Taxing here, slashing there

Big businesses take huge tax breaks as homeowners get stuck with city's bills

Why did Fleet Bank get a tax break of $77,790 — a 30 percent reduction — for this Congress Street bank building...

...while Frank Perkins and Shirley Morehouse got hit with a tax increase of 141 percent on this St. Lawrence Street home?

The biggest winners — those language is in the result of plunging commercial real estate values. But simmering homeowners see a more insidious connection.

"When 24 of the largest companies in town get property tax reductions while homeowners get huge increases, I can't help but think that the squeaky wheel gets the oil," said Frank Perkins, a Munjoy Hill homeowner who saw his taxes rise by 140 percent. "In my opinion," said Perkins, "the entire revaluation was fixed from the beginning."

The emotional remains of Maine's state budget fell into the hands of the Legislature this week as the Appropriations Committee went to work on Gov. John R. McKernan's highly unpopular plan for wipping out $121 million deficit.

A flyer posted in the State Office Building read: "It's open season on state workers! Wear orange...to avoid having your livelihood shot out from under you."

By Eric Hannelius

Not since the Great Fire of 1866 has Portland City Hall witnessed an incendiary zeal like that ignited by the recent revaluation of the 22,000 pieces of property that make up — and pay for — the city of Portland.

The fire has spread from the fiery speeches that lit up last summer's public meetings, to the secession movement that's boiling over the Casco Bay Islands, to the unprecedented campaign to burn six city councilors at the stake — Portland taxpayers have threatened to bum this city to the ground for the third time in as many centuries.

Conspicuous in their absence from this maelstrom have been two dozen of the city's largest landowners — corporations all — who were the big winners in the Great Revaluation of 1991.

For while hundreds of financially strapped Portland homeowners saw their property tax bills rise by 50 to 200 percent, many of the city's largest corporations were getting 10 to 30 percent reductions in their tax bills.

Officials at New England Telephone, Fleet Bank and Guy Gannett Publishing Company — three of the biggest winners — insist the disparity is only the result of plunging commercial real estate values.

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Two dozen advocacy groups and unions called on their legislative Democratic allies to put taxes back on the table as a potential solution to the budget crisis.

But state lawmakers said there was little they could do.

"We are really boxed in. It is really our time," said Sen. Joseph C. Brannigan, the Portland Democrat, who is co-chair of the Appropriations Committees, and said he saw no chance for major changes in the governor's package.

For details of McKernan's plan, see page 3.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU TRIED THE PERSONALS? SEE PAGE 27. BULK RATE
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WINTER?
The Almanac says it could be a good one."

MAINE WINTER CHECKLIST:
• Furnace cleaned?
• Bought a rug for your family room?
• Got your yard shed?
• Replaced that old living room rug with an Oriental?
• Checked your snow tires?
• Picked up a dhurrie for your family room? The Almanac says it could be a good one.
• Furnace cleaned?
• Checked your snowblower?
• Furnace cleaned?
• Bought a rug for your family room?
• Checked off all of the above . . .

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829-5037
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Check out the prices on HP's DeskWriter for the Mac $459
300 dpi color inkjet printers for both the Mac and Windows.
And we've got $795 for the...
Senior Citizens

One & Only

Please Order by Friday November 22, 1991 at 8 pm, Portland

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WILD TRIFLES

SEASONAL BREADS, ROLLS, PASTRIES, CAKES

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SUNDAY BRUNCH for the benefit of THE MAINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

November 17

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Have a good time for a good cause & Good Cookin' for a Good Reason!

774-1740

SPRING AND HIGH STREET MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 11AM & SATURDAY & SUNDAY 11AM - 1PM

BACK THE WOODS!

In the 1970's, a good 20 acres of land was 5 acres to be purchased.

Lorraine Tedosch of Portland asked Commissioner William Vall to include the 1993-1994 season's regulations in the 1992-93 edition of the hunting and trapping regulations booklet put out by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The group asked Vall to let them know what he plans to eliminate of properties that owners want to keep off to hunters.

Vall said his department is in the business of promoting hunting, not diminishing it.

The group also asked for the permission of the properties that owners want to keep off to hunters unless there were signs indicating that hunting is allowed.

Layoffs at WMTW

WMTW's television Channel 6 in Auburn is letting off 10 full-time and five part-time employees because of the weak economy.

One of the employees to be laid off is WMTW's program manager Bertie Auda. Jeff Plaat, a sportscaster, is the only on-air worker affected in the restructuring of the station.

In a written statement announcing the layoffs, the station's general manager, Bruce Harvey, was arrested because of a home invasion.

In Dublin, R.I., the remains of a woman who was found dead in a parking lot, Sheila Reed, the woman who was cited with posioning out that the home was vacant.

In Denver, the Cowboys were founded after the Dallas Cowboys.

But in the 1992-93 edition of the Hunting and Trapping regulations booklet put out by Maine's Fish and Game department, owners can limit hunting on their properties unless they have signs indicating that hunting is allowed.

Non-hunters seek to "Take Back the Woods"

An organization that promotes the rights of individuals to their property has asked for help from Maine's Fish and Game department to eliminate signs that indicate hunting is allowed.

Andrews shakes a new leg

In Boulder, a new organization that promotes the rights of individuals to their property has asked for help from Maine's Fish and Game department to eliminate signs that indicate hunting is allowed.

Back the Woods!

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But in the 1992-93 edition of the Hunting and Trapping regulations booklet put out by Maine's Fish and Game department, owners can limit hunting on their properties unless they have signs indicating that hunting is allowed.
Why did New England Telephone get a tax break of $312,183—a 25 percent reduction—for Portland properties, including this one on Davis Farm Road?

**TAX BREAKS, TOUGH BREAKS**

Continued from Page 1

On June 13, assessment Frank Perkins opened up his mail and fished out a letter from the Office of the Assessor of the City of Portland.

The letter informed Perkins and his wife Shirley Masden that they newly owned home at 772 Lawrence St. had been reassessed.

The letter instructed Perkins and Masden that if they wished to review their reassessment, they had 15 days to schedule an appointment with a company called Cole-Layer-Trumble.

The letter continued: "A change in the proposed value will be considered only if the owner can demonstrate that the proposed value is in excess of market value."

"When I read that letter, I had to do a double take before the magnitude of the change started to sink in," said Perkins, who moved into his new home from New York with his wife two-and-a-half years ago to get away from the high cost of living.

Later that month, Perkins learned that the city proposed raising the tax rate from $22.50 per $1,000 assessed value, to $23.75, or an increase of $1.25 per year. He found it was "completely out of line."

"I don't think I'll be able," said Perkins. "We're just in a recession, we're trying to stay afloat, and my house is valued at more than 90 percent, and I try to go up by 30 percent per year."

Perkins talked to his neighbors and began comparing their reassessments with their own.

"And then I got angry," he said. "I went down to the assessor's office and looked up the law that the Cole-Layer-Trumble's was using on my neighbors on St. Lawrence Street and compared it with the proposed reassessment, and I'm the passenger in the car," said Perkins.

Immediately, Perkins went to the assessor's office and asked that the value from the proposed be set to a high of 260 percent.

"I'm not asking for anything, just a change in the proposed value from the proposed value by 10 percent," said Perkins. "This is extremely unfair."

Among others:

- On Peaks Island, Pat and Patricia Gardner, who had recently moved from Iowa, received a similar letter informing them that their house had been reassessed from $35,000 to $46,290, or an increase of 33 percent. The Gardner's tax bill would go from $962 to $1,250.

- In the Deering neighborhood, Donald Foster learned that his house had been reassessed from $43,100 to $62,380, or 44 percent.

It didn't take a genius to figure out that if the assessments were raised, tax bills would go up two to three times as much as increases in property values.

"It makes no sense to me," said Perkins. "If someone is getting a 24 percent reduction on the tax bills for its downtown office buildings, why not others?"

Big business, big tax breaks

The good-faith giving to many of the largest corporations in the city.

When New England Telephone, the railroad for the company's Portland properties was from $249,560 to $270,800. At the proposed tax rate, the railroad company's property tax bill would decrease by 27 percent. In 1990, the railroad company was reassessed upward by 12 percent. But that slight increase in value would translate into a tax reduction of 10 percent when Fleet pays its property tax next year.

And directed across the street from City Hall, the offices of the Portland Press Herald and the Maine Sunday Telegram were reassessed upward by 20 percent.

But at the proposed property tax rate, parent Company said the railroad company's tax would drop by more than 20 percent.

Curiously, Garnett's own name disappeared from a list of the 30 most valuable commercial and industrial properties in Portland that was published from 1976 to the Portland Press Herald's "Telephone Book."

New England Telephone, Fleet Bank and Gay & Cannon Publishing Company all assured reassessment tax reductions. If Portland City Manager Robert Geyler keeps his promise of holding a 22 percent tax cut, at least 10 of the largest commercial properties in Portland will receive huge property tax breaks.

And in addition to these breaks, many of these companies, like New England Telephone, received a 10 percent reduction in their 1990-91 property tax bill under the so-called "phase-in program."

Still, these big winners of the Great Reduction are especially concerned about New England Telephone paying $115,000 less in property taxes for 1990-91, or 10 percent.

"There is no explanation of how New England Telephone was able to get a tax reduction," said Perkins. "That's a tough nut to crack, and I'm not going to get into that one."

"This is just a hypothesis of the state of the economy," said Jones, "and it's taking place all over the Northeast as cities do reassessment."
“Wasting the labor of the people under the pretense of caring”

Our governments are bankrupt.
The federal government continues to try and fund both guns and butter by abandoning the practice of sharing tax dollars with states and municipalities. The state of Maine is abandoning its social service and environmental protection ministries, while at the same time prohibiting same sex marriages.

The citizens of Casco Bay Weekly are redoing the work of the state by running ads for the State Department of Environmental Protection, while at the same time promoting anti-gay caucuses.

We are a political party.

George W. Bush is running for a second term.

The Bush administration has abandoned the social programs of the New Deal, while at the same time promoting gay marriage.

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An anonymous reader writes: I want to express my admiration for your article about abortion (CBW 11.7.91). It is a selection of equipment and government officials.

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brother, bassist Marty on tenor saxophone. Haas is an established figure in the Portland jazz scene.

- Cutting down to brass tackle: Tonight at 7:30, 818 students present a different aspect of music in "The Middle Myths," an opportunity to hear a new generation of brass ensemble students. A panel of professors and jazz musicians will lead an academic discussion following performances on trumpet. For reservations, call 786-5000.

- She was in touch with her sister: Tonight, 7:30 p.m., the Portland Symphony Orchestra presents a performance of Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 5." A reception will follow the concert.

- Getting with the band: Tonight, 9:30 p.m., the Vermont/Ezra band's music is characterized by the allusion to the name of their band, "Free Tibet." They will be playing with their saxophonist Fred Haas.

- Pull strings: If you have time, be sure to head to the Portland String Quartet today at 7 p.m. The quartet will be performing a program of works by Beethoven, Schubert, and Mozart.

- 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: The Portland Symphony Orchestra presents a performance of Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5." A reception will follow the concert.

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**WHAT'S WHERE**

**General Cinemas**
Maine Mall, Portland
Dollas Woolworth Place, Portland
Kensington West, Portland

**Art House**
Iron Horse, Portland

**Theater**


**Shirley Valentine**

Directed by Kathleen Mary 

Nov. 15-19, Tues. & Sat., 8:00 pm, Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sun., 7:00 pm; Sat., 1:00 & 7:00 pm.

**The Movies**

10 Exchange St., Portland

Regal Cinemas

Nov. 14-17


**TICKETS $3.00**

Children's Theatre of Southern Denmark, 417-773-8455

The Theatre at Treadwell is located down the street from Congress St.

**STAGE**

"Just Do The Right Thing For A Change" by Dave van Rooyen

Friday, Nov. 19, at 8:00 pm at the Portland Stage Company, 130 Washington St., Portland, ME 04101

**DRAMA**

Opening the 29th Annual Shakespeare Festival of San Francisco

"The Taming of the Shrew" at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, Oregon

Nov. 14-19, Tues. & Sat., 8:00 pm; Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sun., 7:00 pm; Sat., 1:00 & 7:00 pm.

**MUSIC**

**CLUBS**

THURSDAY, NOV. 11

The Green Room Presents the Creme de la Creme of the Portland Folk Scene at Carla's Cafe, 200 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101

**WEST END**

FRIDAY, NOV. 12

Mccobin Presents the Portland Folk Scene at Carla's Cafe, 200 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101

**INTERNATIONAL**

FRIDAY, NOV. 12

Mccobin Presents the Portland Folk Scene at Carla's Cafe, 200 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101

**MEXICAN**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Bos and Don's** Parenting Guide

Designed to promote the activity of parents, it is stimulating and educational.

Good Parenting Guide

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Rancheros $6.95

KIDS! Free Sopaipilla Shirt with purchase

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MACAROON $1.75

DESSERT PLATE $4.95

Kids under 12 eat free! (with a purchase of $10 or more)

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A LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEA

UPENDING TRADITION

"The New York Times" Book Review

"The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

"The Little Prince" is a novella first published in French in 1943. It is a story about a young prince who travels from planet to planet in search of truth and meaning in life. The book has become a classic and has been translated into over 300 languages. The story is often used as a metaphor for the search for meaning in life and the importance of loving and caring for others.

**MEXICAN FOOD**

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Try Our Cajun Chicken & Steak

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Fresh garlic buttered shrimp $13.99

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Available 5:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

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**ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY**

**SILVER SCREEN**

"In Expedition!"自

"In a leap of faith, I set out to write a story that would resonate with people around the world," says author Joanne Harris. "I wanted to create a character who is both ordinary and extraordinary, someone who can inspire others to follow their dreams andface their fears. The result is "In Expedition!" a tale of adventure, love, and self-discovery."

**SILVER SCREEN**

"Barton Fink" by Joel Coen and Ethan Coen

"Barton Fink" is a film that explores the life of a failed writer who, in order to make ends meet, takes a job as a screenwriter for a Hollywood studio. The film is a satirical look at the entertainment industry and its impact on society. The writing is sharp and witty, and the performances are outstanding. "Barton Fink" is a must-see for anyone interested in cinema.
Portland's Lounge Hours 11:30am-1am
425 Fore Street.

ART
Opening:
The Buxtor Gallery, 938 Congress St., Portland. Call 773-3000 for more info.

CONCERTS
FRI. 11/15

SATURDAY 11/18

TUESDAY 11/19

STREETSMARTS
The Mercury! Jasper Hotel, 183 Fore St., Portland. 828-0700.

SEVENTH STREET

ALL DAY LONG
TAMING the INBREED
Highland Center, 105 Union St., Portland. Free. Call 774-5943 for info.

FURNACE FESTIVAL
Forest Ave., Portland. 11am-10pm.

OFF THE CLOCK
Saturday, Nov. 14

The Zen Room
11/14/91

Portland's Sunday Happenings

TUES. 11/11
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

WED. 11/12
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

THURS. 11/13
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

FRID. 11/14
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SAT. 11/15
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SUN. 11/16
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

MON. 11/17
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

TUES. 11/18
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

WED. 11/19
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

THURS. 11/20
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

FRI. 11/21
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SAT. 11/22
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SUN. 11/23
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

MON. 11/24
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

TUES. 11/25
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

WED. 11/26
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

THURS. 11/27
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

FRI. 11/28
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SAT. 11/29
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SUN. 11/30
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

MON. 12/1
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

TUES. 12/2
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

WED. 12/3
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

THURS. 12/4
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

FRI. 12/5
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SAT. 12/6
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS

SUN. 12/7
PORTLAND'S LONDON DAYS
Make sure you don’t forget birthdays & anniversaries.
We’ll call to remind you!

**ERNEST POKO**

### WELNESS

**Dogtown diary**

*The Cafe Review* presents poet Vincent Ferrini

'What's your (the name and) pack on the cover of the latest Portland Monthly?' Vincent Ferrini. So my data guides don't get that wrong. The Dots are up for the next time.

---

**Out Side**

**Game Boy Blue Chip**

The Fort presented Blue Chip, the one, the only, the Fort's resident psychic, to the Fort community. Blue Chip is teaching the Fort's readers how to play the Game Boy, and he is wearing a blue chip.

**For Kids**

The Portland Public Library presents a mini-session for children ages 5-12. The Fort will be hosting a mini-session for children ages 5-12 at the Fort. The Fort will be hosting a mini-session for children ages 5-12 at the Fort.

**For Adults**

**Community**

**Cable Network**

409 Maine St., Portland 207-772-9831

**Wise Trading Co., Inc.**

*Quality merchandise and experience you can trust*

We buy & sell coins, stamps, etc.

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**Watches**

**Short stories sought for Casco Bay Weekly’s Relevant Fiction Competition**

Casco Bay Weekly is accepting original, unpublished short stories on topics relevant to readers like the Casco Bay Area. Stories should be 500 words or less. Stories that are not accepted will be returned. Stories that are accepted will be posted on the website. Stories that are accepted will be published in the next issue. Stories that are accepted will be published in the next issue. Stories that are accepted will be published in the next issue. Stories that are accepted will be published in the next issue.
is your child "on the rocks"?

is your child been divorced?

REAL PUZZLE Checkmate!

This week's puzzle is a chess twist. White, actually a half-twist - we're playing on a Moebius strip. White to move and mate in two. You can enter your solution below.

White Black

1. a6 c5

Solution to Real Puzzle #95

1. Qd2+ 2. Qd3

Is Your Child Being Explored?

Your school may be the answer.

Your home school environment will nurture and support your craft at every level.

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Selling Big Apologies to our baby awaits nature walks, beaches, books, art, music, and a woman's desire. They are growing up, and I can too have fun. And you! Will you CONV. WEEKEND OUTDOOR (9), love, have plant, hooves, living room, no kids, no pets. Phone will answer to any greeting.

BRENT, ATTRACTIVE, PROFESSIONAL, SWF, 32, orchid, marriage, poor, quiet, easy on the eye.

SHERRY: Join our hot, hot, hot hot, hot hot hot hot.

Those who's made me feel good.

Are you honest love (bar exam) Assisted reading.

ENGLISH (Bar exam)

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You can reply to any ad without a phone, write to: PERSONAL AD, Box or CBW box indicated.

If you hear a knock on your door, you'll only mean it - you're looking for a serious relationship, based on honesty and intelligence.

I'M looking for a young woman to go to concerts, dinner, theatre, movies at Portland's Casco Bay. I'm 25-35, looking for a woman to share my life. If you share my interests, contact me.

I'M looking for a young woman who lives in New York City to share my life. I'm looking for a woman who's smart, attractive, and easy on the eye.

I'M looking for a young woman who loves to dance, sing, and play the guitar. I'm looking for a woman who enjoys photography, dancing, and art, and wants to share my life.

I'M looking for a young woman to share my life. I'm looking for a woman who's artistic, creative, and easy on the eye.

I'M looking for a young woman who loves to dance, sing, and play the guitar. I'm looking for a woman who enjoys photography, dancing, and art, and wants to share my life.

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**TREND SETTERS**

**Casco Bay Professional Park 167 U.S. Rt. 1, Falmouth**

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**TOTAL TAKES**

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**MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

invites you to a Global Holiday Bazaar

Sat., Nov. 23 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Woodfords Church
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Admission: $2 / $3

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