The important thing to remember is we might be homeless, we might be feeling bad, but we have to stand up on our own two feet. Stone Soup provides job training programs. They are in the forefront of helping people get back on their feet.

We have soups, stencils, sponges - just a personalized gift. We have stamps, enameled, spray-painted - just bring your imagination. - No experience necessary. - 20 Free St., Portland, Tel: 275-0300, Tues-Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4.

Any words of wisdom for those who think they can't do what they've set out to do? You can take the optimistic view or take the negative view. I say to them that's not a thing that you can't do. You've got to keep on doing. You've got to be persistent. I think you've got to get out there and say I'm going to do this. I'm going to get it up and running. I'm going to get the help from Preble Street, I'm going to get the help from the program. I'm going to do it. And they should try to do it. I think they can with a little bit of help sometimes.

I wouldn't have gotten to this point without Preble Street's help. The thing is that if a person believes in themselves, really strongly, the George Harrison says ... if you believe that everything is possible. It's when you really stop believing ... you can't do much with your life. But if you feel something good can happen ... it will.
Maine's Relationship Recovery Group and Ihey with someone else, and dates on weeknights, I'd have to leave work traffic. When everyone else does.

Besides, I'd have to go places on holidays.

I really like to keep my calendar clear, I can do that just fine on

...
Unopened book

The Bookland superstar, planned for Portland's Marginal Way, is in trouble.

Michele Perlino 

The Bookland superstar, which was supposed to open the rival Marginal Way project in Portland, appears to be in a crisis.

"We're still trying to secure funding," said David Turitz, president of Bookland, a $50,000 company to build a fast-food building in the city of Portland. "We've been trying for six months to find investors." Turitz, who once was an employee of the city of Portland, said he had tried to contact the mayor and other city officials about the project.

According to the latest financial plan submitted to the city of Portland, the project was estimated to cost $18,000,000, of which Quesada said would be $20,000,000. Quesada said he expected to have 25,000 square feet of retail space in the building and that it would be "a retail destination." Turitz said he was "surprised" by the city's decision to nix the project.

When the city gave the property tax break to Bookland, instead of the developer, Quesada claimed it made the project "an attractive investment." Turitz said he was "surprised" by the city's decision and that "the city is making it difficult to succeed." Turitz said he was "surprised" by the city's decision to nix the project.

Despite the many problems, Turitz, who declined to be interviewed, said he was "surprised" by the city's decision to nix the project. "We're still trying to secure funding," said Turitz. "We're still trying to secure funding," said Turitz. "We're still trying to secure funding," said Turitz. "We're still trying to secure funding," said Turitz. "We're still trying to secure funding," said Turitz.

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Female circumcision

Some members of Portland’s Muslim community call it an important cultural tradition.

CULTURE CLASH

It's been six years since the first refugee from Somalia, Sudan and other African countries that practice female circumcision arrived in Portland. Escaping civil unrest in their own countries, they brought with them the way of marrying through genital cutting, but they hold tight to their cultural practices and religious beliefs. In this story, for the first time, several agencies assisting refugees shared their perspective on the procedure that was available from the basic necessities of life. Help with cultural assimilation was hard to find. In 1996, Elizabeth Hawkins was an intern at one of those agencies, Catholic Charities of Maine, who had noticed Somali women adjusting to life in Portland. Despite participating in educational seminars, for example, women with genital-cutting issues in the United States, sponsored by Catholic Charities, do not speak out about the health dangers and legal ramifications of continuing the practice of female circumcision.

At the end of her internship, Hawkins wrote a report pointing out that all Somali women in Portland had undergone circumcision. Hawkins had been told that the women bring their daughters to circumsise them. If that was the truth, she wondered, why didn't the women speak out about the health dangers? Hawkins told the women that if Maine Medical Center wouldn't circumcise their daughters, she would perform the operation. Women and girls in Somalia, she said, don't realize the pain they're experiencing isn't normal. Others disagree. They consider you unclean. They call it circumcision, but really it's genital mutilation.

Women don't want to be married. Nobody will marry you. You just won't be accepted in society. They consider you unclean. They call it circumcision, but really it's genital mutilation.

"Laela's was the most extreme form of circumcision, the cutting away of all of a girl's genital tissue, one of the steps towards a purer state of being. What they do is you won't get married. Nobody will marry you. You just won't be accepted in society. They consider you unclean. They call it circumcision, but really it's genital mutilation."

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ELEPHANT CIRCUMCISION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

opinion. The old opinion had to be done. ... Otherwise the practice, for family would be taught.

In two years, before the procedure was not being done at the clinic, "I did not think anyone that didn't do it was part of the society," I told them of the situation," she said. "The whole thing was wrong." The story was told.

Tamara of Main Medical Center said, "As far as being taught that a child is not a human being. That it does not exist in the Koran or anything that means that this is a practice that is correct. It is a very cruel practice. And that's a misconception even in the United States.

Ibrahim Hirsi, a professor of public health at the University of Southern Maine, and the association of female circumcision with Islam is part of a long line of Western misconceptions about Islam. It is something that has been made up, said Tamara. "I've studied Islam inside and out. I have a Muslim husband and I never heard of such a thing.

But some Muslims maintain that the practice is recommended by their religion. Naseia, a Muslim from Nigeria who now lives in Portland, said Islam allows for circumcision but was against it. Her parents told her to make her own decision. That's how she decided. "The main thing is to inform the parents," she said. "That's the real question," she said. "Do these young women who are 14, 12 have a choice in the issue?"

"We have to keep saying that it's not a necessity," said Laela. "Women and girls don't have any choice in the matter. "I'm not doing it with my child," she said. "It is not necessary to be done. ... Otherwise the procedure is too much for us."

"For us, it would be another way to come up with a reasonable happy solution," said Laela. "It is not necessary to be done. ... Otherwise the procedure is too much for us."

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Kick your feet up with a BANG!!!

The ShagMasters hit the stage!
THE SAW DOCTORS
The Saw Doctors take an archaic approach to medicine, sawing off limbs and other appendages to treat ingrown toenails, sprained wrists, sinus headaches and E.D. The Irish band’s approach to music, however, is more innovative, combining folk, rock and traditional Irish elements. See the Saw Doctors at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland at 8 p.m. Tix: $17.50 to $22.50. 879-1111.

J. GEILS BAND
The members of the J. Geils Band are dropping their individual endeavors and reuniting after 16 years. Singer Peter Wolf is putting his solo career on hold and Magic Dick is leaving his lucrative Viagra distribution business to return to music. Reggae legends Toots and the Maytals will join them. Rock hard at the Civic Center, Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: $20. 775-3458 or 775-3331.

Lev seins

CHEWING TOBACCO
It's time to say goodbye to chewing tobacco. "A number of people have been coming in to ask about the new law," said a local health department official. The new law, which went into effect on Jan. 1, prohibits the sale of chewing tobacco to anyone under 18.

Levins Haft signs autographs
Levins Haft signs autographs at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland, at 9 p.m. Tix: $10 to $12. 773-8187.

JUNE 29

THE WILD GINGER
Affordable and Fun Clothing, Jewelry and Gifts.

CALENDAR

WED JUNE 30

INDEPENDENCE POPS
The Portland Symphony Orchestra will throw a nationalistic party, featuring "The Unconquerable," "1812 Overture" and an orchestra fight. The pops is also part of the season’s installment of the PortlandClassic Series, where audiences are asked to don red, white and blue attire. Make the most of the festivities by spending the day at Fort Williams Park. Fireworks will explode over your head to conclude events. For more information, call Fort Williams Park Casco Bay Theater at 750-2070. Tickets $14-$30. 278-0800.

WED JUNE 30

BONNIE RAITT
Bonnie Raitt's commitment to music is rivaled only by her commitment to social and environmental causes. In keeping with this, Raitt has allocated tickets to benefit the Natural Resources Council of Maine and will not be sporting Nike sneakers, fashions by Kathy Lee Gifford or a guitar fashioned out of old-growth timber. She'll be joined by Crescent City blues crooner Jon Cleary and his band, the Absolute Monster Gentlemen. Just do it at Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: $28.50 to $32.50. 842-0800.

JUNE 29

MOTOR BOOTY AFFAIR
Summer Tour
Friday 7/2 - The Pavilion, Portland
Saturday 7/3 - The Pavilion, Portland
Sunday 7/4 - The Pavilion, Portland

JUNE 30

ASYLUM 121 CENTER ST 777-8274
Rehabilitated Dance Party
Every Friday w/DJ Dale
Merrill Auditorium

JUNE 29

JUNIOR CAKEY
moonburn

See John Cleary live at Merrill Auditorium
TICKETS
Pick up John Cleary's new release, Moonburn, for the guaranteed lowest price in the state.

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MOVIES

“Hideous Kinky,” directed by Gillian MacKinnon, is a charming and heartwarming tale about a teacher who takes her students on a trip to Marrakech, Morocco. The story unfolds in a fast-paced, episodic style, capturing the essence of the city and its vibrant culture.

The film, set in 1972, is as peculiar as their surroundings appear to be. The climate of the times plays a significant role in the story, adding layers to the narrative.

The teacher, played by Carrie Mullan, takes her students on a journey to Marrakech in search of spiritual cleansing. However, the students' behavior is influenced by the environment, leading to a series of humorous and unexpected events.

Bea, one of the students, is a teenager who is torn between her love for the city and her desire to be normal. Eventually, Bea demands a return to reality, but the experience continues to affect her life.

Despite the challenges, the students learn valuable lessons about themselves and the world around them.

Planning to vacate

1. Take a bicycle to Manhattan. Get off at W 44th St. and walk to the ocean. You'll be in Central Park in 30 min. This is the best way to see the city.
2. Take a boat ride on the Hudson River. You'll see the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and more.
3. Take a hike in the Adirondacks. You'll be surrounded by nature, and the views are breathtaking.
4. Take a ride on the Staten Island Ferry. You'll see the city from a different perspective.

MOVIES

“Sightseers,” directed by Ben Wheatley, is a dark and witty film that explores the lives of two people who fall in love on a tour of the British countryside. The film is a commentary on the nature of relationships and the human condition.

The film is set in the late 1970s, and the characters are played by Rosamund Pike and Martin Freeman. The cinematography is stunning, and the dialogue is sharp and memorable.

The film's dark humor and satirical tone make it a memorable watch. It's a film that will stay with you long after the credits roll.

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