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Greetings from Portland!

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A CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL BEDЕКС

"Let's face it, of all the medical things that you know about, do you know any other specialties that have more jokes than proctology? Think about all the jokes, all the cartoons and the "Seinfeld" episode [about a proctologist]. [But] when people come in and find out there's something seriously wrong, it's not funny anymore."

Michael Bedecs is a 48-year-old proctologist and laser surgeon in Portland. He's been examining anal cavities for about 14 years, and women are really like it. He is also the only certified proctologist in Maine.

What's the deal with proctology? Well, you have to understand that proctology is a little bit (of an) unusual specialty, and maybe the reason why you're here. It deals with conditions of the anus and areas people generally don't want to know about.

Why did you choose proctology in the first place? Well, it's one of those specialties that has very few emergencies in it. Most people I've seen have already seen two doctors.

Do you usually see more men than women? Probably a few more women, mostly because of childbirth, and they tend to bring anorectal problems.

What's a regular visit like here? There are three things I do. Number one, I try to figure out what's wrong and by doing that, I ask questions. Then eventually roll 'em over and have a look. Number two, I explain what's going on. Then I provide treatment options.

What kind of problems do people come in here with? The majority of the people who come in here for things that are bleeding, sore, swollen or not working properly. It could be anything from something simple to something life-threatening. Some people will come in those who are bleeding and they've got hemorrhoids, and they raise. Some people might think they have hemorrhoids and now they have colon cancer. Colon cancer is the second leading cancer death.

About the laser surgery... I've been doing laser surgery for about 12 years now. I started using lasers before they were even available in hospitals. I bought the first laser in Maine, and I mostly use it for rectal surgery, but I also do tattoo removals. I think it offers some advantages over traditional surgical procedures in many cases.

Have you gotten so used to examining people that it's like putting your shoes on in the morning? You bet, it's like my other job.

Interview by Jordan Kocuba; photo by Colin Malakie

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[Additional content not transcribed]
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of Exchange!
Portland school officials are trying to oust Reiche's principal.

LAURA CONWAY

Someone had to take the heat for problems at Reiche Community School in Portland's West End, and that someone is principal Margery MacDonald. School superintendents have no choice but to make a decision when the situation becomes intolerable under her administration.

Some Reiche parents say the last-minute job offer, made just weeks before the school year begins, is an attempt to placate the union by naming MacDonald their new principal. In addition to a grievance filed against MacDonald by the accused principal, she has lodged her grievances against the school's administration.

Reiche School principal Maggpie MacMeechey may be on her way to another assignment.

Portland school officials are trying to oust Reiche's principal.

School Committee Chairman David Lee said central office administrators recommended Margery MacDonald change her mind and withdraw her notice next week, but MacDonald issued a terse statement saying, "I can't be involved in any decisions made about the school..."

Lee said the board members have deliberately edged MacMeechey is trying to get MacDonald out of her post, or whatever it is he's doing. MacDonald's efforts to get the school a different color..."

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Portland is a tourist Mecca. At least, that's what many people think. In fact, the city is not a tourist Mecca by any means, but it is a tourist destination. The city is visited by millions of people each year, and the tourist industry is a major contributor to the local economy.

The state of Maine has a $3 billion-per-year industry, which is the main business of the state's largest city, Portland. The city is known for its lobster, its lighthouses, and its picturesque harbor. But Portland is also known for its shopping, its restaurants, and its nightlife. The city is a popular destination for tourists from all over the world, and it is a place where people come to relax and enjoy themselves.

The city is a place where people come to relax and enjoy themselves.
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A rule of thumb is that 10 percent of a city's revenue must go toward promotion. For Portland, this is about $1.5 million, a figure that has doubled over the past four years. In the eyes of the CVB, this money is essential for attracting visitors.

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More Fun... Incredible Results!
YOU CALL THAT SANE?

The July 3 column of Rick MacPherson's "Eyes from Above" column was actually good advice. To rehash a statistic from earlier in the column, this is a highly vulnerable population. It is a sad truth that people who are vulnerable in one sense are also vulnerable in another. If the article was found in Taboo, Proctor in the least gay publication, that's another story. You may be able to add to those numbers, but CRW is a "feet on the ground" publication, available to all ages.

The article, thank you very much, is astounding. "Gay youth can learn about alternate sexual identities and their own." On what is clear to us all, gay youths are at risk of depression, or homelessness, or substance abuse, or suicide, or violent assault. This is not information that is being taught or studied in school. It is a shame that quality and standards are seen as a disservice by CRW.

Joanie Wilson
Portland

SARAH GOODYEAR

LETTERS

Comment

The not-so-grand tour

A R W.

ne who has ever lived among Maine's fevered tourist corridor, Route 1, knows just how inviting tourist can be — and how perilous. In towns like Bar Harbor, locals put up with grueling traffic, notorious summerers and lots of overflow all summer long, because they hope when winter comes they'll still be living on the cash they've squirreled away in the warmer months.

In some parts of the state, where rich folks have been summering for generations, this seasonal work pattern has produced serious economic and social problems, but a sense of community that fills the air above the summertime sea of tourists. It is a place where the summertime sea of tourists can make every day feel like a vacation.

Portland has historically been the dependance on tourism that has bolstered other Maine communities. But now, as officials in Augusta push to increase the volume of tourists to towns all around the state, Portland officials are looking repeatedly at trying to attract more tourism to our city. ("Greetings from Portland," on page 30). It's hard to say no to the hard cash that tourism can pump into the economy.

But, as one tour operator points out, "there are many miles of miles along most of the coast we don't see the profile of a tourist any more. Tour buses are bigger, faster, and the tourists more clear, the water can get really ugly.

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It is a shame that quality and standards are seen as a disservice by CRW.

The AIDS Project, Portland

DAK KERTH

TAP responds to Rick

It would be nice...
Young parents, old concerns

Jocelyn Lee's photographs of teenage parents reach beyond children-having-children rhetoric

When photographer Jocelyn Lee spent 3 years in Portland, Maine, following the lives of young parents, she didn't want to make the usual photos. "I didn't want to glorify teen pregnancy," she says. "I didn't want to write the usual story about the complications with mothers, the heartbreak and the pain." Instead, Lee focused on the mothers' strength and the stories of their lives.

A sampling of Lee's photographs appears in the just-published book "The Youngest Parents" (Doublé-Take/ Norton, $27.50), a documentary text by Janna Lange, a media arts professor at the Maine College of Art. The three contributors bring different perspectives to the complexity of the subject. "The form of the photographs has a lot to do with[the contributors]mixing," Lee says. "You're more aware of my presence in the photo, or in some cases it wasn't [the parents']point of view."

Through the work of the various contributors, Colley writes, "We can only hope that this book moves adequately and justly fast in complexity, provides that context — given those who come upon these narratives, through language and photography, a concrete, navigable sense of who these young people are, what hopes and struggles they harbor, and values affirm their lives.

Lee's 24 photographs were made between 1992 and 1996 and are roughly split between Texas and Maine. Most of the young parents are not the children's only parents, "because I don't see the father stick around too much," she says. "In highschool or their best friend, or at

The layout of the book is the focus, these women are living and proud — and84-96: "They're more aware of my presence, not mine.

Lee lost of her subjects, the book foregrounds the stories of their children's fathers. Lee tells the story of Lisa, a 17-year-old mother who spent days going to school and working, and spent her evenings caring for her children and boyfriend as well as her younger siblings.

Teen pregnancy, Lee writes in an introduction to her photographs in the book, "develops from many layers of influence and need, and is filled with contradictions: there are throwaway love joined with personal sacrifice, there is unrepeatable anger and quiet acquiescence; there is healthy nurturing and unhealthy nurturance."

"Whereas the Moore photographs rapport the formal bond of the young people involved, Lee's point of view is that it's a way to do so without marriage, not having children of my own and letting compensatory behavior pass for a thrill ride at a small-town fair." The pictures feature young mothers with their children, because "I don't see the pictures feature young mothers with their children, because "I don't see the

Lee lost touch with some of her subjects, but the photos are unforgettable. "It's a bit hard to describe." Lee says. "I see my photographs as a reminder that parenting is an old but familiar world to offer up that decisive moment of knowing, the moment of "I had to fight to keep this one in [the book]."

Lee's narrative of young parents is a story of human layers of influence and need, and is filled with contradictions. "These are just particular framings through which to view young mothers and their families."

A certain degree of licence with the narrative, documentary approach, is the book's value, writes in an introduction to her photographs. "Develops from an understanding of the world in ways to delay that personal moment that you can only know about yourself," Lee says. "I see the world through the invisible documentary."

The book is "dramatic" and is focused on the imagination. "I'm one of several conceptual photographers among the 3L, 124, deClercq and Jeff Wall, using the technique. "My definition of a"

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Roadhouse blues

Ask anyone who's been to Raoul's in the past and they'll serve up a laundry list of complaints: The service is painfully slow, the waitstaff gets between you and your order of the day, the food hasn't gone downhill, the noise levels, many people refrain from drinks and music on the back aby the bar is especially loud. Nevertheless, people return to Raoul's again and again. Why? Because Raoul's has that certain quality that many clubs can't find at any other venue in town, especially since Mergenthaler's closed.

Take August, for example. So far, the club's bookings have included the ubiquitous Popa Chubby, master guitarist Adrian Legg and perennial folk favorite John Cooper Clarke. The line is long, the crowds are big and the atmosphere is electric. But the sound is a problem, with a delay will be installed to help equalize sound throughout the building. This is a definite step in the right direction, but you still have to wonder whether the building will ever be able to accommodate the bands that frequent them.

As for the noise problem, it's not clear if there is a solution. A new speaker system upstairs is in the midst of a major overhaul. The stage awning that prompted the band to sound check before they set up, but it wasn't until Knight came aboard two and a half months ago that things started to take a turn for the better. He has brought in new stage lights, a wall of fame made up of more than 70 pictures of the club's past performers, and has even asked people to quiet down during shows. At the John Gorka show, we did 225 people and people were on their feet, but the sound was still loud. Mike Stewart, Rick Glover and Tracy Knight have decided it's high time for improvement, and it may mean selling the club's signature memorabilia.

That's the only change. The club's sports a new look and a new menu manager. The demeanor has been cleaned up considerably, while the upstairs has been turned into a mikcrophone with a delay that is installed. The stage seating that forced the band to sound check before they set up, but it wasn't until Knight came aboard two and a half months ago that things started to take a turn for the better. He has brought in new stage lights, a wall of fame made up of more than 70 pictures of the club's past performers, and has even asked people to quiet down during shows. At the John Gorka show, we did 225 people and people were on their feet, but the sound was still loud. Mike Stewart, Rick Glover and Tracy Knight have decided it's high time for improvement, and it may mean selling the club's signature memorabilia.

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"A Chorus Line" at Bowdoin, Aug. 15

Even if you're not a fan of musicals, Maine State Music Theatre's season production, is hard to dislike. The tale of a crew of Broadway hopefuls and their personal stories, "A Chorus Line," is both heartwarming and funny. It's also chock-full ofing, and exciting music. At Memorial Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at 8 p.m. Showing through Aug. 23.

"A Chorus Line" at Bowdoin, Aug. 15

"Making the Dance" at Portland Dance Center, 25A Forest Ave. Free choreography showcase/competition from 9:30 a.m.-noon (professional). Informal even­ing/competition at 7:30 p.m. (professional) and 1-4 p.m. (amateur). Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave. For further information, contact Paul Taylor, Portland Ballet Company, Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, ME 04101, Tel. 775-4253 or 773-2562.

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The Central Maine Friends of Photography Meeting
Aug 16. Artists who would like to participate in the photo search exhibit should send a three song cassette / CD , bio , photo , and artist application form and a $10 processing fee to: Photo Search, Maine Children’s Alliance, P.O. Box 1662 , Cumberland, Maine 04021.

Maine Artists’ Space at the Maine College of Art’s studio space the first lues of every month at 49 Exchange St, Portland. 780-1681. For more info, call L. Murray Jamison at 871-8244.

MECA Open House Tours Come visit Maine College of Art today. Tours begin at 1 pm and Aug 26 from 5-9 pm . At 7:15 pm , actors should prepare 1-2 minutes and bring an audition . 775-5103.

Oratorio Chorale A 40 member chorus holds auditions for the full ride. They take off on their backs from the top of a flatbed truck, traveled 20 mph on the converted, wheeled sleds. They took off on their backs from the top of a flatbed truck, traveled down a small slide and traveled down a steel starting ramp and cruised down the street in front of the Civic Center to down a steel starting ramp and cruised down the street in front of the Civic Center to unlock the door and the door locked.

Portland Stage Company announces general auditions for new tenors and basses to apply. No experience necessary. Send artist application form and a $10 processing fee to: 176 Sawyer St, So. Portland, at 7:15 pm. 799-1421 for more info.

Portland Lyric Theater holds audition for “The Secret Garden.” Call for entry: 878-0584.

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art and the Brunswick Center for the Arts announce screeners for the American Wind Symphony’s screening camps in Lake Placid this winter. From there, the prospective young luger (or junior career) could graduate to the junior national team, which would mean more high-profile racing.
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Spare Ribs, Southern-cooked

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CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION Obsessed family. is taken hostage aboard Air Force One

ALSO SHOWING:

Frenchwoman bonds with her neighbors as Travolta 's wife.

MONEY TALKS Chris Tucker stars as an

NEW THIS WEEK:

Damn, I look good: Bill Bellamy in effects by the folks who brought us "Babe" - a film that depends

as Travolta 's wife.

1960 '5 cartoon. Slapstick appears to be the thought -provoking consequences. One of our stars in Stanley Kubnck's inspired, 1971 take

adventure extravaganza about a band of high-

prison gang. Joan Allen nhe Crucible') stars

become her husband and resolves to raise a true and noble revolutIOnary child. The results are more than

the old ultraviolence, with peculiar and brother.

as dance instructors.

MEN IN BLACK Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith star in this small, self-assured and likable comedy

as his girlfriend Sara-

Moore) get up-close·and·personal w ith the

and Danny Glover manage to destroy every·

thing in their path.

SPAWN Based on a sketch from "All

That · Nickelodeon 's all·kids comedy show, the two wind up hitting the

dinosaurs everywhere. Ste v en

plays a restaurant critic and commitment -shy

as his girlfriend

Hoyt's Pond

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CHECK OUT THE SUPERMARKET
Look Who's Talking
Monday, July 28, 1997
Reprint from Wall Street Journal, Monday, July 28, 1997

Hip and Irreverent, Alternative Papers Grab Readers

By Janet Y. Maslin

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In a giveaway paper.

supplement their local base. "More and
lies. Not too long ago, the trade group
tives are starting to gain national advertis­
want to read," says David Schneiderman,
ling for liquor, tobacco and breath mints to
Village Voice. Since 1995, Stern has bought
president of Stern Publishing and pub­
interested in the local daily's fare, but "we

1990, circulation and revenue have more than doubled from the daily's glory days. But
than that alternatives, according to a trade

'One of our goals is to be the equal alternative hold for people like the Mr. Johnson, active studio singles who

Alternative papers, usually given away in
are attracting this segment of the population that daily newspapers, we
investment banker with Faren. Sparer & Sperber.

The newspapers may not be very accessible in the daily arena, but "we

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 marginalized, not mainstream," says New

Extraction of Tonto's term "kemosabe " (one

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the Chicago Reader, one paper regularly: the Chicago Reader, rival to its recently acquired City

the 24-year-old mail room worker does read

a derivative of "giimoozaabi," the Minne­

Mr. Schneiderman, now 27, says his

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Mr. Larkin, "because we think that's how

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