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If you're a teen, hanging out is cool. Unless it sucks. Which it always does.

By Claire Holman

There's just an aura of suckiness around this park, says a 16-year-old boy hanging out at South Portland's Willard School Park, across from D'Pike's Market on Cottage Road. An 18-year-old friend sitting with him concurs. "I definitely think it sucks."

Yet, there they hang, doing nothing much of anything. Nearly a dozen friends hang with them. Some are more active — they play musical instruments, they goof around. A police cruiser rolls by, and the cops tell the kids to move along. They do. They walk to Willard Beach and settle in at the playground. A couple of teens jam on their instruments, and the sound of bongos and a guitar rise over the lapping of waves. The group lounges hard — some play playground equipment, some litter intently to the music, some bag a turn on the bongos. Others socialize. There's quiet talk, some Mr. Peanut, hugging and hand-holding, lots of teasing and verbal jousting. Everyone knows everyone else. The mood is relaxed, but beneath it all, the group has high hopes that something, anything, might happen.

And it does. About a half hour into the hang, the cops show up again and break things up. The kids leave, more or less quietly. As they trudge away from the beach, they mutter under their breaths. As they trudge away from the beach, the group starts to break up. It's about 10 p.m. now, and most kids decide to head home. Others head to "The Piggery," a nearby patch of woods from which they'll soon be roused by another sweep of the cops.

Hanging out, teens agree, can really suck. They're too young to be adults, too old to stay at home. Caught in a gray nether region, they're forced to carve out their own sanctuary in a larger, colder world.

But there's one other thing about hanging out, teens say. It's actually pretty cool. And it's definitely addictive.

continued on page 8
A conversation with Julia Pozzy

Julia Pozzy: “I love being a matchmaker. Oh, definitely. I get people dreaming. I get them thinking about what their life would be like with someone special in it.”

Matchmaker Julia Pozzy, 31, says she arranges more than 3,000 dates a year from her one-room, second-floor office on Route 1 in Scarborough. On her desk she displays her trophies: photographs of some of the 50 or so couples who go down the aisle each year after meeting through her Sparks Dating Service. For the record, Pozzy is married.

What happens after someone signs up? I have a personal interview with them that lasts about an hour and a half. I ask about interests and special tastes. Do they like ballroom dancing? Contra dancing? Jitterbug? Camping? Camping is a good one. Some people like tent camping. Other people say, “Yes, in a bed and breakfast in Vermont.” Then there’s the other extreme, people who like checking into a Marriott and using the jacuzzi. From the interview, I produce a profile and send it to the client for their approval.

Once I make a match for the person, I send them the prospect’s profile. If they both accept, it’s up to them to arrange their date.

Any memorable clients? I interviewed a gentleman who had just turned 40, and I think he was having a midlife crisis. I asked him how he felt about being 40 and he essentially said, “I feel and look 10 years younger. Don’t you think?” Being the extremely honest person I am, I said, “To tell the truth, to me you look your age.” I saw his face start getting red and he stood up and said, “I’ll prove to you that I’m younger than most men of 40. I can do as many pushups as my age!” And he got down on the floor and did the pushups. But personally, I think he looked strained.

Another one brought his wolf into my office and said he could make him howl, which he did. He started howling, and then the wolf started howling.

By Wendy Keeler; photo by Matthew Robbins
For the holidays, everything you could imagine ... clothing, amusing pajamas, all delights! ...

For Exchange Scr:r... Jewelry boxes

Intimate Apparel Boutique
For the love of your life

The Largest Selection in New England of:
- Fine Lingerie
- Panties
- Bras
- Exotic Dancewear
- Leathers
- Accessories

We carry the latest fashions from New York and Los Angeles

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M-F 10:00-8:00, Sat 10:00-6:00
762 Congress St., Portland, ME • 775-SEXY
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Located at the newly renovated
PORTLAND ATHLETIC CLUB
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• Styling
• Coloring
• Perms
• Manicure
• Pedicure
• Waxing
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Gorman Boots
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Great shoes for a great price! Whether you want boots or casual shoes, we have them in a variety of styles and sizes for men, women, and children.

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Solid Rock Maps Frame

FREE Parking Cover
with purchase of 2 or more maps

Professor's Map

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Sundance

Choice of colors for arm inserts
With Professor's Gold Bond from now on

Boots, Handsewns

Dress Shoes by ALDEN

SOREL, CAT,

AVIA,

Soul Cats

12-2

Sundays:

1:00 P.M.

Gospel

4 :00 P.M.

Brunch

It’s an unforgettable experience. Enjoy a soulful and uplifting performance with our talented musicians and vocalists.

Free Admission

Dine at Blowfish.

Dine at Blowfish.

Tuesdays & Thursdays

7:00 P.M.

Wednesdays

7:00 P.M.

Saturdays

8:00 P.M.

Sunday Matinees

12:00 P.M.

Blowfish.

www.blowfishmaine.com

Know Where the
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how to hang:

continued from front cover

Local mileposts around Greater Portland bar congregating in public places after hours. In South Portland, that means 9 p.m., in Portland, it’s 10 p.m. In business property, such as the ever-popular parking lot, there’s no curfew — hangers are at the mercy of managers who can call the police at any time, day or night, to force them to move on. Hanging kids claim they are often chased from one handout to the next by police who at best lack understanding, and at worst violate their rights. But it’s not just police, they say: The public isn’t very compassionate, either. Teens say they’ve victims of stereotyping that portray them as taggers and vandals, and their parents as irresponsible. What’s needed? Mostly, a little understanding of what it’s all about.

The kids

The crowd that hangs at Willard Beach has its social headquarters at what the kids call simply, “The Park,” next to the Portland Playhouse Theatre. It’s a grassy triangle, adorned with a bit of shrubbery, a small bench, a lamp post and a small playground. It’s a legal hangout until 9 p.m., every night, often lasting 20 or so. After that, the group becomes nomadic, moving from spot to spot on their own, or at least in a limited area.

The boundary of the hangout is a legal hangout, but it’s also a psychological one. The group is self-policing. Those who don’t follow the rules don’t last long.

“People want to leave, they leave,” Ananda says. The group doesn’t discriminate, she says, but a bad attitude and some behavior can spell the end. “One kid who got the message right on the head was what Ananda describes as an ‘accident waiting to happen.’” He broke someone’s car window by throwing a rock, lied a lot and was chased by police.

The group is not just police; they consider them family and ... that’s how we understand each other.

... When you surround yourself with a group of people that much, you begin to know and try to understand each other.

And it’s obvious these kids feel connected. Adults who came of age in the Age of Aquarius and thrived in the Age of Trump might be startled to see how easily these kids have adapted “Love and Peace” as their banner. They talk about it, and they practice it. There’s a lot of passive hand-holding and arm-in-arm displays of affection. They compliment and laud and apologize to each other freely.

The group is self-policed. Those who don’t follow the rules don’t last long.

“If we want someone to leave, they leave,” Ananda says. The group doesn’t discriminate, she says, but a bad attitude and some behavior can spell the end. “One kid who got the message right on the head was what Ananda describes as an ‘accident waiting to happen.’” He broke someone’s car windshield by jumping on it, had a lot and once pulled a knife.

It wasn’t like we were being rude to him, but it comes to the point where you just have to run someone off, she said. While she’s reluctant to be rude, she admits them as friends who will “give them shit until they learn.”

... They’ve never thought of control over the hangout is overshadowed by a depressing sense that the place isn’t what it used to be ... Everyone’s into their own individual thing. .. People aren’t aware of what’s going on ... If you can at least try to understand my perspective, then I’ll try to understand yours.

But now, he says, “It’s gotten more boring because everyone’s into their own individual thing. .. There was more to do because people weren’t so closed off to ideas. .. They were used to being part of a lot of things instead of their own little thing.”

Individual things that divide people are clothes, music and drugs. Joshua says drugs were bad because people didn’t see them as a cause of conflict.

And a big frustration for Joshua comes from the sense that the scene at the park “could amount to a lot ... everyone has so much potential.”

The places

South Portland’s Willard School Park is a classic hang spot. But other hang zones crop up around Greater Portland wherever kids need a place to be out of the house. See “Where to hang,” page 15.

Where you hang depends in large measure on where you live. The younger kids often don’t have any choice but to hang near their homes. One subset of hangers is highly mobile, hard-core bicyclists. Some of the older kids have access to cars and can roam more freely, but for the most part the hanging spots are broken out by neighborhood. And it’s the neighborhood quality that makes each scene unique.
Your holiday shopping list

Find the gift idea your looking for in the listings below. Under each listing, you will find the store name that carries that item and a description of the item. Below are listings with short descriptions of each item's name and a page number where the name is located. Enjoy shopping!

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Clue #1

The Swatch is the world's No. 1 timekeeper, and it's the most defining trait of the Swatch Charm. The Charm features a wide range of colors, materials, and styles, offering a unique and stylish accessory for any occasion.

---

Clue #2

Pamela Cuddy

This store offers a wide range of stylish and affordable clothing for women, men, and children. They carry clothes from popular brands and offer a wide range of sizes. The store is located on the corner of Main Street and Market Street.

---

Clue #3

Bally

Bally is a well-known Swiss shoe brand that produces high-quality footwear for men and women. They offer a wide range of styles, including dress shoes, casual shoes, and athletic shoes. The store is located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street.

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Clue #4

Firehouse

This store offers a wide range of stylish and affordable clothing for men and women. They carry clothes from popular brands and offer a wide range of sizes. The store is located on the corner of Main Street and Market Street.

---

Clue #5

Beverly

Beverly is a well-known Swiss shoe brand that produces high-quality footwear for men and women. They offer a wide range of styles, including dress shoes, casual shoes, and athletic shoes. The store is located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street.

---

Clue #6

Liberty

Liberty is a well-known Swiss shoe brand that produces high-quality footwear for men and women. They offer a wide range of styles, including dress shoes, casual shoes, and athletic shoes. The store is located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street.

---

Clue #7

Bally

Bally is a well-known Swiss shoe brand that produces high-quality footwear for men and women. They offer a wide range of styles, including dress shoes, casual shoes, and athletic shoes. The store is located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street.

---

Clue #8

Firehouse

This store offers a wide range of stylish and affordable clothing for men and women. They carry clothes from popular brands and offer a wide range of sizes. The store is located on the corner of Main Street and Market Street.

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Clue #9

Tiffany & Co.

Tiffany & Co. is a well-known jewelry brand that produces high-quality jewelry for men and women. They offer a wide range of styles, including necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and rings. The store is located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street.

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Clue #10

Bally

Bally is a well-known Swiss shoe brand that produces high-quality footwear for men and women. They offer a wide range of styles, including dress shoes, casual shoes, and athletic shoes. The store is located on the corner of Market Street and Main Street.

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Clue #11

Firehouse

This store offers a wide range of stylish and affordable clothing for men and women. They carry clothes from popular brands and offer a wide range of sizes. The store is located on the corner of Main Street and Market Street.
how to hang:

The young people "just because we're kids."

Adversity comes in many forms — from the street to what kids believe is harassment from the police.

Robyn recounts an incident from a recent night out. She and her friends were having a conversation at the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot about something they stood, crying and hugging. The female police officer entered the parking lot and asked, "Can you think of any problems that came over her there, 'cause I'm doing just fine. This is just my release." Why, she wonders, is everybody fighting with others, or be prepared to find another kind of investment for the park. The officers who live in the area don't take action unless they work nights, adding that she hasn't seen them.

Ananda says, "You respect us, we respect you."

They don't get a complaint from the store manager. He admits that the kids usually get a complaint from the store manager. "We pay them and they're off," he says. "But the kids are there and we wait for somebody to come with a basketball." So they play and not one young woman hanging in the park.

Coping with an ennui so profound that it's hard to break away.

The Park police come and only kick out kids like Robyn and Corey charge that there is no account of discrimination against them because of their age. "There are times when there are just as many old people, old vegetarians, people that come here late at night, lots of outsiders and unique people," says Corey. But the cops come and only kick out ...

...what's our excuse?

Don't let your children listen alone.

Too old to be juvenile delinquents...
**Why Should You Buy Your Diamond Engagement Ring from Cross Jewelers**

Cross Jewelers, Portland's oldest family owned jewelry store, is a tradition of excellence which spans four generations. The philosophy which guides our store is that all jewelry must be made from the best precious metals, designed for beauty, and executed with precision. Our diamond mountings are the ultimate in quality and service. We value each customer and strive to provide a personal experience that will make their visit to our fine jewelry store a happy occasion.

**Finest Diamond Mounting: A Cross Diamond**

Diamonds come with a unique form of identification: a diamond and an authenticates your ownership. This lifetime guarantee covers the quality and value of your diamond. The Cross Ideal Cut is recognized as the world's most beautiful diamond.

**Cross Ideal Cut** — The world's most beautiful diamond.

Cross Jewelers:
Locally owned and operated. A tradition of excellence which spans four generations.

**WHERE TO HANG**

**20th ANNIVERSARY FURNITURE SUPER SALE**

**30-70% STOREWIDE SAVINGS**

**WICKER FURNITURE**

**KITCHEN & DINING SETS**

**DAVIDS**

**COMPUTER DESKS**

**GIFTS**

**ROCKERS**

**FURNITURE SHOWROOM**

**Baltic birch, solid maple, American oak, cherry, white maple**

**ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY SALE**

**HOLIDAY SPECIAL**

**Astrological Profiles**

**HOROSCOPE**

**Forecast $25**

— Both Gifts only $49 —

**For each profile send person's name, birthdate, birthtime and birthplace and check to D.Durham. PO Box 3882, Portland, ME 04104. Don't forget your name and address.**

**Unique Holiday Gifts**

**Gift Certificates**

**available for both items.**

**Holiday Special**

**HURRY UP!**

**Holiday Special ends Nov. 27- Dec. 24 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Let's Combo!!**

**Free Gifts**

**with purchase of two or more gifts.**

**Special Order**

**all merchandise ordered prior to Dec. 23rd.**

**Promotional Information**

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**December 16, 1999**

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**30-70% STOREWIDE SAVINGS**

**WICKER FURNITURE**

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**COMPUTER DESKS**

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Have the people spoken? Not quite.

By M. D. Herring

It was a tall wave, an earthquake, a real, cultural revolution, a mass gathering of people. The hour had arrived, and we were ready. The new era had dawned, and we had all been waiting for it. The People's Movement had arrived, and we had been waiting for it. The People's Movement had arrived, and we had been waiting for it.

And the more they wait, the more they wait, the more they wait.

The Portland Transportation plan, which the City Council passed unanimously last month, marks a turning point in the ongoing debate over how to get from one place to another. And the more they wait, the more they wait, the more they wait.

One of the first parts of the plan outlined in the transportation plan was the redesign of Stevens Avenue between Frost Street and Evergreen Cemetery. Myopic transportation planners in years past determined this corridor was well-suited for improving pedestrian and bicycle access. The result? A street more inviting for pedestrians and walkers — and a street less suited for motor vehicles.

The first fissures in what was presumed to be a rock-solid plan to move the city forward were beginning to appear.

Myopic transportation planners in years past determined this corridor was well-suited for improving pedestrian and bicycle access. The result? A street more inviting for pedestrians and walkers — and a street less suited for motor vehicles.

The Portland City Council will decide whether to move ahead on the Stevens Avenue project. The council should consider this part of the Transportation Plan and perhaps get on with it.

The People's Movement has failed, and the plan is now proceeding at a slow pace. Now comes the part where the council should decide that it understands that the plan is more than just a collection of well-intentioned ideas but a real, meaningful plan. And the council should decide that it understands that the plan is more than just a collection of well-intentioned ideas but a real, meaningful plan.

The council should support this project fully. Let's get started.
Portland's Downtown ARTS DISTRICT

**Bella Bella**
1964. Italian cooking since 1974. The food is joy, the welcome and of passion. Great wine, service and cooking and all good very attractive. Why? Because we wish you to come back again and again, to us, and to the ARTS DISTRICT. Breakfast weekdays 11:30-2:30, dinner every night.

**Coffee By Design**
408 Congress Street, 775-5410. Coffee for the coffee house. Help out selection of bags, bulk retail, and plenty of take away and more. Something for every coffee and tea lover on your list. Monday - Friday 7 am - 8 pm, Saturday 8 am - 5 pm, Sunday 8 am - 5 pm.

**Coolwater Cafe and Coffee Roasters** 653-6600. Serving delicious, homemade sandwiches and lunch 7 days a week. Daily specials. Try a cappuccino or an espresso drink brewed from our freshly roasted coffee beans. Live entertainment at Saturday and Sunday brunch. See us during New Years Portland.

**Drop Me A Line**
414 Congress Street, 775-6547. Portland's most innovative card and gift shop. Offering the area's most diverse selection of holiday cards, gift wraps, jewelry, calendars, date books, fine ornaments, candles, books & stationary products.

**Fotoshops**
117 Congress St, 775-4410, 667-6569. The oldest camera store in Portland offers you the best quality products and service. Developing services on site we are only studio papers and books know diversity. Our trained staff can answer any of your service questions. Mon - Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat 9-5.

**Gallery Music**
515 Fore Street, 775-1344. For those you want to give a unique, one of a kind gift. Christmas Caroling and playing CD's and cassette for Christmas listening and enjoying. Reception, pop-willows, baskets and hampers. For music mailing, dictionaries, music plates, songbooks, bookmarks and T-shirts - for your love.

**Harmon's & Barton's Florist**
234 Congress Street, 775-9346. For those you love and appreciate both near and far...beautiful Holiday floral arrangements from simple to spectacular! Potpourri, goblets, holly, and more.

**Just Me**
416 Congress Street, 775-1403. When you're looking for more than a "run-of-the-mall" gift, you'll find the best selection of unique, high-quality Maine-made gifts at Just Me, opposite the Longfellow House, Monument Square.

**Raffles Cafe & Bookstore**
450 Congress Street, 775-0151. Feed your mind, body and soul! Children's books, contemporary literature, art, audio books, music, cards and other gifts. Free gift wrapping. Sandwiched loaves, coffees, teas, absinthe. Open 7 Days. Visa & Mastercard. 815 Maine, Biddeford, ME.

**Standing Ovation**

**State Theatre**
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*Table for One*

**A survival guide to going solo on Thanksgiving**

By Elizabeth "Pete the Chef" Penney

Mom, in her apron, appears smiling in the dining room doorway — a golden-brown turkey steams on a platter. Grandmas following cheerfully behind with a bowl full of yams. Dad sits at head and carves kindly poised and ready, as he and the rest of the family sit around the TV, savoring the moment. They hear a knock, and Grandma scurries around the kitchen to open the door.

Grandma follows cheerfully. "Thanksgiving!" Peaveycries, "Thanksgiving!"

Grandma smiles and turns on the TV. The sound of fireworks fills the room. "Happy Thanksgiving!" Peavycries again. The family continues to celebrate the holiday, as they pass around the table.

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*continued on page 23*
Silver Screen

Food Specials. Treat yourself when you're hungry. 

Grand Opening - Men and Women

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Saturday, December 3, 1994
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**Dinner for one**

Traditional Thanksgiving has to do, the most part, give over the past few years. The holidays are a time to come together and share a meal. But what if you're the only one home for the holidays? Does that mean you have to sit through a meal alone? Not necessarily.

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**Concerts**

Saturday 26

**Auditions**

Community Outreach of the Portland Symphony Orchestra presents auditions for Tuba, French Horn, and Tuba. 1990-91 season. For more information, call 207-775-8709.

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**Stage**

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thursday 24

Thank's plenty. We know you can tend to get a bit cranky during the holidays, but we also know how to lift your spirits. So join us for an evening filled with laughter and joy as we celebrate the season with a special performance by the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra. The concert will feature music by Mozart, Beethoven, and Chopin, with guest conductor Mr. Scrooge. Doors open at 7:30 pm, and the show begins at 8 pm. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for students, and $5 for seniors. Call 775-5103 for reservations.

friday 25

Pony safari range: it's the end of another world. Join us for a unique adventure at the Portland Zoo, where you can witness firsthand the beauty and diversity of the natural world. The zoo is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm, and admission is $15 for adults, $10 for children 3-12, and free for children under 3. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with nature and discover the wonders of the animal kingdom.

saturday 26

Ferry tale. Once upon a time, dancing was a normal part of our lives. But then, one day, everything changed. Now, the only dancing we see is on a TV show or in a movie. But don't worry, we've got you covered. Join us for a special performance at the Old Port Theatre, where we'll be screening a classic musical with live music and dance performances. Doors open at 7:30 pm, and the show begins at 8 pm. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for students, and $5 for seniors. Call 775-5103 for reservations.
**NEW YEAR'S PORTLAND**

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**CONCERTS**

**UPCOMING**

Disappearing Acts at the alternative Theater, 830 Congress Street, Portland, 229-8828, Friday 26, 8:00 PM.

Phil Lesh and Bob Weir at the Portland Expo, 75 Portland Street, Portland, 775-5555, Tuesday 30, 8:00 PM.

**CLUBS**

**THURSDAY 24**

The Happy Endings (dance, dance, dance) Cafe 9, 907 Commercial Street, Portland, 775-6536, 9:00 PM.

**FRIDAY 25**

Baby Drowzy (ear-bending comedy) Connection 434 Fore Street, Portland, Mike Boyd Pub at 39 Forest Avenue, Portland.

**SATURDAY 26**

The Last Waltz (rock) (not to be confused with the progressive rock band) at The Exchange 700 Commercial St, Portland, 772-1983.

**SUNDAY 27**

**MONDAY 28**


**TUESDAY 29**

**WEDNESDAY 30**

Red Light Special/Moonchild The Big Easy, 75 Congress Street, Portland, 775-6536.

**A WING AND A PRAYER**

Veering from the theatrical norm

**BY CATHY STIBORI PROCTOR**

Call it staving off the sophomore jinx—rightly explained why Matt Duffield, Theatre's second chewer of the season, Writing's Night” and “Apologies to Butterflies.” Such a sad departure from their first show, the wildly hailed “Culver’s Night.” There’s not even a chance of comparison here.

Billed as a screwed-up holiday comedy, the 1990 work explores the ability of an energized human spirit to triumph over life’s everyday drudgeries and despair—-but you’ll never catch it with, say, “Mistletoe on Jet Black”-the story of Hank (Michael Kondoleon), a widower, self-assured but not nearly as fine as he holds dear before he wakes up and gets going—or, in this case, a transcendental imagination. Mabel, his ex-wife, is involved with (Danny Duff) and the new mother of his pre- teen-aged baby girl, wants what all wise women want—love, understanding and someone to help with the housework. Northerner, woman will give it. And when Mabel widowed affectations to her own way of being a Jewish New Yorker, and are able to move along in the world. Their elevation results in a never-ending series of open eyes and they can express their love and desire for each other through the holiday card reading. Rehearsal” is a misnomer. The play has neither the pacing nor the plot line of the expected theatrical conventions. This is a fine moment of comedy, a lot of fun, but not much to the other shows, “Apologies Butterflies” is more of a mystery show, with the requisite parts: a life threatening illness—home and family are best. Happiness is right in your own backyard, etc., etc. MacLure’s dialogue, though way troubled with that t you want to know, is refreshingly unpretentious and pared down. (Can’t stand not knowing something about a place.)

Loy’s life is as black as his book, “Allingame pregnant in high school, and what afterward? Kingsley is a lovely thing in the opening scenes, the charm of the oddball ultimate charmer. Duff is convincing in the new writing, chie family values—home and family are best. Happiness is right in your own backyard, etc., etc. MacLure’s dialogue, though way troubled with that t you want to know, is refreshingly unpretentious and pared down. (Can’t stand not knowing something about a place.)

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Art & Soul continued from page 26

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WHO SAID THAT?

Match famous quotes with the people who said them to complete this tricky puzzle:

1. "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." — Erasmus
2. "A fish without a bicycle is nothing." — Ronald McDonald
3. "I am not a crook." — Richard Nixon
4. "I am not a crook." — Woodrow Wilson
5. "I am not a crook." — President Bush
6. "I am not a crook." — John Quincy Adams
7. "I am not a crook." — John F. Kennedy
8. "I am not a crook." — John Boehner
9. "I am not a crook." — Thomas Jefferson
10. "I am not a crook." — President Obama

Art & Soul continued on page 30
Endlessly rocking
Cancel the lullaby, Brahms is back

By Teresa Witten

"This year could have killed me," said Portland musician Dara Brahms, as she gazed out the window into the late fall afternoon light. She is candidly discussing the events of the preceding months that have changed her perspective as a performer and the reasons that caused her to drop, for a time, from public view.

On Nov. 13, 1993 Brahms's close friend and fellow musician Vanessa Pericic was killed in an automobile accident while touring with the film. The effect her death had on her was immediate and into isolation for several months. The combination of loss and being emotionally and physically rundown caused her to take a long while, resulting in changes in her songwriting and attitude about doing music. "When you bogey don't perform, you don't think about how you're going to be received," she said of the necessity of sitting still to help her find her own unique voice again and "get back to her music." She added, "That's a small accomplishment in a competitive and demanding industry that seems to favor trendy dirges like lounge Velvet. But her career success soared, for years, insensibly. In the early '90s, she was recording a lot of positive songs, including being voted best vocalist and songwriter of the year two years in a row in CBO's readers' poll."

In general, she was digging up, covering, and had released an album on Bad Habits independent label. She had appeared for potential national success at several different festivals — with the band the Holy Bones in 1988 (at which Vanessa was also a member), then again with the Seattle and, finally, on her own. Yet, her presence on the Portland scene and her career path seem to hinge on some speed bumps in the past couple years. To date, she still has yet to crack the big time. But the end of 1994 finds her ready for what's next — a new sound, a new venue for her music designed for mass appeal.

As things were to go in the music industry, the initial promise an artist receives for an original sound is then followed by demands for a "marketable sound." After the release of her first album, "Hello, Yello, to the People," Brahms felt increasingly pressured to write music designed for mass appeal. "People's sound — they said, they said, they said, they said, they said," she said.

While Brahms may not have been as visible lately as in the past, she has by no means been inactive as a musician. Since the spring, she has recorded a duo with friend and mentor Cindy Bullock, who helped her land an invitation to "South by Southwest," the biggest industry showcase in Austin, Texas. In the past two months, she has made three returns to the State Theatre — the first, with bassist Jim McGirr and drummer Mary Curtis, at a local music round-up. Then came a solo opening gig for Ben Harper, and most recently, she started the tour for the Violent Femmes.

Brahms posed, posed and ready for what's next. She now views music less as performance than as a way of making community with people. With that new sense of purpose, she's been more and more able to just enjoy herself — both in the moment and onstage.

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10. Somebody has to do it!

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**You'll find great gift ideas in Casco Bay Weekly's HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**

See page 10!
**MATCH & WIN**

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**About OCEAN 98**

OCEAN 98 is a radio station licensed to Portland, Maine, broadcasting at 98.3 FM. The station airs a variety of formats, including rock, classic rock, and country music. OCEAN 98 is owned by the Greater Portland Broadcasting Company and serves the Greater Portland area. The station is known for its community involvement and its support of local events and businesses.
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