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JANUARY 4, 1996 ■ VOL VIII, NO 1 ■ GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION ■ FREE

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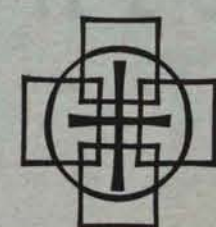
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Coiled sterling bracelet by Pam Clark

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TALK

A CONVERSATION WITH GREG FRANGOULIS



**"WHEN I CAN SEE A KID'S FACE
LIGHT UP, THAT'S TOTAL JOY. THAT'S
WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT."**

Greg Frangoulis is the incredibly tall guy (his stilts alone are five feet in height) dancing at almost every parade in Greater Portland. He makes an appearance at quite a few other events around town, too. In the last 13 years, he has stilted in Brazil, passing out condoms to promote AIDS awareness, and in numerous festivals throughout the United States. He was inspired to start stilted after seeing other stilts perform, and got up on the sticks the same day. The first thing he learned was how to fall.

What is the most major fall you have taken?

Just before some publicity photos, I decided to take a short cut and step over a guard rail. There was a road on one side and, on the other, a big mud puddle. So, I got to the road and I kept going back and forth and getting my foot stuck going either way. I didn't want to hit the mud puddle because of the photos. So, I fell and I think I dislocated a couple ribs and bruised myself up a bit but, then I got up and did the photos with a big smile on my face.

What do you think makes a good stilt dancer?

It takes someone who can make it look easy. Some of the best moves are slow and graceful, some balance moves that are fluid. It's really important to engage with an audience and to make people happy. When I can see a kid's

face light up, that's total joy, that's what life is all about.

What is the perspective like from that height?

It's nice. You get a good view. I see people coming towards me before they see me. I can really scope out a crowd. If there's a line, what I like to do is say something like, "No cutting in line," and then step right over them.

So, I've heard that you are going to be stilted on ice...?

That will be one of the craziest things I have ever done. I've got this challenge, so I've got to figure out if I can do it without getting killed. Even though I have stilted at New Year's Portland and the ground was icy, I just sort of prayed and nothing happened. For this, I'm going to have to make ice shoes with a lot of little nails sticking out—stilted crampons. I'm also going to do a test run at Deering Oaks.

What is your ultimate stilted dream?

Well, my immediate goal is stilted at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. Someday I would really like to just travel throughout the world where there is stilted—the Caribbean during carnival, sail through the islands and then go to Africa. There's stilted all over the world.

Interview by Ellen McAlister,
photo by Toney Harbert

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A counselor at the Maine Youth Center (MYC) was fired Dec. 26 after he donned a pillowcase as a hood and entered the cell of a black teenager. Kenneth Factor denied he was emulating the Ku Klux Klan, insisting that he wore the pillowcase over his head because he feared the youth was infected with hepatitis. Factor said he didn't think the biohazard kit provided to MYC employees, which contains a gown, eyewear, mask and gloves, would protect him from disease. The boy's mother said Factor's explanation was "a bunch of bull" and that the act was racially motivated. MYC would not comment on the incident, citing state employment confidentiality laws.

Two people are missing and presumed dead in Casco Bay after a boating accident. Whitfield Steele, a Falmouth lobsterman and urchin diver, and Lelana Lipp, a waitress employed by Coffee By Design, were last seen in Steele's 17-foot skiff Dec. 26, heading from Falmouth to Portland. Steele's skiff was found later that afternoon, empty, circling in Casco Bay. The Coast Guard suspended late Dec. 27. With the water temperature at 40 degrees, officials estimated a person could only survive for three hours, at most.

Carol Palesky is in trouble again. The president of the Maine Taxpayers Action Network—the group collecting signatures for a property-tax limit referendum—was arrested in her driveway Dec. 28 after police say she stole her repossessed 1995 Mercedes-Benz from a Belgrade repo lot. The Kennebec County Sheriff's Department issued a warrant for her arrest after Palesky allegedly drove away from the repo man's lot using a spare set of keys. This isn't Palesky's first brush with the law. She's a convicted embezzler and was sentenced to three years in prison, though she only served one year. And she was once charged with bank robbery, though she was acquitted by reason of insanity. She has also been ordered by Sagadahoc Superior Court to pay SAD 75 and the town of Topsham \$15,000 in fees for frivolous lawsuits.

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court overturned an earlier decision by a Superior Court judge and ruled that the City of Portland is not liable for any financial settlements in connection to a 1992 Munjoy Hill fire. The blaze at 215 Congress St. resulted in the deaths of three adults and a 10-month-old baby. Virgil Smith, who is serving a 58-year prison term, was found guilty of four counts of murder and a single count of arson. The owner of the fire-gutted building, JRM Inc., had sued the city claiming that because the Fire Department had turned off the fire alarm in the building the week before the fatal blaze, the city was liable. JRM has paid about \$1 million to the families of victims and survivors. The Supreme Judicial Court said Dec. 26 that the city is immune from lawsuits under a state law that prohibits lawsuits against municipalities for negligence. CBW

CITY



ILLUSTRATION/PATRICK CORRIGAN

It's their choice

PROP's Choices program matches teenage girls with mentors who understand

by ZOE MILLER

Twice a month, Julie Coffin, a 21-year-old USM student, spends a few hours with two teenage girls from the Sagamore Village housing project in Portland. They go roller-skating, window-shopping or to the movies. They also spend a lot of time talking.

A real friendship is growing between these girls and Coffin, who got involved with mentoring girls this age because of experiences she'd had working in shelters where troubled teens come for help. She saw kids in trouble and worried that these kids, who are the next leaders, were not being helped to grow up. She sees herself as just another person for them to be with. "It's not so much about being a role model," Coffin says, "as acting like a normal human being."

What makes her special to the girls is that she has made the time to be there. A lot of parents, Coffin says, "don't have the time, the money or the energy to get the kids out of the neighborhood." She is young and able to do the kinds of activities that these kids enjoy—like going roller-skating

or to the movies. Coffin is a friend to the girls she works with. "We talk quite a bit about school, their social problems, dances." Because Coffin is young, she is able to see things their way. Not long ago, she was going through the very same things. They look to her for advice on the social part of things—stuff an older sister can help with.

The Choices Mentoring Program is one of the social services offered by the People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP) in Cumberland County. Its purpose is to have an impact on self-defeating behaviors that girls often fall into when they're in their early teen years. Choices sets out to give girls a positive influence—a role model—who will be there when they need to think about the future. Choices pushes girls to set goals for the future, work hard in school and create networking opportunities.

Without the guidance of a mentor, girls might not think to do these things. Even though parents are there too, they are not always able to offer this guidance. A mentor is someone who can be a friend as well as a role model, someone who can give

good advice, someone who has been there before and hasn't forgotten what it feels like.

Thirteen-year-old Elizabeth Huff has only known her mentor for two months, but already she feels she's gained a friend she can trust. "She's really nice, like a big sister," Huff says. Huff's mentor is in her late 20s and, like Coffin, has the advantage of being closer in age to the girls than their parents are. When Huff and her mentor get together, they do all sorts of things: work on Elizabeth's homework, head to Dairy Queen for ice cream, go for rides or just hang out. But the best thing, says Elizabeth, is the time they spend talking. "We talk about things we like, things we don't like, things we want to do." A friend like this comes in handy for a 13-year-old girl.

The early teens are a difficult time for girls. It's when some girls might feel pressure to have sex (risking pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases) or start experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Some might think about dropping out of school. Having another shoulder to lean on, aside from parents and peers, can help to make a lot of these pressures not so overwhelming.

Not all the mentors are in their 20s. They range widely in age from their mid-20s to their late 40s. The girls aren't picky about the age of their mentor. What matters to them is the attention and the time spent. Where they spend the time isn't important either, and the mentors can be creative or just plan simple activities. "The girls really enjoy that time," says Cyndi Amato, one of the directors of Choices. "I mean, they just are craving any kind of attention. They're just happy to have attention from adults."

PROP collaborated with the Business and Professional Woman's Organization of Greater Portland to start Choices in the spring of 1995 as part of PROP's gender-specific programming—programming that deals directly with problems brought on by sexism. PROP had already been connecting kids with people they can look up to through the Peer Leaders program for almost eight years. Peer leaders operate in the housing projects of Front Street, Riverton Park, Sagamore Village and Kennedy Park.

Girls come to the Choices program through word of mouth and from talking with the PROP representatives in their neighborhood. The kids trust PROP, and since the girls themselves have helped to plan the program they feel a sense of ownership and pride. "The girls get very excited about it," Coffin says. "These girls really want to be involved. PROP fosters an image that this is cool."

Choices works with two groups of girls, ages 10-12 and 13 and older. Each group has a monthly meeting with special presentations on issues like domestic violence or fun activities like Christmas gift exchanges. The new mentors use these meetings

find a girl they can work with. Amato says it's up to the mentor and the girl to agree to work together.

According to Amato, Choices is having no problem finding girls or mentors to participate. "The grant calls for just having 30 girls in the program, we're at that now so we really don't have a lot of room to grow," Amato notes. Choices started up with money from a grant by the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, but is now seeking additional financial support from other sources.

In the immediate future, Choices won't be able to serve any more girls. Instead, the program's administrators are focusing on increasing what they can do for the girls already involved. They'd like to be able to pay to bring people in from the community for continuing education programs, retreats and activities. So far, they have talked to the girls about domestic violence; they'd like to tackle self-defense next.

The early teens are a difficult time for girls.

Amato's work for the program is part of an internship for which she gets school credit. Once the internship ends, she'll have to leave, unless money becomes available to offer her a salary. Bonnie Gray, who helps Amato coordinate Choices, could be left with the entire program as her responsibility. The quality of Choices could suffer. Gray's 35-hour work week with PROP is not long enough to do everything it takes to keep Choices going and growing. "There's an interest in the program from the community," Amato says, "but we don't have the people power or the money power to do it."

For now, Choices is doing just fine. The girls involved are benefiting, and the mentors seem committed for the long haul. "[The girls] love it, you can just tell that the message is getting across," says Amato. "They keep coming back, so they must like it. If they don't like something, they'll tell you."

weird

Moonshiners pose a new health threat in Georgia, state officials warned in September, explaining that cheap distilling methods have been linked to lead poisoning. Rising prices over the past 20 years for sugar and copper tubing that served as condensers have hit moonshiners hard, according to Chet Bryant, director of the state Revenue Department's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax unit. "The problem we're having now," he said, "is that they're pulling old radiators out of cars and making condensers out of them."

Three months after Saskatchewan gas station owner Dick Assman appeared on television's "Late Show with David Letterman" because of his name, pollsters Angus Reid said its survey showed 1.1 million Canadians now knew who he was and would vote for him should he run for

Dog laws

Canine control

Proposal for tougher dog ordinance to go before public safety committee

Dogs romping unfettered in the Western Cemetery: Some people think it's a beautiful sight to behold.

But not all the cemetery's neighbors agree. Some have complained that loose dogs have attacked pets in yards on Bowdoin Street, killing a cat in one case, and that their waste creates a health hazard. Those people have an ally in Larry Mead, deputy director of Portland's parks and recreation department. Mead has drafted a proposal for a revised dog ordinance that would require dog owners to leash their pets within the cemetery, and would also put several other parks where dogs can run free on the leash-only list.

Mead's proposal, which goes before the city's public safety committee Jan. 8, would significantly change the existing ordinance. A summary of his recommendations states that "the existing ordinance has it backwards" in that "[d]ogs are allowed off leash in our busiest park areas," including Deering Oaks, the Western Prom and the Eastern Prom.

What Mead is proposing is that new areas in a number of different neighborhoods be authorized for leashless pooches, while busier parks are taken off the list. The Western Cemetery, where many people from the neighborhood and around Greater Portland take advantage of the only fenced-in place where dogs are permitted to go off-leash, would become leash-only. Instead, West End dog owners could let their pets run free along Valley Street.

But David Eaton, president of the Friends of the Western Cemetery, says that's not a real alternative. "[The cemetery] is currently the only safe place in the city to run dogs," said Eaton. Valley Street, he said, "is unsafe—there's no fence."

The Friends have been active in maintaining the cemetery, and are currently contemplating a fundraising drive to restore a water source to the grounds. With water, Eaton said, the group could keep grass growing in the cemetery, reducing erosion. Other landscaping projects would become possible as well.

But Eaton said raising the \$1,500 needed for the water source would be difficult if the cemetery were no longer a doggie playground. "It would certainly affect our success," Eaton said. He added that his group would oppose a change in the cemetery's status "vigorously."

Deborah Krichels, a former member of the Friends of the Parks Commission, which in November voted unanimously to endorse the new rules, said the issue for her group was "stewardship" of the city's parks. The "political decision" of how to deal with the concerns of disgruntled dog owners is up to the city council, Krichels said. The council will get its chance if the ordinance passes muster with the public safety committee.

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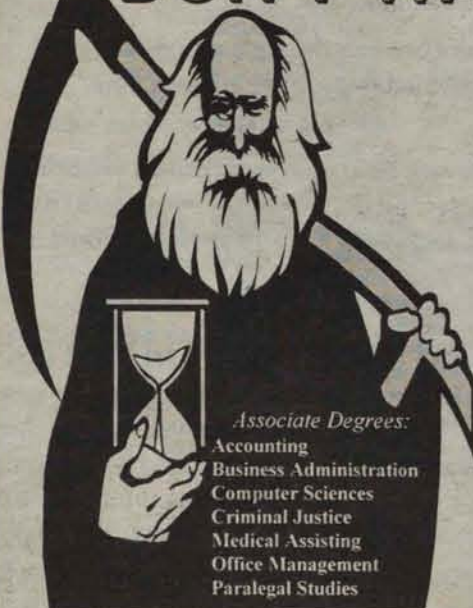
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Misguided angel

If Donald Trump offered you advice on how to keep your ego under control, you'd smile and politely decline. If the New England Patriots suggested they could teach you how to become a Super Bowl champion, you'd control your impulse to smirk long enough to pass. If the artist-formerly-known-as Prince recommended a name for your new baby, etiquette might allow you a couple of stifled guffaws before telling his Purpleness thank U but no thank U.

And if former pretend-Gov. John McKernan tried to slip you a few tips on how to balance a budget, you'd be excused if you were unable to reply because you were busy rolling around on the floor wracked by uncontrollable fits of laughter.

For four long years, McKernan was to financial management what Trump is to modesty and the Patsies are to touchdown passes. During his disastrous second term, Jock displayed the same aptitude for facing fiscal reality that Hugh Grant exhibited for sexual fidelity.

So naturally, some of the chief architects of all those McKernan spending plans that didn't work are organizing an effort to balance the federal budget. And equally naturally, an odd assortment of failed and soon-to-be-failed politicians have been sucked in, and are lending their names to the project.

McKernan's former chief of staff (and current business partner), Sharon Miller, and his ex-human services commissioner, Rollin Ives, are mixed up in something called the "Coalition for Change." This national non-partisan organization is being backed by business groups and has made balancing the federal budget its top priority. The coalition is running TV spots and organizing a letter-writing campaign.

That's where Miller and Ives come in. They've approached their friends (and former enemies) in politics to sign onto those letters, which are then sent to newspapers around the state.

The letters are long on blather ("A balanced budget means a stronger America ...") and short on specifics ("We must responsibly rein in federal spending ..."), both of which were hallmarks of McKernan-era money management. The letters are carefully worded to avoid any hint that the signers are in any way inclined toward blaming anyone in particular for the mess in Washington ("We call on our president and our members of Congress to seize this critical moment. This is not a partisan political issue, and we want our leaders to work together for the good of all of us").

AL DIAMON

I never promised you a rose garden

"So people who say they are going to balance the budget by finding 'fraud, waste and abuse' or by laying off a few state workers are kidding themselves (and you)."

—Gubernatorial candidate Angus King in his book "Making a Difference." King, now governor, is currently trying to balance the budget by finding fraud, waste and abuse and laying off a few state workers.

Since the letters don't actually suggest doing anything, except making "tough, responsible and compassionate choices," Ives and Miller haven't had much trouble finding folks willing to sign them. Republicans, such as failed congressional candidates Rick Bennett and Steve Zirkilton and ski mogul Les Otten, Democrats, such as failed congressional candidate Barry Hobbins, and Perot-maniacs, such as Reform Party organizer Steve Bost, have exhibited the courage to go on the record as supporting "a brighter future for all Americans."

The problem with vague wording is that everybody gets to interpret it in whatever manner best serves their own purposes. As far as Otten is concerned, the message is, "The Democrats are showing no fiscal responsibility." The way Hobbins sees it, "It's an effort to move Republicans like Gingrich and those guys off the dime." Ives, who had a tendency during his tenure in state government to say way too much, appears to have learned something from his stint in the private sector. He didn't bother to return phone calls seeking comment.

There's nothing illegal or immoral about former McKernanites and their pals doodling in the margins of the federal budget books. They've got as much right to speak out as any other average citizen, even though they seem to have far less than average to say.

Still, people whose bodily fluids have been found to contain even minimal levels of the common-sense antibody would be unlikely to ask Michael Jackson to baby-sit the kids. Anybody with an SAT score higher than their cholesterol level isn't going to invite Mrs. O'Leary's cow to stand a little closer to the lantern. And you don't need a degree from a major university showing you're capable of launching intercontinental ballistic missiles to figure out that it might not be all that wise to lend credence to flimsy financial plans put forward by folks who displayed fiscal expertise equaled only by whomever was in charge of the budget for "Waterworld."

Because if they've found the solution to the deficit, I'm a brain surgeon. Put your head on the table while I rev up the chain saw.

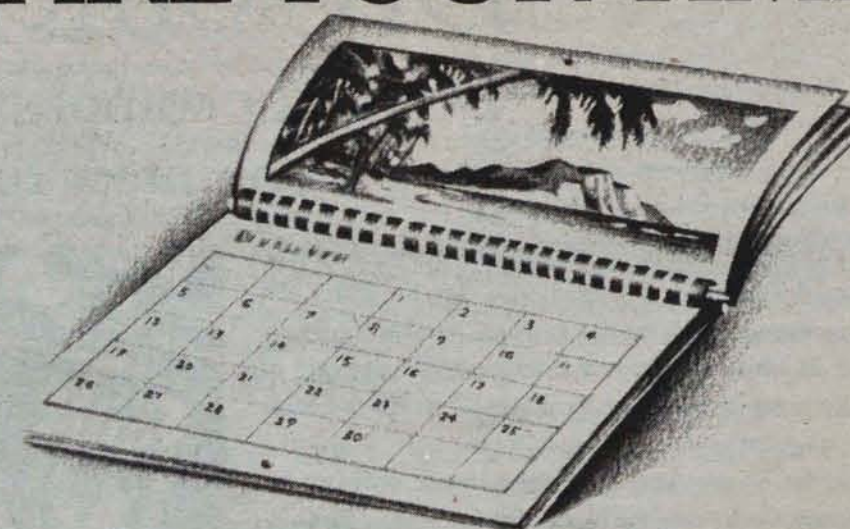
I never promised you a rose garden

"So people who say they are going to balance the budget by finding 'fraud, waste and abuse' or by laying off a few state workers are kidding themselves (and you)."

—Gubernatorial candidate Angus King in his book "Making a Difference." King, now governor, is currently trying to balance the budget by finding fraud, waste and abuse and laying off a few state workers.

Politics is a balancing act. Let us know who's listing too far to one side by writing to this column, care of Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Or call 775-6601 if you're teetering on the brink of having your equilibrium upset.

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Do something about it.

Don't just complain about the world's misery.
Volunteer to make things better.

It's a grim time for nonprofit organizations in America. Federal dollars are drying up. State dollars are scarce and getting scarcer. And regular citizens, bombarded by requests for financial support from an endless stream of worthy organizations, are hard-pressed to fill the fiscal gap.

But the people who need the services provided by nonprofits — the sick, the lonely, the lost, the underprivileged, the hungry, the homeless — aren't going anywhere. In fact, with Newt Gingrich gleefully leading the assault on 60 years' worth of social service programs, the needy are likely to become even more numerous.

So what can you do about it?

You could sit and read the newspaper while shaking your head in dismay, or you could ignore the news of the needy entirely. You could look away when you pass a homeless person on the street. You could pity the single mother ahead of you in line at the supermarket as she pays



ILLUSTRATIONS/PATRICK CORRIGAN

for her groceries with food stamps. You could turn on the TV and tune out real life.

Or you could get off your butt and get to work.

Volunteers are badly needed at dozens of organizations around Greater Portland. They're not just needed at Christmas and Thanksgiving to hand out turkey dinners. They're needed every day of the year. And there's a huge variety of tasks to be done — something for anyone.

You could mentor a child living in foster care, answer phones for an AIDS hotline, cook at a soup kitchen, tutor a high school kid or deliver meals to senior citizens. You could commit one day a week, one day a month or one day a year.

Don't be scared to do it. The root of the word "volunteer" is the Latin *voluntas*, or will. Volunteer work is work that you do of your own free will — not because you need the money, but because you want to do the right thing. Try it. You'll feel a lot better about yourself.

SARAH GOODYEAR

HEALTH AND HEALING

Adult Rehabilitation Center, Salvation Army

88 Preble St., Portland
This program houses up to 52 men in an 180-day rehabilitation program. They need an LPN, RN and/or MD to perform regular check-ups at the center and need volunteers to help with the literacy campaign. Contact Lts. William and Mary Capschull at 774-7818.

American Red Cross

524 Forest Ave., Portland
The Portland Red Cross (which is about 98 percent volunteer-run) teaches health and safety courses in the community and responds to disasters in the Cumberland County area. They need volunteers to serve as disaster instructors, family caseworkers, emergency action team members, health and safety instructors and HIV/AIDS awareness presenters. They also need volunteers to give comfort and support to blood donors. Training is provided for all positions. Contact Ginger Legenfelder at 874-1192.

Birthingline, Catholic Charities Maine

562 Congress St., Portland
Birthingline is a crisis pregnancy service for women and young families dealing with unplanned pregnancies. The program provides emotional support and helps families to locate community resources. Men and women are provided with a training session and support network to provide direct services to families, repair cribs and help with publicity. All services are free and confidential, and no church affiliation is required for volunteers or families. Contact Cheryl Klein at 871-7464.

Center for Therapeutic Recreation, Inc.

17 Chestnut St., Portland
The center offers a range of activities from bowling to gardening to horseback riding for people with disabling conditions. The primary focus is aquatics. The center needs volunteers to assist instructors and participants. Contact Morgan Gryskiw at 772-0504.

Evodia House, Catholic Charities Maine

79 Allen Ave., Portland
Evodia is a halfway house for women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Catholic Charities volunteers staff the office, check in residents and help with emotional counseling and other activities. Call Gail Finkle at 878-5251.

Family Crisis Shelter

P.O. Box 704, Portland
Volunteers who go through a 32-hour training session work directly with victims of domestic violence on the 24-hour hotline or person-to-person as peer and outreach counselors. Volunteers also serve as watchdogs in the shelter's court watch program for domestic violence cases. Contact Courtney Gale at 874-1196.

Friends of Maine Medical Center

22 Bramhall St., Portland
Maine Medical Center uses volunteers in more than 60 areas of the hospital. The volunteers visit patients with books and crafts, work in reception, provide comfort in the emergency room and much more. All volunteers undergo a minimum eight-hour orientation, further training is given for some positions. Call volunteer services at 871-2205.

Hospice of Maine

693 Rear, Congress St., Portland
The hospice is an all-volunteer organization aiding the terminally ill with their practical and emotional needs. Volunteers are needed to aid terminally ill patients with transportation and emotional support. A 30-hour training session is offered for those willing to commit four hours per week to a patient and his/her family. Call Terry Cronin at 774-4417.

Ingraham

237 Oxford St., Portland
Ingraham volunteers operate a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline at 774-HELP and an afternoon/evening teen hotline at 774-TALK. All volunteers get training and assistance. The next training session for the crisis intervention hotline starts March 7, for the teen hotline, training starts Jan. 30. Adult and teen volunteers are always needed. Call Pam McNally at 874-1055.

Mercy Hospital

144 State St., Portland
Volunteers at Mercy fit no particular mold. Their services include providing company, sharing a talent, doing paperwork, escorting patients, working in the gift shop and knitting goods for young patients. Volunteer placements are by appointment and interview. All volunteers are trained. Contact Jennifer Fitzpatrick at 879-3286.

New England Rehabilitation Hospital

13 Charles St., Portland
The hospital needs volunteers for reading and assisting with crafts work, as well as helping receive and transfer patients. Help also needed with patient events, entertainment, game playing and office work. Contact Cindy Harrington after 2 p.m. at 775-4000.

Parents Anonymous

Fort Williams Park, P.O. Box 284, Cape Elizabeth
The program provides support and encouragement for parents dealing with the stress of parenting. They train volunteers to work on their hotline from home or office and need group facilitators and child care providers for parent support groups. There are no overnight shifts on the talk line. Training will take place in February. Call Pam Marshall at (800) 249-5506.

People with AIDS Coalition of Maine

696 Congress St., Portland
PWAC offers meals, a food pantry and a drop-in center for people infected with the HIV virus. Volunteers help prepare and donate meals or help serve evening meals for 5-10 people. Call 773-8500 for an application.

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine

P.O. Box 1371, Portland
The center offers workshops, support groups and a 24-hour hotline for people dealing directly or indirectly with sexual assault. The center needs volunteers to answer hotline calls. They provide a 40-hour training session twice a year. (The next session will be offered in mid-March.) The center also needs volunteers to serve on their board of directors and perform

other administrative duties. Call Anne Marie Betters at 774-3613 or 1-800-313-9900.

The AIDS Project (TAP)

615 Congress St., 6th Floor, Portland
TAP has many volunteer options. The greatest needs are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., for hotline operators, transportation providers for clients and front desk coverage. There are also positions open for educational speaking engagements and helping clients shop or move. Volunteers are also needed for annual events such as an auction and walkathon. Training sessions are held every three months and the next one is Jan. 5 and 6. Call volunteer coordinator Eve Cimmet at 774-6877.

YWCA

87 Spring St., Portland
The YWCA needs volunteers in their women's residence and child services programs, and teen parent services. Volunteers lead activities with children and adult residents, tutor teen parents and speak to women residents about career opportunities. Call Joan Prouty at 874-1130.

LOW INCOME

Project FEED

202 Woodford St., Portland
Project FEED operates a food pantry that is open Monday through Friday from 1-3 p.m. to distribute groceries to those in need. They welcome friendly, helpful volunteers to help with grocery pick-up and bagging. Contact Barbara Craig at 761-3920.

Greater Portland Habitat for Humanity

P.O. Box 10505, Portland
This is part of a nonprofit international organization that builds homes in partnership with low-income people who apply for no-interest mortgages. They need volunteers to help with office work, join committees and participate in on-site construction. Call Janice Drinan at 772-2151.

Preble St. Resource Center

5 Portland St., Portland
The center provides case management and services to the homeless and people with low incomes. Volunteers are needed to help serve meals mornings and evenings, sort out clothes and clean the center in the afternoon. Call 874-6560.

The Salvation Army

30 Warren St., Portland
The Salvation Army has Portland roots that go back to the late 19th century. Their adult rehabilitation center is supported entirely by profits from their five thrift stores throughout southern Maine. They need volunteers to hang clothes and do other tasks at their two Portland thrift stores (on Warren Avenue and Preble Street) between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Call Karen at 878-8555.

Wayside Evening Soup Kitchen

252 Oxford St., Portland
This soup kitchen provides evening meals every day, seven days a week. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and clean up between the hours of 4-8 p.m. Volunteers are especially needed between 5:30-7:30 p.m. They ask that volunteers make a minimum two-hour-per-month commitment. Also, they are interested in groups of 10-15 people to work as a group to volunteer for one night a month — a great opportunity for businesses or clubs. Contact Tom Vacca at 775-4939.

EDUCATION

"Good Neighbors," Portland West

155 Brackett St., Portland
This newspaper is published by Portland West to promote community spirit in the West End. They need volunteers to write articles and help with production. Call 775-0105.

Literacy Volunteers

P.O. Box 8585, Portland
This organization works to alleviate adult illiteracy. They prepare tutors through an 18-hour training program and then assign advisors to assist tutors in their work. Volunteers are asked to commit to one hour a week for one year. Contact Jodi Moore at 878-3907.

Portland Adult Education

57 Douglass St., Portland
PAE uses tutors in reading and writing, English as a second language and math. Training is provided for all volunteers. The next session is starting Jan. 30 for reading and writing. Contact Nazare Conway at 874-8155.

Portland Housing Authority/Study Centers

14 Baxter Blvd., Portland
The centers at Riverton Park, Kennedy Park, Front St. and Sagamore Village provide a quiet study area for students in these areas. They need tutors to help students with homework and to act as mentors. Contact Mike Wilson at 773-4753.

Refugee Resettlement Program, Catholic Charities Maine

562 Congress St., Portland
This program welcomes 150 to 200 refugees from around the world to Portland each year. The program needs both one-time and long-term volunteers to work one-on-one with families and individuals. Work can include tutoring for English as a second language, being an "American friend," and volunteering at the donation center. The program provides training for all services. Contact Sister Jean Little at 871-7437, extension 121.

ELDERLY

Baron Center

1145 Brighton Ave., Portland
The Baron Center, located near Exit 8 of the Maine Turnpike, offers long-term care for elderly and chronically ill people. Volunteers are needed to help with activities such as cards, Beano and arts and crafts with the patients. They're also

looking for volunteers to manicure the patients. Contact Tonya Heskett at 774-2623.

Cedars Nursing Care Facility

630 Ocean Ave., Portland
This is a long-term care and rehabilitation facility with an extensive volunteer program. The center has volunteer opportunities ranging from visiting with the residents and arts and crafts to helping with outings in the community and the gift shop. There is also a children's play group in which parents bring their children for music, games, and grandparent-like visits. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Sharon Theofrastou at 772-5456.

Enriched Golden Age Center, Salvation Army

297 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This is a club for senior citizens from the Greater Portland region. They need volunteers for a number of activities including helping to arrange parties, leading field trips and driving for Meals on Wheels. Contact Barbara Crimon at 774-6304.

St. Joseph's Manor

1133 Washington Ave., Portland
Volunteers are needed to spend time with the elderly both one-on-one and in groups. Activities include arts and crafts and trips to the mall. Contact Mrs. Silva at 797-0600.

Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging

307 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This program provides resources to senior citizens to help them remain independent. Volunteers are needed to offer clients transportation for daily errands, and to help with yard work and home repair. There is also a friendly-visitor program to aid senior citizens who cannot get out. The program has very flexible hours. Contact Heather Brown at 775-6503 or (800) 427-7411.

Springbrook Nursing Care Center

300 Spring St., Westbrook
This is a 24-hour center for the elderly, infirm adults and people in rehabilitation. They need volunteers for one-on-one visiting, reading, reminiscing, games, arts and crafts, bingo, bowling, cards, group programs and parties. Contact Trish Flynn or Libby Herrick at 856-1230.

YOUTH

Beacon Teen Center, Youth and Family Outreach

331 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This is a 10 a.m.-9 p.m. drop-in center for homeless and at-risk teenagers. They need volunteers to spend time with teenagers, engage in activities and assist at the center. Volunteers are trained. Contact Sharon Timberlake at 874-2370.

The Center for Grieving Children

879 Sawyer St., South Portland
The center helps children ages 3-18 deal with the loss of a loved one and provides support for children with loved ones that have a life-threatening illness. They offer a 25-hour training session for volunteer support group facilitators three times each year. The center also needs more volunteers to serve on their board of directors and in fundraising committees. Call Gail Cinelli or Linda Kelly at 799-1112.

Child Development, People's Regional Opportunity Program (PROP)

510 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This center develops programs for children with disabilities or special needs. Volunteers serve as tutors, supporters and friends to the children in their programs. Contact Mary Main at 874-1140.

Choices Program, PROP

510 Cumberland Ave., Portland
Choices is an outgrowth of PROP's Peer Leaders program. They seek women to be mentors for girls between the ages of 10-18. The commitment involves one meeting per month plus individual time with a "mentee." 874-1183.

Cumberland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council

211 Cumberland Ave., Portland
The council's mission is to promote the well-being of children and families and to provide leadership in mobilizing the community to prevent and alleviate child abuse and neglect. Volunteers are needed periodically (about 8 to 10 times per year) to work on community events and fundraising projects. Call Lucky Hollander at 874-1120.

East End Children's Workshop

10 Mayo St. and 48 Moody St., Portland
The workshop runs publicly funded child care centers for both preschool and school-age children. They need volunteers to work directly with kids on a regular basis. They also welcome people with special talents (including music, sports, computers, art) to lead children's activities. They also need volunteers to help with the restoration of their building. Contact Kathie Stead at 772-5467.

The Foster Grandparent Program, PROP

510 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This program develops one-on-one supportive relationships between foster grandparents and children with special needs in hospitals, learning centers and homes. They provide a small stipend for those who commit 20 hours per week in service. There is a two-week volunteer orientation. Contact Susan Lavigne at 773-0202.

Greater Portland Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Suite 216B, 175 Lancaster St., Portland
Greater Portland Big Brothers/Big Sisters has begun to operate again in April 1995 after closing in 1992 due to lack of funding. They are currently looking for volunteers (especially Big Brothers) who are 18 years or older and are willing to give a one-year commitment for 3-5 hours a week. Volunteers will be a friend, role model and positive influence to children 6-15 years old who are in need of more adult companionship. Call 773-KIDS.

Judge Baker Children's Center

295 Forest Ave., Portland
The center provides mentors to adolescents in state foster care who are making the transition to independent living. They need adults to serve as a friend and role model to young adults ages 16-21. They are also recruiting people interested in the environment to participate in environmental service programs. Contact Marty Zanghi at 879-0996 or 800-482-7520.

Kennebec Girl Scout Council

138 Gannett Drive, South Portland
The local Girl Scouts has over 50 different jobs for volunteers, including troop leaders and people to serve on task groups and committees. Applicants are screened and trained. Contact Laurie McCammon at 772-1177 or 1-800-660-1072.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Every little bit counts

The People With AIDS Coalition:
getting on with life

"We try to help people get their lives together and get on with their lives," says Wes Transue, a volunteer at the People With AIDS Coalition. He reclines on a comfortable old couch in the living room of the group's Congress Street quarters. "Those are our successes, people who go on, people who continue to live life. For the others, we grieve."

The coalition was formed seven years ago as a resource for people with AIDS (PWAs). It now serves over 200 people a month at the Congress Street drop-in site; 60-75 people use PWAC's food pantry. For Transue, the group's recently elected president, this work is a personal commitment. He says that he has just lost too many friends and loved ones to AIDS to stand by and do nothing. His work with the coalition helps him keep busy and maintain a positive outlook.

The volunteer staff at PWAC has been working hard in the last few weeks. The group completed a successful Christmas season, distributing food and gifts to over 250 individuals and families from Kittery to Fort Kent. They serve dinner one night a week for PWAs in the Portland area. They maintain a food bank, a used clothing center and a source of old furniture and appliances.

Mostly, though, they try to be there for their clients. The PWAC's apartment at 696 Congress St. is like a home away from home for PWAs in Portland. The staff tries to keep the kitchen stocked, the TV working and the fish tank bubbling. "It's a safe haven, a safe space for people to come and relax. We try to make it a quiet, friendly space," says Transue.

PWAC is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. There is only one paid staff member, whose salary comes from a grant from the state. Any funds that come in go to paying rent and utilities, shopping at the Good Shepherd Food Bank in Lewiston and other direct services.

Transue says that volunteers are always welcome, but what is truly needed are supplies and funding. Food tops the list as the most-needed item, including canned nutritional supplements, which are hard to get at the Lewiston food bank. Volunteers can do anything from answering the phones and cleaning up around the house to organizing food drives and fundraising for special items.

Anything you can do to "be there" for someone with AIDS is important, says Transue, and every gesture counts. "You just try anything to make life a little easier for them."

COLLEEN SUMNER

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Home makers

Habitat for Humanity
makes a place for
people to live

When Fran Carr read the books of Millard Fuller, the millionaire-turned-philanthropist who founded Habitat for Humanity, she was moved to act. Fuller gave his dollars and his time to help build affordable housing for those who had never been able to own their own homes. Carr admired his courage and dedication. She contacted the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and asked to be put in contact with Habitat for Humanity.

That was last spring. Now, Janice Drinan, the organization's executive director, introduces her as, "Fran, my wonderful volunteer." As for Carr, she humbly says she just does her job. She admits, however, that the praise is nice. "It sure boosts your ego!"

Carr is a homemaker who has always worked to serve others. She was a teacher before she married and had children of her own. Then she spent 10 years volunteering at 4-H and countless hours working at church functions. Now Carr volunteers her organizational skills to the Habitat for Humanity office. She says that although many people know that Habitat for Humanity volunteers work to build houses, there are a lot more tasks that need to be done.

The mission of Habitat for Humanity is to provide a means by which low-income people can afford housing. Since 1984, the organization has built 17 residences in the Portland area and is currently constructing a duplex that will house two more families. In order to build the houses, Habitat for Humanity needs to encourage people to donate land and supplies, screen applicants, raise money, serve on the board of directors and coordinate the volunteers.

Since the houses are built on donated land with donated labor, the costs remain low and the mortgages are interest-free. Also, the people for whom the house is being built must put in 500 hours of "sweat equity." Drinan points out that the project is "a hand up, not a handout." And that, says Drinan, is what appeals to so many people. "It's a timely mission. We're helping people to help themselves."

But Fran Carr points out that volunteers get almost as much from the program as the families they are helping. Those who donate their time and labor get a chance to do hands-on work and see that their efforts are helping people. Through working with fellow volunteers and with housing applicants, Carr says she and many other volunteers have gained a greater sense of community and self-worth.

Carr notes that former President Jimmy Carter and his wife have "given tremendous public relations and physical support to Habitat for Humanity with their enthusiastic involvement. But, when you hear them talk, they always thank Habitat for the great deal it has done for them." Carr smiles, "That's just the way it is here. It's like an old-fashioned barn raising."

COLLEEN SUMNER

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Maine Summer Campership, Portland West 155 Brackett St, Portland

This program helps locate summer camps for children from low-income families in Portland. Volunteers help recruit camps to take part in the program. They also help kids get outfitted for camp and help provide transportation. The first volunteer meeting will be on Jan. 16. Call Nance Parker at 775-0105.

Maine Youth Center 675 Westbrook St, South Portland

This rehabilitation center for young offenders needs mentor/Big Sister volunteers to meet once a week with a teenage girl to serve as a positive role model and friend. They also need English and math tutors. Contact Linda Johnson at 822-0050.

Pine Tree Boy Scout Council 125 Auburn St, Portland

The Boy Scout volunteers lead Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs. They welcome people with experience or knowledge in camping, environment and fundraising to serve on committees and help plan events. Contact Mark Richard at 797-5252.

Preble Learning Center, Youth and Family Outreach 331 Cumberland Ave, Portland

This center offers quality affordable child care for infants and toddlers of teen parents and lower-income families in school, work or job-training. Volunteers are needed to work with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. They also need help preparing lunches for the children at the center. Contact Amy Seidel at 874-1073.

The Root Cellar 94 Washington Ave, Portland

The Root Cellar needs volunteers to spend time with children in their K-6 grade afterschool program and with teens in their drop-in center. They welcome help with food distributions in the Munjoy Hill community and they need people to help with their mother's programs for crafts and cooking. Contact Pat Iriana at 774-3197.

Teen Adventure Program, Youth and Family Outreach 331 Cumberland Ave, Portland

This summer program for children and teenagers 11-20 includes whitewater rafting trips, high ropes courses and hikes. The program welcomes people with knowledge or

experience in the outdoors or environmental issues to act as leaders and guides. Call 874-2371.

YMCA 70 Forest Ave, Portland

The YMCA is always in need of volunteers. Opportunities range from working in their child care or summer camp to teaching aquatics or helping to raise funds. There is a great and growing need for people to help. Call Jim Bouchard at 874-1111.

YouthBuild, Portland 181 Brackett St, Portland

YouthBuild is a vocational education program for low-income and at-risk youths focusing on construction and classroom work. They need tutors in any academic subjects, especially math, English and computer science. They are also looking for assistants to work on-site at the construction projects. Contact Sara Mabley at 879-8710.

Youth Alternatives, Inc. 1 Post Office Square P.O. Box 596, Portland

Youth Alternatives provides mediation assistance to families in conflict, and centers and shelters for boys ages 7-17. Volunteers work directly with young people at the ROADS group home on Munjoy Hill, the Boys Emergency Shelter in South Portland and the Bass House in Saco. Volunteers are also trained to work as conflict resolution mediators in the Family Mediation Program. In addition, the program needs volunteers to help with clerical work. Contact Mike Tarpinian at 874-1175.

DISABLED

Group Main Stream 205 Ludlow St, Portland

This group runs five residential centers that house more than 20 people with mild to profound mental retardation. They need volunteers to help their residents train for this winter's Special Olympics. Call Gil Seaver at 775-0824.

Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired 189 Park Ave, Portland

The center sponsors evening and weekend programs for the blind and visually impaired. They need volunteers to undertake a two-hour guide lesson (offered monthly) and guide participants through activities like Back Cove walks, bowling, baseball games, miniature golf and movies. Contact Nancy Bennett at 774-6273.

Maine Special Olympics 125 John Roberts Road, Suite 19, South Portland

Volunteers are needed to help with Maine's Special Olympics in Jan. (28, 29, 30) and in June (6, 7, 8, 9). If you are interested in helping on any one of these days, please contact Lisa Underwood. Call 879-0489.

Project for Supported Living 76 Elm St, Portland

The project works with the developmentally disabled. Volunteers are needed to support all programs, including community integration through outings at parks, theaters and museums; activities at their recreational center; weekly lunches and dinners; the distribution of donated food; and fundraising. Call Carol Bailey at 879-0847.

Resources for the Developmentally Disabled (RDD) 15 Woodmont St, Westbrook 66 Pearl St, Portland

RDD's group home for the developmentally disabled in Westbrook welcomes volunteers to play games, join in sports and assist on outings with the residents. Contact Laura Wehry at 854-8652. RDD's Portland program offers job training for the developmentally disabled. Volunteers take residents to look at job opportunities and help with training in social and job related skills. Call Bob Gans at 780-9575.

Transportation Services, PROP

This service offers transportation to those in need for Medicare-eligible medical appointments, family visits or child care referred from the Department of Human Services. Volunteers use their own vehicles and are reimbursed per mile in expenses. Contact Tom Bartell at 874-1140 ext. 354.

ART

The Children's Museum of Maine 142 Free St, Portland

The Children's Museum needs volunteers to serve as computer room monitors, exhibit explainers and people to help at special events. Anyone who can offer creative ideas is welcome, and volunteers can either make a one time or a long term commitment. The museum especially welcomes teen volunteers. Contact Alix Sawyer at 828-1234.

Mad Horse Theatre 955 Forest Ave, Portland

The theater needs volunteers for ushering shows, assisting with mailings, helping with set construction (if skilled), answering phones and distributing posters (they offer free tickets in exchange). They also need backstage assistance and office help during work hours. Call Connie Carlson at 878-3547.

Maine Arts 582 Congress St, Portland

Maine Arts especially needs volunteers for its two biggest events — the Maine Festival and New Year's Portland. But it also needs help with the Congress Square Festival, Fall for Arts and other community arts events. Tasks include stage management, technical assistance, office work, food service, outreach, data input and posterizing. Call 772-9012.

Oak Street Productions and Vintage Rep Theatre 92 Oak St, Portland

Volunteers are needed for poster distribution (if you post 10 posters they will give you free tickets to the show). The theaters can also use help in building sets, sewing costumes and managing the box office. Contact 775-5103 or 774-1376.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square, Portland

The art museum needs volunteers to assist in their museum shop and offices, and to work as guides. Contact Jean Graves at 775-6148.

Portland Stage Company 25A Forest Ave, Portland

The stage company needs volunteers to assist the production crew, provide clerical support to the administrative offices and help distribute posters at the beginning of each run. It's a great opportunity for students and other individuals who wish to learn the ins and outs of theater work. There are benefits of free tickets, posters and other items. Contact Tara Bloom at 774-1043.

ENVIRONMENT

Gorham Trails, Inc. and Gorham Land Trust 188 Narragansett St, Gorham

Gorham Trails and Land Trust maintains over 140 acres of land in the Gorham area for hikers, cross-country skiers, horseback riders, mountain bikers and snowmobilers. They need volunteers to help maintain trails, trail signs, bridges, to produce maps, lead trips and more. Gorham Trails also welcomes new members (\$10 per year membership fee). Contact Bob Frazier at 839-8000 (daytime) and 839-4644 (evening).

Maine Audubon Society Route 1, Falmouth

Audubon Society volunteers serve as nature guides, artists, letter writers, sanctuary monitors, office assistants, field assistants and more. Training is provided for all positions. Call Stephanie Cox at 781-2330.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Resolve to help others in the New Year

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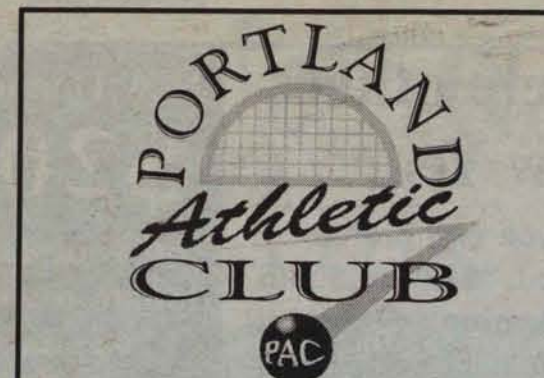
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Plastic Surgery Center of Maine introduces:



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Baby boomers are hitting gravity head-on: a generation that is unlikely to ever consider itself middle-aged, that counts fat grams, works out to stay fit, and wants to keep feeling, acting and looking young and vital at an age when previous generations took to the reclining chair or rocker. This is also a generation that prides itself on its relationship to technology and does its homework when making healthcare choices. Minimally invasive laser surgery procedures using the most advanced technology to "vaporize" the signs of aging fit right into the mind-set of a generation that thinks of plastic surgery as something their parents' generation did—and still.

Dr. Verne Weisberg of the Plastic Surgery Center of Maine, P.A.

is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of revolutionary new laser equipment which allows him to perform specialized aesthetic surgery procedures such as lip and eye wrinkle removal, acne scar and facial resurfacing, and eyelid rejuvenation. The UltraPulse Aesthetic Laser is used to gently "vaporize" the wrinkles and other skin irregularities that creams and chemical peels cannot treat.

Dr. Weisberg has been servicing the medical needs of our community for the past eight years as a specialist in Plastic Surgery & Reconstructive Surgery, and is excited about being able to provide this new, gentle, safe, and effective treatment option.

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A clear conscience

Amnesty International
fights for human rights
around the world

When Nigerian writer and environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed after a show trial last November, people around the world were shocked and outraged. Saro-Wiwa's fate brought international attention, if only for a few days, to the repressive policies of the Nigerian government in Saro-Wiwa's Ogoni homeland.

For people involved with Amnesty International, a human rights advocacy group, Saro-Wiwa's death—and the deaths of others who were killed along with him—was emblematic of everything their organization opposes. Members of Amnesty, in Portland and around the world, conduct letter-writing campaigns to put pressure on governments that are holding people prisoner for their beliefs. They try to prevent human rights abuses by educating themselves about world politics and then educating the public at large. Through their efforts, many political prisoners have been freed. Governments know that when Amnesty is watching, they cannot imprison, torture and execute people without attracting negative attention, and sometimes economic sanctions, from the international community. While the group is sometimes powerless against forces of governmental evil, it serves an important function as a sort of international conscience.

Saro-Wiwa died because of his commitment to protecting the Ogoni region of Nigeria, an area that has been environmentally devastated by oil development. On Jan. 4 (not Jan. 5, as we incorrectly reported in last week's calendar), Amnesty is sponsoring an event commemorating Ogoni Day, a national holiday of the Ogoni people, which the Ogoni themselves have been prohibited from celebrating for the last two years. There will be African music, dance and a traditional mourning ceremony from 7-9 p.m. at Agape, 657 Congress Street. This will be a good chance to find out what Amnesty is all about.

It is easy to feel helpless in the face of the kind of oppression that killed Ken Saro-Wiwa. But it's important to remember that sometimes these kinds of tragedies can be prevented. One of the causes that Portland's Amnesty chapter is fighting for is religious and political freedom in Tibet. Jigme Sangpo, a Tibetan monk who has been imprisoned and subjected to torture for 20 years, is one prisoner the Portland chapter keeps a special watch on. And maybe one day, if enough people learn about what the Chinese government is doing in Tibet, Jigme Sangpo will go free.

SARAH GOODYEAR



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Maine Island Trail Association 41A Union Wharf, Portland

Maine Island Trail Association has a variety of volunteer opportunities available all year long. Possibilities range from data entry and fundraising to island clean-ups and summer work projects. Since MITA relies so heavily on volunteers, big jobs are often available for those volunteers who want the challenge. Call Lucy Birkett at 761-8225.

The Nature Conservancy 14 Maine St. #401, Brunswick

The Nature Conservancy has an ongoing need for volunteers for building and maintaining hiking trails; marking and maintaining preserve boundaries; assisting with boardwalk repair and construction; and helping out around the office. Contact Suzanne Drew at 729-5181.

ALSO...

Amnesty International

This human rights activist group needs people who want to participate in letter-writing campaigns to bring pressure on governments that violate human rights around the world. Members can attend monthly educational meetings. Call James Zimmerman at 871-5705.

Friends of the Western Cemetery

The group does historical research, grounds maintenance and policy planning for the Western Cemetery. Call David Eaton at 774-2458.

Peace Action Maine 158 Danforth St, Portland

Peace Action Maine needs volunteers in all aspects of its operations. Some opportunities include planning and implementing the disarmament campaign and conflict resolution projects and volunteering in the office. Call Sheila Dornody at 772-0680.

Retired Senior Volunteer Program P.O. Box 10480, Portland

RSVP seeks out people 55 and older who would like to help others and places them in appropriate volunteer positions. Contact Ken Murray at 775-6503.

United Way P.O. Box 15200 400 Congress St, Portland

The United Way supports many community service programs in Greater Portland through funding and volunteer support. They also print a booklet, "Let's Help," which describes volunteer opportunities in the area. If you haven't found a volunteer niche by the time you've read this far, call 874-1000 to ask for a free copy of "Let's Help" and to learn about new volunteer needs.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"One of the oldest human needs is having someone to wonder where you are when you don't come home at night." — Margaret Mead, American Anthropologist

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WE CAN WORK IT OUT

New Year's resolutions are hard to keep. Chances are you may already have broken yours. But you can make another resolution anytime. And our directory of **volunteer opportunities** in this week's paper is a good place to start.

Down in Washington, politicians are making a lot of noise about the decay of American society and the deteriorating American family. At the same time, they're looking more and more like a dysfunctional family themselves—full of bitterness and suspicion, trading accusations, unable to get anything done. It's no wonder that voters are looking around for a third party, any third party, to fill their needs.

If the budget shutdowns have taught us anything, it may be that we can't count on elected officials in either party to act rationally or responsibly. We can't expect them to get their jobs done the same way that "regular" people have to. We can't expect them to understand the impact their game-playing has

outside of Washington. (Business owners outside of shut-down Yosemite National Park, for example, saw their holiday seasons—and a substantial chunk of their yearly income—snatched away by the bureaucratic blusterers.) Politicians, by and large, are more interested in posturing than in producing, especially in an election year.

So forget about looking to the government for answers to our problems. While it might be time to get serious about balancing the budget, the way they're going about it doesn't show a whole lot of sensitivity. The government won't be restoring a sense of community or helping to build stronger families when it takes food out of the mouths of hungry children.

We're going to have to restore a sense of community ourselves. And if some short-sighted Newt takes away the funding for desperately needed social programs, we can't let the needy fall through the cracks. That means we have to get to work.

Among the dozens of volunteer opportunities listed in this week's issue are several programs that pair young people with mentors. This is a good place to get started. Adults have to start taking responsibility and setting a good example for the young people around them, rather than dismissing a whole generation of kids with a glib stereotype.

Today's teenagers aren't any more rebellious or disillusioned or beyond redemption than any other group of teenagers in history. They need to be guided through this messy world just like every generation before them. And who do they have for role models?

Well, you could let them think that responsible adults act like Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton. Or you could show them what being grown-up really means.

SARAH GOODYEAR

comment

Pulp Nixon

Poor misunderstood Dick

■ RICK MACPHERSON

As much as I love the frozen wasteland of winter, I sure do miss one particular activity of summer. Ever since I was a child, I've loved turning over rocks or logs to see what lives underneath. With equal parts disgust and fascination, I'm always transfixed by the many and varied collections of slimy, repellent beasts that squirm their way out of the light. As much as I try to resist, I just can't pass a good stone or log along a hiking trail without having a peek.

So imagine my surprise and delight in this season of snow and hibernation to enjoy (vicariously) watching another group of slimy, repellent beasts squirm their way out of the light. Thank you, Oliver Stone.

The release of Stone's latest film, "Nixon," a historical drama of the life and times of our 37th President, has created what can only be described as a brouhaha. Combining historically documented events and a healthy dose of speculation, "Nixon" has managed to piss off just about every major and minor player left over from the Nixon administration. In an official response, Nixon's daughters labeled the film a "character assassination." Alexander Haig calls the film "pure fiction." Evangelist and Nixon pal Billy Graham claims the film "distorts the character of an outstanding person." And Nixon speech writer Pat Buchanan has labeled the film "evil." This is all without any of them having seen the movie.

Needless to say, I don't think this Hollywood production is going to make Bob Dole's list of wholesome, family-value-laden entertainment. As a matter of fact, the GOP is scrambling to distance itself from the whole naughty Nixon connection. They're busy enough with damage control from the ugly budget battle.

You'll have to forgive me if I snicker when I hear phrases such as "character assassination" or "character distortion" used to describe a film about Richard Nixon. As I remarked when the Nixon commemorative stamp was introduced, "Are we talking about the same Richard Nixon here?"

Allow me to be brutally honest. I'm somewhat aghast over the fact that I'm actually wasting good tree pulp in writing about Nixon again. In fact, I probably would not even have wasted the \$7 (plus \$4 for a medium soda) to see the movie had it not been for all the kvetching. As the principle architect of modern governmental failure and distrust, Richard Nixon's life needs to be commemorated only insofar as it is a lesson of how not to behave.

Now let's all take a deep breath and look at this film from a somewhat rational perspective. Granted, Oliver Stone is a provocateur. He chooses volatile subject matter (Vietnam, the Kennedy assassination, Nixon) and employs artistic license in order to push people's buttons. But it seems to me that he is less interested in simply stirring muck than he is in giving people an opportunity to examine or challenge previously held convictions. Why should this be such a threat?

I'm not even a fan of Oliver Stone flicks. But I do respect his talent at forcing people to ask themselves some very hard questions. Does this make him dangerous? After all, movies don't hurt people, but corrupt, paranoid, napalm-lobbing presidents do. And to paraphrase the man himself, the public has a right to know if their president was a crook.

As to the issue of historical fact versus historical fiction, I suppose the truth will never be known—not unless the Nixon clan

decides to make old tricky Dick's personal diaries public domain. Don't hold your breath.

Even then, the whole story may never be clear. I'm compelled to believe that the truth will probably go to the grave with most of the main characters. But look, Stone's film is no "Nova" or "National Geographic" documentary. It's a work of historical fiction. Stone even put a disclaimer to that effect at the head of the film. It's meant to be entertainment.

Of course only Richard Nixon knew if his personality was the result of a dominating mother, or if he felt insignificant and fragile in the shadow of such presidential giants as Lincoln and Kennedy. So we can only speculate. And if I recall correctly, no one seemed to object to the speculative scenes involving motivation in "Schindler's List." Of course not, because the speculation was crucial to piece together the motivation and actions of a man who did what had to be done in the face of such an atrocity as the Holocaust. The result was a catharsis, and perhaps healing, for those who watched the film.

And as repellent a segment of American history as Dick Nixon's tenure was, perhaps Stone's film can be viewed as cathartic as well.

Whether a pawn or a mastermind, Nixon was ultimately responsible for what transpired during his administration. It was a lesson in the corruption of power. It should not be forgotten. But there is no service in attempting to salvage and polish up the character of a historical figure who betrayed the public trust.

So Nixon apologists should save their strength for defending the career of someone who's really going to need the effort. It shouldn't be too long before Stone decides to tackle Ronald Reagan's career. Talk about "Apocalypse Now." The horror... the horror.

Rick MacPherson is a freelance writer who lives in Portland.

ACTIVIST NOTEBOOK

SLALOM FOR DOLLARS BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON.

The 1st Annual Moonlight Jimmy Fund Challenge will be here on Jan. 24. Join them for a fun-filled night of racing and skiing, dinner, awards and celebrity guests. Teams of four people (that's you and your stylish and glamorous friends and/or co-workers) get together to compete against other teams of four people on the (gasp!) modified giant slalom course at Shawnee Peak. The more money you raise, the better your time will be on the course (nudge, nudge). The money goes to help two great causes, the Jimmy Fund and Shawnee Peak's nonprofit Handicapped Ski Program. All registrations need to be received by Jan. 20 so call 647-8444 and ask for the registration form now. Here's a helpful hint: Go down the hill really fast; if something gets in your way, turn. Good luck.

FACE UP AND SING. Your time and effort is needed this year. Duh, just look at those volunteer listings. But, as you select which of the fine organizations you are going to exert your valuable energy on this year, keep this in mind: Congress is slashing and burning at the budget each and every day of the year. That is, of course, when they are not too busy shutting down the government and taking vacations. The funding for a lot of these service agencies are under attack. So go ahead and write Newt and Bob and Bill some letters. Make them nasty. Make them bitchy. Make them vicious. But keep them coming all year long until someone starts to listen. Stamps only cost 32 cents nowadays, so send your letters before the post office ups the price.

Send Activist Notebook announcements three weeks in advance to Colleen Sumner, CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com

Touche, Mark

I am writing in response to Mark C. McClure's (president of the Portland Mountain Cats) challenge to myself, Al Diamon and Chris Barry (CBW, 12.21.95).

First off, Mark, I want to congratulate you on signing Manute Bol to your team. He should help a bit. That said, I must say you have missed the mark (no pun intended) by a long shot with your challenge/weak attempt at a publicity stunt.

I never questioned the team's ability to draw a certain number of fans on opening day. What I questioned was the team's ability to draw at least 3,500 people per game for the entire season. This is the figure you gave to the *Portland Press Herald* as the average attendance needed to break even in year one.

I stand by my prediction—the Mountain Cats have no chance of drawing that amount of fans during the summer in Maine for the entire season. By the way, I'm talking about paying fans.

Your challenge to Mr. Diamon, Mr. Barry and myself was based on an opening night attendance figure. You of all people should know that opening night attendance figures do not relate to the average attendance a new venture will eventually sustain.

Although I doubt the new team will draw 4,000 paying fans on opening day, I don't think you need to be making challenges to anyone. It seems you already have a big one ahead of you: trying to make this pro team work. If you want to alter your challenge based on an average paid attendance after 10 games let me know. Nothing personal.

Mike Clark
Portland

Just an oversight

Well, I'm sure it was merely an editorial oversight that Mr. Short neglected to include my CD in the year's top 10 local releases (CBW, 12.28.95), but we can't all have taste, now can we. What was more disturbing, however, were the inaccuracies found in his nonlocal top 10 album list. With wool over his journalistic eyes, he overlooked the actual top 10 list of 1995, which was as follows:

- 1) Gene, "Olympian"
- 2) Echobelly, "On"
- 3) Elastica, "Elastica"
- 4) Morrissey, "Southpaw Grammar"
- 5) Paul Weller, "Stanley Road"
- 6) Oasis, "(What's the Story) Morning"
- 7) Pulp, "Different Class"
- 8) McAlmont and Bernard Butler—any and all of their singles, studio sessions, witty banter, ad infinitum
- 9) Electrafixion, "Burned"
- 10) Menswear, "Nuisance" (aptly titled, but they dress too nicely to be criticized).

Now you know... and by the by, the catch phrases for 1996 are "Style" and "Glamour." Be gone American alt-rock forever!

Coulter
Portland

What's with Bill?

I read your paper each week, look forward to your articles, think it is a great asset to the city, etc... but like Jock McGrath, I am puzzled over your continued glorification of Bill Holmes of the FSU (which, I prefer to think, stands for Fuck Someone Up) Posse (CBW, 12.7.95). I guess I can understand trying to enlighten the masses about Our Troubled Youth, but this punk has no respect for others, he doesn't deserve the space your paper offers him. You are only adding another confusing element to his obviously troubled mind.

Sandy Banks
Portland

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE THINGS!

BEST OF Portland '96

BEST PEOPLE ...

- Best unsung hero
- Best TV personality
- Best radio DJ
- Best bartender
- Best visual artist
- Biggest loudmouth
- Local politician you trust most
- Local personality with most interesting
- Most effective citizen group

BEST FOOD & DRINK ...

- Best breakfast joint
- Best lunch for \$5 or less
- Best dinner restaurant if you're down to your last \$10

SEE OUR
"BEST OF" BALLOT
ON PAGE 32.



The singular Coulter

Hey, I'm fascinated by this Coulter guy. What does his name mean, anyway?

According to Coulter himself, he is named after a farming implement—the metal tip of a plow that one of his ancestors invented in 15th-century Scotland. "It's Scottish," he said, although the etymology is Latin (as in *cultivate*). What's his real name? He wouldn't tell. But CBW has heard that the local King of Glamour Rock's given moniker is John Coulter Leslie.

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.



Bagel buyers beware: While on a recent foray down to the new **Mr. Bagel** on Congress Street, we couldn't help but notice a host of geographical blunders on the Maine map that adorns the T-shirts worn by employees. The map highlights towns around the state that are graced by Mr. Bagel stores, but anyone even remotely familiar with Maine geography will recognize many of the locations as grievously, if not hilariously, misplaced. Brunswick, for example, is hiked way up down east. To the east of Brunswick sits Augusta, hard against the seacoast.

Gorham has taken up residence somewhere near Farmington, while Bangor appears to have a neighbor of Millinocket. Scarborough has been relocated inland to somewhere in the vicinity of South Paris, while South Portland has been bumped, mals and all, deep into the heart of York County. What makes the sloppy map even funnier is that Mr. Bagel is a Maine-owned enterprise. We're eagerly awaiting the summer's influx of gullible tourists, a few of whom will doubtless take the map as gospel only to discover that they really can't get there from here.

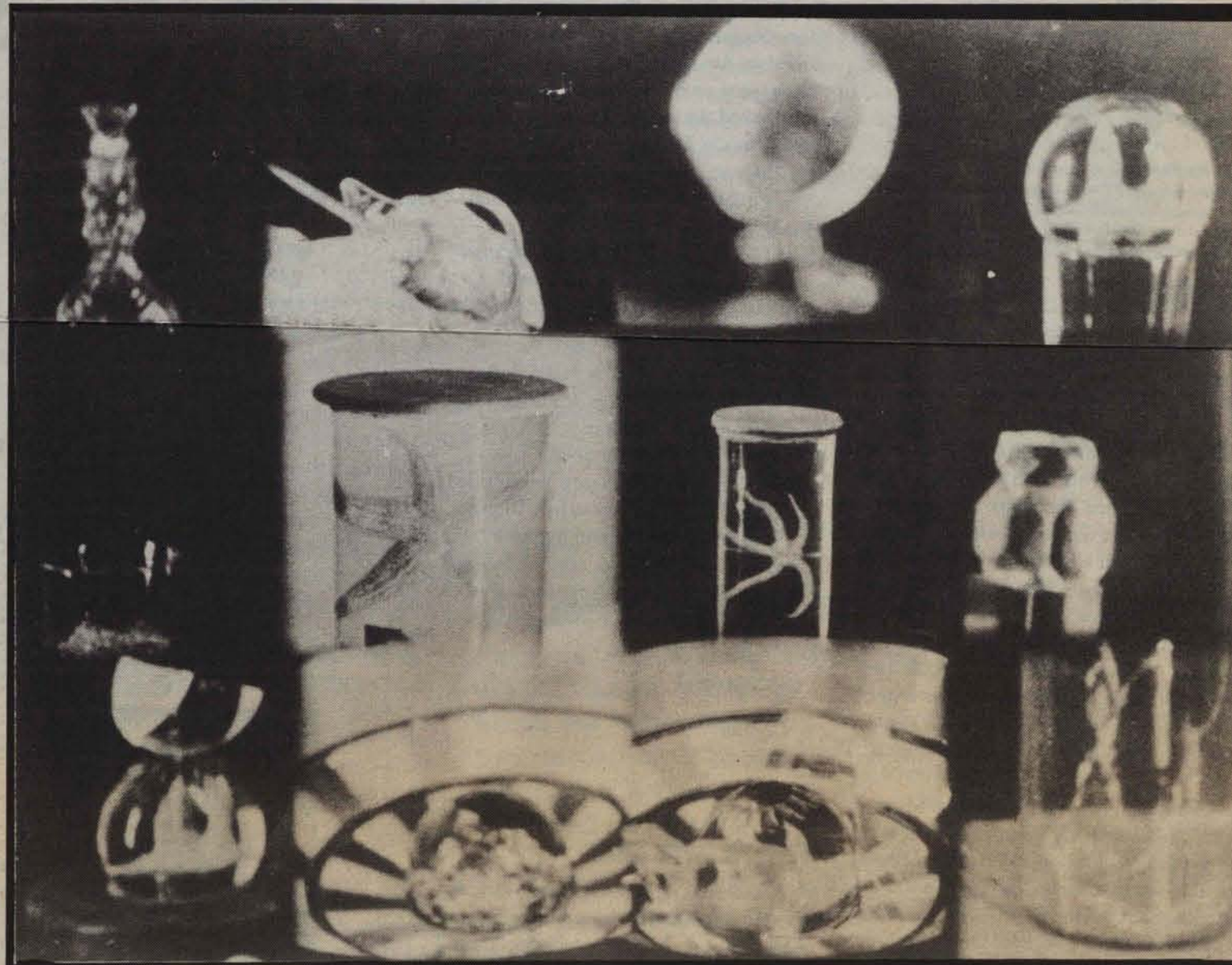
■ Paranoia still strikes deep: A Xeroxed sign in the robbery-prone **Peoples' Heritage Bank** on Congress Street alerted patrons with the following message: "Eight cameras continuously recording all customer activity," to which someone had added, with a hurried scrawl, "and thought."

■ Anger, amps and acne: Whither Portland's high school rock scene? Of the eight bands slated to perform in the **13th annual Reindeer Records Rock-Off** this month, none are from Portland. High school combos from Freeport, Gorham and Yarmouth made the cut, but that's as close as it gets to the Forest City. Do Portland bands simply not measure up, or are they too cool for things like rock-offs? In any case, preliminary showcases will be held Jan. 21 and 28 and Feb. 4 at Raoul's, with the five top vote-getters duking it out Feb. 25 for the title of "Best High School Rock Band in Maine." All events begin at 1 p.m. and are all-ages. Tix: \$3 advance, \$5 at the door. 874-9002. While we're on the subject, Congress Street Records (CSR), a division of Reindeer Group Inc., is seeking submissions from local bands and solo acts for a compilation it's calling "**Ode To Da Streets**," a record CSR hopes will raise awareness to the plight of local at-risk teens and street kids. Deadline is Feb. 1. 874-9002.

■ Book beat: A new addition to this week's CBW is "**Between the lines**," an occasional column that will look at the Portland-area book and publishing scene. The column is the brainchild of local book aficionado Elizabeth Iselle, who's worked as a writer, editor and teacher for more than 30 years. Iselle brings not only her vast professional experience to CBW, but also a great love of books and a swell sense of humor. Her column, this week titled "The big book o' beer," appears on page 25. CBW

ed Ge

CYBERHITS '95 ... NUTS & BOLTS AT PSC ... STICKY ROCK ... YAKS, KLISTER, SNOT AND SWEAT ... MR. PUGSLEY, I PRESUME! ... MUSIC FOR WHAT AILS YA



Holy surreal echinoderms: still from Man Ray's 1928 film "L'Etoile de Mer" PHOTO/THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Twenty-four frames per second

Photographers & movies at PMA's "Moving Pictures" marathon

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

A century-and-a-half ago, when photography was first invented, pioneers in the medium were content to point their large, cumbersome camera-contraptions at things like buildings and mountains and stoic-looking humans — subjects that didn't move and thus could be captured with a reasonable degree of clarity — and make their images accordingly. For a while, at least, the fact that a mountain or a house or someone's uncle could be captured in this way was novelty enough; medium and message enjoyed a blushing honeymoon, devoid of context or — horrors — critics.

As the decades passed, though, and the burgeoning technology underwent various advancements, photographers became increasingly consumed with capturing a sense of motion in their work. Sure, portraits and other forms of still-life remained their bread-and-butter, but toward the end of the 19th century there was a pronounced push to break out of the confines of the static image — think of Eadweard Muybridge's mo-

tion-series photographs of galloping horses and you get the idea. When the Lumière brothers, Louis and Auguste, patented their novel *cinematographe* — the first motion picture camera and projector — in 1895, they essentially put the finishing touches on a half-century's worth of work by a long succession of innovators who dreamt of seeing their pictures move.

Most of those innovators, of course, were photographers, and they laid the foundation for what has become a century of determined cross-pollination between photography and film. "Moving Pictures: Films by Photographers," a one-day movie marathon at the Portland Museum of Art on Jan. 6, uses a wide assortment of films to address the relationship between the two mediums. "Moving Pictures," organized in part by the American Federation of Arts, is a collection of 17 films, ranging from an eight-minute short made in 1895 by the Lumières to the Portland premiere of William Wegman's "The Hardly Boys in Hardly Gold." ("The Hardly Boys," the latest film by sometime-Mainer Wegman,

features his pack of malleable Weimeraners scampering through the Maine woods in detective garb, trying to solve the riddle of who's contaminating the Rangeley Lakes.) Notables — which is really just about everybody — include Man Ray, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy, Ralph Steiner, Harry Callahan, Brassai, Charles Sheeler, Paul Strand, Weegee, Gordon Parks, Elliott Erwitt and Robert Frank. The films will be shown in the museum's auditorium from 1-5 p.m. and 7-9:30 p.m.

Film nuts will doubtless inhale this stuff like popcorn with butter and extra salt, but how are the rest of us — civilians who say "movie" instead of "film" and who don't know the Lumière brothers from the Coen brothers — to approach all this art and innovation? Won't a lot of the older films look — well, old? It's all a matter of providing yourself with a bit of context, says Juris Ubans, a professor of art at USM. "One way to look at the early films is as voyeuristic attempts to show people something that's going on, like factory workers at work or someone riding a bicycle," says Ubans.

"Then you get into films that try to tell a story, like the films of D.W. Griffith, and you can see how the filmmakers were trying to invent a language for this new medium, things like close-ups and pans. You see a lot of playfulness early on."

It was that artistic drive to create something fresh, Ubans says, that prompted photographers to dabble — and, sometimes, as in the case of Robert Frank, to immerse themselves — in film. "A lot of them got tired of the monumental image that still-photography can create," says Ubans. "There was a natural tendency to want to animate that static image, to make you see it in a different way, from different angles, at different speeds. You see the camera used as an almost magical tool."

Regarding his own love affair with this "magical tool," erstwhile photographer Robert Frank once said, "I became more occupied with my own life, with my own situation, instead of traveling and looking at the cities and the landscape. And I think that brought me to move away from the single image and begin to film, where I had to tell a story." The story he tells in his 1959 film "Pull My Daisy," part of the "Moving Pictures" line-up, was based on a Jack Kerouac play and purports to reveal

the soul of the beat generation; one observer has described it as "one of the most influential works of avant-garde film."

The degree of a filmmaker's "self" in the "Moving Pictures" films, not surprisingly, varies from work to work. Weegee filmed most of his Coney Island footage for "Weegee's New York" (1948) with a concealed camera; Gordon Parks based his "Diary of a Harlem Family" (1968) on the work he did as a still photographer; Elliott Erwitt's "Beauty Knows No Pain" (1971), a documentary about young women vying for spots on a junior college flag-twirling team, is detached and free of comment; and "Manhatta" (1921), by Charles Sheeler and Paul Strand, is an impressionistic take on the poetry of Walt Whitman. The films, in short, are impossible to link in any thematic way — beyond their universal appeal to experimentation, at any rate — though they may serve to illuminate a filmmaker's work in other media.

If you go, go for the full tour: six-and-a-half hours of all things film. Tickets for each session are \$5; day pass is \$8. "The Hardly Boys in Hardly Gold" will be shown at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information call 775-6148. CBW

Plaid, as usual

What is it with "Forever Plaid," anyway? The show — a musical parody of a goofy '50s-era guy group that perishes in a car accident but miraculously returns to sing again — is fast becoming one of the



Look familiar? The fab four of "Forever Plaid"

Splendored Thing. "Day-O," "Sixteen Tons" and "Perfidia," here's your chance. Then again, you can always wait for the CD-ROM — or the Hollywood version.

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

"Forever Plaid" will be performed Jan. 11 at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$20 and \$28. 772-8630 or 800/639-2707.

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movies



Danny
Verduzco
and Lana
McKissack
having some
good, clean
fun in **FOUR
ROOMS**.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT Michael Douglas plays a dorky bachelor president who falls for the fetching environmental lobbyist Annette Bening. They date. They argue. They make a bad idea. Wake me when it's over.

BALE THE PIG It's not enough for an enterprising porker to eat slop and roll in the mud. This is the tale of a young pig in search of gainful employment; he tries everything, even rounding up the sheep, during his adventures on the farm.

BALTO Animation for the holidays! Balto is a husky-wolf hybrid pup who journeys all the way across the Alaskan tundra to deliver important and lifesaving medicine. Along the way, Balto does some soul-searching, asking — am I a dog or am I a wolf? Most of time he's too busy having an adventure to ponder such existential questions.

CARRINGTON Emma Thompson stars in this story of Bloomsbury group artists Dora Carrington and Lytton Strachey, who shared a unique lifelong bond despite his homosexuality and her marriage. He was a successful novelist, while she flourished in insecurity. Their attraction and love, though, curious to some, nevertheless served as a good example for those who liked to think love overcomes all else.

CASINO Scorsese, De Niro, Pesci, Stone. Gambling. Need we say more?

COPYCAT Holly Hunter and Sigourney Weaver team up against a serial killer who is mimicking the murder style of the nation's most notorious monsters: Dahmer, Bundy, Berkowitz. Hunter is her feisty self, and Weaver plays a criminal psychologist who hasn't been able to leave the house since being stalked by a particularly sicko client.

CUTTHROAT ISLAND Geena Davis lets her hair down as a mighty pirate on the trail of buried treasure in the tepid waters of the Caribbean. Set in the 1660s, Davis is a modern trendsetter. Also starring: Matthew Modine as her boytoy.

DRACULA: DEAD AND LOVING IT Lately Dracula has become a target for satire. First Eddie Murphy took a bite at the part, now Leslie Nielsen does his slapstick meets Transylvania thing. In this Mel Brooks film, Nielsen plays a clumsy Bela Lugosi trying with all his might to sink his teeth into Amy Yasbeck's neck.

FAIR GAME Cindy Crawford makes her big film debut with the mistaken impression that she has any business acting in the first place. Billy Baldwin holds the other gun in the film. Don't be nervous to watch it, though, because as Cindy says, action is the real star of the film.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE II Steve Martin gets all gushy and neurotic for a second time, as Kimberly Williams' daddy. In this edition, Martin is the proud grandfather-to-be — fussing and fretting over his little girl. Picturesque. Until Diane Keaton drops the bomb that she too has a bun in the oven.

FOUR ROOMS Filmed by four of Hollywood's hottest and most creative filmmakers — Allison Anders, Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez and Alexandre Rockwell — "Four Rooms" takes place in a fictional hotel with appearances by the bellhop, Tim Roth, tying the separate stories together. Rodriguez's "The Matchmakers," easily the best of the bunch, is a rambunctiously dark family comedy; there's also Rockwell's psycho-

sexual drama between a husband and wife, Anders' girly-witch powwow and Tarantino's exceedingly lame and tedious story of a celebrity out of control. It's all topped off with the ultimate big-name, big ego cast.

GET SHORTY John Travolta and Danny DeVito star opposite each other in this comedy based on Elmore Leonard's novel. Travolta plays a mob thug turned producer and DeVito plays a short movie star.

GOLDENEYE Action, espionage, cold war politics — James Bond is back. Pierce Brosnan plays the martini-swilling babe-magnet for this installment. Bond's mission: battling a band of Russians peddling hot high-tech weapons. Isabella Scodro gives a good showing as the beautiful, Russian grigienka who swaps sides to help Bond. Then there's the stogie-smoking Famke Janssen to fill the evil seductress quota. Oh James, how do you do it?

GRUMPIER OLD MEN Same guys (Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon), same plot (the race to get the girl — Ann Margaret), same idea (two blue-haired curmudgeons). If you liked it the first time around, what are you waiting for? Go see the second installment.

HEAT Good guy versus evil guy as you've seen it done many, many times before. But who would want to miss Pacino opposite De Niro with Val Kilmer and Tom Sizemore on the side. The film is a look into the world of L.A. cops and mobsters — crossing lines and testing boundaries. Don't go see it with a full stomach.

JUMANJI Robin Williams plays a wild and grizzly boyman who has been stuck inside a jungle-themed board game for 26 years. He is liberated by two children who discover the dusty game in the attic of their new home. Williams isn't satisfied with just returning to the life he left behind — he wants to settle the score with Jumanji's beasts. If you've ever yearned to see rhinoceros trampling through the living room, this is the film for you.

A MONTH BY THE LAKE Vanessa Redgrave stars in this romantic comedy as a middle-aged daughter who travels to Italy every year with her dad. This year she makes the trip alone, with intentions of maintaining her adventurous spirit. Before long, Redgrave is drawn to one of the hotel's male visitors, and they begin an awkward series of dates. Redgrave can't decide how she feels about him, though, and the dates often end in comic disaster. Both Redgrave and her love interest are caught up in the vanity of aging and opt for younger alternatives. Do they eventually come to their senses? We're not telling.

THE POSTMAN (IL POSTINO) Famous Chilean poet Pablo Neruda was exiled in 1952, and went to live on an idyllic island off the coast of Italy, where he received so much mail that the local postmaster hired a young man off the father's fishing boat to deliver the extra load. The young postman and the

poet strike up an unlikely friendship, and the postman develops an appreciation for the art of language. He uses his newfound talent to charm the local ladies, especially the unapproachable Beatrice. (In Italian.)

NIXON Oliver Stone does it again. This time he gives the royal treatment to Tricky Dick, played by Anthony Hopkins. Stone gives the story a Shakespearean twist, with Kissinger (Paul Sorvino) masterminding Nixon's downfall.

POWDER Sean Patrick Flanery plays a boy-genius raised in isolation. His albino-like complexion and social clumsiness disguise an incredibly wise, sensitive nature — and like all old souls he is tortured by his peers and ridiculed for being different.

SABRINA Linus (Harrison Ford) and David (Greg Kinnear of "Talk Soup" fame) Larabee are brothers who couldn't have less in common if they tried. Linus keeps the family business thriving, while David plays. Needless to say, a little resentment is brewing. When Sabrina (the fetching Julia Ormond) comes back to town all grown up, the tension comes to a boiling point. It's Type A and Type B vying for the love of Ms. Right.

SUDDEN DEATH Jean-Claude Van Damme lets his sensitive side come through in this thriller where he must save his daughter and the president of the U.S. It's the Stanley Cup finals and a packed stadium is held in terror by Powers Booth. Van Damme is the only hope. Can he do it? He does a really great split if that helps any.

TOM & HUCK Teeny-bopper hunk Jonathan Taylor Thomas stars as Mark Twain's classic character, Tom Sawyer. Mischief is in the air when he and his downtrodden pal Huck Finn (Brad Renfro) get together. Not quite "Home Improvement," but then no Oscars have been mentioned.

TOY STORY Big holiday fun is in store for all you animation fanatics. Academy Award-winning short director John Lasseter is the mastermind in charge of bringing these toys to life. Funny guys Tim Allen and Tom Hanks add their quirky voices to the mix. Bring the kids.

12 MONKEYS Bruce Willis goes back in time to find the source of a nasty virus that's killing everybody, and runs into an animal-rights activist played by Brad Pitt. Written by Janet and David Webb Peoples, who wrote "Blade Runner," and filmed with lots of cool, futuristic sci-fi special effects.

WAITING TO EXHALE When you've had just about enough of all the testosterone-charged action flicks, go see this film about actor-turned-director Forest Whitaker, about a group of women friends: Whitney Houston and Angela Bassett head up the cast of chatty female friends. Light on plot, but heavy on emotion. Based on Terry McMillan's bestselling novel.

movie times

OWING TO SCHEDULING CHANGES AFTER CBW GOES TO PRESS, MOVIEGOERS ARE ADVISED TO CONFIRM TIMES WITH THEATERS.

DATES EFFECTIVE JAN 5-11, UNLESS NOTED
GENERAL CINEMAS, MAINE MALL, MAINE MALL ROAD, SOUTH PORTLAND, 774-1022.

GRUMPIER OLD MEN (PG-13)

12:40, 2:50, 4:55, 7, 9:20

12 MONKEYS (R)

1:20, 4, 6:50, 9:40

TOY STORY (G)

1:40, 3:40, 5:35, 7:30, 9:30

TOM & HUCK (PG)

1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

DRACULA: DEAD & LOVING IT (PG-13)

12:40, 2:55, 5:05, 7:20, 9:30

SABRINA (PG)

1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:40

BALTO (G)

1, 3, 5

CASINO (R)

7:40

HOYT'S CLARK'S POND, 333 CLARK'S RD., SOUTH PORTLAND, 879-1511.

AMERICAN PRESIDENT (PG-13)

1:20, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20

FOUR ROOMS (R)

1, 3:50, 7:30, 9:55

JUMANJI (PG)

12:10, 2:25, 4:45, 7:20, 9:30

WAITING TO EXHALE (R)

12:50, 3:30, 7, 9:50

HEAT (R)

11:45, 3, 6:30, 9:40

NIXON (R)

12:30, 4, 7:45

SUDDEN DEATH (R)

1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10

FATHER OF THE BRIDE II (PG)

1:10, 3:40, 6:50, 9:10

THE MOVIES, 10 EXCHANGE ST., PORTLAND, 772-9600.

A MONTH BY THE LAKE (R)

JAN 4-10 • THURS-WED 5, 7, 9 • SAT-SUN 1, 3

CARRINGTON (R)

JAN 11-16 • THURS-WED 5, 7, 9 • SAT-SUN 1, 3

NICKELODEON, TEMPLE AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, 772-9751.

CUTTHROAT ISLAND (PG-13)

12:40 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 3:30, 6:30, 9

FAIR GAME (R)

1:20 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 4:10, 7:20, 10

THE POSTMAN (PG)

9:20

POWDER (PG-13)

1:10 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 3:50, 6:40

GET SHORTY (R)

1 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 4, 7:10, 9:50

GOLDENEYE (PG-13)

12:50 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 3:40, 6:50, 9:30

COPYCAT (R)

4:20, 7, 9:40

BALE (G)

12:30, 2:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY)

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS, 206 U.S. RTE 1, FALMOUTH, 781-5668.

TOY STORY (G)

11:30, 1:15, 3, 5, 7, 8:45

12 MONKEYS (R)

12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:05

SABRINA (PG)

12:45, 3:30, 6:25, 9:05

NIXON (R)

12:30, 4:15, 8

FATHER OF THE BRIDE II (PG)

12:30, 3, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

JUMANJI (PG)

11:55, 2:10, 4:35, 6:50, 9:15

TOM AND HUCK (PG)

12:15, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 9:40

DRACULA: DEAD AND LOVING IT (PG-13)

8:40

GRUMPIER OLD MEN (PG-13)

12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:15

BALTO (G)

12, 2, 5

SUDDEN DEATH (R)

7, 9:15

clubs

thursday 4

The Big Easy (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Clyde's Pub Karaoke, 173 Ocean St., S. Portland, 799-4473.

Comedy Connection D.J. Hazard's Comedy Showcase, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna Go Button (rock), 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Geno's Open mic night, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny's Thanks to Gravity (rock), 164 Market St., Portland, 761-2787.

Old Port Tavern No Real Neighbors (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

The Underground Big Bob's Dance Night, 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Will's Restaurant Ken Cox (a guy and his guitar), 78 Island Ave., Peaks Island, 766-3322.

Zootz Bounce (DJ Larre Love spins), 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

friday 5

The Big Easy (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection D.J. Hazard, Rick Della, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna John & Charlie (rock), 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Geno's Grimeace (metal), 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny's Motor Booty Affair (get funky), 164 Market St., Portland, 761-2787.

Hedgehog Brewpub Free loaders (rock), 35 India St., Portland, 871-9124.

Old Port Tavern No Real Neighbors (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raul's Big Hot Sun, Hot Cherry Pie and Sacred Onion (dance rock), 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

Spring Point Cafe The Swinging Blue Matadors (blues), 175 Pickett St., S. Portland, 767-4627.

T-Birds Dance Music with WMGX, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland, 773-8040.

The Underground DJ Tim Stanley (dance, dance, dance), 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Verrillo's Chameleon (top 40/rock), 155 Riverside St., Portland, 775-6536.

saturday 6

The Big Easy (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Clyde's Pub Karaoke, 173 Ocean St., S. Portland, 799-4473.

Comedy Connection D.J. Hazard, Rick Della, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna Legendary Unknowns (rock), 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Geno's 9 Shades of White (metal), 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny's Loud Music Fest with Otis, 454 Big Block, Slush, Tripe and Quintana (3-8 pm all-ages/8-close 21+), 164 Market St., Portland, 761-2787.

Old Port Tavern No Real Neighbors (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raul's Psyche and Liquid Daydream (dance rock), 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

Spring Point Cafe Jimmy and the Soul Cats (soul), 175 Pickett St., S. Portland, 767-4627.

T-Birds Dance Music with WMGX, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland, 773-8040.



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get through the noise, there's always the 8 pm show for those

folks 21 and over. Jan. 6 at the same great location: Granny

Killam's, 164 Market St., Portland. Tix: \$7 (all-ages),

\$5 (21+).

7 6 1 - 2 7 8 7

The Underground DJ Tim Stanley (dance, dance, dance), 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Verrillo's Chameleon (top 40/rock), 155 Riverside St., Portland, 775-6536.

Zootz Decades of Dance (dancers rejoice), 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

sunday 7

The Big Easy (dance swing), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection George Hamm's comedy showcase, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna Jeff Merrill Jam, 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Morganfield's Gospel Brunch (Hallelujah! — doors open at noon), 121 Center St., Portland, 774-5853.

Old Port Tavern Ramblin' Dan Stevens (rock), 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

The Underground Karaoke

Listings

Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, send complete information (including dates, times, costs, complete address, a contact telephone number) by noon on Thursday prior to publication.

stage

"Annie" the musical about everyone's favorite little orphan plays at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, Jan 5 at 5 & 8 pm. Tix: \$24.50 (reserved), \$27.50 (cabaret & mezzanine). Kids 17 and under are eligible for half-price tix. 879-1111.

"Danger—Girls Working" A three act mystery presented by the Catherine McAuley Limeighters on Jan 6 at 7:30 pm, and Jan 7 at 2 pm, at the McAuley Performing Arts Center, 631 Stevens Ave., Portland. Tix: \$3 (\$2 students/seniors). 797-3802.

"Spectacles in Solitude" A one-woman show starring Mad Horse Theatre Company member Kym Dakin. A journey through one woman's life told by dreams, memory flashbacks and true stories from everyday life. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, Jan 4-14, Thurs, Fri & Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$12 (2 for 1 on Thursdays). 775-5103.

"The Turn of the Screw" Jeffrey Hatcher's adaptation of Henry James' ghost story, presented by Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, Jan 7-28, Tues, Wed, & Thurs 7:30 pm, Fri 8 pm, Sat 5 & 9 pm and Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$15-\$29. 774-0465.

auditions/etc

Acting For Ordinary People at Oak Street Productions, 92 Oak St., Portland announces its new program of classes and workshops in acting, music, dance and technical theater beginning Jan 15. 775-5103.

Cathedral Chamber Singers A community choir based at St. Luke's Cathedral seeks new members. Auditions by appointment. 772-5434.

Dark Water Theatre Company seeks seven male actors, age 30-50, for roles in its production of "Glengarry Glen Ross" slated for January. Auditions conducted privately. 892-3728.

Portland Lyric Theatre holds auditions for "Funny Girl" Jan 7 & 8 at 6:30 pm, at Starbird Music, 533 Forest Ave., Portland. Be prepared to sing and dance. Pianist provided. 773-3364.

Schoolhouse Center For the Arts Junction of Routes 35 & 114N, Sebago Lake Village, holds auditions Jan 2 & 3, at 6:30 pm for "Steel Magnolias." They seek 6 women of varying ages. 642-3743.

The Theater Project 14 School St., Brunswick. New classes begin in January for 1st-graders to adults. Costs range from \$50-\$100. 729-8584.

Young Men's Choir holds ongoing auditions by appointment only. 854-0182.

Young Playwright's Contest Children's Theatre of Maine sponsors a contest for writers age 18 and younger. The deadline is Mar 1, 1996. 874-0371.

concerts

sunday 7

"A Festival of Lessons and Carols" The Cathedral Chamber Singers and The Cathedral Choir present music including "Christmas Cantata" by Daniel Pinkham. At the Cathedral Church of St. Luke, 143 State St., Portland, at 3:30 pm. 646-4030.

tuesday 9

Portland Symphony Orchestra (Dec 10 also) PSO launches its 1996 season with an all-orchestra concert spotlighting different sections of the orchestra, including selections from Hector Berlioz's *Romeo & Juliet*, Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Winds* and Christopher Rouse's *Ogoun Badagris*. At the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$15-\$35. Discounts available to seniors and students. 773-8191.

upcoming

"Forever Plaid" Jan 11. Portland Concert Association presents the hit Broadway musical comedy parody of '50s guy groups. At the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$28 & \$20. 772-8630.

events

Ogoni Day Jan 4. Amnesty International invites you to celebrate the government banned Nigerian festival in remembrance of slain environmentalist leader Ken Saro-Wiwa. Join Pastor Mutima B. Peter of the African International Church as he leads you in dance, music and a traditional mourning ceremony at Agape, 657 Congress St., from 7-9 p.m. A \$5 donation is suggested. 775-6684.

The Wisecracker Jan 6. Selby Beebe's outlandish look at holiday hoopla, featuring music from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" and 16 dancers of all ages, shapes and sizes. Presented by SonLight Dance Company at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland. \$5 donation suggested. 761-2465.

Art in the Dark Movie Marathon Jan 6. A day of films by photographers. Celebrating the work of Man Ray, Robert Frank, Cindy Sherman, William Wegman and more. Humorous, elegant, disturbing and provocative. Screening 1: 1-5 pm. Screening 2: 7-9 pm. Tix: \$5 per session, or \$8 all day pass. 775-6148.

Portland Pirates vs. Springfield Jan 6. Kraft Mac n' Cheese night. Game begins at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$8-\$13 (\$5-\$6.50 kids/seniors). All seats reserved. 775-3458.

Skinny skis and all



ski

Smiling Hill Farm: skiing, and a whole lot more. ILLUSTRATION/SCOTT SUTHERLAND

Like the early-season snow, the Nordic skiing scene in the Portland area is a sudden, and unexpected, surprise. Last season Beech Ridge Farm X-C Ski Center opened in Scarborough, and this season Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook opened about 12 miles of ski trails.

I skied the Smiling Hill loops for a couple hours one day last week, and I was thoroughly impressed. There's good variety in terrain, from meadow trails to winding, wooded loops, and the hills — up and down — are of only moderate difficulty. All of the trails are groomed for skating (the extra-wide meadow trails are especially nice), and most have tracks set for classic technique. Smiling Hill is serious about grooming, too — it's done nightly, and with a serious grooming machine. They didn't have trail markers up yet when I was there, but that's only because they weren't planning to open until Jan. 1.

In addition to excellent skiing, Smiling Hill offers snowshoeing and sleigh rides, with ice skating on the way. Their ice cream (more than 30 homemade flavors) and sandwich shop is open for lunch. The animal petting farm — a big draw in the summer — is closed for the winter, but you can ogle herds of deer, goat, yak and cattle (wooly-looking Scotch Highlanders, to be exact) from a few of the ski trails. Or you can just point yourself into the woods and pretend you're gliding through the big piney wilderness. You can get away from it all — even in Westbrook.

Smiling Hill Farm is located at 781 County Rd. (Route 22) in Westbrook, and is open daily, 9 a.m.-dusk weekdays, 8 a.m.-dusk weekends. Ski and snowshoe rentals are available. Regular and half-day rates available. 775-4818.

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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calendar

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoë Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

thursday 4

Lukewarm love: Vanessa Redgrave stars as a middle-aged daughter who travels to Italy every year with her dad in the romantic comedy **"A MONTH BY THE LAKE."** This year she makes the trip alone — with intentions of maintaining her adventurous spirit. Before long, Redgrave is drawn to one of the hotel's male visitors, and they begin a series of awkward dates. Redgrave can't decide how she feels about him, though, and their encounters usually end up as comic disasters. Both Redgrave and her love interest are caught up in the vanity of aging and opt for younger alternatives, though they eventually come to their senses. Surprise. Catch the action at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 7 & 9 p.m. Shows Jan 3-9. Call for times. Tix: \$4. 772-9600.

Where's the LaBeef? At Morganfield's, Jan. 13

friday 5

Sniffing glue: In the mood for some hard-edged power-pop? It has been a while since the likes of Belly or Matthew Sweet have graced Portland. Have no fear — it's **GLUESTICK** to the rescue. In town for one night only to kick off their U.S. tour, the Portsmouth-based combo will be joined by a brand-new Portland band, Superseed. Both bands will make noise at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. for \$3. If that's past your bedtime, Tree, Honkeyball and Polyglot will put on an all-ages, hard-core display at 6 p.m. Without sauce, the entry fee goes up to \$7. Still a good deal. 773-6812.

saturday 6

Holiday tomfoolery: There's the "Nutcracker" as it's performed by the Portland Ballet and the Maine State Ballet, and then there's Selby Beebe's **"THE WISECRACKER,"** presented by her SonLight Dance Company. In the spirit of Mark

Morris's "Nutcracker" take-off, "The Hard Nut," Beebe's work goes for laughs, as well as dancing. "The Wisecracker" features music from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" and 16 dancers of all ages, shapes and sizes. The snowflake ballerina won't be light on her feet and the Sugar Plum Fairy is reportedly a turkey. Check out this nutty 'cracker at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., at 7 p.m. \$5 donation suggested. 761-2465.

sunday 7

Elementary, my dear: Two mysteries rolled into one — that's what you'll find in the Catherine McAuley Limelighters' **"DANGER — GIRLS WORKING."** The story takes place at the boarding house where five women hang their hats. The house also happens to be home to a precious uncut diamond. When the diamond turns up missing, accusations fly. Who-dunit? Must have been Mrs. White with the candlestick in the library. Whoops! Wrong mystery. To solve this one you'll have to strap on your thinking cap and head over to the McAuley Performing Arts Center, 631 Stevens Ave., at 2 p.m. The show also goes on Jan. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$3 (\$2 students/seniors). 797-3802.

monday 8

Free trees: There aren't many gifts you can give that give back to you, but here's one that gives you shelter, heat, fresh air, and nice wooshy noises when the wind blows: **10 FREE RIVER BIRCH TREES.** That's right — when you become a member of the National Arbor Day Foundation (by mailing your contribution of at least \$10) during the month of January, the foundation will give you 10 honest-to-goodness, leaf-bearing, CO₂-suckin' trees. All you need to do is send your contribution by Jan. 31 to: Ten Free River Birches, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb., 68410.

tuesday 9

Voodoo orchestra: **PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** starts off the new year with a bang — first on a log drum, then on the cabasas and congas. Yes, PSO has taken a turn for the tribal, with 28 percussion instruments playing a Haitian-inspired composition by Christopher

Rouse. This is just one part of their all-orchestra concert, which will include a performance of Stravinsky's "Symphonies of Winds," spotlighting woodwinds and brass. They will also perform selections from Hector Berlioz's "Romeo & Juliet," assisted by Mad Horse Theatre actors Michael Rafkin and Deborah Hall, who'll perform Shakespeare's famous balcony scene between movements. At the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., at 7:30 p.m., and Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$15-\$35. 773-8191.

wednesday 10

Snow strollin': In this modern age of extreme sports, people are always trying to get down the mountain as fast as possible. For those of you who just aren't into that adrenaline rush, here's an alternative: strap on your snowshoes and prepare for a **FULL MOON WALK.** The wild bunnies and birdies aren't scared away, and you can actually stop to sniff the fresh air. Plus, you won't risk the chance of flying into a tree at 30 miles per hour. If you like life in the slow, romantic lane, join Norumbega Outfitters at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport. Rentals available. Call store for details. 773-0910.

thursday 11

Boys on film: How honest has Hollywood ever been about male sexuality? When you consider the sanitization of Tom Hanks' libido in the film "Philadelphia," the answer is pretty clear. For that reason, the Matlovich Society brings the film **"TIMEPIECE"** to Portland for one night. The film focuses on a group of seven gay men in San Francisco in the early '90s. From discussions of group sex to monogamy to coming out, the movie takes a humorous and wise look at being gay in the '90s. At the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., from 7:30-9 p.m. Free. 761-4380.

friday 12

Ghost story, or study in psychosis: A young woman takes a position as nanny for two young orphans in the English boondocks. Before long she discovers the presence of two strangers, and things proceed to get plenty spooky very quickly in Jeffrey Hatcher's adaptation of Henry James' **"THE TURN OF THE SCREW"** at Portland Stage Company. Immerse yourself in this tale of passion, possession, innocence and evil at 25A Forest Ave. at 8 p.m. Shows Jan 7-28, Tues.-Thurs. 7:30 p.m., Fri. 8 p.m., Sat., 5 & 9 p.m. and Sun. 2 p.m. Tix: \$15-\$29 (discounts for seniors and students). 774-0465.

saturday 13

Sleepy old beef: Rockabilly oldtimer **SLEEPY LABEAF** makes his way to Portland pretty regularly — it could be wanderlust, or maybe it's just that Sleepy knows he's got a whole gaggle of fans waiting for him here in the Forest City. Sleepy (we just can't refer to him as LaBeef) possesses what you might call stage presence — he stands about 6 feet tall and tips the scales somewhere in the mid-to-upper 200-pound range. He has a voice to match, ranging from baritone down to basso. He's also a true survivor in a world more friendly to old Beatles tunes than old rockabilly heroes. Once he gets going on his guitar, though, you're sure to remember him. At Morganfield's, 121 Center St., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5. 774-5853.

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BetWeeN the LiNeS

The big book o' beer

At a recent "Microbrewery Night" at The Great Lost Bear, Alan Pugsley, beer aficionado extraordinaire and part-owner of Shipyard Brewing Company in Portland, was jerking suds as a guest bartender. "I like to stay close to our customers," he said, expertly pulling a draft of brown ale. "It's important to hear what people like best about the beers we offer and what they'd like to see us brew in the future."

Tasked him, "What is your favorite beer?" Without hesitation he answered, "Whatever one happens to be in my hand."

Pugsley is one of nine beer experts who contributed to the new "Encyclopedia of Beer" (which describes itself as "the beer lover's bible — a complete reference to beer styles, brewing methods, ingredients, festivals, traditions, and more"), edited by Christine P. Rhodes and published by Henry Holt (\$35). Pugsley will be signing the "Encyclopedia of Beer" and answering your beer and brewing questions Jan. 10 at Borders, 430 Gorham Road (Maine Mall) in South Portland, at 7:30 p.m. The event may include a tasting of Shipyard's various brews, but Borders couldn't confirm it as CBW went to press.

Pugsley's beer pedigree is as hoppy as any of his brews. Born in England, Pugsley graduated with a degree in biochemistry from Manchester University in 1981. His brewing career began when he apprenticed himself to Peter Austin, whom he describes as "father of the current microbrewery revolution in Europe," at the Ringwood Brewery in Hampshire, England. He first came to Portland in 1986 to help David Geary set up his microbrewery, the first in New England. Pugsley later helped Richard Pfeiffer and Ed Stebbins launch Gritty McDuff's, and in 1992 he designed a brewery and developed recipes for Kennebecport Brewing Company. When the company expanded and formed Shipyard Brewing Company in Portland in 1994, Pugsley signed on as resident brewmaster and part-owner.

All of the contributors to the "Encyclopedia of Beer" boast similar credentials, which is why the book is the most fascinating, comprehensive compendium of information about famous, infamous and just plain quirky beer lore and legend published to date. More than 900 entries, arranged from A to Z, capture the historic evolution of beer, explain what beer is, how it's made and what differentiates each style. Rare prints, etchings and modern photos bring beer terminology and equipment (including the art of proper glassware) to life. Even the information on new technologies about the biochemistry of brewing goes down easy.

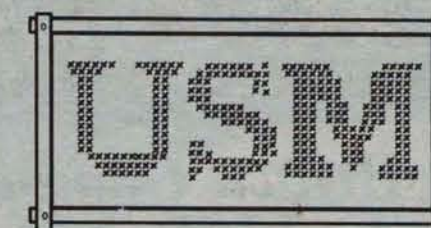
Some of my favorite nuggets include entries on *aca chicha*, a sacred corn beer made by Native American women and Inca sun virgins more than 2,000 years ago; African beer, drunk through reed straws stuck into a communal beer pot while gossiping and telling stories, a practice at least 5,000 years old; *Ninkasi* (literally, "the lady who fills the mouth"), the first definitive beer goddess and a central deity for ancient Sumerians; Egyptian beer, so important that the hieroglyphic symbol for food was a pitcher of beer and a loaf of bread; and the patron saints of beer, like Saint Arnold of Soissons, the patron saint of hop pickers, and Saint Arnou, the patron saint of brewers. The book also includes a bevy of provocative beer terms like hot trub, mouthfeel, tewahdiddle and isinglass, as well as bits on spice, vegetable and pepper beers, cuckoo ales, oyster stout and milk stout. Even Diderot, creator of the original 18th-century *encyclopedie* for which he enlisted the leading French talents of the time, would have been proud of all this brewiana. It's enough to whet the thirst of even the most abstemious teetotalers.

Pugsley attributed the microbrewing renaissance in this country to consumers who are looking for the same fuller flavor and local crafting in their beer as they've come to expect from their bread and coffee. Pugsley noted how seriously, even passionately, Mainers take their beer interests, which is why sales of the "Encyclopedia of Beer" — at the Shipyard gift shop, at least — have been brisk. Said Pugsley, "Even with all the hats, T-shirts, mugs and other great merchandise we have to offer, people are buying the 'Encyclopedia of Beer' right off the shelf."

■ ELIZABETH ISELE

What's brewing in the world of local books and publishing? Send your tips and other hot trub to "Between the lines," c/o CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME, 04101. Fax us something foamy at 775-1615, or e-mail us something malty at editor@cbw.maine.com.

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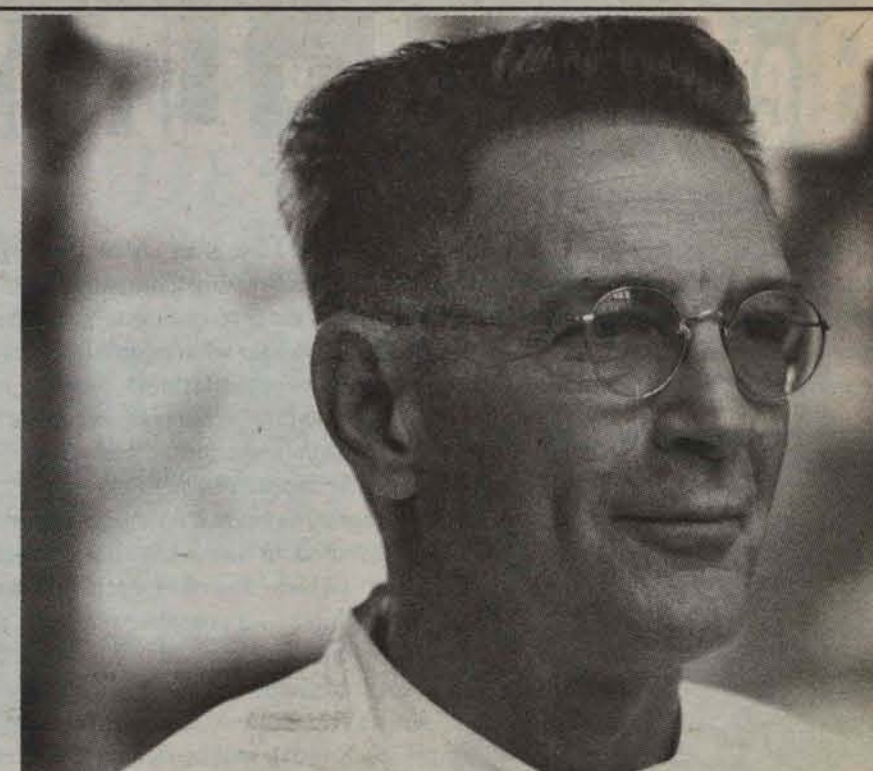
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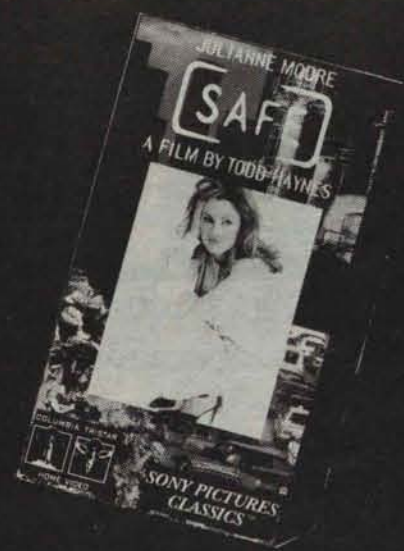
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A Better Point of View



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

art

now showing

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Agape Center 657 Congress St. Portland. Latest works of eco-spiritualist painter Nancy Earle. Ongoing. Open by appointment. 780-1500.

Art Gallery at Six Deering Street 6 Deering St. Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 772-9605.

Baxter Gallery 619 Congress St. Portland. Hours: Tues-Fri, 10 am-4 pm. 775-5152.

Black Moon Gallery 339 Fore St. Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm, Sun-Mon 11 am-6 pm. 774-4423.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art Walker Art Building, Brunswick. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Mon-Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

"Art & Life in the Mediterranean" An installation of Assyrian, Egyptian, Cypriot, Greek and Roman art, ongoing.

"Miss Rumphius" paintings by Barbara Cooney show through Jan 28.

Chamber of Commerce 145 Middle St. Portland. Mixed media by residents of Springbrook Nursing Care Center and Senior Enrichment Center. Ongoing. Hours: 8 am-5 pm, Mon-Fri. 856-1230.

Christine's Dream 41 Middle St. Portland. New works by painter James Comas Cole, Lori Austill and Andy Curran. Ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 7 am-2 pm, Sat-Sun 9 am-2 pm. 774-2972.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St. Portland. "Whimsical Relief Paintings" by David Cedrone show through Jan 7. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 7 am-8 pm, Fri 7 am-9 pm, Sat 8 am-9 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm. 772-5533.

Congress Street Diner 551 Congress St. Portland. Permanent showing of murals by Anthony Taylor and Paul Brahm, featuring old-era Congress Street art. Hours: Mon-Sun 7 am-3 pm. 773-6957.

Danforth Gallery 34 Danforth St. Portland. Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat, 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 775-6245.

Davidson and Daughters 148 High St. Portland. "On the Lightside," works by selected artists show through Jan 15. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-6 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 780-0766.

Dead Space Gallery 11 Avon St. Portland. "Familiar Moments," color photographs by Jay York and Kaitis Fagan show through Jan 8. Hours: Sat-Mon noon-5 pm. 828-4637.

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St. Portland. Mixed media Greek collages by Richard Lee. Hours: Mon 11 am-4 pm, Tues-Sat 11 am-10 pm. 774-1114.

Frost Gully Gallery 411 Congress St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 12-6 pm. 773-2555.

Greenhut Gallery 146 Middle St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-4 pm. 772-2693.

Icon 19 Mason St. Brunswick. A group exhibition of gallery artists shows through Jan 31. 725-8157.

Jamison Gallery 217 Commercial St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. 772-5522.

Java Joe's 13 Exchange St. Portland. Photographs by Richard Sandifer show through mid-January. 761-5637.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St. Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm, Thurs noon-8 pm. 772-1961.

Lakes Gallery & Sculpture Garden Rt. 302, South Casco. Hours: 10 am-5 pm daily. 655-5066.

Maine Potters Market 376 Fore St. Portland. Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily. 774-1633.

Meander Gallery 40 Pleasant St. Portland. Hours: 12-6 pm, Tues-Sat. 871-1078.

Nancy Margolis Gallery 367 Fore St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs 10 am-8 pm, Fri-Sat 10 am-9 pm and Sun 11 am-6 pm. 775-3822.

On Balance 4 Milk St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4:30 pm. 772-9812.

Perfetto's Restaurant 28 Exchange St. Portland. "Almost Edible," paintings by Kate Merrick, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sun 11 am-11 pm. 828-0001.

Pilgrimage 441 Congress St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. 772-1508.

Pine Tree Shop and Bayview Gallery 75 Market St. Portland. Hours: Mon-Tues 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Wed-Sat 9:30 am-8 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 773-3007.

Portland Coffee Roasting Co. 111 Commercial St. Portland. Photographs by Norm Hersom show through Jan 25. Hours: daily 6:30 am-5:30 pm. 761-9525.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Sq. Portland. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs 10-9, Sun 12-5. Admission: \$6 adults/\$5 students and seniors/\$1 youth 6-12 years. Museum admission is free 10-noon the first Saturday of the month and 5-9 every Thursday evening. 773-ARTS or 1-800-639-4067.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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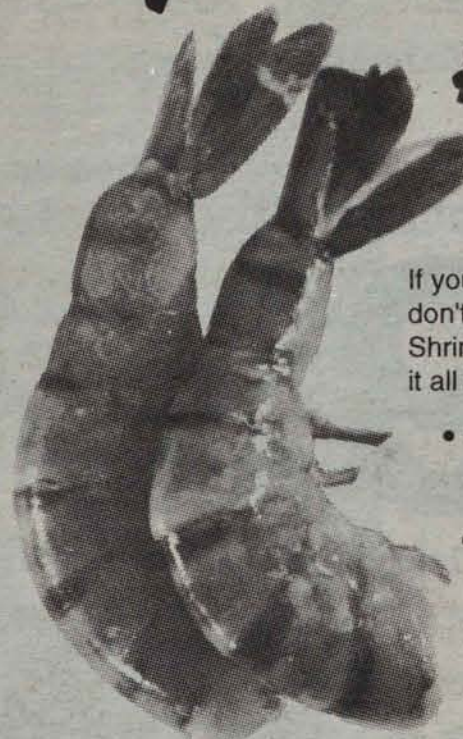
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ROSIE'S. 11am-1am. Full Bar. Free Popcorn. Dart Room. 5 page menu. Sandwiches, pizza, burgers, calzone, dinners and appetizers. Daily special board. Visa, MC, Amex accepted. 330 Fore St., Portland, 772-5656.

RUSKI'S. Breakfast all day, 7 a.m.-1 a.m. Daily lunch and dinner specials. Daily happy hour 4-7 p.m. beer and drink specials. Six page menu. Breakfast, lunch and dinner... what a real neighborhood pub should be. MC, Visa accepted. 212 Danforth St. Portland, 774-7804.

SQUIRE MORGAN'S. Celebrate food! Home cooking with a dash of ethnic specialties, fresh seafood & fish. Of course, we still have our famous volcano wings, a wide variety of summer salads, homemade soups, rolls & fresh roast turkey. In the heart of the Old Port (in front of the Portland Regency Inn) 46 Market St., Portland, 774-5246.

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CHRISTINE'S DREAM. Come to the other side of the arterial for brunch. Offering a variety of breakfast items and non-smoking environment. MC and Visa accepted. Tuesday-Friday 7-2, weekend lunch, Saturday & Sunday 8-2. Parking. 41 Middle St. Portland, 774-2972.

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CHRISTINE'S DREAM. found at this cozy cafe on Upper Exchange St. Experience the Mocha that put Portland on the map. Cruise the internet at Portland's only Cyber Cafe. Serving lunch & dinner. 90 Exchange St., Portland, 879-6060.

FRIENDSHIP CAFE. Exceptional foods, Breakfast and Lunch served. Daily specials. Espresso, cappuccino. Located near Longfellow Square (where Good Egg was formerly located.) Portland's newest and freshest homemade meals! Open 5am-2pm Mon-Sat, 6:30-2 Sun. 703 Congress St., Portland, 871-5005.

PORT BAKE HOUSE. Take-out fresh baked pastries and great lunches. Summer seating on the deck. Soups with pizzaz, creative deli sandwiches and healthy salads. 205 Commercial St. Portland, 773-2217.

SPRING POINT CAFE. Lunch & dinner served everyday. Daily blackboard specials. Fresh ground round burgers, pizza & other crowd pleasers. Saturday and Sunday Brunch, 9am. At the end of Broadway, 175 Pickett St., South Portland, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., 7 days. Parking. Visa, MC, Amex. 787-4627.

VICTORY DELI & BAKE SHOP. Hearty breakfasts, mouth watering baked from scratch breads and pastries - freshly prepared soups, stews, salads, pasta and vegetarian specialties, delicious sandwiches. Beer & wine. Monument Square, 299 Forest Ave. and One Portland Square, MC/Visa accepted. 772-7299, 772-3913, 772-8186.

CARIBBEAN
FEDERAL SPICE. Home cooked Caribbean/Southwestern fare. Featuring heart smart selections. All items less than \$6! Everything available to go. Limited radius delivery 11:30-1:30 M-F. Hours M-Th 11-8, F-Sat 11-9, 225 Federal Street, Portland, 774-6404.

CHINESE
POLYNESIAN VILLAGE. Serving Polynesian and Cantonese cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. Exotic cocktails and daily lunch and dinner specials. Live weekend entertainment. Visa, MC, American Express, Diner's Club. Parking. 6, 152 Main St., Westbrook, 854-9188.

DESSERT
PATE A CHOUX. Portland's premiere dessert restaurant! Featuring hand-made desserts, seasonal specialties with coffee, tea & espresso drinks available. Weekend dessert specials. Delightful table service & take out. OPEN LATE! Holiday Hours: Tues-Thur, 11am-11pm, Fri, 11am-Midnight, Sat, 3:30pm-Midnight, Sun 12 noon-6pm. 25 Pearl Street, Portland, 773-3334.

DINER
BECKY'S ON HOBSON'S WHARF. Breakfast, lunch and now serving dinner Tuesday-Saturday evenings until 9pm. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 4am-9pm, Friday midnight-Saturday 9pm, Saturday midnight-Sunday 1pm, Monday 4am-2pm. Parking. 6390 Commercial St., Portland, 773-7070.

ECCLECTIC
BLACK TIE. 870 Broadway, South Portland. Discover South Portland's most interesting lunch spot! Featuring hearty soups and sandwiches, healthy salads, entrees and fantastic bakery items. Daily specials - always! Dine-in or take-out. Open Monday-Friday 7:30-3:00, 799-7119.

CAFE ALWAYS. 47 Middle St., 774-9399. Modern American Cuisine served Wednesday-Sunday evenings from 5pm. Join us for THE BEST OF CAFE ALWAYS as we celebrate our 10th anniversary with a selection of Chef Cheryl Lewis' favorite dishes from the past decade. Voted Most Romantic Restaurant by Casco Bay Weekly Reader's Poll. Free parking in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. CC, LL.

THE 11 BROWN STREET RESTAURANT. Creative dining in the heart of Portland's Art District. Only 75 steps from the Cumberland County Civic Center. Specializing in fresh seafood. Sports Bar, barbeques, business lunches. 11 Brown St., Portland, 780-1100. Visa, MC, AMEX. Parking.

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GREAT LOST BEAR. Full bar - now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu... sandwiches, soups, salads, platters. Lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodlarks area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking. 540 Forest Ave. Portland, 772-0300.

KATAHDIN. Daily Blue Plate Specials \$9.95 and unpretentious fare like Buckwheat Pasta, Homemade, Good Cookin'. Monday-Thursday 5:10 p.m., Friday & Saturday 5:11 p.m., Corner of Spring and High St. Portland.

PEPERES CAFE. Specializing in gourmet breakfasts, eclectic lunch menus, and tailored catering menus. Try us for tea-time 2-4pm weekdays. 14 Cumberland St., Westbrook, 856-6000.

TABITHA JEANS. American regional cuisine. Lunch and Dinner. Relaxed atmosphere. Full cocktail service. Pasta. Seafood. Grilled Entrees. Validated parking. 94 Free St. & V-MC-AMEX-DISC. 780-8966.

THE WEST SIDE CAFE. Offering fresh game and seafood, organic produce. Moderately priced entrees and a casual, comfortable ambiance. MC, Visa, AMEX accepted. Parking. Reservations suggested. 58 Pine St. Portland, 773-8223.

FRENCH
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GREEK
FREE STREET TAVERNA. Authentic Greek food. Family recipes and friendly atmosphere. First level: eatery/taverna. Second level: smoke free dining. NEW APPETIZER MENU and great weekend specials. Happy Holidays Happy Hour 2 for 1 drinks and drafts M-F 4-7pm. MC Visa accepted. 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

GOURMET TAKE-OUT
PORTLAND WINE & CHEESE. Delicious homemade soups and sandwiches, wines, champagnes and cheeses. Large selection of gourmet foods. Gift and picnic baskets. Party platters, catering and deliveries. MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 168 Middle St., Portland, 772-4647.

INDIAN
THE CLAY OVEN. Serving authentic Indian cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere. The most kebabs are cooked on a slow charcoal fire, while the curries are prepared with freshly ground herbs and spices. The Clay Oven has been opened by a group of professionals who run very successful Indian restaurants in Mass. & R.I. Serving 7 days 11-10. Accepting all major credit cards. 565 Congress St., Portland, 772-8767.

HIBOMBAY. Experience the enticing delicacies of Old Bombay. Hot sizzling kebabs, tasty curries, hot breads, savory soups and sauces. Hi Bombay serves all of your favorites. Open 11 am-10 pm, seven days. Visa, MC, Discover. One Pleasant St., Portland, 772-8767.

TANDOOR RESTAURANT. Step through our doors and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of old India. Serving authentically prepared chicken, lamb, seafood and vegetarian dishes. Seasoned as mild or hot as you like. Serving lunch & dinner. Take out available. Visa/MC/Discover. 88 Exchange St., Portland, 775-4259.

ITALIAN
FRESH MARKET PASTA. For the best homemade pastas and sauces in Portland. Open for lunch, dinner and late night dining. Italian wine and beers. Espresso, Cappuccino. Desserts. Bring the family! MC, Visa and Amex accepted. 43 Exchange St. 60 Market St. Portland, 773-7146.

BAR-B-QUE
NORM'S BAR-BQ. Small chef owned BarBQ restaurant. Featuring Norm's wicked good sauce, 3 types of ribs, fried chicken, spicy black bean soup, homemade cornbread and daily specials. Now serving beer and wine. Hours: Mon. & Tues. closed, Wed. & Thurs. 12:10, Fri. & Sat. 12:12, Sun. 3-9. 774-6711, 43 Middle St., Portland.

UPTOWN BARBEQUE BILLY'S. The Best Barbeque in the Universe is back! We've moved uptown and brought Elvis with us. The Best Steak in town, legendary ribs, sausage, chicken and beef, cornbread better than your Mama's, deluxe macaroni & cheese, vegetarian dishes and all sorts of other fixin's. Full bar (including piano). Serving Mon-Sat, Lunch 11:30-3:30, Dinner 4:30-close. 1 Forest Ave (just off Congress) Free parking in lot next door (w/dinner) 780-0141.

MEXICAN
MARGARITAS. Specializing in delicious "hand-made" southern California style Mexican appetizers and dinners, served in overly generous portions! Join us for Happy Hour every weekday from 4-7 p.m., with FREE appetizers, \$1.95 for a 22 oz. draft beer and other good stuff! There's also 2 for 1 drinks, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. 242 St. John St., Union Station Plaza, Portland. Open at 4 p.m. daily. 874-6444.

TORTILLA FLAT. Seventeen years of serving fine Mexican cuisine. Just minutes from downtown Portland. A memorable Mexican experience you can afford anytime. Outdoor screened in deck. Parking. Visa, M/C, Discover. 187 Forest Ave. Portland, 797-8729.

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MESA VERDE. We are what we eat so we serve only the finest, freshest natural foods. Flavorful, healthy Mexican dishes. Daily vegan and vegetarian specials. Drink to your health at our juice bar. Happy Hour Mon-Fri 2:30-5:00. Fresh juices, fruit shakes, smoothies, juice combinations come see what Portland's first and only juice bar is all about. Casual atmosphere. Serving lunch & dinner. Take out available. 618 Congress Street (across from the State Theatre) 774-6089.

NATURAL FOODS
THE ROYAL CELLAR. Delicious Low Fat meals for a healthy lifestyle. Menu varies daily. Open weekdays 11am-4pm and Friday evenings 6pm-10pm. Please call 871-5700. 419 Congress St., Portland, Visa, MC, &

PUB
BEAVER. Daily specials and great burgers. Lunch 11:30-2:00 M-F. Dinner 5:00-8:00 Mon-Sun. Daily drink and beer specials. 769 Congress St., Portland, 773-9873.

RUSSIAN
RUSSIAN HOUSE / CAFE MOSCOW. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Serving borscht, soup of the day, homemade Russian dumpling soup, beef stroganoff with buckwheat pilaf, Armenian style chicken with rice pilaf, domes, delicious desserts. Parking. 803 Forest Avenue, Portland, 775-3668.

SEAFOOD
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SOUTH WESTERN
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THAI
BANGKOK CITY THAI & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT. Authentic Thai cuisine in our lovely town location. Relax in our traditional setting and try our house and seafood specialties, famous throughout New England. Free parking available. All major credit cards accepted. Gift Certificates available. One City Center, Portland, 772-1118.

THAI GARDEN RESTAURANT. Come revel amidst the enticing flavors of Thai cuisine. We offer a very diverse menu certain to please all palates. Seafood, vegetarian dishes, chicken, beef, pork, pad Thai, curries, and other exciting foods. Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week. Reasonably priced. Beer and wine available. Reservations recommended. 233 U.S. Route 1, Freeport, (across from Super 8 Motel) 865-6005. Gift Certificates Available.

The GREAT LOST BEAR
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The All-American Microbrew Showcase
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Thursday 1/4 Boston Beer Works, Boston MA. The dynamic and prolific brewers from the Fenway will finally make it to Maine.

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- Skier's Edge, Skier's Edge, Portland, Mt. Ararat & Kingsmouth
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

• **"After Art: Rethinking 150 Years of Photography"** A collection of over 200 photos through Jan. 14.

• **The Scott M. Black Collection** A sampling from Scott Black's 19th- and 20th-century paintings and sculptures.

• **"A Graphic Influence: Winslow Homer and Japonisme"** More than 30 prints show through Feb. 25.

• **"American Institute of Architects exhibition"** 32 entries with 5 award winners from the Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects 1995 Biennial Design Awards shows through Jan. 31.

• **"Twentieth-Century Sculpture"** Features 18 works showing the diversity of sculptural production in this century. Shows through March 31.

Portland Pottery 118 Washington Ave., Portland. Ongoing show of unique and functional ceramics and jewelry by Lisa Bonarigo, teachers and students. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6 pm, 772-4334.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Square, Portland. "Art from the Ice Age," a Maine humanities resources exhibit shows through Jan. 31 in the Lewis gallery, 5 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm, 871-1700.

Ruffin's Cafe Bookstore 555 Congress St., Portland. Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 8 am-5:30 pm, Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sun noon-5 pm, 761-3930.

Renaissance Antiques 221 Commercial St., Portland. Ongoing show of works by John Dehlinger, Wilder Oaks, Terry Wolf and other Maine artists. Hours: 10 am-7 pm daily, 879-0789.

SALT Gallery 17 Pine St., Portland. End of term exhibit featuring the work of SALT students shows through Feb. 15. Hours: Wed & Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm, 761-0660.

Sawyer Street Studios 131 Sawyer St., Portland. Hours: Thur 4-8 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am-6 pm, and by appointment, 767-7113.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 415 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Pastels on paper by Anne Bourassa and wood carvings by Ray Carbone show through March 9. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, 774-3791.

TP Perkins & Co. 6 Free Street, Portland. Primitive folk art by Annette Lacroix, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Thurs & Sat, 10 am-6 pm, Fri from 10 am-9 pm and Sun from 12-5 pm, 871-8299.

USM Art Gallery USM campus, Portland. "Parking Lots" by painter Michael Libby shows through Jan. 5. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7 am-10 pm, Fri 7 am-7 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm, 780-5008.

USM Osher Map Library 314 Forest Ave., Portland. "A Celebration of 175 Years of Maine Statehood" shows through Jan. 28. Hours: Wed 1-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Thurs & Sat from 9 am-12:30 pm, 760-4850.

The West Side Restaurant 58 Pine St., Portland. Paintings by Brian Currier show through Jan. 31, 773-8223.

Zuni Bar & Grill 21 Pleasant St., Portland. Paintings by Steven J. Priestley and mixed media on paper by Deborah Newberg, ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sun, 5 pm-10 pm, 774-5260.

other

Artists Apply Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, invites artists to submit work for one-month exhibition in the Lewis gallery, 871-1758.

"ATHENA: A Journal for Positive Women" seeks submissions of poetry, photography, short stories and drawings on the topic of spirituality, by women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by the Maine Women's Fund. Send submissions to: ATHENA, The AIDS Project, P.O. Box 5305, Portland ME 04101, 774-6877.

Danforth Gallery 34 Danforth St., Portland, seeks artists to participate in Corporate Art Loan Program. Please send 5-10 slides, resume and pricing information. Include SASE for return of slides, 775-6245.

Maine Women's Lobby calls for artists to submit original artwork for the 1996 women's history month poster. This year Maine Women's Lobby will honor the late U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith. Deadline for submissions is Jan. 16, 622-0851.

Open Slide Night The Union of Maine Visual Artists invites artists, craftspeople and anyone interested to attend an open slide night the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at Jay York Affordable Photo, 58 Wilmot St., Portland. Bring slides for discussion/feedback, 773-3434.

Portland Camera Club holds weekly meeting, Mon at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway, S. Portland. Monthly events include B&W, color print and color slide competition, 854-3763.

Portland Chamber of Commerce is looking for Maine artists to share their work, 772-2811, ext. 223.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square, Portland, seeks art education volunteers to start the winter training course. No special art history background is required. Applications accepted through December, 775-6148.

Pottery Classes for kids and adults offered at Sawyer Street Studios, S. Portland. Costs and times vary, 767-4394.

Randy Bean Fund Created in honor of longtime member of Maine Arts Sponsors Association (MASA) Randy Bean, to assist an artist in attending the annual MASA conference. Contributions may be sent to: The MASA Randy Bean Fund, P.O. Box 2352, Augusta, ME 04338, 626-3277.

smarts

Agape Center for Soul, Community and the Arts, 657 Congress St., Portland, offers lectures and workshops on various topics. Love offering, 781-1500.

Computer Know-How The Small Business Development Center at USM has two Lotus/IBM Learning Centers available to help people in business learn how to use Lotus 123, One-Write Plus and WordPerfect 5.1. Appointments available Mon-Fri, Free, 780-4949.

Computer Training Courses offered at Technology Training Center, 39 Darling Ave., S. Portland, 780-6765.

Intercultural Discussion Group meets Mondays, 7 pm, at the Center for Intercultural Education, 565 775-0547.

Internet Training Classes Internet Maine offers introductory and intermediate classes on how to use the net and HTML made easy every three weeks, at 449 Forest Ave., Portland, Cost: \$25, 780-0416.

Language Exchange 392 Fore St., Portland. Offers seminars and workshops on foreign languages, 772-0405.

Lesbian Fiction Writing Workshop beginning in January. Contact Joanne to join, 797-2856.

Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick, offers workshops on a regular basis. Jan 6: "The Personal Essay" with Deb Dalfonso, 10 am-3 pm, at Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq. Cost: \$55 (\$45 members). Limit: 15. Also on Jan 6: Poetry with William Carpenter, 11 am-4 pm at the Maine Writers Center, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Cost: \$55 (\$45 members). Limit: 10. Preregistration required, 729-6333.

Motion Society An educational organization of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and friends meets the second and fourth Thurs of the month from 7:30-9 pm. Dec 28: 1995 A Retrospective, 7-9 pm, at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Free, 761-4380.

Portland Laptop Users Group meets Mondays at 7:15 am at the Clark Associates Building, 2331 Congress St., Portland. Reservations and a laptop required, 775-1140 or 772-8666.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq., Portland. Winning entries from the 1994 New England Book Show will be on display in the Portland room through Dec. 30, 874-1758.

SCORE 66 Pearl St., Portland, holds small business workshops on a regular basis. SCORE also offers free individual counseling appointments daily. Nominal fee, 772-1147.

Internet Access at USM for small business owners. Explore how the Internet can help your business. Appointments are available Mon-Fri, Free but limited, 780-4949.

Waynflete Summer Camp & Job Fair An array of information on summer programs for kids, families and those seeking summer jobs, Jan. 10, at Waynflete School Gym, 360 Spring St., Portland, from 5-7 pm, 774-5721.

outdoors

Cross-Country Ski Lessons Brunswick Parks and Recreation Department offers x-country ski lessons for age 5 through adult. Classes will meet weekly, on Sat from 11 am-noon, beginning Jan. 13, for 6 weeks. Fee: \$12. Brunswick residents only, 725-6656.

Maine Audubon Society Glisland Farm, Falmouth. Jan 6: "Wildlife Tales," with storyteller Nancy Firth at the Falmouth Library, 5 Lunt Rd., at 9 am. Cost: \$4 (\$3 members), 781-2330.

Maine Outdoor Adventure Club Meetings are the first Wed of every month at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 524 Allen Ave., Portland, 828-0918.

H2Outfitters Open pool sessions, kayak polo, winter paddling series and more starting in January. Jan 12 & 14: Kayak polo. Cost: \$15, 833-5257.

Norumbega Outfitters 58 Fore St., Bldg 11, Portland, offers a variety of paddling and snow shoeing opportunities for people of all skill levels, 773-0910.

Ski Fest '96 a celebration of cross-country skiing across the U.S. Jan 7 will have events at Harris Farm in Dayton, Beech Ridge Farm in Scarborough and cross-country centers in Bethel. Call the Maine Nordic Ski Council for more info 1-800-SKIXME.

So. Me. Sea Kayaking Network People of all skill levels are invited to join the network for some paddling. Call 874-2640 for updates and membership information.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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BEST OF Portland 96

BEST PEOPLE ...

Best unsung hero _____
 Best TV personality _____
 Best radio DJ _____
 Best bartender _____
 Best writer _____
 Best visual artist _____
 Biggest loudmouth _____
 Local politician you trust most _____
 Local personality with most interesting hair _____
 Most effective citizen group _____

BEST FOOD & DRINK ...

Best breakfast joint _____
 Best lunch for \$5 or less _____
 Best dinner restaurant if you're down to your last \$10 _____
 Best dinner restaurant if money's no object _____
 Best new restaurant (opened after 1/1/95) _____
 Best free eats at happy hour _____
 Best coffee spot _____
 Best sidewalk food cart _____
 Best bakery _____
 Best desserts _____
 Best Maine microbrew _____
 Best pasta _____
 Best produce _____
 Best pizza _____
 Best burger _____
 Best fries _____
 Best fried clams _____
 Best bagel _____
 Best pad thai _____
 Best chocolate chip cookie _____
 Best vegetarian food _____
 Best chowder _____

BEST ENTERTAINMENT ...

Best event of 1995 _____
 Best Old Port bar _____
 Best neighborhood bar _____
 Best local band _____
 Best live music venue _____
 Best radio station _____
 Best place to rent a video _____
 Best theatrical production _____
 Best place to play pool _____
 Best place to play darts _____
 Best place to dance _____
 Best used bookstore _____
 Best tape/CD store _____
 Best movie theater _____
 Best place for a free date _____
 Best spot for people-watching _____
 Best jukebox _____
 Best sports experience _____

Who do you love? Now is your big chance to let us know about a few of your favorite things in Greater Portland. The procedure is quite simple: Fill out the categories you have an opinion about, then mail the ballot to the address below or drop it off at our Congress Street office.

Your nominees should be confined to people and places within our coverage area (roughly Brunswick to Windham to Old Orchard Beach). If you want to wax eloquent about your favorites, you can write your comments on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your ballot. We might use your comments when we write up the winners in our issue of March 14.

All entries must be in our hot little hands by 5 p.m. on Feb. 9. Vote early, but not often.

BEST SERVICES ...

Best bank _____
 Best bicycle shop _____
 Best laundromat _____
 Best antique shop _____
 Best tailor _____
 Best fishmonger _____
 Best jeweler _____
 Best place to get a haircut _____
 Best health food store _____
 Best corner store _____
 Best toy store _____
 Best florist _____
 Most honest garage _____
 Best use of taxpayers' money _____
 Worst abuse of taxpayers' money _____

BEST PLACES ...

Best place to get picked up/pick someone up _____
 Hippest place to be seen _____
 Best health club _____
 Best building _____
 Best place for a romantic dinner _____
 Best place to kill an hour _____
 Best Portland neighborhood _____
 Best place for a weekend getaway _____
 Best beach _____
 Best place to get married _____
 Best place to send out-of-town guests _____
 Best place to slack _____
 Best place to walk your dog _____
 Best company to work for _____

READER'S CHOICE ...

Did you think of something we overlooked? Here's your chance to create your own categories and answers.

Name: _____

City/town: _____

Daytime phone number (in case we have questions): _____

Casco Bay Weekly

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Best self-promotion Rob Elowitch is well-known around Portland as a leading art dealer and proprietor of the upscale Barridoff Gallery. He's just as well-known for his formerly "hidden" life as pro wrestler Robbie Ellis, who's grappled with the likes of Lord Herculon and Killer Kowalski. Elowitch's secret came out in the 1980s, when he wrestled in Portland and the daily paper had a field day with it. The story was later picked up by network news and *Sports Illustrated*. His paracareer has become a local legend, though the legend has gathered a bit of dust in recent years.

Not one to let a good legend go without dusting, Elowitch has put up a page with a brief chronicle of his career as ring beast. It's slim, but has lively graphics (designed by Darrell Taylor of Portland's EyeMagic) and a few choice photos. Especially appealing is the shot of Ellis soaring off the ropes to pounce on a hapless opponent. I look forward to downloadable video and audio clips in the future.

<http://www.biddeford.com/rob/>

Best cure for cabin fever in Caribou Forget the *Maine Times* "Weather Report." Serious weather junkies should link to Northern Maine Weather Watch, which is updated daily by one very obsessed amateur meteorologist in Caribou. Robert Lightbown, a University of Maine/Presque Isle student, uploads daily surface weather observations taken from his backyard at 5:30 a.m. (e.g., "Low for today, 8 — NEW RECORD!"), compiles monthly data, offers his own forecast for the next day, and spins links to other sites of interest to New England weather freaks. It's a serious page, but it's fun to browse — it makes winter in Portland seem much more humane.

<http://maine.maine.edu/~flight51/index.html>

Best reason to stop someone before they self-publish again Maine appears to be afflicted with marketers pushing the envelope of wretched grammar, poor usage and trite cliché in creating a plethora of online travel guides. You don't have to look far for examples, but I'd pick the Interactive Marketing Group out of the line-up as a leading criminal. Here's the lead-in paragraph from its online guide:

"There is no doubt Maine holds some secret that we may never know. Why is it that when one journeys the paths of Maine, it is forever in their hearts? If we could choose the location of this secret, it would be the rocky coastline of Acadia National Park. Yet it could as easily be nestled within the cultural festivals of Portland."

Want more? Head to: <http://www.maineinfo.com/travel/travel.html>

Best reason to keep self-publishing alive On the other hand, there's some great writing getting out to the public that would never have seen the light of day without the Web. Case in point: Last month the Cliff Island Web site published an article entitled "The Barn Burns." The story was a short, heartfelt and literate account of the burning of the Finest Kind Construction Company's five-story barn, written by an islander who was there. Color photos spiced up the page, but the well-chosen words did most of the heavy lifting. It appeared on the Web before the barn had even stopped smoldering.

The Cliff Island Web site was originally created to draw attention to the problem of the dwindling year-round population on the island. It's since become more than that — a small chronicle of life on a small island. Check it out.

<http://www.maineinfo.net/~cliffisle/>

Best exchange on a local BBS This, from the writers' forum of Falmouth OneNet: BBS member #1, inquiring about the word "whitiness" that appeared in a poem posted by BBS member #2: "Is that whitiness, as in colored white, or wittness, as in someone who saw it? It kind of matters."

BBS member #2: "As in someone who saw it."

BBS member #1: "You might want to unsend and fix the spelling, if you can ... it's hard to read this way. Should be 'wittness.' Normally, I don't care about speling; it's no big deal. Still, when it makes your poetry harder to read, it needs to be fixed."

Best idea for a new Web page How about a winter school closings page for the Greater Portland area? Parents could turn on, boot up and go back to sleep without having to endure the forced camaraderie of morning radio, or the nagging notion that they blinked when the name of their child's school flashed by on the TV screen. Any potential sponsors out there?

Contact me with other great ideas at curtis@maine.com.

■ WAYNE CURTIS

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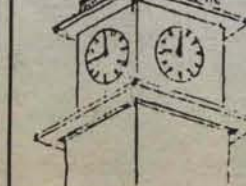
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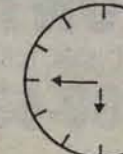
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

volunteer

AIFS Foundation seeks host families for foreign exchange students. Ages 15-18, students have at least three years of English, and will stay for 5-10 months. 1-800-322-4678.

American Red Cross 524 Forest Ave., Portland reminds you to give blood during the holiday season. Donating hours: Tues-Thurs noon-7 pm, Fri 9 am-4 pm, and every third Sat 8 am-2 pm. 775-2367.

Big Brother/Big Sister seeks volunteers age 18 and up, to spend time as an adult friend to an at-risk child. Commitment is for at least one year. 773-5437.

Building Materials Bank A non-profit organization providing household fixtures and appliances for low-income homeowners seeks donations of reusable materials. "Yard sales" are held every Saturday of the month — at 169 Lewiston Rd., Gray. 667-2957.

Cedars Nursing Care Center seeks volunteers to read stories, play games, go on outings, share a pet and otherwise enrich the life quality of residents. 772-5456.

CHOICES Program seeks women to be mentors for girls between the ages of 10-18. The commitment involves one meeting per month plus individual time with a "mentee." 874-1183.

Community Health Services seeks volunteers to file, photocopy, type and do other jobs around their offices. 775-7231.

Emergency Food Pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food items at various congregations in S. Portland and Cape Elizabeth. 799-3361.

Face the World is currently seeking families to host foreign exchange students for the 1995-1996 academic year. Students are age 16-18 and from countries such as Japan, Denmark and Brazil. 773-0658.

Family Opportunities Network Provides services, including parent support groups, life-skills workshops and free childcare during meetings to homeless and at-risk families. 772-5394.

Flag Disposal Used, torn or faded American flags that are out of service can be donated to the Libby-Mitchell Post #76 of the American Legion in Scarborough. 883-7815.

Free HIV/AIDS Presentations available for community groups through the American Red Cross. 874-1192.

Friends of the Maine Youth Center meets the 3rd Wed of the month at 7 pm, at the Maine Youth Center, Westbrook St., S. Portland. 822-0050.

Foster Grandparent Program seeks adults aged 60 and over to offer support and guidance for young parents and children. Benefits including liability insurance, bi-weekly stipend and an annual physical are available for seniors who join. 773-0202.

Greater Portland Landmarks seeks people to become "Portland's History Docents," volunteers equipped to work at Maine Historical Society, Tate House, Victoria Society and Greater Portland Landmarks. 774-5561.

Guide Blind Skiers Weekly and biweekly volunteers are needed to drive and/or guide blind and visually impaired skiers. Rewards of this service are free ski passes and some of the best times you've ever had skiing. Instructional clinics in Dec and Jan. Call Nancy Bennett at the Maine Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. 774-6273.

Help Stop Racial Violence Anyone wishing to help the Sherrer family of Starks, victims of a hate crime that destroyed their home, can send donations to: Friends International, P.O. Box 8506, Portland, ME, 04104. 775-0547.

Hospice of Maine volunteers provide non-medical assistance and support to the terminally ill and their families. 774-4417.

The Internal Revenue Service seeks volunteers to help prepare basic and federal tax returns and answer questions for people with limited or moderate incomes. Individuals with disabilities, non-English speaking and elderly taxpayers. Write to: IRS, Stop 6601, 68 Sewall St., Augusta ME 04330. 622-8328.

Literacy Program needs volunteers to work with 2-3 toddlers in a multi-lingual preschool environment at least 2 hours a week. 874-8242.

Maine Audubon Society seeks volunteers to fill several key positions at the Gilsland Farm Sanctuary. Cheerful, outgoing people who are available on weekends are needed. 781-2330.

Maine Poison Center is a preventative informational resource for families, staffed 24 hours a day for assistance. To receive an informational packet, including phone stickers, or get answers to questions about drugs or medications, call: 1-800-442-6305.

Medicare Cuts Seniors concerned about cuts in Medicare can call the Senior Coalition to get information about their options. 1-800-273-9009.

Pebble Street Resource Center Activities at 252 Oxford St., Portland, include community meetings Fri at 10 am; writers' group open to anyone Weds from 11-1 pm and art groups open to anyone feeling the urge for creative expression Tues at 11 am. 874-6560.

Racial Justice Committee seeks to determine how it can be helpful in addressing justice issues in the community and find groups to collaborate with. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm, at YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. 781-3898.

RDD Seeks Volunteers Resources for the Developmentally Disabled, a supported training and employment program, seeks donations to meet their fundraising goals. Send to: RDD, 66 Pearl St., Suite 212, Portland, Maine, 04101. 780-9575.

RSVP seeks volunteers age 55 and older to act as tour guides for the State of the Art Theatre, help high school kids with computer graphics, make crafts with kids and collect data for a crime analysis unit. 775-6503.

Salvation Army Coats For Kids Program Drop off coats at Shaws supermarkets. 774-6304.

Salvation Army Camp seeks donations to meet their fundraising goals. Send to: Salvation Army, Camp Sebago, P.O. Box 3647, Portland, ME, 04104.

Senior Companion Program Residents aged 60 and older in Cumberland County can help other adults maximize their independence and get involved with people in unique and supportive ways. 780-4205.

Sofa Safari A unique fundraiser for Visiting Nurse Service's education fund — call for an invitation to an imaginary trip. 1-800-660-4867.

Veterans Support Services seek "Angels" to help keep up their free support of Maine veterans and their families. Donate food, paper goods, money, or best of all, your time. 871-0911.

Volunteers Needed New England Rehabilitation Hospital seeks volunteers to assist with recreational activities for patients — play games, show movies, make craft projects and share your time with people in need. 775-4000, x622.

Youth Build Portland A community enrichment program designed to assist students obtain their G.E.D. and vocational training and provide low-income housing, seeks volunteers. Experience not necessary. 879-8710.

Youth Exchange seeks host families for cultural exchange students, ages 15-18, for a semester or a year. 1-800-848-2121.

health

Adult Health Clinic Visiting Nurse Service, 15 Industrial Park Rd., Saco, holds health clinics for adults on an ongoing basis. Screening includes blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, hemocults, tuberculosis testing, tetanus vaccination and routine foot care. Open to those 18 and older. 284-4566.

Adult Immunization Clinic sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Service and Hospice, the third Tuesday of every month from 1-4 pm at 50 Foden Rd., S. Portland. Offering TB skin tests, hepatitis B vaccine, measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine, tetanus/diphtheria vaccine, flu vaccine (seasonal) and pneumonia vaccine to adults age 18 and older. Next clinic: Jan 26. 780-8624.

Adult Screening Clinic on the last Wed of every month. Check blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol, from 11:30 am-1 pm, given by the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice at the Peoples United Methodist Church, 310 Broadway, S. Portland. Fee charged. 780-8624.

Agape Center for Soul, Community and the Arts, 657 Congress St., Portland. 780-1500.

Aikido A martial art used to increase flexibility, stamina and promote a sense of well-being. Class times and costs vary. Portland Aikido, 120 Woodford St., Portland. 772-1524.

Alliance for Mentally Ill of Greater Portland offers a support group for family members the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 7:30 pm, at 66 State St., Portland. 772-5057 or 800-464-5767.

Arthritis Foundation Aquatics Program A warm-water gentle exercise program for increasing range of motion is held Mon and Wed from 3-3:45 pm, at Sheraton Tara Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Rd., S. Portland. Cost: \$35 for 11 classes. 828-2497. Also Mon, Wed, Fri from 1:15-2:00 pm, at the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Cost: \$50 for 10 weeks. 874-1130.

Arthritis Programs Arthritis Foundation's Maine Chapter sponsors various programs including support groups, land exercise programs and warm-water aquatic exercise programs, as well as workshops for people with fibromyalgia. 773-0595.

Birthing Pregnancy Services 562 Congress St., Portland. Catholic Charities of Maine provides positive support to any woman and her family experiencing an untimely pregnancy. Services include: pregnancy testing, emotional support and post-abortion support. Free and confidential. 871-7464.

Brain Tumor Support Group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Guild Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 317 Congress St., Portland. 727-3556 or 934-0135.

Breastfeeding Center of Maine offers classes for moms at 101 State St., Portland, from 6:30-8 pm. 775-6455.

Caring and Sharing A cancer patients support group meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 9-11 am at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland. 879-3030.

Children's Health Clinic The Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice holds a Well Child Health Clinic the first Friday of every month at the South Portland Church of the Nazarene, 525 Highland Ave., S. Portland, from 8:30 am-12 pm. 767-3326.

Chronic Pain Support Group for persons experiencing life disruptions from long-term and persistent pain related to illness or injury, meets every other Thursday from 10-11:30 am at the United Methodist Church, Cape Elizabeth. 799-5881.

Concerned About Lead? To learn about lead and the risk it poses to your family, request a lead fact sheet prepared by the U Maine Cooperative Extension Service. 1-800-287-1471 or 780-4205. For information about childhood risk and screening, call 287-3259. Free to YMCA members, \$5 for others. Child care available on site for \$2.50. 874-1111.

Confidential STD Clinic The Portland Public Health Division sponsors a Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic, offering confidential, low-cost screening and treatment on a walk-in basis, Tues and Thurs from 3:30-5 pm at Portland City Hall, Room 303, 389 Congress St., Portland. Medicaid accepted. Anonymous and confidential HIV testing by appointment only. 874-8784.

Coping With Caregiving A support group for those caring for chronically ill/disabled persons meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month at noon, at Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland. 879-3486.

Crohn's and Colitis Support Group for adults will meet Jan 18 at Maine Medical Center, Dana Center Classroom #3, Portland, from 7-8:30 pm. 449-0324.

Free Family Therapy for individuals and families affected by HIV disease. 773-6658.

Free Health Clinic for testing of glaucoma, diabetes, and blood pressure. Nov 18, 10 am-3 pm, at the Holy Cross Parish Christmas Fair, Holy Cross School, 444 Broadway, So. Portland. 780-8624.

Free Weekly Meditations held Sundays from 6-7:30 pm, at the Yoga Center, 137 Preble Street, Portland. Sessions are based on the teachings of Dhyanyogi and Anandi Ma — no experience necessary, open to the public. 799-4449.

Golden School of Tai Chi Ch'uan 616 Congress St., Portland, holds classes in this martial art emphasizing health, meditation and self-defense through the integration of mind, body and spirit. 772-9039.

Guidance in Grieving Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice & the American Cancer Society hold a support group the second Mon of every month at 7:15 pm — at the Methodist Church, Elm St., S. Portland. Next meeting: Jan 8. 780-8624.

Hatha Yoga for People with AIDS every Wed from 12:50-2 pm at 22 Monument Square, Portland. Cost: \$1, for those who can afford it. 797-5684.

Healthy Heart Screening sponsored by Healthy Neighbors Heart Disease Prevention Program, the first Friday of every month, from 3:30-5 pm at City Hall, 389 Congress St., Portland. Cost: \$5. 874-8784.

Heartline Cardiac Rehabilitation Program is designed for individuals who have had a heart attack, angioplasty, bypass surgery, aneurysm or are at risk for heart disease. Classes are held Mondays at 7:30 am and 6 pm in the USM Sullivan Gym, 96 Falmouth St., Portland — with nurse-supervised exercise programs as well as nutrition, medication and risk factor information. Registration is ongoing. Medical clearance required. 780-4170.

HIV/AIDS Support Groups "People Living with HIV," meets Mon from 6:30-8 pm, Tues from 10:30 am-12 pm and Thurs from 5:30-7 pm at The AIDS Project, 142 High St., 6th Floor, (or during office hours, 615 Congress St.) Portland. "Living Well," focusing on quality of life and empowerment, meets the second and fourth Tues of the month. Also, the Client Advisory Board, open to all clients of the AIDS Project, meets the second Thurs of the month at 1:30 pm, at the AIDS Project. 774-6877.

Hospice of Maine volunteers provide non-medical assistance and support to the terminally ill and their families. 774-4417.

Hypothyroid Support Group meets Mondays at 7 pm in Portland. 761-9562.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation holds meetings the second Tuesday of every month at the Diabetes Center, 48 Gilman St., Portland, from 6:30-8:30 pm. 854-1810.

Maharishi Vedic School 575 Forest Ave., Portland. "Normalizing Blood Pressure with the Transcendental Meditation Program," a lecture on the health benefits of TM at 7 pm Jan 10. 774-1108.

Maine HIV Prevention Community Planning Group A mixture of at-risk individuals and professionals makes recommendations to the Bureau of Health regarding requests for and spending of federal grant monies. They are currently seeking people not usually found on recommending commitment to come forward. For applications and information, write to: Maine AIDS Plan, 112 State St., Augusta, ME, 04330. 622-2962.

Maine Medical Center Support Groups "Survivors of Suicide" meets the second and fourth Monday of every month; "Bereaved Parents" meets the second Thurs of every month and "SIDS Support Group" meets the second Tuesday of every month. All groups meet at 7 pm, at Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland. 871-4226.

Marymount AIDS Support Services trains volunteers to work one-on-one with people with AIDS, their families, partners and caregivers. 725-4955.

MNC Epilepsy Support Group at Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland. 871-4814.

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Do You Dream of Owning Your Own Home, But Need Some Help Getting Started?

The City of Portland, in conjunction with the Cumberland County Affordable Venture is offering a course on purchasing a home. This course is open to the public, free of charge and satisfies the requirements of a variety of special mortgage programs offered by the City (HomePort, Portlander), MSHA and area Banks.

The HOMEBUYER TRAINING COURSE consists of 4 classes to be held at Portland High School, Room 124, 6:30-8:30 PM on the following dates:

1. Tuesday, January 16, Class Topic: Preparing for Homeownership
2. Tuesday, January 23, Class Topic: Finding and Evaluating a Home
3. Tuesday, January 30, Class Topic: The Loan Process
4. Tuesday, February 6, Class Topic: Closing/Life as a Homeowner

Please call the City of Portland's Community Development office to register or for more information on upcoming classes also in March. 874-8300 ext. 8730
Free parking is available in the Elm Street Garage. Bring your ticket to class to be stamped.

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AND THE FIRST SHALL BE...

At the height of the Christmas season, we went to buy our
Christmas tree and did something I'm almost embarrassed to report.
We bought the first tree we looked at. It was beautiful. It was
perfect. Still, to buy the first tree! It was an act that could only
result in later tragedy, when we would look to discover the glaring
defect our temporarily diminished capacity had caused us to
overlook.

As we drove home, I kept thinking of the parallels to home
buyers, many of whom are paralyzed at the prospect of buying the first (or even the
second or third house) they see. To buy without extensive shopping would be the height
of irresponsibility, incurring the permanent ridicule of friends and family over their
atrocious blunder. Many first time buyers fear they will be making excuses into the next
millennium, claiming they were hypnotized into buying by aliens or were part of a local
university science experiment involving mind altering chemicals.

I'm not implying you should aim to buy the very first house you see but, I do see
buyers who find a house which meets their needs, fits their budget, and pulls at their
heartstrings but, are still not willing to buy because it's "too early" in their search. Then,
in the process of completing a more exhaustive home search, they watch their dream
house go to someone else. They spend the next weeks, months, or (it happens) years,
mourning what they missed and comparing everything to the one that got away.

Don't let this happen to you. If you fall in love with the very first home you see,
remember a few simple points. Houses are not computers, full of mysterious features like
RAM, ROM, buses, serial ports, megahertz, and worse. We've all been in hundreds of
houses—our own, our friend's, our family's. In short, unless you were raised by wolves in
a remote Alaskan cave and have only recently considered other housing, by the time you
see the "first" house, chances are you've read dozens of ads, been to several open houses,
and driven by dozens more. You know what you like and what you need.

The question then becomes, how can you know what to offer? There's always the
option of calling your psychic but, if you truly have no sense of market value, there are
several, more reasonable, steps to take. Tell your broker you've found "the one," but
need to do some quick comparison shopping. Have him show you three or four of the
most comparable houses on the market, and ask that they be well-priced (i.e. priced very
close to where they'll sell.) Ask for data on recently sold "comparable" homes and use
those sale prices as the basis for your offer. If you are working with a buyer's agent, he
or she will prepare a Comparative Market Analysis of comparable sold properties provid-
ing a professional opinion of the value of the home you want to buy.

So, go ahead. Buy the first house you see. It will make me feel a lot better about my
Christmas tree folly.

roommates

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apts/rent

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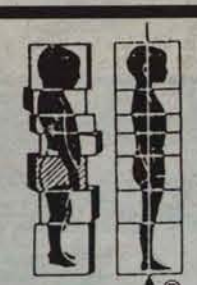
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Cape. Garage, in-ground pool and hot tub.
\$275/mo. +1/3 utilities. 725-0172.

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