One Year Later on Sherman Street:
PUBLIC MONEY, PRIVATE DEALS

How Portland helped the "Secret Slumlords" bail out of their Sherman Street fiasco

By Andy Nauman

Phil McKerron has lived behind a double-bolted door on Sherman Street for three years. Unpacked boxes are stacked to the ceiling of the apartment's narrow hallway. The boxes are filled with things from Phil's last apartment, which he had to leave when it was renovated. Phil said he never unpacked the boxes because his apartment is too small.

It's just as well that Phil kept his things boxed. In two months he'll be thrown out again, this time by York-Cumberland Housing Development Corporation, a nonprofit developer that spent $2.8 million - much of it public money - to buy four Sherman Street apartment buildings that have been the targets of more than a year of public outcry.

The wailing began when the Parkside Neighborhood Association found out that New Sherman Street Associates, the six well-connected Portlenders who owned Phil's building, collected more than $30,000 in welfare money while stiffing their city tax bills and dodging city housing inspectors. Embarrassed by newspaper and television coverage last January, the "Secret Slumlords of Sherman Street" (CBW 1.12.89) promised to make things right.

Instead, the "Secret Slumlords" moved quickly to dump the buildings. In less than a year they had wrapped up a deal in which York-Cumberland, the City of Portland and People's Heritage Bank bailed them out.

Meanwhile, Phil moved slowly in his tiny kitchen. His boxes were still packed and his back was arched with arthritis. The pain showed on his face when he moved his body. He said he never liked this apartment. He said it's too small. When asked if he would like it better if it were painted and fixed up, he replied, "I don't know. I'm gonna be looking around. It's got to be bigger than what it is here."

Continued on page 6
Ten more movies you didn't see

Three sheets to Alien Skinner - A Good Pick for Lovers 12/19/84. This is a story that should have been written in the past year and one that I've written in my head for years.

Good Shepherd, an alcoholic who feels he's been abandoned by his God, is taken in by a group of people who make him feel loved. He then sets out to find his way back to his faith and ends up saving the world.

I've always been interested in the theme of the Good Shepherd, who guides his sheep to safety and back to his fold. In this story, the shepherd is a man who has been abandoned by his God and is led to believe that he is the only one who can save the world. He sets out on a journey to find his way back to his faith and, in the process, saves the world.

I hope you enjoy this story. It's one that I've been working on for years and I think you'll like it.
Bigger paychecks for city workers

About 11% of city employees of the City of Portland got bigger paychecks on January 18. The council unanimously approved a plan which will cost the city an additional $1.5 million. According to deputy city manager Mark Groll, the plan is aimed at making public service more attractive to employees and for only 14 percent of city employees.

The first permanent municipal city attorney David Leather's salary is up to $75,000 and Police Chief Michael Chong's is up to $54,000. The council also approved a 12 percent raise for City Manager Robert Oster, boosting his salary to $121,000.

Cruise missiles foes protest Cohen

Two U.S. Navy missile systems were tested off the coast of Maine on Jan. 13, 1983, Group that favors a limiting of the deployment of cruise missiles of more than 300 miles range. The council was approved by the cabinet in March and is expected to be completed by the end of June. The council is expected to be completed by the end of June.

The council's decision to limit the testing of the cruise missiles was based on the need to decrease the risk of an accident. The council is concerned that the deployment of cruise missiles could result in a serious accident, as well as the potential for a nuclear war.

Feds dip into heating oil prices

The Federal Department of Energy has begun investigating the prices of heating oil in Maine and New England. The department believes that the current prices are too high and that the government should be able to negotiate lower prices for the consumers.

The investigation is part of the department's efforts to ensure that consumers are paying fair prices for their oil. The department is working with the states to gather information about the prices of heating oil and to develop a strategy for addressing the issue.

Libby Mitchell leaves MSFA

Libby Mitchell, Director of the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) and the state's chief housing official, has announced that she will be leaving her job on Feb. 10. Mitchell has served as the director since 1996.

During her tenure, Mitchell oversaw the development of over 3,000 affordable housing units and the expansion of the state's affordable housing inventory. She also worked to increase the availability of affordable housing and to improve the quality of existing housing units.

Mitchell's departure will result in a significant loss for the state, as she has been a key figure in the development of affordable housing in Maine.

No road kill this season

Although it is a common occurrence for deer and other wildlife to be killed on roads, there were no reports of wildlife deaths in Maine during the winter season. This is likely due to the cold weather and the fact that many animals stay indoors during the winter.

Watching water

"People want to know the river is safe," said Michael Caron, a Portland marketing consultant. "They want to know that we are monitoring it and taking care of it."

The Presumpscot River is the focus of a new study by the town of Portland, which is considering ways to improve water quality and protect the river from pollution.

The study is being conducted by the Presumpscot River Restoration Group, which is made up of local residents, environmental groups, and businesses. The group is seeking funding to continue the study and to develop a plan for improving water quality in the river.

"We are trying to make the river usable for people," Caron said. "We want to make sure that people can enjoy the river and that it is clean and healthy for wildlife and for people who want to use it for recreation.

According to the study, the river is currently contaminated by a variety of pollutants, including heavy metals and chemicals. The group is working to identify the sources of pollution and to develop strategies for reducing pollution in the river.

The study is expected to be completed in the fall of 2001, and the group will be seeking funding to implement the recommendations of the study. The group is hoping to receive funding from the state and federal government, as well as from private sources.
**PUBLIC MONEY, PRIVATE DEALS**

Continued from page one.

A year ago, the Portland Neighborhood Association was trying to locate the owners of many buildings on Sherman Street. The buildings, said by police as hot spots of prostitution and drug dealing, contained hundreds of housing, fire, and mold code violations. We attempted to locate the owners of the buildings but had great difficulty finding them," Donna Ibus, said Casco Bay Weekly last January, "it seemed as if the owners were trying to avoid their responsibilities."

On Jan. 6, 1988, Herb Adams, a state lawmaker and Sherman Street resident, dug up the deeds to the buildings. The deeds led him to two men, which revealed the identity of the landlords. Adams learned that 56, 60 and 77/9 Sherman Street were owned by New Sherman Street Associates (NSSA), who purchased the buildings (previously a rooming house and a former tobacco warehouse) for $180,000 and sold them for $640,000. The building owners had hidden their names from the public behind a limited partnership called "Hill-Vanman," made up of John Vanman, Kenneth Bowditch and John Lightbody.

The neighbors were surprised to learn that Lightbody, a partner in the prestigious Portland law firm of Murray, Prindaville and Murray, would own such regrettable buildings. They were even more surprised to learn that Pamela Parth, their own city councilor, was the vote of Lightbody’s law partner. Joe Gray, Parkside resident and Portland City Planner, had been looking for the owners of 56, 60 and 77/9 Sherman St. for some time. He had a stack of buildings violations but hadn’t been able to find the landlord.

When Adams told Gray that Lightbody owned the buildings, Gray interviewed Lightbody at City Hall and confronted him with the violations. According to Gray, Lightbody’s initial response was, “It’s too expensive to clean up.”

But Lightbody’s profits grow in notoriously unsanitary areas.

Behind the TV cameras, Parkside was taking a different track. They went to Heritage Bank, President of People’s Heritage Bank, who held a mortgage on one of the Sherman Street buildings. The mortgage agreement between People’s Heritage Bank and the parties was annulled a press conference about the case walked. On Feb. 21, NSSA, the building owner, served the Adams district attorney of the first crack bust in Maine. Police said that a “crack factory” had been operating at a vacant apartment. The Portland Neighborhood Association staged a press conference about the case walked. On June 5, when the Parkside group saw the public reaction, they realized that Herb Adams and York-Cumberland had been the death of the agreement.

“We didn’t have a right to go to the press,” Adams said.

“They were deliberately vague. It was an ongoing attempt to destroy us,” said Partha resident Michael Angelis.

And when they read the details of the agreement, they knew both the NSSA and York-Cumberland Corporation had something big up their sleeves.

“York-Cumberland had agreed to pay $430,000 for the NSSA properties. David Carly, a Sherman Street resident and real estate broker, said that was an inflated price, that when the buildings were listed on the market they didn’t even sell at that price,” Adams said.

“York-Cumberland agreed that it had outstanding debts against NSSA, including unpaid taxes, would be deeded from the party. It was a public money bond, so, in other words, pay off NSSA and other debts.”

“York-Cumberland agreed not to tell anyone the details about the agreement until after the final closing,” Adams said.

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“People’s Heritage Bank and York-Cumberland Corporation had something big up their sleeves. “York-Cumberland, a nonprofit owned by the City of Portland, had agreed to pay $260,000 for the NSSA properties. David Carly, a Sherman Street resident and real estate broker, said that was an inflated price, that when the buildings were listed on the market they didn’t even sell at that price,” Adams said.

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“We don’t have to buy into being intimidated or coerced,” said Adam.

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“If you didn’t work the Tlaah Mahle because no one wants to care for that,”

**Public money**

As Parkside’s plans for the buildings were being scuttled, some neighbors tried to follow York-Cumberland’s plans. But even with the city’s clearance, York-Cumberland still didn’t think they had enough money to fix up the buildings. They fixed up the buildings by a small sum and picked up a small media. It still had some blood in the newspapers,” she said.

She kept her word if the tenants. York-Cumberland knew that public funding must be public and charitable agencies to finance the project.

“Their weren’t going to be super-spacious,” admitted News, "we don’t build the Tlaah Mahle because no one wants to care for that."

**The Plumb connections**

But what got Herb Adams and York-Cumberland even more angry was their city councilor, was the vote of Lightbody’s law partner.

But when Adams’ partner and two neighbors threatened to fix their problems, the NSSA partners agreed to help close doors to fix up the building. They worked with John Lightbody; a local com-

[Image 0x0 to 1926x1448]
Fencing fever

By Mike Quinn

One of the most misunderstood sports these days is the product of centuries of fighting to the death.

Fortunately, fencing has cleaned up its act, and now this sport is more popular than ever.

While there are still the more traditional forms of fencing, the sport has evolved to include a variety of weapons and styles.

For example, the épée is a straight, single-edged sword with a blade that is slightly curved.

The foil is a flexible, single-edged sword with a blade that is more rigid than the épée.

The sabre is a straight sword with a slightly curved blade.

Each weapon has its own set of rules and techniques.

Fencing is a sport that requires both physical and mental strength.

It is a sport where the mind and body must work together to achieve victory.

The most important skill in fencing is the ability to read your opponent and anticipate their movements.

In one of our early lessons, Pullo, who is a master fencer, took out a pen from his pocket and demonstrated the proper foil position, etc.

The chance of an advance command, as he scrutinizes the students' form for bent knees, a straight back, right angle with feet, a relaxed wrist, etc.

The students must be able to anticipate their opponent's movements and react accordingly.

The most difficult athletic motion to consistently perform is the masque.

Does it ever! Heretofore, I was thor­oughly convinced that it was the most difficult athletic motion to consistently engage.

It uses muscles that are ordinarily not exercised, and it is a sport that requires serious dedication.

In one of our early lessons, Pullo demonstrates fine fencing form.

Chris Pullo explains, "Fencing is unique in that it can be performed solo, or it can be played in groups.

It is a sport that can be enjoyed by men and women of all ages and abilities.

It is a sport that requires both physical and mental strength.

It is a sport that is truly a challenge for everyone.

Fancying yourself as Errol Flynn or Flynn and his code of honor. Your eight year old cuts you to shreds.

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**Thursday, February 2, 1995**

- **The movie** "Caligula" is about the rise and fall of the Roman Republic. A commentary on the jungle of treasury driven by politics. The movie is being shown as part of the Late American Film Festival in the theater at the Portland State University City Center, USM Portland. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call 780-4440.

- Governor William Clinton's "State of the State Address" will be broadcast on Maine television and radio. The Governor will address the Maine legislature and the people of Maine. For more information, call Governor's Office, 207-287-6200.

- UMA's Faculty Concert Series continues with a concert of works from the late 20th century. For more information, call 780-5256.

- **Monthly Tide** performs an all-french program. For more information, call 780-5256.

**Friday, February 3, 1995**

- **5 PM**
  - The Children's Room of the Portland Central Library and the Portland Phoenix School present the new novel from 2-4 p.m. in the Main Room of the Library. The "Year of the Hare" will be welcomed with Chinese folk dancing and demonstrations of Chinese martial arts, calligraphy and other cultural traditions.

- **8 PM**
  - "Flash Gordon" screens at the Strand on the Ocean in two showings at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Free admission is offered to students and faculty.

- **Saturday, February 4, 1995**

- **2 PM**
  - "The Castle" by Charles Dickens will be performed at Portland's Overture Center at 2 p.m. For more information, call 780-5256.

- **8 PM**
  - "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown is a mystery that explores the life of Jesus Christ and the secrets of the Catholic Church. For more information, call 780-5256.

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**The Casco Bay Weekly Calendar: 10 Days and More Ways to Be Informed, Get Involved and Stay Amused.**

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**Shelley's**

- 12 Lincoln St.
- Portland 207-772-0000
- Cover Charge: $5.00
- ID Required

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**The CASCO BAY WEEKLY CALENDAR: 10 DAYS AND MORE WAYS TO BE INFORMED, GET INVOLVED AND STAY AMUSED.**

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**The Movies**

- *The Breakfast Club* (1985)
- *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980)
- *Brazil* (1986)
- *The Fisher King* (1991)

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**Zoos**

- **Why Are Sundays So Popular at Zootz?**
  - It's request night! DJ Ed plays your favorite requests.
  - World's Greatest Bartenders - Susan & Lisa
  - NO COVER - ALL NIGHT
  - Dancing is the ultimate way to ignore Mondays!

- **Request Sundays** - Only at Zootz
  - (2) Forest Avenue, Portland 207-772-0000
  - Open 7 days a week.
A GREAT PAIR!

Did you know Throckmorton and Natural Light are 100% owned by the Union Art Gallery? Thats right, both places are run by the same people. So if you go to one, youll get the same great service and atmosphere at the other.

Dine, Getting a great supper with live entertainment is as easy as 1-2-3. Thats right, its a 3-course meal, with live entertainment.

And its all done in the beautiful surroundings of the University of Chicago Art Gallery.

Hats Off To...

CBW LISTINGS

Listings must be received by 15 noon the Friday prior to publication. Jim Kenner, 333-8067.

SILVER SCREEN

The Molly Malone

Screening of the 1990 Oscar nomineee

The Molly Malone.

What's Where

Marine Mall

Theatrical release of this

Marine Mall.

Steen City

Screening of the 1990 Oscar nominee

Steen City.

CLUBS

THURSDAY 12.25

Bar-Karthoff

Bar-Karthoff.

The Gardiner

The Gardiner.

SUNDAY 12.26

Blue Boar Inn - 5 pm

Blue Boar Inn.

BIRCHMONT ROOM AT BOWDIN

1717 U.S. 1 S. (603) 787-7520

CONCERTS

THURSDAY 12.25

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre - Showboat - 8 pm

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.

Avenue Theater - Eat on The Avenue - 8 pm

Avenue Theater.

FRIDAY 12.26

The Old Port - Bullwinkle's Party - 11 pm

The Old Port.

SATURDAY 12.27

The Museum Theater - Three Women - 8 pm

The Museum Theater.

CBW LISTINGS - CPM - ROME

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The Old Port.

WEDNESDAY 1.31

The Union Art Gallery - Sara Havelka - 8 pm

The Union Art Gallery.

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SATURDAY 10.19

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CBW LISTINGS - CPM - ROME

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The Union Art Gallery.

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The Old Port.

TUESDAY 11.5

The Museum Theater - Three Women - 8 pm

The Museum Theater.

SATURDAY 11.7

The Museum Theater - Three Women - 8 pm

The Museum Theater.

SUNDAY 11.8

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STAGE

Urban people, urban life in Portland School of Art show

This is a show of contemporary art with a focus on urban life. The exhibition features works by local artists, including paintings, sculptures, and photographs. The show is open to the public and will be on display until the end of the month. For more information, please visit the website or contact the Portland School of Art.

ART OPENING

The opening reception for the Urban Life exhibit will be held on the 20th of January at 6 pm. There will be a cash bar, light refreshments, and live music. Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy the art. The event is free and open to the public.

AROUND TOWN

The Moon Rising Film Festival is held every Friday night at the Portland Art Museum. The festival features films from around the world, showcasing a variety of genres and styles. The next screening will be on the 25th of January at 7 pm. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for students and seniors. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

OUT OF TOWN

The Maine Art Museum is hosting a special exhibit on contemporary Japanese art. The exhibit features works by modern artists, including paintings, sculptures, and installations. The exhibit is open to the public and will be on display until the end of the month. For more information, please visit the website or contact the museum.

SUNSET

The Portland Main Line is offering a special sunset cruise on the 27th of January. The cruise will depart from the Portland Harbor and will include live music and a specially curated menu. Tickets are $50 per person and can be purchased online. Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot.

OFF THE CLOCK

The Portland Museum of Art is hosting a special event on the 31st of January at 8 pm. The event features a performance by the local band, The Moon. Tickets are $30 per person and can be purchased online. Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your spot.

For more information on these events and others, please visit the website or contact the respective organizations.
counseling

qualities for a new career opening in Portland January 9th or 10th:

ARE YOU A "DIFFICULT" PATIENT? The MINORITY INTEGRATION PROGRAM helps people express their needs through effective communication. No diagnosis, no required behaviors and no termination of once normal care. FOTOCOL participates in the program. For more information call Casco Bay Counseling at 772-9483.

DO YOU

MANAGE GRIEF

RECOVER AFTERTRAUM

DO YOU

managing the dish, the laundry, the kids, the house? Are you overworked, tired, burned out? Your body is your best asset. Learn to manage stress and maintain your balance.

DO YOU

experience anger, grief, depression, anxiety, stress? Can your family or friends do it for you? Reach out for support. It's healthy to talk about it.

DO YOU

ADVICE SEEKING

You want to help others. You want to be a counselor. Want to become a counselor? Call 772-9483 today.

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DO YOU
Would you trust the call of three umpires?

If no one believed the ump, there wouldn't be any winner, right?

There are going to be three big umpires — monitoring teams — at the elections in Nicaragua on February 25, 1990:

1. The United Nations Monitoring Team
2. The Organization of American States (O.A.S.) Monitoring Team
3. Former President Jimmy Carter's Monitoring Team

We think the U.S. Administration should abide by the "call" of these three impartial groups as to whether the elections were free and fair — regardless of who wins the elections.

We also believe that if the umpires rule that the elections were free and fair, the U.S. trade embargo should be lifted — regardless of who wins the elections. (President Bush has told the United Nicaraguan Opposition that he will lift it if they win!)

If you agree that we should play fair, please ask:

Sen. George Mitchell
P.O. Box 9300
Portland, ME 04104
874-0883

Sen. William S. Cohen
P.O. Box 9298
Portland, ME 04104
780-3575

Rep. Joseph E. Brennan
377 Commercial St.
Portland, ME 04101
780-3382

Rep. Olympia J. Snowe
2 Great Falls Plaza
Auburn, ME 04210
780-3394

1.) to promise to abide by the U.N. / O.A.S. / Carter "call"
2.) to get the administration's pledge in advance of the election to abide by the "call"
3.) to get the administration to lift the embargo, if the elections are judged free and fair, no matter who wins!

Paid for by the Citizens' Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Nicaragua and by the following businesses and concerned citizens:

Citizens' Committee for Free and Fair Elections

The Institute

Raoul's

Maine Witness For Peace. The Maine Peace Coalition.

The New Economy Club

The Book Review

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