effective citizen group: Portland Trails

Call it the group that just won't quit. Portland Trails — an urban land trust founded in 1991 — refuses to rest on its laurels. The group won the honor last year for quietly putting together the land acquisition package that will become the Eastern Prom Trail this spring and has kept busy since then. It spanned the Fore River with a new pedestrian bridge off Congress Street last year, vastly improving access to the Maine Audubon Society's 85-acre wildlife sanctuary — one of Portland's last and most remote urban wildlands.

That bridge will also be a keystone in this year's major endeavor: cobbling together a 4-mile Stroudwater River

Loop trail. This new trail will be a central component in the group's plan to build 30 miles of footpaths in Portland by the turn of the century. "We've got about one-third in place with this trail, and we're right on target," says executive director Alix Hopkins. "We're well on our way."

Others groups well appreciated by Portlanders included The AIDS Project, the Maine People's Alliance and the Preble Street Resource Center.

Best bartender: Jill St. John

She doesn't juggle vodka bottles or spit fire or dance on the bar. She's been tending bar for 10 years — eight of them at Three Dollar Dewey's. Her style is to make people feel at home.

"I'm a constant, I've been there so long," she says. Over the years she's developed a loyal following. She knows their names and their favorite drinks. Even though Dewey's is in the Old Port, she says it feels like a neighborhood bar. This is her second year winning, and there's no sign of last call.

Best radio DJ: Willie and Lori on WMGX

"They're actually funny," says a fan of Willie and Lori's morning show. "They have just the right amount of flirtatious guy/gal banter to keep things lively." This radio duo knocked the socks off the competition with their a.m. comedy hour — aimed at waking listeners up on the right side of the bed and keeping commuters from snoozing in traffic.

Mark Persky was nudged out this year — do you think it had anything to do with *Cradle's* nine-part article on him, or that the Blimp neglected to bribe voters with CDs as they did for that other paper's poll?

Worst waste of precious oxygen: Carolyn Cosby

Carolyn Cosby is shaping up to be the Al Sharpton of Portland — full of swagger and bluff, and devoid of common sense and grace. She's clever enough not to invoke the Bible at every turn in her statewide campaign against equal rights for gays and lesbians (Maine's not that kind of state, and she's learned from the failures in like-minded Oregon), so we'll do it for her.

"The lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword." Proverbs 5:3-4.

Thanks to David Aaron Swander of Portland.

Best political windfall: George Mitchell's retirement

Did he read the future of the Democratic party in his tea leaves, or was he a catalyst in the Republican routing of Congress? Hard to say. But Mitchell's decision to not seek re-election as Maine's senator (and Senate Majority Leader) created a yawning vacancy for aspiring politicians in Maine.

Rumors romped as to Mitchell's motivations and future destination, but he kept a true Yankee tight-lipped disposition, offering only that it was time to step down. And not a moment too soon. Can you imagine taking your marching orders from Bob Dole? The horror! The horror!

Worst loser: Joe Brennan

"Bazooka" Joe Brennan didn't take his loss very graciously when he was edged out by Angus King during the see-saw vote count last November. He may have expected a gracious waltz to the Blaine House, but instead he

ended mortally wounded in the new politics mosh pit. His worst crime, according to Portlander Lorenzo

Raffa: He didn't even come down to talk to his supporters in the ballroom at the Holiday Inn on election night. King, ever the gentleman, kept in touch with his people throughout the night, even though the results weren't final until morning.

Best TV personality: Bob Elliot

Amid an amazing collection of TV personalities receiving votes this year — among them Felicia Knight, Kim Block, Kevin Mannix, the test pattern stripes, Jolly John, the fox on "Fox 51 Kids Club" and Eddie the dog on "Frasier" — Channel 6's Bob Elliot makes a comeback as winner for 1994. When told of the news, Elliot exclaimed, "That's fantastic! I'm going into the boss's office right now and demand a raise."

Elliot's favorite story from 1994? "Oh, hands down... Storm Center. Getting out there and talking to people about the snow. It was absolutely fun." Move over, Joe Cupo.

Best writer: Al Diamon

This one came as a bit a surprise to us. Because we didn't realize that Al Diamon was actually a *writer*. We thought he was just a guy who wandered in off Congress Street, drank a lot of beer, hung around the newsroom and talked about his dogs too much. We wondered who would be the first to ask him to leave.

Then someone pointed out he was the guy writing all those columns. And the guy that wrote that *nice* story about George Neavoll. And he knew how to phrase something so that it would offend not just a select few, but everybody. So we figured, what the hell. Let him stay.

Others scribblers who commanded a good showing included former CBW Best of Portland writers Monica Wood and Alfred DePew, and erstwhile CBW arts editor Elizabeth Peavey.

Best local pro athlete: Billy Swift

San Francisco Giants pitcher Billy Swift, a one-time 20-game winner, took high honors this year, even though major league baseball has been on strike since August 1994. A vid fans should be sure to check out Bleachers, a sports bar on Forest Avenue, where a shrine to the South Portland native has been erected. Balls, gloves, shirts... it's a mini Hall of Fame!

Best clerk: Jeff Carpenter at Artist and Craftsman Supply

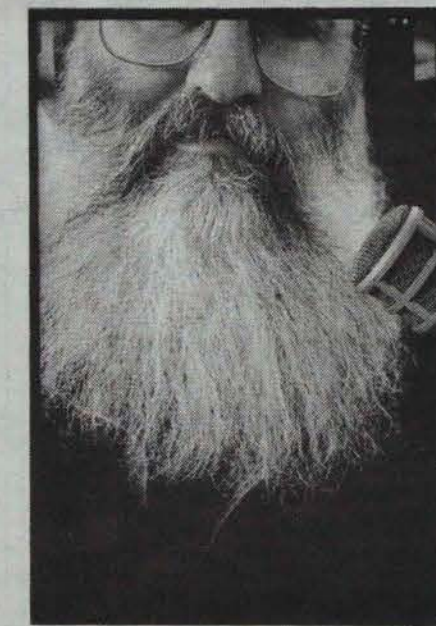
"He's great with kids, and always know the answers to our family's art dilemmas. He usually has an anecdote to share, and he's talented."

—Sharon Spencer, Yarmouth

Local personality with most interesting hair: Al Diamon

Readers think hair means *facial* hair, because they picked resident CBW curmudgeon Al Diamon. As the Greek scholar and librarian Callimachus once said, "the beard is the soft down of manhood." The bestubbed Diamon appreciates the votes, but he thinks Portland Mayor Dick Paulson or *Press Herald* columnist M.D. Harmon should have won the award.

Diamon beat out top-cop Mike "Curly" Chitwood, and historian-legislator Herb "Haven't Been To The Barber Since the 1970s" Adams for the coiffured cup.

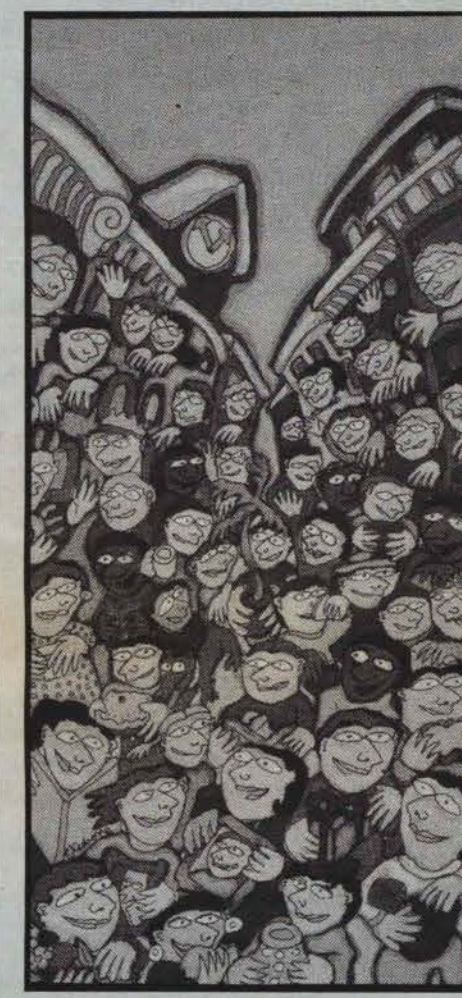


file photo/Tonee Harbert

Best visual artist: David Cedrone

David Cedrone (pronounced like "bologna") is no brooding, angst-filled artiste — "I'm kind of a prankster," says he. "My work makes people happy." The prolific Cedrone's exuberant mixed-media pieces are positively busting with goggle-eyed people and creatures. Instilling a little joy must be the key to success, because this year's win will be Cedrone's fourth. Coffee By Design hosts his most recent show, with angels dangling over the espresso machine and bug-eyed rabbits peering out of mirror frames.

Those of you who are not so merry in your art-making, never fear — virtually everyone who puts paintbrush to canvas got at least one vote of confidence. Even if it was from your mom.



photo/Colin Malakie

Local politician you trust most: Tom Andrews

CBW endorsed him, CBW readers voted for him, but Tom is now out of work. Even though Olympia Snowe beat him in the battle for U.S. Senate, Tom Andrews won the more coveted CBW most-trusted award. A few other politicians including Green Jonathan Carter, the embattled Al Martin — who spent part of his campaign for sheriff in jail — and new guy Angus King received a smattering of support.

Andrews' replacement in Congress garnered one vote, we think. Did the reader who voted "Ha! Ha! Ha!" mean Jim Longley?

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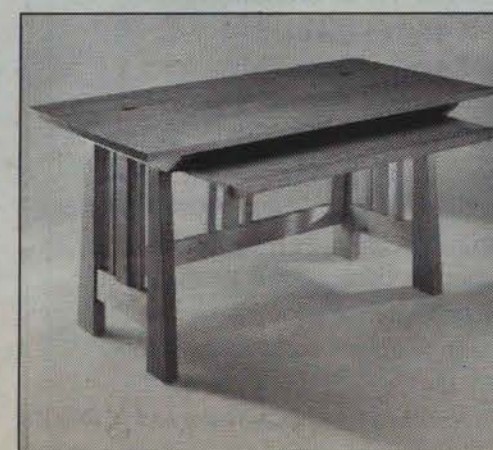
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BEST FOOD & DRINK



continued from previous page

Best Maine microbrew: Gritty's

Geary's, Gritty's, Geary's, Gritty's — the Ping-Pong match in this category continues. But granddaddy brewmasters take heed: Maine is lousy with microbreweries, and competition was fierce for runners-up, with strong showings from Shipyard, Sunday River, Kennebunkport and Casco Bay brewing companies. We say — the more the merrier. Hick.

Best new bakery:

Big Sky Bread

Maybe it's the location — in a beautifully restored 1907 firehouse at Woodfords Corner. Or maybe it's the wheat — organically grown in Montana and milled fresh every day right before your eyes. Or maybe it's just the loaves of wholegrain bread, which weigh in at an average of two pounds or so. Whatever the reasons, Big Sky Bread got several special mentions as the best new bakery in town.

Owners Bill Harris and Martha Elkus opened the place last June and have been kneading, rising and slicing feverishly ever since. "One thing about our bread we like," says Elkus, "is that it's everyday bread you can use for your kids' sandwiches rather than designer bread."

That home-on-the-range attitude is rounding up plenty of satisfied customers.

Best restaurant if money's no object: Street & Company

Quel surprise. This tony Old Port bistro filleted the competition last year, and this year swept it overboard. A slab of fresh fish, a fistful of pasta — sounds simple, eh? Street possesses a magic touch — unobtrusive yet accommodating service, and a rustic yet elegant atmosphere wrap around your entree. Perhaps you'll order sumptuously plump and blushing shrimps peeking out of a tangle of fresh pasta (D.B. Eberhardt, eat your heart out...) served in a hubcap-sized skillet. Our only regret is that money usually is an object.

Best dinner restaurant if you're down to your last \$10: Pepperclub

The Pepperclub scores again — perhaps because its menu offers samplings ranging from the glamor-



Best pad thai: Seng's Take Out

This is more than just a food category. It's a gauge of Portland's cultural literacy. And this year far fewer voters responded with "???" or "Huh?" or "Village Café" than in the past (although one reader gave Geno's a vote), which suggests to us that Portland is finally waking up to Thailand's national dish, a savory mix of rice noodles, fish sauce, ground peanuts, scrambled egg, sprouts and dried chili peppers that burst with enough fire to bake the winter chill out of your bones.

Seng's Take Out took the category this year, edging out Tony's Thai, Sala Thai and Ahearn Thai (which won last year when it was called Thai Garden). Seng's funky take-out emporium at the back of the Vientiane Market on St. John Street (just off Brighton Avenue) is as unpretentious as they come — but please don't plop yourself down on a bag of rice while waiting for your order. You'll bruise the grains.

Last year Seng's branched out with a new sit-down restaurant on Congress Street (the same storefront where Lynn at Saigon Sandwich used to dish up the best bowls of noodles this side of the Pacific). One five-star aficionado says the pad thai at the Congress Street location is more sprouty, while at St. John Street the noodles are coated with more flavoring. Whatever. We'll take either any day.

ous (smoked salmon) to the humble (basic burger) and noshing for both vegetarian and carnivore alike — all at prices even a freelance writer can afford. Add to the mix the Pepperclub's new lounge, where you can sip on microbrews or wine while you wait, and a laid-back staff that doesn't mind if you linger — and you come up with the winner's formula.

Bella Bella came in a close second as Portlanders' favorite affordable dining spot — an obvious choice, since Bella's version of rustic Italian cuisine makes for waiting lines on nights when many ristoranti polish the salt and pepper shakers.

Best coffee: Green Mountain

Green Mountain is the place to be — whether en route to your morning meeting or slacking the day away. GMCR's central location and vast selection of beans make it a perpetual hot spot for Portlanders in search of a simple cup of joe or an exotic coffee beverage. Beans is big business, apparently, since coffeehouses are sprouting up all over town. While



photos/Colin Malakie

Portland still can't claim drive-through espresso stands, some contenders for the java crown were Coffee By Design on Congress, Java Joe's on Exchange and Portland Coffee Roasters on Commercial Street. Its getting so each neighborhood in the city has its own fueling spot. Heck, you could start on the West End and hit coffee spots all across town like a caffeinated pinball, until finally you spontaneously combusted on the Eastern Prom.

Best community restaurant: Alpha Delta House of Pizza, Congress Street

"Alpha Delta is a true community restaurant. Obviously, it's not the busiest pizza shop, but they really take care of the older and needy people around. I've been in there when an older person was in, and the proprietors were making sure she had enough food and was safe for the upcoming snowstorm. Genuine and real people. That's what we lose with the homog-



file photo/Tonee Harbert

Best lunch for \$5 or less: Silly's

Somewhere between Graceland and Mecca (Cumberland Ave.) lies Silly's. Believers flock to Silly's — where lunchtime is often standing-room-only — when the soul needs nourishing just as much as the stomach. No sprouts or avocado on this menu. Fare ranges from the down-home burger and a Coke to the more exotic Jamaican jerk chicken abdullah and a peanut butter-banana shake. Add to that homemade veggie burgers, soups and stews, and anyone can see the light for less than the price of most movie tickets. "It's tasty, good, quick and cheap," says owner Dierdre Nice. "I've never understood the Silly's deal myself. I guess it's fun to go somewhere for lunch, and because Silly's is small and loud and cheap, people feel like they did something good." But it won't be small for long. Silly's is moving around the corner, where it will have seating for about 40 instead of six and will serve beer and wine. "It will be the same," says Nice, "just bigger."

enization of Maine. We'll have plenty of Sam's Clubs and Wal-Marts, but a lot less character."

— Brett Wickard, Portland

Best produce: Portland Greengrocer

Since moving to Commercial Street in November, business at the Portland Greengrocer has skyrocketed. The unique store carries products not found in the average market, including a plethora of pesto variations (sun-drenched, walnut, etc.) and tons of tropical fruits. "We work really hard at it. I try to get the best [produce] I can," explains owner Nick Witte. He attributes the store's added success to its new location. "Before, we were a little bit out of the way. Now we're on the way."

The ever-popular Farmer's Market pulled in second, closely followed by the West End's Good Day Market.

Best brownie: Gervais and Sun

These hefty blocks of Grade A binge fodder are everything a brownie should be — moist but not wet, dense without being heavy, chips but no nuts and the maximum dose of chocolate allowed without a prescription. They're made entirely from scratch, entirely legal and cheaper than therapy.

Best bagel: Mr. Bagel

For whatever reason, bagels are in. And sitting atop the bagel mountain for another straight year is Mr. Bagel. The competition was hot and heavy between Mr. Bagel and rival Bagel

Best fries: Silly's

And while you're eating your lunch-on-the-cheap, check out Silly's fries. Mainers know potatoes and Silly's knows how to fry 'em. Maybe the portrait of Elvis overlooking the Fryolator is part of the magic. Less greasy than Elvis' hair and less salty than his sweat, these fries please Portlanders. "All you gotta do is use real, fresh potatoes," says owner Dierdre Nice. Still, we believe they wouldn't be the same without The King's quality control.

Best defunct burrito stand: Tito's Burritos

Gone from its cramped quarters in Granny Killam's entryway but obviously not forgotten, Tito's Burritos rolled up several votes from readers this year. "Long live Tito's!" wrote Shelley Pressley of Portland. "We miss you!" Good news: Tito's has been resurrected as Granny's Burritos by two devoted fans who couldn't live without these fine creations. The stand reopened at its old haunt a month ago. *Que viva!*

Best pasta: Fresh Market

It's not recipes from the old country that make this pasta primo. Owner Alex Gingrich says his mother wouldn't know what to do with a pasta machine (he wouldn't say what she thinks of Hillary Clinton), but he seems to have figured it out for himself. Fresh Market wrapped up this category once again this year with its made-from-scratch pastas and sauces.

Bella Bella, new in 1994, came in a distant but respectable second.



photo/Colin Malakie

Best new breakfast dish: Empanadas at Café Uffa

Move over homefries and scrambled eggs. The newest entry in the Portland breakfast scene are the delectable empanadas at Portland's funky Café Uffa. We were skeptical at first — we prefer our Mexican food with beer, and in the evening, thanks. But then we recalled another new favorite — the breakfast burritos at Bintliff's — and gave these a shot. The verdict? Outstanding. The tasty crust on these hearty turnovers hide robust fillings, which change from day to day depending on the chef's mood. But expect scrambled eggs, potatoes, leeks, scallions, tomatoes and or other variations on these themes. For a multicultural treat, be sure to ask for some Moroccan hot sauce on the side to lend a earthy tang. The empanadas are available Wednesdays through Fridays — on the weekends, they're displaced by the more exhaustive brunch menu.

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Best pies: Port Bakehouse

Port Bakehouse doesn't just take the cake... it bakes it, and pies too. They took the Best Pies award amid a crowd of varied entries such as Governor's, Uncle Andy's and Pat's Meat Market. Though its pies are only a small fraction of the almost sinful pastries it produces, Port Bake House pastry chef Ed Foley said he's not surprised by the award: "Everything is from scratch. We use a butter pie dough for extra flavor. A lot of places skimp, and you can taste it." Foley's favorite concoction? The Linzer Bar... a rich hazelnut pastry with fruit preserve topping. Fat free? 'Fraid not. But it's practically the gustatory equivalent of an orgasm.

Best breakfast joint: Becky's

From the votes cast in this category, we figure the quickest way to pick a fight in Portland is to dis someone's favorite breakfast joint. Portlanders are breakfast-loyal, and more voters break their fasts at Becky's on Commercial Street than at any other egg house. You have to wake up pretty early in the morning to beat Becky's service, which begins at 4 a.m. Close competition came from the big Bs: Bintliff's, Brealu, Bayou Kitchen and the Bomeplate. But by far, Becky's brings home the bacon — along with the eggs, toast, hash and homefries — for a meager sum.

Receiving respectable votes for a first appearance in this category is

Café Uffa. Fresh pastries, an eclectic menu and some of the highest-test coffee in Longfellow Square quickly made Uffa a hard habit to break.

Best burger: Ruby's Choice

A lot of voters had a beef to pick with Ruby's... either rare, medium or well-done. For yet another year, Ruby's Choice was chosen as best place for a burger. And why not? Big, juicy burgers with a do-it-yourself fixins bar. While votes ranged all over town for this category (including one irate veggie voting "beef burgers suck"), the only real competition for Ruby's came from The Great Lost Bear. Boasting 17 variations on the burger theme (including a "Burger in the Nude") the Bear's "226.8 grams of choice ground char-grilled beef" will satiate any carnivorous need.

Best fried clams: The Village Café

CBW readers prefer batter over breaded clams, but not by much. The Village Café, that Italian battle-ax of a ristorante on Newberry Street and home of the battered clam barely outshucked Captain Newick's in South Portland by a couple of shells. Fans of fried bivalves also enjoy Benny's on Commercial Street and the Lobster Shack at Two Lights in Cape Elizabeth.

Of course not all CBW readers are shellfish lovers. One reader simply responded, "Yuck!"



photo/Joanne Marino

Best new restaurant: Bella Bella

Literally — Jimmy LeDue could barf on a plate and Portlanders would go gaga over it. "LeDue Redux!" the headlines would scream, as locals flocked to his latest culinary finding. (In fact, his food is so damned popular, a number of our readers must be having virtual reality dining experiences at Alberta's — as many votes in various categories were cast for that now-defunct LeDue eatery.)

Bella Bella won this category by a linguine landslide. Says the ever-blasé LeDue of his success: "Portland's a very small pond, and I like small ponds."

Best nachos: Great Lost Bear

Winner by a grizzly landslide. The Bear's secret? "Don't tell anyone," says co-owner "Tortilla" Chip MacConnell, "but we fry our own chips fresh daily. Everyone else uses pre-fried."

MacConnell suggests carnivores try the "Frank Sinachos" with pepperoni and marinara sauce. Herbivores might prefer Super Nachos with the veggie chili. Probably nothing much better to do on a Thursday night than chow down on nachos, chased by several of the Bear's ample array of "short" beer specials.

Best pizza: Ricetta's

For the millionth year in a row, CBW readers chose the brick oven South Portland pizzeria as the best. Try the "Sano," says manager Diane Conway. "It means 'health' in Italian." And that's what it sounds like: mushrooms, garlic, broccoli, white onion, basil, oregano and light mozzarella. Yum. The pizza's been

tested by a nutritionist, boasts Conway. "It's nutritious."

Best free eats at happy hour: T-Birds

Last year, Salutes won and T-Birds came in second. Now Salutes is no longer, and T-Birds is the big winner. "Some people come in and make a meal of the spread," says manager Dan Cyr. It's easy to see why. Edibles include sandwiches, pizza, nachos, a cheese tray, a veggie tray, pretzels, chips and T-Birds' famous hot-wings. "We've been making the wings for years," Cyr says. "We've got them perfect."

And Cyr recommends CBW readers take advantage of happy hours, otherwise you're likely to be unhappy later. "The ones that don't eat before a night of drinking," Cyr warns, "are the ones throwing up in the bathroom later."

BEST ENTERTAINMENT



Best local band: The Boneheads

CBW readers have diverse tastes in tunage, digging everything from rockabilly to lounge classics. But lovers of live, original music favored the Boneheads — self-proclaimed creators of an ambling, shambling country/blues groove called "the donkey." Their '94 release on Portland's River Records has found critical acclaim all over the East Coast and has home crowds enthusiastically wagging their burritos. Far from being an ornery group of coolsters, the five Boneheads are an endearing bunch of talented goofballs, playing everything from accordion to slide guitar with finesse — a rootsy sounding band that isn't afraid of putting "Purple Haze" to polka.

Best place for a free date: Portland's great outdoors

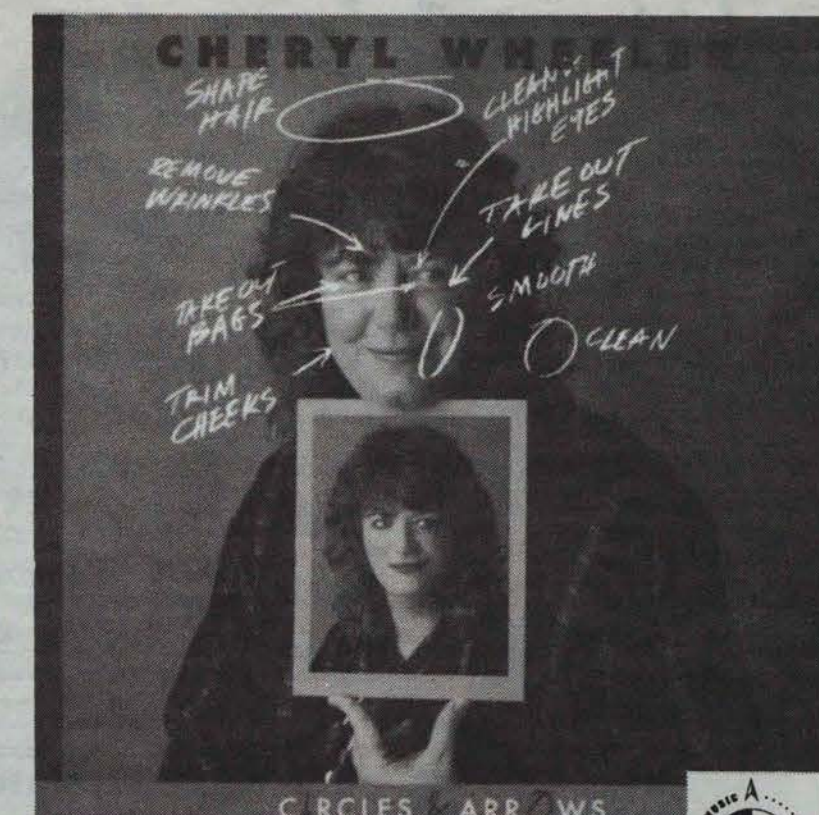
Aside from one sad soul whose response was "Nobody loves me," readers seem to favor a stroll by the sea — Fort Williams, Two Lights and Mackworth, most notably — when looking for a low-rent place to pitch the woo. Free arts and entertainment events — Thursday nights at the Portland Museum of Art and the Concerts in the Park series, for example — made a showing, as did "home." The mall also scored some baffling votes, as did other areas of commerce and businesses. One cynic offered a reality check, asserting: "No such thing." (Maybe we should fix this reader up with the "nobody loves me" person.)

Best things to do with kids: Take your pick

1. Count the clocks in Congress Square.
2. Go to Longfellow House; read "Hiawatha" later.
3. Maze Craze — Falmouth
4. Look at Two Lights lighthouse at night.
5. Take them to the jetport to see planes take off and the guys loading luggage.
6. Look for sea glass at Willard Beach.
7. Children's Museum, especially the camera obscura.

— Tom Cohn, Cape Elizabeth

continued on next page



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continued from previous page

Best jukebox: Uncle Billy's

Now and forever, CBW's official Greater Portland juke joint. Billy's lends way-white Portland soul, and we are eternally grateful for its heaping plates, its funk and jive and its wildly eclectic jukebox.

The 200-song selection kicks off with "Fat Girls Need Love Too" by Lester Woodard and ends with the Mitch Ryder version of "Devil With the Blue Dress." Billy's juke is a Smithsonianesque cornucopia of American culture, where Devo rubs lapels with Elvis, the "Theme from Shaft" cozies up to "Rock Lobster" and where The Singing Nun ("Dominique") and the Arthur Lyman Group ("Havah Nagilah") can be found amongst many a singing sinner. Booker T's "Green Onions" boasts a double bill (numbers 172 and 193). And this jukebox also offers a square deal: The handwritten sign says, "A dollar buys you nine plays, four quarters only five."

Best place to dance: Zootz

In spite of some haggling with City Hall over curbside kids making a racket late at night, Zootz still throbs with that primal rhythm that keeps Portlanders coming back Sunday after Sunday to shake their thangs (or watch other people shake their thangs). God knows we could all use a little boogie therapy to pull us through the bleak months of late winter.

Best neighborhood bar: Ruski's

Ruski's marks the spot where the West End becomes the wild West End. With burgers the size of your head and plank-sized fries, you'll never walk or weave from this neighborhood hang hungry. It's what every no-nonsense neighborhood joint should be: good, cheap and close to home. Steer clear of the dart board's path and don't bother with your fancy duds — the smoke hangs heavy and clings hard.

Best place to hear live music: State Theatre

The State Theatre continues to be a smash hit with the locals. Booking shows ranging from bluegrass oldsters Seldom Scene to fresh young thing Sarah MacLachlan has kept music enthusiasts of all tastes and ages coming back for more. The State's glamour is unmatched by any other local venue for ambience and, with a few sound glitches ironed out, acoustics. The old-world feel of the interior makes it possible to create a rich onstage atmosphere — offering

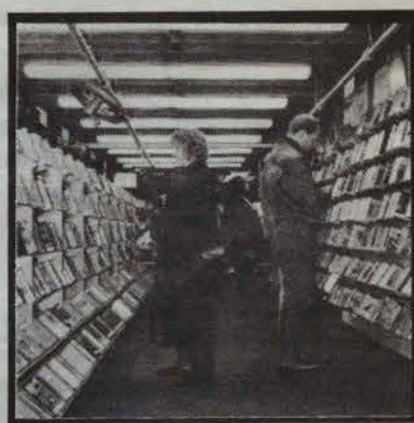
Best place to rent a video: Videoport

By an overwhelming margin, readers chose Videoport, which opened in 1987, as the hottest rental spot in town — leaving the bulk of the chain competition on the cutting room floor.

Could there possibly be anything we could tell you that you don't already know about Videoport? The store's name, according to owner Bill Dugin, was thought up by his father. There have been only three or four internal renovations ("involving hammers and drywall"), but moving shelves around is a constant. Does that confuse customers? "Not really," says Dugin, "aside from the fact that there's significant lag time in moving the signs." Browsers might be under the impression they are looking at "classics" when, in fact, they are looking at "incredibly strange films." (A discussion ensues as to which category Doris Day movies should fall into.)

The average Videoport employee ends up renting approximately 1,800 videos (not including Jordan Kratz, who is currently around the 4,500 mark). Dugin predicts the most popular employee rental of 1995 will be "Clerks." There are somewhere between 12,000 to 18,000 titles in stock, but they're still messing around with a new computer system and haven't quite figured the exact tally.

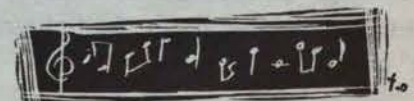
Anything else? Dugin pauses. "Black leather jackets used to be a requirement for employment here, but that regulation has slacked off some recently. We now have a couple employees with brown leather."



photo/Joanne Marino

shows, like Loreena McKennitt's, that are a total experience, candles included. Most recently, the Portland Symphony Orchestra moved up Congress and into the State while City Hall Auditorium undergoes some much-needed repairs.

Granny Killam's also scored high marks on music-lovers' lists. It's nice to know there's a place that presents both arm-flailing, mosh-pit music and Jerry Garcia shuffle tunes.



Most daring theatrical production: "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," Mad Horse Theatre

Mad Horse Theatre's season opener, "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest," had audiences on their feet and actors returning from the dressing room to take another bow. Michael Rafkin directed this adaptation of Ken Kesey's 1961 novel about the oppressive and inhuman conditions in a mental institution, with a mind-altering set by Michael Reidy and stunning role-playing by Mad Horse's talented ensemble. Mad Horse has added some new cast members and taken the creative plunge that Portlanders have been longing for in regional theater.

Best radio station: WCLZ

Mainstream and stream-of-consciousness duke it out again in the polls — and WCLZ took the win with its slightly left-of-center rock and blues. WMPG came in close on its heels with its way left-of-center freeform wackiness.

Managing to be mellow yet not cloying, WCLZ plays accessible music that every hipster born in the '60s had on vinyl. Its signature shows, "501 Blues" and "Sunday Morning Jazz," offer listeners a blessed respite from the relentless classic rock that hogs the dial, and they play four new cuts an hour, as well as include local artists in their programming.

WMPG takes eclecticism a step further, creating an audio smorgasbord within the reach of its beam — the only place you can get a little Eastern Sand in your Sid and Nancy bedsheets.

Best street corner: Fore and Exchange streets

Portland's finest. Fine dining, fine people, fine architecture. Night or day, the best of the Old Port is within walking distance. Drink, dance or doze (if you're so inclined). Sit next to the sidewalk harmonica player and watch the passers-by. Here, the hardest part is deciding what to do first, but don't worry, there's plenty of time to try everything.

Other favorite street corners include Exchange and Middle (Tommy's Park) and High, Free and Congress at Congress Square.

Best used bookstore: Annie's Book Stop

Actually, Annie's sells pre-read books to "people who like to read mass-market fiction and non-fiction." This little store in the Shop 'n Save Plaza at Back Cove is independently owned, though it shares its name with Annie's all over the country. The stores were franchises of a chain

owned by Annie Adams, until she went Chapter 11. Runner-up Carlson-Turner Books has a much different focus. It's a bookhound's dream — floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall books. "We don't serve food. We don't have couches. We don't have readings. This is a serious book store for people who are serious about reading and scholarship," says owner David Turner.

Best tape/CD store: Bull Moose

Last year Bull Moose came in a strong second behind Amadeus with stores in only Windham and Brunswick. With the opening of its Portland location, Bull Moose beat out Amadeus, ending a four-year winning streak. However, the big message here is that readers shunned the big-name chains in favor of our hometown, down-to-earth music retailers. Portland has several, each with its own flavor, so try them all and pick the one that best fits your ears.

Best source of gay/lesbian/bisexual pride in Portland: Maine Gay Men's Chorus

The Gay Men's Chorus continued to provide a visible face to the local gay community throughout the year. Through sold-out shows at venues such as Portland City Hall, The State Theatre and St. Luke's, the Gay Men's chorus reminds listeners that songs of joy, love, humor, grief and celebration are universal.

Other points of community pride in Portland included The Matlovich Society, Maine Won't Discriminate and Portland's Community Pride Festival.

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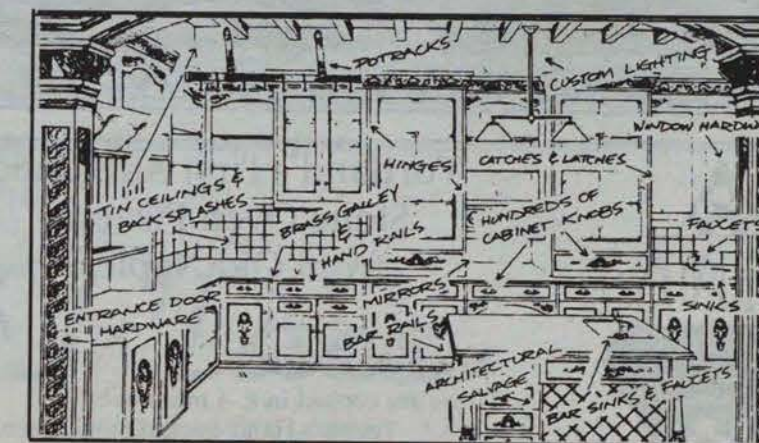
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**Best event of 1994:
New Year's Portland**

As much as we hoped for more people to realize that 1994 saw the debut of the 10-percent bonus pack of Necco Wafers, Portlanders overwhelmingly agreed (yet again) that New Year's Portland was the best event of the year. With the purchase of an all-access button, visitors sampled from a daylong, citywide celebration of music, theater, dance, art, noise makers, food, and beer. One question though... shouldn't it be called Last Night? How about First Morning?

**Best movie theater:
Nickelodeon**

Hands-down winner against some pretty stiff competition from The Movies, Maine Mall and Clarks Pond, the Nickelodeon can chalk its success up to the painless admission of \$2.25. With prices that low, we can forgive them for showing "Forrest Gump" all fall.

Making a strong and welcomed appearance in the ballots is the return of movies to The State Theatre (plus, you can take your grandma to see these movies). Indiana Jones, Scarlett O'Hara, Disney, Hitchcock, animation fests, beer, popcorn — plus a 20-by-40-foot screen. It's the stuff of dreams.

**Best place to play pool:
Old Port Billiards/Rack 'n' Roll**

No competition. Sally Langerak, a bartender at the billiard hall, was not surprised that CBW readers preferred the Old Port as the place to play eight ball. "We're a little classier than the rest of the places in town," she bragged. And Portlanders like the choice of playing on either eight- or nine-foot tables.

But beginners beware: Langerak warns that sometimes sharks do come

in to play. "We must have had 30 lawyers in here a couple of weeks ago."

Best new gallery: Dead Space

Gallery openings are oft-thought to be stuffy, wine-and-cheesy affairs, long on the blah-blah-blah and short on the brouhaha. The Dead Space Gallery on Avon Street, which opened last fall, has changed that.

Owners Brett Chenoweth, Tanja Hollander and Jessica Tomlinson have not only thrown some rocking opening shindigs, but have also shown some excellent work on the gallery's periwinkle-blue walls — by Chenoweth, Hollander, Toni Wolf, Lisa Walen and the camera wielders in its current photography exhibit, "The Body Electric: Three New Photographers."

The gallery's openings tend to resemble loft parties (which is nice, since the Arts District seems to have a dearth of lofts) — there's good grub, good kegged beer (Gritty's or Geary's), lots of yabber-yabber and the smoking of cigarettes. At the Feb. 26 reception for "The Body Electric," the Memphis Mafia kicked out some raucous rockabilly — though attendees seemed disinclined to dance... except for Hollander, who, sporting a black flapper-esque number, commented between shimmies: "We haven't sold a thing since we opened" before disappearing into the crowd with a rose clenched in her teeth.

**Best Old Port bar:
Gritty McDuff's**

No real surprise here — no one else even came close. But brewmeister Ed Stebbins is less concerned with winning than with the Gritty's vandal with too much time on his hands. Someone keeps scratching the marble walls in the new-and-improved men's room, of which Stebbins says: "Gritty's is now a better place to drink and to metabolize beer."

**Best sound:
Fog horns when it's snowing**

This suggestion came from an anonymous reader — and it's perfect. There's no other Portland sound that comes close to capturing the city's soul. Walking down the middle of a deserted street (let's say, Pleasant Street past the Calderwood Building) during a blowing snow, the whole city is silent except for the brittle rustling of the snow and low, lugubrious moaning of the horns at the harbor's mouth. There's no better recipe for a soul-filling melancholy. And we got far too few opportunities to enjoy it this winter.

(Confidential to G.N.: feel free to take what you'd like for your Sunday editorial.)

continued on page 18



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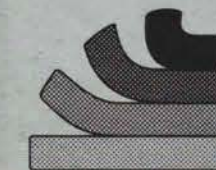
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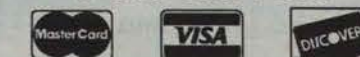
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BEST SERVICES

continued from page 16.

Best corner store: Pat's Meat Market

Portland's answer to New York's Zabar's, Pat's Meat Market is located in the heart of Deering. Peninsulites — it's worth the trip. This 70-year-old business has been handed down through three generations to its present owner, Jaime Vacchiano, who has doubled and transformed its current space on Stevens Avenue. No shelves of dusty cans of Spaghetti-O's or cases of questionable dairy products here. Displays of fresh produce, cans of extra virgin olive oil, bulk beans, grains, coffee and spices crowd the eye; the shining meat case somehow transforms slabs and cuts of raw meat into things of beauty (remember, parts is parts after all); brisk lunch business is conducted behind the deli counter — serving up jerk chicken, stuffed grape leaves, homemade soups and breads. The only question remains — with a name like Pat's Meat Market, do patrons ever confuse it for a pickup joint? This question apparently stumped Vacchiano, but he offered the information that Pat's was once located in the old Stardust Lounge space on Congress Street. Will you take your bird trussed, or no?

Best bicycle shop: Back Bay Bicycle

For yet another year, Back Bay Bicycle reigns supreme among Portland cyclists. The Forest Avenue store, co-owned by Andy and Cheryl Oliver, carries everything a biker could ever need. You want it, they've got it, and if they don't have it, they'll get it. "Not every bike shop is for everyone," says Andy, "but we're pleased that they come here, by golly."

Cyclemania on Federal Street and Allspeed on Washington Avenue were also popular readers' choices.



Best guitar shop: Buckdancer's Choice

For your own Hendrix experience, there's no better place to buy an ax or trade licks than at Buckdancer's Choice, a guitar shop that has been a mainstay for Portland musicians for 19 years. Even if you've never formed a chord or think Johnny Winter is a brand of Southern hooch, the guys at Buckdancer's will walk you through the daunting array of stringed things and explain all the buttons and knobs without any gearhead condescension.

Best fishmonger: Harbor Fish

This old building on Custom House Wharf has been home to a fish market for at least the last 100 years. For the last 28, it's been Harbor Fish. What do Portlanders love about Harbor Fish? "Oh geez, boy, a lot of things... maybe the ambience," says one of the owners, Mike Alfiero. Maybe it's the huge selection of the freshest fish around. Try the eel. It tastes like chicken.

Harbor's been the big fish on the block for years, but Tiny's Bigman Seafood is giving it a run for its clams. "Tiny's has been around for 6 or 7 years," says Tiny Wintle. And what is it about Tiny's that keeps people coming back? "Me," he says. "Cause I'm not an asshole."

Best florist: Harmon's Barton's

Readers are evidently passionate about their posies, because the competition remained tough till the end. Just by a nose, did Harmon's Barton's on Congress Street shop capture the Run for the Roses from I Love Flowers on Fore Street.

Most honest garage: Hamilton's Service Station

We can finally put to rest the old notion that all lawyers and mechanics are crooks. Well, it may be true about lawyers, but CBW readers drove out



file photo/Tonec Harbert

Best antique shop: Polly Peters

One man's junk is another woman's treasure. In this case, Polly Peters' treasure. Outdistancing competition like F.O. Bailey's, Wilma's and Cherished Possessions, Polly's was voted as Portland's best purveyor of historic flotsam and jetsam. Rumor has it her gabled house at the bottom of Brackett Street is haunted. Perhaps the ghosts of haut boys past?



file photo/Tonec Harbert

Best bank: Maine Bank and Trust

The huge eagle over the doorway, the vaulted ceilings and the marble of this homegrown financial institution's Congress Street branch make it Portland's most bank-like bank and help inspire the confidence of Portlanders. This is its third year capturing the Best Of title. One satisfied customer says, "I love Maine Bank and Trust. They don't treat me like a pen just because I don't have money." The impressive space makes it not only a great place to keep your money, but also for an a cappella song. We hope to see Maine Bank and Trust in the entertainment category next year.

in turns to vote for their most trusted motorheads. George Hamilton (not the TV/bad tan George Hamilton) has boasted a steady following for the past 51 years. He's the one most readers trust with their internal combustion woes. Dyer's, Mailman's and Intown Tune Up tailgated.

Best tailor: Antoin's Tailor Shop & Formal Wear

Sew what? Sew buttons on your underwear. Antoine isn't just any sew-and-sew. He's been tailoring, altering, taking in and letting out clothing in the Old Port for 11 years. Sandwiched between storefronts at 81 Market St., Antoin's Tailor Shop out-needled strong showings from Donatelli Evangelista and Tavares. Antoine credits his loyal customers over the years for the honor. His busiest season? Early fall. "People spend all summer in shorts and loose clothing. As soon as the summer is over, they find that their clothes don't fit. They either gained weight or lost weight. Then they come to see me."

Best place to get a haircut: Studio One

This marks Studio One's second consecutive year as best place to be shorn. Were they delighted to hear the news? *Mais oui!* Manager Cara was so happy she even let her sister get on the phone for a while. Were they surprised? Not really. Cara remarked that she has all of her patrons to thank for the support since it's a reflection of the high standards Studio One sets for itself and continues to uphold. Bringing up a strong second was Bob's Barber Shop, tucked away on Silver Street in the Old Port. When presented with the news, whoever answered the phone could only keep repeating, "You're kidding!" Though we never got to speak with owner Bob Mitten, his PR man Jake Rivetts enthusiastically encouraged us to visit ASAP for the "best damn haircut in Portland." Well, technically Jake... that's second best.

continued on page 21

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'91 MERCEDES 300E Blue Met. Finish w/DK. Blue Leather, Dual Air Bags, Loaded, On Sale! #566P	\$24,777!	'95 TOYOTA CAMRY "LE" Auto, 4 dr., Loaded w/Per. Stereo, Roof R. Only 50,800 miles, On Sale! #528P	\$15,777!
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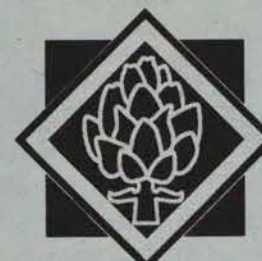
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photo/Colin Malakie

Best laundromat: Soap Bubble

Is it the always-festive holiday decorations, the live iguana tank (they like the heat from the dryers), the helpful laundry tips or the multicultural Swedish washers with instructions in both English and Spanish — (remember to *lavado* your blancos in *agua caliente*) that makes the Soap Bubble on Pine Street so popular? Who knows, but this friendly laundrama left the competition in the spin cycle.

continued from page 19

Best jeweler: D. Cole

Yet again, CBW readers chose D. Cole Jewelers on Exchange Street as the place to buy bangles, bracelets, brooches and baubles. Owner Dean Cole believes it's because his staff is down-to-earth and doesn't try to force high-end trinkets on low-budget customers.

Cole also has advice for men looking to buy engagement rings. "When the woman has something to say about the design of the ring, she's usually happier," he says. "But then again, surprises are nice too."

Worst abuse of taxpayers' money: Cumberland County Jail

CBW readers think lots of things are wastes of their hard-earned bucks, but topping the list is the new Cumberland County Jail. Marijuana-searching helicopters followed close behind, and Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood's salary brought up the rear of the top three. One reader was miffed about the Portland P.D.'s new leather jackets. Olympia Snowe's salary is also a waste of taxpayers' money, say many CBW readers. And one reader, claiming to be a Democrat, wrote, "I like abusing taxpayers' money."

Best place to play backgammon: The Forge

The new bar in the old blacksmith's shop on Wharf Street is an excellent place to play backgammon while sipping Maine and Oregon microbrews. All the wood in the place comes from the bleachers at the old Lewiston raceway. But don't worry — Bruce the owner turned the bar-planks over so you won't be putting your pint glass on old ass prints. Big bonus: Watch close-captioned Simpsons (O.J. and Bart) with Tim the barkeep.

Best construction: The Billion-dollar bridge

Have you ever woken up in the morning with a pounding headache and a sick feeling that you've spent a whole bunch of money on something you didn't really need?

No, it's not a hangover. It's the sound and sinking sensation of the \$185 million bridge between Portland and South Portland, scheduled for completion sometime within the millenium. The relentless clanging of the construction is giving life in the West End an infernal rhythm, especially in the summer.

But hey, they're doing a hell of a job.

Best smell: Nissen Bakery

The stewed-cabbage smell of S.D. Warren, the spicy, meaty smell of the Jordan's factory and the magical fruits of B&M Baked Beans are all favorites, but the all-out champion of Portland smells is from the fresh white bread and sticky buns cooking at the J.J.

Nissen factory. When the winds are gusting just right, it smells like Saturday supper on Munjoy Hill.

Best outdoor artwork: Holy Cross Church, South Portland

Paris has its Eiffel Tower, London its Big Ben, Seattle its Space Needle. And South Portland? It's got the "googly-eyed Jesus" on the tower at 436 Broadway, at the intersection of Cottage Road. We never paid much attention to this artistic curiosity — Jesus looks a bit like a swimmer who needs to come up for air now — until we saw it mentioned in a gripe in the *Press Herald*. Apparently, it scares a lot of kids. We always thought it was Satan who as supposed to do that.

continued on next page

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BEST PLACES

continued from previous page



photo/Colin Malakie

Best Portland neighborhood: West End
Bowdoin Street. Dog-walking at the West End Cemetery. Darts at Ruski's. Sunsets while walking down West Street. Aunti Leoni's whole wheat Italian rolls. Shoestring Theater's Halloween parade. Tyng Street. Tate Street. Spruce Street. The West Side Restaurant. Reiche School playground. Watching the *Scotia Prince* sail away while sitting in the park in front of Popeye's. Thomas Brackett Reed's statue on the Prom. Williston West Church.
No other neighborhood even came close.

Best beach: Scarborough
For the most part, a favorite beach is a personal thing — not as personal as underwear, but definitely more personal than salad dressing. And our readers' favorites ranged up and down the Eastern seaboard, from Acadia National Park to Miami Beach (unless there is a local Miami Beach we don't know about).
Scarboro had some significant competition from neighboring beaches — Higgins, Crescent, Ferry, Pine Point — even scraggly old Willard got some votes. So let's call it a draw and say we love all our beaches.

Best weekend getaway: The Samoset
Portlanders looking to beat feet for a weekend stick to Vacationland. This year's winner is the Samoset resort, a lovely hideaway off the craggy coast of Rockland, complete with a four-star restaurant. In the on-season, Samoset is a martini-and-golf mainstay of the uppercrust tourist; off-season, it's a peaceful place for resilient Mainers to relax, stare at the pounding surf and walk along the breakwater. Or, as CBW's news editor Bob Young says, "[It's a place to] jump on the bed and toss all your clothes on the floor." Even newsguys need to get away.

Best health club: Bay Club
Theory #1: The Bay Club takes the title once again because, at heart, fit Portlanders are exhibitionists, who prefer to flex in public. They'd rather do it in front of a BIG WINDOW in front of the whole town. Theory #2: The staff and instructors at the Bay Club are all a very good advertisement for what donning some spandex and pounding the treadmill can do for you.
For those who wish to shape up without the world watching, Portlanders pick Union Station Fitness Center on St. John Street. "We offer a

down-to-earth atmosphere for working out," says a staffer. It's comfortable and it's not intimidating." You may not get as many of those nifty little towels as at the Bay Club, but you also don't have to suck in your belly every time someone you know walks up Temple Street.

Best place for a romantic dinner: Café Always
Chef-owned Café Always passed the haute cuisine test with CBW gourmands this year. Their menu says "No food rules," meaning don't expect the usual blue plate special. Noreen Kotts and Cheryl Lewis serve up American nouvelle cuisine with completely unconventional twists: veal sweetbreads with a trumpet mushroom cream sauce, or sesame-encrusted salmon with sweet soy tahini and wasabi. And the menu is ever-changing.
As for romance, Café Always' intimate space was painted by lauded Portland artist Toni Wolf, with a warm and subdued color scheme that puts diners in a flattering glow; and then there's the all-important low lighting and an unobtrusive, professional staff.

Best place to kill an hour: The Portland Public Library
Whether using the O.E.D. as a pillow or researching the migration of butterflies, CBW readers like the library for killing time. If it starts serving coffee, it'll be impossible to tear people away.
A number of bookstores and beer halls also made a showing — making Portland our kind of town.

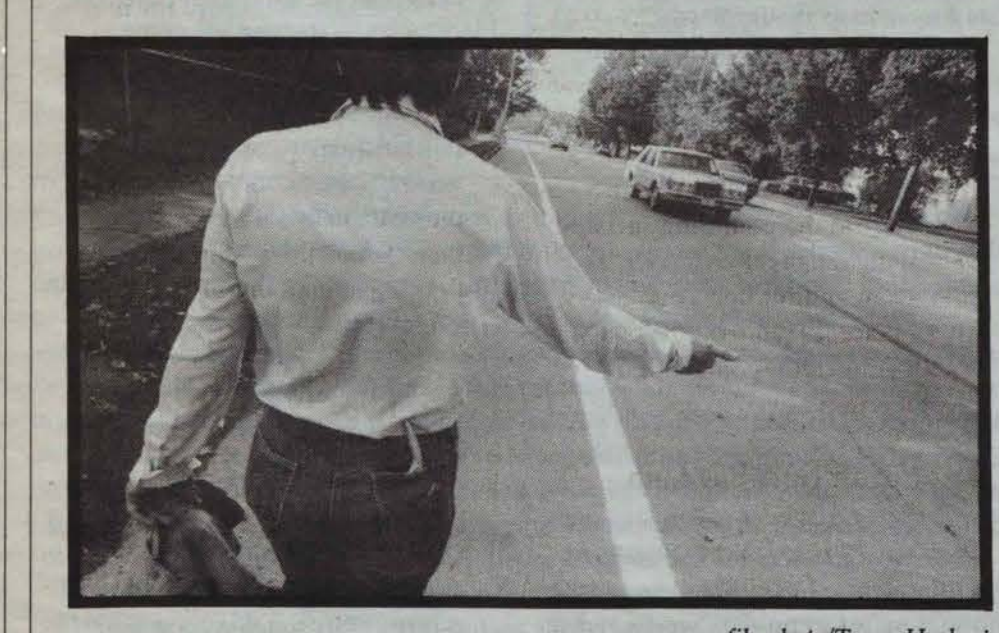


Best company to work for: L.L. Bean
Is there such a thing as a disgruntled L.L. Bean employee? Not as far as we can tell. It's probably those big discounts and year-end bonuses. Bean employees recently received bonuses for 1994 equaling 16.5 percent of their yearly salary, an average of about \$3,700 each. Pass the application, please.

Best outdoor place to nap: Eastern Promenade
If you can steer clear of dog shit and narrow-gauge tourist traps, this green spot on Portland's backside is indeed a fine place for a nap. The Eastern Prom has one of the best views in town, lots of green, ocean and rocks. It's bound for some big transformations in the near future. If the dinky comes through, you'll be able to catch a train but maybe not some z's.

Hippest place to be seen: Gritty McDuff's
Due to some confusion, last year's category of best place to be seen is now titled hippest place to be seen. Clearly, the best place to be seen would be waving to cars from the Tukey's Bridge on I-295 during rush hour. But as far as hangouts, Portlanders voted Gritty's as the numero uno place for hipsters.
Newcomer Java Joe's (just a weave, stumble and crawl up Exchange Street from Gritty's) made a strong runner-up appearance. Multiple coffee selections, fresh teas, decadent pastries and live entertainment placed Java Joe's firmly on the Portland hip scene.
Though you can't swing a cat in Java Joe's some nights without hitting someone playing cribbage or chess, owners Corey and Joanna Morrissey are looking forward to opening a new floor downstairs (formerly Leo's back room) and expanding seating, poetry and fiction readings, and music.

Best historic building: Victoria Mansion
Formally the Morse-Libby House, the Victoria Mansion on Danforth Street is so awash in Victoriana that one might expect to find Miss Havisham lordling over her fetid wedding feast in one of the manse's out-of-the-way rooms. Completed in 1859, the brownstone mansion was built by Ruggles S. Morse, who made his fortune in the New Orleans hotel trade and who was financially ruined as a result of the Civil War.
By Christopher Barry, Wayne Curtis, Sara Donnelly, Sarah Goodyear, Rick MacPherson, Elizabeth Peavey, David Wainberg and Tanya Whitton.
Additional help with ballot counting by Anna Mitschele, Mary Reed, Addie Rolnick, Dallas Rolnick and Emily Zack.



file photo/Tonee Harbert


Best place to send out-of-town guests: Home
Readers let out a resounding salvo to send those pesky out-of-towners packing — in responses ranging in politeness from "away" to "hell." It seems the general consensus 'round these parts is that there's just not enough of the way life should be to share. Or maybe we, as good Yankees, have earned our leisure, whilst the underserving visitors have not.
The most imaginative Portland tour, however, could be created from a composite of three readers' suggestions: Kennedy Park, Len's Corner Market and Mellen Street with a \$10 bill. It'd be a vacation your friends and relatives would never forget, and you might not see them again for awhile. CBW

Best place to get married: Church
Portlanders are traditional — at least when it comes to matrimony. Most CBW readers favor tying the knot in houses of worship, instead of, say, the Fine Arts Cinema. The Spurwink Church in Cape Elizabeth garnered hefty support, though Portland Head Light was a close second.
Two readers chose "hell" as their ideal spot for nuptials. (We can arrange a meeting for these two through our personals.)

Best place to meet people: Khalidi's
Portlanders like to meet at places with booze — the top contenders in the category were all bars. Khalidi's topped the list, followed by Three Dollar Dewey's, Gritty's and Brian Boru. Maybe it's just easier to meet people when you have beer goggles on.

Best historic building: Victoria Mansion
Formally the Morse-Libby House, the Victoria Mansion on Danforth Street is so awash in Victoriana that one might expect to find Miss Havisham lordling over her fetid wedding feast in one of the manse's out-of-the-way rooms. Completed in 1859, the brownstone mansion was built by Ruggles S. Morse, who made his fortune in the New Orleans hotel trade and who was financially ruined as a result of the Civil War.
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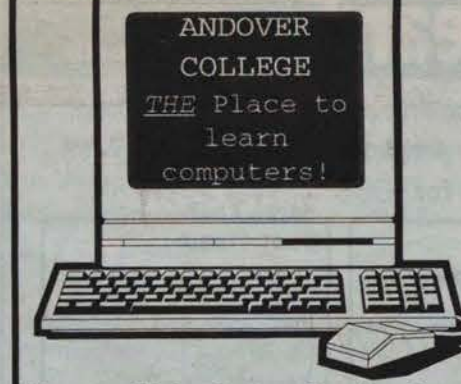
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editorial

Best of bureaucracy

Pity the right-wing fringe. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union they've been casting about for an enemy worth their while. Saddam Hussein was OK for a bit. North Korea? Yawn. It hardly rouses Rush to heights of antipathy, never mind the average Joe.

Instead, the right has found a worthy enemy at home. The great scourge is now government in all its nefarious shapes and forms — especially the federal bureaucrats who spend their days in their lavish Washington palaces dreaming up ways to make life miserable for everyone. Government for and by the people, say the conservatives, has become government against the people.

But set aside for a moment the easy anecdotes about government foolishness. Be open to the idea that government can at times actually make life better. Here are a few simple examples of government good, some historical, some current. Keep these and other examples in mind as the vulgarians try to tear down the whole structure.

Back Cove Pathway. The city government took the initiative a few years back to build a trail around Back Cove, creating a loop that could be enjoyed by all. The crucial link — the pedestrian walkway along Tukey's Bridge — was funded with federal highway money.

Clean water. Even if Back Cove pathway had existed a century ago, few would have used it. Many of the city's sewers flowed into Back Cove (as did effluents from nearby tanneries). At low tide, Portland gagged. Mayor James Phinney Baxter led the cleanup, constructing a central sewer. In later years, the government-built sewage plant near Tukey's Bridge made East End Beach swimmable again.

Open space. Speaking of Baxter, Portland's turn-of-the-century mayor was also instrumental in acquiring the city's best open spaces — including the Eastern and Western promenades. Had these tracts not been preserved, homes would likely line the hillsides today.

Portland Public Library. Portland has been generous to its library in recent years, most recently approving the construction of a modern building at Monument Square. The library has always served as a bridge between the information haves and have-nots. Let's hope Portland has the foresight to help the library take the next big step as it edges into the information age.

Granite curbstones. The city government has shown the good New England sense in using longer-lasting granite curbs (a local product) over cheaper cement imposters. OK, it's a small thing. But noticing the small stuff does right should temper the notion that it takes a bureaucrat to really make a mess of things. (WC)

The Ejacumeter: an idea whose time has come

By Bob Young

Let's get serious about welfare reform. Really serious. Somebody's got to, because our elected leaders won't. So far their reform proposals are aimed at the women and children who receive the lion's share of welfare. They want kids taken from moms and put in orphan-

citizen

ages. They want moms implanted with birth control devices, like Norplant.

But what about the men who help make these kids? Why not crack the whip on them a little? Why are we so quick to believe that welfare moms are vixens and sirens who have tricked these poor fellas into refusing to don condoms — the easiest, cheapest form of contraception.

Lately, some uppity women have called attention to this issue. "You could, after all, see the plethora of women and children in poverty as the fruits of male fecklessness, callousness, selfishness and sexual vanity," wrote Katha Pollitt in *The Nation*. Indeed, most welfare pays for the lack of father's child support and not for mom's lack of care.

Pollitt suggests that the "personal responsibility" harped on by both Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich (hmm... one's a philanderer, the other's been delinquent in child support) should be applied to both sexes.

Specifically, Pollitt suggests that a man who fathers a child out of wedlock must pay at least \$10,000 a year for child support. And if he is unable to pay that amount, then he must be given a workfare job and face the same kind of disciplines being proposed for welfare moms — a dorm residence, a curfew and compulsory therapy so "he can learn to identify the pattern of irresponsibility that led him to impregnate a woman so thoughtlessly."

If a man fathers a second child out of wedlock that he can't pay for, he gets the equivalent of Norplant — a mandatory vasectomy.

New Bay dawning. If you notice some changes in the arts section in the coming weeks, there's a reason. With this issue CBW welcomes new arts editor Sarah Goodyear, who will oversee our coverage of the Portland arts scene.

Goodyear comes to Portland as a refugee from midcoast Maine, where she most recently worked as an editor for *Down East* magazine. Before that, she'd been an editor and reporter at the *Camden Herald* and the *Belfast Republican Journal*, and an editor at *New York Woman* magazine. She likes P.J. Harvey, Pavement and the Jimmy Smith Trio (none of which she was allowed to listen to at *Down East*), and is happy to again live in a city with Thai food and decent coffee. She resides with her husband, Dave, and their two pit bulls in the West End.

Goodyear replaces the enduring Elizabeth Peavey, who brought life and flair to the arts section during her year-and-a-half tenure. Peavey brought a good eye for the bizarre, a facility with words and the all-too-rare ability to tell a good pun from a bad one. She could also walk on her hands, a talent she was all too eager to demonstrate to disbelievers, especially around expensive computer equipment. Peavey plans to stay in town and continue writing as a freelancer. Look for her work in our pages.

Finally, all men will pay a special tax to provide support for children whose paternity is unknown. "Men wishing to avoid the tax can undergo a vasectomy at state expense, with sperm to be frozen at personal expense (Republican version) or by government subsidy (Democrat version)," Pollitt concludes.

But other women have argued that Pollitt's proposals are those of a fuzzy-headed liberal — a little too complex, a little too dependent on balky bureaucracy. And one woman wrote to Pollitt with an easier solution: Tax all male ejaculations through a surgically implanted device called "The Ejacumeter."

The Ejacumeter's simplicity is key. It would record all male ejaculations, and require annual payments for them, with payments escalating for those who rang up the most ejaculations. It would amount to a progressive tax. And it would prove a mighty deterrent to wanton male sexual behavior. Suddenly, most men would be much more judicious about their sexual appetites, and other men would exert peer pressure on those who weren't. Now that's personal responsibility.

Just imagine the enormous cultural change. Men who now say, "I don't have any kids — at least that I know of (wink-wink)," would be adamantly declaring that they had not fathered any offspring.

You might argue that gay men should be exempt. But then people like Carolyn Cosby would counter that such an exemption would open the Pandora's Box of "special rights" and hetero men would pretend to be gay.

It's a tough call. I'd opt for no exemptions, which would only increase peer pressure to be a bit more conservative about sex.

This is one issue where the three-name liberals and lefties fighting for survival can seize the high ground. They can call on the editorial moralists and Christian right to join them, or appear hypocrites and misogynists. Let's start the campaign now: The Ejacumeter — its time has come.

Bob Young is CBW's News Editor.

Breaking down the myth of gay affluence

Rick MacPherson's perceptive analysis of Carolyn Cosby's Concerned Maine Families (Citizen, 2.16.95) succinctly portrays Cosby and CMF for what they are: an organized political group motivated by hatred and ignorance.

Cosby herself, blinded by extreme personal loathing, is the classic example of the reckless bigot whose primary "concern" is slandering gays and lesbians.

A favorite smokescreen of her ilk remains the unfounded claim that

letters

gays and lesbians are better off financially than heterosexuals. Such is the resentment-fostering appeal of this particular allegation that even the semi-kooks who really should know better — *Press Herald* columnist M.D. Harmon comes to mind — can't resist its dubious allure.

What are the facts? Until recently, no one could cite a reputable survey that claimed to accurately project the relative affluence of lesbians and gay men and heterosexual women and men. But recently a highly respected consumer research company, Yankelovich Partners of Westport, Conn., has conducted a survey on the consumer habits of lesbians and gay men. Of the 2,503 people participating in the 1993 Yankelovich Monitor, about 6 percent identified themselves as gay/lesbian/homosexual. This

is an influential survey, in turn, is purchased by serious marketers like AT&T and Colgate-Palmolive to help make major marketing decisions, particularly advertising strategies on the national level. The data suggested very little actual difference in affluence between gay and straight. Lesbians had a mean household income of \$34,800, straight women \$34,400. Gay male households reported \$37,400, compared with \$39,300 for heterosexual men.

"To think gay people are all affluent is a marketing mistake," noted Watts Waker, managing partner of Yankelovich. He added in a *New York Times* interview that the findings might even discourage marketers of higher priced products from focusing on gays and lesbians.

Unfortunately, for hate-obsessed groups like CMF, information like this will prove pointless, as it does nothing to further their bigoted agenda. But for fair-minded people the survey can provide some basis for informed discussion — and refutes one of the more pernicious myths dear to the far right.

Liberal bandaids don't work

Listen, CBW, I understand that editorial pages are specifically for the expression of opinions as opposed to factual reporting, but lately you've been giving us some real doozies.

Mr. MacPherson's essay (Citizen, 2.16.95) is your latest example of a writer allowing his personal biases to not only influence his examination of an issue but also to seriously affect

the credibility of his argument. Editorializing is one thing, throwing a tantrum is quite another.

He demonstrates early on in his piece that he does understand what Concerned Maine Families concerns are, i.e. "safe-guarding civil liberties by limiting special protections." I would think many of your readers would have enjoyed a serious rebuttal to this notion — rather than the hasty dismissal he gave it by cursorily impugning the motives behind these "good ends."

While advising the reader that it is not necessary to simply take his word for these charges, by the end of the essay it is clear that is all the evidence he intends to provide. He ends with the obligatory reference to Nazis passing laws to further their ends and other familiar name-calling we have come to expect from this side of argument.

Look, on this much we agree — it is wrong to mistreat those whose ideas you disagree with.

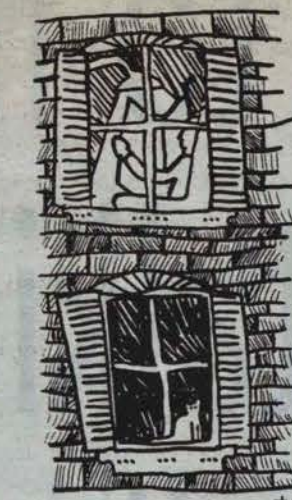
It is, however, another thing entirely to attempt to use the law to coerce others to act as though they do not disagree with you.

We have to come up with something better than this idea that we can generate compassion, or even tolerance, with a few liberal applications of the law. At best, that only subordinates the rights of one group of citizens under another.

The unintended consequences of putting that "patch on the garment" may be even worse than what needs fixing.

Edward J. McGeachy
President & CEO
Southern Maine Medical Center

C.S. Unger
Portland



Set record straight on re-engineering

It is unfortunate that your readership was prevented from receiving a balanced story on the hospital restructuring and re-engineering that is occurring at Southern Maine Medical Center (SMMC). Your reporter called 10 minutes prior to his deadline for the (2.23.95) story. Had we an adequate opportunity to respond to the concerns of Maine State Nurses Association (MSNA), your readership would have learned that:

SMMC staff has been planning the re-engineering since the summer of '94, but we will not begin implementing it until May of '95 when we open a demonstration unit.

Our plans call for a team approach to patient care, and the job descriptions we have developed have received the approval of the State Board of Nursing.

Clinical tasks, like those cited as

areas of concern by MSNA, will continue to be performed by nursing staff.

We have not laid off any nursing personnel.

We have actively sought staff input through employee forums, membership on task forces, and a re-engineering hot line and suggestion boxes.

We have developed a comprehensive training program to assure all personnel are properly trained, and that the quality of their work will be monitored on an ongoing basis — and a stringent evaluation program to assess quality of care on the demonstration unit and make ongoing changes as necessary. The patient care team approach will not be implemented in other patient care areas until we are fully satisfied with the success of the demonstration unit.

I must add that the cartoon which accompanied the article was highly insulting to all of the dedicated healthcare professionals who have worked on our re-engineering effort.

SMMC is attempting to respond to the challenges of rising healthcare costs in a careful, well-thought out fashion, and we are proud of our efforts.

Edward J. McGeachy
President & CEO
Southern Maine Medical Center

Vinyl is your friend

I've recently read an article by Bob Young which appeared in your paper (1.19.95) titled "Earth to EPA: Ban Dioxin." I would like to clarify statements made about polyvinyl chloride (vinyl or PVC), the world's second largest selling plastic.

The article stated "Sources of dioxin include paper making, solvents and PVC plastics" and that "Incinerators also produce dioxin when they burn products that contain chlorine, like PVC plastics."

Your readers should know that a review of actual data indicates vinyl is an infinitesimal source of dioxin during both incineration and its manufacturing process — a fact which our industry recently demonstrated in the information we submitted to the U.S. EPA on this issue.

A study conducted by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in 1987, now considered the authoritative research project on this subject, found that the addition of vinyl (four times the normal level in municipal solid waste) did not increase the level of dioxin produced during incineration. Rather, NYSERDA found that incinerator operating conditions, primarily temperatures, were the key to controlling dioxin formation. The U.S. EPA, incidentally, was a co-sponsor of this study.

Results of this study have since been confirmed by the Association of Plastic Manufacturers in Europe (APME) and the Netherlands National Technical Institute (TNO). The APME study found that the presence of scrap vinyl in municipal waste does not produce any measurable increase in the amount of dioxin produced by waste-to-energy facilities.

Most important, your readers should know that vinyl's environmental performance is, in reality, outstanding. It conserves resources through its lifecycle, can be landfilled,

recycled or converted from waste to energy safely, and gives us many critically important products such as water distribution piping, electrical wiring and medical goods. Characterizing PVC as a "major dioxin source" is simply not true.

Robert H. Burnett
Robert H. Burnett
Executive Director
Vinyl Institute
Morristown, N.J.



Renters come first

Keri! Wake up! You're supposed to be a Liberal Democrat ("\$6-million facelift scares city"). You're supposed to represent the little people who elected you, not wealthy land-owners. Portland is over 50 percent renters; Parkside over 90 percent. You couldn't make your own mortgage payments without your tenant's rental dollars.

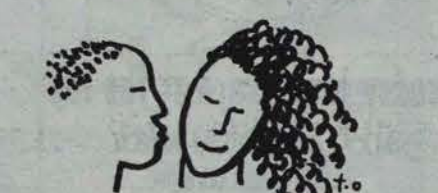
No one is going to wave a fairy wand and make Portland into Levittown. The Lafayette is not going to become the Dakota.

Portland is a city and in a city, renters come first. Stop worrying about your friends' property values and worry about decent housing for everyone. Anything you and the City Council can do to renovate and fill-up Portland's antiquated and deteriorating rental properties will benefit all of Portland, landlords included.

More Section 8, not less. More low-income housing, not less.

Or, why don't you sell out, quit the council and move to Yarmouth where you think you belong. No one will miss you.

Alexander Wallace
Portland



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please limit your thoughts to 300 words, include a daytime phone number and address to: Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101

overheard

by Kurth

Mmmm, boy, do I love it when funny-looking politicians come along! That's because people who look funny are really easy to draw! With that in mind, here's my "Best Of" list for 1995:

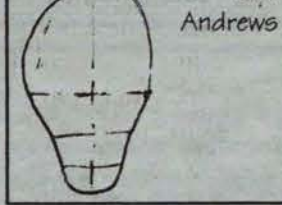
Best skin:
Dick Paulson



Best nose:
Olympia Snowe



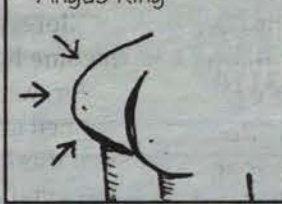
Best Head:
Tom Andrews



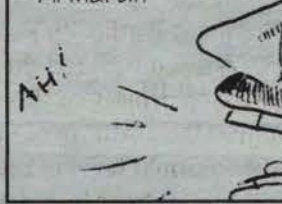
Nicest mustache:
Al Martin



Best butt:
Angus King



Best breath:
Al Martin



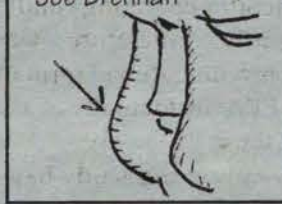
Most Congenial:
Joe Ricci



Best Chins:
Carolyn Cosby



Best Jowls:
Joe Brennan



Joe Brennan's jowls are sweeter than a plate full of burntos! They have the comedic pathos of Droopy and the presidential sobriety of Nixon!

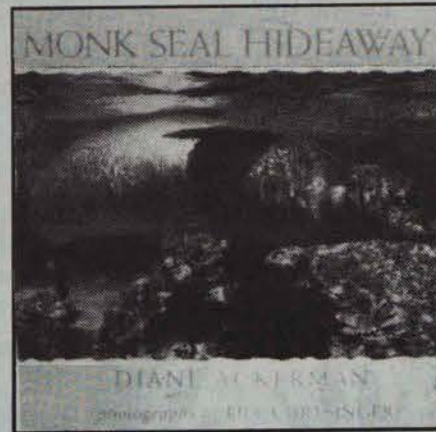
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Casco Bay Weekly

BOOKS ETC

BOOK SIGNINGS



DIANE ACKERMAN, one of America's most acclaimed nature writers, and *National Geographic* photographer BILL CURTSINGER.

Tuesday March 21st at 2 pm
(following Portland Public Library presentation at noon)

MARTHA FREEMAN, author of *Always, Rachel*, an intimate and spellbinding collection of letters between her grandmother, Dorothy Freeman, and Rachel Carson.



Saturday March 25th
12 noon-2 pm

38 Exchange Street, in the Old Port • 774-0626
Monday-Saturday 10-6, Sunday 12-5

What's up in Downtown Portland:

Here's what's happening this month at the Eastland Plaza!



Lucky "7" St. Patrick's Weekend Specials

\$177.77** single or double
Overnight accommodations on St. Patrick's Eve, Friday, March 17. Buffet breakfast for two. Free parking.
\$177.77** single or double
Overnight accommodations on both March 17 & 18. Traditional Irish Buffet for two in the Eastland Cafe. Breakfast for two each morning. Free parking.
Both Lucky "7" packages entitle you to a discount on tickets to the Schooner Fare concert in our Grand Ballroom on Friday night.



Dinner Theater \$139.95 per couple

Overnight accommodations. Dinner for two in the 8th Room including tax & gratuity. Two tickets to the Portland Stage Company performance of your choice. Buffet breakfast. Free parking. Based on availability.



Sunday Jazz Brunch at The Top

\$13.95 adults \$6.95 under 12
Portland's best brunch buffet... or bring your weekend guests any time for downtown's most spectacular views. Free parking.
FOR RESERVATIONS & MORE INFORMATION, CALL 775-1144 or 800-777-6246.



Eastland Plaza Hotel
DOWNTOWN PORTLAND'S UPTOWN HOTEL
157 HIGH STREET, PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

When we say "ease in to fitness," we're talking to your wallet, too.

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A lot of people tell us they like easing in to fitness at Bay Club. Great facilities. Friendly staff. A non-intimidating atmosphere. They all make it a great place to pursue your fitness goals. And your wallet will agree. Because at Bay Club, you get all this for only \$59 for six weeks. No long-term commitments. No strings attached. Just great fitness at a great price. So ease in to fitness at Bay Club today. And make sure your wallet is listening.



art&soul

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Byte ME 41

Is Portland too cool



Any town can put on a hip pose, but true cool just can't be faked.

By Rick MacPherson

It began thusly. I'm on the phone with my friend Joann.

Rick: "So what's wrong?"

Joann: "My hair. I fucked up my hair!"

Rick: "What are you talking about?"

Joann: "My friend June dyed my hair. It was supposed to be brown, but it came out black."

Rick: "So... it'll fade."

Joann: "Yeah, but black hair is hip. Anybody can be hip. I wanted it to be brown... that's cool."

After hanging up, I was left in a muddle. Hip? Cool? I never before realized that the two had such an uneasy relationship. I sort of figured they went together, complemented each other like Oreos and milk, beer and popcorn or big-hair chicks and The Penguin. Slowly, the scales fell from my eyes, and I began to fathom the two distinct camps we know as "hip" and "cool." Why... they're not the same thing at all! It's the difference between Doc Martens and Chuck Taylor's, Zima and Colt 45 or T.G.I. Friday's and The Homeplate.

Teasing out a distinction between hip and cool, however, is not as easy as you might think. On one level, the two can easily be used interchangeably. For example, the Downtown Arts District Association (DADA) guide to Portland's "arts district" mentions the words "cool" three times and "hip" four times in the same brochure (we also know that the brochure is hip because it says so on the cover). We're told that "It's cool on Congress" and "Congress is where you'll find the city's hippest, most eclectic mix of art and commerce..." Good heavens... hipsters and cool cats hobnobbing together on Congress along with suits and blue collars? I had no idea.

I suspect that DADA has no idea either. Which gets back to my point. While both terms attempt to describe a condition of being "alert," "in the scene" or "with-it," hip and cool are not one and the same. Nor are they antithetical.

So what makes hip hip? Simply stated, hip seems to be defined by the moment. It's right now. And, like an open bottle of Pellegrino, hip doesn't have a very long shelf life before it's flat and passé. To better grasp the nature of hip, consider a national trend. Witness all the aging crooners and their cousins being dragged out of mothballs to cash in on the Tony Bennett phenomenon... Tom Jones, Nancy Sinatra, Mel Torme. Mel Torme? Five years ago these folks wouldn't be able to get a gig Off-, Off-, Off-Vegas. Now they're performing with everyone from The Red Hot Chili Peppers to Bono. What's next, Rosemary Clooney with Snoop Doggy Dogg?

continued on page 31

Ever spend hours or days wondering if you're really hip? Neither do we. But if you do, we proudly present the CBW Hip Quiz. Circle the answer which best represents your response.

1) You approach a group of artists during an opening at a local gallery and say:

- a) "This reminds me of a gallery space I visited in Amsterdam."
- b) "Wasn't there supposed to be booze at this thing?"
- c) "Did you see the size of the nipples on that nude?"

2) While alone at a bar, you:

- a) Watch the door, praying someone you know will come in
- b) Watch the door, praying no one you know comes in
- c) Ask for a Bud Light Dry

3) It's Friday night and you can't wait to catch:

- a) Car at Geno's
- b) The boat to Peak's for a dinner party
- c) Reruns of "I Dream of Jeannie"

4) When asked to nominate someone to sing the national anthem for this year's Seadogs season opener, you vote for:

- a) Nine Inch Nails
- b) Tom Waits
- c) Michael Bolton

5) At a poetry slam at Granny Killam's, you confide to a group of friends that your favorite poet is:

- a) Charles Bukowski
- b) Patti Smith
- c) Bill Cohen

6) The one thing you look forward to more than anything else this year is:

- a) A liquor license at The Elvis Room
- b) Beers on Jones Landing
- c) Taco Bell's grand opening at the mall

7) The question you ask most often at your job is:

- a) "Cinnamon or chocolate on your cappuccino?"
- b) "Will you send him to my voice mail?"
- c) "Paper or plastic?"

8) In facial hair, you prefer:

- a) Rockabilly burns
- b) A goatee
- c) A Fu Manchu

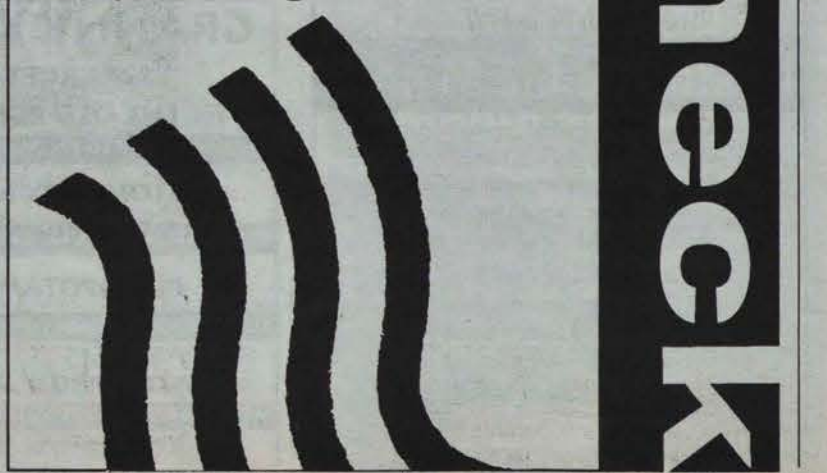
9) Time for a snack! You have:

- a) A spring water, while caressing your bony hips
- b) A microbrew, while caressing your distended belly
- c) A microwave burrito at Christy's

10) You know you've made it when:

- a) You're featured on the cover of *Cradle*.
- b) Everybody leaves you alone.
- c) You're profiled in the *Central Square Times*.

Give yourself 10 points for each "a" answer, 5 for each "b" and none for each "c." If you score 100-80, you're tragically, tragically hip; 80-40, cool with hip tendencies; 60-40, normal to cool; under 40, you should get out more.



10-day calendar

Get Out & Stay Out

thursday 16

Her story: Oak Street Productions is celebrating Women's History Month with a **WOMEN'S THEATER FESTIVAL**, opening tonight with Tina Young's

The festival showcases area talent, featuring nine one-woman and group shows — including nationally known performance artist Sally Greenhouse, a new play by The Furies and "A Day Without Television," a family drama with music. Tix: \$7-\$12, special packages are available. Continues through April 2. 775-5103.

saturday 18

Hot feet: The State Theatre, 609 Congress St., will be smokin' tonight when

friday 17

When Irish guys are smiling: Get in the shamrock spirit early in the day by lifting a pint of Guinness — or, if faint of heart, a cup of coffee — at a **ST. PATRICK'S DAY BREAKFAST** at Brian Boru, 57 Center St., from 6 to 11 a.m.

DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, an Ohio-based modern dance troupe that the *New York Times* has called "riveting," hits the stage at 8 p.m. under the auspices of the Portland Concert Association.

DCDC, whose artistic director received a MacArthur "genius" grant in 1994, has been staging the works of important African-American

choreographers since 1949. At the State, they'll be performing works by Donald McKayle, Kevin Ward, Alejandro Cervera and Talley Beatty. Tix: \$14 and \$22, \$10 and \$16 for children. 772-8630 or 800-639-2707.

sunday 19

Strings attached: If it can be plucked, strummed or picked, **HARVEY REID** can make it sing. This titan of acoustic stringed instruments will be sharing the bill with guitar- and banjo-meister **KEN PERLMAN** at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

Six-string, twelve-string, slide, mandolin, autoharp — Reid plays them all with equal authority. He's just released his 10th solo album, and will be bringing his usual assortment of original songs and instrumentals, along with a sense of humor, to Portland for the first time since last June. Perlman, a mean banjo player in his own right, will fill out the program. Tix: \$8 in advance \$10 day of show. Call 773-6886.

monday 20

McClachlan group: When **SARAH McCLACHLAN** performed here last September, most people said "Sarah who?" Name or not, she wowed us. And we must've wowed her back, because after a triumphant, year-long international tour and a Grammy nomination, she returns to the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., at 8 p.m.

Joining McClachlan this time around is Paula Cole, a girl singer who replaced the pesky Sinead O'Connor as Peter Gabriel's duet partner on his most recent tour. Tonight's show promises to be a memorable one. Unfortunately, McClachlan is no longer a secret — the show sold out in about a nanosecond. For those on the in, doors open at 6 p.m. 879-1112.

tuesday 21

Hey hey, it's the monk seals: The most intimate details of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal's secret life will be revealed by nature writer Diane Ackerman at a free slide and lecture presentation, "**MONK SEAL HIDEAWAY**," at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Ackerman is the author of several nonfiction books, including the best-selling "A Natural History of the Senses." She and veteran *National Geographic* photographer Bill Curtsinger — a Falmouth resident who has plunged into the watery depths to photograph everything from sharks to turtles — have collaborated on a children's book about the reclusive Hawaiian seal, published by Crown. The lecture is free and open to the public. 871-1700.

wednesday 22

Horn of plenty: Portland Symphony Orchestra's principal trumpet **JOHN SCHNELL** will be the featured soloist with the **USM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**, conducted by Lawrence Golan, in a concert at 8 p.m. in Corbett Concert Hall on the USM Gorham campus.

Schnell will be performing the notoriously difficult Concerto for Trumpet in E Major by Johann Nepomuk Hummel. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 will also be on the menu — a piece conductor Golan says is "one of the greatest pieces in the symphonic repertoire." Tix: \$5, \$1 for students. Call 780-5555.

thursday 23

Decimal system: Works by 10 Maine artists and photographers will be up on the walls at 26 Free St. (former site of the Barridoff Galleries) and up for sale at the bargain price of \$100 each, in the sixth annual "**10 x 10**" show. Doors open at 5 p.m. and a reception hosted by the artists will go on until 8 p.m.

Photographs, paintings, prints and mixed-media works — all measuring 10 inches by 10 inches — from a diverse sampling of the state's creative talents, including Christopher Ayres, Robert Shetterly and Alice Spencer, will be on display. The show will reopen on March 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 767-2228 or 772-2466.

friday 24

Foreign exchange: Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., presents two selections from Alan Ayckbourn's eight-part wild British farce "**INTIMATE EXCHANGES**," at 8 p.m.

The two versions, "Intimate Exchanges: A Game of Golf" and tonight's "Intimate Exchanges: Confessions in a Garden Shed" ("Rupert, I just after your hoe"), will be presented in a rotating schedule. "Intimate Exchanges" is a comedy of manners that uses the same characters in each version to



Sharpen up at Geno's March 25.

alter the course of the play's action by the decisions they make. Those wacky Brits. Previews take place March 18, 19, 21 and 22 (Tix: \$15). The play runs from March 23 through April 15. Tix: \$20-\$29. 774-0465.

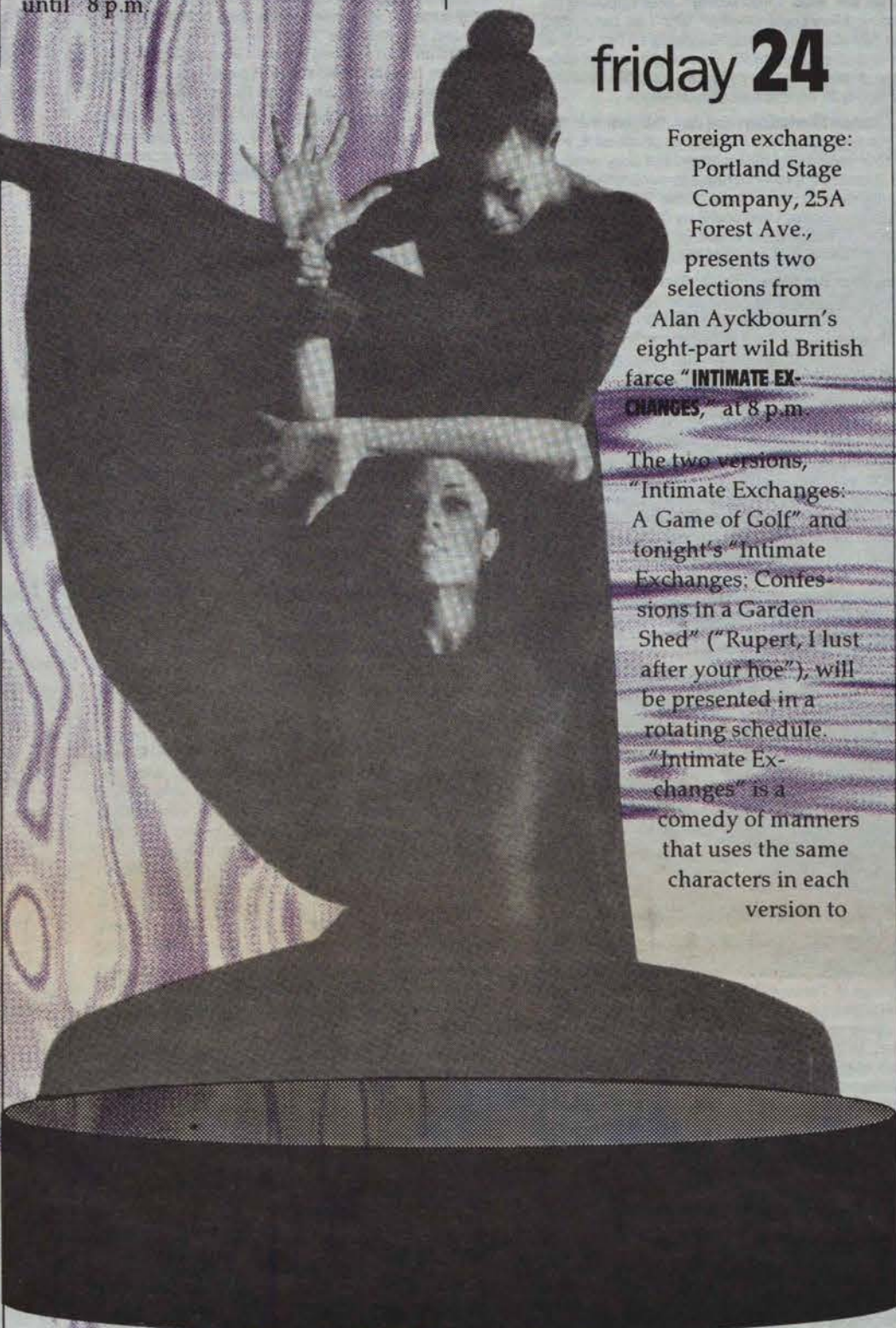
saturday 25

Razor's edge: The New York-based Backstreet recording artists **SKATE THE RAZOR** bring their hard-driving rock and big hair to Geno's, 13 Brown St., at 9:30 p.m. (and also at The Garage, 2 Industrial Way, on March 26).

This five-piece outfit, formed in the sleepy farming community of Delevan, N.Y., will show what happens when you give homies a couple of axes to grind. Out stomping for its debut release, "Trance Factor," the band claims to approach universal issues from a personal standpoint — proving you don't have to wear Birkenstocks to be a sensitive guy. Says vocalist Brad Cooper, "Sometimes I get so involved [in the songs] I forget there's people out there." Don't forget your styptic pencil... these guys promise to be some sharp. Tix: \$5. 772-7891.

Submissions for *Art & Soul* must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to publication. Send your Calendar and Listings information to Sarah Goodyear, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

"Mary Chestnut's Civil War" at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., at 8 p.m.



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 Saturday at 8 p.m. - "Mary Chestnut's Civil War." Tickets \$10.
 Sunday is POETS' SUNDAY!
 At 2 p.m. - "Take Up the Song, Forget the Epitaph" by Ramona Barth based on the life of Edna St. Vincent Millay, performed by Anne Foskett and Suzanne Rankin.
 At 7 p.m. - "Emily Dickinson, the Woman, the Poet" a lecture and performance by Patricia Doane. Tickets \$10 to both Sunday shows, or \$7 to individual shows.
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Silver screen

Billy Madison Adam Sandler (of "Saturday Night Live" fame) goes back to elementary school, starting from the beginning and continuing through senior year, to prove to his old man that he's bright enough to run the family business — and mature enough to have a fling with his third grade teacher, played by Bridgette Wilson. Apparently he didn't learn everything he needed to know in kindergarten.

Boys on the Side Three women with opposite life stories — Mary-Louise Parker, who has been diagnosed HIV-positive, Whoopi Goldberg as her lesbian driver and Drew Barrymore as a single mother-to-be — take a cross-country journey together and discover family in an unconventional way.

Brady Bunch Movie Then one day, the lady met this fella. He was living with three boys of his own, they were four men living all together, but they were all alone... America's favorite hapless suburbanites are back, fighting to save their home from evil land developers. Shelley Long and Gary Cole star as Carol and Mike Brady, with a brood of newcomers, and Henriette Mantel in the role of Alice. Groovy, Marcia.

Bullets Over Broadway Woody Allen's campy farce set in the theatrical world of New York City in the 1920s. John Cusack plays an idealistic playwright, who, in order to make his Broadway debut, must compromise his talents to satisfy some gangsters. Dianne Wiest plays an aging prima donna who steals the show, and Tracey Ullman gives an appearance as a neurotic character actress.

Bye Bye Love Three divorced men try to maintain their aplomb during a trying weekend full of difficulties with children, ex-wives and recent romantic interests. Randy Quaid, Matthew Modine and Paul Reiser star as the trio of befuddled dads, along with newcomer Johnny Whitworth, who plays the dashing fast-food clerk who becomes entangled with two of the men's daughters.



Candyman II: Farewell to the Flesh GROSS! An evil hook-wielding phantom appears as part of a mysterious curse on a young woman's family in this gore-fest set in New Orleans during Mardi Gras. She decides to investigate and find out the secret behind the Candyman's murderous appearances — which are prompted by saying his name five times. Blech.

Disclosure Demi Moore and Michael Douglas sell out in this reversal of sexual harassment scenarios based on Michael Crichton's novel. Moore plays a duplicitous female exec who tries to ruin ex-lover Douglas out of the company for refusing her advances.

Dumb & Dumber Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels play two charming doofuses in the dumbest comedy of the season.

Forrest Gump In this apparent mating of "Being There" and "Zelig," Tom Hanks plays a lucky simpleton who becomes an all-American football player, a Vietnam hero and a shrimp magnate — all the while stumbling into major figures in American history. Through the use of old newsreels and high tech, Gump gets to interact with such notables as Presidents Johnson, Kennedy and Nixon. He also gets to teach Elvis how to dance. Sally Field plays his mother. Robin Wright, his love interest. Directed by Robert Zemeckis ("Back to the Future").

Hideaway Jeff Goldblum plays a good guy who returns from the dead to find himself inexplicably linked to a psychotic killer — a bad guy who's also returned from the dead and just might be residing in Goldblum's body, hatching evil plots. Also featured are Christine Lahti as Mr. Dual Personality's perurbed wife, Alicia Silverstone and Jeremy Sisto.

Higher Learning John Singleton, director of "Poetic Justice," rattles everybody's cage with his controversial, thought-provoking film about escalating racial tension on a contemporary college campus. Featuring the handful of co-eds are Kristy Swanson, Omar Epps, Jennifer Connelly and Ice Cube, who must come to terms with explosive issues of identity, diversity and sexism.

Jungle Book Disney brings back the Kipling classic about a young boy who is raised in the wild — this time with real people instead of "toons. Jason Scott Lee stars as Mowgli.

Just Cause Sean Connery stars as an investigative journalist who comes to the defense of a criminal on death row (Blair Underwood), who he believes to be innocent. Connery's series of vehement articles free the wrongly accused inmate — but then trigger a series of horrific killings. To clear his conscience, Connery sets out to find the man he saved and resolve the crimes. Also featured are Kate Capshaw as Connery's wife, and Laurence Fishburne, as the detective who jailed Underwood to begin with. A foray into the twisted secrets of the criminal mind.

Legends of the Fall The epic story of a father (Anthony Hopkins, again) and his three sons (Aidan Quinn, Henry Thomas and YAROO! Brad Pitt) set in Montana, circa 1912. The action spans three decades, during Montana's transition from frontier to its modern state, including several wars and broken hearts. From "Glory" director Edward Zwick.

Little Women A film version of Louisa May Alcott's novel about four sisters coming of age during the civil war; responsible Meg, tomboy Jo, coy Amy and ailing Beth. Winona Ryder stars as Jo, the headstrong young woman who wants to be a writer, with Susan Sarandon featured in the role of Marmee, the matriarch of the clan.

Lois & Clark: A New Adventure A social worker (Jessica Lange) and her husband (David Strathairn) adopt a crack baby abandoned by his mother. Three years later, the baby's natural mother returns, cleaned up and demanding custody of her son — igniting a court battle between the estranged mother and the baby's adopted parents. Race relations and cultural perceptions of motherhood come to the fore in a film that has been compared to "Kramer vs. Kramer." Also starring Samuel L. Jackson and Latanya Richardson.

Madness of King George III A gritty tragicomedy about the 18th-century English monarch whose biochemical difficulties caused him to lapse in and out of madness — resulting in the loss of his throne to an evil son and the American colonies in 1782. Based on Alan Bennett's award-winning stage play, the film features an all-star Brit cast including Nigel Hawthorne, Hellen Mirren and Rupert Graves.

Man of the House Chevy Chase is the prospective stepdad to Farrah Fawcett's less-than-enthusiastic 11-year-old son — and the two embark on a camping trip together that results in a manly bond. The usual Chase-style goofball antics ensue. From screenwriter James Orr of "Three Men & A Cradle" fame.

Nobody's Fool Paul Newman stars as a still ruggedly handsome blue-collar worker who has a late-life crisis and decides to patch up his broken relationships. Set in a small town in which nothing much usually happens, "Nobody's Fool" is about (yeeesh...) coming to terms with past mistakes. Bruce Willis and Melanie Griffith (who Newman finds enticing) star as the bossman and his sultry wife. From Robert Benton, who directed "Kramer vs. Kramer."

Outbreak Dustin Hoffman returns to the silver screen as a former army colonel whose estranged wife (Rene Russo) teams up with him to help fight a lethal virus that is multiplying without cease. Morgan Freeman lends support as General Billy Ford in this medical thriller from director Wolfgang Petersen. Written by Ted Tally ("Silence of the Lambs"), in collaboration with viral specialist Dr. Lawrence Dworkin and Robert Roy Pool.

Pulp Fiction Three intertwining stories about drugs and thugs set in the seedy, violent underground of L.A. The all-star cast includes Uma Thurman, John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, and Harvey Keitel. Directed by Quentin Tarantino ("Reservoir Dogs"). The film was awarded the Palme d'or at Cannes.

Red A genuine Euro-art film from director Krzysztof Kieslowski — about a young student/model who is maintaining a tenuous telephone affair with her boyfriend and a grouchy retired judge who eavesdrops by phone on his neighbors. Their lives collide when she luffs over his dog (oops) and finds the judge's address on the dog's collar. This leads to an interesting, beautiful girl/old man relationship in which her initial dislike for him turns to affection. The judge engineers her rendezvous with a law student who is reminiscent of his younger self, thereby reincarnating his own youth and passion. (In French.)

Richie Rich Macaulay Culkin stars as the richest (and most obnoxious) kid in the world, whose parents have been kidnapped by the villain Van Dough (John Larroquette).

Roommates D.B. Sweeney is Michael Holczek, a young med student who was raised by his grandfather, Rocky (Peter Falk). Roles reverse, and Michael invites Rocky to room with him — not guessing the increasingly stodgy and cantankerous old man would still be lurking around his apartment after he graduates from school and starts a family of his own. A drama about family relationships from Peter Yates, director of "Breaking Away."

Shallow Grave A black bit of British humor from former TV director Danny Boyle. "Shallow Grave" is the story of a trio of friends in modern-day Scotland who find their fourth roommate's corpse, along with a bunch of money and a stash of drugs. Their moral fiber rapidly disintegrates as they agree to hide the body and keep the cash, only to begin double-crossing each other in a deadly game with thugs and drug dealers.

Shawshank Redemption The story of a 20-year prison friendship between two lifers, played by Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. The dynamics of life in the big house take some interesting turns when culture buff/business wiz Robbins starts up a library and does everybody's taxes. A relatively warm and fuzzy look into what keeps prisons going when there is no hope for parole. (Clue: It's not literature.) Directed by Frank Darabont, who also wrote the screenplay based on a short story by Stephen King.

Star Trek: Generations The Enterprise guys are back in action, complete with awe inspiring, billion-dollar effects and featuring a union of Kirk and Picard, who join forces to cope with a time warp. Directed by David Carson (Leonard Nimoy wanted rewrites) and starring (you guessed it) William Shatner and Patrick Stewart.

Tall Tale Legendary heroes of the Old West come back to life in this turn-of-the-century fantasy about a boy who seeks their help in saving his family from an evil gunslinger. Patrick Swayze is Pecos Bill (betcha he gets an Oscar), Oliver Platt plays Paul Bunyan and Catherine Hicks is Calamity Jane. From Jeremiah Chechik, director of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

Vanya on 42nd Street A play within a film — Louis Malle documents a contemporary stage production of Chekhov's masterpiece, directed on the stage by Andre Gregory. "Vanya" captures a cast of actors who bring the nuances of our time to a century-old Russian drama, enacting the lives of characters caught between their reality and their desires. The film and the play merge in the process, just as the past and present collide on the stage, with footage interspersing the conversations of actors at work and the dialogue Chekhov penned decades ago.

Star Trek: Generations (PG)
1 (Sat & Sun only), 3:50, 7:10

Richie Rich (PG)
1:20 (Sat & Sun only), 4:20

Disclosure (R)
12:40 (Sat & Sun only), 3:40, 7, 9:40

Jungle Book (PG-13)
1:10 (Sat & Sun only), 4:10, 6:50, 9:10

Little Women (PG-13)
12:50 (Sat & Sun only), 4, 7:20, 9:50

where

Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

General Cinemas
Maine Mall
Maine Mall Road, S. Portland
774-1022

Dates effective Mar 17-23

Nobody's Fool (R)
1:30, 7

Pulp Fiction (R)
12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30

Billy Madison (PG-13)
4, 9:30

Brady Bunch Movie (PG-13)
1:10, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:40

Roommates (PG)
12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10

Outbreak (R)
12:45, 3:30, 7, 9:45

Candyman (R)
1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50

Bye Bye Love (PG-13)
12:45, 3:05, 5:20, 7:40, 9:55

Hoys Clark's Pond
333 Clark's Rd., S. Portland
879-1511

Dates effective Mar 17-23

Dumb & Dumber (PG-13)
12:50, 7:10

Legends of the Fall (R)
3:40, 9

Boys on the Side (R)
1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:25

Madness of George III (R)
1:20, 6:40

Just Cause (R)
1:30, 4, 7:15, 9:45

Forrest Gump (PG-13)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20

Man of the House (PG)
12:40, 3 (except Sun), 5:10, 7:20 (except Sat), 9:40

Hideaway (R)
3:10, 9:35

Losing Isaiah (R)
1, 3:20, 7, 9:30

Shallow Grave (R)
1:40, 4:10, 7:05, 9:10

Tall Tale (PG)
7:20 (Sat only), 3 (Sun only)

The Movies
10 Exchange St., Portland
772-9600

Matinees Sat & Sun

Red
Mar 15-21
Wed-Tues 5, 7, 9
Sat & Sun 1, 3

Vanya on 42nd Street
Mar 22-28
Wed-Fri at 4:45, 7, 9:15
Sat-Sun 3, 7:15
Mon-Tues 7

Nickelodeon
Temple and Middle streets, Portland
772-9751

Dates effective Mar 17-23

Higher Learning (R)
6:40, 9:20

The Shawshank Redemption (R)
12:30 (Sat & Sun only), 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Bullets Over Broadway (R)
10

Star Trek: Generations (PG)
1 (Sat & Sun only), 3:50, 7:10

Richie Rich (PG)
1:20 (Sat & Sun only), 4:20

Disclosure (R)
12:40 (Sat & Sun only), 3:40, 7, 9:40

Jungle Book (PG-13)
1:10 (Sat & Sun only), 4:10, 6:50, 9:10

Little Women (PG-13)
12:50 (Sat & Sun only), 4, 7:20, 9:50

Is Portland too cool to be hip?

continued from page 27

The point here is that being hip can be a cyclic process, and the result can be two-fold. If you were hip once, wait around long enough and you may be hip again. The incidental fallout from this phenomenon is that you may end up being hip without ever really knowing (or trying). My mother, a collector of Mel Torme vinyl from way back, is now the epitome of hip. If only she knew.

Scenes are what hip is all about. From fashion, language, dance and surroundings to attitude... hip is defined by how its members behave. Not surprisingly, hip is a bankable commodity. Hip can be purchased, worn, smoked, visited, read, driven, flaunted, danced-up and consumed. Which establishes a very real line of demarcation. For a price, anyone can be hip. This is not to say that it works for everyone, but it is available.

Thanks to DADA, Portlanders have a thorough listing of retailers in the arts district ready to part them from their cash in return for "Necessities for the Terminally Hip." From a double latte (in a bowl, thank you) to pad thai takeout. From a fresh pack of Djarums to the latest issue of *Interview* or *Details*... But buy now... please. Tomorrow might be too late.

Plus, hip eats its own young. Consider the Old Port. At one time it was Portland's hip central, but now you're more likely to encounter bus tours in the Old Port than you are hip happenings. But the hip prime directive is "never look back." Don't believe me? All right then, next time you're at Zootz, start voguing and see who joins in. Has anyone purchased a pot-bellied pig recently? Anyone want to bring back Milli Vanilli? I didn't think so.

There's a big investment of face time in being hip. You can be the most with-it, decked-out individual in Portland, but it doesn't make a whit of difference, hip-wise, if you aren't seen. Also important is *who* you're seen with. But penetrating the inner circles of the hip crowd can be as difficult as finding unpierced bodies at The Elvis Room. Let's be honest — hip can be downright elitist.

To put it bluntly, Portland isn't a hip place. Sure, it's got its little hip pockets, but any scene that does exist is the byproduct of proximity to the scenes in Boston and New York. Hip isn't made here... it's emulated. But that's OK. Hip's not the reason we live here. If you need to be hip, it's as close as a two-hour drive south. We live here because Portland is a very cool town.

Cool is a much more elusive quality to define. Think about it. More often than not, you'll be able to come up with examples of cool rather than the nature of cool itself. Pinpointing the qualities of cool is such a slippery task because the more you attempt to isolate what it is that makes something cool, the further you slide into the domain of the hip. In other words: Hip actually tries to be hip, cool just

is. In general, cool doesn't advertise. In fact, it often seems that popularity can be the death knell of cool, forcing it into the realm of the hip. Cool is oblivious to the passing fads. Though it isn't obtrusive, cool is nonetheless impressive.

It's important to reiterate that hip and cool are not opposites. It's better to think of them as two points on a continuum. Imagine the relationship between hip and cool as that between two siblings, one significantly younger than the other. The younger sib (hip) looks up to the older. She admires her... wants to be just like her. The older sib (cool) regards the younger as a bit of a pain in the ass at times, doesn't want to be idolized and may take some discomfort in the knowledge that she herself was at one time as childish.

I'm convinced that hip and cool have historically had this sort of dynamic — which casts a very interesting light on what we regard as cool today. For instance, though Longfellow's cool poems have endured the test of time, many of his contemporaries regarded his work as "popular yet fleeting," which is essentially a Victorian way of saying "hip." And much of Portland's cool architecture wasn't always regarded so. The Baxter Library, the Gothic wing on Maine Medical Center and Victoria Mansion were very hip in their time. Who knows, One City Center (pretty hip design for the time it was constructed in Portland) may one day be regarded as one of Portland's coolest monuments. Go figure.

But there's no doubt that Portland's cool quotient is very high. The Western Cemetery is a cool historical reminder to *carpe diem*. A sunrise walk to the Eastern Prom is indescribably cool. I've yet to meet a cooler deli owner than Della of Della's Catessen. Cool can be seen in how people volunteer their time and energy at places like the Preble Street Resource Center. Cool local music? Catch a Darian Brahm's show. (Do it quick though, as Brahm's is walking the thin line between cool and hip.) I've met more people in Portland involved in home-brewing than anywhere else, and that's tremendously cool. Oh, and my cat is the coolest.

So if you're still concerned as to your hip/cool status, all I can say is relax. Remember, it's a continuum. And the beauty of a continuum is that it allows for a remarkable latitude of behavior. Cool and hip become a matter of degrees. Hip can be a night of drinking beer, fart jokes and wearing comfortable clothes. Cool can be a quiet evening at home eating B&M baked beans out of the can, nibbling on slices of aged Brie and finishing it off with a strawberry frosted Pop-Tart. Come to think of it, does it get any better than that? CBW

March 16, 1995 31

Old Man Winter's been Clam'n

...so we ain't shrim'p'n on the portions!

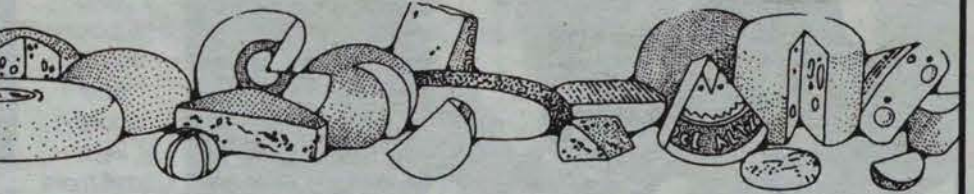
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Casco Bay Weekly listings

Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, send complete information (including dates, times, costs, complete address, a contact telephone number) by noon on Thursday prior to publication.

stage

"Botticelli" Fly By Night players present a very short play about the Vietnam war by playwright Terrence McNally. Mar 19 & 20 at 8 pm at the Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St, Portland, Free, dinner reservations available. 774-1114.

"Death & the Maiden" Theater Project, 14 School St, Brunswick, presents Ariel Dorfman's psychological thriller — about a woman tortured in a South American country whose husband becomes involved in investigating the crimes perpetrated by the country's former regime. Shows Mar 23-Apr 9, Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sundays at 2 pm. Tix: \$12 (\$10 students/seniors). 729-8584.

"The Emperor's Nightingale" Krackerjack Theatre Company presents an adaptation of the fable by Hans Christian Andersen, in which the foolish Emperor of Old China collects expensive objects in attempts to out-do the much-praised song of the nightingale. Shows Mar 25 and Apr 1, 8, & 15 at 11 am, at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St, Portland, Tix: \$5. 775-5103.

"Intimate Exchanges" Portland Stage Company presents a comedy of manners by England's premiere comic playwright, Alan Ayckbourn. It's a farcical exploration of modern relationships, with two actors playing eight different characters in two completely different versions of the same play presented on alternate evenings. (Previews Mar 18 at 8 pm and 19 & 21-22 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$15). Shows Mar 23-Apr 15 — Tues-Thurs at 7:30 pm, Fri at 8 pm, Sat at 5 & 9 pm and Sun at 2 pm. (Mar 18, 8 pm only and Mar 19, 26 & Apr 2 at 7:30 pm.) Tix: \$20-\$29 (\$15-\$24 students/seniors). 774-0455.

"Grand Hotel" Community Little Theatre features a musical spectacular of Tommy Tune's Tony Award Winner, set in Germany in WWII. Shows at the Great Falls School, Academy St, Auburn, Mar 17 & 18 at 8 pm. (Not suitable for kids.) Tix: \$9. 783-0958.

Greek Myths & Fables Children's Theatre of Maine and the Young People's Theatre Project give an ensemble presentation adapting the myths of ancient Greece to the stage in a series of workshop performances, through Mar 26, Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 10:30 am and 2 pm and Sundays at 1 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$4 kids). 874-0371.

"Noises Off" Schoolhouse Arts Center at Sebago Lake presents a slapstick farce about an acting troupe in the throes of a disastrous production. Shows through Mar 26, Fri and Sat at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 students/seniors). 642-3743.

"Pippin" USM's Theater and Music Departments collaborate to perform the story of a young man's search for fulfillment as he experiences the vagaries of war, money, power, sin and romance, Mar 15-18 with shows at 7:30 pm Fri & Sat and 5 pm Sundays — in Russell Hall, Gorham campus. Tix: \$7 (\$6 seniors/\$4 students). 780-5483.

"Sleuth" Public Theatre, corner of Lisbon & Maple Streets in Lewiston, presents an evening of murder-mystery amusement. Shows Mar 24-26, 30-31 and Apr 1-2 — Thurs-Sat at 8 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 senior/students). 782-3200.

"Under the Skin" Mad Horse Theatre Company presents a nightmarish vision of Innocence and evil in a story about domestic violence and sexual abuse. Maggie Benton and her next-door neighbors try to explain and come to grips with the disappearance of Maggie's daughter, Emma. As Maggie gets pulled deeper into her friend's troubled marriage, the awful truth of Emma's disappearance becomes apparent. Shows Mar 23-Apr 23, Thurs-Sat at 8 pm and Sun at 7 pm. Tix: \$18 Thurs, Fri & Sun (\$16 students/seniors), \$20 Sats. 797-3338.

"Who Killed the Boss?" Mystery Cafe presents murder-mystery dinner theater shows Mar 18 & 25 at Cafe Stroudwater at the Embassy Suites, 1050 Westbrook St, Portland. 775-0032.

"You Can't Take It With You" Portland Players presents Moss Hart & George S. Kaufman's tale of the eccentric Sycamore family, their one normal daughter and her very normal fiancée's uptight parents. Shows Mar 24-26 and 31 and April 1-2 and 7-8 with shows Fri & Sat at 8 pm and Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: 799-7337.

concerts

thursday 16

Changes: Explorations in Jazz (featuring the Bevan Manson ensemble) 8 pm at the State Street Church, 159 State St, Portland. Tix: \$10 (\$8 students). 828-1310.

friday 17

Faculty Concert Series (features violinist Graybert Beacham and pianist Yuri Funahashi) 8 pm at USM's Corthell Hall, Gorham campus. Tix: \$8 (\$4 students/seniors). 780-5555.

saturday 18

Ann Reed (singer/songwriter) 8 pm at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St, Portland. Tix: \$13.50 advance (\$15 door). 772-8416.

Ballets Jazz de Montreal (fusion of classical ballet & modern dance) 8 pm at the Lewiston Jr. High School Auditorium, 75 Central Ave, Lewiston. Tix: \$12/\$14. 782-7228.

PSO's Community Orchestra (with trumpet soloist John Schnell) 8 pm at Mahoney Middle School, corner of Broadway and Rt 77, S. Portland. Tix: \$5 advance (\$6 door). 883-2460.

Dayton Contemporary Dance (renowned African-American dance troupe) presented by Portland Concert Association at 8 pm at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St, Portland. Tix: \$14 upper balcony; \$22 cabaret, lower balcony and theatre (plus \$10.50 dinner ticket), 18 and under: \$10/\$16. 772-8630.

Faculty Concert Series Keith Crook performs South American music at 8 pm at USM's Corthell Hall, Gorham campus. Tix: \$5 (\$3 students/seniors). 780-5555.

Lands & Company (vaudeville magic show) 7:30 pm at the Chocolate Church, 804 Washington St, Bath. Tix: \$10 advance (\$12 door). 442-8455.

sunday 19

Lands & Company (vaudeville magic show) 2 pm at the Chocolate Church, 804 Washington St, Bath. Tix: \$10 advance (\$12 door). 442-8455.

Mid-Coast Chamber Orchestra (annual pops concert) 3 pm at the United Methodist Church, 320 Church Rd, Brunswick. Tix: \$7 (\$4 students/kids). 725-5657.

wednesday 22

USM Chamber Orchestra (trumpet soloist John Schnell) 8 pm at USM's Corthell Hall, Gorham campus. Tix: \$3 (\$1 students/seniors). 780-5555.

auditions/etc

Acting Classes for people of all ages begin in March and April at the Theater Project, 14 School St, Brunswick. Pre-registration required, prices for workshops vary. 729-8584.

Auditions for "Death & the Maiden," opening at the end of April at the Free Street Taverna — two male actors age 30-50 needed. 892-3728.

Call for Plays Submit one-act and/or small cast plays for possible performance to Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

Young Men's Choir holds ongoing auditions by appointment only. 854-0182.

Community Orchestra of the Portland Symphony invites string players to its Wed evening rehearsals. Locations vary. 863-2460.

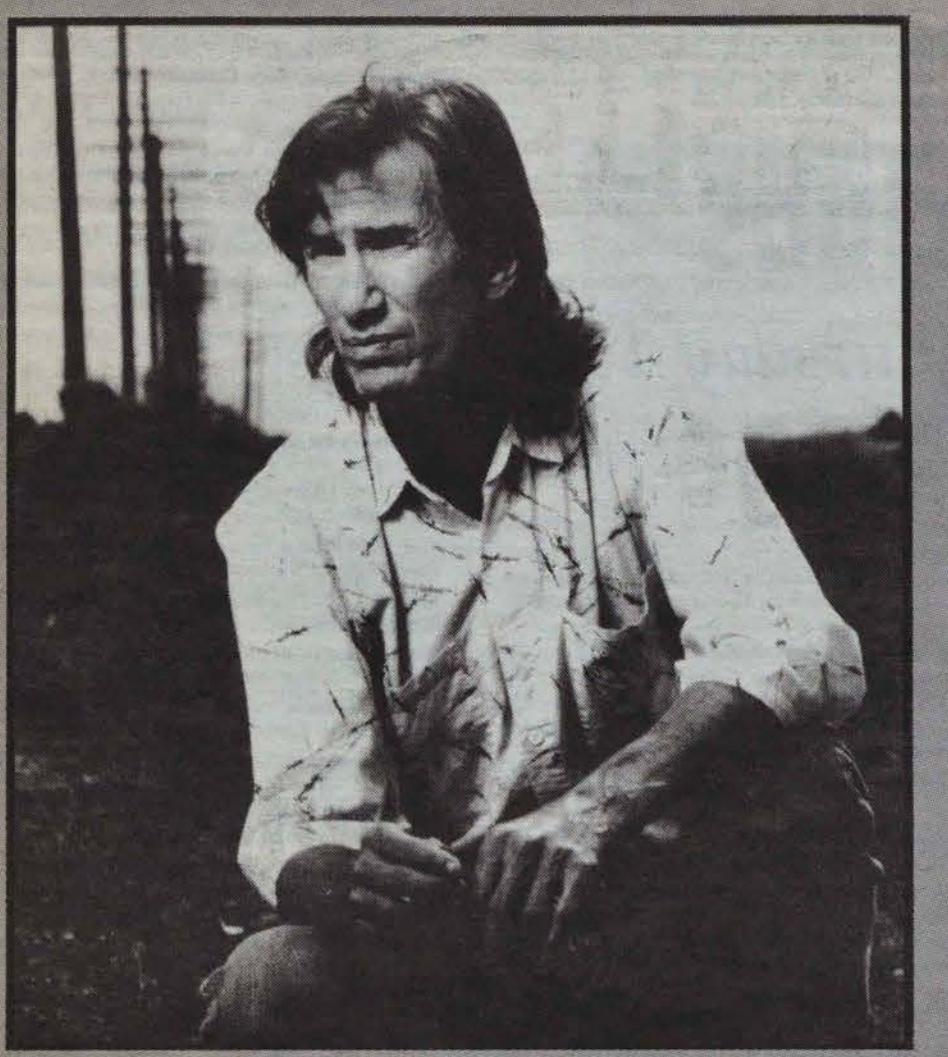
upcoming

Oratorio Choral Mar 24 (all-Bach concert) 8 pm at St. John the Baptist Church, Pleasant St, Brunswick and Mar 25 at 8 pm at UCC, Congress Ave, Bath. Tix: \$10 (\$4 students/kids). 725-7103.

Piano 3: Grant Johannessen (renowned pianist) Mar 26 at 3 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St, Portland. Tix: \$20. 772-8630.

Portland Symphony Orchestra Mar 28 at 7:30 pm and Mar 29 at 6:30 pm (with guest violinist Maria Bachmann) at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St, Portland. Tix: \$10-\$35. 773-8191.

Bobby McFerrin's Hand Choral (world-famous vocalist) Mar 30 at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St, Portland. Tix: \$19.50 general admission; \$22.50 cabaret (plus \$10.50 dinner ticket). 879-1112.



A tough Townes

Townes Van Zandt has been composing superior songs and performing for devoted fans for about 25 years, but, excepting several tunes covered by Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris or Nanci Griffith, he resides in one of the back rows of our cultural consciousness. And that's a big theater. He's a bit of an anomaly, a throwback to an era when, if art and commerce weren't necessarily foes by nature, at least they weren't making out all the time. Van Zandt's low profile reflects that. Apparently he's never grasped the charming callousness that is required to jostle one's way into The Big Time. Instead, his career has stumbled along, and each new record or tour brings a

music

sign of relief to a couple of generations of fans — not just for the opportunity to hear him again, but also to know that he hasn't given up.

Until recently Van Zandt sang in the simplest of Southwestern voices. It was dry without being parched, a little sandy in the high end and thin — like the singer. Then in the late '80s there seemed to be a break. The voice dropped a bit, warmed up a bit, sounded a little more lubricated, as though he'd decided to get out of Texas for a few summers.

Yet that mellowing of the voice doesn't reflect any new sunny optimism in his songs. From the beginning of his career, Van Zandt's best songs have forced a reality check on his listeners. They're photographs, not watercolors. His latest release, "No Deeper Blue" — his first collection of new songs in eight years — has that same sobering effect. In "Marie," a man loses a chance to move his pregnant girlfriend and himself into a burned-out van because he can't pull it together to follow up on the rumor of a job. The girl dies by some nameless bridge, in some nameless town, and the man leaves her "in the sun where somebody'd find them."

That's about as optimistic as Van Zandt gets in his better work. Grim? Yes, and we like Raymond Carver too. He never draws the curtain to soften the desperation of his characters. In album after album he's introduced people in pain, men and women caught between the cracks — of society or, more often, of their own humanity. Not all are tragic; sometimes the impact of the songs is leavened by a light humor, or Van Zandt's affection for his characters. But even his love songs (and there are many), offer the purest emotions edged with storm clouds.

"No Deeper Blue" compares favorably with his previous work, and despite the overly cluttered production, the majority of songs stick to the memory receptors after a single listening. If you aren't able to sing a Van Zandt song off the top of your head, or if you can't hum any of his melodies (some might argue that there simply aren't that many different melodies), it isn't his fault — he's been out there doing his music. And it isn't your fault — you'd have to have very big ears to have caught up with his music along the way.

But when given the opportunity, you must pay attention. The Townes Van Zandts — like the Jimmie Dale Gilmore, the John Prines, or any other singer-songwriters he might be compared to — are few and far between. Van Zandt's longevity in the music business says volumes about his music and nothing about the business. We are fortunate his music has been able to transcend the commercialism.

— Jim Pinfold

Townes Van Zandt plays March 17 at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 8:30 p.m. Darien Brahms will open. Tix: \$9 in advance, \$11 day of the show. 773-6886.

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- Monday, June 5, Class Topic: Preparing for Homeownership
- Monday, June 12, Class Topic: Finding and Evaluating a Home
- Monday, June 19, Class Topic: The Loan Process
- Monday, June 26, Class Topic: Closing/Life as a Homeowner

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Art & Soul continued from page 32

Portland String Quartet Apr 2 (with guest clarinetist Charles Neidich) 3 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St. Portland. Tix: \$15 (\$10 seniors/students). 761-1522.

clubs

thursday 16

Unlimited Blues Band The Big Easy, 416 Fore St. Portland. 780-1207.

Memphis Mafia (rockabilly) Brian Boru, 57 Center St. Portland. 780-1506.

Kate Schrock (poet/pianist) Citi's, 137 Kennebec St. Portland. 774-2242.

Karaoke (you too can be Neil Diamond, if only for a moment) Clyde's Pub, 173 Ocean St., Portland. 799-4473.

Portland's Funniest Professional (with host Bill Campbell) The Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St. Portland. 774-5554.

Watermen (whacked-out rock) Elvis Room, 27 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-0474.

Earle (rock) Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St. Portland. 774-1114.

Band Competition with Pezz (all-ages, chem free) The Garage, 2 Industrial Way, Portland. 797-6048.

Stompbox with Tree (heavy duty riff rock) Granny Killam's, 55 Market St. Portland. 761-2787.

Dan Blakelee (original acoustic) Java Joe's, 13 Exchange St. Portland. 761-5637.

Ken Grimsley (acoustic) Khalid's Creative Seafoods, 36 Market St. Portland. 871-1881.

Wacky Thursday (wild music) The Moon, 427 Fore St. Portland. 772-1983.

Hot Cherry Pie (alt-rock covers) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St. Portland. 774-0444.

Happy Hour with the Steve & Reeve D.J. Show Raoul's, 865 Forest Avenue, Portland. 773-6886.

Dave Roe & Co. (folk) Seamen's Club, 1 Exchange St. Portland. 772-7311.

Laser Karaoke with Greg Powers Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Portland. 775-6161.

Deejay Bob Look (techno, tribal, trance, live karaoke in front room with Nick) The Underground, 3 Spring St. Portland. 773-3315.

Acoustic Open Mic with Blonde Faith The Wrong Brothers' Pub, 39 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-1944.

friday 17

D.W. Gill & Blues Train (blues/R&B) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St. Portland. 780-1207.

George Worthley & Carol (Irish music) Bramhall Pub, 769 Congress St. Portland. 773-9873.

Rakesh Paddy (St. Patrick's Day breakfast, 7:41-9:30 am) Brian Boru's, 57 Center St. Portland. 780-1506.

D.J. Mike Giller (high-energy top 40) Citi's, 137 Kennebec St. Portland. 774-2242.

Vinny Favorito, Tom Dunham & Jack Towle The Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St. Portland. 774-5554.

King Duo (acoustic guitar duo) Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St. Portland. 774-1114.

Rustic Overtones & Upsidedown Frown (all ages, chem free) The Garage, 2 Industrial Way, Portland. 797-6048.

Upsidedown Frown & This Is Not Here (original alternative) Geno's, 13 Brown St. Portland. 772-7891.

Rippopotamus with Native & Jabbering Trout (world beat/funk/groove) Granny Killam's, 55 Market St. Portland. 761-2787.

Peter Finkle (mellow pop) Khalid's Creative Seafoods, 36 Market St. Portland. 871-1881.

Bicycle Thieves (alt-rock covers) Moose Alley, 46 Market St. Portland. 774-5246.

Matt "Guitar" Murphy (bluesman/sessionist whose work is featured on historic recordings by Junior Parker, Memphis Slim and other greats) Morganfield's, 121 Center St. Portland. 774-1245.

Hot Cherry Pie (alt-rock covers) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St. Portland. 774-0444.

Townes Van Zandt (Texas singer-songwriter) Raoul's, 865 Forest Avenue, Portland. 773-6886.

Muddle (rock) Seamen's Club, 1 Exchange St. Portland. 772-7311.

Brotherhood Dogs (rock trio) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

Jenny Woodman (homecoming queen of rock) T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St. Portland. 773-8040.

Deejay Tim Stoney (dance, dance, dance) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

Chameleon (lounge rock/Verlillo's), 155 Riverside St. Portland. 775-6536.

Higher Ground (raucous cover tunes) The Wrong Brothers' Pub, 39 Forest Avenue, Portland. 775-1944.

saturday 18

Rick Russell with Two Bones & a Pick (blues/R&B) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St. Portland. 780-1207.

Steve Durgin (acoustic) Bramhall Pub, 769 Congress St. Portland. 773-9873.

D.J. Mike Giller (high-energy top 40) Citi's, 137

sunday 19

D.J. Mike Giller (classic dance) Citi's, 137 Kennebec St. Portland. 774-2242.

George Hamm's Comedy Showcase Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St. Portland. 774-5554.

D.J. Steve Bowman (all ages, chem-free) The Garage, 2 Industrial Way, Portland. 797-6048.

Open Mic (bring your instruments and play) Geno's, 13 Brown St. Portland. 772-7891.

Darlen Brahms (original rock) Gritty McDuff's, 396 Fore St. Portland. 772-2739.

Bill Shinamura (original acoustic at 2 pm) Java Joe's, 13 Exchange St. Portland. 761-5637.

Gary Wittner Jazz Trio / Gospel Brunch with Gospel Explosion / Smokin' Joe Kubek (jazz & gospel in the am, Texas bar blues at night) Morganfield's, 121 Center St. Portland. 774-1245.

Ernie Osborne (mellow pop) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St. Portland. 774-0444.

Harvey Reid & Ken Perlman (guitar virtuosos) Raoul's, 865 Forest Avenue, Portland. 773-6886.

National Headliner Comedy with Greg Carey T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St. Portland. 773-8040.

Deejay Andy (city sounds/live karaoke in front lounge) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

Grim and Grime (acoustic) Wharfs End, 52 Wharf St. Portland. 773-0093.

Deejay Bob Look (request night/no cover) Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

monday 20

Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog The Big Easy, 416 Fore St. Portland. 780-1207.

Open Mic with the Watermen Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St. Portland. 774-1114.

Open Mic with Randall Morabitos (blues) Morganfield's, 121 Center St. Portland. 774-1245.

Open Mic Comedy Night with Pat "Boomer" Hicks Raoul's, 865 Forest Avenue, Portland. 773-6886.

Open Mic with Ken Grimsley (acoustic) Wharfs End, 52 Wharf St. Portland. 773-0093.

tuesday 21

Open Blues Jam (drumset available) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St. Portland. 780-1207.

Open Poetry Reading w/ Pangea (jazz) Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St. Portland. 774-8767.

43 North 70 West (sea shanties) Gritty McDuff's, 396 Fore St. Portland. 772-2739.

Crossfire (riffin' cover rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St. Portland. 774-0444.

Writers Open Mic with Ann Clark & guest Ted Glendon Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

Open Mic with Peter Gleason (b.y.o. jam) Spring Point Cafe, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

Open Mic with Ken Grimsley (acoustic) Wharfs End, 52 Wharf St. Portland. 773-0093.

wednesday 22

Red Light Revue (blues/R&B/soul) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St. Portland. 780-1207.

Light from the East

Three Maine artists translate their encounters with Asian culture

By Karen Kitchen

"East/West: Views of Self and Culture" features the works of three Maine artists who have been significantly influenced — both personally and artistically — by recent immersion in an Eastern culture: Mary Anderson and Karen Gilg, who have journeyed in India, and Jan Provenzano, who lived and taught in China. Although all three artists embrace abstraction as a formal language, each communicates her deeply felt experience differently. Provenzano's computer-generated serial images, Gilg's sensual and tactile objects/installations and Anderson's vaguely humanoid forms — each idiosyncratic group of work implicitly reflects a changed view of self resulting from the confrontation of West and East.

Karen Gilg, in three discrete installations, explores the metamorphosis of mundane materials — tree branches, beeswax, hay and wire — into beautiful, exotic objects. Her immersion in Indian culture stimulated an interest in "the sacred significance of an object or act in one culture and [its] mundane qualities... in another." In "Dog Chew Dirge," painted cow hooves are arranged in a horizontal line. Gilg discovered the hooves in a bin labeled "dog chews" at the local Agway store in Hallowell, then "decorated" them with red and black paint and gold leaf. The simple act, performed as a ritual, transformed the doggie treats into precious objects worthy of contemplation. Clearly, the meaning and significance of an object is tied to both its cultural context and physical location, and by re-presenting the hooves as beautiful, strange shapes, Gilg creates an environment for an encounter between cultures. East and West collide ironically as we are brought into a new relationship with the cow. (It was embarrassingly reminded that the last time I saw a cow, it was as disembodied pieces of red flesh packaged in clear, shiny cellophane.)

Jan Provenzano spent four months teaching color theory, painting and English to architecture students at the Beijing Polytechnic University in China. Before leaving the U.S. in the fall of 1992, she had read a book by Fritjof Capra called "The Turning Point," published in the early '80s. Describing the characteristics of "modern physics," Capra compared the West's mechanistic, Newtonian worldview to the organic perspective that underlies Chinese thought and life. "[W]e cannot decompose the world into independently existing smallest units," writes Capra. "As we penetrate into matter, nature does not show us any isolated building blocks, but rather appears as a complicated web of relations between the various parts of a unified whole." Capra's ideas became so important to Provenzano's work that she transformed this passage into an object of art by silkscreening the enlarged text, framing the mounted image and hanging it alongside her other works in the show.

Provenzano's main group of work in the exhibition is a series of four silkscreen prints that demonstrate how, when she returned from China, the ideas of interrelationship and change became central to her work. The four sequential images are based on one small, nonobjective ink drawing done with a bamboo pen, which was digitally scanned and loaded into the artist's computer. To create each image, Provenzano put the digitized drawing through several degrees of spin. Enlarged from 8 to 21 inches, the first is a pattern of gestural marks, while the following images resemble swirling pools or eddies. Although each print is singular, together they form a unified whole. One cannot be understood or experienced without consideration of all four. Clearly, Provenzano is interested in the simultaneity of opposites: randomness and control, separation and connection.

Before she left for India, Mary Anderson's work was characterized by hard-edged, architectural forms that reflected the influence of the minimalist tradition. Her experi-



Mary Anderson's "Capacities X:" rummaging through cultural baggage.

art

"East/West: Views of Self and Culture" is on view at the **USM Art Gallery in Gorham through March 23.** Hours: noon to 4 p.m., Sundays through Thursdays. 780-5009.

ences in India and Sumatra "drove deep into [her] mind, body and soul," forcing a re-evaluation of her own personal and cultural identities. The sheer density of population in India made Anderson acutely aware of the human form. After her return from the subcontinent, Anderson's work more directly alluded to the human body, while retaining a fascination with materials and reductive style. "Capacities" is a series of roughly human-scaled sculptures made of the smooth black rubber of truck tire inner tubes. Like Gilg, Anderson "encountered" her material — in her case, during a foraging expedition at a junkyard in Columbia Falls, Maine. The flexible rubber, usually left unpaired, is simply bolted to the gallery wall. Most of the pieces bulge out and taper toward the bottom. The shapes are vaguely female. Several are hung low so that the viewer can peer into the space between the wall and the inside of the vessel. "Capacities IX," painted white, seems "emptied" and lies flat against its wall, while the others seem "full." The pieces draw our attention to the various functions/definitions of the body in general and skin in particular. Anderson states that these works are "vessels which allude to body as both carapace and core. Their form is a periphery, a vulnerable demarcation between interior and exterior, public and private, exposed and concealed aspects of the self." With Duchampian simplicity, Anderson has created elegant metaphors of human presence and experience.

"East/West" offers a glimpse of three artists in the process of self-realization as a result of contact with the "other." The absence of direct references to the artistic/cultural heritages of "foreign" peoples reveals a respect for and sensitivity to the differences between cultures. On a similar note, in "Of Other Peoples," filmmaker Trinh T. Minha envisioned a nonracist relationship between peoples of different hemispheres (or even, perhaps more radically, different neighborhoods): "Exploring oneself and one's culture in its interaction with other selves and other cultures remains a vital process when understanding is creating — is creation." "East/West" is a refreshing reminder that not all travelers need be tourists. **CBW**

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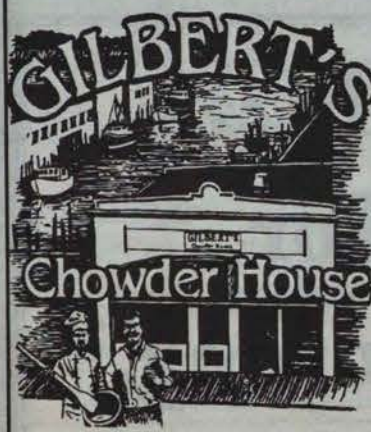
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Punks in suits who are out for blood.

Interview with Portland's Vampires

Vampire Lesbos rock an alien nation

By Tanya Whiton

"You can get away with a lot more wearing a suit," says Vampire Lesbos guitarist, Mic Majka. He is referring to the band's current predilection for black suits and string ties, now that the players are reunited and back in Portland, bending minds with their sonic message. The suits are also a reference to "Men in Black," the group's song about evil government dudes who appear at the scene of alien sightings and try to intimidate people into keeping mum about what they've seen.

As you see, punk is still political. Rollins may be mugging for MTV, and corporate punks like Green Day and Offspring may be hogging the airwaves, but the music that emerged as an enraged scream from disenfranchised youth in England still has the potent energy and bashing power that made you want to sing "God Save the Queen" while chucking darts at Ronald Reagan's head.

The members of Vampire Lesbos still have that old punk sensibility thrashing beneath their lapels, and they intend to rattle people's cages with some meaningful noise. The last time this town got a sampling of the Lesbos' ear-shattering mayhem was when they played with Fugazi at the warehouse on Fore Street in

music

September of 1993. Since then, the band's lyrical content and musical bent have changed. Now, not only do the Lesbos have a message, they have a mission: to inform the listening public about government suppression and manipulation regarding everything from aliens to cures for cancer and AIDS. And their crash-and-burn version of punk rock sends that message flying at you in waves of chugging guitar sound. Singer/guitarist Dave Whiting, bassist Scott Partridge and guitarist Majka have chops developed through years of playing sweaty hardcore gigs and touring around the States. And the harmonies are consistent, even on songs that have both Whiting and Partridge bellowing full throttle. New drummer Dave Rankin has found his element with the Lesbos, and his skilled, rhythmically relentless drumming drives the band's sound.

At a recent Granny Killam's gig, the Lesbos took the stage in front of an ominous backdrop: a banner depicting four huge alien faces with luminous communion eyes. A table piled high with Xeroxed information on UFO sightings and the medical industry's corruption stood by the door. Within 10 minutes the blazers were gone, the ties were tugged loose and the sweat rolled down the players' brows as the Lesbos thrashed it out for a small, but enthusiastically moshing crowd. The Lesbos not only want you to lend them your ears, but also your preconceived ideas. "People make assumptions from their base information - what they were taught in school," Whiting says. "You've got to break everything down and start from nothing... prove it to yourselves. We'd like to sing about anything, love even. But the world is not a happy place."

The song "Medical Mafia" underscores the band's criticism of the health industry, ripping the surgical and radiation treatments cancer patients endure: "medical mafia / we'll put a contract out on you / cut and burn and poison / fifty grand will do / suppress the information... money's all that matters". The Lesbos have come a long way from their previous vinyl release, which featured fun-loving tunes like "Red Sphincter."

The music is characterized by the pure energy that punk is famous for. It's harder, faster and louder than other hybrids of three-chord rock and industrial-strength noise. But don't mistake the Lesbos for possessing that "Oi!" skinhead mentality that has poisoned many people's perception of punk. "That's macho shit," says Whiting, "which I couldn't care less for."

The band has an upcoming single and an album on Portland's Bad Habits label. In the meantime, the band is focused on getting people to lose their biases and start anew. Politically speaking, the Lesbos could be a bunch of paranoids - or a bunch of visionaries. "Hey, we're probably some alien's 5th-grade science project," Majka says.

But musically speaking, there is no doubt about it. Vampire Lesbos rock. **CBW**

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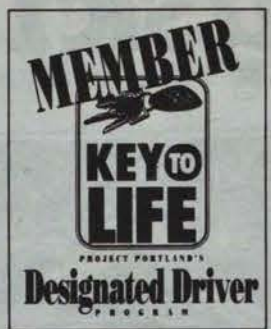
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Art & Soul continued from page 34

- Christian Benner** (acoustic) Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.
- Aquarium Rescue Unit with Percy Hill** (big time alt-rock groove) Granny Killam's, 55 Market St., Portland, 763-2787.
- Duct Tape Wasabi** (eclectic pop) Khalid's Creative Seafoods, 36 Market St., Portland, 871-1881.
- Crossfire** (riffin cover rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.
- Toboggan with Steve Gerlach** (mellow rock) Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6006.
- Peter Finkle** (acoustic) Seaman's Club, 1 Exchange St., Portland, 772-7311.
- Open Mic Rock** (no lounge lizards need apply) T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland, 773-8040.
- Deejay Bob Look and strippers** (eclectic fun) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.
- Electric Open Mic with Bang-Bang Club** (b.o.j.am) The Wrong Brother's Pub at Fort Billiards, 39 Forest Ave., Portland, 775-1944.

dance

- Ballroom Dance** The Gorham Dance Club hosts a ballroom party and social, Saturdays from 7:30-11 pm at the Center of Movement, 19 State St., Gorham. Free dance lesson at 7:30. Cost: \$5. 839-DANS.
- Casco Bay Movers** offer a spring sessions of classes in jazz, tap, street funk, ballet, stretch and dance/magic at 151 St. John St., Portland, starting Mar 27. 871-1013.
- Contact Improvisation/Open Movement** Dance groups for people of all ages and abilities, Mondays from 7-10 pm at the Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave., Portland and Wednesdays from 6:30-9:30 pm at the United Methodist Church Dance Studio, corner of Elm and Chapel St., S. Portland. Cost: \$1 Mondays (\$4 Wednesdays). 775-4981.
- Contradance** with Crooked Stovepipe Band every third Fri at 8:30 pm at the Presumpscot Grange, 1844 Forest Ave., Portland (across from Tortilla Flat). All dances taught. Singles always welcome. Cost: \$5. 774-3392.
- Contradance** with Ellen & the Sea Slugs the first Sat of each month at 7:30 pm at Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Cost: \$4. \$2 kids, \$10 family max. 929-6472.
- Gotta Dance Classes** The Gotta Dance studio, 657 Congress St., Portland, offers classes in Argentine Tango, Salsa, Ballroom and West Coast Swing. Also, Gotta Dance offers a Friday Night Dance Party — dance to ballroom, Latin, swing and contemporary music every Fri from 9 pm-12:30 am. Admission: \$6. Workshops: \$8. 773-3558.
- Mainiac Swing** hosts a jitterbug swing dance the first Friday of every month with the Pinetones at Presumpscot Grange Hall, 1844 Forest Ave. (across from Tortilla Flat), from 9 pm-midnight. Cost: \$5. 774-2718 or 725-8216.
- Ram Island Dance Company** hosts choreographer Eduardo Mariscal, who will be teaching contemporary folk dances from Northern Mexico — Wednesdays, from 5:30-6:45 pm and Saturdays, 11:30 am-12:45 pm, beginning Mar 18. 773-2562.
- Saturday Dance** Dance the night away every Saturday at Maine Ballroom Dance, 614A Congress St., Portland, 8 pm-midnight. Cost: \$5 (\$3 for beginner's dance). 773-0002.
- Spine & Lower Back Workshop** An educational workshop focusing on maintaining balanced alignment and relieving lower back pain. Mar 18 from 1-2:30 pm at Casco Bay Movers, 151 St. John St., Portland. Open to anyone involved in dance training, including students, educators and performers. Cost: \$15. 871-1013.
- Street Funk Dance** A course in advanced fun at Gotta Dance, 657 Congress St., Portland, Saturdays at 10:30 am. 772-6351.
- Swedenborgian Contradance** every fourth Saturday of the month at the Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave., Portland, from 8:30-11:30. Refreshments available, all dances taught. Cost: \$5. 772-4460.

events

- Aucelococo: A Celebration of Casco Bay** Through Mar 19, Portland's Downtown District is sponsoring a series of events highlighting regional ecology, history, marine resources and the arts — with lectures, cruises and tours. Look for brochures around town with a complete schedule of events. Mar 18: Casco Bay Estuary Project sponsors an educational boat tour with Casco Bay Lines on Commercial Street. Cost: \$3 (\$1 kids). Mar 17-19: Maine Boatbuilders Show at 58 Fore St., Portland — Fri & Sat from 10 am-6 pm and Sun from 10 am-4 pm. Cost: \$5 (free kids under 12). 772-6828.
- Maine NOW** is scheduling bus transportation from several pickup points around the state to Washington, D.C. for a national women's history month rally, "We Won't Go Back," April 8-10. Cost: \$70. 797-8508 or 774-9827.
- Maine State Horticulture Show** features approximately 8000 square feet of landscaped gardens in peak bloom, with educational and floral design exhibits as well as lectures and demonstrations of a variety of topics. The show runs Mar 16-19, Thurs & Sat from 9 am-5 pm, Fri from 9 am-8 pm and Sun from 9 am-5 pm, at Scarborough Industrial Park, Route 1, Scarborough. Cost: \$6 (\$5 seniors/\$3 kids). 797-0836.
- Spring For Life Art Auction** to benefit the AIDS Project Mar 17 & 18 at Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. 774-6877.

*Art Preview Mar 17 from 6-8 pm and Mar 18 from 9 am-4:30 pm.

- *Auction** Mar 18 from 5-8 pm, viewing of art and silent auction; live auction at 8 pm. Admission: \$10.
- *Artists Reception** Mar 18 from 6-7 pm at Holiday Inn. Admission: \$25.
- Stars on Ice Olympic & World Champions** Kristi Yamaguchi, Katarina Witt, Ekaterina Gordeeva, Kurt Browning, Scott Hamilton, Paul Wylie and Sergei Grinkov skate to benefit the Make-A-Wish foundation. Mar 31 at 7:30 pm at the Cumberland County Civic Center, Portland. Tix: \$20 & \$30 RSDV. 775-3458.
- Saint Patrick's Day Parade** Mar 17 at 3:30 pm beginning at 155 Brackett St., Portland, following an open house from 1-3 pm. 775-0105.
- Portland's Funniest Professional Contest** at the Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St., Portland. Every Thursday will feature a different profession through the final night, April 6 — with each person performing a 3-5 minute skit of their best material. 774-5554.
- Women's Theater Festival** Oak Street Productions hosts a theatrical tribute to women's history month, Mar 16-Apr 2 at 92 Oak St., Portland. 775-5103.
- "Mary Chestnut's Civil War"** performed by Tina Young, shows Mar 16 & 18 at 8 pm. Tix: \$10.
- "Flag of Woman Memory"** performed by Jackie Reifer, shows Mar 17 at 8 pm and Mar 31 at 10 pm. Tix: \$10.
- "Take Up the Song, Forget the Epitaph"** performed by Tina Young, Mar 19 at 2 pm and Apr 2 at 7 pm. Tix: \$7.
- "Emily Dickinson, the Woman, the Poet"** by Ramona Barth, performed by Anece Foskett and Suzanne Rankin, shows Mar 19 at 7 pm. Tix: \$7.
- "The Stator Game"** by Barbara Eberhardt, performed by the Women's Theatre Project, shows Mar 23 and 26 at 7 pm. Tix: \$7.
- "Lavender Land Utopia"** by Marilee Ryan, performed by the Furies, shows Mar 24 at 8 pm and Mar 25 & 31 at 10 pm. Tix: \$10.
- "Woman in a Suitcase"** performed by Julie Goell, shows Mar 25 & 30 at 8 pm. Tix: \$10.
- "A Day Without Television"** performed by Julie Goell, Kym Dakin and Diana Hansen, shows Mar 26 & Apr 2 at 2 pm. Tix: \$10.
- "The Greenhouse Effect"** performed by Sally Greenhouse, Apr 1 at 8 pm. Tix: \$12.
- "World in Motion"** An international family event hosted by Up With People, a globally touring ensemble that features international costumes, lively choreography and spirited vocals takes place Mar 30 & 31 at 7:30 pm at the Portland Expo, 239 Park Ave., Portland. Tix: \$12 (\$10 students/seniors), available at local Shop 'n Saves.
- *Host Families Needed** The cast of Up With People will be in Portland from Mar 26-Apr 1, and needs community members to provide a bed, some meals and transportation to local shuttle points in the morning and evening. Hosts will receive two free tickets to the Mar 30 performance of "World in Motion." 874-1072.

art openings

- "10 X 10" Exhibition** Ten artists will show works in a 10-inch by 10-inch square format — a mix of contemporary paintings, both abstract and landscape, photographs and mixed media. Mar 23 from 5-8 pm and Mar 24 from 10 am-2 pm at 26 Free St., Portland. Artists include Christopher Ayres, Brita Holmquist, Kate Mahoney Gursinger, Bill Curtininger, Grace DeGennaro, Lindsay Hancock, Natasha Mayers, Michael D. Ryus, Robert Shetterly and Alice Spencer. All works are on sale for \$100. 767-2228 or 772-2466.
- Black Moon Gallery** 339 Fore St., Portland, opening reception for artworks and sculptures by Eva Horton, Mar 18 from 2-7 pm. Also showing are works by Dan Billings, Frank Larson, Christine Mondelli, Brett Morrison, Judy Guralnick and William Janelle through Mar. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-5 pm or by appointment. 774-4423.
- Coffee By Design** 620 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Whimsical Relief Paintings" on canvas and wood by David Cedrone, Mar 16 from 5-8 pm. Shows Mar 5-April 30. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-8 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm and Sun 12-5 pm. 772-5533.
- Portland Museum of Art** 7 Congress Square, Portland. "Isamu Noguchi: Early Abstraction," opens Mar 25 — an installation of twenty gouache drawings and three sculptures, created by the artist after his apprenticeship with Constantin Brancusi in 1927. Shows through Jun 4. 775-6148.

now showing

- African Imports and New England Arts** 28 Milk St., Portland. "Hidden Treasures," traditional African arts, rare carvings and works by modern artists from Nigeria to New England, ongoing. Hours: 10:30 am-9 pm Mon-Sat, 12-5 pm Sun. 772-9505.
- Baxter Gallery** 619 Congress St., Portland. "Dancing Lessons," a video installation by Maureen Connor; "Pain/Pain Online," a video exhibition of 18 artists addressing the subject of pain; and photos by John Coplans show through Mar 26. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 775-5152.
- Paul Black Studio & Gallery** 17 Pleasant St., Portland. Impressionist oil paintings and pastels by Black, ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 12-5 pm or by appointment. 879-0748.

Art & Soul continued on page 42

Byte ME: Dispatches from the electronic frontier

Hauling traps in cyberspace

You never know who you're going to run into in cyberspace. Like last week. Cruising the 'net, who did I bump into but former Portland nightlife guy Russell Turner, founder of Raoul's and savior of the State Theatre. Of all the RAM joints in all the world, he had to walk into mine.

"Russell! What are you doing in a dive like this?" I asked. Turns out he's a freshly minted entrepreneur on the Internet, touting live lobsters over the wires to folks who shop for groceries by FedEx.

These two enterprising folks — and a lobster dealer from Nova Scotia — are so far the only entrepreneurs selling lobsters on the Internet. So far. But the way migrants are streaming into cyberspace, there could be a dozen lobster pounds online by next week.

Turner started Maine Lobster Direct in January, running his virtual empire from an office at the Fisherman's Net seafood shop on Forest Avenue. (They also supply him with lobsters.) At the outset he sold through print ads placed in gift and culinary magazines. Customers who lust for fresh lobster can call an 800 number, and a smartly uniformed courier will deliver the goods the next day. Lobster prices, including overnight delivery, range from \$55 for two medium lobsters (1.25 to 1.5 pounds) to \$171.50 for a dozen.

Turner took his marketing effort online March 8. How did he end up here? Turner said went through a "period of drifting around" after he was dumped from his management post at the State last February. While in Florida, he noted the vast print acreage devoted to computers and user groups in local newspapers, and figured that computers were at the same stage TVs were in their early days. He didn't know anything about computers, but decided to learn.

And he liked what he saw of the Internet. So Turner kicked into gear, building a World Wide Web site through MaineStreet Communications in Gray, his Internet supplier. He wrote the copy for the page and uploaded some slick graphics from his brochure. "It's a more intelligent way of using ads," he says. "It's not just a great way to sell things, but to educate people."

Turner says the Internet is only one part of his marketing strategy, but he thinks it makes a lot of sense for small retailers. "I don't see why anybody who makes whoopee pies in their basement can't go on the Internet and sell them," he says.

While Turner's site is targeted at the affluent gift basket-giving types, Wintle's is more like an electronic

version of his Portland shop. His Web site lacks the graphic flash of Turner's, but he offers up a broader range of seafood — everything from freshly minced clams to swordfish steaks and finnan haddie. His electronic storefront prices are slightly above regular retail (about \$7 for a lobster). But the real hurt comes when adding in overnight shipping charges — about \$30 for a typical 3- or 4-pound order.

Wintle admits he doesn't know much about computers — his son set up the cybershop, housing it at an extensive cybermall based in North Carolina that features all sorts of vendors, including one company called Applied Information Technologies, which bills itself as "producers of worldwide telecommunications services and food/healthcare products." (Ad copy: "Do you know anyone who eats food? Do you, yourself? If the answer to either is yes, then you stand to save a lot of money using this program.") But Wintle figures he's well-positioned for the future.

While these two Portland-based Internet peddlers are squaring off against one another, more serious competition is arising from a more elaborate operation, Nova Scotia-based Lobster Direct. (Remember, cyberspace knows no borders.) The site has a nicely designed Web page featuring recipes, a free electronic lobster newsletter and an eight-panel color online illustration showing how to "really crack and eat a fresh Nova Scotia hardshell lobster" — just like on the paper placemats. And, of course, there's the sales pitch (4 pound-and-a-quarter lobsters delivered to your door for \$51 U.S.).

Hungry? Wealthy? Maine Lobster Direct: <http://www.maine.com/lobsters>. Tiny's Bigman Seafood: <http://netmar.com/mall/shops/lobster>. Lobster Direct: <http://dorian.csi.nh.ca/~damber/lobster>.

Screen dumps

Fork it over: On March 15 OneNet Falmouth went from free to fee. The FirstClass bulletin board system has been attracting steady traffic — especially, it seems, from school kids bored out of their nut. How many of these cyberruffians will continue to haunt the BBS once billing kicks in remains to be seen. The board still doesn't offer much in the way of useful downloadable files, and the conference areas haven't quite elevated online conversation to high art. But rates are reasonable: \$24 per quarter, and that includes 90 minutes per day of connect time. Think of it this way: It's a lot cheaper than a baby-sitter. For info, connect by modem: 878-0109.

An updated (March 9) version of the Maine State Library's guide to online resources mentioned in this space two weeks ago is available now through the state Web server. Go to: <http://www.state.me.us/msl/mgintro.htm>.

—Wayne Curtis

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Wednesdays Free Buffalo Wings 6p-8p Citi Casino & Bingo 7p-11p	Thursdays Free Nachos 6p-8p Women's Nite, Live Ent. 8-1	Fridays Free Buffet 6-8, Karaoke 6-10 Late Nite Breakfast 1a-3a
Saturdays Always a Theme Party Late Nite Breakfast 1a-3a	March 17 St. Patty's Party Laser Karaoke 6-10 Free Give-Aways Free Boiled Dinner 6-8pm Drink Specials & Green Beer	

Lynne Deeves
Thurs, March 23, 8:00pm
March 16th, 8:00pm
Kate Schrock

Miss Citi Contest

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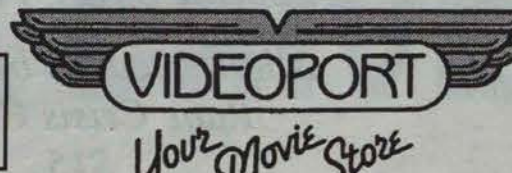
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PRODUCTION DESIGNER MILJEN KJARKOVIC "CREAK" EDITOR ANIBALJA ZHARNOVIC DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY VILKO FILIC
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER PHILIP R. GORHAM STORY BY EMIR KUSTURICA AND DAVID ATKINS SCREENPLAY BY DAVID ATKINS
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Art & Soul continued from page 40

Blitff's Cafe 98 Portland St. Portland. Collage work by Richard Lee and Sandra Bottinelli, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 6 am-2 pm, Sun 7 am-2 pm. 773-2096.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art Walker Art Building, Brunswick. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5. 725-3275.

Sculpture of Ancient West Mexico shows through Apr 9.

Perry-Macmillan Arctic Museum Hubbard Hall. "Inuit Images," soapstone art on display through April. Hours: 10 am-5 pm Tues-Sat, Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3000.

Chamber of Commerce 145 Middle St. Portland. Acrylic and mixed media paintings by Tatiana Solodar show through March 31. Hours: Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm. 772-2811.

Christine's Dream 41 Middle St. Portland. New works by painter James Comas Cole, show until further notice. Hours: Tues-Fri 7 am-2 pm, Sat-Sun 9 am-2 pm. 774-2972.

Clay City 188 State St. Portland. Ante-Classical Pottery & Collar Rod Figures by Tobias Mostel and Aileen Winter show through Mar. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-4 pm. 761-2707.

Congress Street Diner 551 Congress St. Portland. Permanent showing of wall murals by Anthony Taylor and Paul Brahms, featuring old-era Congress Street art. Hours: Mon-Sun 7 am-3 pm. 773-6957.

Coolwater Cafe 1 Forest Ave. Portland. Drawings and collage work by Zos Cain show through Apr 10. Call for hours. 775-5090.

Crochets 150 Philbrook Rd. S. Portland. Paintings and monotypes by Sue Palfrey, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Thurs 11:30 am-9 pm, Fri and Sat 11:30 am-10 pm and Sun from 11:30 am-7 pm. 775-5531.

Cry of the Loon Route 302, S. Casco. "Marguerite Lawler: New Works on Paper" shows through Mar 19. "Going for a Walk with a Line," an exhibition of 20 artists and the Washington County High School Art Exhibition, shows through Mar 30. Hours: 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Mon-Sun. 655-5060.

Danforth Gallery 34 Danforth St. Portland. University of Southern Maine student show Mar 18-Apr 1. Hours: Wed, Fri and Sat, 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm, Sun 12-5 pm. 775-6245.

Dead Space Gallery 11 Avon St. Portland. Photographs by Chris Larsen, Greta Bank and Scott Peterman show through Mar 28. Hours: Sun-Tues 12-5 pm or by appointment. 828-4637.

Exchange Street Gallery 7 Exchange St. Portland. Miniature images of Old Orchard Beach by R. N. Cohen, ongoing. Hours: 10-6 daily. 772-0633.

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St. Portland. Watercolors by Andrew Stevens, ongoing, and color photographs by Richard Sandifer show through Apr 2. Hours: Mon 11 am-4 pm, Tues-Sat 11 am-10 pm. 774-1114.

Greenhut Gallery 146 Middle St. Portland. New paintings by George Lloyd, Rhonda Wilson Ervin, Philip Barter, Peyton Higginson and Thomas Connolly show through Mar. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

Icon Contemporary Art 19 Mason St. Brunswick. "New Paintings," by Honour Mack shows through Apr 19. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Jameson Gallery 217 Commercial St. Portland. "Through Chinese Eyes," paintings of Maine and beyond by Dr. Ghan Xu and Jian Luo, show through Apr 4. Hours: 10 am-5:30 pm, Mon-Sat. 772-5522.

Jewelers Work 30 Exchange St. third floor, Portland. Cooperative showroom of original, contemporary jewelry designs by nationally exhibited artists. Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily. 773-6824.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High Street, Portland. "Visionary Paintings" by John Bonanno, show through Apr 1, along with "Emergent Evolution," mixed media works by fiber artist Ellen Roberts. Hours: 12-5 pm, Tues-Sat, 12-8 pm Thurs. 772-1961.

Maine History Gallery 489 Congress St. Portland. "Maine People, Maine Stories," featuring art and artifacts from the permanent collection, shows through April 8. Hours: Wed-Sat 12-4 pm. 879-0427.

Maine Potters Market 376 Fore St. Portland. Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily. 774-1633.

Meander Gallery 40 Pleasant St. Portland. Paintings and prints from aboriginal Australia on exhibit through April 30. Hours: 12-6 pm Tues-Sat and by appointment. 871-1078.

MECA Photo Gallery 619 Congress St. Portland. Photos by Jocelyn Lee will be on display through Mar 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm. 775-5154.

Thos Moser Cabinetmakers 415 Cumberland Ave. Portland. "Valentine's Day in Paris" photos by Robert Diamante show through April 1. Hours: Mon-Sat, 9 am-5 pm. 774-3791.

Nancy Margolis Gallery 367 Fore St. Portland. West-end band exhibit, through Mar 30. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs 10 am-8 pm, Fri-Sat 10 am-9 pm and Sun 11 am-6 pm. 775-3822.

Oak Street Theater 92 Oak St. Portland. "Bills Head," a visual/theatrical collaboration of artists interpreting William Shakespeare's image is exhibited at the theater and is available for viewing prior to any Oak St. event. 775-5103.

Pilgrimage 441 Congress St. Portland. "Open Doorways," watercolor mandalas by Susan Arlpoctah show through Mar 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. 772-1508.

The Pine Tree Shop and Bayview Gallery 75 Market St. Portland. Ongoing show of gallery artists. Hours: 9:30 am-5:30 pm Mon-Sat. 773-3007.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square. Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat 10-5, Thurs 10-9, Sun 12-5. Admission: \$4 adults/\$3 students and seniors/\$1 youth 6-12 years. Museum admission is free 10-noon the first Saturday of the month and 5-9 every Thursday evening. 773-ARTS or 1-800-639-0067.

The Scott M. Black Collection A sampling from Scott Black's 19th- and 20th-century paintings and sculptures, including works by Chagall and Toulouse-Lautrec. Ongoing.

***19th- and 20th-Century European and American Art** Paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and other masters of the past two centuries. Ongoing.

***The Cutting Edge: A Short History of the Woodcut** features the works of Jim Dine, Winslow Homer, Alex Katz and Alison Saar and runs through March 13.

***From the Ashes: Portland's Cultural Renaissance** An exhibition focusing on images of Portland during the cultural renaissance of 1790-1870.

***The Pictographs of Adolph Gottlieb** An exhibition of the earliest examples of Abstract Expressionism, with 59 paintings and 10 works on paper, many of which were inspired by non-Western and tribal cultures.

***Vincent's Journey** A porcelain life mask sculpture by Paul Rodrigue commemorating the struggles of people living with AIDS. Ongoing.

***Youth Art Month** Works by over 100 arts students throughout the state of Maine show through Mar. 775-6148.

Portland Pottery 118 Washington Ave. Portland. Ongoing show of unique and functional ceramics and jewelry by Lisa Bonarigo, teachers and students. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 pm. 772-4334.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Square, Portland. Paintings and prints by Joshua Eckels show through Mar 31. Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9-6, Thurs 12-9, Sat 9-5, 871-1758.

Raffles Cafe Bookstore 555 Congress St. Portland. "Jessica: Portrait of a Dancer," photographs by Deb Johansen, show through Mar 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5:30 pm, Wed & Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm and Sun 12-5 pm. 767-7109.

Renaissance Antiques 221 Commercial St. Portland. Ongoing show of works by John Dehlinger, Wilder Oaks, Terry Wolf and other Maine artists. Hours: 10 am-7 pm daily. 879-0789.

Ricetta's 29 Western Ave. S. Portland. "Dog Series," oil paintings on paper by Diane Bowie Zaiton show through April 30. 775-7400.

Robert Clements Framing 10c Beach St. Portland. Ongoing exhibition of original drawings and paintings by various local artists. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5, 775-2202.

Salt Center For Documentary Field Studies 17 Pine St. Portland. "Salt & Casco Bay," photographs by Pam Berry, David Gavril, Roland Laigo and Ella Richardson, show through May 3. Hours: Wed and Fri, 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm. 761-0660.

Stein Gallery 20 Milk St. Portland. Exhibition of mixed-media sculptures by Ed Gamble, Phil Kaelin, Abby Huntoon, Lin Lisberger, Rilda Rebmann, Constance Rush and John Shonie, as well as glass work by a variety of contemporary artists, shows through May 15. Hours: Mon-Sat, 11 am-5 pm. 772-9072.

Tabitha-Jean's Restaurant 94 Free St. Portland. Ongoing exhibit of abstract oil paintings and wood sculpture by Keith Schneider. Hours: Tues-Thurs, 10 am-9 pm, Fri-Sun, 8 am-10 pm. 780-8966.

USM Area Gallery Portland campus. Large figurative woodcuts by Ann Resnick show through Mar 25. Hours: Mon-Fri, 7 am-10 pm, Sat & Sun, 10 am-7 pm. 780-4090.

USM Art Gallery Gorham campus. "Maine Artists in Foreign Lands," curated by Jan Provenzano, shows through Mar 23. Hours: Sun-Thurs, 12-4 pm. 780-5009.

Walter's Restaurant 15 Exchange St. Portland. Black and white photography by Tom Marino now showing. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-10 pm, Sun 5-10 pm. 871-9258.

other

Adult Art Classes held at Southern Maine Technical College include: "Paint Your Heart Out 1 and II," "Drawing Dynamics I," "Problems and Solutions in Painting," "What's Art Got to Do With It: Exploring Women's Issues Through Painting" and a one-day photography critique. All skill levels accepted. 767-9500.

Artists Apply Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, invites artists to submit work for one-month exhibition in the Lewis gallery. 871-1758.

Artists Wanted Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice, 50 Foden Rd., S. Portland, is inviting artists to submit their work for a 3-month exhibition in their offices. 780-6824.

Danforth Gallery seeks submissions for a national juried exhibition on the nude in photography. For prospectus, send #10 SASE. Slides must be post-marked by August 1, 1995. 767-0711. Also accepting exhibition proposals for 1995-96, send #10 SASE for guidelines to 34 Danforth St. Portland, 04101.

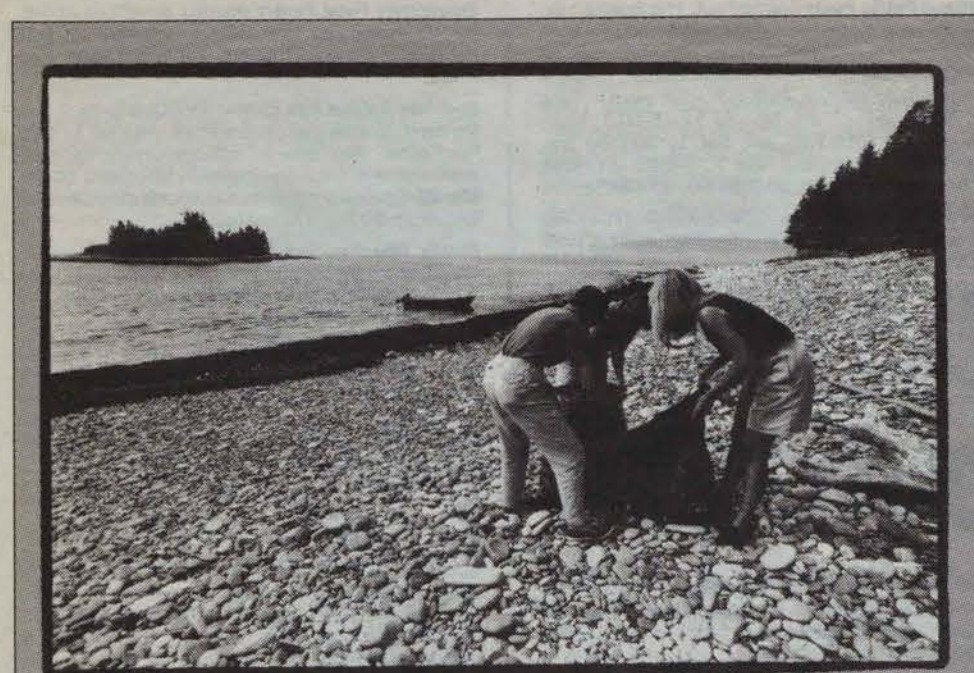
Maine Coast Artists invites all artists working in Maine to enter work for consideration in their annual juried show. Deadline for submissions is Apr 8, send SASE for application to: Maine Coast Artists, P.O. Box 147, Rockport, ME 04856. 236-2875.

Maine Graphic Arts Association holds a Printing Excellence Program to generate monies for graphic arts scholarships and related educational needs. The show is an opportunity for printers, vendors, graphic arts suppliers and MGA members to promote their work. 856-6166.

Portland Camera Club holds weekly meeting, Mon at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway, S. Portland. Monthly events include B&W, color print and color slide competition. 854-3763.

Portland Chamber of Commerce is looking for Maine artists to share their work. 772-2811, ext. 223.

"Utilizing Digital Photography" Art Directors Club offers four workshops in digital document production, Mar 16 from 9-11 am, 1-3 pm, 3-5 pm and 5-7 pm at 477 Congress St. Portland. Cost: \$5. 780-8220.



Maine Island Trail Association auction proceeds fund programs that encourage island stewardship. Volunteers help clean one of the 75 islands in the network. photo/Gary Guisinger

Double auction action on March 18

Talk about pressure on folks who want to do good! On Saturday, March 18 philanthropists and bargain hunters alike will need to decide between one of two benefit auctions downtown, with proceeds going to help out two excellent causes.

At the Holiday Inn By The Bay, The AIDS Project will hold its ninth annual Spring for Life art auction. The event will include a silent auction as well as a live auction, and will feature the works of numerous Maine artists, including Marguerite Lawler, Dozier Bell, Michael Waterman and Alfred Chadbourne.

Everyone is invited to preview the works and bid on silent auction items Friday evening from 6 to 8 p.m., and Saturday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The preview and silent auction are free. The live auction festivities begin at 6 p.m. Saturday with an artists' reception, which includes champagne and hors d'oeuvres from Portland's top chefs. The art goes under the gavel beginning at 8 p.m. Admission to the auction is \$10, and \$25 for the auction and reception. For tickets and reservations, call 774-6877.

The mix of goods going on the block at the first-ever Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) auction is eclectic, to say the least. The offerings range from a restored 1910 Adirondack guide boat to a two-week vacation at a cabin on the coast of Scotland (including airfare). There's also a mahogany dory, antique maps of Maine, kayaks, paddles, boat and plane rides, tents, hiking boots and a lot more — about 160 items in all.

Proceeds will help the association's conservation efforts. MITA maintains a 325-mile water trail from Portland to Machias linking 75 public and private islands that are open to day trips and camping for members. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., with the auction to kick off at 7:30 at the Mariner's Church Banquet Center on Fore Street in the Old Port. Tickets for the dinner and auction are \$16; it's \$5 for the auction only. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling MITA in Rockland at 596-6456.



smarts

Archtlax Lecture with Samuel Mockbee at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland, Mar 23 at 7 pm. Donation: \$2. 775-6148.

Book Group seeks new members — all ages, genders, races and life forms welcome. 774-6254.

Booksigning for Agnes Bushell's new novel, "Days of the Dead," Mar 18 at Gulf of Maine Books, 134 Maine St. Brunswick and Mar 23 at 7 pm at Raffles Cafe, 555 Congress St. Portland. 729-5083 or 761-3930.

Computer Know-How The Small Business Development Center at USM has two Lotus/IBM Learning Centers available to help people in business learn how to use Lotus 123, One-Write Plus and WordPerfect 5.1. Appointments available Mon-Fri. Free. 780-442.

Computer Training Courses offered at Technology Training Center, 39 Darling Ave. S. Portland. 780-6765.

Creative Writing Group Forming. Open to anyone interested, day of week and time will be determined by consensus. 883-4690.

"Ecce Nietzsche" A conference on the philosophies of Friedrich Nietzsche with internationally known scholars, takes place Mar 16 & 17, from 9-11:30 am and 2-4 pm, Mar 17 from 7-8:30 also. Free. 780-4258.

Foreign Classic Film Series Portland Events Board presents a spring film series Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm in Luther Bonney Auditorium, USM's Portland campus. Mar 22: "The Seven Samurai," by Japanese director Akira Kurosawa. Free. 874-6598.

The Gathering A group for discussing diversity in a supportive atmosphere, meets every Tuesday from 7-9 pm in the USM Campus Center, Portland. Mar 21: Queer Aging — Bobbi Kepal discusses ideas and strategies addressing the complexities of being gay and growing older. Free. 774-4919.

Maine Historical Society 485 Congress St. Portland. Mar 23: "A Century of Summers," lunch hour video about a summer colony on the Maine coast, at 12:30 pm. Cost: \$2 (\$1 kids). 774-1822.

Maine Writers Center 12 Pleasant St. Brunswick, offers workshops on a regular basis. Prerequisite required. 729-6333.

"Marketing Your Book" a one-day workshop covering book promotion, marketing strategies and prepublication planning with Julie Zimmerman and Dennis Ledoux. Mar 18 from 10 am-3 pm at the Maine Writers Center, Brunswick. Cost: \$45.

Matlovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and friends. The free meetings are held from 7:30-9 pm at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Mar 23: "The National Political Scene: What's Happening and What It Means to Our Community." 773-1209.

"Personal Stories Behind Great People" An evening with Doris Keams Goodwin, author of three best-

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Portland Players
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South Portland, Maine

Art & Soul continued from page 43

selling presidential biographies, Mar 16 — Frost Gallery, 411 Congress St, Portland, program from 7-9 pm at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St. Cost: \$10 reception (\$5 program). 871-1700.

Portland Laptop Users Group meets Mondays at 7:15 am at the Clark Associates Building, 2331 Congress St, Portland. Reservations and a laptop required. 775-1140 or 772-8666.

Sandwich Symposium "Transportation Applications of Smart Technology in Europe and the U.S.", Mar 17 from 11:30 am-1 pm, at 233 Oxford St, Portland. \$3 with lunch. 774-9891.

SCORE 66 Pearl St, Portland, holds small business workshops on a regular basis: Mar 21: "How to Really Start Your Own Business." Cost: \$20. 772-1147. SCORE also offers individual counseling appointments daily at no cost.

Women's History Month Film Series Luncheonette movies show from 12:15-1:30 pm at the YMCA, 87 Spring St, Portland. Mar 17: "The Burning Times," second in a three part series on women and spirituality. Mar 24: "Defending Our Lives." Free. 874-1130.

Women's Studies Film Series Mar 17: "Flaming Ears," a pop-science lesbian fantasy set in the year 2700 shows at 7 pm at 32 Payson Smith Hall, USM's Portland campus; Mar 23: "Union Maids," a video of 1930's women workers organizing labor unions, shows at 11 am in 319 Bailey Hall, Gorham campus. Free. 780-4289.

World Affairs Council of Maine Discussion seminar on "Health Care Lessons from Abroad," focusing on features of medical care in first, second and third world countries, Mar 20 & 27 from 7-9 pm. Cost: \$30 per person (\$50 per couple). 780-4551.

sports

Aerobic Classes The YMCA, 70 Forest Ave, Portland, winter aerobics schedule features: Step-up, Hi-Lo Combo, Body Shaping, Fitness Yoga and Step Side Combo. All classes are free with membership. 874-1111.

Basketball The YMCA offers membership basketball at its gymnasium at 70 Forest Ave, Portland: Mon-Fri from 6-8 am; Mon, Wed & Fri from 12:15-1:30 pm; and Tues & Thurs from 4:30-5:50 pm. 874-1111.

Basketball for Adults every Tues & Thurs from 6-8 pm. Sats from 2-4 pm at Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland. Cost: \$2. 874-8455.

Indoor Soccer for Women Thurs from 8:30-9:30 pm at the Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland. 874-8455. Cost: \$2. 874-8455.

Maine Table Tennis Club offers open play Mondays from 5-9 pm and Thursdays from 6-10 pm at Portland Athletic Club, Route 1, Falmouth. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. Coaching can be arranged. Cost: \$5 per person, balls provided. 823-8231.

Open Gym for Teens Evening teen programs: Jack Gym, 414 Eastern Prom, Portland, Tues & Thurs 6-8 pm (high school age); King Gym, 92 Deering Ave, Portland, Tues 6-8 pm (middle school age), Thurs 6-9 pm (high school age); Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Portland, Tues & Thurs 6:30-7 pm (middle school age), Mon & Wed 5:15-6:45 pm (high school age). Fee: \$.50. 874-8793.

"Monk Seal Hideaway" A slide lecture and presentation with author Diane Ackerman and photographer Bill Curtisger, Mar 21 from 12-1 pm at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland. Free. 871-1700.

Outing Club an organization for people of all sexual orientations and ages who want to get together for family-style recreational activities meets every Sunday at noon for a potluck lunch and a recreational hike. 773-6132 or 828-0401.

So. Me. Sea Kayaking Network People of all skill levels are invited to join the network for some paddling. Call 874-2640 for updates and membership information.

Spring Calving USM's Wolfe's Neck Farm at 10 Woodford St, Freeport, is open 9 am-5 pm daily through Mar 30. Free. 865-4469.

White Water & Sea Kayakers Learn strokes, rescues and the roll or just splash around in 80-degree water with Norumbega Outfitters in open pool sessions. Cost: \$50. 773-0910.

Wilderness Advanced First Aid An intensive course in backcountry medical training, Mar 24-27 at the Orr's Island Methodist Church, Orr's Island, Preregistration required. Cost: \$250. 665-2707.

Bodyshop Program USM Lifeline offers fitness evaluation and personal orientation and training for everyone from first-time exercisers to performance athletes. Equipment includes Lifecycles, Lifesport, Concept II and Lifeflower, treadmills, NordicTrack, Schwinn AirDyne and Universal and free weights. Ongoing registration. 780-4170.

Energy Lacking? Try moving with ENERJOY step aerobics. Community classes held in Portland, South Portland, Falmouth, Gray and Yarmouth evenings and weekends. First class is free. Drop in 4-6. 767-7650 or 797-0484.

Fifty-Five and Alive The Greater Portland YMCA offers fitness classes and programs for active older adults. 874-1111.

Full Figure Aerobics is a class for XL, XXL plus sizes only. This fun, noncompetitive class features low-impact aerobics and line dancing. Meets Mon, Wed and Fri from 5:15-6 pm at the Adult Basic Learning Exchange, 57 Douglas St, Portland. 799-0197.

Lap Swims at the Portland YMCA, 87 Spring St, Portland, offer great exercise in a light-filled pool warmed to 83 degrees. Fees include lockers, showers, towels and saunas. Cost: \$3 per swim for YMCA members. \$4 per swim for nonmembers. 874-1130.

Martial Arts and Self Defense classes at S. Portland Recreation, 21 Nelson Road, S. Portland, include instruction in Karate and Hapkoryu Aikijitsu. Children ages 5 and older and adults are encouraged to participate. 767-7650.

Portland Public Pools Reiche Pool, 166 Brackett St, Portland: Afternoon swim — Mon-Wed and Fri from 4:30-6 pm, Thurs from 4:30-6:30 pm (no school, no swim), open swim — Thurs from 6:30-8 pm. Riverton Pool, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland: Adult swim — Tues and Thurs, 6:30-8 am, Mon-Fri 12:15-1:15, Mon, Wed and Fri 6:15-7:30 pm, Sat 12:30-1:30 pm. Open swim — Mon and Wed 7:30-8:45 am, Tues 6:15-8 pm, Sat from 1:30-3:30 pm. 874-8456.

Row Row Row Learn how slide seat rowing can keep you fit for life. Call Casco Bay Rowing Center at 846-5130.

Step and Sweat Non-nonsense step classes Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-7 pm at the Adult Basic Learning Exchange, 57 Douglas St, Portland. These are co-ed classes and you must bring your own step. Cost: \$3 per class. 799-0197.

outdoors

Build Your Own Sea Kayak Maine Maritime Museum, 243 Washington St, Portland, offers a six-week workshop beginning Mar 18 at 5 pm. Cost: \$1,700. 443-1316.

Cross Country Ski "Gold Card" pass to Maine cross-country ski area offered to benefit the American Lung Association. The \$50 pass is good for five sessions at eleven Maine ski areas. 1-800-458-8472.

Gardening Lecture "Marigolds, Tomatoes & Other Strange Bedfellows," Mar 23 at 1:30 pm at the Scarborough Public Library, 48 Gorham Rd, Scarborough. Free. 885-5562.

Gililand Farm Environmental Center holds winter walks from 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Tues-Fri at the Maine Audubon Society, 118 Route 1, Falmouth. Mar 18: "Focus Casco Bay," a guided tour focusing on the natural history of Gililand Farm as it relates to Casco Bay. Cost: \$4. 781-2330.

Gorham Trails needs members to support its efforts to improve trails and historic sites in Greater Gorham. 839-4644.

L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery Program at the L.L. Bean Center for Environmental Studies offers a six-week program: "Fly Fishing Expo," Mar 17 from 7:30-9 pm, Mar 18 from 10 am-6 pm and 7:30-9 pm and Mar 19 from 10 am-6 pm; "Home Waters," a video of filmmaker Robert Perkins' 400-mile solo journey down the Connecticut River, Mar 16 from 7:30-9 pm; "Bass Bug Workshop," Mar 18 or 19 from 9 am-5 pm and indoor archery lessons Mar 14 & 28 from 7:30-9 pm. Cost: \$20 each, archery lessons (\$95 bug workshop). 1-800-341-4341, x6666.

Maine Animal Coalition A non-profit animal rights group presents John Gioia, founder of the Maine Wolf Coalition, Mar 19 at 5:30 at USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland campus. Free. 445-4669 or 621-8365.

Maine Maritime Museum 243 Washington St, Bath, presents a documentary of Antarctica with Julia Crossley, with footage taken on her voyage from Tierra Del Fuego to the Drake Passage, Mar 21 at 7 pm. Cost: \$6 pre-registered (\$8 door). 443-1316.

Maine Outdoor Adventure Club offers hiking, snowshoeing, winter camping, ice-climbing, cross-country and downhill skiing and other trips for people of all skill levels. Mar 18-19: Celebrate the spring equinox with winter backpacking. Meetings are the first Wed of every month at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, Allen Ave, Portland. 781-7454. TRIPHOTLINE: 828-0918.

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community

AARP American Association of Retired Persons hosts a meeting Mar 21, at 11 am, at the North Deering Congregational Church, 1364 Washington Ave, Portland. Cost: \$5.50. 775-2681.

Bean Supper Mar 18 at the Corner Stone Masonic Hall, from 4:30-6 pm. Cost: \$4 (\$2.50 kids). 797-8724.

Building Materials Bank a non-profit organization providing household fixtures and appliances for low-income homeowners, holds "yard sales" the first and third Saturdays of every month at 169 Lewiston Rd, Gray. The program also accepts donations of new or used items. 657-2957.

Community Service Project South Portland Parks and Recreation is going to be offering a summer day camp for middle school students, and seeks a community service project for them to do. 767-7650.

Cumberland County Cohousing seeks new members and will host two informational meetings about its member-planned community, Mar 19 from 4-5:30 pm at Bookland, Cooks Corner, Brunswick, and Mar 22 from 6:30-8 pm at Wooduffs Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St, Portland. 773-5915 or 865-9637.

Emergency Food Pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food items at various congregations in S. Portland and Cape Elizabeth. For information: 799-3361.

Enriched Golden Age Center 297 Cumberland Ave, Portland, invites men and women over 60 to daily luncheons, with special activities featured every Wednesday and line dancing every Monday at 10 am. Mar 22: Edward Langlois talks about Big Band music. Donation: \$2.50. 774-6974.

Family Opportunities Network Provides services, including parent support group, life-skills workshops and free childcare during meetings to homeless and at-risk families. 772-5904.

Fire Victims Five families left homeless in a recent Cumberland Ave fire are receiving support and assistance from the American Red Cross. To contribute to this or other disasters, send to: American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, 524 Forest Ave, Portland, ME 04101. 874-1192.

Friends of the Maine Youth Center seeks concerned, caring people to assist at the center. 822-0050 or 883-8351.

Goodwill Industries hosts their annual spring "box of goods" drive, and encourage businesses to donate their unwanted merchandise—everything from clothing to office furniture. Donations will be sold in nonprofit stores and funds used to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to people with disabilities. 774-6323, x451.

Homemade Bread & Bean Supper Mar 18 at the Allen Avenue Universalist Unitarian Church, 524 Allen Ave, Portland. Cost: \$4.50 (\$2.50 kids/\$1.4 families).

Hosts Needed for Foreign Students The Ukrainian-American Educational Exchange Association seeks host families for spring semester placement of incoming high school students. Contact Ron Czobniak, 607-648-2224.

Irish Breakfast with Rakish Paddy Mar 17 at Brian Boru's, 57 Center St, Portland from 7:30-10:30 am. Traditional Irish food will be served to the tune of traditional Irish music. 7801506.

"It's Our World Too!" A brown bag lecture with Philip Hoose, author of the recent book "It's Our World, Too! Stories of Young People Who Are Making A Difference," a resource for teachers, parents, young people and their mentors — Mar 22 from 12-1 pm at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland. 871-1758.

Jewish Community Center 57 Ashmont St, Portland, holds country line dance lessons, Mar 23 at 6 pm. Cost: \$2. 772-1959.

Lawyers for the Poor The Hospitality House of Hinkley, Maine, is recruiting lawyers statewide to represent (without prior payment) low-income citizens who have been denied governmental assistance. 453-2986 or 1-800-438-3890.

Maine Irish Children's Program has an opportunity for families to host an Irish child from Belfast for 12 weeks this summer. 324-7267.

Maine Poison Center is a preventative informational resource for families, which is staffed 24 hours a day for assistance. To receive an informational packet, including phone stickers, or get answers to questions about drugs or medications, call: 1-800-442-6305.

Plebe Street Resource Center Activities at 252 Oxford St, Portland, include community meetings Fri at 10 am; writers' group open to anyone Weds from 11-1 pm; and art groups open to anyone feeling the urge for creative expression Tues at 11 am. 874-6560.

Public St. Patrick's Day Boiled Dinner Mar 17 at the Central Square Baptist Church, 4 Brentwood St, Portland at 5 and 6 pm. Cost: \$6 (\$3 kids 6-12). 773-2423.

RSVP a program for people 55 and older, is accepting volunteers for community activities. 775-6503.

Senior Dining Center at the Peoples Methodist Church, 310 Broadway, S. Portland hosts pianist Danny Patt for a 10:30 am performance, Mar 17. Lunch will be served afterward. Donation: \$2.50. 799-8916.

St. Patrick's Day Parade sponsored by Portland West Neighborhood Council, starts at 3:30 pm Mar 17 at 155 Brackett St, Portland.

Volunteer Tax Assistance Program Representatives of Andover College will be available for five Fridays, through April 7, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm at 901 Washington Ave, Portland. Bring all related tax forms and materials. Free. 774-6126 or 1-800-639-3110.

family

Baxter Memorial Library 71 South St, Gorham, holds "Toddler Time," a program for kids 18-36 months of age, Fridays from 10:15-10:45 am. 839-5031.

"Books and Babies" a program for babies 6-24 months old and their caregivers, is held every Tuesday at 9:30 am at the Warren Memorial Library, 479 Main St, Westbrook. Preregistration required. 854-5891.

Brighton Babies presents a pediatric life support and safety class, Mar 18 from 8:30 am-2:30 pm, at Brighton Medical Center, 335 Brighton Ave, Portland. Cost: \$15 per person (\$25 per couple). 879-8458.

Children's Museum of Maine 142 Free St, Portland, offers exhibits and activities for children of all ages. Mar 16, 19 & 23: "Catch of the Day," design a unique paper fish necklace, Thurs at 10 am and Sun at 1 pm; Mar 17: "Make a Star Wheel," to help you find constellations, at 10 am; dance with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Co. from 6:30-8 pm and stories in the round at 11 am and 1 pm. Mar 18 "Celebrate Good Food," with the Maine Dietetic Association all day and Portland String Quartet at 2 pm. Mar 18 & 22: "Crazy Mini Kites," create a kite, from 11 am-1 pm. Museum hours: Wed, Thurs, Sat 10 am-5 pm; Fri 10 am-8 pm; Sun 12-5 pm. 142 Free Street, Portland. Admission: \$4, free to the public Fridays from 5-8 pm. Preregistration and additional fees required for some activities. Call for specific dates and times: 828-1234.

Creative Resource Center 1103 Forest Ave, Portland, hosts free art fun for kids age 3-5, most Thursdays at 11:15. 797-9543.

Dial-a-Story The South Portland Public Library offers recorded stories, folk tales and poems, anytime day or night. Dial 767-8162.

4H Dog Club seeks boys and girls 5 and older and their canine pals for fun dog-related activities and a focus on dog agility. 780-4205 or 1-800-287-1471.

Family Night The Greater Portland YMCA, 70 Forest Ave, hosts a Family Night every Fri from 6:30-8:30 pm. Enjoy swimming, open gym, game room, weight room, volleyball, arts and crafts and refreshments. Cost: \$5 per family, free for YMCA members. Free child care the last Fri of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm for kids ages three to five. Registration required. 874-1111.

Friday Night Special Portland Recreation offers organized gym programs for adults and kids at Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland. 874-8455.

Gililand Farm Maine Audubon Society, 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, hosts programs for kids. Cost: \$4. 781-2330.

Kinderkonzert Portland Symphony Orchestra's concert series for kids age 3-7 comes to Catherine McAuley High School, Mar 21 at 12:45 pm. Tix: \$2. 767-6119.

Maine Parents for Gifted/Talented Youth publishes a monthly newsletter about gifted kids and their special academic needs, including a schedule of related events. 767-6121.

Parents Anonymous provides services to parents and children in an effort to strengthen families through facilitated support groups. A parent talk line is in operation 6 pm-midnight Sun-Thurs. 767-5506. Help line: 1-800-298-2515.

Preschool Story Time South Portland Branch Library, 155 Westcott Rd, S. Portland, is offering a preschool story time for kids ages 3-5, 10:30-11 am on Tuesdays. 775-1835.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Square, holds ongoing programs for kids: "Tales for Twos" Mar 17 at 10:30 am; "Family Story Time" Mar 18 at 10:30 am. Also, videos for preschoolers will be shown Mar 23 and 25 at 6:30 pm. 871-1700.

Preview for Parents Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St, offers tours of the Labor & Delivery Unit for expectant parents the fourth Tuesday of every month, leaving the Dana Center Lobby at 6:15 pm. 871-2205.

Single Parent Support Group Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Greater Portland YMCA, 70 Forest Ave, Portland. Free childcare provided. 874-1111.

Story Times The Warren Memorial Library, 479 Main St, Westbrook, offers "Read Aloud Time" for preschoolers every Wed from 10:15-11 am and a story hour for kids 4 and up every Sat from 10:30-11:30 am. 854-5891.

Tours of the Birthplace Mercy Hospital's family-centered maternity unit hosts tours Mar 20 at 7 pm at 144 State St, Portland. Free. 879-3550.

Young Art holds spring classes for kids, beginning Mar 23 with "Drawing Tips & Drawing Tips." Thurs from 3-4:30 pm, and Mar 24 with "Painted Clay Faces & Figurines," Fridays from 3-4:30 pm at the Twombly Skating Hut, Depot Rd, Falmouth. Preregistration required, costs vary. 781-5253.

Young Fathers Program meets Tuesdays at the YMCA, 70 Forest Ave, Portland, from 6:30-7:30 pm. Get information about safe and affordable housing, resources for food and clothing, and communicating with your family. 874-1111.

YWCA Child Care Preschool, kindergarten and before and after school programs are available at the YWCA at 87 Spring St, Portland. 874-1130.

health

Adult Immunization Clinic sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice, the third Tuesday of every month from 1-4 pm at 50 Foden Rd, S. Portland. Offering TB skin tests, hepatitis B vaccine, measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, tetanus/diphtheria vaccine, flu vaccine (seasonal) and pneumonia vaccine to adults age 18 and older. Minimum age is 18. 780-8624.

Adult Screening Clinic on the last Wed of every month. Check blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol, from 11:30 am-1 pm, given by the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice at the Peoples United Methodist Church, 310 Broadway, S. Portland. Fee charged. 780-8624.

After The Baby's Birth 322 Spring St, Portland offers perinatal courses for new and expectant parents: "Infant Massage/Stimulation Workshop," Mar 23 from 6:30-8 pm and "Expect More Than A Baby: A Guide To Postpartum Planning," Mar 30 from 6:30-8 pm. Preregistration requested. Cost: \$25. 772-2871 or 1-800-599-4888.

Alkido a martial art used to increase flexibility, stamina and promote a sense of well-being. Mon 6-7 pm and 7-8 pm; Tues 6:30-7:30 pm; Fri 6:30-7:30 pm; Sat 2:30-4:45 pm. Portland Alkido, 120 Woodford St, Portland. 772-1524.

Alliance for Mentally Ill of Greater Portland offers a support group for family members, 7-8:30 pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 66 State St, Portland. 772-5057 or 800-464-5767.

American Red Cross 524 Forest Ave, Portland, offers winter courses: "Adult CPR" every Thursday from 9 am-12:30 pm; "Community CPR" Mar 20 from 6:30-9 pm; "Super CPR" Mar 25 from 9 am-12:30 pm and 1-4:30 pm; "Community First Aid" Mar 19 from 1-4 pm; and "Babysitter Skills" 18 from 9 am-12:15 pm. Ongoing life-guarding and rescue classes also available. Advance registration is required, course fees vary. "Free. 874-1192.

Aquatics for Arthritis The Arthritis Foundation offers aquatic classes in the Greater Portland area to increase flexibility and mobility in aching joints. Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Road, South Portland; Tues, Thurs 3:30-4:15 pm, 874-9337. YWCA, 87 Spring St, Portland; Wed, Fri 1:15-2 pm, 874-1130.

Balanced Low-Fat Cooking Classes presented by Elke Rosenberg, sponsored by Good Day Market and Southern Maine Vegetarians begin April 1 for a four class series. Cost: \$15-1:15. Preregistration required. 772-4522 or 774-8889.

Buddhist Meditation and Study Group meets Mondays at 7:15. 772-3835.

Concerned About Lead? To learn about lead and the risk it poses to your family, request a lead fact sheet prepared by the U. Maine Cooperative Extension Service. 1-800-287-1471 or 780-4205. For information about childhood risk and screening, call 287-3259. Free to YMCA members, \$5 for others. Child care available on site for \$2.50. 874-1111.

Confidential STD Clinic The Portland Public Health Division sponsors a Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic, offering confidential, low-cost screening and treatment on a walk-in basis Tues and Thurs from 3:30-6 pm at Portland City Hall, Room 303, 389 Congress St, Portland. Medicaid accepted. Anonymous and confidential HIV testing by appointment only. 874-8784.

"Conquering Challenges In the Real World" 5th annual conference on acquired brain injury takes place Mar 22-24, from 8:45 am-4:15 pm, at the Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Portland. Tracks for educators, clinicians and rehabilitation professionals, featuring internationally known faculty. Preregistration required, costs vary. 623-8744.

CPR for Adults, Kids & Infants Mercy Hospital, 144 State St, Portland, offers CPR training for laymen, Mar 21, from 6-9 pm. Preregistration is required. Cost: \$20. 879-3536.

Crohn's Disease and Colitis Support Group meets every Thurs from 7-8:30 pm in room 3, the Dana Center, Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St, Portland. 767-8130.

Feeling Better? A spring program for those challenged by illness, injury, pain or disability will meet weekly for 8 weeks beginning Mar 28 from 9:30-11:30 am at the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church, 280 Oceanhouse Rd, Cape Elizabeth. Information session, Mar 14 from 9:30-11:30 am at the church. Cost: \$145 (sliding fee available). 799-8294.

Golden School of Tai Chi Ch'uan 616 Congress St, Portland, holds classes in this martial art emphasizing health, meditation and self-defense through the integration of mind, body and spirit. 772-9039.

Hatha Yoga Individualized instruction by certified yoga instructor and massage therapist Terry White begins Thursdays at 7:30 pm at the Swedborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave, Portland. Drop-in fee: \$10.50. 772-4254.

Hatha Yoga for People with AIDS every Wed from 12:52-2 pm at 22 Monument Square, Portland. Cost: \$1, for those who can afford it. 797-5684.

Healthy Snack Challenge A recipe contest for kids will be held by the Maine Dietetic Association through local Shop 'n Sains. Kids 4-18 can drop off their recipes through Mar 24. Prizes awarded at the April 8 tasting panel. 777-8613.

Heart Health Screening sponsored by Healthy Neighborhoods, is being held at the Dana Center, 22 Bramhall St, Portland, on the first Friday of every month, from 3:30-5 pm at City Hall, room 307. No appointment necessary. 874-8300.

Heart to Heart is a six-week program for patients and families who have experienced a heart attack and/or heart surgery, sponsored by Maine Medical Center to provide education and support. Two sessions begin in March, with preregistration required. Free. 871-4525.

Heartline Cardiac Rehabilitation Program is designed for individuals who have had a heart attack, angiotomy, bypass surgery, angioplasty or are at risk for heart disease. Classes are held Mondays at 7:30 am and 6 pm in the USM Sullivan Gym, 96 Falmouth St, Portland — with nurse supervised exercise programs as well as nutrition, medication and risk factor information. Registration is ongoing, medical clearance required. 780-4170.

HIV/AIDS Support Groups: "Providers of HIV/AIDS Services," 1st and 3rd Mon of every month, from 5:30-7 pm; "People Living with HIV," Tuesdays from 10:30 am-12 pm; "Living Well," 2nd and 4th Tues of every month and "Men Living with HIV," every Thurs from 6:30-7 pm at the AIDS Project, 22 Monument Square, 5th Floor, Portland. Also, "Women Living with HIV," Wednesdays from 7-9 pm at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St, Portland. 774-6877.

Hypothyroid Support Group forming in Portland. 761-9562.

Massage & Bodywork Careers A complimentary talk is being offered by the Parity Realization Institute, Apr 3 at 7 pm, 1-800-497-2908.

Mild-Cost Hospital in Bath/Brunswick holds a variety of health related classes and support groups through the Department of Education and Health Resources. 443-5524 x 320 or 729-0181 x447.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction A complimentary talk will be offered by Cate Wolf Cameron, Mar 21 from 7-9 pm at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland. An eight-week course begins in early April. 878-0905.

OSHA Refresher Mar 24 from 8 am-5 pm at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Rd, S. Portland. Cost: \$49. 799-3976.

Parkinson Support Group meets the fourth Sunday of every month, at 2 pm, at the Falmouth Congregational Church, 267 Falmouth Rd, Falmouth. All those with Parkinson's, their families and friends are welcome. 774-3312.

Planned Parenthood offers HIV testing, annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control information and supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for STDs and infections, menopause services and more at its health center at 970 Forest Ave, Portland. Handicapped accessible, confidential and affordable. Medicaid is welcomed. 874-1095.

Portland Street Clinic This clinic provides free comprehensive health care for adults at the Community Resource Center, 15 Portland St, Portland. The clinic is sponsored by Mercy Hospital and administered by the city of Portland Public Health Division and is open Thurs 5-9 pm. All services are free and are by appointment only. 874-8982.

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Art & Soul continued from page 45

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program offered through USM Lifeline, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:15-noon. Program includes progressive, nurse-supervised exercise and education, including respiratory hygiene, relaxation techniques and nutrition. Registration is ongoing, medical clearance is required, 780-4170.

Senior Fitness A program for men and women age 65 and over takes place Mon, Wed and Fri from 10:30-11:15 am at the USM Portland Gym, 96 Falmouth St, Portland, 780-4170.

Teen/Young Adult Clinic is a place to go for health concerns, medical problems, sports/school physicals done or birth control issues. Open to anyone 13-21, Mondays from 4-8 pm, at Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St, Portland. Walk-ins seen before 7 pm, 873-2763.

Vision USA The Maine Project provides free eye examinations to low-income, uninsured Mainers and their families. Eligibility requirements. Contact the Maine Optometric Association for info, 268-2031.

Well Child Clinic Community Health Services offers physical exams, immunizations, lead/anemia testing and vision testing, the last Wednesday of every month at Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church, Main St, Westbrook, and the third Friday of every month at the Eight Corners School, Mussey Road, Scarborough. Medicaid clients welcome, sliding fee scale available, 893-1500 or 4800-479-4331.

Yoga Classes at Creative Work Systems, Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm. Drop-in fee: \$10. 879-1140.

Yoga for Families at Larry Lando's Tai Chi Studio, 10 Exchange St, Portland, Tuesdays from 4-5 pm. Lunch hour yoga begins Mar 20 on Tuesdays from 12-1 pm. 646-2945.

Yoga Workshop Mar 18 at Unlimited Potential, 170 Rt. 1, Falmouth, from 10 am-4 pm. Cost: \$50. 781-3330.

Zen Buddhist Meditation Group Public sitting meditation meets from 10 am-11 am every Sunday. There are extended sittings on the first and last Sundays of each month. The Casco Bay Zen Group welcomes all. Small donation, 839-4897.

Abuse in Intimate Relationships A support group for women who have previously or are presently experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships. Free and confidential, childcare provided, 874-1973.

Annex International Meeting Mar 16 from 6-8 pm at Raffles Cafe Bookstore — letter writing with a special focus on prisoners of conscience, ratification of the international women's convention and convention on the rights of the child. Free, 761-3930.

Art Therapy Group for people in recovery from addiction, depression, or relationship, as well as other adults who want to learn more about themselves in a supportive environment. April 1, 8, 22 and 29 from 9:30 am-noon at Bellville Counseling Associates, 8 Stanwood Rd, Brunswick. Preregistration necessary. Cost: \$45. 729-8727.

Belly Casting Workshop Casco Bay Midwifery invites women of all stages of pregnancy to make a sculpture of themselves. Mar 25 from 11 am-5 pm at USM's Portland campus center. Preregistration required. Cost: \$20. 793-4467.

Brunswick Area Modelers An AMA sanctioned club for anyone in the Midcoast area interested in the construction and flight of model aircraft meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7-9 pm at the Pejepscot Terrace Community Center, Pejepscot Terrace, Brunswick. Free, 729-8017.

Casco Bay Culinary Association meets the second Mon of each month, 799-2234 or 774-4308.

Community of Hope A Christian group, which claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all, meets Sats at 4 pm at 156 High St, Portland, 761-2543.

Coping with Caregiving Support groups for those caring for chronically disabled/terminally ill people are offered at 12 pm on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St, Portland, 879-3486.

Creating Opportunity Through Change Women's group meets Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 at 854 Broadway, S. Portland, 767-1315.

Divorce Perspectives A support group for people in all phases of the divorce process meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm at Woodford Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St, Portland, 774-4357.

Drumming Classes Learn the rhythms and songs of Afro-Caribbean music with percussionist Michael Wingfield every Sunday at the Expressive Therapy Center, 150 St. John St, Portland. Newcomers warm up 6:30-7:30 pm, ongoing class 7:30-9:30 pm. Cost: \$15 per class, 780-0234.

Elvis Room 27 Forest Ave, hosts an eclectic array of events: Mar 16: "Easy Rider Night," hosted by the Fabulous Motors; Mar 17: "Mixed Media Night," show your films and videos — all media welcome, poetry after hours; Mar 18: "Yart Sale" — buy, sell and barter, all mediums welcome; Mar 20: "Open Mic," sign-up at 6:30 pm; Mar 21: "Where ya been?" travellers bring pictures and stories; Mar 22: Improv comedy games, 775-0474.

Family Crisis Shelter an abused women's advocacy project, is sponsoring a Domestic Violence Advocacy Training for people interested in volunteering with the Portland shelter. While volunteers are needed for all positions, people with time available during the day are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications for training close March 23, 874-1196.

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS Transform Education is a project sponsored by ACT UP/Portland whose purpose is to fight HIV, AIDS and homophobia in all Maine public schools by forming empowering groups for teens and queers. All welcome. Meets the first and third Friday of each month at 5:30 pm at the YWCA, 87 Spring St, Portland. Wheelchair accessible. For more information write ACT UP/Portland, PO Box 1931, Portland, 04104 or call/fax 828-0566.

Fight Discrimination The Maine Civil Liberties Union is interested in hearing from any Portland resident who feels that she or he has been illegally discriminated against in housing, employment or credit on the basis of sexual orientation. 774-5444.

Friends of Feral Felines A group helping stray cats needs volunteers and homes for orphan kittens. 772-3484.

Flying Changes Center for Therapeutic Riding is looking for volunteers for its winter program in Topsham. The Center provides service to children and adults of all ages who are physically, emotionally, mentally or developmentally challenged. Volunteers are needed to work directly with special riders and take care of therapy horses, as well as for diverse clerical support and organizing assistance. 443-1111 or 729-0168.

Hunters Safety Course begins Mar 16 at the Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland, from 6:30-9 pm. Preregistration required. Free. 874-8455.

Light of the Moon offers classes for those interested in the spirit realm: Mar 17: "Dream Study," from 6:30-9 pm; Mar 18: "Psychic Readings," all day; Mar 21: Open forum with Christine Nelmes from 6:30-8 pm, 828-1710.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a volunteer community chorus bringing men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative musical entertainment, 839-4506.

Maine Medical Center 22 Bramhall St, Portland, hosts several support groups: "Survivors of Suicide," meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; "Sudden Infant Death Support Group," meets the second Tuesday of each month and a "Support Group For Bereaved Parents," meets the second Thursday of every month. All meetings are 7 pm at the hospital, 871-2439.

The Maine Mineralogical & Geological Society meets the last Fri of each month at 7 pm in Room 41, Payson Smith Hall, USM Portland campus, 283-4778.

Meatout Potluck & Video "Food Without Fear," celebrate the Great American Meatout — cook your favorite dish and leave the meat out, Mar 18 at 6 pm at 35 Saunders St, Portland. Free. 773-6132.

Misa Maine Scholarship Pageant hosts a contestant workshop, Mar 25 from 1-3 pm at Fleet Bank, Rt 1, Falmouth, 892-4055.

MOFGA Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association supports labeling genetically engineered foods and will provide information to those interested, 622-3118.

Maine Tradeswomen Network provides education and mentoring for the promotion of women in all trades, 797-4801.

Music Swaps Portland Folk Club invites you to share a song or a story in a supportive atmosphere every first and third Tues at 7:30 pm at Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave, Cost: \$1 donation, 773-9549.

Names Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt holds a panel-making workshop the first and third Sun of each month, 871-1641.

FLAG Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy, with meetings the second Tuesday of every month at the Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St, Portland, from 7-9 pm, 766-5158.

Polarity Therapy Free introductory lecture, Mar 23 from 7:30-9 pm at Unlimited Potential, 170 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, 846-5980 or 666-5561.

Portland Symphony Orchestra Women's Committee hosts daily talks, demonstrations and activities associated with the home at the Woodlands, 39 Woods Road, Falmouth, 846-5096 or 846-2895.

Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council seeks your input and ideas, 775-0105.

Private Pilot Ground School offered by Northeast Air at the Portland International Jetport, 1001 Westbrook St, S. Portland, begins the first week of April. Cost: \$120. 774-6318.

Proceptive Writing with Joan Lee Hunter. Learn how to use writing as a tool for self-discovery in this introductory workshop Mar 18 from 9 am-5:30 pm. Cost: \$60. 797-5887.

Sexual Assault Crisis Center needs volunteer assistance to staff the center's 24-hour hotline and provide follow-up support for victims and their families, 784-5272.

SHARE A support group for the separated, divorced and widowed meets Mar 24 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall of St. Dominic Church, corner of State & Gray Streets, Portland, 775-4347.

Singles Network if you are single and looking, the Singles Network offers recreational social and educational activities, 1-800-375-6509.

Social Justice Group seeks people who have utilized General Assistance. Write: Hospitality House, Inc., PO Box 62, Hinesley, ME 04944, 1-800-436-9890.

Southworth Planetarium 97 Falmouth St, Portland, has a variety of astronomy and laser shows: Mar 17, "Life Beyond Earth" at 7 pm, "Across the Universe: Laser Beates" at 8:30 & 9:30 pm; Mar 18, "The Little Star That Could" (kid show) at 3 pm, "Four of the Solar System" at 7 pm, and "Across the Universe: Laser Beates" at 8:30 & 9:30 pm; Mar 19, "Across the Universe: Laser Beates" at 3 pm, 780-4249.

Sublime & Divine Be a part of the Swedenborgian spiritual family Wednesdays at 6 pm — meditative, inspiring worship for adults in an open, relaxed atmosphere, at 302 Stevens Ave, Portland, 772-8277.

Used Book Sale & Fundraiser to benefit the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of Maine literature — is accepting donations of used hardcover and paperback books until March 18. Books can be dropped off at Maine Writers Center, 12 Pleasant St, Brunswick, or possibly picked up, 729-6333.

WILD Women Igniting Love & Diversity is a pro-woman, pro-lesbian social/educational group that meets for athletics, nature exploration and community building in a chem-free environment. All genders and orientations welcome, 761-8138. CW

Spring Session Classes begin April 3



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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WE MAY BE LIVING IN A TIME OF ANTI-FERITY... BUT BY GOD, THERE'S ALWAYS ENOUGH MONEY FOR MATTERS OF NATIONAL SECURITY!

YOU JUST CAN'T TRUST THOSE DAMNED BAGUETTE-EATERS!

IF IT WERE UP TO ME, WE'D LAUNCH A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE TOMORROW...JUST TO BE SAFE!

COMMENT ALLEZ-VOUS, MIREILLE? JE VAIS BIEN. ET VOUS? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD THEY'RE SAYING. IT MUST BE SOME SORT OF CODE? WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO HIDE?

CLOSER TO HOME, SPEAKER GINGRICH HASN'T LET THE NEED TO CUT COSTS AND "DEVELOPE" GOVERNMENT STAND IN THE WAY OF HIS NEED FOR AN INCREASED OFFICE BUDGET AND A LARGER STAFF...

WAAAAH! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT! SNIFF! IT'S THE LIB'RUL MEDIA'S FAULT! THEY'RE OUT TO GET ME, YOU KNOW!

NOT THAT WE'RE ACCUSING THE SPEAKER OF ANY SORT OF INCONSISTENCY HERE...AFTER ALL, HE'S JUST ADHERING TO THAT AGE-OLD REPUBLICAN CREDO...

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER... EXCEPT FOR ME!!

THE MOVIES

MAR 15-21
WED-TUE 5, 7, 9
SAT-SUN MAT 1,3
RED

MAR 22-28
WED-FRI 4:45, 7, 9:15
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■ CHILDREN AND ADULT SWIM LESSONS	■ VOLLEYBALL
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FOUND 3-8 Orange Tabby cat, West Buxton area - well-mannered 942-5123

LOST MARCH 7, between Brackett St. and the Metro Plaza via Congress St. a distinctive necktie. Reward. Call 774-1502 or 761-9627.

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The Farnsworth Art Museum is accepting applications for the position of plant manager to oversee the Museum's multi-building complex which includes two historic homes. Responsibilities include overall operation, security, and maintenance of facilities including the HVAC system with hands on participation and carpentry skills preferred. This newly created position includes administrative duties ranging from budgeting, planning, troubleshooting and supervision of personnel. This is a full time permanent position with full benefits offering a salary range of \$18,000 to \$24,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Please send resume and cover letter to:

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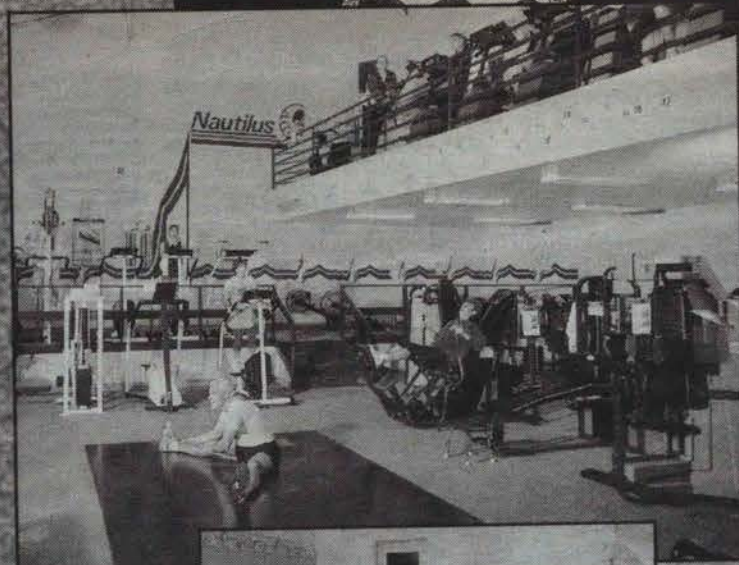
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