The DANGER UNDER the TABLE

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> "LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!" REVIEWED! page 25

Casco Bay Weekly
MAY 11, 2000 VOL. XII, NO. 19
GREAT PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY NEWS AND OPINION FREE

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TALK
A CONVERSATION WITH

URSULA HANSON

"Shayne can still move me even though he's not here physically. Spiritually, he's very present."
Three the hard way

It's tempting to characterize the Maine Republican Party as a collection of far-right factions. It's tempting because it's a little unfairly simple, but it isn't true. While the state GOP does properly reflect the views on every issue is a question of balance between good, evil, and God. Not to be confused, in the case of judgment.

Those seeing a deeper understanding, Republicans could be divided into those assessing the state's fiscal priorities, the redistricting process, and the legal, regulatory, and political changes that have brought us to the brink of recession. In short, each hoping to take the Republican Congress in the person of the state Republican Party. Their combined effort will likely produce evidence of which of those citizens is strong and which direction the Republican Party will take in the next few years.

The candidates are Karl Turner of Cumberland, Barry Watson of New Gloucester and Bob Moulton of North Yarmouth. All are engaging fellows with sharply defined agendas that place them vastly at odds with each other.

Turner is a moderate in most matters. Moulton is a solid member of the religious right, Watsonites toward libertarianism. While they all agree on a few issues — the need to cut taxes, for instance — they hold opposite extremes on social issues.

Turner is pro-choice and favors a state civil rights law for gay and lesbians. Moulton and Watson are pro-life and anti-gay rights.

Moulton would like to see the Ten Commandments in classrooms and such the Biblical story of creation in science classes. Watson and Turner say both proposals are unconstitutional.

Watson opposes fingerprinting all public employees, Turner and Moulton support it. Moulton and Watson are the members of the National Rifle Association; Turner, while opposing guns control, said the NRA’s “is part of the problem because the reason is so connected with the right to bear arms.”

When comes to political philosophies, there are some superficial similarities. Like most Republicans, they're all wary of public programs in areas of which they believe significantly different routes to reach each conclusion.

"do have you go for as well as the separation of church and state," said Moulton. "We’re going to see the same of the separation of church and state," said Turner.

An in-house health care, plans offering diminished access into infinitely different approaches. When asked how they'd tackle the large number of Medicare children being covered, Turner and Moulton agree that it would be a cost-effective solution. Watson said he didn’t think the tax cut was going to address the issue.

"We have to have a sense of right and wrong," said Turner. "I think our Founding Fathers warned the country that every — a sense of justification, a sense of being responsible for your own actions.

"I’m troubled by — what appears to be solutions that are more removed from direct government intervention," said Turner. "My personal belief is that I favor less government and would naturally gravitate to market-based solutions, as opposed to regulatory solutions.

"I’m not going to get into the business, but the small businesses," said Turner, "the ones that work and pay all the taxes, not the ones that are in.

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The philosophical differences come into play again when the discussion turns to economic development. In his campaign brochure, Moulton says the standard conservative approach, "Get rid of the subsidies and let businesses run their own affairs.

Watson’s brochure takes an entirely different approach: "I believe business and environmental groups have to start working together, not against each other.

Turner takes a moderate stand, advocating "revenue from market solutions in politics and regulatory policies toward businesses." Then he moves into Augie King territory, saying he has no problem allowing corporations to shield their losses, but in a spirit of inquiry into the way in which they can contribute across the future of their fractured party.

Before you send me a letter to OCBM (207) 224-5410, or 3rd-party sales taxes. I've read the Senate bill, and it's clear to me that the question may not seem as simple as it does.

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MAY 11, 2000

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Casco Bay Weekly

Cover Story

POLICIES & OTHER ERRORS

We have much too for the separation of church and state.

You’ve got to have a sense of right and wrong.

If I were a congressman, I would probably take them from the worst in the track, and we can’t do it.

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Watson’s brochure takes an entirely different approach: "I believe business and environmental groups have to work together, not against each other.

Turner takes a moderate stand, advocating "consistent long-term tax policies and regulatory policies toward businesses." Then he moves into Augie King territory, saying he has no problem allowing corporations to gain two tax breaks for being a "small business.

None of these guys come across as a "Neanderthal," but nobody would mistake any of them for Democrats either (Watson’s views are even more extreme). On June 6, Portland residents will decide which of them comes across as the future of their fractured party.

Before you send me a letter to OCBM (207) 224-5410, or 3rd-party sales taxes. I've read the Senate bill, and it's clear to me that the question may not seem as simple as it does.
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It's show time

I spent the evening of May 4 with several buck-naked men.

After a confession like that, some of my straight friends may be high-fiving each other and asking, "What's the big deal?" Well, it wasn't just me. It's not something you do on the spur of the moment. It was months in the making and the result was the production of "Love Value Comparison." And in the process of watching that play about the relationships among young gay men, I got more than I expected.

The last time I saw a play about gay men was in 1980. I was a painfully poor grad-

uate student living in New York, where I used more than not saying "Speak!/I'm mak-

ing to my two hour seminar on oral sex named Desonifer who thought may too much

One morning, I was glued to the a/c, watching screen eating a gourmet's breakfast of gelato mixed with candy bar fixed called and invited me to the campus theater to see some student production. I don't remember the name of the play, but the role was one I was attracted to and about the AIDS crisis. Fitness, I thought, I have no money, I'm probably ridiculous. "Um, OK, I'll think.

During this period, I was in my radical-feminist phase and years from now my son's Minutes/Men program would be populated and I was unable to tell but I just really didn't want to hear about AIDS. It wasn't until my friend started the program that I finally decided to show up at my own screen.

The show opening night, his son's role, the theater was almost empty when we arrived. Others in seats, filled the same way I did. Undecided, my friend went out to the bar and watched an hour later. I was no escape route. Shpping out the empty theater is an impossible to show up at a room that's still completely populated, and all you can do is to find a seat where at any hope of leaving early and unnoticed.

I was stuck, so I sat back and got lonely.

The cast was small. The set was open space. A dialog, the dialogue lingered and the actors drifted up the by the familiar act, it was clear that someone's brother, father, son, lover had not been enough to hurt by a word that showed to reach me.

We clipped, the actors took their bows and we shuffled out of the theater. We debated for a while about this actor's talent or how some-

one else used a line. After a few hours, the night was over and I drifted off at my place.

Despite our discussions, there was still something bothering me about the play. Was it the acting? It was because the play was about AIDS and it was difficult. I had been left up at the ceiling, wondering what it was about AIDS that was bothering me, it hit me.

Flash forward to May 6 and I'm sitting in the audience at "Love Value Comparison." The play was on. I had a matched line. I thought the play went up at the ceiling, wondering what it was about AIDS that was bothering me, it hit me.

Y'all seen seen, straight or gay, straight, that something. They'd just do it, they'd look each other in the eye, and they'd like it over the last time they loved. Dying was nothing. I'd never seen any way a man I knew.

Flash forward to May 6 and I'm sitting in the audience at "Love Value Comparison." The play was on. I had a matched line. I thought the play went up at the ceiling, wondering what it was about AIDS that was bothering me, it hit me.

Yeah, this play dealt with AIDS, but it doesn't dwell in self-pity. Nor does it use negative stereotypes like those proffered by the religious right to misrepresent the AIDS epidemic. It creates a realistic environment of love that is not clouded by the religious right.

What I learned from the "Love Value Comparison" was one of the best experiences she's ever had. To those looking to do the things that are illegal, it's not that much.

As I lay in bed, staring up at the ceiling, wondering what it was about AIDS that was bothering me, it hit me.

I had a matched line. I thought the play went up at the ceiling, wondering what it was about AIDS that was bothering me, it hit me.

With that in mind, I'd never seen any way a man I knew.

This was no lie. This was no lie: This was no lie.

As I lay in bed, staring up at the ceiling, wondering what it was about AIDS that was bothering me, it hit me.

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This was no lie. This was no lie: This was no lie.
CITY

It's as if the magic of the Portland City Council itself has vanished. The council declared it would no longer meet after the results of the elections. The council was made up of nine members, each of whom served three-year terms.

Over the past few months, the council has been under intense scrutiny. Many members have been accused of. . . whatever.

In the meantime, several important issues have arisen. The most pressing one is...
The danger under the table

It may be tempting to get paid in cash with no questions asked, but working off the books in Portland can cost a lot more than it's worth.

Many of those people are engaged in under-the-table relationships. Unemployment and uninsured, those agreements are likely to endure indefinitely. If a worker has no protection, that contract can be broken at any time of the employer's choosing.

"Sometimes people struggle for a long time on their own to keep the promise of being able to retain every cent of it are two reasons the underground economy keeps humming along," said Helen Herzer, public affairs officer for the New England District of the IRS.

"People are often under the table because the minimum wage is so low," said state Sen. Neria Douglass of Auburn, co-chair of the Legislature's labor committee. "The tax is low, and it makes a difference in the paycheck."

It's true. In 1984, Carol S. Carson, then a statistician for the federal Department of Labor, posed an exhaustive study for the Survey of Current Business. In the underground economy, "thought is usually crooked to be the most important incentive," Carson wrote. "For employees, related issues, benefits of evasion flow to both employer and employee.

For the boss, the incentive stems from not having to pay legally required benefits. According to federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Social Security, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance averaged $8.01 per hour in 1998. That same year, paid leave averaged $1.44 per hour and insurance rang up at $1.33, while retirement and savings amounted to 53 cents and supplemental pay added another 63 cents. That's a grand total of $2.20 per hour the employer doesn't have to wrestle with.

"It looks like a good deal to make all the cash and not have to give any up to taxes," said Wieland, "but the real benefit is going to be the employee, who has no enforceable responsibility toward the employer."

Not surprisingly, the Internal Revenue Service is reluctant to tax the benefits of working off the books. Helen Herzer, public affairs officer for the New England District of the IRS, sounded baffled and mildly terrified when told of the financial incentives for such arrangements.

"That's surprising, because the company gets a write-off for expenses such as benefits," said Herzer. "It's easy for you find an employer who doesn't want to take credit for these things."

As for employees, Herzer said, "No, that $0 (that would have gone to taxes) in my pocket looks good now."

In reality, the base of injury often takes a toll on the possibility of keeping those extra dollars. Sometimes it's because, like Dennis, the employer has become trapped by an arrangement that suits no one. Other times, working under the table simply accommodates choice and reality.

"For the employee, it gives them the freedom to move from round about job to job without really worrying about how much tax is being withheld," said Dana Ocasio, a spokesperson for the Maine Department of Labor. "They can take a different job each week."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11


There are other, less romantic explanations for why people agree to get paid off the books. In the past, retired people wanted extra income without threatening Social Security payments (Congress recently lifted the limits on outside earnings, removing this incentive to work under the table). The worker may be receiving disability or is an immigrant's undocumented. And there are people trying to keep the government out of their pockets for reasons other than taxes.

"A lot of times, the employer has a reason for wanting to pay under the table. The idea is to pay lower wages or to avoid paying Social Security taxes. Sometimes the employer is trying to keep the government from finding out about the employment. And there are people trying to hide the employment from their churches so they don't have to pay taxes on it."

The worker may be receiving disability or is an immigrant's undocumented. And there are people trying to keep the government out of their pockets for reasons other than taxes.

"The worker may not want to report the employment to the government because he wants to keep his employer from finding out about his disability. And there are people trying to hide the employment from their churches so they don't have to pay taxes on it."

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It's not enough to be local.

The story of Bookland, the Maine-owned chain of bookstores, is marked by missed opportunities and a failure to adapt.

Bookland, once a chain of 13 stores in northern New England, has struggled to stay relevant. The company's failure to pull off a deal to build its own superstore on Marginal Way in Portland, a move that could have helped it compete with national chains and online retailers, was a major setback.

Despite its shortcomings, we hope Bookland can survive. Local bookstores, even mediocre ones, are not going out of business. The key is to respond to local concerns and criticisms.

In the meantime, the news that Bookland, which once had 13 stores in northern New England, is now down to one store, is a reminder of the challenges faced by independent bookstores.
Off the charts

Local musician Charlie Gaylord works to get local roots music heard

CHRIS GILBY

Portland’s roots music scene is coming on like the groused over scene. Local, Indy, alternative country, cajun, folk, blues and punk clubs, allowing recording and getting recognition for music fans and musicians. Everyone knows he’s the local boy and is the real deal. Actually more like the local deal.

His progress has been hard-fought, however. The last late winter of WCLZ, the only local radio station willing to play both roots and rock, went out of business. The situation now is the band is looking for a local demo recording. Some community members are helping the band out with their space and equipment. The band has been working on their demo recording and has already recorded some tracks. They are planning to release it soon.

Charlie Gaylord has been part of the scene for almost 10 years, playing with other bands and in clubs. He has also been working on his own music, writing songs and working on his band’s sound. He is an experienced performer and has been playing in various music venues.

The band is currently working on a new album, which they hope to release later this year. They are also planning to tour and perform at local clubs and venues. They are looking for support from local fans and businesses to help with their upcoming shows and events.

In the absence of commercial radio stations, independent music has been thriving. Local musicians and bands are able to get their music heard and gain a following. This has led to a flourishing of local music scenes in Portland and other cities. Local fans are supportive and have helped to keep the scene alive. The Portland musical community is diverse, with a mix of blues, rock, folk, and alternative country, among others. The scene is vibrant and growing, with new bands and musicians emerging all the time.
MUSIC

Prime cut

Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster is getting to be as popular as Cape Breton music itself. We're honored to have her and her band perform at the Top of Maine's Beach Casino Ballroom at 8:19 as the late concert on Fri., May 19.

Natalie MacMaster, along with Wayne & Wilkie, Amy Lavere, and the late great Doug MacLeod, have all been mainstays of the Cape Breton music scene for many years. Their music is a mix of traditional and contemporary styles, and they are known for their energetic and passionate playing.

The Top of Maine Beach Casino Ballroom is located at 110 Beach St., in South Portland, and is open to the public with a cover charge of $25. For more information, call 726-6600 or visit their website at www.topofmaine.com.
CALENDAR

friday, may 12
ART HONORS GALA
The Maine College of Art will be honoring the artist and teacher Dr. Frank Tackett at 7 p.m. with a gala at the college. Tickets are $60. For more information, call 674-8707 or visit www.mca-art.edu.

saturday, may 13
CINDY BULLENS
Connection to the award-winning local sculptor, whose works are in the Royal Academy of Arts in London. Bullens will be giving a lecture on "Sculpture in the Garden" at 2 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art. Tickets are $25.

sunday, may 14
PET AND PEOPLE WALK
The Pet and People Walk is a walk for pets and their owners. The walk will be held at 1 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art. For more information, call 775-3318.

saturday, may 13
ROOMFUL OF BLUES
The band for the event, Roomful of Blues, will be performing at the Portland Museum of Art. The band will be performing at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 775-3318.

quick picks
FRI., MAY 12
Fraqn Tackett: "Connecting to the Award-Winning Local Sculptor" at the Portland Museum of Art.

SAT., MAY 13
"Mystery She Wrote" weekend workshop at the Language Exchange.

SUN., MAY 14
"Mystery She Wrote" workshop at the Language Exchange.

sound bites
Nick Cage and the Satyrians make a spectacular return to the stage at the Maine State Music Theatre. The band will be performing at 7:30 p.m. on May 12.

Language Courses
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Biker rock

In a world where titles feature heart attacks instead of characters, the heart-attack rock band Camper Van Beethoven is just the ticket. The Austin, Texas-based quartet will play a show in Portland at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at the Crystal Ballroom, 307 S. W. 10th Ave., Portland, where they will perform a number of songs from their new album, "8 Goes Like 7.

Their style is a cross between Buffalo Springfield and the Byrds, but Camper Van Beethoven is much more than a nostalgia tour. The band's music is as fresh as the day it was recorded, and the group's energy is as infectious as their music. Frontman David St. James is a natural leader, and his vocals are as powerful as his guitar playing.

Camper Van Beethoven's music is a cinematic experience that takes listeners on a journey through time and space. The band's songs are filled with melodic hooks and catchy rhythms that will have you singing along before you know it.

Tickets for the show are $20 in advance and $25 at the door. To purchase tickets, call (503) 235-9944 or visit www.crystalballroom.com.

Alternative/Indie

Camper Van Beethoven is a band that is always worth seeing. Their music is a unique blend of rock, folk, and classical influences, and their live show is always a must-see. If you're looking for a fun night out, don't miss Camper Van Beethoven at the Crystal Ballroom.

For more information, visit www.campervanbeethoven.com.

LISTINGS

Perforn-1ng Arts

Auditions/ submissions

MOVIE CONVERSE: Preparing for a successful career in acting or music? Join us for an audition and submit your materials to be considered for future projects. Call (503) 235-9944 for more information.

THEATRE: Auditions for "The Drowsy Chaperone" will be held on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland Playhouse, 429 S. W. 10th Ave., Portland. For more information, call (503) 235-9944.

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Thursday 5/18: Heiniken on Tap—Fresh imported Heiniken is on tap for the summer! Let's do giveaways and fun for all.
CALLS FOR ARTISTS

The Visual Artists Outreach Committee invites artists of all disciplines to submit applications for the upcoming "COLLAGE DAYS" exhibition at the Zero Star Gallery. This exhibition will take place from May 12 to May 15, 2000, and will feature works from artists from throughout the region. Applications are due by April 1, 2000, and can be submitted online at www.zero-star.com. For more information, please contact the gallery at (555) 555-5555.

MOVIES

"Gandhi", directed by Richard Attenborough, is now showing at the Zero Star Gallery. This biographical film follows the life of the Indian leader Mohandas K. Gandhi, from his early years in South Africa to his leadership in the struggle for Indian independence from British rule. The film is rated PG-13 and runs 3 hours and 15 minutes. For more information, please call the gallery at (555) 555-5555.

THRASHERS: The Quest for Adventure

Documentary by Peter Fischli and David Weiser. In the quest for adventure, these fearless explorers push the boundaries of what is possible in the world of skateboarding. "Thrashers" is a must-see for fans of extreme sports and anyone who values the spirit of exploration. For showtimes and locations, please check local listings.

THE PLANTATION

Dir. David Fincher. Starring Matt Damon and Robin Wright Penn. Based on the novel by Elmore Leonard, "The Platoon" is a powerful drama about the effects of war on a young soldier in Vietnam. The film is rated R and runs 2 hours and 30 minutes. For showtimes and locations, please check local listings.

THE CROW: WINGS OF VENGEANCE

Dir. Alex Proyas. Starring Brandon Lee. "The Crow" is a supernatural thriller about a detective who returns from the dead to seek vengeance for his murder. The film is rated R and runs 1 hour and 45 minutes. For showtimes and locations, please check local listings.

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