Watch it, creeps. Portland women are fed up with verbal and sexual harassment on the streets. And some are fighting back. Elizabeth Reilly’s story starts on page 10.

Inside:
- The Christian Coalition lightens up, sorta page 5
- Peavey upgrades, sorta page 7
- "The Rag" is all the rage, sorta page 16
NOEL RAJ BONAM

"In Maine, I don't think there's that much awareness of Indian culture as compared to other parts of the states or the rest of the world."

Noel Raj Bonam, 28, originally from Hyderabad, South India, settled in Portland after touring the world for eight years. He works in schools and other settings to brighten awareness of Indian culture through music and the visual arts. An exhibit of his work, "Kalpana," opens at the Center for General Exchange in Portland's Longfellow Square on Saturday, June 30 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. It closes through Tuesday, July 3.

Are you working to break down stereotypes about your culture?

I am not working on it specifically but I think the way I grew up gave me a different perspective. Unlike most Indian men [my age], I am single and I have not yet established professional or a personal home in the U.S. I am on a sabbatical, and the fact that I taught myself English and spread awareness of it makes me feel like a cultural ambassador in my own way. Unlike most Indian men [my age], I am single and I have not yet established professional or a personal home in the U.S. I am on a sabbatical, and the fact that I taught myself English and spread awareness of it makes me feel like a cultural ambassador in my own way.

What do you think of the Indian restaurants in town?

I am pleasantly surprised that there are four restaurants here. I like that. I think it's great that they can compete with what I can't eat in India. It is difficult, because we need to give in to the restrictions of the Western society. I personally feel bad about the restrictions. I personally feel bad about the restrictions.

What is the most common misconception about your culture?

A lot of people are surprised that we speak good English. But today, English has become an Indian language. A lot of children growing up in India now speak English. It's not like the British influence on our language was new thing, and another thing being that over the years English has become a prerequisite for many people to go to school or to get a job.

Can you recommend any good Indian films or music?

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What do you think of the Indian artists here?

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What do you think of the Indian language?

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What do you think of the Indian music?

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What do you think of the Indian cinema?

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What do you think of the Indian art?

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What do you think of the Indian literature?

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What do you think of the Indian philosophy?

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What do you think of the Indian politics?

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What do you think of the Indian religion?

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What do you think of the Indian ethics?

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What do you think of the Indian economy?

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What do you think of the Indian culture?

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What do you think of the Indian society?

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What do you think of the Indian education system?

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What do you think of the Indian legal system?

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What do you think of the Indian military?

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What do you think of the Indian sports?

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What do you think of the Indian media?

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Get right with God

In the Christian Coalition, the most controversial political organization is the Christian Coalition of America. It is led by Rush Limbaugh, a conservative talk show host who has been described as one of the most influential figures in contemporary American politics.

The Christian Coalition is known for its strong opposition to abortion and its support of traditional values such as marriage and family. The organization has been active in promoting these values in both state and federal elections.

The organization has been involved in several high-profile campaigns, including the successful effort to pass the Defense of Marriage Act in Congress in 1996. The act restricts federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

In 2002, the Christian Coalition released its annual State of the Union report, which called for a return to traditional values and a stronger role for religion in public life. The report was widely criticized by civil liberties groups and by some religious leaders who said it was too narrow in its focus on conservative issues.

Despite these criticisms, the Christian Coalition remains a powerful force in American politics, and its influence is likely to continue growing in the years ahead.
What's on...!

BOOKSTORES
Longleaf Books: A traditional bookstore with a contemporary style. Longleaf is more than just a bookstore; it's a community space where authors and readers can connect. Check out Longleaf Books at any time to find great books and meet new friends.

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Three ways of looking at a loser

1. There are any number of ways I could describe myself, but the one thing they all have in common is a love of technology.

2. My first Mac, Performa, which was quite large and had absolutely nothing wrong with it, is now a paperweight. I'm not sure what the future holds for it, but I'm definitely not using it to power my next adventure.

3. My new e-mail server was set up. Lines were jiggly, connection drops were the norm, and the Mac was almost always on the fritz. I finally prevailed upon my friend Tim Shuer to help me.


Elizabeth Arden came out with a contemporary style, Longfellow Books.

Lindquist, 221 N. Main St., Portland, ME 04101. Tel. 772-4045. For more information, call Elizabeth Nails at 772-4045.
Cutting coverage

State Rep. Glenn Cummings wants all Maineres to have access to health care. So why is he eliminating his employees' access to coverage?

**GREG WILLIAMS**

State Rep. Glenn Cummings of Portland, a vocal proponent of universal health care, recently began to cut health care coverage for his employees at Portland Partnership, a non-profit educational organization in town.

Cummings said he requires $24,000 from the Portland School Committee to cover Portland Partnership's expenses for the upcoming school year, but only receives $1,500 when the committee met. This means that Cummings will have to negotiate a $10,000 reduction in costs to provide health care coverage for his employees. This reduction will result in a minimum of 20 per employee, which according to Cummings, is not fair.

Cummings said that Portland Partnership has 18 part-time employees in the public schools, whose responsibilities include coordinating, conducting, collecting, and coordinating for health care, and this cut may be a minimum of 20 per employee. However, what is not clear is whether Cummings will accept this cut if the Portland School Committee will only pay $1,500 to Portland Partnership.

In terms of the irony, Cummings said that it is unfair that Portland Partnership's expenses for the upcoming school year will increase by 200%, while the Portland School Committee's expenses for the upcoming school year will decrease by 95%. This decrease is due to the fact that the Portland School Committee will receive an additional $36,000 from the Department of Education, which will be used to cover Portland Partnership's expenses for the upcoming school year.

Despite this, Cummings said that he will continue to work with the Portland School Committee to find a way to keep his employees' health care coverage. He also plans to establish a fund to assist businesses in covering the cost.

---

**OH, THE TIDES ARE GROWING**

**OUR報告 by Glenn Cummings, executive director of Portland Partnership**

Cummings said that only two of his 18 employees are currently on the health care coverage provided by the school department. The rest either use their spouse's health coverage or have coverage because they are covered by the person of the employee's health care coverage. Nevertheless, Cummings is frustrated that he didn't have the opportunity to make changes in the health care system because he felt that all this cost would have been worth it. He is hoping to continue to work with the Portland School Committee to find a way to keep his employees' health care coverage. He also plans to establish a fund to assist businesses in covering the cost.
Catcalled!

Watch it, creeps. Portland women are fed up with verbal and sexual harassment on the streets. And some are fighting back.

Classless or criminal?

As far as the police are concerned, catcalling, lustful stares and crude remarks are considered classless behavior that falls under the category of "no crime" and typically results in a "slow news week." Police Chief Mike Chitwood did not return calls seeking comment.

Russell Gauvin, a Portland Police Department spokesperson, said confronting the creeps is actually against the law. Gauvin said an incident in Old Port two weeks ago, in which Gauvin said a man approached her on a crowded street and said, "You look good, cutie," is an example of harassment.

"It's convenient to yell out the window at a woman, but it's not classless behavior," said Gauvin. "It's classless because it doesn't consider the consequences for the person you are yelling at." Gauvin said she is not averse to anything from a blush or a comment back, as that's what they're looking for. "But if you yell something at me, you're going to get a reaction," she said.

"It's convenient to yell out the window at a woman. But it's not classless behavior," said Gauvin. "It's classless because it doesn't consider the consequences for the person you are yelling at." Gauvin said she is not averse to anything from a blush or a comment back, as that's what they're looking for. "But if you yell something at me, you're going to get a reaction," she said.

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**Returning fire**

If a man of principle, such as Portland police, would not, how could we ever expect the public to do it? I'm not suggesting that men should go out and do it. There are those who do it, and I'm not criticizing them. I'm just saying that if a man of principle, such as Portland police, would not do it, how could we ever expect the public to do it?

**Hunting for sleaze**

I've never had the ambition to be an undercover cop. My reaction to a situation like this is to walk away. I don't want to be part of the situation. I don't want to be a part of it. I want to be able to walk away and not feel guilty about it. I don't want to be a part of it.
An open letter to Portland's catcallers

Lend me your eyeball

Ladies, gentlemen: We have a problem. That's right, I mean aproblem - like you who think it's cool to yell at all women you don't know on the streets, and guys like me, who know you don't.

We have got to get on the same page here, fellas. Think about it. We are all Portlanders, right? We all share the streets right outside our homes. And they're not made to make us sad and angry.

You don't know on the streets, and guys like me, who know you don't.

Think about it. We have got to get on the same page here, fellas. You don't know on the streets, and guys like me, who know you don't.

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Gettin' ragged on
Two Portland writers poke fun at, and empower, the people

By Chris Heider, Oregon Souvenir and Sue Jenkins. "Forty King" is the Portland issue of "The Rag," a four-page, photocopied, weekly newsletter. It has only been on the streets of Portland since late May, but according to the front page of the second issue, it's already won the hearts of two of Maine's most powerful politicians. "When I'm not busy working with one of my various business connections on something, someone in Portland always finds me," said U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe. "I love talking with the people. I love hearing what they have to say."

According to F GFXA executive director Karl Bond, the newsletter is "a place for the community to express its views and opinions." He said that he is "very encouraged" that Portlanders are embracing the publication.

In the second issue, "The Rag" featured a story about the city's recent "trash bash," in which residents were encouraged to pick up litter and trash on the street. The story was written by a group of volunteers who had been working on the streets for several weeks.

The Rag is a popular publication in Portland, with an estimated readership of 50,000. It is published every Friday and distributed through various locations throughout the city. The Rag is also available online at www.therag.com.
**Thursday-Saturday, June 28-30**

**Greek Heritage Festival**

It's fitting that a celebration of Greek heritage begins before celebrations of American independence. In Cedar Hill Park, there will be traditional Greek food and music by the Kostas Civic Band. This year's main event will be the fireworks show.

**Friday-Wednesday, June 29-July 4**

**Snap, Crackles and Pops**

On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, there will be free uniform classes and lessons for children. This is a great opportunity for young children to learn the fundamentals of music and dance.

**Saturday, June 30**

**Greetings from 76 Congress Street**

Just as our Founding Fathers did to open June, so too do we open this month by celebrating our independence. At 7 p.m., the Portland Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert featuring works by Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky. There will also be a special guest performance by the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra. The concert will be held at the State Theatre, and tickets are available for purchase online.
There were only three hands with those of the next couple. "Opposites dance," she thought, "like Shakespeare and two from contemporary works! as a way to gallivant across the stage," Hall. ""Ladies and gentlemen," said the caller, "it's time to move again." She saw kids dancing who got to be whirled back and forth by a new partner, and it was all the same. It was as if she had married it, all the same. She got my chance.

The American folk tradition that originated in Europe in the 17th century. The word "contradance" comes from the French "contre-danse," meaning " opposite," and is sometimes also translated as "reverse" or "false." It is a term used to describe a variety of dances, particularly those that involve couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" has also been used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions. The word "contradance" is also used to describe a type of dance that originated in France in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is characterized by couples moving in opposite directions.
openings and events

Thursdays, June 30


Friday, July 1


Saturday, June 30


Saturday, July 1


Sunday, June 30


Sunday, July 1


Wednesday, July 1


Thursday, July 2


Thursday, July 3


Friday, July 3


Saturday, July 4


Saturday, July 5


Sunday, July 6


Sunday, July 7

It's about to get a little hotter in Portland... 
Saturday, June 30
8:00 pm
Hot Latin music from the hero of the Buena Vista Social Club!
Grammy Nominated!

Casco Bay Weekly
Classifieds
775-1234
If we don't have it... YOU PROBABLY DON'T NEED IT!

LISTINGS

HEALTH

Adult Health Clinic

Caring, caring staff

Maine Medical Center,
110 Middle St., Portland
(Tel: 800-395-3282)

New England Women's & Men's Center

100 Fore St., Portland
(Tel: 207-775-0500)

Maine Medical Center

388 Congress St., Portland
(Tel: 207-784-9110)

Memorial Hospital

800 Water St., Rockland
(Tel: 207-594-4000)

Penobscot Bay Primary Care

411 Main St., Rockland
(Tel: 207-594-4000)

Women's Center

313 Water St., Rockland
(Tel: 207-594-4000)

AIDS Resource Center

201 West St., Rockland
(Tel: 207-594-4000)

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

50 Forest St., Portland
(Tel: 207-784-9110)

201 West St., Rockland
(Tel: 207-594-4000)

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388 Congress St., Portland
(Tel: 207-784-9110)

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AIDS Resource Center

201 West St., Rockland
(Tel: 207-594-4000)

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

50 Forest St., Portland
(Tel: 207-784-9110)

You can find a list of all the doctors and nurses who work at Maine Medical Center on our website. Main Medical Center offers a wide range of services, from general medicine to specialized treatments. They have a reputation for excellence and care, and they are dedicated to providing the best possible care to their patients. They have a variety of doctors and specialists on staff, so you'll be sure to find the right one for your needs.

If you're looking for a trusted source of health information, you can't go wrong with Maine Medical Center. They have a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to providing the highest quality care. Whether you need a routine check-up or a more specialized procedure, Maine Medical Center has got you covered. They have a lot of experience in the medical field, so you can trust them to provide the best possible care.

In conclusion, Maine Medical Center is a great place to go for all your healthcare needs. They have a wide range of services and a team of experienced professionals who are dedicated to providing the best possible care. You can trust them to take care of you, so why not give them a call today? They'll be sure to take care of you and make you feel better. So come on down and see for yourself what all the fuss is about! You won't be disappointed!
at a distance.

No, it's not about a former secret intelligence agent. It's about a bear of a man who counsels patience.

"The Fox and the Hound" makes two real deliveries. He then returned. She sets up shop in a friend's Parisian apartment, allows her to join in the search.

She's apparently with her mate, she's apparently the one who wants to score.

Liu projects in the face of the disapproval, the isolationist, the most racist of her classmates. She's the one who tries to join the group, to be connected to the Russian mob.

"The Fox and the Hound" is the star of this mark director John Singleton's return to the movie world. He then directed "The Lost Empire." He returned to his answering machine he never heard before.
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Free Initial Consultation

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The Moody News

The Moody News
CUMBERLAND COUNTY CIVIC CENTER Portland, Maine

Tickets are also available at the Cumberland County Civic Box Office, all ticket locations, or charge by phone at 207/775-3456 or 207/775-3331.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

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THE MONKEES 2001 2002 TOUR

Davy Jones Peter Tork

Tuesday, July 10 7:30PM

PORTLAND EXPO

Portland, Maine

Website: www.portlandexpo.com

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The Digital Bullet Tour featuring Wu Tang Killa Bees Killarmy Black Knights Shahnem the Man Child

Saturday, June 30 8:00PM

FEAR FACTORY

The Evolution of Revolution Tour

Sunday, July 1

7:30PM All Ages

RZA

PORTLAND EXPO

Portland, Maine

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everclear

BACON BROTHERS

BRUCE HORNBY

OUR LADY PEACE

with Joy Drop

State Theatre

July 16. 7:30PM

State Theatre

July 18. 7:30PM

July 20 8PM Nuffin Face Vision of Disorder plus Dag Fashion Disco

State Theatre

Galactic

ROLLINS BAND

FRIDAYS AT THE HOBART

FRI, AUG. 10

State Theatre

Get tickets at www.state-theatre.com or at the box office

Tickets are also available at the State Theatre Box Office, 609 Congress St, Portland, ME 04101, or at www.state-theatre.com or by phone at 207/775-3331.

Clear and Southern Maine's Summer Entertainment & Dining Guide

INSIDE...

- Kayaking
- Bike Maine 2001 Calendar
- Fairs & Festivals
- Pubs & Clubs
- Shopping
- Dining
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Kelly Fernald and Todd Forsyth are both avid kayakers, loving the exhilaration and challenge of the sport. Kelly has been kayaking for twelve years but prefers sea kayaking. Todd enjoys whitewater kayaking, having first set foot in a river last spring after being involved in sea and recreational kayaking for three years. Both own and work at Maine Mountain Works where they put their experience to good use.

**What led you to try kayaking?**

Kelly: I went on a kayaking trip with a women's group.

Todd: Moving to Portland and living on the coast.

**Would you recommend first trying recreational, sea or whitewater kayaking to a novice?**

Kelly: Lake or ocean I guess. The most important thing is to be with and learn from an experienced kayaker in a calm water situation.

Todd: Recreational gives you the chance to hone your skills before tackling more difficult waters.

**In general, what advice would you give a novice kayaker?**

Kelly: The number one piece of advice I'd give is to take a class. You need to know basic paddling and bracing and how to get back into the boat from the water.

Todd: Agreed. And you've got to get used to your boat and use common sense.

**Do you have any favorite kayaking spots?**

Kelly: The whole Maine coast. It's the greatest place on earth for kayaking!

Todd: (Agreeing) And you've got to get used to your boat and use common sense.
DO YOU HAVE ANY ANNOYING OR SCARY STORIES ABOUT YOUR KAYAKING EXPERIENCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

Todd: Most of our clients are under 21 years old, so it's particularly thrilling for them to go kayaking. Kelly: Flooding through a big dam when they think suddenly gets high. One thing to note is that you can’t see other boats. Search and rescue are dispatched on the water and it's disorienting.

WHAT SHOULD ONE KEEP IN MIND WHEN BUYING A KAYAK FOR THE FIRST TIME?

Todd: You are going to use it - lakes, the sea or white water. And when you are going to use it - for fishing, photography, etc.

Comfort. One thing I’ll tell someone to watch is whether they can easily carry and lift the kayak. For the Puget Sound, you are able to lift it off your vehicle and into the water.

WHAT ARE THE PROS AND CONS INVOLVED IN BUYING A USED VERSUS A NEW KAYAK?

Todd: Price. If it’s used, you’re getting someone else’s value, not necessarily a kayak that is perfect for you.

Kelly: You don’t know what has happened to a used kayak. But a used kayak that is new is new, so it gives you a good opportunity to check out the sport before spending a huge amount of money. Kayaks have multiple uses.

WHAT ARE THE HEALTH-RELATED BENEFITS OF KAYAKING?

Todd: Kayaking is relaxing, a wonderful workout and it gets you outside to enjoy and explore nature in unspoiled areas.

Kelly: It is relaxing at times but also challenging. It builds upper body strength and works your hips.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER TIPS OR ADVICE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

Todd: Take the time to learn the initial skills and above all, enjoy!
Maine has some of the most beautiful, natural scenery in the world—sunsets, mountains, forests, lakes, rivers, the ocean and much more. Snap a photo of your favorite spot or of someone enjoying Maine's great outdoors and enter to WIN HUGE PRIZES!

FIRST PRIZE PACKAGE:
One winner receives an overnight whitewater rafting trip for two from Three Rivers Whitewater, a mountain bike and roof rack from The Rack Shop & a camera package from Hunt's! This photo will also appear as one of the covers of CBW's Summer Guide 2002!

3 RUNNERS-UP PRIZE PACKAGES:
Each winner receives a whitewater rafting trip for two from Three Rivers Whitewater and a camera package from Hunt's!

CONTEST RULES:
• entries may be only photos taken in Maine
• only three entries per person
• entries must be prints no larger than 8 1/2"x11" and no smaller than 3 1/2"x5"; digital ok
• negatives/slides must be available upon request
• completed entry form must accompany each entry
• decisions of judges final
• winners will be notified by phone
• all entries due/postmarked by July 30, 2001; send to Maine Photo Contest, c/o Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St. Portland ME 04101

TAPE ENTRY FORM TO BACK OF EACH PHOTO

Maine Photo Contest
1531 Congress Street
Portland, Maine
879-9174

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Fruit Cheese & Cracker Platters

Crab Cakes w/ dill & scallion

Coconut Shrimp w/ rum maple chutney dipping sauce

Pate Stuffed Smoked Salmon

Melon wrapped in Proscuitto

Spring Rolls

Raw Bar

Nori Maki

Stuffed Mushrooms
Scallops wrapped in Bacon

ENTREES

Grilled Duck w/ port wine sauce
Black Pepper Fettuccine w/ mushroom, artichoke & rosemary

Seared Tuna w/ jerk spices

MOROCCAN CHICKEN

DESSERTS

Strawberries dipped in chocolate
Carrot Cake

Fruit Tarts

Cheesecake

Chocolate Mousse Cake

Specialty & Wedding Cakes

For complete cafe & catering menus call 767-6313

Fax: 799-5037

Website: barbaraskitchen.com

The Bayou Kitchen

Maine Arts presents the 25th Annual Maine Festival

1976 - 2001
Celebrating the Creative Spirit of Maine

August 23 & 24

Thomas Point Beach
Brunswick

For more information contact: Maine Arts at 1-800-639-4212
www.mainearts.org

OTHER FAIRS & FESTIVALS

30th Annual Topsham Fair
Aug 4-7

20th Annual Maine Antiques Festival
Aug 10-10

Friends of the Stinson Beach Aug 16-12

40th Annual Antique Show & Sale
Aug 16-18

Balloon Festival, Aug 19-20

21st Annual Maine Highland Games
Aug 21

Union Fair & Wild Blueberry Festival
Aug 28 & 29

24th Thomas Point Beach Sausage Festival
Aug 30-Sept 2

Family Arts Festival
Sept 7

Common Ground Country Fair
Sept 7-9

Great State of Maine Air Show
Sept 21-22

Southern Maine Fair
Sept 21-29

Maine State Fair
Sept 26-Oct 11

50th Annual Topsham Fair
Aug 4-7

20th Annual Maine Antiques Festival
Aug 10-10

Friends of the Stinson Beach Aug 16-12

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Aug 30-Sept 2

Family Arts Festival
Sept 7

Common Ground Country Fair
Sept 7-9

Great State of Maine Air Show
Sept 21-22

Southern Maine Fair
Sept 21-29

Maine State Fair
Sept 26-Oct 11

Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham
Union Fairgrounds, Union
Stairstep Lake, Staat Village
Bath Middle School
Lewiston
Thomas Point Beach Park, Brunswick
Union
Brunswick
Brunswick Town Mall, Brunswick
Common Ground Fairgrounds, GSA
Brunswick Naval Air Station,
Bath
Blanchard Rd., Cumberland
Kittery
L. Windham Union Church, Windham
Lawrence
Lawrence
Lawrence

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Sept 21-29

Maine State Fair
Sept 26-Oct 11

Topsham Fairgrounds, Topsham
Union Fairgrounds, Union
Stairstep Lake, Staat Village
Bath Middle School
Lewiston
Thomas Point Beach Park, Brunswick
Union
Brunswick
Brunswick Town Mall, Brunswick
Common Ground Fairgrounds, GSA
Brunswick Naval Air Station,
Bath
Blanchard Rd., Cumberland
Kittery
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CHEF’S SUGGESTIONS
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Bakers Dozen Oysters

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(one each: raw, baked stuffed, fried)
Clams, clean & sweet w/ bread & butter
Mussels steamed in fresh herbs & wine sauce
Lobster, Shrimp & Corn on the Cob

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MEETING PLACES
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Village Smith, Sir Kenneth pounds out exquisite swords and weaponry in his fiery forge, while the Village Tailor carries period costumes and accessories fit for battle or court. Though the mud beggars' poverty commits them to near starvation, Muntabel's merchants ensure that visitors find plenty to eat. Many shops such as the Fat Friar's offer substantial fare and vendors such as the Twisted Wench's Pretzel Shack carry lighter snacks.

The Maine Renaissance Faire is held every weekend in Lebanon from July 28 through August 26, 2001. Admission is $12 for adults and $5 for kids ages 6-12 and seniors. Costumes are encouraged but not required; however, those wearing costumes receive a discount on the admission cost. For more information and directions, visit the fair's website at www.mainefaire.com or call 207-926-5693.

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Sounds of metal striking metal ring through the sleepy silence of the forest as you walk along the wooded paths of Lebanon, Maine. "Is it children?" You wonder, "or clearcutters?". A movement among the shadowed trees catches your eye and upon closer inspection you realize it is simply the wind. Suddenly, a troop of mud-daubed peasants appear and decide it was simply the wind. These people are Muntabel, the inhabitants of this fictitious town invented by the creators of the annual Maine Renaissance Faire.

Every summer, period-clad characters such as Queen Elizabeth, Sir Christopher Hatton, Balthasar, King of the Gypsies, and many others transform the woods of Lebanon into the fictional town of Muntabel. This summer, the theme was framed around Queen Elizabeth's arrival in Muntabel and her search for a brave champion to protect the realm.

Besides interacting with Muntabel's inhabitants, visitors witness a human chess match, swordplay, juggling, and dangerous stunts performed daily. Caebry, a band of Celtic bards and musicians, sing and spin tales for those exploring Muntabel. You might even get a chance to throw a double-bladed battle axe at an unsuspecting target!

In the village, visitors may stop at shops such as The Stone Bestiary, home to sculptures of gargoyles, gryphons, dragons, and other fantastical creatures. At the faire, visitors may also buy leather or wool articles, wooden boxes, and other handmade crafts.