5-23-2002

Casco Bay Weekly : 23 May 2002

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Been there, done that

Locals who have lived in nations with universal health care say it's a great system that Maine should adopt.

Locals who have lived in nations with universal health care say it sucks, and God forbid it should ever happen here.

SHARON BASS'S STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 10.
Frustrated with your lack of education and exposure? Come and see us at Aquatic Concepts. Our staff is knowledgeable and experienced, and we strive to fill all of your....

...to be a foster or permanent parent for kitty moms or feral felines. Food and water? Into paradise, B Jason, & Spa. We understand, but we also want you to feel good on the inside, too. We have a new organic line for men, women & the kiddies. Your resourceful home..

We'd like to get into your drawers! A THE RESOURCEFUL HOME

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What's Going On...

Aquatic Concepts - Frosted with your fish tank? Afraid to do saltwater because you are too busy? We can remedy that with our new organic line for men, women & the kiddies. Your resourceful home is perfect, except for one thing...the closets are empty.

CITY THEATER: THE HEART OF THE ARTS -- Today, our theater operates as a non-profit free arts facility, providing our community the opportunity to enjoy a variety of entertainment options, including both classical and contemporary work. Our theater programs include a wide range of productions, from musicals to plays, to stand-up comedy, to film screenings. Our facility is also available for rental, allowing artists and organizations to host their own events. City Theater's mission is to provide a space for artistic expression and community gathering.

LUMINARY -- Portland's independent bookstore

Friends of Feral Felines

Are you willing to be a foster or permanent parent for kitty moms or kittens? Could you provide a garage, shed, barn or other suitable shelter along with food and water? Call 207-795-3014 for more information!

MARK HOMLES

MARK HOMLES

You look back to when we were hunters and gatherers, and walking on all fours and there were predators around to keep us moving. Now, you don't get a lot of activity.

Computerworks

Geek's Tip O' the Week

Don't Overload your Main drive. Programs need elbow room to work. Try to keep at least 100 MB of disk space free. Macintosh® & PC Computer Repairs and Upgrades Maintenance Network & Internet Setup (or your location) Reconditioned Computers & Printers with Warranties 883-5540

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MONICA WOOD
Saturday, May 25th at 4:00 PM
The event will be held "across the hall" at BONOMO's Restaurant.
Join us in celebrating the publication of two fabulous books, Ernähr Akk and the Pocket Muse: Ideas and Inspirations for Writing, by Portland writer, Monica Wood.

Hot potato awaiting a roast
There is little unity among the lawmakers who represent the Portland area, except for the current budget crisis, which could lead to cuts to local schools. And there is no sense of how the $80 million to be repaid in interest and current spending obligations to "Portland did all right in the past session, all things considered," said House Speaker Mike Neal, a Democrat from Portland. "We worked harder to offset the less dollars than from the school-aiding formulas."

"There is too much at stake to spend on this budget shortfall," he said. "We want to see what the governor recommends. We should not rush to judgment on this."
So, Give Angela King has not made any cost-cutting recommendation, and has only done administration steps in her budget. King said a special session of the Legislature is to deal with the budget shortfall is "likely."

The Legislature began its session, however, already well under way.
"We need to look at everything," said Portland Democratic Rep. Joseph Brannigan, a member of the budget-writing Appropriations Committee. "No one wants to cut school funding, but we can't find enough to cut in other programs. That's not realistic, and we have to raise taxes."

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A MID HER LUSH FLOWER GARDENS IN THE BACK YARD OF HER FOUR-BEDROOM COLONIAL HOME IN BRUNSWICK, SARA PORTER talked about her days living in Quebec. She got particularly illustrative when she described what she saw when she’d drive across the border to the United States for periodic visits.

On the Quebec side, the homes were well kept up. "They had gardens. They looked nice, she said. On the New York/Quebec side, she said she saw a startling difference, even though both sides are poor, rural communities.

"It looked like people gave up," said Porter, 75, of the homes on the U.S. side. "You could sense it. She described the houses as modest, unpainted, neglected, forlorn.

"I was shocked," she added, in a tone of voice that doesn’t quite match the words. "We need to think about this and do something about it."

" ... of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Who insures ya, baby?

Four major health insurers combined in the state. There were about double that number a few years ago. One, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, dominates more than 90% of the population. The others are fighting to keep alive in Maine.

Anton Blue Cross and Blue Shield

It is in a tough spot with a total of 180,000 enrollees, nearly 80,000 fewer than in 2002. By 2009, Anthem plans to move out of its Proctor Street office and into a for-profit division. In the last year, its premiums rose 15.5% on individual plans and 33.5% on businesses.

"When Gayle Kaiser asked me in winter of 2001..."

Harvard Pilgrim HealthCare of New England

A not-for-profit with a local office in Portland, steadily gaining enrollees in Maine. Since aiming against selling the plan as other insurers had done here, its membership grew the previous year. This year the company has 13,000 members. In Maine, it has 1,368. Premiums increased 20% per year this past year. It’s in a better selling position within the state.

"Head health care's salary..."

Cigna HealthCare

A profit with a local office in Frankfort, has 120,000 members. In 2000, it started the state. Its average enrollment dropped 10% over the past 10 years.

"Cigna’s health care..."

Aetna US Healthcare

The second largest in Portland, only half of the four largest insurers in the Maine market. Earlier this year, the company moved to the state. It currently has 128,000 members. In 2000, it had 132,000.

"Aetna US Healthcare..."

Equality can be scary

Peter hopes to see the day when all Mainers get all the health care they need. She is a strong advocate for the single-payer health care system.

"Equality can be scary..."

The state’s Medicaid roll now stands at about 110,000, roughly half what it was a few years ago. Still, the state is struggling with the cost of caring for its Medi-Qual patients.

"It seems as though..."
Creating a state of poor, sick people

"It's equitable. You have access to doctors. I never saw any difference between the way the rich and poor were treated."

Sara Porter, who used to live in Quebec.

They were surprised by the high cost of medical care in Canada when they moved there in 1990 from the U.S.

The couple got firsthand experience with universal health care when they lived in England in the early 1990s.

They said health care in England during that period was "tremendous" and "unbelievable." They praised the British National Health Service, saying it provided free medical care to all citizens.

Jim, who is from Maine, said he was "shocked" by the outdated hospital his wife visited in England, which did not offer the same level of care that was available in Maine.

The couple's experiences highlight the differences in health care systems around the world, where access to care and quality of service vary significantly.

In the U.S., individuals often have to pay a portion of their medical bills, and access to care can depend on one's ability to afford it. In contrast, countries with universal health care systems provide free or low-cost medical care to all citizens, regardless of income.

These differences in health care systems illustrate the ongoing debate about how to provide affordable and equitable health care to all people, regardless of their financial status or location.

The couple's experiences in England and Canada offer valuable insights into the importance of health care policies and the role they play in shaping the quality of life for citizens.

---

**Education for all**

The challenges of a single-payer system make equal access to health care even more critical in today's world.

"The problem is that the burden of these costs falls on the lower-income individuals," said Jim. "We're a small state, a poor state," he said, referring to Maine, which has a lower median income than many other states.

The couple's experiences highlight the need for affordable health care policies that ensure equal access to care for all citizens, regardless of their financial status or location.

The debate about health care policies continues as countries around the world seek to find the right balance between accessibility and affordability, aiming to provide quality care to all while managing the costs of doing so.

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Trudi and Jack Schneider, a retired couple who live in
Georgetown, call Germany their second home. Jack grew up
there. Jack is from the
Schneider, a retired couple who live in
Georgetown, call Germany their second home. Jack grew up
there. Jack is from the
1970s.

Sharon Bass can bee-mailed at editorl@maine.rr.com.

-money is not going to be the object," Trudi said

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Portland rules

ETHAN STRIMLING

For America to keep its promise, there must be cities like Portland.

For America to remain an open and diverse society, one in which hope and opportunity are available, our society must preserve and protect cities like Portland.

The urban density that defines Portland is not a coincidence. Our colleges and schools, galleries, museums and theaters, immigrants and citizens, hospitals and senior facilities, industrial and commercial firms, churches and service organizations are the cultural soup of America. People from all over Maine come to Portland for the same reasons some go to New York City or to San Francisco. Here, we feel the force and intensity of life as it richest.

But today, part of this promise has been broken. Shaken by a weak economy, Portland faces rising property taxes. Unwittingly by a Legislature that has once before again turned its back on us, Portland's school system faces a crisis in inadequate education. The failure of the state to keep its promise to both work and to every week, 160 percent of Maine's children in our public schools.

Both miss how essential a healthy failure of the state to keep its promise to commercial firms, churches and service organizations by rising taxes. Disappointed by a Legislature that has once before once again turned its back on us and by an education system that has been asked to slash $1.5 million from its budget. It came up with $1 million in force and intensity of life at its richest.

By rising taxes. Disappointed by a Legislature that has once before once again turned its back on us and by an education system that has been asked to slash $1.5 million from its budget. It came up with $1 million in force and intensity of life at its richest.

Disappointed by a Legislature that has once before once again turned its back on us and by an education system that has been asked to slash $1.5 million from its budget. It came up with $1 million in force and intensity of life at its richest.

We need leadership in Augusta that will travel to our cities, to our campuses, to our downtowns, to our neighborhoods. We need leadership that will travel to Portland from the other Maine communities.

In the other direction, Portland is the departure point for leather, pins, fish products, poultry, and scores of finished goods that travel from every corner of Maine to every corner of the world. Every year, over 200 people immigrate to Portland from all over the world. As those statistics show, Portland is where many Maine people come to find jobs, a first apartment or a home. Portland is where people come for the highest quality heart surgery and cancer care. Portland is where Maine's richest people pass the least side by side, where bars and saloons come to help, and where businesses build Maine's infrastructures through complex commercial loans and investments. Portland is where people from all over the world — people entering America to avoid punishment.

Until we shift the conversation about Portland, the city's budget woes will continue. In poor weeks a legislative battle has raged over the funding of our schools. Due to a backward educational-funding formula, the school department was asked to slash $1.5 million from its budget. It came up with $1 million in cuts, which the City Council approved May 29.

Until the promise of Portland is better understood, we will continue to receive inadequate funding for our schools and for little money for affordable housing, for homeless shelters, for economic development and for the arts, which reflect the best of the human spirit. With thinking based on an inadequate understanding of the cost of Portland, neighborhoods like Renne, Frisbee, Rock and North Clifton will not stay open, fewer imports and exports will travel through our ports, fewer immigrants will enrich Maine's life. Maine's tax revenues will fall, and the loans and venture capital readily available to protect the rest of Maine will decrease.

We need leadership in Augusta that will travel to every county in Maine to carry the truth about the importance of Portland. Every Maine community is unique, and every Maine community deserves to be a full partner in America's social capital.

Ethan Strimling is the executive director of Portland, a neighborhood-based social-services agency, and a Democratic candidate for state Senate District 28.

Know what's really appalling?

Hannah Pulling's comment piece, "I applied," (CRM, 5/25/02), was filled with shortcuts, wild guesses, and unproven assertions. "We should consider allowing aliens and homeless around the world as neighbors," she wrote. Well, OK, but sometimes neighbors can be pretty pesky around, unhoused even hostile...

... "Remember," she wrote, "what I think we all want — peace and happiness." I wish that were correct. Unfortunately, homegrown fanatics want to kill Americans, and Jews. Particularly Terrorism want to torch biological weapons and click nuclear warheads on us. Couldn't that be the real social and health and livelihood? Mr. Pulling goes on, "Perhaps there are a few terrorists ... A few terrorists?" The Saudi arabicSelect is teaching half the youth of the Middle East to hate, to murder, to destroy.

Farwell, Maine for our own government's corruption, greed and hypocrisy. That suits bias in yet another transparent, out-right lie. The Middle East is the American nation. That's why they allow it. Hysterical rants against the Wahabi want to recreate the Ottoman Empire.

Wahabi schools teach children to hate, to murder, to destroy. Death to anyone who opposes Islam. Anyone who opposes the Wahabi government. That's why they allow it. Wahabi want to recreate the Ottoman Empire.

Wahabi schools teach children to hate, to murder, to destroy. Death to anyone who opposes Islam. Anyone who opposes the Wahabi government. That's why they allow it. Wahabi want to recreate the Ottoman Empire.

No one can say with any certainty that there are a few terrorists...

John A. Dow

Scarsdale, N.Y.,

Innocent 'till proven innocent

I think Doug Vanderpool missed the point of my opinion letter ("Intelligence...," CRM, 5/25/02). Vanderpool says I missed the point of my opinion letter ("Intelligence...," CRM, 5/25/02).

Doug Vanderpool's article is a hasty attack on the Constabulary.

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**Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness**

**EDGE**

Raw meat

A wild diet could cure what ails Rover and Fluffball

JOE HARRINGTON

It's a no-brainer that a wild diet could cure what ails your pet. But who knew it was that simple? In his new book "Raw and the Rebel," veterinarian Dr. Eugene Aversa says that a raw or home-cooked diet is the answer to many pet problems.

"The healing powers of raw pet food as medicine," he says, "are being discovered by many pet owners these days." According to Aversa, "raw diets are a lot less stressful on the digestion than are the conventional diets full of processed foods." Aversa's book is a must-read for anyone who wants to give their pet the best possible care.

"One study," he says, "shows 80 percent of pets improve because of raw food diet after over 12 months from onset of pet problems, which is incredibly significant and why diet change is the first thing I do."

Dr. Eugene Aversa will talk about the healing powers of raw pet food as part of the series "The Raw and the Rebel," Thursday, May 23, at Bank, 402 Congress St., Portland, at 6 p.m. Free. 773-5450.

**IT'S A LIVING**

The writing life suits Monica Wood

Wood is about to publish her second novel, "Raw and the Rebel," about a veterinarian who believes in the power of raw pet food as medicine. Her first novel, "A Room," was published last year by the University of New England. In her upcoming book, Wood explores the world of writing, the challenges and rewards of being a writer.

"I've always been a writer," Wood says. "I've been writing since I was a child." Wood says that her time as a high school guidance counselor has also helped her with her writing. "I've learned a lot about the writing process from my students," she says. "I've also learned a lot about the importance of self-discipline." Wood will be in Portland on May 23 to promote her book. She will speak Thursday, May 23, at the University of New England Westbrook, 716 Stevens Ave, Portland, at 4 p.m. Free. 797-7688 x4324. Longfellow Books. Free Admission: 772-4045.

**June 20–23, 2002**

STEAKS SEAFISH

BULL FEENEY'S

**The Peabody Festival**

Portland, Maine's Summer Festival

Portland, Maine, is the cultural capital of New England and the Peabody Festival is a celebration of that. Every year, the festival brings together the best in music, theater, and dance. This year, the festival will feature performances by some of the leading names in the arts, including the Portland Symphony Orchestra, the Portland Ballet, and the Portland Opera.

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thursday, may 23

Why the 1960s Still Matter (film screening).

Casa Italia, 111 Lawrence St., Portland.

Friday, May 24

In the Time and Temperature BUILDING, Portland.

Saturday, May 25


sound bites

- All-tractor the Stooges Drive-in, supported by Throbikinesis and Class Two. Takes place Friday, May 24, at the Subway 325 Congress St., Portland. At 8 p.m. Tel: 207-368-6083.
- New York City saxophonist Alex Reider teams up with local jazzmen Mark Guiliana and Jan van Vredenvelt on Sunday, May 26. At the Center for Cultural Exchange, 1 Longfellow Square, Portland. At 7 p.m. Tel: 207-598-5783.
- Portland and pipe organist Aaron Robinson gives pops to Jelly Roll Morton, Scott Joplin and other ragtime masters on Fridays, May 14 at Innsbrook Baptist Church, High Street, Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tel: 207-879-0071.
**PRIDE WEEKEND!**

- **6/11 Tuesday**: Queer TV 8pm-close
- **6/12 Wednesday**: Karaoke with giveaways
- **6/13 Thursday**: Pre-Pride Disco Party w/ DJ Keith & "Chicafunk Disco Extravaganza" bring your burning desire, 11pm-close
- **6/14 Friday**: Pre-Parade Party 'til 11pm, free buffet
- **6/15 Saturday**: DJ Dan (9-desh)
- **6/16 Sunday**: DJ Dave (9-desh)

**30 Market Street**
**253-5100**
VISUAL ARTS

openings

thursday, may 23


saturday, may 25

The Dow Gallery, 45 Chase St., Falmouth, will hold an exhibition of three-dimensional work that continues through May 25. Hours: Wed-Sun, noon-4 pm. Free. 725-3275.

DANCE

Boston University Arts Center, 3 Brookline Ave., Boston, presents a live performance of "Africa in the City" on May 23. For details, call 442-8455.

PERFORMANCE

Submissions for the performance series "Your Artistic Voice," May 31-June 7, 1996, are being solicited. 917-306-0179.

T HE reclusive life of Emily Dickinson is as mysterious as it is intriguing. The poems that were discovered, once thought to have been destroyed by her own hand, were actually written in the 1840s. Rather than shelving light into the voids, Dickinson’s incredibly active brain, the poems raised many questions. How? Why? "Exhibit A" is a show for Dickinson at the Portland Museum of Art. 205 Fore St., Portland, Maine 04101. Call 761-2424 for details. (Portland Museum of Art)

GET WILD


If you’re a guy and not listening to this station...

JIM ROME

11-11:30 AM

...you’ve got serious issues

970 WZAN

Lee Schuette: Furniture Designer and Builder

Thursday, May 23, 2002

6:30 p.m.

Museum Auditorium

Free with Museum Admission

Join us to learn more about the remarkable furniture designs of Lee Schuette. Schuette has been commissioned to design furniture for the newly national Dairy Queen and the new location of the Langdon McDonald House. His furniture for this project means he is staging the creative energy of contemporary design with the rich, yet modern artistry that is so important to Portland's older community of design. It is a unique project for a museum to host, and we anticipate the opening of the McDonald House on October 5, 2002.

www.portlandmuseum.org

3rd Floor, Portland Museum of Art

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART
let's talk about the noodles

noodle soup
- chicken noodle soup
  - $6.95
- beef noodle soup
  - $6.95
- pork noodle soup
  - $6.95
- vegetable noodle soup
  - $6.95

pad thai
- pad thai noodle
  - $6.95
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  - $6.95
- pad thai seafood
  - $6.95
- pad thai cheese
  - $6.95
- pad thai dessert
  - $6.95

creamy soups
- shrimp & mushroom
  - $6.95
- sesame & tofu
  - $6.95
- mushroom & tofu
  - $6.95
- vegetable & tofu
  - $6.95
- chicken & mushroom
  - $6.95

specials
- beef & mushroom
dinner special
- $12.95
ATHENIANS

When one goes out of the way to attend a concert, it is safe to assume that the per-
former usually gets the bulk of the dollars. At least the stock prices are usually temporarily
boosted. When a performer is dropped by her agent, it's often a sign of a new, different
career move. Cohen, on the other hand, keeps her manager for the best of lists the way
other obsessives might search for great restaurants. Months
Divine, Thoms of the
sound and his rambling dialogue with addiction finds new appeal with every
scuffling is boring and leads to ... well, he fell out a window.

My friend Linwood listens to everything. He is a music hound, sniffing out reviews
Big Meat Hammer as interpreters: A-

Forest
dog, I landed on an old injury myself. As I complained bitterly, only half under my

late April, I revisited
pale top, she looked like a Vegas Elvis gone Giacometti.

Allison Moorer's best work seems to appear in the least likely places. The truly
homemade wine/to see which kicks in first . . . no one grows old in this
to use as a

"extreme"
concluded I should be proud to revel in pop culture . Having

problems filtered

Buoy
was such a dearth of real-rock ethos that the lads who call themselves the
was pleased to see the scenes of political intrigue

delays further into

was matched as much as it does

delves further into

example of a Jedi knight
will

love story about

dates on the senator's life.

dating an anti-Republic coalition. Meanwhile,

into their rock 'n' roll fantasies , but

the root of that genius is the band's whole

and the Replacements- all of whom the

admit,

on a very bad day. This good-looking young

boy, we learned last installment,

and directed by

so

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**LISTINGS**

**HAPPENINGS**

**Thursday, May 23**

"ounding the Healing Chants" for Laos, a parent-child ceremony, lecture and concert, 7 p.m., Maine Indian Association. Free. 775-8833.

**Friday, May 24**

Congress at the Boothbay Harbor Nature Center, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. 633-2494.

**Saturday, May 25**

Casco Bay Bike Week. Information at 775-3366.

**Sunday, May 26**

"easy to read," and explain the difference between mal age-related changes in memory and what can be done about it. 775-2494.

**ADVENTURES**

**Sunday, May 26**

Canoeing at the Marsh Nature Center,[at noon. Tix: $10. 399-9271.

Locate our next listing... 

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Join us for an evening of education and relaxation. Treat yourself to a taste of wine from the Pacific Northwest.

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Photo by Dennis Griggs.

The Poetry Within: The Life and Work of WILLIAM THON

Through May 27, 2002

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART

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