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## Casco Bay Weekly : 12 December 1996

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DEC 12, 1996

# Casco Bay Weekly



# MAS SHOPPING GUIDE

WHERE TO GO WHEN THE ANGRY FIRE ANTS OF CONSUMERISM HAVE NESTED IN YOUR WALLET

STARTS ON PAGE 8



HE'S A MAGIC MAN **3** PIPE DREAM **4** WAXING ELOQUENT **25** MOVIES **44**

*Patrick*

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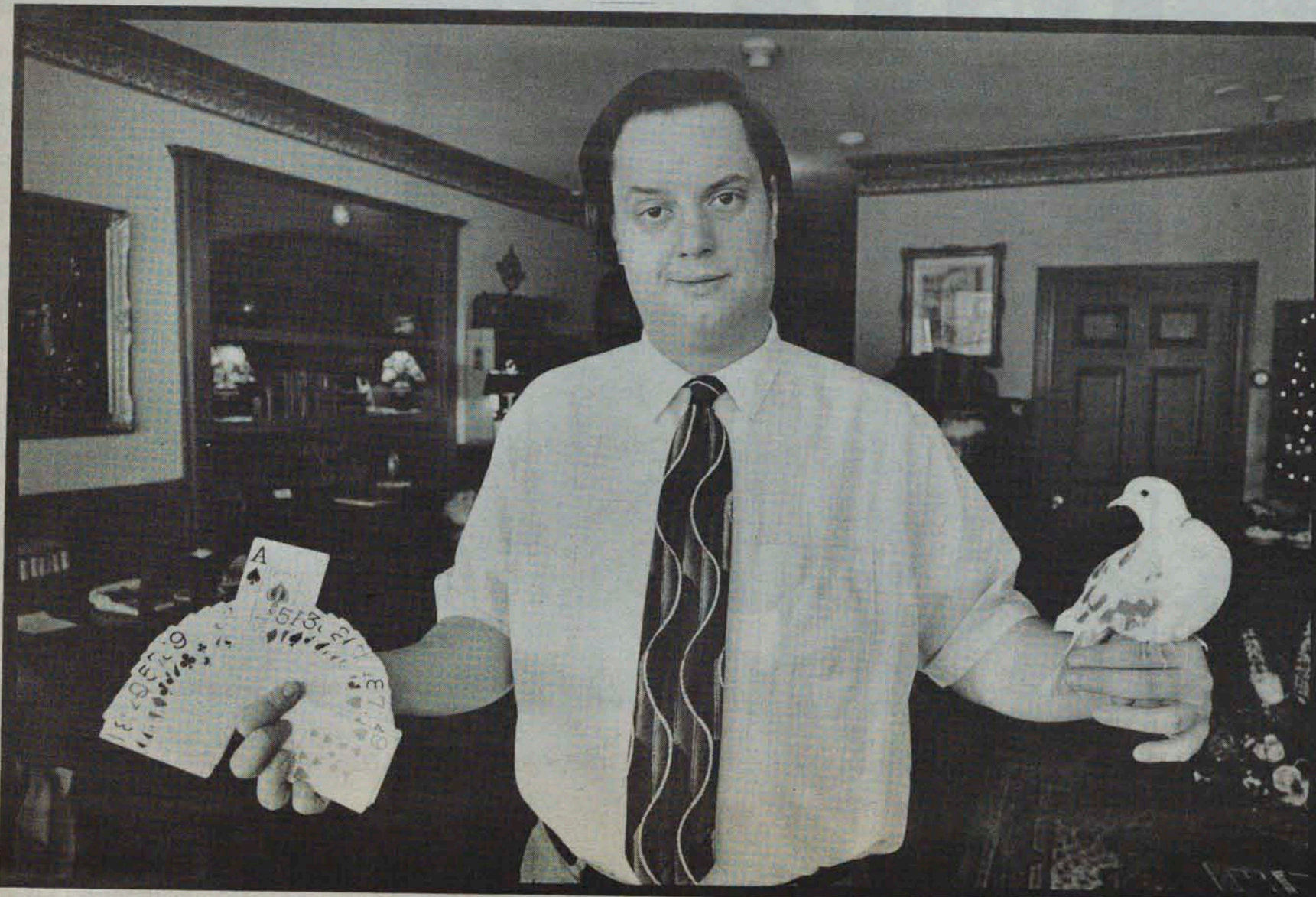
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# Talk A CONVERSATION WITH TIM HARPER



"I have no other talent. I can't sing, I can't play music. But, it's like, I can do stupid things with cards."

Tim Harper has been a desk clerk at the Inn at St. John for close to two years. He is also a working magician who has been interested in magic since he was just a kid. In the first moments after he meets you, he may pull a ratty piece of silk out of his pocket, stuff it into his fist and make it disappear. How do you know he's a real magician? He won't tell you how it's done.

**Have you been able to use the silk handkerchief trick in many real world experiences?**

Well, not many times do you get asked, "Can you make a handkerchief disappear?" But, yeah, I use it as a good icebreaker to introduce myself as a magician, because it's quick and it's very, very visual. And, it's a total illusion of reality which, when people see card tricks, they aren't necessarily seeing.

**Is the inn a good testing ground for magic?**

You get a lot of diversity. You get businesspeople, you get doctors from the Maine Medical Center and you get students who are on a budget. So there's plenty of different people, a good cross-selection so I can get a really good feel for how entertaining something is I've developed. I'm not breaking new ground here, I'm not coming up with tricks that other magicians haven't found already, it's just my interpretation. There's a saying that "It's not what you know, but how you show it," and I think that's what's really, really true. If you are trying to entertain them and you're not doing it, it doesn't matter if you have David Copperfield's technical skill. If it's not entertaining, it's like, who cares?

**Can you make someone disappear?**

Make someone disappear? I know how it's done, but I

don't have the equipment. For just a minor vanishing of someone, the equipment probably costs \$2,000. A minor vanish. And that isn't anything too spectacular. With close-up, which is what I do, I can walk around with a deck of cards, some rubber bands, some coins, my silk handkerchief, and I can entertain people for a half an hour like that.

**What's the strangest reaction you've ever gotten?**

I had a little girl one time, it was after a birthday party, she was a beautiful little girl, not very old at all. She came up to me after being pretty subdued the whole show. She didn't really look upset but she was just watching very intently. She came up after the show and said, "Are you God?" and I said, "No... no, I'm not."

Interview by Colleen Sumner, photo by Colin Malakie

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■ Nuclear disaster? No problem, just take your pill. The state advisory committee on radiation is recommending Maine stockpile potassium iodide tablets at sites near the Maine Yankee nuclear plant. If the nuke started releasing atomic garbage, people could rush to the sites and take the medicine in order to prevent thyroid cancer. That sure takes a load off our minds.

**news-o-rama**



■ Another thing that's put our brain at ease is the news the former owner of

The Cage on Wharf Street is planning to run for the Portland City Council. **John Brier** said he'll seek the at-large seat being vacated by Dick Paulson. Brier is best known for his confrontations with Police Chief Mike Chitwood. His platform calls for setting up an ethics commission to handle complaints against city officials.

■ A couple of court decisions increased the alpha waves for the **Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council** and activist **Ivan Suzman**. Portland West succeeded in getting a lawsuit by its former YouthBuild director, Neil Taliento, thrown out. Taliento claimed he was wrongfully fired in November 1995 after refusing to tell police how to find a youth in the program who was wanted for burglary. Taliento said he might appeal.

As for Suzman, his former caregiver will go to prison for over six years as a result of a guilty plea to arson. Alfred Clarke admitted setting the fire that destroyed Suzman's home in August. Earlier Clarke had claimed he and Suzman conspired to commit the crime in order to swindle an insurance company, but admitted that was false.

■ Calm it ain't at the Cumberland County budget meetings. The NAACP is attacking county commissioners for cutting the program manager's job at the jail. That job is held by Moses Sebulny, **the only black on the staff** and — in an incredible coincidence — the president of the NAACP's local chapter. County officials say they eliminated the job to save money, but they also handed out raises, including a 13 percent hike to the county manager. After the latest blasts from the Sebulnyans, Commissioner Esther Clenott rejected charges the layoff was racially motivated, but told the *Portland Press Herald* she was "concerned" about the charges.

■ If pouring oil on troubled waters is supposed to be soothing, how come Portland Harbor lobster dealers are so upset? The dealers say even though the 180,000 gallon spill of calming oil in September is supposed to be cleaned up, they want insurance money to pay for new water circulation systems to keep any **residual oil** from getting into their lobster tanks. About 39,000 gallons of the oil were not recovered, and are assumed to have vanished into another dimension. So why worry? **CBW**

# CITY



Don't worry, Chief Chitwood, this is a tobacco product. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/COLIN MALAKIE

## Pipe down Why can't Portland stores sell pot pipes? All the other kids are doing it.

■ **LAURA CONAWAY**  
Possessing or selling drug paraphernalia in Maine is illegal, but you wouldn't know that from the contents of the Paris Adult Bookstore. The front half of the small shop on Lewiston's seedy Lisbon Street is filled with bongs and scales for measuring product. Beneath a rack of *High Times* magazines, a glass case displays skull-shaped pipes with multiple nozzles, pipes in the shape of mushrooms and short-stemmed "one-hitters." The only hints that owning or using these products could be criminal are two faded, hand-lettered posters: "It is not our intent that items in this store be used

for illegal purposes. Items sold for tobacco and snuff use only."

Portland's paraphernalia scene is significantly tamer. Tony Discatio, whose family owns Joe's Smoke Shop on Congress Street, looked over his display of tobacco products recently. Along with an array of cigarettes and cigars, Joe's sells rolling papers, pipe screens and corn-cob pipes, but offers customers none of the bongs or scales typically found in "head shops." One brand of rolling papers sold at Joe's, called High Life, does use a marijuana leaf for its logo. "You gotta be careful what you sell," Discatio said. "I think we push the limits

around here."

Why such caution in Maine's largest city? Vincenzo DePaolo, who owns an adult bookstore in Portland, says shop owners are wary of Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood. In 1989, police officers twice raided DePaolo's Treasure Chest on Pine Street, confiscating about \$10,000 worth of paraphernalia. The Cumberland County district attorney dismissed some of the charges and ordered Portland police to return DePaolo's merchandise. Chitwood refused. The Treasure Chest was eventually convicted, was fined \$2,000, and was forced to forfeit the merchandise. Stores in Portland can sell paraphernalia, "but you gotta watch what Chitwood's gonna do," DePaolo said. "He's a loose cannon. Everybody knows that. He's grandstanding. He always has."

DePaolo also owns the Treasure Chest III in Lewiston, and faced paraphernalia charges in that city in 1990. Unlike their Portland colleagues, Lewiston police settled their case with DePaolo out of court. One observer, who asked to remain anonymous, agreed with DePaolo about Chitwood's aggressive stance. "Chitwood is a hot dog who wants publicity, and when he gets a horse, he rides it out of town."

Chitwood said his officers haven't busted any stores for selling paraphernalia since they raided the Treasure Chest seven years ago. That little bit of enforcement seems to be going a long way. "Since then, we haven't had any complaints about paraphernalia," the chief said. "I can guarantee you that if we had shops where they were selling the bongs and paraphernalia, and that was their business, we'd enforce the laws as they're on the books."

Police in the rest of the state have shown varying levels of tolerance for bongs and pipes on store shelves. Old Town police seized pot pipes from a video store there in November, and charged the owner with selling drug paraphernalia. They said Bangor police would be checking a second store owned by the same person. Yet in Brunswick and Lewiston, head shops operate largely without interference from the cops. Police in those communities say that's because winning a paraphernalia case requires proving the seller knew the items in question would be used for illegal drugs.

Brunswick Police Chief Jerry Hinton said he'd never heard about any paraphernalia busts in shops there during his four years of service. When Hinton brought charges against store owners in other places, he said, he found his accusations hard to prove. "They will say, 'That's decorative equipment. I'm not selling it for drug use. If you want to buy a bong and put it on a shelf as a decora-

tive piece, there's a market for it, and I'm going to sell it,'" he said. "I haven't seen any solid legislation that would allow me to arrest a shop owner for having paraphernalia."

DePaolo said he doesn't know what his customers were using the bongs and pipes for, and he didn't ask. "How do we know what that person is going to do with it?" he said. "Like when the detectives came in and bought it [seven years ago], did I know what they were going to do? Did I know they were detectives? No."

DePaolo also said that if the federal government allows bongs and pipes to be imported into the country, it should allow retailers like him to sell them. "The government, when they import the stuff, they know what it's used for," he said. "They know what the intent is."

Thos. Gregory Motta, chief drug prosecutor for the state attorney general, said the issue of proving intent is a smoke screen. "In many of the cases, the case could be more readily proven if the state could afford to bring the jury to the shop," Motta said. "The average person who walks in a shop, there's no question why those things are being sold."

But shopkeepers argue that items considered by the state to be drug paraphernalia often have legitimate uses. At Joe's Smoke Shop, Discatio pointed out the Phillies Blunt brand of cigars. Pot smokers slice open the cigars, which cost 28¢, and replace the tobacco with marijuana. "You'd be surprised how many kids 18, 19 years old come in and buy Phillies Blunts," Discatio said. "I know they're not smoking them for the cigar. Smoking a Phillies Blunt's like smoking a rope."

Other wares such as scales, spoons and roach clips have household or mechanical uses in addition to their handiness in the drug world. Currently, the Treasure Chest sells cartridges filled with nitrous oxide, commonly known by the brand name Whip-its, and special dispensers for using them. The products' packaging shows cakes rimmed with whipped cream rosettes, and DePaolo said his adult bookstore customers use them to squirt whipped cream on partners. But some people use the cartridges to get high on the nitrous oxide they contain, or to boost their buzz from other drugs. Because the cartridges and dispensers share shelf space with video head cleaner fluid (which people can inhale to get a brief high) and herbal tinctures promising "ecstasy," police could consider the Whip-its to be drug-related. Chitwood said he personally considers the products to be paraphernalia, but said no part of the law specifically addresses the issue. "Us going over to the Treasure Chest and monitoring what they're doing hasn't been an issue with us for the last several years," he said.

Given the choice between struggling to build such a case against a store owner and busting a drug dealer, most police officers said they'd go after the dealer. Selling paraphernalia "is just about as minor as it gets," said Motta. "If you possess paraphernalia, it's a civil violation

comparable to a traffic ticket. If you sell it, it's a Class E crime. That's the lowest crime there is. OUI is a Class D. Speeding is a Class D. Speeding's more serious than this, according to the legislation."

**Election results**

### Adams back in office

*Veteran legislator wins easily*

Forty minutes after the polls closed Dec. 10, school committee candidate Erik Richard bounded up the marble stairs to the second floor of City Hall. "I just conceded to Herb," Richard said. "He whumped me."

Herb Adams, a former four-term legislator from the Parkside neighborhood, carved a decisive victory over the youthful Richard in the special election to fill the vacant West End-Parkside seat, left empty when Michael Riff resigned Sept. 16 to take a job in New Jersey. Unofficial results showed Adams taking more than 72 percent of the vote.

Though Adams' term is only six months long, he said has at least two goals. The first is to establish some type of student representation on the board. The second is to win legislative changes in the state's formula for funding school construction. Portland has spent upwards of \$20 million renovating its middle and high schools since 1993, with no help from the state. Now the city needs to upgrade or replace its aging elementary schools. Adams wants to join with other communities to press lawmakers into revamping the funding formula. "Portland should be right there at the table with every community in the same situation, because only by making common cause will Portland see any improvement," he said. "We'll never get anything if we go it alone."

Turnout for Tuesday's election was abysmal. According to Deputy City Clerk Meredith Clark, nearly 11,000 people are registered to vote in the West End-Parkside district, but only 346 of them cast ballots this time. Clark said the 3 percent showing could be a record low. "This is only my second election," she said, "but it's probably made history."

During his campaign, Richard had speculated that a light showing by voters would work in his favor. Acknowledging defeat, the 20-year-old youth and gay activist said he had hoped strong support from the gay community would bolster his underdog bid. This was Richard's second try to win a place on the school committee; in May 1995, he lost a race for an at-large seat. He said he won't attempt a rematch when Adams' term expires in May.

"I'm done for a while. I'm done for a long time. I'll do it when everybody else does it — when they're 40," Richard said. "If I can't beat Herb in a race like this, I can't beat Herb."

LAURA CONAWAY

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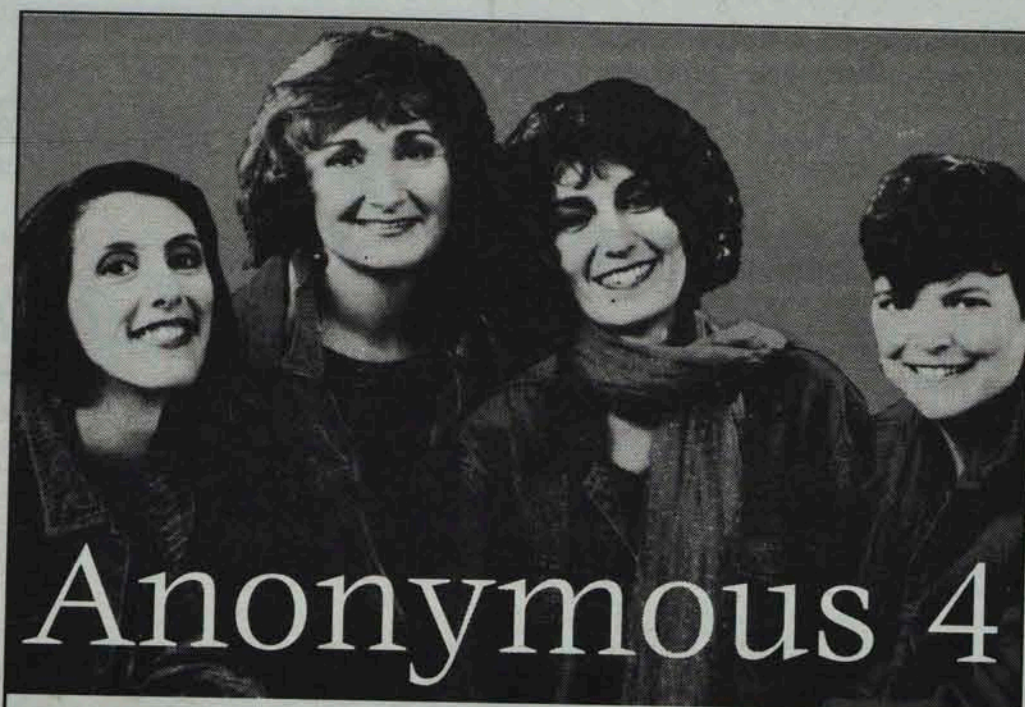
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**Some of what the Production Department listened to while getting this week's paper out:**  
Jerry Garcia, "Garcia" • Louis Armstrong, "Let's Do It" • Neil Young, "Harvest Moon" • Joshua Redman, "Live at the Village Vanguard" • Paula Cole, "This Fire"



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## Ain't it a shame

It's tough to say whether Republicans or Democrats should feel more ashamed of themselves for the way they went about choosing the state's new constitutional officers. But in the wake of the ineptitude displayed by both parties, it's clear the state isn't suffering from a shame shortfall. The GOP made a lot of noise about filling the jobs of attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor and state treasurer with qualified people. Then they chose a lobbyist as their candidate for AG, a Democratic reject for auditor and a man they've spent the past two years trying to run out of office as secretary of state.

Commented a dismayed Republican onlooker, "It's probably just as well we're not running the state."

Democrats are running the state, but managed to restrain themselves from promising any signs of statesmanship. They put up a defeated politician with almost no financial experience as treasurer, and a defeated politician without the proper qualifications for auditor. "It's a full employment program for party hacks," admitted an unusually honest Dem.

It's almost as if both parties had a secret pact to make the process appear as distasteful as possible, in hopes of building support for a constitutional amendment to fill the four positions through popular election. The machinations and misplays on Dec. 3 and 4 were nearly sufficient to overcome all objections to creating another batch of expensive statewide races for high office.

Dan Gwadosky, the new secretary of state, began campaigning for the job shortly after he became House speaker in February 1994. Gwadosky knew his tenure as speaker would be cut short by term limits, so he was searching for a suitable replacement position. The limits law actually helped, forcing incumbent Secretary of State Bill Diamond from office and creating a vacancy. Diamond oversees the state elections division, motor vehicle registrations, assorted license filings and other minor bureaucracies. Underlings do all the actual work, leaving the secretary free to devote his time to handing out low-number license plates and political favors. Gwadosky has plenty of experience in the favors department. He's so good at it, he convinced minority Republicans to forego finding a token candidate to run against him. But the GOP went even further, taking the unprecedented step of endorsing Democrat Gwadosky, thereby assuring themselves of a few single-digit plate numbers.

Of course, Republicans have also assured themselves of having a skilled campaign organizer working full time for the opposition. They've also helped continue the political career of the guy they spent the last two years trying to shake from the speakership.

New State Treasurer Dale McCormick, a carpenter by trade, has almost exactly the same qualifications for her job as I do to be a brain surgeon. Those who disagree can put their heads on the table while I rev up the chainsaw. Fortunately for the state's finances, the treasury, like the secretary of state's office, is run almost entirely by elves. Retiring treasurer Sam Shapiro spent all his time playing politics. Shapiro shook powerful hands and bought drinks for important people. He also raised lots of money for campaigns, sometimes in ways that raised lots of eyebrows. McCormick, not being part of the good old boy network, isn't particularly qualified to perform those tasks, but she doesn't have to be. It's obvious McCormick, who lost a close primary race for Congress in June, only wants the job in order to establish a platform from which to launch her next campaign for whatever office avails itself.

By the way, the Republican that McCormick defeated, David Bourne, had three decades of financial management experience and had served as state controller. Naturally he had no shot at a position where political considerations weigh far more heavily than monetary ones.

If the GOP starts getting self-righteous about Bourne's defeat, they should be reminded that their candidate for attorney general was Ann Robinson, a lobbyist with the high-powered firm of Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau and Pachios (in the Yellow Pages under "Satan, Great"). Democrats went with the incumbent AG, Andrew Ketterer, sparing the Republicans the indignity of having to explain Robinson's election to the folks back home.

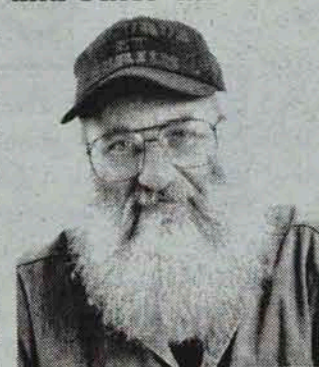
Instead, Dems can take on that role, since their party chose defeated state representative Gail Chase as state auditor. The auditor actually does some work, so state law requires the officeholder to be certified in the field. Chase isn't, but promised to become so within nine months. Since the Republican candidate for the job was Joseph Donato, a Waterville businessman and certified public accountant who had already run for and lost the Democratic nomination for auditor, the selection process took on the appearance of a joke.

Except that it was really a shame.

(Department of Full Disclosure: My wife is a lawyer in the attorney general's office. Or was until this article appeared.)

Whether you want to shame, blame or defame, send your comments to this column, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Proclaim and inflame by fax at 775-1615. Too tame, you exclaim? E-mail ishmaelia@aol.com, and set your computer to main.

### politics and other mistakes



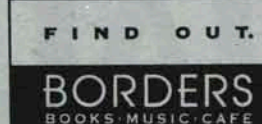
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**A**untie Madeline is not the easiest person to buy a Christmas gift. Madeline hasn't appeared in public since Jim Longley Sr. was governor. She spends most of her time in the cellar. Her only extravagances are mysterious packages delivered from weapons manufacturers, chemical companies and Ross Perot. Last year one of her nephews gave her a Clapper. He hasn't been seen since.

Perhaps you're the type who feels those sorts of gifts fall into the category of enabling Auntie to maintain what some family members have hinted might constitute an unhealthy lifestyle. The old girl shouldn't be encouraged, they say, to continue with whatever she's doing ("Which, and let me emphasize this again, officer, we knew nothing about."). Besides, the neighborhood is running out of cats.

So get her something to read, instead.

Idle Worship has a near-mint, first edition copy of Boneyard Press' comic book "Jeffrey Dahmer: An Unauthorized Biography of a Serial Killer" for just \$300. It's on display at the 545 Congress St. store with a disclaimer that warns potential customers, "Don't be stupid, buy a car or a date."

Other Idle goodies include Japanese model kits of semi-nude cartoon characters. "They take about a year to put together," said the store owner. That



level of frustration will cost you \$150. Or how about those Batman pins you got from a gumball machine in 1966 for a nickel apiece. A set of 12 is now worth a cool \$100, but your mom threw yours away, which makes you so mad you could kill someone. The X-Man named Wolverine has that same sort of temper trouble. A life-size inflatable figure of him will set you back \$75, and will last for ages if you keep it away from your mother and other sharp objects.

If Madeline had a few more accessories and decorations like that down in the cellar, she might not be so inclined toward kidnapping the neighbors' children. North Atlantic Leather at 579 Congress St. has miniature leather-jacket key rings for \$7.50, scorpion and spider paperweights for \$6-\$12, rattlesnake-head tie tacks for \$20 ("Still a little venom in the fangs," swears the proprietor. "One time I pricked my finger, and my whole arm swelled up."), leather bustiers with metal studs for \$40-\$70, leather maid outfits with the cutest little aprons for \$90, an alligator skull for \$75 and an Australian kangaroo-hide whip for \$225.

You're right. Given Auntie's delicate state of mind, certain kinds of gifts could be seen as morbid reminders of that unfortunate incident involving the delivery boy and the lamb sausages. Best to find the dear old thing a more light-hearted gift. How about a black serving bowl from Delilah Pottery, 134 Spring St. The inside features a skull-and-cross-bones design and the FDA-approved warning for all foodstuffs, "Watch Out." It's just \$60, and comes with matching skull cups (\$25), skull candles (\$28) and skull decorative tiles (\$18). Then there are the mini-barrettes designed to make a mix-and-match statement about this charming lady's unique personality. Each carries a single word, such as "Rotten," "Slut," "Spoiled," "Bitch" or "Goddess." Buy several at \$5 apiece to cover Auntie's every mood. Add to the seasonal

# "There's a SERIAL KILLER on my Christmas list!"

The life-and-death issue of choosing a gift for that hard-to-please relative

■ AL DIAMON

No problem. Just saunter down to the Chart Room at Chase Leavitt and Co., 10 Dana St., and pick up a deluxe ITT Night Vision Viewer. Through its lens, Auntie's seemingly pitch-black basement will take on the green, grainy, surreal quality that made "Silence of the Lambs" such a hit. If the \$1,349.95 price tag seems a little steep, there's a cheaper model with less range for \$995. But it may not be as effective at viewing the bottom of the pit Madeline has dug down there.

Other nifty items from the Chart Room include the Aqua Sling Water Balloon Sling Shot ("Never shoot at people. Severe eye damage and facial fractures can result") for \$19.95; replacement balloons ("Caution: Children under 8 years can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons") for \$3.95; ocean survival suits ("Warning: Risk of entrapment in submerged compartments due to suit buoyancy") for \$249; and authentic reproductions of Royal British Navy rum measures ("According to the Surgeon General, consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems.")



spirit with eyeball Christmas ornaments for another five spot.

If Madeline likes eyeballs (and the increased use by her visitors of protective eye goggles seems to indicate she does), check out the oculus-shaped pins at Suitsmi, 35 Pleasant St., for a mere \$9. The store also carries clay pendants that appear to feature the faces of lost souls (\$8-12), Mighty Morphin Power Ranger watches that make laser sounds (\$12, battery not included), hand-painted neckties featuring skulls (\$15) and beautiful one-of-a-kind handmade backpacks constructed of colorful

**Given Auntie's delicate state of mind, certain kinds of gifts could be seen as morbid reminders of that unfortunate incident involving the delivery boy and the lamb sausages.**

recycled fabrics and imported textiles. They're only \$125 and roomy enough to hold a torso.

Ever since the night that nice young police officer disappeared, Auntie hasn't been able to find her cloth-cutting shears. Clay City in Longfellow Square imports impressive handmade scissors from India. The big ones cost \$34 a pair, and, with proper oiling and sharpening, will last forever.

The store also offers a fabulous Moon Rocket friction toy (\$35). When the nose cone bumps into a wall, it activates a real nuclear warhead. Just kidding, of course. It actually triggers the landing gear, causing the spaceship to rise into vertical position and eject a ladder. It was made in Hungary for sale in the former Soviet Union and still sports "CCCP" and "Visit the Gulags" decals on the fins. Felix the Cat metal beach buckets (\$5) are ideal for hauling away the fill from clandestine graves. Graf Zeppelin wind-up toys (\$12) are perfect for playing air disaster games. Worried about those noises in the dark? A stoneware steam-shovel night light will put your mind at ease for a mere \$400.

Or drift off to dreamland to the strains of Christmas carols played by a music box from Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, 148 High St. Colette Hosmer makes them out of real sardine cans filled with real (plastic-encased) sardines that stare at you with pitiful little eyes. For that level of guilt, you'll pay \$125. The store also carries little metal sculptures of dogs, cats, pigs and other critters, made from the remains of wrecked cars. They cost \$24, and come with the make and date of the model that died for your art written on the back. The shop features intricate paper cutouts in frames (\$75-\$100). Madeline would adore the one with the design

made of rats.

Bull Moose, 151 Middle St., has neo-New Wave rocker Coulter's leftover 1995 CD for a frighteningly low \$7. Auntie may be more into grunge, but we bet she'd enjoy this album if you convinced the artist to deliver it to her house in person.

*Al Diamon is not the model for the guy on the cover. And the next person who jokes about the alleged resemblance is going to be very, very sorry.*

I had some time on my hands. I'll admit that. But I also had this misguided belief that I could make some wonderfully meaningful homemade gifts for my friends and family this holiday season. In lieu of that, I thought I could buy them some gifts that looked wonderfully meaningful and homemade and then try to pass them off as my own. The thought would still be the same: Someone had put tender loving care into the creation (or selection) of one-of-a-kind gift items. I could just imagine tears of joy streaming



# SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

Behind the glass doors at New England Crafters

■ COLLEEN SUMNER

down my loved ones' faces on Christmas morning.

So as I strolled down Congress Street one recent clear December morning, I couldn't help getting drawn into the New England Crafters window display. Handpainted Santas, embroidered doilies, crocheted doll clothes, brightly colored wind socks — more craft kitsch than I could possibly have hoped for. I wanted in.

But when I turned to the heavy glass doors, I stopped. Signs. Lots of them, and not of the traditional, welcoming Christmas-spirited vein. These signs were all scrawled in magic marker on white paper. You'd think that a craft store could do better. Still, I was jonesing for crafts, so I kept an open mind.

"Leave bags, totes, and backpacks at the front desk." I could do that. "Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times." Well, I was alone and

neering my mid-20s. I was safe. "No food and drinks in store." I slurped the rest of my coffee and shoved the paper cup into my bag. "No pets." None with. "We reserve the right to inspect all packages." Umm. Didn't I leave those at the front desk? "Shoplifters will be prosecuted." I shoved my hands into my pockets to make sure that I wasn't already the proud owner of something that could be mistaken for a New England Crafters item. Nothing.

**Was this some kind of craft nirvana? Hard to tell.**

I felt ready to go in, even though I must admit that I was a bit nervous. What with all the precautionary signs, and the metal detection system right in the front of the store, I wasn't quite sure what I was getting into. These must be

the best damned crafts in all of New England, chock-full of good tidings and the most tender of holiday wishes. They must need to be protected and coddled. I was getting excited at the prospect of actually seeing them. One sign in the front read simply, "Sales." That meant that maybe, just maybe, one of these crafts might end up being mine. Dare to dream.

I cracked open the glass door. Before my eyes were rows and rows of craft-ready white pegboard shelves that stretched back as far as the eye could see. Above me, fluorescent lights hummed and murmured. And on some heavenly plane, the stilled, harpsichord-based Christmas Muzak wafted through the air. I traversed the store as if in a dream. Was this some kind of craft nirvana? Hard to tell in the glaring white light of New England Crafters.

I could have turned and asked the gentleman behind me. He'd been trailing me since I entered his establishment. Undoubtedly, he wanted to protect his craft kitty — the wooden painted Uncle Sam collection, the overstuffed teddy bears, the prepackaged bags of potpourri, the plaster sculptures of animals and their young. And who could blame him?

But here I was: an unsuspecting traveler in search of gifts, suddenly sucked into the Brigadoon of all arts and crafts stores. Could I ever escape? I began to get nervous as I walked into the far recesses of the store. The craft landscape grew less dense and I found myself wandering through entire sections of aisles with no craft goods whatsoever. I was beginning to feel betrayed. Mile after mile I walked back. Nothing. Until finally, on the horizon, I saw little kits of acrylic paints, ribbons, glue guns and wooden drivers. I saw bins

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

of unfinished wooden silhouettes of Marys, Josephs and little baby Jesuses in cribs. Good deals, too. The baby Messiahs were only 15 cents.

This was what the journey was all about. Do-it-yourself do-hickeys. As I laid my hands on the items that would someday be someone else's craft

explosion, I thought of the hours and hours of preparation, dedication, creativity and sincere moral fortitude that crafts require. And I realized something: Christmas is about giving from the heart, making special time for family and friends and sharing little-known parts of yourself.

But I also realized this: Nobody wants any damn crafts for Christmas. I high-tailed it out of the store. Everybody's getting gift certificates at Bean's.

*We're sure it's not Colleen Sumner's fault that New England Crafters moved to Kittery a week after she shopped there.*

# GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

■ ZOË MILLER

It's well past Thanksgiving and the reality is that shopping has become an entirely unpleasant affair. I don't mind shopping when I can stroll through a store at my own pace. But as Christmas approaches, the crazy shoppers close in, hoarding merchandise as though the apocalypse were coming.

**Home shopping channels are enough to send you screaming to the mall**



So this year I decided to get smart and stay at home where I could shop in the comfort of my living room. My roommate and I have the super-deluxe cable package, which features not just one, not just two, but three home shopping channels — QVC, ValueVision and the Home Shopping Network (HSN). I figured the TV marketplace would be the perfect venue to get all my shopping done and avoid the mass hysteria. Armed with my credit card, cordless phone and remote, I planted myself in front of the TV. Little did I know, I was in for a rude awakening.

What I discovered was this: Everything about home shopping is just as nightmarish as battling through overcrowded Old Port shops or a mall jammed with hyperconsumptive suburbanites. In fact, home shopping is horrible in new and different ways. First off, one look at the television screen on these channels makes you feel as though you're watching the Olympics, or one of those Wall Street investment-tip shows with stock prices constantly scrolling by. This is complicated stuff. Down one side of the picture is a detailed account of the product including its name, original

**Everything about home shopping is just as nightmarish as battling through overcrowded Old Port shops or a mall jammed with hyperconsumptive suburbanites. In fact, home shopping is horrible in new and different ways.**

price, discounted price and item number. At the bottom of the screen is a box giving you the running count on units sold. As that number grows, the gaudy salespeople — who all sport French manicures and lots of color-coordinated accessories — coax you to call and order now. They're just trying to save you from the disappointment of missing out.

The salespeople are real pals, too. Most of them go for a look that's somewhere between a small-market newscaster and your Aunt Betty. They're friendly and happy. Who wouldn't be? In their world there's nothing to talk about but glorious products. And boy, can they talk, often with the help of has-been or never-were celebrities hoping to cash in on their own line of ab-sculpting equipment or mud facial packs. The salespeople blather on and on about just how wonderful these Diamonique earrings are, or this new mixer, and laugh for no reason in particular just to show how jolly they are. Or maybe it's for lack of anything better to say, since they're hawking these products in real time.

Yessiree, these people are live on the air, just talking and talking. If you detest hearing people babble on about how great this or that product is, then you'll likely last about 30 seconds on QVC, HSN or ValueVision. At least when you get annoyed with a talky salesperson at the mall, you can evacuate the store. On ValueVision, you're at their mercy.

The more I watched, the more convinced I became that the people talking endlessly about leopard pantsuits must be either robots or alternate life forms. Surely no human being could find that much to say about a set of skin care products. You could watch these channels for hours and hear no mention of anything going on in the outside world. The Russians could attack or the White House could be bombed by aliens, and your friendly QVC salesperson would keep right on talking about the great price on that amazingly easy-to-operate camcorder.

What's even scarier than the salespeople are the viewers who call in to share a positive product experience. Sometimes they've enjoyed the product so much, they've called to order another. And another. And another. Bear in mind, this stuff isn't cheap — although there are always those "easy payment" credit plans. Somewhere out there in America, the home shopping channels remind you, there are women spending their mortgage payments on Suzanne Somers' fabulous cubic zirconia creations.

You get the feeling that there are people out there who watch only home shopping channels. They feel a real connection with the salespeople. The endless chatter appears to be just what gets people hooked on home shopping. When it comes down to it, people like to talk about nonsense. And nobody devotes more breath to inconsequential yakking than home shopping salespeople. Of course, if it's late at night and you've been altering your consciousness, you might find yourself hypnotized and unable to change the channel.

Then there are the products themselves, which are out of this world — in the sense that they are totally useless for any real-life purpose. On home shopping channels, you can buy everything from jewelry to Hummel figurines to felt-faced Italian dolls. Curiously, nothing sold on these channels ever seems to be available in stores. What you can't buy is anything your friends and family would want. A few hours of watching the glittering parade of impractical items dashed all my hopes of finding normal Christmas gifts without leaving home. I mean, who the hell would I want to give a set of two Dutch rubber brooms? Or an instant flute that anybody can learn to play?

All I can say is, it's a good thing I didn't wait until two days before Christmas to do my shopping. I'll be heading out to the stores now. And I won't be complaining either. Because now I know just how bad it can really be.

You can find Zoë Miller at the mall.

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# Comment

## Not black-and-white

What are the people of Cumberland County to make of the charges of racism leveled against Cumberland County commissioners by Moses Sebuya? (See "News-o-rama," page 4.)

Sebuya, who is president of the local chapter of the NAACP, contends that his position as programs manager at the Cumberland County Jail was written out of the most recent county budget for reasons of racial discrimination (Sebuya is black). The county commissioners insist they were just doing away with unnecessary management positions (a white manager's job also got axed).

But Sebuya's supporters point to the 3 percent pay raise doled out to other jail employees and the 13 percent pay raise County Manager Carol Granfield will be taking home if the budget is approved in its current form next week. They note that Sebuya is the only black employee at a jail with a 30 percent minority population. They say he's getting a pink slip because he's a black man.

County commissioners deny racial motivations, but admit they're concerned about the perception of racism. There's little question they've handled the situation clumsily, leaving themselves open to exactly the kind of accusations they are facing. Anyone who has ever spoken with Sebuya knows he is an articulate, educated and extremely intelligent man. Anyone who has ever disagreed with him also knows that he can be stubborn, abrasive and self-righteous. He always fights loud and hard for what he believes in, and what he wants for himself.

Yet Sebuya himself has created what could be perceived as a conflict of interest for the NAACP. He is mobilizing the resources of the organization over which he presides to preserve his own job. It's a delicate situation.

Was Sebuya's position eliminated because it was unnecessary? Because he's black? Or because he can be difficult to deal with? Would the NAACP have taken on the case and pursued it so aggressively if Sebuya were not the group's president? The people of Cumberland County deserve answers to these questions.

County government is no place for racism. Neither is it a place where accusations of racism should be wielded by a leader of any community for personal gain. If Sebuya has the proof of racism in county government, he should present it posthaste. If not, he should stop using the NAACP's reputation to advance his personal interests.

### The gentry are coming

There are a lot more places to go Christmas shopping on Congress Street than there were just a year ago. Storefronts are filling up with people who want to ride the commercial coattails of L.L. Bean, providing more choices for consumers and a more vibrant downtown.

But the beginnings of a possible Bean backlash are visible too. Idle Worship, a fixture on Congress Street since much less prosperous times, has been forced out of its storefront by a rent increase. Others may follow.

The small, funky stores of Congress Street need your support to survive in a richer environment. As we did last year, we urge you to do at least some of your shopping on the city's downtown boulevard — and not just at Bean's. You'll be surprised what you can find, and at what we might lose if we don't pay attention.

SARAH GOODYEAR

### DEBRIS-MARK STALE II



PATRICK O'CONNEL

## LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com.

### Sobering thought

Come out of your alcoholic stupor long enough to realize: Paid advertising is not about free speech and political reporting is not about siding with the winners. A disgusted reader,

Rosie Q. Weaver  
Portland

### Coming to America

This letter is in response to another letter by G. Loring Harmon Jr. ("Sob Story," 11.21.96). The letter categorizes immigrants as "undeserving deadbeats" provided with "megahandouts." I feel very hurt by the contents of that letter. I am an immigrant. I arrived here nine years ago. I am not a "deadbeat" and did not receive any handouts. (Immigrants, except for refugees, possibly, do not receive "megahandouts.")

I started to work as soon as possible and started to pay my fair share of taxes. From what I see around Portland (because I have not traveled) there are many immigrants. Those who have learned the language and have some form of transportation have mostly found jobs, and are not living off the state. But I see there are many "Americans" taking advantage of the welfare system. There is a new group of immigrants rebuilding this country, because the descendants of those early immigrants from "Old England" have somehow forgotten why this country came into existence.

The "hostile savages, wild beasts and a howling wilderness" are still here to greet immigrants. They have only changed shape and form.

I wish for Mr. Harmon or any other American that thinks like him to go to a place of which he heard stories, stories conceived by other places and by that place itself. The stories tell of a beautiful place with beautiful things and beautiful people. A place with limitless opportunities and possibilities. But once you arrive, you find the language difficult to learn and all those stories great exaggerations. You have no one or family to turn to for monetary support to help you survive.

Where would you turn?

Gina D. P. Ferrante  
Gina D. P. Ferrante  
Portland

### Walk the walk

Rick MacPherson began his column "The straight dope" ("Ecce Homo," 11.21.96) by explaining that during a recent lunch, a straight friend accused him of being somewhat ungracious when it came to straight people. His friend said, "You should be so satisfied. Things are so much better for gay people today than 10 years ago. More and more straight people are tolerant."

I, like MacPherson, don't know where to begin my response. As the parent of a gay son, I too hear "pronouncements" from well-meaning friends and acquaintances. I'm equally sure that their intent is to be supportive and encouraging as the community becomes more tolerant. It means nothing more than second-class status. My son, his friends and all of the incredibly wonderful gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered friends I've had the privilege of getting to know over the past couple of years deserve nothing less than equality — all of the privileges, rights and responsibilities that everyone in the straight community enjoys without question.

I second the challenge MacPherson made: "It's time for all these tolerant straight people to put their money where their all-too-silent mouths are." There's a lot to be done to make our communities places where all people are safe, valued and able to share equal rights and responsibilities. P-FLAG (Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, an international organization) needs your energy. Please come to our monthly meeting held the second Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at Woodfords Congregational Church, or drop me a note with your ideas.

Susan Comyns  
Susan Comyns  
Chapter president  
P-FLAG Portland  
P.O. Box 8742  
Portland, ME 04104-8742

### Good riddance, snowbird!

Ellen McAlister, please don't delude yourself that we are jealous of your seasonal migration from Portland to Florida ("She's leaving town," 11.28.96). In fact, we rejoice. Well, actually, you will be missed, I'm sure, by many, but even still we rejoice. Nothing personal, but who wants an ungrateful whiner kicking around for the longest season? And please, don't go alone. There are oodles of misplaced Portlanders who ought to be joining you in your relocation to more sedate climes. Take, for example, all the folks driving around town in rear-wheel-drive cars without snow tires in February. What's with that? What would Darwin say? C'mon, get 'em outta here.

Winter. Think about it. No noise complaints from 10 Congress Square. Ice cream cones that don't melt. Snow. Snow days. No school days. More snow. Terra Firma's February sale. The Congress Street holiday "octopus" lights. Max Headroom at Sugarloaf. Still more snow. Geary's Hampshire Ale. Snow. Snow. Snow. And even more snow. Yes!!!! Bring it on.

And Ellen, spare us the bit about needing psychiatric help because we choose to live here in winter. We're not the 20-somethings moving to the land of shuffleboard. (Though I will accept your diagnosis that I may be crazy if you accept mine that you may be flip city as well.) But hey, when you return in April, bring the suntan lotion — the spring skiing should be excellent. Until then, enjoy the sun and fresh o.j. I'll be thinking of you the first time I slip on an ice patch and crack my elbow as I land on my ass.

Jim Ahearne  
Portland

(continued on next page)

## drunkBoy BY KURTH



## CBWQ

### Does anyone know what's up with the salmon pink, cream and brick-red eyesore on Congress Street just past Westgate?

Nicholas and Anastasia Merkos sold six pizzerias so they could open the Bostonian Pizzeria Dec. 4 in your "eyesore" at 1440 Congress St. Why Portland for the Bostonian Pizzeria? "I wanted to live in the city and suburbs at the same time," said Nicholas, who plans to make a home here. "I would like to bring some [Boston] culture to this area." In a few months, Nicholas plans to open Home Theater Video, which he said will have over 8,000 videos and games, in the same building.

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.



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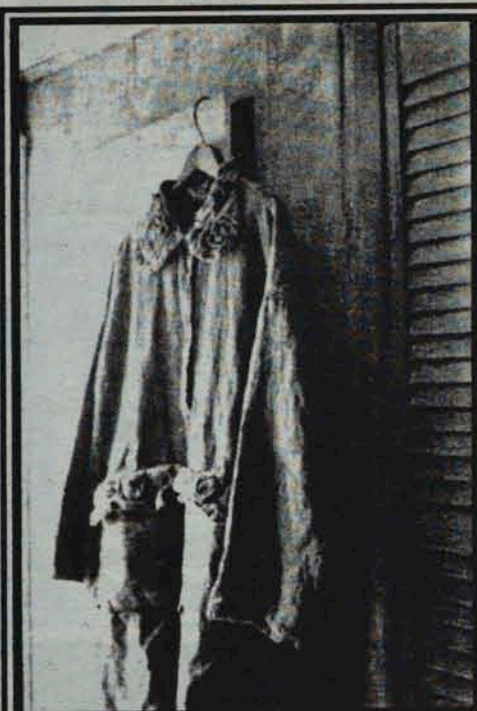
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## LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

### Name that bridge

I have a suggestion for naming the new bridge that will link Portland and South Portland upon completion.

Let's all get used to calling it "The Juliette Bridge," because it slices and dices big oil tankers by the name of Julie N and it has already proven that it is one tough broad. Most importantly, this new bridge, like the old one, does not like oil tankers or big ships being driven through her by boat captains or shipping companies that don't know what they are doing.

Ashley Lenartson  
Portland

### No harm

Thank you for your fine article on the local work of Suzanne Cook from the National Organization of Circumcision Information Resource Centers, NOCIRC ("Heads up!" 11.14.96). Because infant circumcision has evolved in the U.S. over the past 100 years as a social custom, it's about time Maine had a well-informed person like Ms. Cook to address the medical, social and legal aspects of this breach of fundamental medical ethics and human rights.

As we learned in the West Coast, where NOCIRC founder and nurse Marilyn Milos first began to question this routine surgery, it only takes one committed person, armed with the facts and speaking from the heart, to create social change. NOCIRC is now joined by NOHARMM (National Organization to Halt the Abuse and Routine Mutilation of Males — a men's education and activism group), NORM (National Foreskin Restoration Support Groups), Doctors Opposing Circumcision and Nurses for the Rights of the Child (professional groups conscientiously opposed to performing or assisting with infant circumcisions).

Calling a society to conscience about the need to speak up for the rights of vulnerable people (like children) can often be lonely work. It does not follow however, that one need be alone in this work. The courage expressed by Ms. Cook is a natural magnet that is attracting to her more people with great minds and open hearts.

In unity for the children.

Tim Hammond  
Founder, NOHARMM  
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Maine clams cooked over linguini</p> <p>PA06 Bolognese 11.95 Imported penne with Italian country-style meat sauce</p> <p>PA07 Ravioli del Giorno Chef's whim 12.95</p> <p>PA08 Gnocchi Spezzatino 13.95 Chicken, mushrooms, buffalo mozzarella, with pomodoro basil sauce</p> <p>PA09 Shrimp &amp; Scallops Capri 17.95 Fresh red and yellow tomato, asparagus, white wine garlic butter sauce, fresh basil, over papardalle</p> <p>PA10 Shrimp &amp; Scallop Della Casa 19.95 Red &amp; yellow sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic, pancetta, black pepper fettuccini, fresh basil</p>	<p><b>Pollo (Chicken Dinner) includes pasta and salad</b></p> <p>PL01 Chicken Parmesan 12.95 Classic chicken cutlets with pomodoro sauce and mozzarella</p> <p>PL02 Chicken Bracciola alla Toscana 14.95 Rolled stuffed chicken with prosciutto, spinach, mozzarella and mushroom marsala sauce</p> <p>PL03 Chicken Marsala 13.95 Classic sautéed chicken with marsala sauce and exotic mushrooms</p> <p>PL04 Chicken G'vanni Saltimbocca 15.95 Egg-battered chicken with fresh sage prosciutto and cheese gratinee in G'vanni's sherry mushroom butter sauce</p> <p><b>Vitello (Veal Dinner) includes pasta &amp; salad</b></p> <p>VL01 Veal Parmesan 14.95 Swissland™ Veal Tenderloin in the classic veal cutlet style with pomodoro sauce and mozzarella gratinee</p> <p>VL02 Veal Marsala 15.95 Classic milk-fed Swissland™ veal tenderloin medallions with marsala sauce and exotic mushrooms</p> <p>VL03 Vitello Arrosto (When available) 15.95 Roast Italian-style stuffed veal shoulder roast of parsley, garlic, prosciutto cheese, roasted peppers, spinach and marsala mushroom sauce</p>	<p><b>Pesce (Fish Dinner) includes pasta &amp; salad</b></p> <p>SF01 Salmon Piccata 13.95 Sautéed salmon medallions in a lemon caper butter sauce</p> <p>SF02 Black Pearl Salmon 14.95 Pan-seared Maine black pearl salmon encrusted with fingerling potatoes, Tuscan white bean salad, ratatouille</p> <p>SF03 Shrimp &amp; Scallop Della Casa 19.95 Red, yellow sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic, pancetta, black pepper fettuccini, fresh basil</p> <p>SF04 Scampi 17.95 Sautéed jumbo shrimp (7) with classic garlic butter sauce over linguini</p> <p>SF05 Zuppa de Pesce 19.95 Seafood medley of mussels, clams, shrimp, scallops, and calamari with linguini and red, white or Fra Diavolo sauce</p> <p>SF06 Maine Lobster 25.95 White, red or Fra Diavolo with clams, mussels, calamari, shrimp, and scallops over linguini</p> <p><b>G'vanni's Italian Chop House</b> All Chop House items are grilled on our Tuscan wood fire grill. All entrees are accompanied with potato and fresh bouquetera veggies. Please allow ample time for preparation.</p> <p>CH01 Filetto alla Porcini 17.95 10oz. Tenderloin with porcini mushrooms demi-glaze</p> <p>CH02 Vitello Costata Romana 19.95 16 oz. Swissland™ Hot Veal Rack Chop with marsala mushroom sauce</p> <p>CH03 Porchetta Ripieno au Jus 13.95 Double cut Pork Chop stuffed with spinach prosciutto, fontina cheese, and marsala sauce</p>	<p><b>ANTIPASTI (APPETIZERS)</b></p> <p>AP01 Bruschetta 5.95 Tuscan-style garlic bread with marinated roma tomatoes</p> <p>AP02 Zuppa del Giorno 4.95 Soup of the day/chef's whim</p> <p>AP03 Vegetable Antipasto for 2 9.95 with cold cuts &amp; cheese Add 3.95 with seafood Add 5.95 with everything Add 8.95</p> <p>AP04 Calamari Fritti 7.95 Fennel-fried calamari with pomodoro sauce</p> <p>AP06 Shrimp Cocktail 9.95 (5) jumbo prawns with Stoli Pepper cocktail sauce</p> <p>AP07 Mozzarella en Carozza 8.95 Golden-fried mozzarella and prosciutto in Marinara sauce</p> <p>AP08 Sausage Crostini 7.95 Sweet Italian sausage with hot peppers</p> <p><b>Insalata (Salads)</b></p> <p>SL01 Caesare 5.95 Classic romaine and red romaine with crostons and reggiano parmesan with grilled chicken 8.95</p> <p>SL02 Verdi Mista 5.95 Mixed green salad with balsamic dressing</p> <p>SL03 Pomodoro 8.95 Red and yellow beefsteak tomatoes with homemade mozzarella, basil and extra virgin olive oil</p>	<p><b>Desserts</b></p> <p>DC01 G'vanni's Famous Tiramisu 4.95 Soft Sponge base soaked with vanilla and espresso coffee, layered with mascarpone and zabaglione cream. The surface is dusted with cocoa powder.</p> <p>DC02 Cannoli 2.50 A North End hand-rolled golden pastry shell with ricotta pastry cream filling.</p> <p>DC03 Fat-Free Cheesecake 4.95 A delicious light cheesecake with no fat.</p> <p>DC04 Chocolate di Torta 6.95 Dense Italian chocolate moussé cake.</p> <p>DC06 Chef's Surprise 9.95 A different and creative dessert each night.</p> <p>DC05 Homemade Gelato or Sorbetto 5.95 Ask for daily selections: Neapolitan, Summit, Bistone, Grapiglia, Wild Maine Blueberry, Vanilla with lavender, Lemon Sorbet, Watermelon Sorbet, Fire &amp; Ice Sorbet, Maine Blueberry Granita.</p> <p><b>Piatti Azur (Blue Plate Specials)</b> Includes salad &amp; focaccia 7.95 (11am - 6pm)</p> <p>BP01 Monday: Chicken, Ziti &amp; Broccoli BP02 Tuesday: Eggplant Parmesan BP03 Wednesday: Meatballs &amp; Spaghetti BP04 Thursday: Chicken Cacciatore BP05 Friday: Sole Francese BP06 Sat &amp; Sun: Fettuccini Alfredo with pancetta and peas</p>
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PZ03 CLASSIC MARGHERITA CHEESE PIZZA with fresh basil Personal 6.95 Family 10.95 Party 12.95

PZ04 THE ORIGINAL PIZZA FROM NAPLES, Italy, Scarmozza cheese, san marzano tomato sauce, fresh basil Personal 8.95 Family 13.95 Party 16.95

PZ05 SMOKED CHICKEN with red onion and fresh basil Personal 9.95 Family 14.95 Party 17.95

PZ06 PIZZA BIANCO (white pizza) ricotta cheese, mozzarella cheese, roasted garlic, sliced yellow and red tomatoes, and fresh basil Personal 10.95 Family 15.95 Party 18.95

PZ07 TEMPURA EGGPLANT with roasted peppers and fresh basil Personal 8.95 Family 13.95 Party 16.95

PZ08 PESTO PIZZA (green pizza) homemade pine nut pesto, roasted garlic, asiago cheese, fresh sliced red and yellow tomatoes Personal 10.95 Family 15.95 Party 17.95

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Pancetta (Italian Bacon) • Prosciutto • Smoked Chicken • Rotisserie Chicken • Anchovies • Tempura Broccoli • Artichoke Hearts • Buffalo Mozzarella • Sun Dried Tomatoes • Smoked Red Onions • Feta • Fontina • Gorgonzola • Ricotta • Pepperjack

**Classic Toppings**  
Pepperoni • Mushrooms • Tri-Colored Peppers • Sliced Tomato • Roasted Garlic • Calamata Olives • Caramelized Onions • Spinach • Red Onions • Scallions • Roasted Veggies • Hot Cherry Peppers • Meatballs • Pineapple • Hot Italian Sausage

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HC01 VESPUCCI  
Classic Italian-American submarine sandwich with organic lettuce, genoa salami, sopressata, dry coppa, aromatic provolone, roma tomato, onions, green garlic pickled tomatoes, extra virgin olive oil 4.95

HC02 AMERICAN CHICKOLO  
Rotisserie chicken with marinated eggplant and roasted peppers 4.95

HC03 POLLO CLUB  
Classic rotisserie chicken with Italian bacon, lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise 4.95

HC04 PORKY PORCHETTA  
Rotisserie pork roasted with marinated eggplant and roasted peppers 4.95

HC05 MICHELANGELO  
Thin sliced prosciutto, fresh mozzarella basil, extra virgin olive oil 5.95

HC06 POLLO PARMIGIANA  
Golden fried white chicken breast, fresh san marzano marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese, baked in brick oven 5.95

HC07 MEATBALL PARMIGIANA  
Homemade meatballs, fresh san marzano marinara sauce, mozzarella cheese, baked in brick oven 5.95

HC08 HAM & CHEESE HERO  
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HV02 PRIMAVERA  
Organic greens, fresh mushrooms, aromatic provolone, calamata olives, roasted peppers, sweet relish & raspberry hazelnut vinaigrette 5.95

HV03 MELANZANA  
(Eggplant parmesan) Classic eggplant parmesan with mozzarella, tempura eggplant, san marzano marinara sauce, baked in the brick oven 4.95

**Salads**

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Red & yellow tomatoes, red onion, homemade mozzarella and extra virgin olive oil 8.95

SL05 FIELD GREENS  
Organic greens, tomatoes, cucumber, red onion 3.95

SL06 CAESARE  
Green and red organic lettuces with shaved reggiano parmesan (with smoke chicken add 1.95) 4.95

Dressings: Caesar, Italian, Poppy Seed, Honey Dijon, Parmesan, Peppercorn, Lo-Fat Ranch or Italian

**Beverage Service**

Six Pak Beer  
BR01 Shipyard Ale 7.95  
BR02 Midson Golden Ale 7.95  
BR03 Goat Island Light 7.95  
BR04 Moretti 8.95 • BR05 Peroni 8.95  
BR06 Budweiser 6.95 • BR07 Miller Lite 6.95

Wine  
WN01 Chardonnay 9.95  
WN02 Pinot Grigio 9.95 • WN03 Chianti 9.95

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Seattle's Best Coffee (regular & decaf)  
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SD01 Classic Coke 1.25  
SD02 Diet Coke 1.25  
SD03 Orangina 1.25 • SD04 Sprite 1.25  
SD05 SunKist Orange 1.25  
SD06 A&W Root Beer 1.25

Italian Mineral Water  
MW01 250ml Carbonated 1.95  
MW02 750 ml Carbonated 4.95

16 oz. Fruitopia  
FT01 Fruit Integration 1.25  
FT02 Pink Lemonade 1.25  
FT03 Raspberry 1.25 • FT04 Grape 1.25  
FT05 Strawberry 1.25

16 oz. Minute Maid Juice  
MJ01 Orange 1.25 • MJ02 Apple 1.25  
MJ03 Pink Grapefruit 1.25

Other Beverages  
BR01 Castle Spring Water 1.25  
BR02 Nestle 1.25 • BR03 Diet Nestle 1.25  
BR04 Orangina 1.25 • BR06 Toothoo 1.25

Cigarettes  
Marlboro, Marlboro Light, Camel, Camel Light (MUST BE 18 TO PURCHASE TOBACCO)

MUST BE 21 TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL I.D. REQUIRED.

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**S**peaking of clubs: According to owner Scott Kinsey, **Granny Killams will reopen** Jan. 1 with a New Year's Eve bash featuring Gouds Thumb and Sabre Tooth Nudist. Kinsey had been trying to sell the club since last summer, but a tentative deal with a Bar Harbor buyer fell through. Then two new players — Lisa Whitney and Doug Kurtz, currently part of the management at Squire Morgans — appeared, and worked out a deal with Kinsey. "They'll cover the cost of the reopening, handle the existing debt and run the club, and for that they get part-ownership," said Kinsey,

**ear to the pavement**



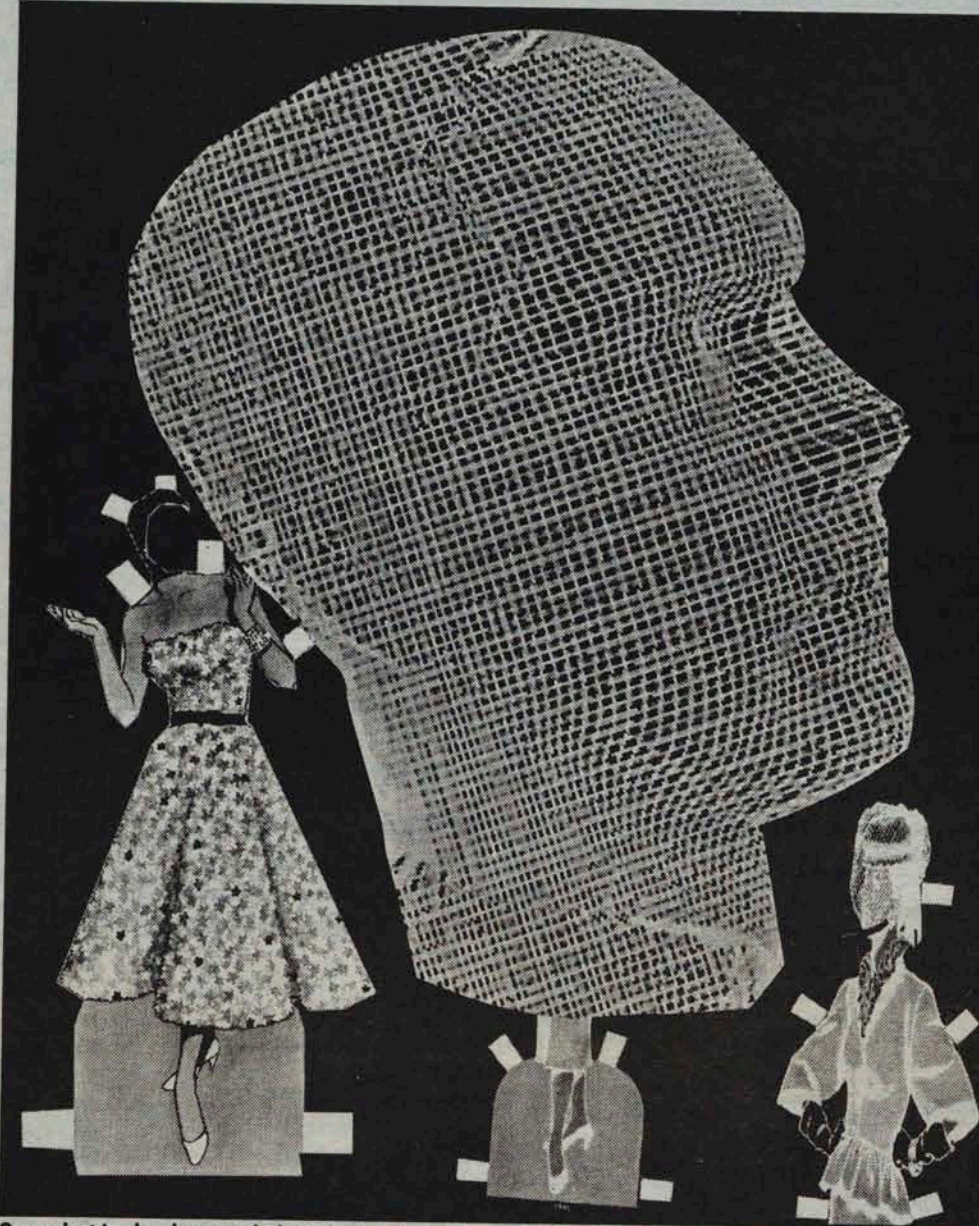
who will stay on as a part-owner and handle band bookings, among other tasks. The club will be open Friday and Saturday nights, Kinsey said, with an emphasis on local and regional bands like Moon Boot Lover, Chucklehead and Rustic Overtones. Kinsey said he also wants to present smaller acts like solo acoustic performers and jazz ensembles, while generally avoiding the risks that come with presenting higher-profile — and more expensive — bands. Kinsey expects the deal to be finalized in early February, and hopes to put on a grand re-opening gala around Valentine's Day. ... Meanwhile, **Morganfield's will not reopen**, at least not anytime soon. Owner Ed Noyes had been working for months to reopen the club with the help of an out-of-state investor, but the deal crumbled recently when the investor failed to secure financing. Last week, Noyes put the club up for sale. Asking price: \$650,000.

■ Speaking of no deals: Bob Elliot, Channel 6 TV personality, **resigned from the station** this week. Elliot hadn't been on the air in a month, following a flap with station management over a photograph that ran in the Nov. 10 *Press Herald* that showed Elliot drinking a beer at an election-night gathering of Question 2B supporters. Elliot maintained he was off the clock, while station management has maintained a determined silence over the matter. Things heated up last week when the station forbid Elliot from emceeing a Dec. 2 roast for brewer David Geary at Stone Coast, citing a conflict of interest. At the D.L. Geary Brewing Company's 10th anniversary party on Dec. 7, though, a video on the company's history was narrated by Elliot. Oops.

■ Speaking of Geary's: The aforementioned Geary's video **perpetuates the myth** that the first pint of Geary's Pale Ale was poured in 1986 at Three Dollar Dewey's, which was then on Fore Street. In fact, that honor actually belongs to Whit's End, then located on the current site of the Free Street Taverna. While the ceremonial first glass was supposed to be filled at Dewey's, the brewery's distributor screwed up and delivered a keg to Whit's End about an hour before Dewey's. Early patrons at Whit's were already into their second round of Geary's by the time the TV cameras began recording the supposed first pouring at Dewey's. To the vital thing that is history: bottoms up. **CBW**

# edge

BLUE-EYED BLUES ... WHEN ALT-ROCK BECOMES A "DIRGE" ... CARTOGRAPHY OF THE HEART ... DISPATCHES FROM CYBERLAND ... THEM, MOTHER EARTH ... DISSING THE MADDING CROWD IN "JUDE"



Scanning technology and shopping: cyber-vision or cyber-fantasy? ILLUSTRATION/MARK KNOTT

## Silicon shopping Can 3-D scanning revolutionize retail? A dispatch from the cyber-frontier

■ **JOSH WILLIAMSON**  
You need to do a bit of holiday shopping for some far-flung relation — let's say cousin Jimmy in Omaha — who you haven't seen in years. Jimmy, though, bless his heart, has sent you a computer disk containing the data for his exact 3-D geometry. So you sit down at your computer and load Jimmy's 3-D information into a program that lets you morph a cyber-likeness of him with an interactive CD-ROM clothing catalog. Together, the programs allow you to view Jimmy in an assortment of properly sized shirts — stripes, solids, paisleys — from various angles. You settle on the paisley, size large, then proceed to order it over the Internet by e-mailing Jimmy's computer fit to the clothing company's web page. You tap in your credit card number, hit return and call it a successful day of cyber-shopping.

Sound far-fetched? Not to Parker Poole III.

Poole, CEO of Portland-based Morpheus Technologies, is working to franchise 3-D scanning machines, the sort that could, among other things, capture the kind of data cousin Jimmy sent you on his disk. Poole's vision is for shoppers to be able to walk into the Maine Mall and leave 10 minutes later with a disk or SMART card containing their 3-D measurements. "Digital scanning probably is going to be a major component of everyday life as we come up with more and more cyber solutions to things," Poole said recently from his Fore Street office. "A lot of money is being spent by companies developing ways to use 3-D images."

If Poole can cement the backing of Japanese communications giant Nippon Telephone & Telegraph (NTT), he predicts we could see scanning machines by next cyber-Christmas. "It hasn't all come together yet, but we are very close," Poole said. Gov. Angus King has thrown

his support behind Poole, writing a letter to NTT encouraging the international partnership.

To hear Poole tell it, the result could be the biggest thing to come along for catalog shoppers since, well, catalog shopping. Poole is currently negotiating with manufacturers like Liz Claiborne, hoping to lure them into his plan as both participants and backers. "They don't just want technology," he said, "they want something that works."

This is how it would work: The scanner, naked or clad in close-fitting clothes, would stand at the center of a triangle formed by three laser-emitting boxes, each about the size of a large stereo speaker. The low-level lasers would scan from head to toe, sending the information into a computer, which would process the data into a 3-D image. The image, stored on a disk, could be manipulated or used in tandem with CD-ROM catalogs or even video games. The scanning process would take about 10 minutes; Poole estimated that the cost would be around \$20.

At the moment, there are only five full-body scanning machines in the entire country, costing \$400,000 apiece and manufactured by a California company called Cyberware, which rents the technology to visual effects studios. According to Cyberware, mass production of the machines could bring the price tag down to between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per machine. Poole is banking on this cost reduction in order to franchise the units in malls across the country. "A lot of people look at this and say, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" Poole stated. "I say, 'Well, maybe, but what if? What if we can create a better way for people to buy clothes?'"

A lofty goal, indeed. According to Dr. William Taffe, professor of computer science at Plymouth State College in Plymouth, N.H., Poole's 3-D dreams are not that far-fetched, at least not by technological standards. "By the time [scanning machines] are out there on the market, the average PC will certainly be

**"The question is, 'How real can you make it?'" said Poole. "What we're trying to say is, a lot more real than you might think."**

fast enough to [manipulate a scanned image]," Taffe said, noting that companies like Intel are doubling their chip speeds every 18 months.

Still, even the speediest chip won't be able to duplicate the sensual smorgasbord of shopping, whether it's the look of a pigment-dyed shirt, the texture of a che-

nille scarf or the smell of a leather coat. "Many shoppers don't know what they want until they see something that excites them in the store, and that couldn't be replaced [by 3-D home cyber-shopping]," said an employee (who asked not to be identified) of the Liz Claiborne corporate offices in North Bergen, N.J. For reluctant shoppers, though, the ones who crave convenience but loathe the hurly-burly of retail, the Claiborne rep said, the home shopping approach could be a beautiful thing, especially for men.

At least one Portland retailer thinks cyber-shopping could catch on. "I think it would work really well with the 30-and-under crowd. Above that, I think you'd see a lot of resistance to the idea," said David Messmer, a manager at the

L.L. Bean Factory Store in Portland. Speaking for himself, not the company, Messmer said, "We [under-30 types] have had computers all our lives. For older people, sometimes even the technology at our registers makes them a little leery. But if [scanning] were done correctly, sure, it could work."

Whether full-body digitizing turns out to be a truly useful technology or just the latest step toward societal agoraphobia, Poole still wants to be the first to bring 3-D scanning to the masses. "It could be us that does it, or somebody else, but I have absolute conviction that it is going to happen, because it can be done," he said. "The question is, 'How real can you make it?' What we're trying to say is, a lot more real than you might think."

**CBW**

preview

## Prithee, withal, anon



Anonymous is still a woman: Anonymous 4

**L**est you think medieval Europe was nothing but witch hysterias, devastating pandemics and a lot of bad hair, give a listen to Anonymous 4, an internationally acclaimed a capella group from New York that specializes in medieval music, including chants and polyphonic songs. The quartet — Marsha Genensky, Susan Hellauer, Johanna Maria Rose and Ruth Cunningham — formed 10 years ago to experiment with chants and related musical forms. Since then, the group has received widespread popular and critical acclaim and has spent more than a bit of time at the top of the *Billboard* classical chart.

Anonymous 4 recently released its sixth recording, a collection of medieval Hungarian Christmas music called "A Star in the East." The group's current touring show goes by the same name; expect, not surprisingly, a lot of medieval Hungarian Christmas music. Not exactly another Perry Como holiday special.

■ **SCOTT SUTHERLAND**

Anonymous 4 performs Dec. 18 at State Street Church, 159 State St., at 7:30 p.m. **Tix: \$25.** A free pre-curtain lecture will be held at 6 p.m.; **box supper available at 5:30 p.m. 772-8630.**

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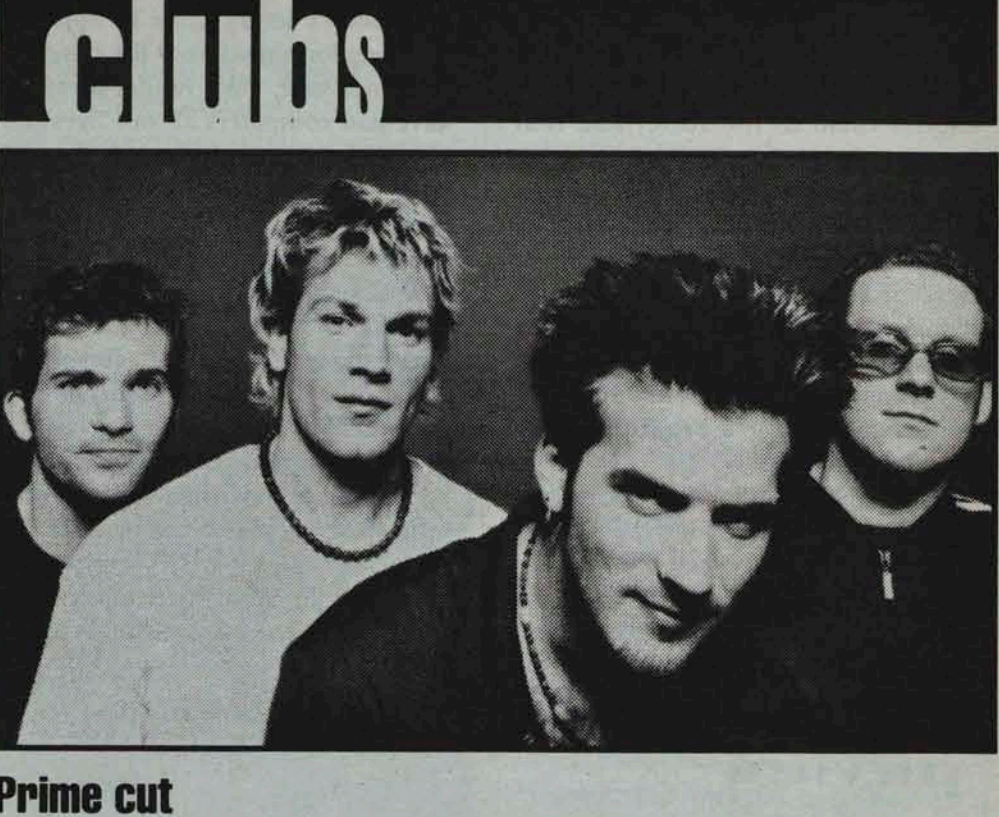
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**773-BEER**



**Prime cut**  
Before you dismiss Canadian quartet **I MOTHER EARTH** as just another noisy metal band, there are a few things you need to know about them. First off, guitarist Jagori Tanna cites Carlos Santana as one of his biggest influences, and the band has been known to stretch out into Santana-style jam sessions. Second, Christian Tanna, who penned all 12 songs on the band's second release, "Scenery and Fish," writes songs about falling in love with fruit. Last, there's the comparison critics make between I Mother Earth and bands like Jane's Addiction, the Red Hot Chili Peppers and even Pink Floyd. Catch I ME Dec 17 at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave, Portland, at 6 pm. Gouds Thumb and Expanding Man open. Tix: \$7 (\$5 advance/all-ages). 773-8187.

**Thursday 12**  
**The Basement**  
Moon Boot Lover (funk/rock), 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.  
**The Big Easy**  
Jimmy & The Soul Cats (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 773-1207.  
**Comedy Connection**  
Comedy Showcase starring Brian Powers, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.  
**Dark Horse Saloon**  
Candi-okie, 145 Kennebec St, Portland. 773-7911.  
**Free Street Taverna**  
Chevy Indy 2000 Rock, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.  
**Geno's**  
Wide Open Mic Night with 37 Smokes, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.  
**The Moon**  
T.G.I. Thursday (DJ Jayce spins top 40 dance), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
Zacc Tyler (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.  
**Tipperary Pub**  
Greg Powers Karaoke, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland. 775-6161.  
**The Underground**  
Retro Dance with Bob Look, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Friday 13**  
**The Basement**  
Actual Size, 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.  
**The Big Easy**  
The Upsetters (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 773-1207.  
**Comedy Connection**  
Brian Powers and Justin McKinney, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.  
**Free Street Taverna**  
Diesel Doug and the Long Haul Truckers, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.  
**Geno's**  
True Non-Believers, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.  
**Grill 36**  
Blue Steel Express, 36 Market St, Portland. 772-6099.  
**The Industry**  
College Night (DJ Mix), 50 Wharf St, Portland. 879-0865.  
**The Moon**  
International Dance (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
Zacc Tyler (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Saturday 14**  
**The Basement**  
Lazy Lightning (Dead covers), 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.  
**The Big Easy**  
D.D. & The Road Kings, 416 Fore St, Portland. 773-1207.  
**Clyde's Pub**  
Karaoke, 173 Ocean Ave, So. Portland. 799-4473.  
**Comedy Connection**  
Brian Powers and Justin McKinney, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
Zacc Tyler (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Poetry Night hosted by Jay with Big World, 128 Free St, Portland. 775-6536.  
**Zootz**  
Decades of Dance ('70s, '80s and '90s dance music), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.  
**Java Joe's**  
High School Fiction Reading (7:30 pm), 13 Exchange St, Portland. 761-5637.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
The Flying Padies, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.  
**Free Street Taverna**  
Haskon K. & The American Way, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.  
**Gritty McDuff's**  
Arlo West & The L.A. Bluesmen, 396 Fore St, Portland. 772-2739.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
Laser Karaoke with Stormin' Norman, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.  
**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Jazz Brunch with Doug & Lisa, 14 York St, Portland. 773-2337.  
**The Underground**  
Dancing with Jammin' Joe (karaoke in front lounge), 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.  
**Wharf's End**  
Open Mic with Ken Grimsley, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.  
**Zootz**  
I Mother Earth and Gouds Thumb (6 pm/all-ages), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Greek Keys (Greek music), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.  
**Geno's**  
Sly Heroes and Red Telephone, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.  
**Grill 36**  
God Brothers, 36 Market St, Portland. 772-6099.  
**The Moon**  
Portland's Best Dance Party (DJ Dredd), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
Zacc Tyler (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.  
**Wharf's End**  
Open Mic with Ken Grimsley, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.  
**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**Monday 16**  
**The Big Easy**  
Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog, 416 Fore St, Portland. 773-3315.  
**Free Street Taverna**  
Open Mic with Go Button, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.  
**Old Port Tavern**  
DJ Sid Thorne, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.  
**Wharf's End**  
Open Mic with Ken Grimsley, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.  
**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**Tuesday 17**  
**The Big Easy**  
Mike Hayward's All Star Revue (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 773-3315.

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**INTERESTING FACTS**  
by Frank Gaziano

Here's a puzzler: What occurs once in a second, once in a minute, once in a month and once in a century-but never occurs in a day or a week or a year? The answer: The letter 'N'.

Even though the U.S. has only about 5% of the world's population, the U.S. generates about 50% of all the mail in the world.

Contrary to popular opinion, caesar salads are NOT named after Julius Caesar but after a restaurant owner in Tijuana, Mexico-Cesar Gardini, who was the first to serve one, in 1928.

Incredibly, because of the nature of TV and radio waves, a listener at home—thousands of miles away—can hear a program a fraction of a second BEFORE the audience in the studio can hear it.

And here's another interesting fact...  
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**HAWK ON & THE AMERICAN WAY**  
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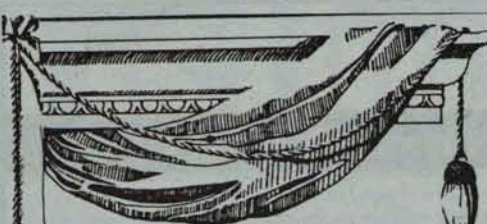
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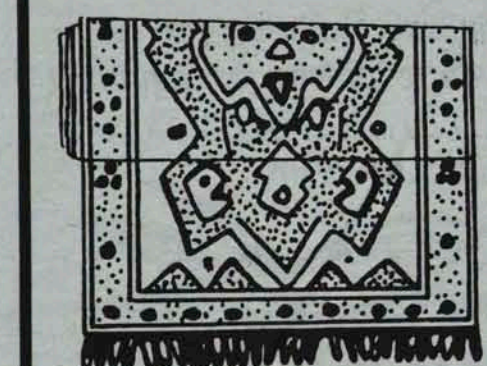
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**Ski the Cow!**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

**Coffee By Design** 620 Congress St. Portland. Holiday open house Dec 12 from 4-8 pm. Holiday Show featuring artwork by Greg Day, Marilyn Blinkhorn, Brian Currier, Jill Monaghan and Chris Gerquest shows through Jan 4. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-8 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm, Sun 8 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

**Jameson Gallery** 217 Commercial St. Portland. Holiday opening reception for fine woodworking by a collection of Maine craftsmen, Dec 12 from 6-9 pm. Shows through Dec 31. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. 772-5522.

**Agape Center** 657 Congress St. Portland. "Papers of the Spirit," works by Richard Lee. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-2 pm and by appt. 780-1500.

**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, 12-6 pm Sun. 772-9505.

**Area Gallery** USM Campus Center, Portland. "Being Heard: The Strength, Courage and AIDS of Winnie MacDonal" photographs by Jim Daniels shows through Dec 13. 780-5409.

**Art & Artifacts Gallery** Route 1, Freeport. Hours: Tues-Sun 10 am-6 pm. 865-1921.

**Art Gallery at Six Deering Street** 6 Deering St. Portland. Recent paintings by Charles Burdick and Milton Christianson shows through Dec 21. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 772-9605.

**Art Star** 578 Congress St. top floor, Portland. Opening show featuring works by Kelly McConnell, Elinor Pironti, George Larou, Eugene Cole, Pumpkinwood, Carlo Pittore, Kindra Murphy and Jobie Weber shows through Dec 19. Hours: Wed & Thurs 5:30-8 pm, Sat noon-4 pm and by appointment. 774-2097.

**Barbara's Kitchen** 2 Cottage Lane, Cape Elizabeth. Small paintings by Marilyn Blinkhorn show through Dec 20. 767-6313.

**The Baxter Gallery** 619 Congress St. Portland. "Genius Loci: A Sense of Place," an exhibition of works by six painters reflecting the importance of memory and personal connectedness with the world around us shows through Dec 15. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 775-5152.

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

- "Art & Life in the Ancient Mediterranean" An installation of Assyrian, Egyptian, Cypriot, Greek and Roman art, ongoing.
- "Crosscurrents 1996" Art from Africa, Asia and the Americas, as well as contemporary objects from the permanent collection, ongoing.
- "Eleanor: The Original Paintings" Barbara Cooney's paintings from her book "Eleanor" about the childhood of Eleanor Roosevelt, show through Dec 22.

**Center For Maine History** presents a three-part exhibition on the history of Maine Native American carving and basket making. "Growth Rings: 200 Years of Basketry, Carving and Wabanaki Enterprise," "Trees and Tradition: Brown Ash and Maine Native American Basketmaking" and "Spirits in the Wood: Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Root Clubs." 489 Congress St. Portland. 879-0427.

**Chocolate Church Arts Center** 804 Washington St. Bath. Members exhibition shows through Dec 20. 442-8455.

**Connections** 56 Main St. Brunswick. "Small Paintings & Art Gifts," a holiday show featuring 46 artists and craftspeople shows through Jan 25. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10 am-5 pm, Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 725-1399.

**Danforth Gallery** 34 Danforth St. Portland. Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 775-6245.

**Davidson & Daughters** 148 High St. Portland. Holiday and first anniversary show, featuring works by Susan Aripotch, Kathleen Bolt, L. Murray Jamison and Joan Murray, shows through Dec 25. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-6 pm, Fri 11 am-8 pm (first Thurs of the month 11 am-8 pm). 780-0766.

**Delliah Pottery** 132 Spring St. Portland. Holiday Miniatures Exhibition, featuring work by Hazel Raby, Katie Brown, Ellen Gutekunst, Jon White, Timothee Bierman, Destia Toot, Tanja Alexis Hollander, Darien Brahm, Leyli Johnson, Tim Nihoff and Cindy MacKay, shows through Dec 21. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-6 pm, Sat noon-4 pm. 871-1594.

**Falmouth Memorial Library** 5 Lunt Rd, Falmouth. Work by the students of Sarah Knock shows through Jan 6. Hours: Tues & Thurs 9:30 am-9 pm, Wed, Fri & Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. 781-2351.

**The Family Kitchen Restaurant** 4 Pleasant St. Brunswick. "People to Think About," paintings by Marilyn Blinkhorn, shows through Jan 1. 729-5526.

**Fibula Gallery** 50 Exchange St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 761-4432.

**Foghorn Gallery** 4 Clinton St. Portland. International folk art, Oaxacan wood carvings, black pottery and crafts of indigenous peoples. By appointment. 781-2563.

**Foreside Cafe** 201 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Paintings by Kate Merrick, ongoing. Hours: Sun-Thurs 7 am-3 pm, Fri-Sat 7 am-7 pm. 781-4931.

**Free Street Taverna** 128 Free St. Portland. Paintings by David Bouchard and sculptures by Steven Pullan show through Dec 29. Mixed media Greek collages by Richard Lee. Ongoing. Hours: Mon 11 am-4 pm, Tues-Sat 11 am-10 pm. 774-1114.

**Frost Gully Gallery** 411 Congress St. Portland. Paintings by Laurence Sisson and Thomas Crotty show through Dec 28. Hours: Mon-Fri noon-6 pm. 772-2555.

**Gallery Music** 21 Forest Ave. Portland. "Trees, Rocks, Water," paintings and works on paper by Lavender. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. 775-1304.

**Gallery 7** 164 Middle St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-6 pm, open Fri until 8 pm. 761-7007.

**Greenhut Gallery** 146 Middle St. Portland. "Artists Care, Greenhut Cares" shows through Dec 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

**Hole in the Wall Studios** 1544 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond. "Art For the Holidays," a group show and sale of work by gallery artists, shows through Jan 30. Hours: 9:30 am-5:30 pm daily (closed Tues). 655-4952.

**Icon 19 Mason St.** Brunswick. Photographs by Paul D'Amato, Jocelyn Lee, Rose Marasco and Richard Renner show through Jan 15. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

**Java Joe's** 13 Exchange St. Portland. "The Environmental Landscape," photographs by Richard Sandifer show through Dec 15. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30 am-11 pm, Fri 7:30 am-midnight, Sat 9 am-midnight, Sun 9 am-10 pm. 761-5637.

**The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics** Douglas Hill, Sebago Coast #25. Reservations suggested. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Cost: \$5 (\$3 students). 787-3370.

**June Fitzpatrick Gallery** 112 High St. Portland. "December International," works by ten artists from Maine and around the world, shows through Dec 21. "Speakout," photographs from the 1997 Speakout engagement book, shows through Dec 21. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm, Thurs noon-8 pm. 772-1961.

**June Fitzpatrick Gallery, Downtown** 20-30 Danforth St #304, Portland. Opening reception for "Full Circle: 20 Years of Prints," photographs by Bernard C. Meyers, shows through Dec 27. Hours: Tues-Sat 3-9 pm and by appointment. 772-3182.

**Kaleidoscope Gallery** Route 25, Gorham. Fine art, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and crafts by local artists. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. 839-6926.

**Lakes Gallery & Sculpture Garden** Rt. 302, South Casco. "Art is a Special Gift," a holiday show of work by 17 artists, shows through Dec 23. Hours: 10 am-5 pm daily. 655-5066.

**L. Murray Jamison Photography** 22 Monument Sq, #604, Portland. "Mintique: A Journey to the French West Indies," photographs by L. Murray Jamison, shows through Dec 31. Hours: by appointment only. 871-8244.

**Maine Audubon Society** Gisliland Farm Environmental Center, 118 U.S. Route One, Falmouth. Holiday show and sale of stone birdbaths and bowls by sculptor Stephen R. Parley show through Dec 25. 781-2330.

**Maine Cottage Furniture** Lower Falls Landing, Yarmouth. "From Where We Came," gouache paintings by Laurie Parlee Hadlock, shows through Jan 10. 865-6675.

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

**Maine Writers Center** 12 Pleasant St. Brunswick. Illustrations and prints by Dahlov Ipcar show through Dec 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5. 729-6333.

**Margarita's Restaurant** 242 St. John St. Portland. Original watercolors by Bonnie Brown, ongoing. Hours: 4-11 pm daily. 874-6444.

**Meander Gallery** 40 Pleasant St. Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat, 12-6 pm. 871-1078.

**Nancy Margolis Gallery** 367 Fore St. Portland. Jewelry by John Casner shows through Jan 1. The fifth annual Menorah exhibit, featuring hand-crafted Hamukah Menorahs by over 20 glass, ceramic and metal artists, shows through Jan 1. 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.

**O'Farrell Gallery** 58 Maine St. Brunswick. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm. 729-8228.

**On Balance** 4 Milk St. Portland. Ceramics by Genevieve Levin and paper sculptures by Patricia McCabe show through Dec 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4:30 pm. 772-9812.

**"The Paintings of Eric Hopkins"** By appointment only, call 871-7916.

**Perfetto's Restaurant** 28 Exchange St. Portland. "Almost Edible," paintings by Kate Merrick, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sun 11 am-11 pm. 828-0001.

**Pine Tree Shop and Bayview Gallery** 75 Market St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Wed-Sat 9:30 am-8 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 773-3007.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

**byte me**

**Writers 2 readers**

John Thorne is a food writer based in Steuben, Maine. He's found enviable success with several highly literate books on the theme of simple cooking — including his most recent, "Serious Pig" — and a popular newsletter called "Simple Cooking." He now also has an inviting Web site ([home.earthlink.net/~outlawcook/index.html](http://home.earthlink.net/~outlawcook/index.html)) that serves up handy information while putting the stuff he has for sale in front of more eyes.

Web cruisers can stop by to sample recipes for basic fare like red beans and rice, or to read his paean to the greasy hamburger. They can order autographed copies of his books, or link to other Web sites packed with additional recipes and cooking information. The site's not overloaded with information, but offers enough to find out whether you want to read more of his prose.

As a proponent of good home cooking, I like the site a lot. But as a writer, I like it even better. Writers tend to do a lot of hand-wringing about how the Internet will ruin their livelihood, since it's so easy to pilfer and transmit copyrighted works on the Web. But Thorne's site suggests that the 'net can also work to the writer's advantage: We can abandon the middleman — like magazine publishers, multinational book conglomerates and the like — by selling our words directly to the public. Thorne is selling his books online now, but with various online versions of cash soon to be commonplace on the Web, I'll bet it won't be long before enterprising writers will be selling their words directly to their readers without having to share the proceeds with the greedheads.

**Whocares?.com**

Stressed out about holiday shopping? Good news: The Maine Mall has built a Web site ([www.mainemall.com](http://www.mainemall.com)) complete with a map of where all the stores are located. I'm not kidding. You can print it out and plan your shopping expedition in advance!

I mean, really. Other than providing evidence that the Web is a waste of perfectly good electrons, there's no need for this site. The hyperbolic top page copy reads as follows: "Where else can you find over 120 great stores all in one spot to help make shopping as easy as possible? Where else can you find stores you won't find anywhere else like Macy's, The Disney Store and Learningsmith? Where else can you enjoy convenient customer services like free wheelchairs and strollers, gift wrapping and gift certificates? And where else can you find that rare combination of more stores, more selection, more services and more conveniences?"

The answer to all these questions is, of course, at any one of hundreds of cookie-cutter malls between Portland and San Diego. Stores you won't find anywhere else? Hello? Get real. If you want my business, don't treat me as if I'm numb as a hake.

**Broadcast news**

Every once and a while, it seems the global village metaphor breathlessly spouted by Internet missionaries may not be so far-fetched after all. The day after Serbian toughguys shut down B92 — Belgrade's only independent radio station — the feisty station was up and broadcasting via RealAudio on the Web ([www.xs4all.nl/~opennet/](http://www.xs4all.nl/~opennet/)). Anyone on the net equipped with a simple bit of software could download 2- or 3-minute clips about the station's plight in English or the local tongue.

The photocopier used to be the bane of dictators. Now it's the Internet.

**More AOL crimes**

This month AOL switches its pricing plan to \$19.95 for unlimited use from \$9.95 per month for five hours. Not a bad deal if you're a heavy AOL user. What's objectionable is how AOL is making the switch. If you're a subscriber and do nothing, your basic monthly bill will double. ("For your convenience, we will automatically convert your account to the new standard rate of \$19.95 per month for unlimited access," they kindly note in an online greeting.) The flat fee pricing is also the only option mentioned in a flyer that subscribers received in the mail.

Actually there are a lot of other subscription options — including retaining the \$9.95 per month plan, or signing up for a budget \$4.95-per-month-for-three-hours plan — but you really have to root around to find these. This kind of negative sales pitch is illegal in direct mail — you can't send out a mailing that says, "If you fail to respond, we will ship you this product." Why is it legal in online marketing?

■ WAYNE CURTIS

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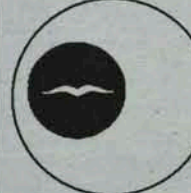
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# calendar

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to the publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoe Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

**tuesday 17** Dude! Like, if a little bit of green stuff is what's standing between you and a day on the slopes shredding the white stuff, despair no longer, my friend. You think the guy in the photo here lets a little poverty get in the way of a radical day of big air and tasty carving? No way, José. So check this out: Ski Maine and Key Bank have joined forces to bring us the annual **Learn To Ski & Snowboard Free Week**, Dec. 10-20. Eleven ski mountains throughout the state will participate in this most excellent program, where first-time skiers and boarders get rental gear, limited access lift tickets and lessons with a professional ski or snowboard instructor. Sweet Black Mountain, Camden Snow-bowl, Eaton Mountain, New Hermon Mountain and Titcomb Mountain will participate in the Learn To Ski program only. Lost Valley, Mt. Abram, Saddleback, Shawnee Peak, Sugarloaf and Sunday River will participate in both the ski and the snowboard programs. Available free to anyone 13 years or older. 761-3774.



**thursday 12** We all have our own Christmas memories, but sometimes it's fun to share somebody else's. Vintage Repertory Company presents its annual holiday show, **"A Child's Christmas in Wales,"** a medley of Christmas nostalgia featuring Dylan Thomas' reminiscences. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., at 8 p.m. Plays through Dec. 22. Tix: \$12 (\$6 kids). 775-5103. **friday 13** Drawn to the extraordinary mix of the grotesque and humorous in the works of 19th-century playwright Alfred Jarry, Moxie Lab's Louis Frederick wrote **"Ubu's Last Banquet,"** a play about lunacy and genius. Frederick's play brings Jarry together with characters from his famous play "Ubu Roi," creating a dangerous and alluring world where one false move will send Jarry falling through the cracks between life and art. At The Moxie Lab, 615 Congress St., at 8 p.m. Plays through Dec. 22. Tix: \$5; \$25-5343. **saturday 14** Even if you've seen it two zillion times, **"The Nutcracker"** is a holiday must, especially when it's a local effort.

The Portland Ballet Company will perform with guest artists from the Bolshoi, Kirov and Boston ballets. At Portland High School Auditorium, 284 Cumberland Ave., at 1 & 7 p.m. Shows through Dec. 20-22. Tix: \$16 (\$12 students/seniors - \$10 kids, Dec. 14 only). 772-9671. **sunday 15** If you've finished your holiday shopping early and need a way to spend the day, then why not enjoy the multitude of concerts the season has to offer? The Galilee Baptist Church adult choir presents a free concert, **"The King: The Long Awaited Promise,"** at 317 Main St., Gorham, at 6 p.m. 839-6985. There's also **"Christmas Favorites From St. Joseph's,"** featuring Anthony Allen on flute and Thomas Ayling on organ, at St. Joseph's Church, 673 Stevens Ave., at 3 p.m. Donations accepted. 797-7026. And last but not least, you can take in Portland Symphony Orchestra's holiday extravaganza **The Magic of Christmas**, at the Civic Center, Portland, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. 773-8191. **monday 16** There won't be any slam-style hissing or beer-guzzling at Oak Street Theatre and the Cafe Review's **open poetry reading**, just verses delivered by budding local poets. Steve Luttrell hosts. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St. Portland, at 8 pm. You can sign up to read your own work at 7:30 pm. 775-5103. **wednesday 18** British best-selling author **Bernard Cornwell** has a thing to two to share about life — after all, he's lived a rather full one. Cornwell is the former head of Current Affairs Television in Northern Ireland, has authored 26 books, including a new King Arthur trilogy, and wrote the "Sharpe" series that appeared on PBS. Collect some of his pearls of wisdom at "The Winter King and Other Tales," a brown bag lecture in the Rhines Room of the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq., Portland, from noon-1 pm. Free. 871-1758. **thursday 19** Before you judge anyone around you, it might be a wise idea to see **"Jude,"** director Michael Winterbottom's adaptation of Thomas Hardy's classic novel. "Jude" chronicles the struggles of a self-taught scholar who is rejected by society for his common birth, lack of money and "immorality." The film challenges every last one of society's institutions — marriage, university, religion, sexual mores and society itself — in a way that translates across centuries with great relevance. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. Shows Dec. 18-23 & 25-31. Tix: \$4.25. 772-9600. **friday 20** With the big autumn performance out of the way, you might think things have settled down over at Ram Island Dance. Guess again. Find out what the company is up to with **"Alive and Well,"** an in-studio show of works-in-progress. At 25A Forest Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Free. 773-2562. **saturday 21** Are you cheered by the knowledge that from now until June, the days only get longer? Then join Maine Audubon Society in a **"Winter Solstice Celebration,"** where you can learn about solstice traditions and help decorate a solstice tree with edible ornaments. At Maine Audubon Society Gilsland Farm Environmental Center, 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, at 10 a.m. Cost: \$4 (\$3 members). 781-2330.




One hard nut, Dec. 14

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# Holiday Gift Guide

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ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

## Here's to Toasting

Reprint from Isthmus by Bob Whitby

In ancient Greece, it was custom: drink three cups—one to Mercury, one to the Graces and one to Zeus. In Rome, it was law: drink to the health of Augustus at every meal. The Persians, Huns, Saxons, Goths, Danes, Egyptians, Hebrews and Scots all drank heartily to one another, hoisting mugs of wine, spiced ale or mead to their gods, comrades and countrymen. The Scandinavians added their own twist: tipping from the skull of a fallen enemy. The practice so impressed Lord Byron, he had a human skull mounted as a drinking vessel and penned these lines to it:

*Start not, nor deem my spirit fled:  
In me behold the only skull  
From which, unlike a living head  
Whatever flows is never dull.  
I lived, I loved, I quaff'd like thee:  
I died: let earth my bones resign:  
Fill up—thou canst not injure me  
The worm hath fouler lips than thine.*

Indeed, toasting is probably only a day or two younger than drinking itself. One toasting historian says a primitive form dates back thousands of years to nomadic tribes who splattered a few drops of drink on sacrificial alters to appease the hunting gods.

A toast, closely followed by 15 or 20 more, has been the hallmark of a raging parties throughout history. Consider, for example, the A.D. 450 blowout at which British King Vortigern handed over the entire province of Kent to the Saxons in return for the hand of the lovely Rowena, daughter of Saxon leader Hengist. What was it about Rowena that caught the good king's eye? What provoked him to, according to historian Geoffrey of Monmouth, make passionate love to her in the midst of the festivities?

Perhaps it was the toast she proposed in his honor, and the heavy drinking that followed: "Louerd King, waes hael!" (Lord King, be of health!) To which the good king replied, "Drink waes hael." (In this salutation we find the etymological beginning of the drink we know as wassail.)

The word "toast," as applied to a drink, has its roots in the 1600s when it was common to throw in a piece of bread or a crouton as flavoring. According to toasting historian Paul Dickson, the first application of the word occurred in 1709 in the English city of Bath. A "celebrated beauty" was bathing in public when an admirer, taken by her loveliness, filled a cup of the bath water and drank to her. Soon after another admirer, half-potted, declared his admiration for the lady but his revulsion for the bath water. He offered, instead, to just eat the toast in her honor, and the term stuck.

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It's important to note, however, that almost as long as people have been toasting one another, there have been those who believed the custom was nothing more than an excuse for debauchery. Dickson notes that Charles the Great, Maximilian, Charles V and even Louis XIV all enacted laws against toasting. Temperance societies railed against toasting, and the practice was even made illegal in colonial Massachusetts (but the law was repealed 11 years after it was enacted because it was largely ignored.)

Probably the greatest anti-toasting crusader, Dickson writes, was a man named William Prynne, who devoted an entire book to its evils. Dickson quotes Prynne as saying "that this drinking and quaffing of healths had its origin and birth from Pagans, heathens, and infidels, yea, from the very Deuill himself; that it is but a worldly, carnall, prophane, nay, heathenish and deuillish custom, which saours of nothing else but Paganisme." I propose a toast to old Bill, who probably killed many a party with his temperate outlook on life:

"May his soul be forever tormented by fire and his bones be dug up by dogs and dragged through the streets of Minneapolis." — Garrison Keillor

**A Few Selected Toasts**

Careful readers will note that not all of what follows is suitable for holiday toasting. That is because in my research, I found most holiday-themed toasts cloyingly sappy. I did manage to find a few that aren't, and threw them in with the rest of these general-occasion toasts.

For more, consult *Paul Dickson's Toasts*. Also helpful are *Toasts for All Occasions* by Lewis C. Henry, and *Here's to It!* by John M. Koken.

Fill with mingled cream and amber,  
I will drain that glass again.  
Such hilarious visions clamber  
Through the chambers of my brain  
— Quaintest thoughts, queerest fancies  
Come to life and fade away;  
What care I how time advances?  
I am drinking ale today.  
— Edgar Allan Poe

Oh to be 70 again!  
— Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.,  
at age 85.

**Boo! It's Christmas**

by Dennis Hinkamp  
*Event magazine* (Salt Lake City)

Other than the campaign commercials, the scariest things I have seen this year were Christmas decorations lurking behind the Halloween trinkets on the shelves of local merchants. No sooner had the last "trick or treat" been uttered than the retailers started hoisting the Jolly Roger (or was that Jolly Old Saint Nick?) signaling consumer warfare.

Normally this would cause me to go off on a cynical rant, but ever since I was abducted by aliens and forced to undergo hideous brain transference experiments

May the enemies of America be destitute of beef and claret.  
— Anonymous

Let No Man Thirst for Lack of Real Ale.  
— Commonwealth Brewing Co.,  
Boston, Mass.

Eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart.  
— Ecclesiastes 9:10

Wine maketh glad the heart of man.  
— Psalms 104:15

Here's champagne to your real friends and real pain to your sham friends.  
— Anonymous

A Merry Christmas this December, to a lot of folks I don't remember.  
— Franklin P. Adams

Here's to us all! God bless us every one!  
— Tiny Tim

Holly and ivy hanging up, and something wet in every cup.  
— Irish

'Twas the month after Christmas,  
and Santa had flit;  
Came there tidings for father  
Which read: "Please remitt!"  
— Anonymous

May the devil make a ladder of your backbone while he is picking apples in the garden of hell.  
— Irish

Pieces should fall off you.  
— Yiddish

With small beer, good ale and wine,  
O ye gods! how I shall dine!  
— Anonymous

Here's to cold nights, warm friends, and a good drink to give them.  
— Anonymous

May you have warmth in your igloo, oil in your lamp, and peace in your heart.  
— Inuit

Here's to our guest— Don't let him rest. But keep his elbow bending. 'Tis time to drink— Full time to think Tomorrow— when you're mending.  
— Anonymous

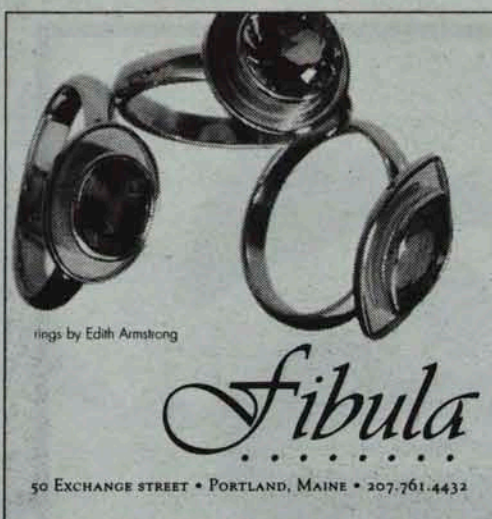
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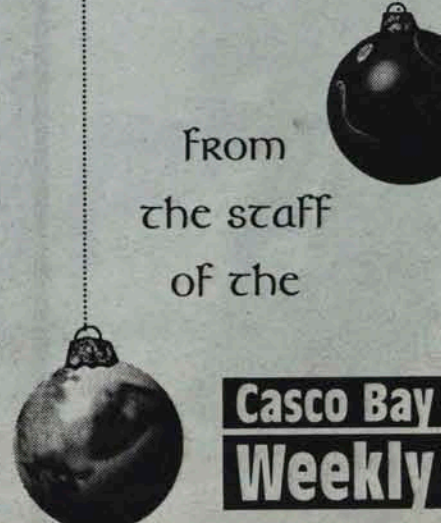
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 32



Seasons Greetings



From the staff of the

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30 showing up to weddings, fund raisers and presidential inaugurations naked. This comes complete with a bow tie, top hat and of course comes with its own "tails." Comes in small, medium and large.

2) **Safe-T-Man; \$99.95;** The Safety Zone Catalog 1-800-999-3030: Want a man around the house without the hassle of feeding, snoring and remote control fixations? It's just the thing to fool the environmentalists that harass you for driving to work alone or for scaring away door-to-door solicitors. Safe-T-Man, comes in light skin/blonde hair, light skin/gray hair and dark skin/dark hair models. Legs sold separately for \$19.95.

3) **The Condom Cannon; \$4.99;** The Sportman's Guide catalog 1-800-888-3006: If you ever felt silly buying condoms before, this will give you a great little ice breaker with the cashier. "No really, they're not for me, they're for my Condom Cannon." Just in case it ever becomes necessary, the maker claims it "can break a chicken egg from 15 feet away." Extra condoms and ammunition are sold separately.

4) **Gelatin Brain Mold; \$10.98;** Johnson Smith Company (813) 747-2356: Yes, you can be the envy of all your pot luck party pals with this life-size heavy duty dishwasher safe plastic mold. "We're handing out brains. Don't miss out this time too." (I wish I had written that).

5) **X-ray Glasses; \$2.39;** Johnson Smith Company: Come on, you know you've always wanted a pair. Just think of the doctor's bills you'll save.

6) **Electric Remote Control Whoopee Cushion; \$19.98;** Johnson Smith Company: Anybody who says technology is ruining our lives have not seen one of these. Works up to 100 feet away and never needs inflating. Of course if you prefer the "classic" version, it is available from the same supplier for \$1.98.

7) **Victoria's Secret Gift Wrap Kit; \$1.50;** Victoria's Secret 1-800-888-8200: This is the cheapest thing you can buy that will insure that you stay on their mailing list. The catalogs themselves make great stocking stuffers.

8) **Toiletry Organizer; \$9;** Undergear (for men) 1-800-853-8555: This is the cheapest thing you can buy that will insure that you stay on their mailing list. Slightly Off Center is an equal opportunity gender neutral column.

9) **The Potato Gun; \$2.95;** Archie McPhee & Co. (206) 782-2344: Shoots little bits of raw potato. Combine non-violence, vegetarianism and gunplay in one versatile toy!

10) **Parabolic Ear; \$599.95;** US Cavalry 1-800-333-5102: This 18" alloy dish was originally designed for the Los Angeles Police Department but you can use it listen to make sure your neighbors aren't plotting to overthrow the government, to find out what your kids are saying behind your back and to get front row sound while sitting in the cheap seats at concerts.

And remember, the 4th of July is just around the corner. Order your fireworks today!

## Insensitive Male's Guide to the Holidays

by Pete Kotz  
Reprint from Columbus Guardian

You're a man. On the scale of evolution, you're slightly more advanced than roofing tar, but lag far behind most branches of the marsupial family. You try to be sensitive. Yet attaching the word "sensitive" to "man" is like linking "polite" to "Howard Stern."

But it's Christmas. The season of caring, empathy and, yes, even giving. If you don't forego your genetic disposition to think only of yourself, you'll be exposed as the self-centered slime you are.

Sure, it sounds awful. But it doesn't have to be. After all, Christmas is supposed to be a celebration of Jesus' birth. Yet, if Jesus were born today, the manger would be condemned by OSHA and gobbled up by a building inspector who moonlights as a slumlord and rents the place out to poor immigrant families at \$1,200 a month. Hence, Jesus would be born in a sidewalk and taken away from Mary, who would be deemed an unfit mother by Child Welfare. He would likely be adopted by an insurance salesman and his wife, sent to private school, and eventually would emerge not as the prince of peace but as a prophet of supply-side economics. Can you imagine two middle-aged professionals hovering over the nativity scene with matching jogging suits and a camcorder?

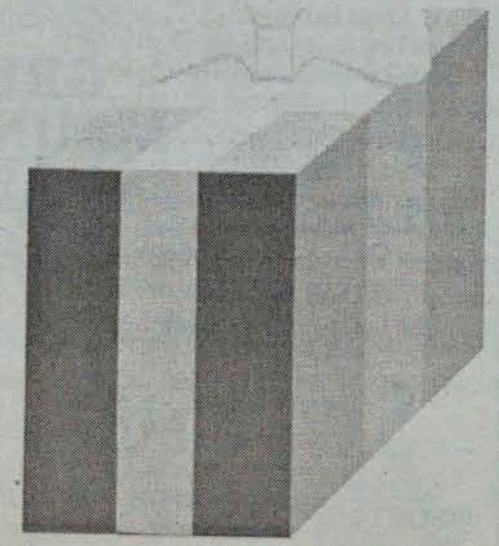
That's why, in 1982, the Reagan administration officially changed the meaning of Christmas to the celebration of guilt and over-extended credit. Lucky for you. After all, the new rules of Christmas require not that you actually engage in heartfelt giving but merely that you present the facade thereof.

Yet gift-giving still mandates brief reflection on the needs and wishes of others — no simple task for men. And chances are you've postponed this painful exercise to the last minute. That's why we have assembled five easy-to-handle tips for scamming your way through Christmas. It's designed so you, the simple man (is that redundant?), can fake your way to domestic harmony this holiday season:

1. **Avoid Household Appliances.** These hold a natural attraction for men. They're large. They're shiny. They have engines. But women don't see appliances as an expression of love — except in households of German descent. They'll believe you view them as unpaid domestic help. Your true feelings will be exposed.

2. **Avoid Power Tools.** Chances are, your sweetheart never whispered in a moment of tenderness, "Honey, if you really loved me, you'd get me that 9/16-inch, chromium-plated drill bit I've always wanted." That's because, for some strange reason, women never discovered the joy of hammering, sawing, puncturing and blow-torching stuff. Fact is, giving your significant other a radial arm saw or a rotary sander could very well get you emasculated or, worse yet, get your access to the remote control restricted.

3. **Resist the Old Bait 'n' Switch.** Perhaps the greatest error men make at Christmas is being seduced by the Bait 'n' Switch Strategy. This entails buying a sweatshirt with a football insignia on it or a pair of pants in your exact size, then offering them as a gift to your honey, knowing full well they won't fit and that you'll score them by default. Problem is, we're men. We're intellectually superior to most patio furniture, but little else. Your sweetheart will swiftly uncloak your scheme. And when you protest by saying, "But honey, I always thought you looked great in size 38 men's



trousers," be certain she's near nothing that can be employed in an act of bludgeoning.

4. **Think Volume.** As a man, your insight to the wishes of loved ones is scant or nonexistent. Hence, the appreciation ratio on your gifts likely falls under 10 percent. The key is over-buying. Instead of purchasing your significant other one coat, buy eight in different colors. Even if she doesn't like any, she'll at least embrace the false assumption that you tried; you just happen to be pathetic. The great thing about women is they harbor inherent sympathy for the pathetic. She'll expect less in the future, which is much better than her appreciation any day.

5. **Buy Lots of Worthless Crap.** Since men lack the proper gene structure to exhibit imagination, we often rely on useful gifts — such as winter boots, clothesline poles, or a newly installed rear-window defroster. But don't expect your sweetheart to turn to you with moist eyes on Christmas morning and say, "Geepers, dear, new rain gutters! Just what I've always wanted! I love you so much!"

Most people want worthless stuff for Christmas. You know, like jewelry and fancy clothes, opera tickets and assorted cheeses from Belgium. The goal is to give them junk they'd never buy themselves. That's because, in America, the best way to show your love is to waste your money on someone else's behalf. And that's something even a man can understand.

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## Visions of Sugar Cookies: Old and New

This weekend, millions of American women (and a few men), who swore last year they'd never do this again, will head to the supermarket to buy 10-pound sacks of sugar and little boxes of colored sprinkles. They'll get out dog-eared old recipes and dust off cookie sheets.

They'll make lists that begin "gingerbread, pfeffernusse, lebkuchen," and go on for five more pages. They'll stay up till midnight toasting hazelnuts and cracking pecans.

By mid-December, driven by equal parts love, nostalgia and sheer determination, they'll have filled every tin in the house with holiday cookies. I know, because I'm one of them. Tonight and tomorrow night and the next, you'll find me in the kitchen.

When I was growing up, the weeks before Christmas were baking time. I did my homework with the smell of cloves and nutmeg wafting up the stairs. I helped my mother grind almonds for marzipan and black walnuts for Viennese crescents. I stuck raisin eyes on gingerbread girls and dribbled pink and green frosting on sugar cookies. And now that I'm grown up, I can't let the winter solstice go by without baking. I still make all our old favorites—but every year, I succumb to curiosity and with the help of holiday cookbooks try something new as well: Italian pine nut biscotti one year, Jewish mandelbrot the next. Luckily, for those of us who like new traditions—choosing is the only difficulty.

**Mandelbrot** (Makes 3 dozen 3-inch by 1 1/2-inch cookies)  
2 c. unbleached all-purpose flour  
1/4 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. salt  
2/3 c. sugar  
Zest from 1 large orange, removed in lengthwise strips with a vegetable peeler (2 scant tbs., finely chopped)  
2 large eggs  
1/2 c. flavorless vegetable oil  
1 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract  
1/2 tsp. pure almond extract  
1 2/3 c. unblanched sliced almonds  
1/3 c. unblanched whole almonds  
**Topping:**  
2 tbs. sugar  
1/8 tsp. cinnamon  
1 large egg white

Place 2 oven racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a medium bowl, sift together all but

1/4 c. of the flour with the baking powder, baking soda and salt, and whisk to mix it well.

In a food processor with the metal blade, process the sugar and orange zest until the zest is finely minced. Add the eggs and process for about 30 seconds or until thoroughly blended. Scrape the sides of the bowl. With the motor running, add the oil and extracts and process until blended. Add the sliced almonds and process until finely chopped. Add the flour mixture and process for about 7 seconds or until the flour is almost incorporated. (There will be some flour clinging to the sides of the work bowl. Do not over-process, as the dough will be too stiff to incorporate the flour completely in the processor.)



Scrape the dough (including any flour from the work bowl) onto a lightly floured counter and knead the dough, adding the remaining 1/4 c. of flour to form a soft, nonsticky dough. Shape the dough into two 2-inch-wide cylinders. Each will be about 7 1/2 inches long. Line up the whole almonds lengthwise in rows along the dough and press them well into the dough.

With the palms of your hands, roll the cylinders on the counter, enclosing the almonds and maintaining the 2-inch diameters of the cylinders. Place the cylinders 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet.

In a small bowl, stir together the sugar and cinnamon for the topping. Beat the egg white. Brush the cylinders lightly with the beaten egg white and sprinkle them with the cinnamon topping. Bake on the upper rack of the oven for 30 minutes or until lightly browned and very firm. Cool the cylinders on the cookie sheet for 15 minutes or until just warm. Slip them off the sheet and onto a counter. With a serrated knife, cut diagonal 1/2-inch slices. Place the slices closely together on lightly buttered cookie sheets. Toast the slices for about 8 minutes. Using a small metal spatula, turn them and bake for another 8 minutes or until golden brown. For even baking, rotate the cookie sheets from top to bottom and front to back halfway through the baking period. Use a small, angled metal spatula or pancake turner to transfer the cookies to wire racks to cool completely.

Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

From *Rose's Christmas Cookies*, by Rose Levy Beranbaum (William Morrow and Co., 1990).

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**The Story Behind Santa**

by Dwight Taylor

It's a wonderful myth: A fairyland inhabited by a flamboyantly dressed, compulsively merry father figure in a red suit, his few, vaguely referenced assistants and some implausible English and German reindeer with motivational names (in German, "Donner" is thunder, "Blitzen" is flash), all of whom combine to drop treasures down the chimneys of preschoolers who haven't been unduly rebellious during the 12 months past. Nothing in childhood equals the Santa Claus myth, and nothing ever will.

But when it ends, we offer nothing to replace it. Its end is life's first let-down. Too bad, because it's an unnecessary waste of the beautiful story behind the myth.

The *Columbia Encyclopedia* says unequivocally: "The career and qualities attributed to Santa Claus are all recently acquired." Oh? Come with me to the southwestern shores of what is now Turkey, circa 300 A.D., to the country of Lycia, a land of 10,000-foot mountains with freezing winters, scanty summer rainfall and, in the central region, no running water—only wells that frequently dried up when summer came. As one archaeologist put it: "It had a hardy folk." Settlement is traced back to the third millennium B.C., and Lycians were among the bravest of the Trojan allies in Homer's *Iliad*.

From Patara, the most important harbor of Lycia and once a religious center with an oracle that rivaled the one at Delphi, came a true descendant of this ancient stock, a boy named Nicholas. Educated at nearby Xanthus, the greatest city of Lycia, he traveled to Egypt and Palestine, became a Christian, was imprisoned during the Roman emperor Diocletian's persecution of the new sect, then released under Constantine. Though obviously young, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., where he supposedly slapped a heretic "so that his bones rattled."

One senses why Nicholas became bishop of ancient Myra, some 40 miles from Patara, at an early age—an event honored in medieval Europe by a widespread custom of electing locally each year, on Dec. 6th, the Saint's feast day, a boy bishop who "served" through Christmas.

Nicholas was revered when alive for his good works, was canonized, had a host of beneficent miracles attributed to him by later clerical biographers and became the patron saint of children, virgins, sailors, travelers, those in peril on the high seas, scholars, merchants, pawnbrokers, and numerous medieval guilds, and of Sicily, Greece, and Russia. His name probably derives from the Greek word for "people's victor." In his lifetime, he was renowned for rescuing shipwrecked sailors, travelers, prisoners, the distressed in general, and, more than once, his city of Myra. Supposedly he once commandeered corn from an imperial cargo fleet that put in nearby, averting famine for the Myrans. As embellished by the mythmakers, the holds

were nonetheless full upon arrival of the fleet in Byzantium.

Nicholas's patronage of virgins and children, however, derives not from miracles but from the simplest and kindest of stories. According to legend, he secretly threw three purses of gold by night into the house of an honorable citizen of Myra who had lost his fortune, thus providing dowries for the man's three daughters, enabling them to marry. The story appears to be the origin of the pawnbroker's symbol of three gold balls. This evolved into a reputation for tossing bags of coins down chimneys of poor village girls in general, with the same objective.

Those small mesh bags of chocolate "coins" in gold foil that appear in candy stores during the holidays, and our myth of secret gifts from Santa Claus via the chimney, are probably derived from this. The transformation of Saint Nicholas into Father Christmas, which took place first in Germany, grew naturally from the association of Christmas with children, family, and the giving of gifts. Indeed, the day of gift-giving was originally Dec. 6th, and still is in certain areas of northern Europe. So much for the encyclopedia.

In the small coastal town of Demre, which encompasses ancient Myra, a large yellow sign with the legend "Baba Noel" (Turkish for Father Christmas) directs the traveler to the 5th-century Byzantine church dedicated to St. Nicholas. Probably the oldest church in Turkey, it has four aisles and a rounded, three-window apse in which rests a small stone altar. Cloisters line one side, and the remains of St. Nicholas may originally have rested in, or under, a long niche on the other. The church is rather beautiful in structure. A sizable garden with a modern statue of Father Christmas carrying his bag of gift shelters the basilica.

By the 6th century the church had become a well-known pilgrimage shrine. In 808 the invading Saracens set out to destroy the tomb, failing when the saint supposedly misdirected them to another sarcophagus. In 1087 he was less vigilant, and Italian sailors and merchants stole the body and brought it to Bari, on the southeast coast of Italy, to serve as their protector. Bari then became the pilgrimage point, and even today one finds at its charming church of St. Nicholas no ready reference to the great saint's true origins. Special services are still held beside the tomb in Myra on Dec. 6th.

Santa Claus doesn't have to be a bubble that pops when a child turns five. All of the long, traditional history indicates that he was a real man—and a strong, courageous, purposeful, intelligent one, who lived for others. Any child who is ready to shed the myth is ready to receive that message. Why not give it?

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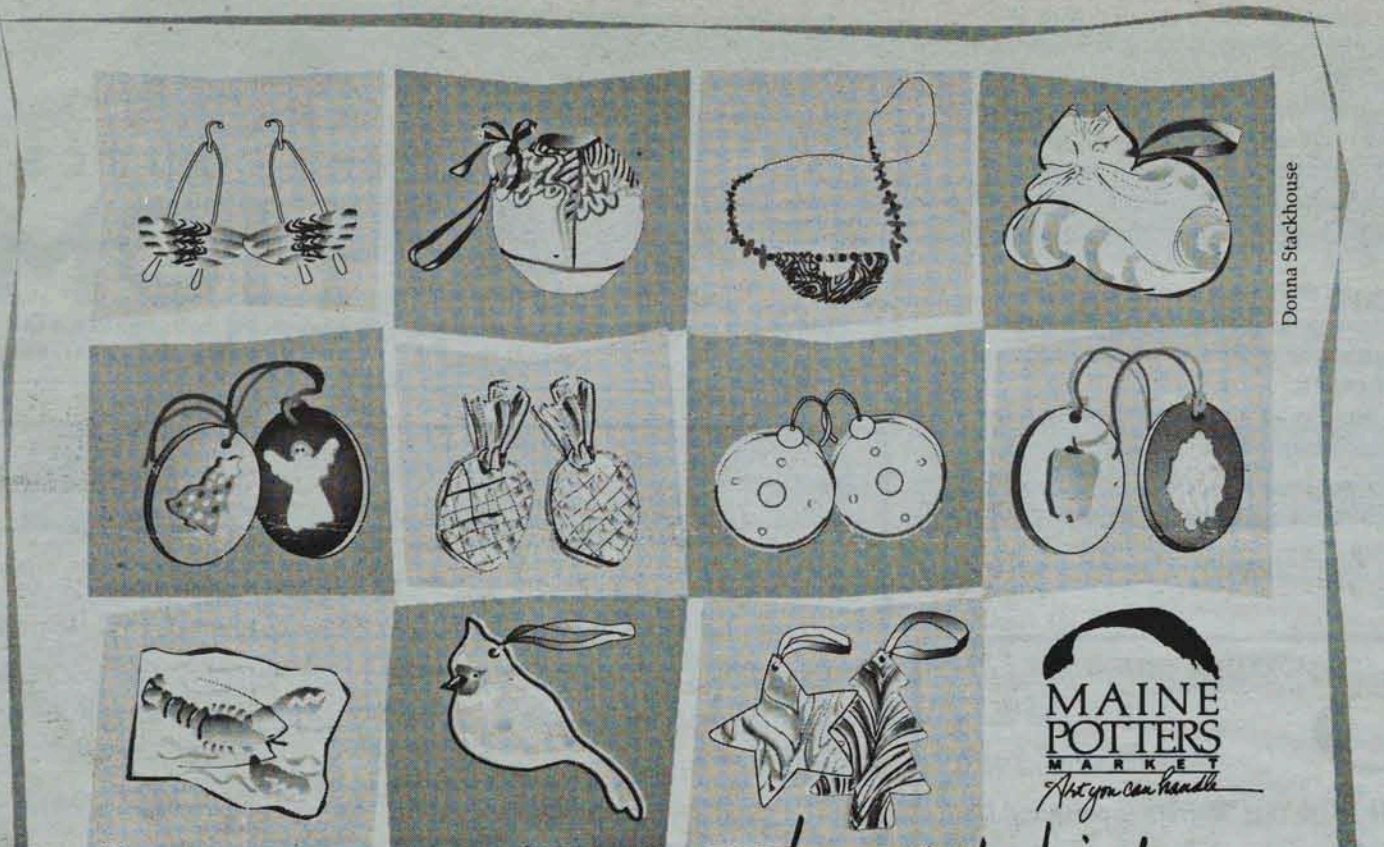
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**Jobs With Justice** A national labor, community and religious coalition dedicated to fighting for the rights of working people, seeks individuals to form a Maine chapter of JWW. 761-9221. E-mail at jfcher@wow.com or bdaddio@biddeford.com.

**Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights** needs volunteers to do data entry on Macintosh computer several hours weekly. Speakout trains and deploys volunteers to speak to mainstream citizen groups about discrimination in Maine. Cost of training: \$10. No one turned away for lack of funds. At 123 Congress St #1, Portland. 879-0480.

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**Santa's Sack of Dreams** Gifts collected to help children affected by AIDS. Wrapped and unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at Keane's Ye Olde Pancake Shoppe, 617 Congress St, by Dec 18. 773-2785.

**Seniors In Your Town Need Help!** Volunteers desperately needed to help seniors who live at home. Just a few hours can make a difference. Deliver groceries, help with yardwork or just provide companionship. To volunteer, contact Heather Brown at Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging, 775-6503.

**Toys For Tots Seaside Nursing and Retirement Home** together with Seaside Home Care Services will collect unwrapped toys for tots beginning Dec 1. Donations may be dropped off in the lobby at 850 Baxter Blvd, Portland. If you have questions contact Jacquie Black at 774-1818.

**Toys For Tots and Teens** Toys may be left at Sherwin Williams Stores and at Kaybee Toys in the Maine Mall through Dec 13. Those interested in making a cash donation should make checks payable to "MREMA/Toys For Tots" and send to: Dirigo Housing Associates, P.O. Box 2388, Augusta ME 04300. 1-800-545-8504.

**UNICEF Contributions** United Nations Children's Fund is launching a worldwide drive to raise \$14.5 million for humanitarian assistance for the Great Lakes region of Africa which includes Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. UNICEF estimates that 750,000 people will require aid during the next few weeks. Contributions may be sent to: UNICEF-New England, 1330 Beacon St, Suite 335, Brookline, MA 02146, or by telephone 617-277-3334.

**Volunteer in Africa or Mexico** Visions in Action, a nonprofit development organization, places volunteers in human rights, health, education, journalism, business and environment. 202-625-7403.

week of free lessons. Skiers/boarders receive rental equipment, including skis, boots and poles or snowboard, a limited access lift ticket which allows access to the beginner slopes and a lesson with a professional ski/snowboard instructor. Available free to anyone 13 years or old. 761-3774.

**Learn to Ski and Snowboard** Portland Parks and Recreation offers ski and snowboard lessons for youth and teens, recreational skiing for youths and a race/bumps program for advanced skiers. Programs include bus transportation. Cost: \$15-\$182. For more info or to register, contact Ted Musgrave at 874-8793.

**Maine Accessible Adventures** is an adventure group for people with and without disabilities. Activities include kayaking, canoeing, archery, rock climbing, downhill skiing and horseback riding. Most events require advance registration. Membership: \$15/year (\$35/year family). 871-2993.

**Maine Audubon Society Gilsiland Farm Environmental Center** 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, Dec 14: "Holiday 'Drop & Shop' Nature Camp" kids craft ornaments, learn about winter wildlife and go sledding, from 9:30 am-3 pm. Dec 15: "Nature Walk" at 1 pm. Dec 21: "Winter Solstice Celebration" at 10 am. "Buzzing Bees" stories and activities for preschool-aged kids, followed by a snack, Weds 10:11:30 am. Cost: \$5 (\$4 members) \$3 each additional child (\$2 members). Volunteer rally 2nd Thurs of each month from noon-1 pm. Reservations required. 781-2330.

**New Year's Portland Volunteers** Maine Arts seeks qualified people to volunteer at the New Year's Portland celebration. A minimum of 4 hours of time earns free admission to any and all shows. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, unless accompanied by adult. Events begin at 8 am. 772-9012.

**Maine Front-runners** is a gay and lesbian running club that sponsors a weekly run in Portland, Sat at 9 am, at the beginning of the Back Cove Walkway. For more info, call 761-2059.

**Maine Outdoor Adventure Club** meetings are the first Wed of every month at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 524 Allen Ave, Portland. MOAC offers hiking, canoeing, backpacking, mountain biking, white-water rafting, camping and other trips for people of all skill levels. Upcoming: Dec 15, walk Scarborough Beach to Prouts Neck; Dec 22, Cross-country ski at Bretton Woods; Dec 29, Cross-country ski in Jackson. For updated trip info, call hotline at 828-0918.

## family events

**Children's Museum of Maine** 142 Free St, Portland, offers exhibits, clubs and activities for kids of all ages. Dec 14: "Victorian Gingerbread House Workshop," from 9 am-noon; "Crazy Chemistry Club," at 1 pm. Dec 18: "Lights, Action... Safety!" from 11:15-30 am. Weekly Fun: "Light and Camera Obscura," Wed and Fri at 11 am and 11:30 am. Sat at 2 pm and 2:30 pm. "Oh! Zones," fun-filled "make & take" projects, Wed-Sat 11 am-noon and 2-3 pm. Sun 2-3 pm. Pre-registration and additional fees required for some programs. 828-1234.

**Creative Resource Center** 1103 Forest Ave, Portland, hosts free art fun for kids. Dec 12 and 19: "Gingerbread Paper Decorations" from 3-4 pm. 797-9543.

**Kids First USM's** Muskie Institute offers a 4-hour workshop for divorcing parents to focus on kids' needs before, during and after divorce. Next session: Dec 7. Cost: \$45. Call for location and time. 780-5833.

**Warren Memorial Library** 479 Main St, Westbrook, hosts programs for kids. Dec 14: "Gifts For Mom and Dad" a free gift-making workshop for kids ages 6 and up, from 10:30 am-noon. Regular programs: "Books and Babies," Tues at 9:30 am, "Read Aloud Time," Weds at 10:15 am and "Tales for Tots" Tues at 10:30 am. For kids all ages. Closed Dec 25 & 26 and Jan 1. 854-5891.

## health events

**Breast Health Resource Center** at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St, Portland, offers a broad range of educational, consultative and support services for women concerned about breast health. Women may be referred to the center by their physician or may call the center directly. A class on breast self-exam will be held the 1st Tues and 3rd Thurs of each month. Next class: Dec 19 from 5:30-7:30 pm. 879-3790.

**Lamaze Classes** The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St, Portland, offers Lamaze childbirth education classes. Other locations available. Call to preregister. New classes begin Dec 18. Dec 26 and Jan 7. 879-3486.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

## Mapping the heart

### Mad Horse surveys AIDS, death and friendship in "Lonely Planet"

■ MARY STAMATEL

While stages across Portland are strewn with grouchy Scrooges and goose-stepping Nutcrackers, Mad Horse Theatre has dished up "Lonely Planet," a quirky piece of theater about AIDS, death and friendship. The play is decidedly not holiday fare, even if the program notes attempt the stretch; rather, it's a smart, funny, delicate story that elicits solid, measured performances from its two actors, the stuff that ought to get it onto Santa's twice-checked list.



Dennis Scott (l.) and J.D. Merritt in "Lonely Planet"

Written by Stephen Dietz and directed by Andrew Sokoloff, "Lonely Planet" is the story of a map store proprietor named Jody (J.D. Merritt) and his mysteriously employed pal, Carl (Dennis Scott), and how they endure the ravages of the AIDS epidemic as scores of their friends sicken and succumb. It's also a play about the illusions that comfort us during our time on earth, illusions that include plays and actors.

Chairs sprout up overnight at Jody's Maps, the setting for the play, and we soon learn that each chair signifies another AIDS death. Even though the play is transparent and predictable, it works as a visual gimmick and prompts considerable reflection. The play begins with a spotlight on a lone chair, and by story's end the stage is heaped with all manner of chairs, the empty seats having replaced the patrons of the forlorn map shop.

Carl is the bringer of chairs, and he is more of a spirit guide (a la Virgil leading Dante across the Styx) rather than a real character — he's an ironic, allusive illusion that trafficks constantly in the layers of his own roles as protean character, actor and, ultimately, playwright. Scott delivers a Carl that persuades and, in a couple of longer speeches, utterly transports us from our physical being into his vision. He laughs secretly at the audience, whose seats are simply an extension of those onstage, as he explains that lying differs from making things up because liars don't want their illusions to exist, while makers-up of things do.

Jody, on the other hand, is a private, earthbound kind of guy who tolerates his pal while padding around the shop — which he begins to treat more and more like a bunker to protect

him from the terrors of the outside world — explaining to the house the advantages of the Mercator projection to mariners and pointing out which maps show the correct size ratio of landmasses. The metaphor is more subtle than the chairs, with Carl's prodding, finally faces the terra incognita on the other side of his door.

Jody marks Merritt's fullest and most modulated performance to date. Here, he plays a cerebral, dispassionate type nearly void of the *verklemt* hand-wringing that marked his recent performances in Mad Horse's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" and in Oak Street's "Safe Sex." Jody needs to break apart in the course of the action, which Merritt makes him do in a manner at once humorous and moving.

The play's first half is much stronger than the second half, in part because the house and actors are also fresher. Two characters in a play of well over two hours need a smokin' script and surgically precise direction to carry the audience home, and while Scott and Merritt finish well (to a standing ovation), there's a little bushwhacking and meandering after intermission before we're reeled back in.

"Lonely Planet," as an AIDS-drama-in-a-map-shop, is full of resonant and multilayered metaphors and may come across as just too modern for a roomful of tube-reared boomers to dance to. These are strange, disorienting times, though, and sometimes there's nothing better than the challenge of good, live theater to let you know exactly where you are. **CBW**



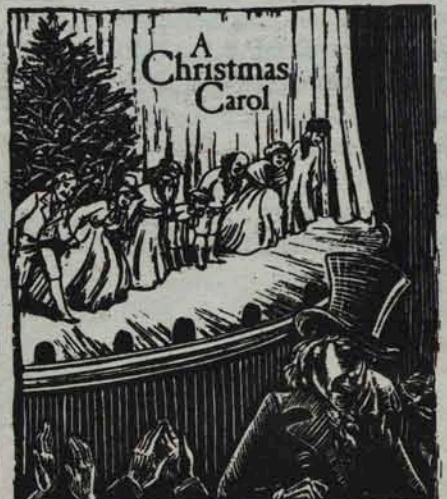
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\*Rehearsals are held from 7-10 pm at Harrison Middle School, McCauley St., Yarmouth. Attendance at 3 rehearsals is required before you may audition. Royal River is a chapter of Swiss Adelines International, promoting 4-part harmony, barbershop style, for women.

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**MARGARITAS.** Specializing in delicious "hand-made" southern California style Mexican appetizers and dinners, served in generous portions! Join us for Happy Hour every weekday from 4-7 p.m., with FREE appetizers, \$1.95 for a 22 oz. draft beer and other good stuff! 242 St. John St., Union Station Plaza, Portland, Open at 4pm daily, 874-6444.

**MESA VERDE.** We are what we eat so we serve only the finest, freshest natural foods. Flavorful, healthful Mexican dishes. Vegetarian specials. Drink to your health at our juice bar. Happy Hour Mon-Fri 3:00-6:00. Fresh juices, fruit shakes, smoothies, juice combinations come see what Portland's first and only juice bar is all about. Also serving fresh fruit margaritas, rum smoothies and other frozen delights. Casual atmosphere. Serving lunch & dinner. Take out available. 618 Congress Street (across from the State Theater) 774-6089.

**TORTILLA FLAT.** Seventeen years of serving fine Mexican cuisine. Just minutes from downtown Portland. A memorable Mexican experience you can afford anytime. Outdoor screened in deck. Parking. VISA, M/C, Discover. 187 Forest Ave. Portland, 797-8729.

**SOUTHWESTERN**

**ZUNI.** Southwestern to Caribbean cuisine. Great food, outstanding value, ever changing menu. Fresh squeezed fruit drinks. Smoke-free environment. Open for Dinner 7 nights. MC, VISA and AMEX. 21 Pleasant Street, Portland, 774-5250.

**PUB FARE**

**BRIAN BORU.** Offers traditional Irish fare as well as not so traditional pub alternatives. Hearty stews, homemade breads, awesome pub sandwiches and pasta dishes. Credit cards & handicapped accessible. Irish Brunch and \$1.50 Bass, Hap & Guinness all day Sunday, VISA, MC, AMEX, 57 Center St., Portland.

**ICE CREAM/DESSERTS**

**Q'S ICE CREAM.** Come get your kicks in at Portland's own homemade super premium ice cream shop. All ice cream is made on the premises - with over 100 varieties of ice cream to choose from (available on a rotating basis) there is always a new taste sensation to try. Baked goods, other inspired desserts, Green Mountain Coffee, cappuccino and espresso are also available. Come relax in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Open at 7:30am Mon-Fri for breakfast. Open til 10:00pm Sun-Thurs, til midnight Fri & Sat, 505 Fore St., Portland 773-7017.

**IGUANA BAY**  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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**NOW OPEN!**  
Featuring the finest Mexican food "north of the Borden"

Open 7 Days 11am-11pm  
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Famous OLD-FASHIONED ICE CREAM, YOGURT & DELI

**Back By Popular Demand...**

- Thanksgiving Sandwich (fresh roasted turkey)
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**Taking orders for HOLIDAY ICE CREAM PIES!**  
366 Fore Street, Portland, Old Port, 828-1335

A truly wonderful German holiday coffee cake. A rich, buttery, yeasted pastry studded with sliced orange and lemon candied peel, rum-soaked raisins, grated lemon rind and almonds, then heavily dusted with powdered sugar. A very special pastry for an evening party or a holiday breakfast. \$10.75.

**CLASSIC STOLLEN**

**Cakes Make the Occasion**

- Bouche De Noel - the classic yule log roll cake with cappuccino filling to form a fallen log complete with meringue mushrooms, holly and a dusting of "snow". \$23.95
- Raspberry Mousse Cake Beautiful. \$21.95
- Linzertorte - rich almond dough with raspberry preserves. \$11.95/\$16.95
- Ladyfinger Cheesecake with glazed kiwi and strawberries. \$23.95
- Wreath Cake with Holiday Greeting. \$9.95

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263 St. John St., 773-5466 • 205 Commercial St., 773-2217  
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**Merry Christmas**

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42 CASCO BAY WEEKLY

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G'Vanni's Bistro Bar, 37 1/2 Wharf St., Portland 775-9061



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FREE Christmas Appetizer  
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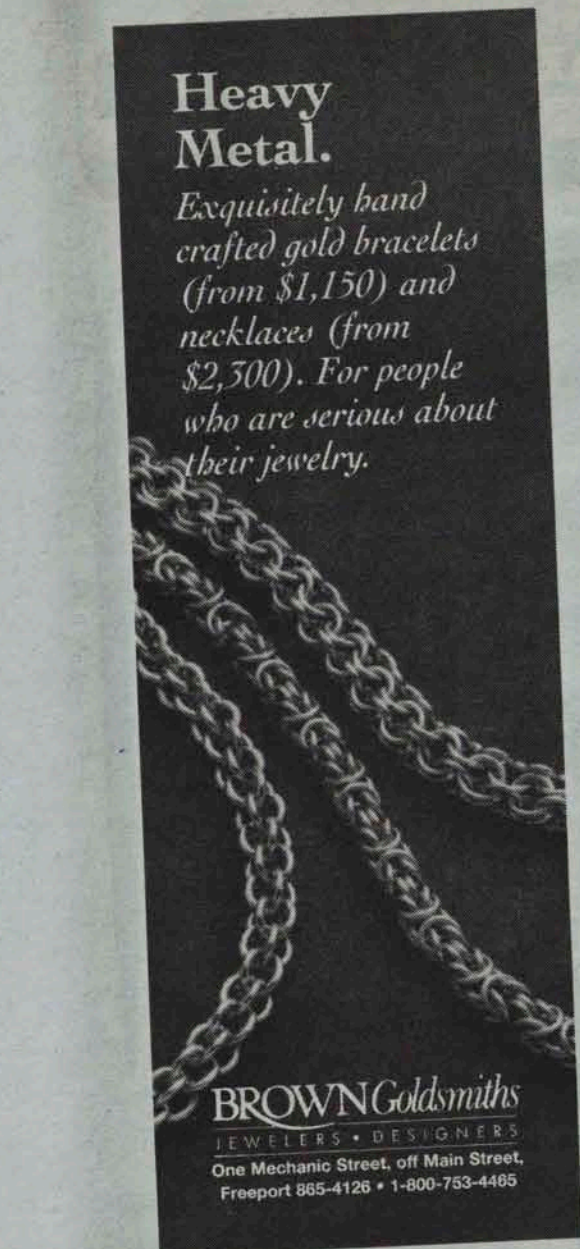


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- No Doubt for Nancy
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- Dave Matthews for Matilda
- STAR WARS TRILOGY for Stevie
- Free popcorn for Frances...

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Exquisitely hand  
crafted gold bracelets  
(from \$1,150) and  
necklaces (from  
\$2,500). For people  
who are serious about  
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JEWELERS • DESIGNERS  
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**DELICIOUS,  
HOT LUNCH  
SPECIALS!!**

THICK & HEARTY CHILI & 1/2 SANDWICH OR  
HOT SOUP & 1/2 SANDWICH ONLY \$3.75

CHOICE OF PASTA & MARINARA SAUCE  
w/ GARLIC BREAD & SALAD ONLY \$4.95

PULLED PORK SANDWICH \$3.45

HOT, SPECIAL SANDWICHES

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Mixing good people, good food and  
good drinks for 18 years.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

**etc  
events**

**Archangel Exchange for High School Students** The Archangel Committee announces its final high school exchange project sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. The program takes high schoolers to Greater Portland's sister city, Archangel, Russia, for a month of living, learning and traveling. March 21 through April 25, 1997. Cost: \$300. Interested students and their families should contact Jennifer Keller at 772-5665 or Don Hutchins at 772-0129.

**Bean Supper** Dec 14. At Highland Lake Grange, Route 302, Westbrook. Seatings at 5 pm and 6 pm. Cost: \$4.50 (\$2 kids). 854-2379.

**Christmas at the Victoria Mansion** Through Dec 18. A special holiday exhibition by Portland High School students explores decorative arts of the Victorian era. Dec 5: Mansion wine and cheese party from 6-8 pm. Cost: \$15. Dec 14 & 15: Victorian Doll Parties. Celebrate with tea, your favorite doll, a craft and a tour of the mansion. At the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Seatings at 1 pm & 3 pm. Cost: \$15. Tours daily at the Victoria Mansion, 109 Danforth St., Portland. Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sun 11 am-5 Fri Sat 11 am-8 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$2 kids). 772-4841.

**Designing Women Sale and Show** At Trinity Episcopal Church, 113 Coyle St., Portland, from 10 am-5 pm. Suggested donation: \$2. Benefits the Kennebec Girls Scouts.

**Friends of the Maine Youth Center** A group dedicated to making a difference in the lives of Maine's most troubled teens, meets the 2nd Thurs of each month at the Maine Youth Center, 675 Westbrook St., So. Portland, at 7 pm. 822-0050.

**Fundraising Raffle** Maine Therapeutic Riding holds a raffle to raise funds for scholarships. Prizes include a computer, a VCR, a weed eater/lawntrimmer and gift certificates for dinner, bicycle helmets and sports gear. Tickets can be purchased at New Boston Farm, Gray. Tix: \$2 (3 for \$5). 657-3274.

**Holiday Craft Show** Dec 14 & 15. United Maine Craftsmen's 19th annual craft show. At Sullivan Gym, USM Campus, Portland and Westbrook. College Gym, Stevens Ave., Portland. With free shuttle bus service. Dec 14 from 10 am-5 pm, Dec 15 from 10 am-4 pm. 621-2818.

**Make a Holiday Wish Come True** by opening your home to a foreign exchange student with the Academic Year in America (AYA) Program. AYA is sponsored by the American Institute For Foreign Study Foundation. For more info, call Christine Fife at 1-800-322-4678 X5409.

**Make-a-Wish Foundation Dream Playhouse '96** On display at the Maine Mall, So. Portland through Dec 22. Visiting children buy chances to win the dream playhouse. Tix: \$2 (3 for \$5). 236-3171.

**Pitching Clinics** The USM softball program holds weekly clinics instructed by Husky pitching coach George Roberts and head coach Dorothy Brown-Denico for all interested players. Sessions run Sun from 9-10 am. Cost: \$10 per session (\$90 for 10 weeks). Proceeds benefit USM softball program. 780-5519.

**Rotary Christmas Tree Sale** Through Dec 20 (or until sold out). At Mill Creek Park, So. Portland, from 9 am-9 pm. Dec 14 & 15: free hot cider and donuts. Prices: \$25, \$30 & \$35. 767-4682.

**Shoestring Theater Open Studio and Christmas Fair** Dec 14. Shoestring Theater holds its annual Christmas fair with hand puppets, masks, hats, stiffs, children's chairs, prints, posters all for sale, plus a chance to visit Shoestring's workshop. At 155 Brackett St., 3rd floor, Portland, from 9 am-4 pm. 774-1502.

**Southworth Planetarium** presents two holiday shows through Dec 30. "Seasons of Light" traces the development of the world's holiday customs and the historical rituals associated with the winter solstice. Fri & Sat at 7 pm. Holiday matinees: Dec 22 & 28 at 3 pm, Dec 23, 26 & 30 at 10:30 am, Dec 24 at 27 at 1 pm. "Manheim Steamroller," seasonal songs choreographed to brilliant laser light. Fri & Sat at 8:30 pm. Holiday matinees: Dec 15, 21 & 29 at 3 pm, Dec 23, 26 & 30 at 1 pm, Dec 24, 27 & 31 at 10:30 am. Other shows: Dec 14: "Sky Friends" at 3 pm. At 96 Falmouth St., Portland. Cost: \$4 (\$3 kids). 780-4249.

**Spaghetti supper and Silent Auction** Dec 14. At Memorial Middle School, Wescott Rd., So. Portland, from 4-8 pm. Tix: \$5, \$3 kids, \$15 family. Benefits an MMS student with an inoperable brain tumor. 773-5629.

**Speakout Engagement Calendar** The 1997 engagement calendar with local photographers documenting Maine Lesbian/Gay culture is on sale as a fundraiser for the Maine Speakout Project. Send check or money order to Maine Speakout Project, 123 Congress St #1, Portland, Me 04101. Speakout is an educational project dealing with homophobia. For more info, call 879-0480.

**Teen AIDS Line** Teens educating teens about HIV and AIDS. Information, referral to community services and support. Wed from 6-9 pm. Call 775-1267 or 1-800-851-AIDS.

**Wordsmiths Wanted** Casco Bay Weekly seeks fiction writers, poets and performers to deliver brief bursts of verbiage at CBW's New Year's Portland location. Interested people should contact Zoe Miller at 775-6601.

**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.

**Accent Reduction Class** as well as classes for neutralizing Maine and regional accents, with Jean Armstrong, certified speech and language pathologist. 879-1886.

**The Alliance for Transportation Choice** a group dedicated to the quality of life, protects the environment and promotes economic vitality. For info on next meeting, write to: P.O. Box 10625, Portland ME 04104 or call 871-9228.

**The American Singles Golf Association** is forming a Portland chapter. If you would like to help organize or join, call 1-800-599-2815.

**Authentic Movement Group for Men** A group for men who wish to "explore who we are beneath our roles and conditioning." meets the third Thurs of each month from 6:30-9 pm, at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Facilitated by Jim Davidson. 879-1341.

**Bisexual Discussion and Support Group** Meets the first and third Wed of each month at Payson Smith Hall, room 1, USM Campus, Portland, from 7:30-9 pm. Students and non-students welcome. For more info, call 780-5737 or email: shoimes@maine.maine.edu.

**Casco Bay Culinary Association** meets the second Mon of each month, 799-2234 or 774-4308.

**Center for Maine History** 489 Congress St., Portland. Hours: Wed-Sat noon-4 pm. Cost: \$2 (\$1 kids). 879-0427.

**Circle of Hope** Metropolitan Community Church of Portland, a Christian group that claims a primary ministry with gay and lesbian people and strives to be inclusive of all, meets Saturdays at 4 pm at 156 High St., Portland. 775-6684.

**COPE** Support group for divorcing fathers — explore alternatives to the current divorce process. 874-7448.

**Coping With Caregiving** A support group for people providing care to chronically/terminally ill or disabled persons meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at noon, at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland. 879-3486.

**Creating Opportunity Through Change** Women's group meets Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 at 854 Broadway, S. Portland. 767-1315.

**Creative Productions Collaborative** A group for women survivors of sexual abuse who are interested in furthering their healing journeys through the process of creating and presenting a production in the form of books, videos or performance art. Confidential, facilitated meetings are Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm. Cost: \$15 per session. 774-2403.

**Debtors' Anonymous** meets every Tues from 7:8-15 pm at 202 Woodford St., Portland. 774-4357.

**Demo Tapes Wanted** Robbins Entertainment seeks original rap, dance, R&B and alternative rock bands for a new record label. Send materials to: Robbins Entertainment, Jonathan P. Fine, 30 West 21st St., 11th Fl., New York, NY, 10010-6905.

**Dharma Study Group** Sitting meditation on Sundays from 9 am-noon. At the office of Sandra Bulley, 3rd floor, 60 Forest Ave., Portland. 761-0047.

**Donations Needed** The Ted Rand Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will be awarded annually to a Casco Bay Island student going on to higher education, seeks contributions to help establish the fund. Send contributions to: 4 Moulton St., Portland, ME 04101. For more info, call Dave Redmond at 871-1001 or 766-4444.

**Dream Group** Interested in weaving dreams into life myths? Join a group that will feed your imagination, writing skills, storytelling abilities and teach you something about your personal story and journey. Facilitated by a licensed counselor. To join, call the Swedenborgian Church at 772-8277 and leave your name, specify "dream group."

**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. Donation: \$2.50. 774-6974.

**Expose Yourself** WBOR 91.1 FM in Brunswick is looking for performers who want to be heard live on the radio. All styles are welcome. "Exposure" broadcasts every Sun from 7-8 pm. 798-5177.

**Family Crisis Shelter** a domestic abuse intervention project is looking for volunteers to offer support and information to victims of abuse/violence. 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 YMCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible.

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**Feminist Spiritual Community** meets every Monday from 7-9 pm at 1837 Forest Ave., Portland. For more information, call 797-9217.

**The Fifth Maine Regiment Community Center** Seashore Ave., Peaks Island. The center is open for visitors Sat and Sun from 11 am-4 pm. 766-3330.

**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.

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**Gay & Lesbian Rights Advocates** Womenspace Counseling Center offers an ongoing facilitated support group for those working to support civil rights for gays and lesbians. Thursdays from 7:30-9 pm at 236 Park Ave., Portland. 774-2403.

**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.

**Gene Tracers** The Greater Portland Chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society meets the first Sat of the month at the Cape Elizabeth Fire Station at 1 pm. Anyone interested in investigating their roots is welcome. 883-2546.

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**Greater Portland Mothers' Club** meets Tues mornings from 9:30-11:30 am, at 301 Cottage Rd., S. Portland. Cost: \$2 (\$5 family max). 839-6399.

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**MADD** A new chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers is starting Cumberland County. For more info, call Phyllis McQuaide at 833-6858 or Tanya Stearns at 854-0978.

**Maine Chapbook Award** Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance announces the guidelines for their annual award. The competition alternates each year between fiction and poetry. This year the competition is poetry. For a copy, call 729-6333.

**Maine NOW**, the largest feminist grassroots organization in Maine, fights for reproductive freedom, lesbian/gay rights, ERA, economic justice and to eliminate racism. This all-volunteer political organization has chapters in Brunswick and Portland. For more information, call 797-8508.

**Maine Women's Fund** is a public charitable foundation dedicated to improving the well-being of women and girls in Maine through educational programs, seminars, and grants. For more information, call 774-5513.

**Maine Running Hall of Fame** Seeks nominations for the 1996 honorees. Athletes present and past are invited to present their vitae along with supportive documentation and a cover letter. Please send nominations to Philip S. Pierce, Ph.D., 79 Waites Landing Rd., Falmouth Foreside, Me. 04105-1939. 781-3769.

**Maine Tradeswomen Network** provides education and mentoring for the promotion of women in all trades. 797-4801.

**Men's Group** recently formed in the greater Portland area. Meets every other Tues evening for personal growth, sharing and support. Interested men age 30 and over are welcome. 721-0617.

**MOFGA** Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association supports labeling genetically engineered foods and will provide information to those interested. 622-3118.

**Names Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt** holds a panel-making workshop the first and third Sun of each month. 774-2198.

**Parenting Groups** offers a place for parents to share, release and learn from each other. Meets Tuesdays 12:15-3 pm. Cost: \$5 per meeting. 871-1000.

**Parkinson Support Group** For those with Parkinson's and their families meets the fourth Sun of the month at the Falmouth Congregational Church, 267 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth, at 2 pm. 829-4070.

**PFLAG** Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays a support and advocacy group meets the second Tuesday of every month from 7-9 pm, at Woodford Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland. 765-5158.

**Polymorous Life Support** Are you interested in creating/nourishing loving, multi-partner relationships? Do you love more than one person? Call to join a support group just for you. 773-6132.

**Portland Parks and Recreation's Aquatic Division** holds open swims Sundays from 4 pm at the Riverton Pool, 1600 Forest Ave., Portland. 874-8456.

**Preble Street Resource Center** 252 Oxford St., Portland offers community programs for the public. Mon: Art group from 10-11 am. Video discussion from 12:30-2 pm. Wed: Writers' group from 10-11 am. Fri: Community meeting from 10-11 am. Cooking group from 11am-noon. 874-6560.

**Puppy Raisers Wanted** The New England Assistance Dog Service seeks puppy raisers to open their homes to foster puppies in the assistance program. The organization trains and provides dogs to physically disabled people. 934-1963.

**Res Publica** if you're in your mid- to late 20s and just out of school, then you know that meeting new people can be tough. Luckily, a social group is forming just for you. To find out more about it, call 774-0915.

**Riding to the Top** Broadturn Rd., Scarborough — a therapeutic horseback riding program for people with disabilities seeks volunteers. Horse experience is not necessary. 883-4171.

**Self Esteem Group** Feel better about yourself. Holdings Perspectives, at 2 Custom House Wharf, Portland, holds ongoing self-esteem support groups, Tuesdays from 10:11-30 am and 6:30-8 pm. 879-0816.

**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.

**Sexual Assault Response Services** offers crisis intervention, advocacy and support groups for survivors of sexual assault and abuse. All services are free and confidential. 24-hour hotline: 774-3613.

**Sisters in Process** Women's group dedicated to loving support, sharing of process, creativity and fun. Agee, 657 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. 780-1500.

**SNAP** The Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests holds a support group for men and women healing from sexual abuse by clergy the third Friday of every month. Meetings are non-denominational and confidential. 774-5029.

**Social Justice Group** seeks people who have utilized General Assistance. Write: Hospitality House, Inc., PD Box 62, Hinkley, ME 04944. 1-800-438-3890. CWB

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**MADD** A new chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers is starting Cumberland County. For more info, call Phyllis McQuaide at 833-6858 or Tanya Stearns at 854-0978.

**Maine Chapbook Award** Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance announces the guidelines for their annual award. The competition alternates each year between fiction and poetry. This year the competition is poetry. For a copy, call 729-6333.

**Maine NOW**, the largest feminist grassroots organization in Maine, fights for reproductive freedom, lesbian/gay rights, ERA, economic justice and to eliminate racism. This all-volunteer political organization has chapters in Brunswick and Portland. For more information, call 797-8508.

**Maine Women's Fund** is a public charitable foundation dedicated to improving the well-being of women and girls in Maine through educational programs, seminars, and grants. For more information, call 774-5513.

**Maine Running Hall of Fame** Seeks nominations for the 1996 honorees. Athletes present and past are invited to present their vitae along with supportive documentation and a cover letter. Please send nominations to Philip S. Pierce, Ph.D., 79 Waites Landing Rd., Falmouth Foreside, Me. 04105-1939. 781-3769.

**Maine Tradeswomen Network** provides education and mentoring for the promotion of women in all trades. 797-4801.

**Men's Group** recently formed in the greater Portland area. Meets every other Tues evening for personal growth, sharing and support. Interested men age 30 and over are welcome. 721-0617.

**MOFGA** Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association supports labeling genetically engineered foods and will provide information to those interested. 622-3118.

**Names Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt** holds a panel-making workshop the first and third Sun of each month. 774-2198.

**Parenting Groups** offers a place for parents to share, release and learn from each other. Meets Tuesdays 12:15-3 pm. Cost: \$5 per meeting. 871-1000.

**Parkinson Support Group**

**The Movies**  
 DEC. 13-17  
 FRI 7  
 SAT-SUN 3,7  
 MON-TUES 5,7,9

**the Wife**  
 A Tom Noonan Movie  
 "☆☆☆Complex, vicious, funny and unforgettable!"-NEWSDAY

10 Exchange St., Portland • 778-9800  
 West 53 • All other times \$4.25  
 Over 65 (Under 16 \$3)

**ART & ARTIFACTS**  
 GALLERY STORE

**ORIGINAL ART FROM \$10-\$500**  
 MIC-MAC BAGRETRY-Jane Zumbrennen  
 MAYOLICA POTTERY-Peggy Anne Mack  
 JEWELRY/SILVER-Michael Hoffheimer  
 SOAPSTONE SCULPTURE-Pat Manley  
 WEAVING/FIBRONS-Katia Ancona

Sculpture • Paintings • Furniture • Metal works  
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Open 10-6 daily 865-1921  
 231 US Route One South • Freeport  
 (Neighboring Cuddledown)

**Bella Bella**

A MEDITERRANEAN CAFE  
 ITALIAN-FRENCH-SPANISH  
 MEXICAN-GREEK  
 COUNTRY FOOD

**NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH**  
 WEEKDAYS 11:30AM-2PM  
**DINNER TUES-SUN 5PM TO CLOSE**  
 RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED  
 780-1260 OR 828-1150  
 606 CONGRESS ST. - NEXT TO PMA  
 VALIDATED PARKING

**The Advocates Group**  
 PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS

BEFORE YOU CALL A LAWYER CALL US

(207) 797-6077  
 P.O. Box 3901  
 Portland, ME 04104  
 No Charge for Initial Consultation

WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE

...HOLIDAY PIES, CAKES, TORTES, PASTRY, BREAD & ROLLS...

**PIES**

Pumpkin Cherry  
 Apple Peach raspberry  
 Cran-apple crumb Pecan  
 Blueberry Mochapecan

**Locations at**  
 Monument Sq. 299 Forest Ave.  
 772-7199 Across from USM 772-3913

**moVies**



Get some soul (and catch glimpses of Portland) with Courtney B. Vance and Whitney Houston in **THE PREACHER'S WIFE**.

**DAYLIGHT** After a series of explosions, caffeine-charged New York City commuter Sarah (Jessica Parker) finds herself trapped in a Hudson River tunnel. Lucky for them, Sly Stallone happens to be there, and apparently he brought his flashlight. Director Rob Cohen goes to town with the pyrotechnics.

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT** Based on Michael Ondaatje's acclaimed novel, "The English Patient" traces two love stories, one in late-'30s Cairo between a count (Ralph Fiennes) and a British aristocrat's wife (Kristin Scott Thomas), the other in mid-'40s Italy between a Canadian nurse (Juliette Binoche) and an English minesweeper (Naveen Andrews).

**FLY AWAY HOME** A teenager (played by Academy Award Winner Anna Paquin) recovers from the grief of her mother's unexpected death in the company of her estranged father (Jeff Daniels). A diversion appears in the form of a bunch of orphaned Canadian geese, who think she's their mama. Also starring Jeff Daniels. Directed by Carroll Ballard ("The Black Stallion").

**INDEPENDENCE DAY** Lots of aliens. Lots of explosions. A "War of the Worlds" for the '90s.

**JERRY MAGUIRE** Writer-director Cameron Crowe, who brought us such comedy gems as "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and "Say Anything," fires off another wily film, this time with Tom Cruise as his leading man. The story follows a 35-something sports agent who gets his butt fired for taking the moral highground, but finds his way to the top nonetheless. Also starring Cuba Gooding Jr., Renee Zellweger and Kelly Preston.

**JINGLE ALL THE WAY** With a cast this stacked — Arnold Schwarzenegger, Phil Hartman, Sinbad, Rita Wilson and James Belushi — can the plot really matter? Anyway, Arnold plays a miserly salesman who wants to outdo his superdaddy next-door neighbor (Hartman) by giving his own son the ultimate Christmas gift. What might that gift be? A Turbo Man doll.

**JUDE** Michael Winterbottom's adaptation of Thomas Hardy's classic novel chronicles the struggles of a society for his common birth, lack of money and "immorality." The film challenges many of society's staunchest institutions — marriage, university, religion and sexual mores, even society itself — in a way that translates across centuries with great relevance.

**THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT** Geena Davis plays a suburban schoolteacher struggling to remember a life she'll soon wish she never knew about. Samuel L. Jackson is the private investigator who helps her put the pieces together. When he figures out that she's really an operative in one of the government's dirty little secret agencies — and number one on the CIA's "hitlist" — the job turns from a business deal to a matter of life-and-death.

**MARS ATTACKS!** Tim Burton ("A Nightmare Before Christmas") has concocted a spooky, twisted, sci-fi comedy to temper the seriousness of last summer's "ID4" alien invasion. Jack Nicholson divides his talents between both the commander-in-chief and a Las Vegas real-estate hustler. Also starring Glenn

**movie times**

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, DEC 13-19 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

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

Nickelodeon, Temple and Middle streets, Portland. 772-9751.

**RICH MAN'S WIFE (R)**  
 1, 4, 7, 9:10

**FLY AWAY HOME (PG)**  
 1:20 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 4:20, 7:20, 10

**SET IT OFF (R)**  
 1:10 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

**THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT (R)**  
 12:50 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

**PHENOMENON (PG)**  
 3:40, 6:40

**A TIME TO KILL (R)**  
 12:40 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 9:20

**INDEPENDENCE DAY (PG-13)**  
 12:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

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

**THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG)**  
 1:20, 3:50, 7, 9:30

**DAYLIGHT (PG-13)**  
 1:30, 4, 7, 9:30

**THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)**  
 1, 4, 15, 8

**STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT (PG-13)**  
 1:45, 4:15, 7:30, 9:50

**SPACE JAM (PG)**  
 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:35

**RANSOM (R)**  
 1:45, 4:25, 7:20, 9:45

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

**JERRY MAGUIRE (R)**  
 12:30, 1, 3:30, 4, 6:45, 7, 9:40, 10

**MARS ATTACKS! (PG-13)**  
 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 4:20, 4:50, 7:10, 7:30, 9:35, 9:50

**ONE FINE DAY (X)**  
 7:20 (SAT ONLY)

**101 DALMATIANS (G)**  
 12:40, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:20

**JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)**  
 1:20, 4:30, 7:20 (EXCEPT SAT), 9:30

**THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES (PG-13)**  
 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:15

**ROMEO AND JULIET (PG-13)**  
 3:40, 6:30, 9

The Movies, 10 Exchange St, Portland. 772-9600.

**PARIS WAS A WOMAN (NR)**  
 DEC 12 15+THURS-THURS 5:15, 7, 8:45+FRI 5:15, 9+SAT-SUN 1:15, 5, 9

**THE WIFE (NR)**  
 DEC 13-17+FRI 7+SAT-SUN 3, 7+MON-TUES 5, 7, 9

**JUDE (R)**  
 DEC 18-23+WED-MON 5, 7, 15, 9:30+SAT-SUN MAT 12:45, 2:45

**JERRY MAGUIRE (R)**  
 DEC 25-31+WED-MON 5, 9, 15+SAT-SUN MAT 12:45

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH. 781-5616.

**MARS ATTACKS! (PG-13)**  
 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7, 9:15

**JERRY MAGUIRE (R)**  
 12:45, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35

**ONE FINE DAY (PG)**  
 7:20 (SAT ONLY)

**THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG)**  
 1:10, 4, 7:05, 9:35

**DAYLIGHT (R)**  
 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:25, 9:40

**101 DALMATIANS (G)**  
 12:30, 1:45, 3:20, 4:15, 6:40, 7:05, 9:10, 9:30

**STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT (PG-13)**  
 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:20, 9:35

**JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG)**  
 1:15, 3:10, 5, 7:30 (EXCEPT SAT), 9:25

**THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES (PG-13)**  
 7:15, 9:45

**SPACE JAM (PG)**  
 12:50, 2:55, 5:10

**RANSOM (R)**  
 1, 3:35, 6:50, 9:20

**Classifieds** 775-1234 FAX: 775-1615 VISA/MC ACCEPTED

**categories**

bulletin board  
 lost & found (free)  
 rideshare (free)  
 help wanted  
 career development  
 business opportunities  
 positions wanted  
 child care  
 roommates  
 apts./rent  
 condos./rent  
 rooms./rent  
 seasonal rental  
 offices./rent  
 art studios./rent  
 storage./rent  
 business rental  
 rentals wanted  
 housesitting  
 real estate  
 condos for sale  
 land for sale  
 mobile homes  
 real estate wanted  
 auctions  
 body and soul  
 fitness  
 instruction  
 education  
 professional services  
 business services  
 computers  
 financial  
 items for sale  
 yard sales  
 antiques  
 give away (free)  
 wanted  
 arts  
 holiday gifts  
 theatre arts  
 bed & breakfasts  
 getaways  
 fairs & festivals  
 music  
 wheels  
 motorcycles  
 trucks./vans  
 RV's  
 boats  
 recreation  
 campgrounds  
 summer camps  
 publications  
 animals  
 legal notices  
 dating services

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**Children's Birthday Parties & Stage Shows**  
 1 1/2 hour show with live doves & rabbits. Call Vandini at 775-1743 or 1-800-826-8240  
 "The Children's Magician"

**ADOPT.** We know that you are faced with a difficult choice. Let us help you find a loving, caring home for your baby. We are Easy To Talk To! Please call **FRIENDS IN ADOPTION** 1-800-844-3630. (A VERMONT LICENSED AGENCY).

**CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTIES-** 30 minute show w/live doves, rabbits, free magic tricks. Call Vandini. The Children's Magician, 854-1743/1-800-826-8240.

**PSYCHIC PSYCHOSIS?** Medium or marketing scheme? Incredible tape reveals validity of your psychic. All Smart Products. In-state toll-free (207)759-9287.

**SLEIGH/HAY RIDES.** Over the river & through the woods. Includes the use of log cabin. Groups or romantic rides for two. Horsefathers Stable. 859-2243.

**HELP WANTED**

**Part Time or Full Time**  
 We're seeking serious minded people who need extra income. flexible hours. We will train. Earnings opportunity of \$400.00 per week plus  
**Call 871-8618**  
 EOE

**Work at Home**  
 Assemble craft, woodwork, etc... For free info send self addressed stamped envelope:  
 Home Work Network  
 P.O. Box 443  
 DeForest, WI 53532  
 or call 608-846-7544

**AIRLINE JOBS - NOW HIRING** domestic & international staff flight attendants, ticket agents, reservationists, ground crew & more. Excellent travel benefits! Call Airline Employment Services. 1-206-971-3622 ext. U73417.

**NATIONAL PARKS HIRING -** Positions are now available at National Parks, forests & wildlife preserves. Excellent benefits + bonuses! Call: 1-206-971-3622 ext N73412.

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**get it to us**

Deadline: Mon., 3pm pre-paid  
 Phone: 775-1234 or 1-800-286-6601  
 FAX: 775-1615  
 Mail: Classifieds  
 P.O. Box 1238  
 Portland, ME 04104  
 Hand: 511 Congress St.

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Classified ads must be paid for in advance with cash, personal check, money order, Visa or Mastercard. Lost & Found items listed free. Classified ads are non-refundable. CBW shall not be liable for any typographical errors, omissions, or changes in the ad which do not affect the value or content or substantially change the meaning of the ad. Credit will be issued when viable error has been determined within one week of publication.

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**auto europe**  
 Now accepting applications for reservationists, in fast paced travel industry business. Full-time positions only, must be knowledgeable of European geography and have EXCELLENT phone skills.  
 -Excellent medical benefits  
 -Travel Perks  
 -Bonuses  
 -Advancement Opportunities  
 -Paid Holidays  
 -Parking Provided  
 -Casual Atmosphere

Please send resume or apply in person A.S.A.P. No phone calls. Hiring now for training classes in December through February.

**AUTO EUROPE**  
 39 Commercial, 2nd Floor  
 Portland, ME 04112  
 CANADIAN French and Spanish speaking a plus.

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**auto europe**



46 CASCO BAY WEEKLY

**APTS/RENT**

MUNJOY HILL, large sunny, 2 br, apt, top floor, \$580/mo. Includes heat, water and parking. N/S. Available January 1st. 737-2187.

**HOUSES/RENT**

PEAKS ISLAND: Modern spacious 2/2 BDR, 2 bath, W/D, great views of Casco Bay, inground pool, easy walk to boat. \$650/mo. 766-2295. Also smaller 2 bedroom \$625/mo. Heat included.

**HOUSES/RENT**

**Downtown Low Winter Rates weekly & monthly**  
Aval: micro, refrig, cable HBO  
1-2-3, phone, maid service, continental breakfast, parking, 24 hr. security, on site laundry  
Starting \$109.99/wk.  
**INN AT ST. JOHN**  
939 Congress St.  
773-6481

**HOUSES/RENT**

FALMOUTH WINTER RETREAT. Cozy 2 BDR home. Quiet, private, ocean view. \$300/mo. all utilities included. 781-4019.

**HOUSES/RENT**

PINE POINT. Clean, sunny, 2 bedroom cottage, near beach. Monitor heat. No pets. \$325/mo. 883-3891.

**OFFICES/RENT**

PORTLAND NEUROMUSCULAR CENTER has P/T space available for Certified Massage Therapist/Alternative practitioner in suite, sink, micro, refrig, copier, great office parking. 772-5860.

**OFFICES/RENT**

SUNNY, SPACIOUS, BEAUTIFUL, quiet 2 rooms + bath. Private entrance. Near Maine turnpike 295, Rt. 1. \$500/mo. + utils. 878-5879.

**ART STUDIOS/RENT**

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# Personals

To respond to any personal ad, call 1-900-370-2041 (Calls cost \$1.99/min. Must be 18 or over. Touch tone phones only. Casco Bay Weekly 207-775-1234)

### DATING SERVICES

#### PHOTO DATE

Sound Familiar????  
Your personal ad returns your call. He says he is 6' blonde-blue eyes. He will be wearing a brown jacket. You at McDonald's looking all over for him - oh, there he is - can't he how do I leave a still be polite? PHOTO DATE to the rescue!  
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### WOMEN & MEN

3 CHILDREN AND A MOM... SWF, 33, 5'9", full-figured. Hard worker, friendly, honest, intelligent, SOH, reliable, etc. Enjoy dancing, fishing, work on cars to learn, camping, etc. Lifetime friend and companion. I'm ready, are you? Need kids approval. N.D. **35655 (1/8)**

ARE YOU TIRED OF HEAD GAMES? SWF, 36, 5'9", lg build, enjoys dining out, dancing, movies, music, roller skating, walks and sports. Desires S/DWM, 28-45, for a relationship. Blue Hill area or thereabouts. **35655 (1/8)**

ATTENTIVE 40YO, BL/BL, sensitive, warm, caring, spiritual, loves animals and kids, seeking like male, possibly a Taurus, to explore relationship. Blue Hill area or thereabouts. **35655 (1/8)**

AUGUSTA AREA WOMAN, blessed with everything... looks, intelligence, class, personality. Too refined to look under rocks for nice guys. Please call if S/DWM between 35-55, many interests. **35625 (1/8)**

BIG BONED GAL... Grown in the Midwest. Looking for some fun and good times. Maine style. Want to be my tour guide? Me: 5'10", 37, BR/BL. You: Tall, cuddly, and most definitely fun! **35712 (1/8)**

COFFEE MAYBE? Witty, complex, lean, good looking, irreverent, creative single mom, 38, seeks perceptive, fit, well-read, secure man, 35-45, for an actual date. How about it? **35673 (1/8)**

### WOMEN & MEN

ELLSWORTH-DOWNEAST AREA- Anticipating adventures with 50+/- man, semi-mature mind, semi-youthful body. SOH about the rest. N.S. active lifestyle, warm, intelligent nature could lead to fun times with active, outdoors woman with independent nature. **35654 (1/1)**

EVE SEEKS ADAM FOR APPLE harvest and discussion of snake phobia. Free spirit, attractive brunette, 37, educated, assertive artist, loves dancing, Afro-Caribbean and Latin music. Romantic evenings. Seeks independent SM, 35+, 5'9", with ethical, confident SM, 35+, 5'9", with ethical, confident, scious, mand, very fit body, and spontaneous. **35654 (1/1)**

LIFE CAN BEGIN AT 50! Attractive, outgoing, young at heart professional woman, with a warm, witty, wonderful DWF, 52, 5'3", with sweet, musical spirit and long, auburn hair who seeks intelligence, humor, caring, and commitment. **35657 (1/8)**

HAIRING FREQUENCIES ARE OPEN- Red-headed, acid witted, Rubenesque SWF voyager seeking a SWM co-pilot for mutual adventures into uncharted territory. Appropriate SM, 35+, 5'9", with ethical, confident SM, 35+, 5'9", with ethical, confident, scious, mand, very fit body, and spontaneous. **35654 (1/1)**

HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY TO ME- I want to raise a family in Maine with a Renaissance gentleman. My priest suggested this might be impossible. Please help me prove him wrong. **35665 (1/8)**

HOMELONE, TOOTY You're single and kind, seeking like male, possibly a Taurus, to explore relationship. Blue Hill area or thereabouts. **35655 (1/8)**

INQUEST OF GENTLEMEN for sharing life's wonder and beauty. I am attractive, slender, young 40's, many interests. **35625 (1/8)**

INTELLIGENT, HONEST, attractive, affectionate DWF, 40's, enjoys the arts, travel, skiing, dining out, reading, movies, seeking special 40+ SM with similar interests, financially and emotionally secure. **35671 (1/8)**

NUDE DANCER FOR HUSBAND-DWF, 37, long light brown hair, 145 lbs, 5'9", sporty, playful, employed, creative, N.S. N.D. enjoys home life, kids, travel. Who you be, then? **35654 (1/1)** Personal Advertiser #848, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104

### WOMEN & MEN

KEEP A TWINKLE IN MY EYES- Bright, petite SWF, 43, seeks one nice guy, N.S. We enjoy outdoors, arts, travel, cozy home life. Value good heart, intelligent conversation, SOH, independence, simple pleasures. Dog lover gets bonus points. **35659 (1/1)**

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PEPPER MOTHER seeks S/DWM, 30's-early 40's. Honest, loyal, easygoing nice guy, 2nd, 3rd shift okay. Dinners, movies, rides, kids, home life, family. Portland area. **35654 (1/8)**

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ARTIST/MUSICIAN looking for someone to share art projects, singing, creativity and intimacy. I do photography, play guitar and piano and more. Call and see what's possible. **35725 (1/22)**

COMING OUT- 22, strawberry BL/GR, average build. Enjoys biking, scenic drives, coffee, and conversation. ISO clean, experienced gay F, 22-30, to show the way. Friendship and possible relationship. **35663 (1/8)**

EXPERIMENTING FRIEND- Bi-curious big breasted 25yo looking for adult fun. Must be clean, discreet, and feminine. **35712 (1/22)**

GREGARIOUS, GENTLE GAL, 44, ISO warm, witty woman, 30-50, for intimate and romantic interlude. Has hopeful heart for an honest, healthy LTR. Call ASAP. **35636 (1/1)**

IF LOVE WAS A TRAIN, I think I'd like a slow one. 34yo shy, sincere, late bloomer, seeking similar or patient guide for journey to enlightenment. I enjoy movies, concerts, alternative music, long walks, long talks. **35711 (1/22)**

### MEN & WOMEN

KEEP A TWINKLE IN MY EYES- Bright, petite SWF, 43, seeks one nice guy, N.S. We enjoy outdoors, arts, travel, cozy home life. Value good heart, intelligent conversation, SOH, independence, simple pleasures. Dog lover gets bonus points. **35659 (1/1)**

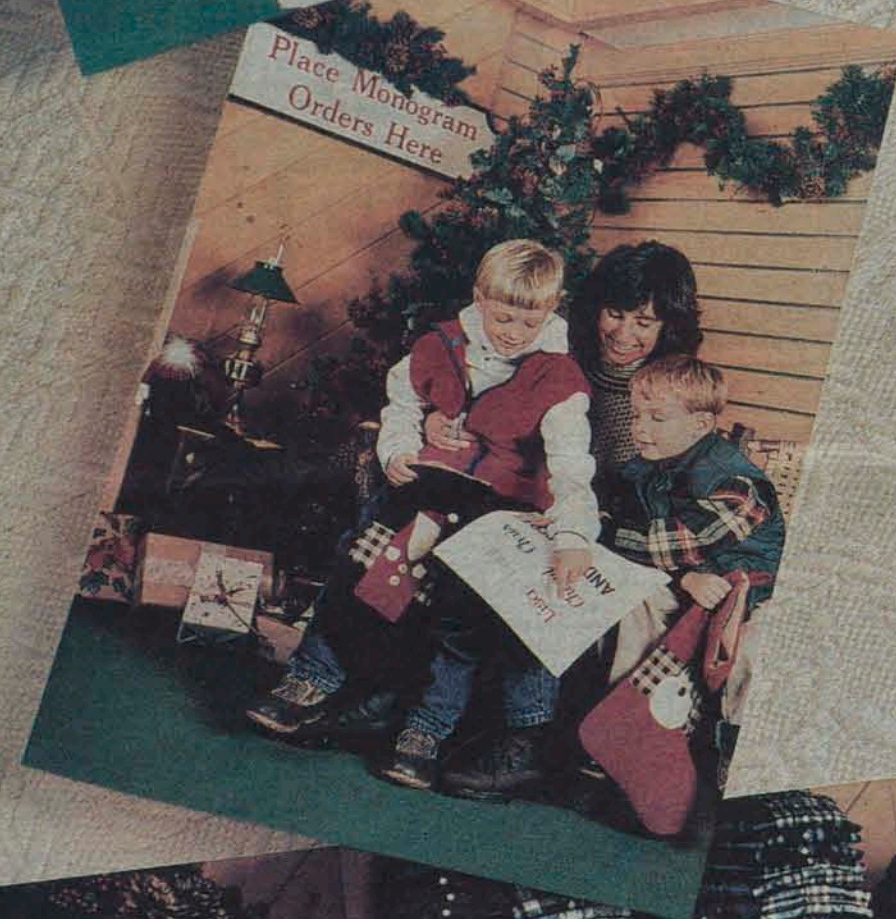
PLAYFUL, INDEPENDENT SWF, 37, unconventional, professional, N.S., N.D. looking for fun S/DWM, 35-50 to start conversation. I have an active spiritual life, love nature, art, music, friends. **35684 (1/8)**

RETIREE AND LIVING IN SOUTHERN ME- 60s, BR/BL. I enjoy dining in/out, dancing, quiet evenings, Sunday rides, and good conversation. Hoping to find a gentleman, 50-60, who doesn't drink, smoke, or do drugs. (Maybe a little Gentol once in a while). If you think we're a match, let's get together. **35637 (1/1)** Personal Advertiser #849, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104

PEPPER MOTHER seeks S/DWM, 30's-early 40's. Honest, loyal, easygoing nice guy, 2nd, 3rd shift okay. Dinners, movies, rides, kids, home life, family. Portland area. **35654 (1/8)**

VERY FIT, funny, sexy, smart. Feminine, affectionate, tall, brunette seeks male counterpart, 40-45, for serious fun. Bangor. **35657 (1/8)**

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