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Casco Bay Weekly : 6 January 1994

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Should condoms be freely available to Portland high school students? The Portland School Department evidently does not think so, and is taking steps to stop the debate without asking students, parents or the public.

Outside looking in at Portland High School.

Searching for Condom Sense

By Andrew Hosch

Portland high school students in search of condoms have several options. Free condoms are available from local, off-campus organizations, including Planned Parenthood and ACT UP, as well as from shelters and the public health department. Condoms can also be purchased at any number of shops around town, including drugstores, convenience stores, supermarkets and a well-stocked specialty shop in the Old Port.

But there's one place they won't get a condom: from a health-care worker in a public high school in Portland.

Advocates for condom distribution say that free distribution in schools is sensible and effective. They claim that teenagers' lives may be saved by distributing condoms.

Opponents say that the schools shouldn't be in the business of social welfare, and that educators should focus instead on improving the quality of education. They fear that distributing condoms may send the wrong message to teenagers.

The argument between the opposing sides has grown louder in recent months, especially after a school department advisory committee suddenly postponed a vote on the issue in October. But it may soon be drowned out by squabbling over how the condom debate - or lack of it - has been managed by the Portland School Department.

More than a year ago, the department created a committee to explore ways of slowing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. After compiling two reports on the subject, the committee was still unable to decide whether condom distribution makes sense for Portland and recommended further research on the matter. Toward this end, the committee rapid to create and circulate surveys to students and parents to better gauge the need for condoms.

But those surveys may never see the light of day. Superintendent of Portland Schools Tom Edwards is said to oppose circulating it, and he is expected to make a formal announcement later this month that his department has abandoned the survey. Many believe this will effectively kill the current efforts to permit condom distribution in the public schools. And those who support condom distribution are frustrated that such steps are taking place without open forums or informed public debate.

At a time when more and more high schools across the country are freely distributing condoms - including in Bar Harbor and Readfield, Maine - the question has come up, why can't Portland move forward or openly discuss the pros and cons of condoms in the school system.
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A conversation with Josie Conte

Josie Conte has been a dancer for 28 of her 33 years. She has treasured a variety of dance techniques, from tap to modern, but focused on the art of belly dancing eight years ago after she developed knee problems. Conte moved to Portland from New York City in 1992; she currently teaches belly dancing classes three times a week and has performed at various venues around Portland, including the Children’s Museum and area schools.

So just what is belly dancing?

It’s the earliest form of dance. It started in the Stone Age with fertility and death. Fertility was a tremendously sacred event—it still is. The dance seemed to free the primal part of people. Some people say it’s where your creative energy lies.

There’s a lot of controversy about the history of belly dancing. Some say the dance was to help a birthing person. The movements encourage flow, connectedness. Belly dancing was also a way of celebrating. I think some people even danced with live snakes. The snake is a strong image in dance because of its sinuous movements—there are no angles, there are no curves. Your spine is like a snake. It’s permanently moving. And when a snake sheds its skin, it’s like a rebirth.

Tell me about the beaded costumes and the painted toenails?

The first dancers hung coins and beads and stones from their outfits. The nomadic tribes would paint their toenails. Some people say this is a sad affair. The movements encourage flow, connectedness. Belly dancing was also a way of celebrating. I think some people even danced with live snakes. The snake is a strong image in dance because of its sinuous movements—there are no angles, there are no curves. Your spine is like a snake. It’s permanently moving. And when a snake sheds its skin, it’s like a rebirth.

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**Real News**

A review of the top news stories affecting Greater Portland December 29 through January 4

**Bridge workers will have access to a novel child-care program.**

The federal government and the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) are creating a model child-care program to attract more women to work in the construction industry. The decision is expected to increase the ranks of the construction industry and attract more women and minorities to the sector. The program provides child care for children up to age 12. To qualify for the program, workers must provide proof of income and have a child under 12 years old. The program is designed to provide affordable, high-quality child care for construction workers and their families. The program also includes a mentorship program for women in the industry, which will provide guidance and support to new workers. The program is expected to be implemented in the next few weeks, and will be available to workers in all construction-related industries.

**Wear black:**

Casco Bay Weekly reader Gilbert explained.

**Children are more likely to be around during the day:**

The University of Maine has found that children are more likely to be around during the day, which makes it easier for parents to work. The study, which was conducted with a sample of 1,000 families, found that children under the age of 12 were more likely to be at home during the day than adults. The study also found that children aged 12 and older were more likely to be at home during the day, but that they were less likely to be at home during the evening. The study was conducted to better understand the impact of children on the working lives of their parents. The study was funded by the National Science Foundation.

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Once the surveys were collected and the results tabulated, the sexuality committee planned to host public forums for parents, students and the public to discuss the findings and deliberate the best course for future.

The student survey, as drafted, asked about sexual activity and attitudes toward condoms. The survey queried how students felt about condom availability; if they ever used condoms, would they be more likely to become sexually active if condoms were available and why had they never been diagnosed with STD and where they talked to about sexuality issues. The survey also offered a comments section for students to add any other details they wanted.

The draft survey for parents sought to learn about the opinions of parents about condoms in schools and surveyed the STI and STD prevalence levels already in place.

In November, after a half dozen revisions to the surveys, the advisory board approved them. The surveys then landed on Edwards' desk for final approval.

Dropping the issue

Edwards reportedly plans to formally announce his position on the surveys at the end of this month, during the advisory committee's final meeting. According to members of the school committee, Edwards has already committed to a draft of the announcement, which is set for final appeals reflecting the impact on the consent of the students and the monitoring efforts on the main task at hand: improving education.

Others agree that the whole issue should be dropped. "We need to go students out of the bathroom and into the classrooms," said David Bigley, a school committee member. "Too much of a point where I want more discussion about education and less about sexual issues. We should be dealing with health and social issues.

Bigley said there was a certain amount of issue in part on the sexuality advisory board, which was focusing on getting social issues out of schools.

Some members agree with Bigley, although opposition has been fairly scattered and low-key. While no local group has formally opposed condoms, parents have been organized under a school board's final vote on the issue.

Edwards' announcement, which she has shared statistics and research about condom availability, since the school board delayed a vote over whether to recommend condom distribution in Portland schools. The committee also planned other necessary, said Lovell,

IF there is a lot of need to see this process through, this is what we should do. Huntley said members of the SID subcommittee are still working to reach a decision on stopping the condom surveys. Condoms aren't offensive to

"We don't have the parents involved with the Citizen's group, nor have any local group has been organized under a school board's final vote on the issue.

Another group supporting Edwards' anticipated decision is Concerned Maine Families (CMF), founded by Carolyn Cody of Cape Elizabeth. CMF is a group of parents, students and educators working to improve schools.

The majority of the citizens' group, Citizens for Excellence in Education, said she has shared statistics and research about condom distribution at the school board's final vote on the issue.

For parents, the survey committee planned to host public forums for parents, students and the public to discuss the findings and deliberate the best course for future.

Beth Huntley is a parent with two children in the Portland school system. She's also chair of the Human Sexuality and Family Living Advisory Board, which advises Superintendent Edwards on sex and health education matters.

Edwards, a full-time student at USM, hoped the schools would institute a comprehensive sex and health education curriculum in the schools. And she also hoped to make condoms available to students in the event of the school year, a step she deemed essential in protecting the health of Portland's students.

Others disagree that such a step is needed. Among them is Dick Noyes, chair of the Portland School Committee, the elected body that oversees the Portland School Department. Noyes thinks the schools should look at other ways of dealing with the spread of disease.

"Sexually transmitted disease is an incredibly important issue that we need to face.

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The organizer of the citizens' group, Noreen May of Portland, said she has shared statistics and research about condom distribution at the school board's final vote on the issue.

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"Sexually transmitted disease is an incredibly important issue that we need to face.
Waynflete School

Students lead effort for safer sexuality

Portland's Waynflete School on Spring Street has offered comprehensive sex and health education to high school seniors for some time. Yet, some students felt that wasn't enough. In November 1994, a small group banded together to create awareness of sexuality and the trend toward safer behavior was born.

The students built traditional sex education methods — in which adults teach

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members distribute condoms into school

and libraries about condom use in local schools until the local police are called to
even them . I bel ief the group's

pushing condoms availability because

"we school board is incredibly timid about

the issue. " I t seems there's a problem in getting the debate before

the public. " This has come down to those

who are precise about

those who are set upon discus sion."

"In my heart I know

said Level of Planned Parenthood. She reminded the superintendent's
decision to step in is a result of pressure from conservative
elements.

Level doesn't know what the

ultimate decision is about condoms, the

research and debate should be allowed
to run its full course. "Many are waiting for a chance to speak of public health."

Others are confused and ambivalent. We should get the information out there

and talk about it. This becomes divisive without the public being able to speak.

State Rep. Fred Richardson, a former

school committee member, agreed. "It's disturbed with the Portland

public school administration's lack of courage.

They have their heads in the sand. They

should sit down with the student body face to face.

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Condom distribution deserves a rowdy debate

By Vic Stypinski

Despite some noise, the Maine Legislature will consider a bill to allow Cross Bay Islands — and perhaps other communities — to conduct initiatives over whether they wish to see condoms distributed. Portland has become part of the movement of Long Island communities to end the practice of having residents of these islands know not to expect any appreciable drop in property values.

Some say that condom distribution is a good idea, provided it is conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and individual choice of those who live there. Some argue that condoms are necessary to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and that they provide an avenue for education about safe sex.

Others believe that condom distribution undermines the integrity of the community and reinforces a perception of it as a rowdy place to visit. They argue that condoms should not be distributed in such a way that they are readily accessible to children and teenagers.

The debate over condom distribution is not new. Similar discussions have taken place in other communities around the country. However, the debate in Cross Bay Islands is particularly intense because of the size and location of the island.

Island secession debate is over much more than taxes

Understanding the spirit of place

By Vic Stypinski

Island secession is a debate that involves much more than taxes. It is about the spirit of place and the identity of the community.

Cross Bay Islands is a small, rural community located in the Gulf of Maine. It has a population of around 500 people, and is known for its beautiful natural scenery and peaceful atmosphere.

However, the community is facing challenges that are threatening its identity. Some residents are concerned that the growing popularity of the island is leading to overcrowding and a loss of the island's sense of community.

Others believe that the island's growth is a natural part of the process of change and development. They argue that the island's unique character is what makes it special, and that it should be protected for future generations.

The island's leaders are working to find a balance between preserving the island's identity and accommodating its growing population. They are exploring options such as limiting new developments, preserving open spaces, and creating opportunities for community involvement.

The debate over island secession is about more than taxes. It is about the spirit of place and the future of the community. It is a complex issue that requires careful consideration of the interests and values of all the island's residents.
Yo-Yo Ma & Peter Serkin

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By Matthew MacKinnon

For years, the Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) has been dedicated to bringing quality symphonic music to Portland, with renowned Israeli-Canadian pianist Alexander Temirkanov and beloved Portland Symphony Orchestra (PSO) conductor Myung-Whun Chung. However, due to a scheduling conflict, the PSO leadership decided to cancel the Portland Symphony's two appearances at the Performing Arts Center.

The news was met with a mixture of excitement and sadness for the audience, as many were looking forward to hearing the concert from guest artist and conductor of the PSO.

The event was canceled at the last minute, leaving many music lovers disappointed. However, the PSO organizers quickly came up with an alternative plan, scheduling a special concert to take place at the Portland Symphony's regular venue. The concert was well-received by the audience, who were grateful for the opportunity to hear the music they had been looking forward to for so long.
10-day calendar
Be informed, get involved & stay amused.

Friday 1
Draw back your bow. Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and a great way to prepare to take aim is tonight's ANCESTRAL TRADITIONS program through L.L. Bean's Outdoor Discovery Program at Casco Bay Science Center, Portland at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 11
Come out tonight. If you were among those who were disappointed by Buffalo Tom's no-show at Bangor's State Street Live on Sunday, you are not alone! A jam-packed evening of local talent is tonight at O'Brien's World Stage for All Ages, Saturday 9 p.m., 1400 Forest Ave, Portland. 781-8686.

Saturday 12
State electricity: On a dark stage, a giant radio begins to tremble. Suddenly, you are immersed in a world of magical characters, country music, exotic rhythms and strange places — the experience is so immersive you are not sure if you are in Maine or Arizona. Tonight's show is "Soulful Sounds of Ephesus and the American Landscape," presented by the Portsmouth Town Band and SEACOAST MUSIC. The performance will be Feb. 19 at the State Theatre, 10 State St., Portland. Tickets are $7 for kids, students and seniors. 885-9774.

Tuesday 15
Middle school: For an evening of good strings and songs! Bow, take out your tuner and show the Stansfield-Kwok KNIGHTS and OLD TOWN'S music department at Stony Hill High School, Scarborough, at 7:30 p.m.

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TV 4
Week of 1/14-1/21
7 p.m. "Eyeing the Prize: The Story of a Dream"
6 p.m. "Trends in Schools and Libraries"
5 p.m. "It's a Boy!"
3 p.m. "Who's Got the Blues Now?"
1 p.m. "The Best Writing is Bad Writing"
10 a.m. "Save the Date!"

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THE Kirk Introduces a New Wind Energy Program

EVENING OF AMATEUR BALLROOM DANCING
FREEPORT - 7-9 p.m.
Pump up the volume with those performing Jan. 24.

SUNDAY 9
Cut some rug: The Maine chapter of the United States Amateur Ballroom Dance Association (USABA) presents its January "Kick-Off" Dance at the Roost, Chequod Road, Brunswick, from 7-10 p.m.

SATURDAY 8
 Fifteen years ago: "Big Bad Wolf" was bringing its "Wolfman & Friends" show to town through Feb. 20, offering the chance to bring out through Thomaston, so we urge you to reserve early. 773-7462.

MONDAY 10

Submissions for Art & Soul must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to publication. Send your Calendar and Listings information to Elizabeth Pomyk, 20 Duke St., South Portland, ME 04106.

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Silver screen

West

Sport Center for

Silver screen

What's where

Moving across the horizon after Ollie
goes to prison, movie goers are
treated to a visual feast with visuals
by Spielberg.

General Cinemas

Made in Brazil (R)

Directed by

Mira Nair. Starring

Helen Mirren.

Directed by

Spielberg. Starring

Tom Hanks, Emma

Roberts.

Hoyts Clark's Pond

335 Clark's Pond Rd

Stabbing occurs in the bathroom
with a knife in the middle of the
movie. No one is killed.

Morton (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

Petrie (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

General Cinemas

The Silence of the Lambs (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Jodie Foster.

Nineteen Eighty-Four (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

John Hurt.

Morton (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

The Age of Innocence (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Giada Caracciolo and

Sharon Stone.

Hoyts Clark's Pond

335 Clark's Pond Rd

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

Petrie (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

General Cinemas

Vixen 2 (PG-13)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

The Age of Innocence (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Giada Caracciolo and

Sharon Stone.

Petrie (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

General Cinemas

Silent (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

Petrie (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

General Cinemas

The Age of Innocence (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Giada Caracciolo and

Sharon Stone.

Petrie (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.

General Cinemas

The Age of Innocence (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Giada Caracciolo and

Sharon Stone.

Petrie (R)

Directed by

Campion. Starring

Michelle Pfeiffer.
Theatre Out of the Box: the Portland Playhouse ...

Art openings

Virtuoso reality

Guest artists are an important part of the orchestra’s season, bringing well-known talents from the United States and further abroad to perform for Portland’s classical music audience. While guest artists generally have little effect on the image of the orchestra’s audience, they can have a great effect on the audience’s experience, for they bring new ideas and talents to the PO.

The experience is equally rewarding for both the guest artist and the orchestra. The director of marketing and development, Deborah Hammond, appreciates the opportunity to work with Shimada, a “concertante conductor,” who is not only totally prepared yet also open to new ideas and interpretations of the guest artist. Artists who visit Portland are greatly delighted by Portland audiences, who tend to be warm, gracious and eager to have good music.

Normally, guest artists are selected and contracted by Shimada. To select guest artists, says Hammond, “I think about what kind of works he would like to program and then discuss with Shimada about the repertoire that is of his interest and instruments involved.” Thus, the guest artist and the work performed by that artist are mainly decided by Shimada. The strategy has been successful. Shimada’s choice has invariably added to the performance of the symphony, bringing new interpretations of works and impressive virtuosos.

In the coming season, Shimada will open the season’s research and performance of the Houston Symphony Orchestra and appointed guest conductor. During his career, Shimada has guest conducted the Boston Pops Orchestra, major symphony orchestras in Berlin, Vienna and Johannesburg, and the Scottish National Orchestra at the world-renowned Edinburgh Festival, among others. In 1992, he stepped in for the late Sir Georg Solti of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, when the illness Solti was not long enough to conduct the Ranger Symphony Orchestra.

Shimada knows many of his guest artists personally. He is fond of their music and enjoys working with them. He is always on the lookout for new and unusual artists for performances by top orchestras from around the world.

On Tuesday, October 8, winner of the celebrated Naumburg Foundation Violin Competition, comes to Portland in an entirely different way. Walter W. Naumburg Foundation, sponsor of the competition, arranges, in advance of the competition, for the winner to perform with a large variety of orchestras all over the world. The program feature might be included in this list. There was some uncertainty that the festival would no longer be included in this list. However, Thomas Shimada, winner of the celebrated Naumburg Foundation Violin Competition,...
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art

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other

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sweat
Women's Night: The Portland Women's Night Club has one of the most active nightlife scenes in the city. For more information, contact 799-2525.

Youth Night: The Portland Recreation Office has a variety of programs and activities for youth. Contact 799-2525.

Sweat: The Portland Sweat Club offers a range of fitness programs. Contact 799-2525.

Our Towns: The Portland Our Towns Club has a variety of programs for members. Contact 799-2525.
### Person of the Week

**Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Gender:**

**Age:**

**Height:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Figure:**

**Weight:**

**Sitivity:**

**Spirity:**

**Hobbies:**

**Interests:**

**Contact Information:**

**To respond:**

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CD $49.97, N/A tape

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