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Popular upRising

Term limits. Gay marriage. Clear-cutting. Voters are taking the law into their own hands, signing petitions for initiatives in record numbers. Is referendum politics democracy at its finest, or a case of mass hysteria?
A CONVERSATION WITH

TOM NELSON

"The reason I've kept this route is because I like the people."

Everyone knows that Congress Street and its environs has been dubbed Portland's art district. What everyone might not know is that it's also Tom Nelson's mail route. He's the cheerful mailman who makes sure all those artists, and everyone else, gets their bills, as well as their mail. He's an easygoing guy, he's good at his job, and it just so happens he's an artist himself.

How did you become a mailman? Was it a question of 'I've got to eat?'

Prior to coming into the post office, I was a salesman for a steel company. I wasn't doing very well, and they had an opening for a mailman. I did a lot of different routes, throughout the city. I got this route almost three years ago. I've seen a lot of crazy things - I've seen too many fires, a lot of police activity, and a lot of very colorful people. Some of them live on my route, and I've gotten to know them. I lost my favorite customer, she died not long ago. She was someone I saw all the time, passed all the time. I really feel that loss. That's one of the drawbacks to getting close to your customers, and it's hard. It's rewarding.

Interview by Ellen McAlister; photo by Eugene Cole

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Interview by Ellen McAlister; photo by Eugene Cole
The state officials are trying to come up with a new plan to measure car emissions.

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John Williamson

If you thought car emissions testing was dead in Maine, guess again. If you live in Cumberland County, it's probably already too late in 1998. The new rules will likely be cheaper and even more user-friendly than the old CarTest computerized pipe checks dominated by the Legislature in 1992. But the new round of testing may also be a lot more effective in cleaning up the air.

Gov. Angus King has formed a group called what kind of testing the state needs to do in the most popular county in order to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act. The Department of Environmental Protection is expected to recommend a new emissions testing program. Those emissions programs are a good example of where the state can work, and the fixes have now been made.

Buxton Brown, owner of Brown's Towing, in Portland, is one of the few holdouts for the old CarTest system. Brown claimed a "Mickey Mouse" visual scan of the engine will do nothing to clean the air. He didn't need to check even 10 percent of the miềnnosian industry who can just look under the hood and know what parts are missing," he said.

Instead, Brown supports testing all cars in Maine at sophisticated testing centers, while replacing only those parts that are missing. "I'm not the state, I'm not the engine. I'm not the owner. I'm not the mechanic," he said. "It's the owner's job to keep the thing running ... ."

Cumberland currently meets federal air quality standards. By 1998, more cars will be tested under the new plan.

The old system, with its visual checks, was too lenient: "It would just sit there and do nothing while a mechanic look over an engine during normal auto inspections to see if there are any missing parts. No centralized facilities like CarTest's "2nd hand" lacked the tail pipe test to find information on what's coming out of a car. No big change.

While that plan is politically acceptable, it is also the most underfunded of the old CarTest system, its environmental impact may be minimal. Terry McKenney owns a car dealer in South Portland and is a member of the governor's group. McKenney pushed the committee to recommend the lowest, 100,000-mile emission testing program. It's not effective at all," he said. "It's a feel good thing, it's there for the car owners to say they've done something, whether it works or not."

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My mother said I never should
by Dorothy Kunz
March 22, 1940
New Flax is in
at MOTEL B - PORTLAND
307-732-3271
6 WASHINGTON - PORTLAND
603-628-4682

J.C. LEE
BOUTIQUE
Self-Dressing for women.

AMY
DRAGG
CLOTHING
CO

AS YOU'RE DRINKING THE BEST?
Only once in film history did a movie receive the Year. The only time it happened is when "Godfather" won the award in 1972. Although William Shakespeare was one of the most well-known playwrights, neither his mother nor father could read or write. The craft of blowing stemware, plates and serving pieces is an ancient one. And... Blown stemware, plates and serving pieces.

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citizen initiative in Maine has exploded from a process only seven times by 1970. Yet in Nov. 5 election, citizens placed 24 referenda on the statewide ballot.

Following a national trend, use of the referendum process shy away from emotional issues. Emotional issues have a way of flying under the radar, said Rob Schill, whose group, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, has emerged from her booth and charged her with incompetence. "That's actually a very high number," Schill said. "In 1996, the state's voters put 22 initiatives on the general election ballot. In 1997, it's 24.

In the last few years, the referenda have come thick and fast, and the media campaigns have become increasingly slick and expensive. Maine women have faced new-wave, anti-tax initiatives since 1993, and the issue is now a major political force in the state. The campaigns have become more sophisticated, with new tactics being used to win over voters. The campaigns are now targeting specific groups, such as the elderly or the disabled, to win over more votes. The campaigns are also using new technology, such as interactive websites and social media, to reach voters. The campaigns are also using new research methods, such as focus groups and exit polls, to understand the views of voters. The campaigns are also using new fundraising methods, such as online donations and corporate sponsorships, to raise money. The campaigns are also using new advertising methods, such as radio and television commercials, to reach voters.
From the early 1970s, Portland residents have tried to speed up the process of two landmark campaigns in the nation. In 1973, public power: A successful outcome for citizens' groups who wanted to create a public power authority; and in 1976, public land: A successful outcome for citizens' groups who wanted to create a public land authority.

In the 1970s, referendum politics in Maine woke up from a 25-year sleep. Gary Curtis, who created the state's first referendum in 1972, helped to revitalize the process. Curtis, who now lives in Bar Harbor, said that the first referendum was held in 1972.

"The people of Maine are more interested in the process than in the outcome," Curtis said. "They want to know that their voice is being heard." Curtis said that the first referendum was held in 1972 because it was the first time that the people of Maine had the opportunity to vote on a referendum issue.

Curtis said that the people of Maine were not as interested in the outcome of the referendum as they were in the process. "They wanted to know that their voice was being heard," he said. "They wanted to know that they had a say in the process." Curtis said that the first referendum was held in 1972 because it was the first time that the people of Maine had the opportunity to vote on a referendum issue.

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Hit the road, Gene

Federal Judge Gene Carter should resign.

A panel of federal judges released a report Nov. 6, finding Carter had made "stapppropriate" statements, "created an appearance of partiality," demonstrated "extremely poor judgment" and conducted himself in a "highly inadvisable" manner.

About the only thing Carter didn't do was break the law, although the tortured reasoning used to reach that conclusion leaves important questions unanswered. It's difficult to believe this decision will end speculations about Carter's ethical standards or that the public will buy the smoke-screen stories by which he was cleared.

Carter's problems arise out of a complex case involving food distributors Gilbert and Harvey Prawer, Fleet Bank and the law firm of Verrill & Dana (see CBW, "Sailing the Hammem", Dec. 14). During a November 1993 meeting between Carter and attorneys for the bank and law firm, the judge appeared to say he had dismissed a lawsuit filed by the Prawers because he knew the Verrill & Dana attorneys. The judge accepted Carter's claim he was referring not to the lawsuit, but to a meeting in which the behavior of the lawyers was examined.

This explanation requires an interpretation of the meeting transcript that could be politely characterized as far-fetched. As the decision acknowledges, Carter knew the Verrill & Dana attorneys. The judges accepted Carter's claim he was referring not to the lawsuit, but to a meeting in which the behavior of the lawyers was examined.

Carter's actions following the meeting are even more serious. He immediately sealed the transcript. When a lawyer for the bank asked for a copy, he got a call from someone identifying himself as Carter asking him to withdraw the request. The caller said if the transcript were released to the bank, it would have to be given to the Prawers as well.

Carter has alternately denied making the call and claimed to have no memory of it. The decision concluded it was "more likely than not" he phoned the lawyer (apparently no one checked phone records), but decided the action involved "no improper conduct." Lawyers for the Prawers have contended Carter wanted the transcript kept secret to keep them from learning of his allegedly prejudicial remarks. Since the judges don't offer any alternative explanation for the call, the public can only speculate. If this ruling is correct, Carter possesses far too little ethical insight to be "custodian" over the tobacco industry.

Endorsement gripes

I am hard-pressed to express my disgust with your latest advertisement ("Heads up", Nov. 30). Number one, part of the reason John Rensenbrink has become as "hot" a name as the Democratic party has failed to give him the attention he needs and deserves.

Number two, you ridiculous reasoning for 10, the great corporate-government media war, is beyond belief. The "inconsistency" decision to let towns govern themselves in the organized parts of Maine is based upon the fact that in those areas the main responsible forester has been practically eliminated. By endorsing SB, you allow the cooperatives to govern themselves — plus bill business. Then, who pays when such a splendid job of forest stewardship is now, do you trust? Have you met SB? Do you understand that the cooperatives have only a voluntary audit in three years? Do you realize that the forests are not as well cared for as they were in the past? Do you realize that the forests are not as well cared for as they were in the past?

It is the story of paper, like CRP, to keep living in these states and create what the overly bright-billed media is seeking. Instead, you take the easy road and disparage those of us who do their homework, instead of a presence at the public.
**Organizational changes Will the PSCO's impeding move back to City Hall be the cure for what ails it?**

**Many Bat P-pin**

Nearly 10 years ago, before her interview for the position of executive director with the Portland Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Hunter attended a Sunday after­noon pops concert at City Hall Auditorium. As she sat in the balcony—enjoying the performance, she wondered where the "wonder" concert hall was. "I couldn't believe it was the only hall in Portland," she recalled. "I had no concept that's what was here!"

Hunter spent her second day on the job in one of the ongoing committee meetings for the move to City Hall. She said she was "sort of shocked" to learn that the move was being studied since the late 1980s. "We have to get the better of her sooner or later," Hunter said. "he key to success is trying to get the best of her sooner or later, "

The PSCO's problems began when the State Theater, where the orchestra planned to hold most of its concerts, unexpectedly closed last January. Concerts were rescheduled for the Portland Symphony Orchestra's main venue, the State House. But in late February, the PSCO pulled the plug on that idea, announcing that the orchestra would instead be based on a Monday night schedule. Hunter said it was too precarious and unrealistic.

"You've got an entire orchestra, stage hands, equipment and you're building the stage, this kind of need to know," Hunter said. "We're not going to do that!"

An elaborate setup helped the Civic Center approximate an intimate concert hall. For each concert, the PSCO's hard work paid off. "We have to make sure we have everything in place," Hunter said. "It's like a dress rehearsal for the next concert." The orchestra also has a new conductor, maestro Kenneth Hare, a trained pianist with a love for the classics. Hunter said they had a "great match." She added that the orchestra's "sound" was on point for most of the concerts.

Despite the PSCO's efforts, a check of the audience numbers revealed that the move to City Hall would not be enough to draw the crowds. "We're doing the best we can," Hunter said. "We're doing the best we can, but we're far from it." The move has also been met with mixed reactions from the community. Some have questioned the orchestra's ability to "take the city on" without a permanent home.

"We're not sure about this," Hunter said. "We're not sure about this, but we're going to try."

"We can't keep this up," Hunter said. "We're going to try."

"Our goal is to be successful," Hunter said. "Our goal is to be successful, but we're going to try."

"We're going to try," Hunter said. "We're going to try."
Prime cut

For the past few months, \textit{Better Than Ezra's} song "King of New Orleans," from their latest album, has been a hit. It's perfect for catching up and singing along with when you're down in your toe. The catchy hook and dance vocals are exactly what makes Better Than Ezra's music so enjoyable. There's a real singer here with Gutter's emotional and versatile vocals, and we can't forget the boy-next-door good looks of its band members. You can catch up with them Nov 18 at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St, Portland. Call Now & Fully Open. T. 207-832-8522. Amen. 773-2337.

Comedy Showcase starring F. Street Timmy


DJ Steve Nason (70s, 80s), 52 Wharf St, Portland. 774-0444. DJ Kilowatt Kevin, 6 Custom 157 High St, Portland. 773-2337.

Moan (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 775-5411. Cheyenne (country), 3 Spring St, Portland. 774-0444. Skinny Mulligan (contemporary rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

Zootz: Funeral for Goth Industrial and 90s dance music, 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.


F. Street Timmy Portland. 774-0444.


Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication,
s
· As a man living with AIDS. and of the people touched by

Sun 5 pm & 7:30 pm. Tix: $8 ($6 seniors / $4 stu-

Theater and Dance presents a theatrical imagining
which beset a rural family in America's southwest.

Theater. 176 Sawyer St. So. Portland. Nov 22-Dec

· H ... •• Love· The Portland Lyric Theater presents a
musical remake of "Miracle on 34th Street" with

1421.

Jean Cocteau's play about the loves. jealousies and
fears of a fairly typical

($10 seniors / students) . 729-8584 .

· My Mother Said I Nev.

8

Acting Cia .... 8aslc technique to advanced scene
Audtltona Acorn Productions holds open auditions
Aud_ Dark Water Theatre Company seeks
Christopher Durang Jan 1. Auditions consist of read-
Audition. for unique acts to perform In a variety
show at the Comedy Connection in Portland. 774-
C.thedral Chamber Sln.e .. A community choir
based at SI. Luke's Cathedral seeks new members.
Auditions
The Portland Lyric -- holds auditions for Its
upcoming production of "The Best Little
story.telling. character and scene development for
Reindeer Performln. Art. For Kid. Offers wor­
floor.

from set constnuctlon and painting to poster distrib­
has volunteer opportunities In a variety

Their heyday six, seven years ago, trafficking in a slightly harder sound than The Kopterz, more

They record­
down there and found out the whole tour thing had been a scam: Brien recalls with a laugh .

The Whigs aren't doing

The

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Benefit Night of regional and national acts. Including The Long Ryders and Concrete Blonde. They record­

In the cellar. The Whigs aren't doing

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Lesbian Health Project
Offers Free Cancer Screening Clinic

The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine, in cooperation with Portland Public Health, will offer a Cancer Screening Clinic for women on Saturday, December 7, 1996 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Service are offered free of charge. Donations large and small enable LPHPM to continue offering services.

To set up an appointment and to see if you qualify for a free mammogram, call 1-800-344-2664. (Please have a mammogram no longer than 1 year ago.)

Levillard, cash in hand. or just dream, in a place filled with friends. $1560 cash a year, all mine. Donating, I sit in a fully dedicated, all-Jew project in conjunction with Portland Public Health.

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**Calendar**

**September 1996**

**Thursday, September 14**
- **6:30 p.m.** Music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Celtic Fire** and **David Surette** may be exactly what you're craving. Heck, even if you haven't got the tiniest bit of Irish in your veins, the strumming of this critically acclaimed folkster should please your ears. Sunday will put music from its new release, "Trip To Kemper" at Olin Arts Center, Bates College, Lewiston, at 7 p.m. (820-7800).

**Friday, September 15**
- **8:30 p.m.** Any band that chooses a name synonymous with "daze," "rapture" and "ecstasy" better have the goods to back up the hype. **Stone Coast Brewing Company** conjures the spirit of the Indigo Girls (''Setting the Old House on Fire'') and their forthcoming release, "'Trip To Kemper."***

**Saturday, September 16**
- **8 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.
- **8 p.m.** A love of jazz and double-crossing is about to transpire at the Hey Hey Club. That's the setting for "Kansas City;' shows Nov. 13-19. Tix: $4.25. 772-9600.
- **9 p.m.** A love of good conversation should please your ears. **Swoon's** ethereal Lush-like sounds justify its more than fair admission charge. Catch up with the "Performing Sex" section of the series, "Sex Work, Sex Wars," a lively chat led by Wendy Chapkis of USM's Sociology and Women's Studies departments and Heather Barry of USM's English and Women's Studies departments. At the Campus Center, USM campus, Portland, from 2:30-4 p.m. Look for upcoming conversations on "Performing Sex," including "The Soil in My Blood: Nationality, Race and Identity" and "Performing the Insurgency." Sponsored by Greater Portland Landmarks. 775-6148.
- **10 p.m.** A love of jazz and double-crossing is about to transpire at the Hey Hey Club. That's the setting for "Kansas City;' shows Nov. 13-19. Tix: $4.25. 772-9600.

**Sunday, September 17**
- **5 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Monday, September 18**
- **8:30 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Tuesday, September 19**
- **3:30 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Wednesday, September 20**
- **5 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Thursday, September 21**
- **8 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Friday, September 22**
- **8 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Saturday, September 23**
- **8 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.

**Sunday, September 24**
- **5 p.m.** A love of Renaissance and Baroque music that at least gets people out of their chairs. **Handel, Bertoli and Schurmann.** The two-year-old musical group is dedicated to historically accurate readings of 17th-century music. You can hear them perform on replicas of period instruments at the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., from 12:15-12:45 p.m. 775-3356.
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The vile sounds of Cannibal Corpse

While all the campaign trail, Bob Dole attacked the film and music industries for their lax morals, citing the work of musical artists like Snoop Doggy Dogg, Nine Inch Nails and Cannibal Corpse. Asstute observers of pop culture may also remember them for a brief appearance in "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective."

"What the hell is Cannibal Corpse?" Diehard metalheads would know Cannibal Corpse as a Florida-based death metal band. Astute observers of pop culture may also remember them for a brief appearance in "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective."

They were later banned from the tour when they left the stage a couple minutes past their time, they found Clinton not impressed with their performance. But Clinton didn't take them off the tour immediately, the band was given another chance... Did they live up to their critics or to their fans? The only problem with "My Dirt" is that, at just four minutes long, it's way too short, but it will have to last for a while, since band manager Bill Beasley says that they are recording a full-length album called "Long Division", for the band tours even tighter and more self-assured than ever.

"The only problem with "My Dirt" is that, at just four minutes long, it's way too short, but it will have to last for a while, since band manager Bill Beasley says that they are recording a full-length album called "Long Division", for the band tours even tighter and more self-assured than ever.

Rustic Overtones has been touring constantly since "Long Division," playing at venues near and far from the New England area to as far south as South Carolina. The band has also been playing for the Founder of Park "My Dirt" at the L.L. Bean Retail Store.

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The dirt on the Overtones

"My Dirt." Recorded by Car's Colin Decker at Westbrook's Big Sound Studios, the funkers Rustic Overtones have released a new CD, a four song "maxi-single" called "My Dirt." Recorded by Car's Colin Decker at Westbrook's Big Sound Studios, the CD contains two new songs, "My Dirt" and "Dandy," and two side, re-recorded songs, "March and a Half" and "Bad Truth." The sound isn't drastically different from last year's "Long Division," but the band tours even tighter and more self-assured than ever.

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Mommies dearest
Vintage Rep spins a tangled web of matriarchy, and the going gets a little sticky

MARY STAMATEL

The latest offering from Vintage Repertory Company, "My Mother Said I Never Should," is a challenging play, designed for an all-woman cast. The women play four generations of a single family, and the audience sees each character portrayed as both child and adult, mother and daughter, throughout the story, changing within seconds.

Unfortunately, the production hasn't achieved the clarity and cohesion needed to transport the show. The characters go from childhood to adulthood — white hair on, men and babies — away from the stage, with the action relying on a dramatic tension to maintain a fresh scene. Everything doesn't happen instantly. The cast and executive director have the action moving along, but there are moments that feel like the characters are being pushed rather than being pulled along.

Most of life's major milestones are reached off-stage, with the actors trying to maintain the overarching influence of men in these women's lives — the notes include marriage dates, spouses' names and even an engagement date — but the cast must deal with the men themselves being physically absent. The emotional tone is more Louise Jencks, as if Rosie Guest is able to inject an ironic flavor into the roles of the women as mothers, a role not always easy to portray. 

The playing does have a few signs point to the eventual death of a character. The cast, it seems, is still able to recognize their edges.

The first half of the play — written by Charles Keatley and directed by Ann Bergeron — is set to a scenario in which Margaret Stanley (Karen Moller), the illegitimate mother of her daughter Jackie ( disjointed Jencks), and her husband (Ann Moller) are forced into silence when their daughter Jackie (Devon Keatley), is a constant bowing to the demands of family caretaking at the expense of taking care of their own children. When Jackie learns that her mother Doris (Elizabeth North), for example, she realizes she might have been her daughter and that she might not be the one to help her mother. The cast all handles their lines, but that's about it. The company is sharpening its edges.

The second half of the play deals with the lives of their three grown daughters as Margaret's mother Doris (Elizabeth North), who finds her grown-up and may be told the truth. The women in the play are constantly bowing to the demands of family caretaking at the expense of taking care of their own children. When Jackie learns that her great-grandmother was a single mother, for example, she realizes she might have been her daughter and that she might not be the one to help her mother. The cast all handles their lines, but that's about it. The company is sharpening its edges.

The emotional tone is one of the characters being forced to confront their own individual characteristics. The cast all handles their lines, but that's about it. The company is sharpening its edges.

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So why do these people need to be lynched? Because they thought of this simple, straightforward scheme before I did.

Anyway, I might get the last laugh. Proposals are afoot to expand the domain system so that more than 1 million addresses exist. But until then, the future of the Internet - and the possibility of finding a unique e-mail address like dorley@compuServe.com - is anybody's guess. You're on your own.

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