Cruising

Portland has a new ordinance designed to stop cruising for sex in the West End and Parkside. But all the law has done so far is shift the activity to other parts of the city. Is there a public policy on public sex that actually works? See page 8.
Wanna play with the big dawgs... or sit your butt on the porch?

offering equipment designed for women

mountain bikes
in line skates
swimwear
high performance water sports equipment for the whole family

YOUR BIKE, IN LINE SKATE, SWIMWEAR SUPERSTORE

JOE JONES
SKATES, BIKES AND MORE
PAYNE RD. PLAZA
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885-5695 / 985-JOEJ

Misty Glove
Tall, CO
Workshop Downtown
June 1996

Talk
A CONVERSATION WITH
TOM Nunes

MAY 23, 1996

“A CONVERSATION WITH
TOM NUNES

Roll past Tom Nunes’ booth at the Exit 6A toll plaza in Scarborough and you’ll hear jazz, guaranteed: Louis Armstrong, Ben Webster, Duke Ellington, Lester Young, Johnny Hodges, bona fide classic stuff piping from Nunes’ small boom box. Nunes, 42, of Portland, has worked for the turnpike authority since 1985. He’s been a serious jazz head since 1990, and hosted a weekly classic jazz show on WPKM several years ago. He’s also pursuing an art degree at USM, a dozen of his lithographs of jazz luminaries are on display at the Bridgeway Restaurant in South Portland, and his work can also be seen in the current issue of “The Review,” USM’s art and literary magazine.

To those people who say jazz is dead, I say they don’t know what the hell they’re talking about. In another country heard from, you know?

Interview by Scott Sutherland; photo by Colin Malakie
A question of trust
The recent arrest of an Ivory Coast man has the African refugee community worried.

Sarah Goodwin

It was the kind of story that copy cats flock to. Every lawn and every police car on the street was described

Newspaper clipping

by the police officers

Sunday morning was no

exception. In fact, it was

no better than usual.

The phone had rung

several times. The

neighbor had called

again. They had heard

voices. They had heard

screaming. They had

heard\n
the police

arrive. They had

heard the officers

talk. They had heard

the officers

question the

neighbors,

and then

they had heard

the neighbors

say that the officers

had gone away.

The officers

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gone away.

But the neighbors

had not.

The neighbors

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As I'm sifting through the West End mail, I find myself wondering how to unpack this week's letters. They come to me with a sense of the familiar, the unknown, and the passing-by.

The ghosts. The stains. The shadows. I try to make sense of what I find, but sometimes it's hard to tell where one ends and the other begins.

The stains on my car and off the kindness of strangers. Again: two years in San Francisco and one in Europe and motored across the U.S. then came wheels: trikes, bikes, scooters, cars—anything that would hold itself together and move. Baby, I'm back.

For the first time in a long time, I find myself rethinking the meaning of home. What is it, exactly? A place? A feeling? A sense of belonging?

Ellen McAlister
Entire contents copyrighted.

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**Cure for pain**

Democrats in Congressional District candidate Chuck McLennan, he said, "I don't support a single-payer, government-run health care system."

But when McLennan was asked if he's concerned about the growing number of people without health insurance, he replied, "I don't think it's a problem and I don't think it's a crisis."

**The Bicycle People**

Toll-Free: 1-800-211-3925

**SPORTS**

We run the homes growing young, while inside people bake cakes—not for the rich, but for the poor. We know that a fate worse than death is death to care for the poor. But this is a fate we're willing to call our own. We are the Bicycle People.

---

**Hello old friends**

If you're looking for a way to get involved, there's an upcoming event that could make a difference. On May 6, the Casco Bay Weekly will host a benefit concert featuring local musicians and artists. So come out and support a good cause!
"Bob" visits a popular Portland cruising spot nearly every week. He knows the rituals, the dangers and the pleasures, and he usually finds a willing partner.

Sometimes they have sex in his car. Sometimes they do it on the grass in a nearby park. But Bob is unconcerned about Portland's new anti-cruising law.

"That doesn't have to do with anything, he said. "I'm not queer."

Bob is correct. While police officers have stepped up their efforts to make sure the city stays safe, the gay community feels less secure. Bruce Balboni, who lived near Deering Oaks, said his police patrols were "scaresome."

The problem is, cruising is a form of public sex, and in Portland, it's illegal. City officials have tried to curb the practice by, among other things, passing police cars near the park, but the practice continues.

"You can't control the people who want to do it," said Charles Pringle, a former Portland police officer. "But you can make it less likely that people will want to do it."

The message is clear: Cruising is OK as long as it's not in public.

Not in my backyard

For decades, Deering Oaks was the gay cruising spot in Portland. In spite of area residents' complaints, the park was a national park, and it was accessible to everyone.

Now, the city is trying to make the park safer, and it's targeting cruising.

"It's more than just sex," said Bowdoin Street resident Sarah Chitwood. "It's about community."

But for many residents, the park is just a place where they can escape the city's noise and crowds.

"Cruising is just a form of public sex," said Pringle. "But it's also a way for people to connect with each other."

The average person only wants a little of that, he said. "But the gay community wants a lot."
There's no indication that people involved in cruising are more or less likely to engage in unsafe sex practices than anyone else.

No consensus.

It would be a mistake to assume there's anything approximating unanimity on the gay community on the subject of cruising. While Bahnsen sees the activity fundamentally as a way of curing, "Cat," a gay man involved in a monogamous relationship, dismisses the scene as "the shadow life.

"There are some in the gay and lesbian community who are very concerned with how they are perceived by others," said Michael Layton, chairman of Portland's Pride Task Force. "Some don't care.

"The task force has received several complaints from people who have been ripped off by police for allegedly cruising. "One man was stopped on the street, " said Layton. "Even though he explained that the police he was just walking home from work. He believed he was being singled out because he looks effeminate, and the police assumed he was gay.

The task force was scheduled to discuss the issue of cruising at a May 27 meeting after (CPD's) dictate," but several members said it was unlikely the group would take any action as long as there was no satisfied voice from the gay community.

Don't expect that anyone soon. Gay political leaders not only don't speak with each other on the subject, they often don't speak at all. "I have a full agenda," said one elected official.

Other gay leaders choose their words carefully. "It's a tricky issue in some ways," said Alan Stern, a Portland activist.

"Traffic, annoying neighbors, prostitution and drug dealing would make the problems associated with cruising.

"The problem of cruising underground for safer sex and that's what cruising is all about," said Sally Fram, executive director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union. "Whether they're cruising or not, the police should not be involved in their lives. Maybe the city council needs to adopt a policy that [cruising will] exist... Maybe Portland needs to consider where will the heat of number of people offended by this activity.

For those who support cruising, cruising andины's a thing in its own right. And it is a referendum on what kind of discussions we have. It's a thing in itself.

"He needs to recognize how much they are cruising and how much they are obeying the order to stop cruising. Baloh terminated the practice in an effort to prevent public service announcements.

"The problem is unacceptable," said "Gwen" Porter's mind and the city's physical limitations, it would take the will of the city council or the public service announcements to stop it. "We can't just walk away."

"Goats in the Old Port"

Portland Book, Print & Paper Show

Sun, May 26, 10-6

Admission $5.00
$1.00 discount
sponsored by The Maine Historical Society

The place to shop for great books, from rare collectibles. Find antique prints, ephemera, and more. Be sure to stop by.

Every other day, Common people can too.

Find out now in CBB's June 6 Voter's Guide.

Goats in the Old Port

Portland Exposition Building 270 Park Avenue Portland, Maine

The 16th Annual Maine Antiquarian Booksellers

Books & Bicycles

Presenting the 16th Annual Maine Antiquarian Booksellers

Portland Book, Print & Paper Show

Sun, May 26, 10-6

Admission $5.00
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The place to shop for great books, from rare collectibles. Fine prints, ephemera, and more. Be sure to stop by.

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Almost immediately, the crowd filled with fans, kids and adults, many waving signs and playing with the cats, others, all watching signers.

The ceremony was getting underway.

"Please try to stay off the court," he intoned. "Please form an orderly line. It's right there. It's right there." "Don't hang on the fence," the announcers pleaded.

And the mayor, Chris Mackey, choked up on the press.

"We've been showing basketball in Maine for 30 years," he said. "And this is the first time we're coming back to Portland." It was the first time since the Portland Expo was closed to the public.

"I hope you enjoy your time here," he said. "And I hope you enjoy your time in the city and in the state of Maine."
Other voices, other lives
Slouching toward inclusivity with Flying Horse

MARY BETA LAPIN

Several years ago, while researching a book about people in prison, David Wagner was struck by how many of them created scrapbooks of poetry, stories or artwork in their shopping bags and half-used sugar packets. Wagner, an infectious-diseases physician at Portland Veterans Health Care System, was so taken with these small creative works that he wanted to know if it was safe for the people who were in prison to keep them, people whose lives were often so crowded that they didn’t have time to care for a collection.

When a friend suggested they publish a literary journal featuring work by people who usually excluded from mainstream publications—people like those who were in prison—Wagner was intrigued. How would a journal—Wagner wondered—be received?

Would a journal targeting writing about prison and art, which were always shown "out of context," receive what the editors wrote to the prison's largest community? Would the prison authorities and editors who had been in prison become the “bystanders and Newspaper of the future,” as one writer, who was imprisoned for 12 years, described it?

The result, Wagner observed, was 2,000 copies of the first issue, including a copy for each inmate. The journal had won an autographed first edition of "FIRE AND FORGE," a writer that depicts a pair of bored high school students fighting around with a loaded gun...”. Did Mary and every other flying horse friend, say, my parents are going to have to watch them? They didn’t think so. They thought, I’m glad this journal signs people’s names, still waiting for someone to bite off my finger, and I’ll never understand

Gary Lawless, who now writes in a prison group called "Easy Rider Bathroom Review Center for love," described "Flying Horse" as an outlet for writers who rarely find a receptive audience...

"If these of the people have a burning need to be seen as writers, not just as people who are mentally ill or home­less," said Lawless, in charge of Maine Books in Brunswick. "Magazines like this... the attempt to bring in the new voices, are really important, otherwise it gets stale." Wagner said.

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Movies

Prime Cut

The action-oriented sequel to the box office hit "PREMISE IMPOSSIBLE" is now out! And it's as thrilling as ever.

The crew members of the Ductac, Inc. fleet, led by STANN, get together and tunnel with the common goal to get filthy. While a lot of the footage from the boat just seems to resemble the movie, one of the scenes of the boat is so bad, the idea for the family movie has almost gone. It's actually as original, and even some covers have the same unreachable success. Catch this cutting-edge Screening May 25 at Stone David Screening Company, 1 York St, Portland. To $3. 77-2377

Clubs

Mondays

The Big Novel (rock), 433 Fore St, Portland, 780-1207.

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Career designs
St. Patrick's Day in the Cork Factory, Portland. 8 pm. 860-4111.

Design work by Woodford, Phoenix, Arizona, one of 12 teams participating in "Discover Design Day." woodford.com/discover

June 15, 2000, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, 355 Spring St, Portland. 5 pm.

Designers will present their designs for the upcoming "Discover Design Day." Center for Maine Contemporary Art, 355 Spring St, Portland. 5 pm.

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### Calendar

**Saturday 25** Area from their mythical reputation for wisdom, what do you really know about owls? The Christopher Columbus event will be held at the Jacksonville Beach Community Center. At the Venice Community Center, 1616 7th Street, Venice Beach, at 7 p.m. Call 207-325-4024. Tix: $20 (2-for-1 on Thurs). 85-5103.

### Thursday 23** If you're over the necessary threshold, then you're in luck. Choose from Veggie Bistro's "Beyond Therapy," a national tour of a New York show that opens Oct. 30 in the Paramount, or "Scotland Road," Off-Broadway Company's new revue. Preview starts Oct. 9 at On Stage Theatre, 1756 Main St. Tix $12 (Qtr. of 4 Pm). 774-1103.

### Friday 24** Kevin Salem will make his mark on the music scene with the Boston band Strangeways. At the Portland Players, 1808 Congress St. Tix: $12 (2-for-1 on Thurs). 85-5103.

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### Tuesday 5** Portland Players take you back in time to decadent club life in pre-World War II Berlin with musical classic "Cabaret." At 420 Cottage St, So. Portland, at 8 p.m. Shows thr through June 9 at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St. Tix: $30 ($16 students/seniors). 797-3338.

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Great clothes!

Great Mon, -Sor, 10 · 6 Sund.ay 12 · 5

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If you are thinking about self-improvement, try any one of the numerous health practitioners listed in Cross Bay Weekly’s Wellness Directory. If you start your business healthy, they advertise in the Weekly Wellness Directory, Gulf 22-975.
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