By W.O. Cutlip

If your resolve fails this evening and you do not kick back on the divan to read another 20 chapters of Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past," you will, in all probability, turn your television on and bask in its light.

This is not a tragedy. It happens to many otherwise good people. There's nothing to be ashamed of, or not much. Your family understands even if your friends do not.

Should you find yourself in front of the tube tonight, slack-jawed and perhaps drooling slightly, try to reorient yourself from your habitual television-watching stupor to take notice of a phenomenon: many of the sponsors for the programs you watch sell their products with the music of a heretofore obscure musical subculture, a purist idiom called the blues.

The blues may play softly in the background while richly photographed scenes of natural splendor fill you with a desire to drink Canadian beer. Or the blues might be sung lustily by some masculine paradigm who exhorts you to Be All You Can Be, while tanks and helicopters and other neat things fill the screen.

If you are particularly astute, you may even catch the products themselves singing the blues. On a given night, one might be serenaded by automobiles, lawn mowers, household cleaners, hamburgers, band aids, suppositories—the list is endless. It will be clear to you then that Madison Avenue has discovered the blues.

This is much like Columbus discovering America. The natives, of course, knew it was here all along. Like the Native Americans, blues music aficionados watch the corporate Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria sail into their harbor with some trepidation.

The history of the blues is already filled with episodes of exploitation by persons and institutions not necessarily known for their dishonesty. As the current popularity of the blues invites ever more commercial development by cynical pop culture raiders, the people who love the blues—the people who live the blues—look to the future with great anxiety.

continued on page 7
Topless isn't nude
Being a nudist is the stuff of a lifelong communion with the constant motion of water. I decided at the age of 20, in Uptown, that Portland is the perfect place to do it. I was about to take a shower in the rain when I saw a nudist who had been standing there for a while. He was wearing nothing but a pair of shorts. I asked him if he could show me how it was done. He said, "Sure! Just wait for a wave!" And so I waited, and... (story continues).

Story lacked girl's coach
As a girl, Mike Quinn's article on high school basketball was a real eye-opener. I was waiting for the profile of a girl's coach. When the article ended, my disappointment was overshadowed by the gratuitous heroics of "unassisted" girls. I was amazed that the Casco Bay Weekly chose to put such complete coverage on the Cape Island school system, starting with Don Orcutt's program for middle-schoolers and continuing with Cape High's John DiFranco — a team of exceptional talent. But girls' sports went on to be covered by national college basketball programs.

Let's Talk leader rebuts
Concerning "Advocates Laureate for the Handicapped" (Casco Bay Weekly) Marcia's talk was provided in an attempt to educate the last six months. We provide comprehensive services to the marketplace who call us. Our services are not in a genuine caring fashion. We work very hard to make sure people get proper help. We address and work with employers. We transport people. There is though one message that we are trying to get across. It is that people with disabilities have a right to be here. We are working hard to make this happen.

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BLUES ROBBED BLIND

Guitar heroes

Angel of death...Thursday night, the kids at Les Luthiers' Custom Guitar are once again talking the "bulls**t" signs and thinking up their amplifiers. This is their last night, and no one wants to think of taking the impromptu over the house, 12 bars. Everyone is here playing electric guitar.

Dana Tennant, Les Luthiers himself, speaks to the microphone and says "Sweet Home Chicago." Choking the neck of his custom instrument with deft severity, he begins the ascending minor scale; the compact musical expression built around the minor thirds and evocative of the blues sounds. Dana plays the blues with great intensity and great fire.

"I was listening to the blues before I was born," he says. "My mother was a music teacher in the area, and I was always surrounded by music when I was young. I've always had a passion for playing the blues, and my music is heavily influenced by this genre."

Dana is a unique artist who has managed to keep his love for the blues alive. His music blends with the sounds of his childhood, and he has managed to stay true to his roots.

Due to his personal and professional contributions to blues music and his unique style, Dana is an important figure in the world of blues. He has made his mark in the industry and continues to inspire others with his music.
MAY 21

10:30 p.m. and Post City All-Stars break up with a set at 11 p.m. at the Third Floor Ballroom at the Collins Hotel, 350 Fore St., Portland. For more information, call 773-3180.

12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. City of Portland Forestry Office promotes its annual tree planting event at 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. at the Portland Public Library, 500 Congress St., Portland. For more information, call 773-3180.

28 SUNDAY

The Great Outdoor in the Back Cove Area of Portland kicks off with the Back Cove Area Festival at the Portland waterfront at 11 a.m. The festival features food, music, dance, art, and entertainment throughout the day. For more information, call 773-3180.

29 MONDAY

So many conditions, so little time. Though so many opportunities to gear up, it’s tough to know which. Here’s a chance to see what’s going down on the very big screen at the Portland Museum of Art, Humphrey Bogart, and Mary Astor in “The Maltese Falcon,” being shown in a night at the Portland Museum of Art, Humphreys Park, Mary Avett, and Sydney Gannett in “Double Indemnity.” The showings are at 7 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art, 125 High St., Portland. For more information, call 773-3180.

30 TUESDAY

Laughing Wild opens tonight at the Portland Museum of Art, 125 High St., Portland. For more information, call 773-3180.
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COMING OUT FOR AIDS

FRIDAY JUNE 8 7:30 PM
DOORS OPEN 6:30

CUMBERLAND COUNTY
CIVIC CENTER, PORTLAND
TICKETS $14 & $18

Presented by

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To benefit Maine Health Foundation, Inc. and People Living With AIDS in Maine

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