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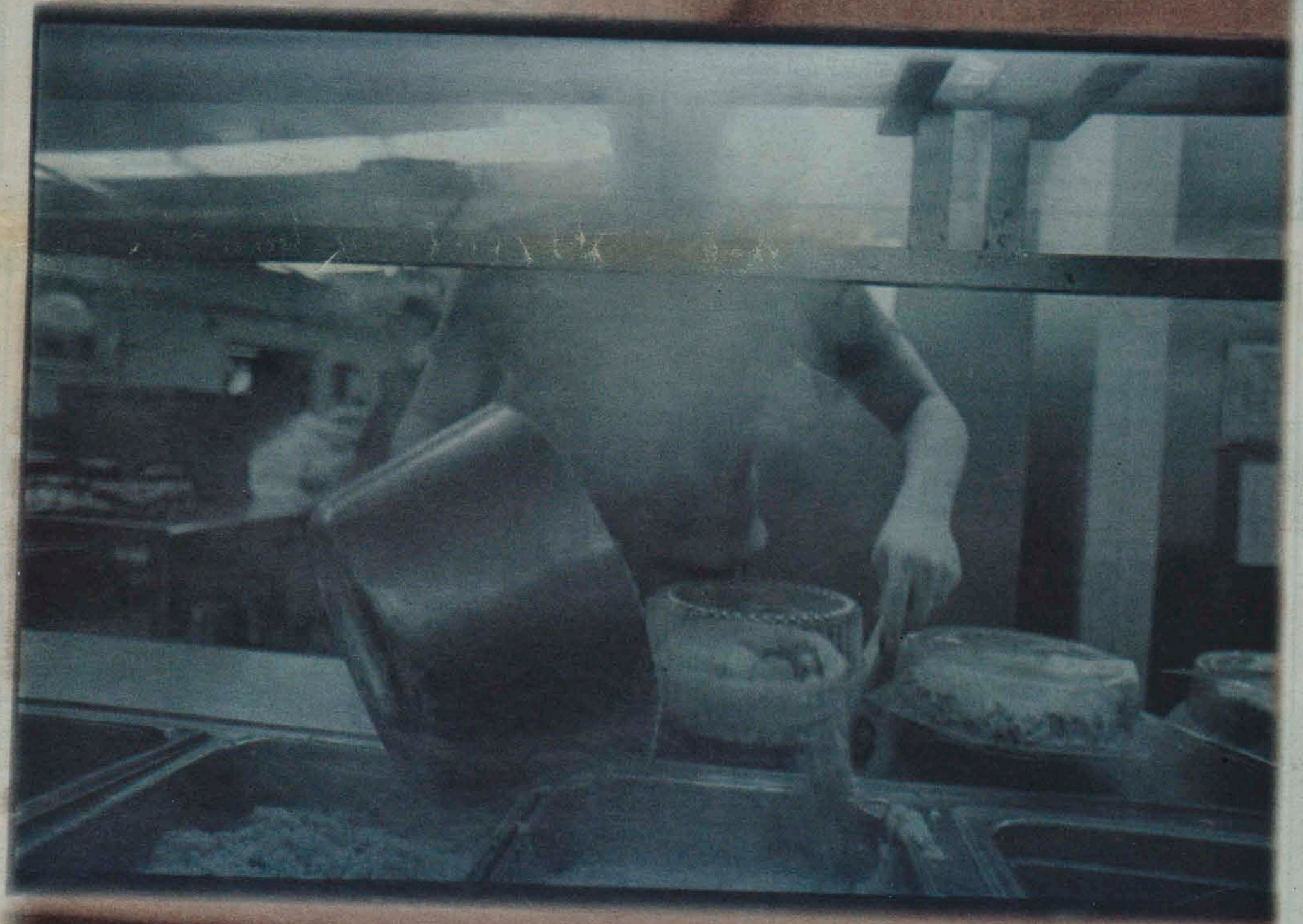
JAN 7, 1999

VOLUNTEER

i s s u e

**"IF I CAN FEED THEM, I CAN
HELP GET THEIR MINDS OFF
HUNGER. SO THEY CAN THINK
ABOUT HOW TO GET OUT OF THE
SHELTER AND INTO A JOB."**

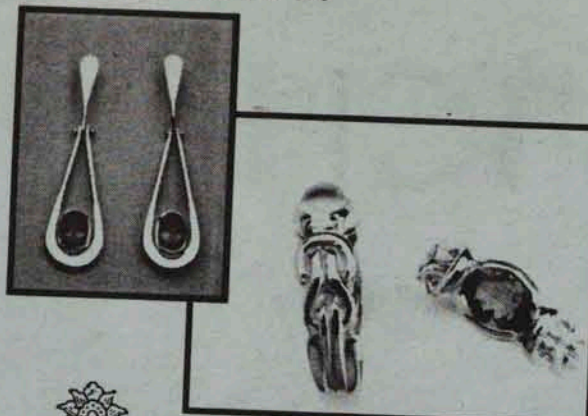
— Shannon Browning,
Preble Street Resource Center, soup kitchen volunteer



LISTINGS OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
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A CONVERSATION WITH

TALK

JOHN NICHOLS



"I'd rather be known as the voice of the rich. Unfortunately, I'm not in a position to do that. I'm more a voice for the congenitally irritated."

Sort of a poet in motion, John Nichols is a veteran Portland cab driver who doubles as a playwright. Nichols helped create the Stone Pinhead Ensemble in 1992 and has since written five plays under the pseudonym J.T. (lest he be confused with the author of "The Milagro Beanfield War").

So how does a cab driver become a playwright?

Well, I'd seen quite a few plays I just wasn't exactly awestruck over. And there were a bunch of us doing a Shakespeare play for another company, and we talked about how it would be nice to start a theater company with no prima donnas. And so, 'Why don't we start one?' And I just happened to write a play on a dare just before that. 'Porktown' was the name of that one, and it was a big hit around here.

Do taxi drivers and playwrights have anything in common?

Bitterness at the status quo, I suppose. Taxi drivers are humorous — they're humorously bitter. They usually make a joke out of everything. I think playwrights are pretty much the same way. You write about things that irritate you. Most of the plays I've written started off with something that made me angry. The last one, 'Harold Be Thy Name,'

was about the murder of Pope John Paul I. If you do any research on that, it was pretty obvious the guy was offed.

Speaking of being irritated, has anyone ever shouted to you, 'A taxi, a taxi, my kingdom for a taxi!'

I'm sure that's been said. It'll probably be said many times [on New Year's Eve]. But I drive days. I drove nights but there are just too many belligerent drunks out there to try and keep an even keel mentally. I think most night taxi drivers eventually go on killing sprees or commit suicide. If they haven't, they should.

But [driving a taxi] is a practical way to get to know a city, and it's a good way to get to know how to drive. Which is why I started cab driving.

I got my license really late in life. And I passed it because I was wearing [a security firm] uniform. The guy thought I was a cop. He gave me three chances to parallel park. So after I got my license, I thought, 'Well, I'd better learn how to drive now.' So I became a cab driver and found out I liked it a lot better than working at Bean's or something like that.

Interview by Allen Dammann; photo by Gary Green



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- Ciboletto Twins, "Milk & Kisses"
- Siouxsie & the Banshees, "Rapture"
- Björk, "Debut"

WHAT WE LISTENED TO THIS WEEK

AAN **VERIFIED**

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Road hawg

The Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) is currently less popular than most major diseases. Even so, those illnesses will have long since been cured before the authority is abolished or merged with the state Department of Transportation (DOT). That's because the MTA contains a poison pill that makes it nearly impossible for it to be swallowed up.

The turnpike authority operates in an odd little corner of government, just beyond anyone's control. Its five members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate. But once they're in office, there's little to stop them if they feel like pulling wheelies in the center strip.

Which is the automotive equivalent of what the authority did on Nov. 24. It raised tolls on the pike by an average of 25 percent to pay for \$128 million in improvements to the roadway. But it wasn't the rate hike that annoyed drivers and politicians. That had been expected. What ground so many people's gears was the MTA's decision to keep the details of the increase a secret until after the vote. "I think it would be a great disservice to the greater public good if one small minority were given the time to make a huge issue about how it affects them," authority chairman Julian "I Know What's Best for You Cretins" Coles told the *Portland Press Herald*.

Coles and his fellow pike overseers didn't want nasty special interest groups — such as commuters, truckers, tourists and regular drivers — practicing such anarchistic activities as engaging in free speech and petitioning their government. Never mind that some of these interest groups might have had a valid criticism or a useful suggestion. Never mind that the state's right-to-know law requires even unelected bodies like the turnpike authority to open up their records. Never mind that pulling a fast one behind closed doors is an excellent way to make yourself hated.

"The public has not been interested in this issue from our vantage point as a board," Coles said. "They haven't come in droves to the public meetings we've had."

Which, under the turnpike authority's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution, absolved the group of any responsibility to act in a democratic fashion.

Predictably, such arrogance has led to calls for the abolition of the MTA. Legislation has already been introduced to turn the pike's operation over to the transportation department. "I think that's where the discussion is going to go," House Republican leader Tom Murphy told the *Press Herald*. "I'm increasingly coming to the conclusion that DOT uses its dollars more efficiently than the turnpike authority."

Gov. Angus King is on record as viewing that idea favorably. "I'm not fully convinced we need a separate bureaucracy to maintain 100 miles of road," King said during a TV debate in October.

If any other state agency were taking this kind of political tar-and-feathering, it would be putting the pedal to the metal on its public relations machine. But the MTA is not any other state agency. It doesn't care if it's hated. It doesn't care if it's threatened. It just doesn't care.

That's because, unlike the transportation department, the authority controls its own revenues. It doesn't need permission from the governor, the Legislature or the public to raise money. And even though legislators have occasionally raided the pike's toll revenues to cover budget shortfalls, the MTA has another, equally important source of funding, one that not only assures the pike board's financial independence, but makes it all but impossible to abolish the authority.

The turnpike can issue its own bonds. It currently has about \$160 million worth floating around. If the state should take over the MTA, those notes would be added to the state's debt. That kind of increase in Maine's borrowing would likely hurt the state's bond rating, thereby forcing up the interest rate that would have to be paid on any new bonds. Not only could that wipe out any savings from eliminating the turnpike authority, it would likely require additional tax dollars to cover the costs.

No wonder the MTA isn't worried about road rage. The governor, legislators and the public can fume when the pike overseers cut them off, but there's little they can do, except watch the authority speed down the road it controls with its arm extended out the window in a single-digit salute.

Your number or your name

We should have expected this. Faithful reader Ted Ruark e-mailed us with some urgent news:

"Since you're bound and determined to 'rearrange' the letters of other people's names, how about 'rearranging' your own. I get at least the following: A MAD LION, O LAID MAN and MAID LOAN."

We may be a rabid lion, but Ted Ruark is a RUDER KAT.

Rudeness, of course, is one of our favorite personality traits. Mail your impolite thoughts to this column, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Or e-mail ishmaelia@gwi.net with breaches of etiquette.

politics & other mistakes



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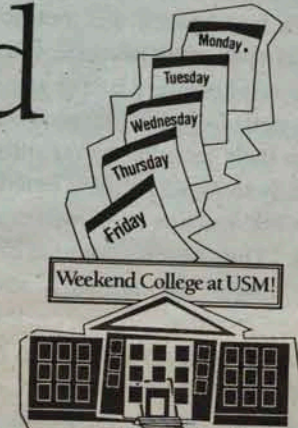
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Correct me if I'm wrong

Some copy editor over at the *Portland Press Herald* must have been very embarrassed when the letter from reader Walter J. Klein of Brunswick came in. "I'm glad that columnist Meikie Jenness wandered into 'a stationary store in downtown Portland,'" wrote Klein, referring to a "Forum" column that ran on the paper's op-ed page Dec. 10. "Entering a moving store could have been dangerous."

"Can't your copy editors do better? Not only was 'stationary' misspelled in the lead paragraph but also in the 6-column-wide headline."

The error Klein caught is what I used to call a "spellcheck mistake" when I was an editor. You see them all the time in the *Press Herald* (a recent photo caption referred to a man selling shish kebabs on a Baghdad street as "a meet vendor"), and in more careful papers, too — including this one. Too often, when a sharp-eyed copy editor calls a young or inexperienced writer's attention to a misspelled word, he or she whines, "But I ran the spellcheck!"

The practice of relying on how Microsoft programmers think words should be spelled rather than reading for sense can result in some amusing mistakes. Some are simply homophones, like the ones cited above. Others are stranger. A former CBW listings editor once handed me a description he had written of a Hanukkah event. The paragraph promised the celebration would feature "latches and dirdls."

"What are you, nuts?" I asked him. Sheepishly, the goyish Midwesterner replied he had typed in "latkes and dreidels," just like the press release said, then run the spellcheck. When his computer program didn't recognize the Yiddish imports, he simply hit the "change" button. So what if the result made no sense?

I'm happy to say most of these bonehead errors don't make it into print at CBW, although more than enough certainly do. But it's easy to pick apart the *Press Herald*, with its thousands of column inches per week, and find a plethora of such mistakes, as well as more fundamental flaws in grammatical structure and sense. Considering the size of the editorial staff over there, the amount of junk that gets through is amazing.

Movie critic Marty Meltz's column usually looks like it never met a copy editor. Summarizing the plot of the French film "La Séparation," he wrote: "A menage a trois slowly eats away at a married couple's relationship, as she openly announces that she has a lover and he, the husband, tries to abide by the threat." Hunh? Meltz on "You've Got Mail": "The two adversaries will discover that they have been, unknowingly, two people who have been regularly chatting in cyberspace." Or on "Patch Adams": "... the film daringly lets loose with brazenly sentimentalism guaranteed to put off film critics." Meltz's prose, in its turn, is guaranteed to put off media critics.

The *Press Herald's* weather page is another sure source of English that would make E.B. White cringe. "Pines baring wet weight randomly rained dollops of snow puffs that silently disappeared into whited-out surroundings," wrote Leonard Mattos in a typical "On the Bay" entry Dec. 23.

All this might sound like nitpicking. But I cling to the old-fashioned idea that precision of language leads to precision of thought. And the lack of precision of thought on the *Press Herald's* editorial page was glaringly evident Christmas Day.

"A lowly birth changed the world forever after," read the headline on the lead editorial. "The hope and promise of the first Christmas is for everyone." Hmm, I thought, that's some pretty blatantly Christian rhetoric for a newspaper that likes to paint itself as inclusive and multicultural.

When I read on, it got worse. "It was around this date nearly 2,000 years ago that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary in a stable at Bethlehem, about 9.7 kilometers (6 miles) south of Jerusalem. Those are the stark facts of the birth of one who came into the world under meager circumstances, and changed it forever."

The stark facts? I don't think so. First of all, the gospel of Luke (quoted on the same page that day) disagrees in some key ways with the gospel of Matthew on the circumstances of Christ's birth and childhood. More important, hosts of Christian scholars have agreed for years that the motivation behind these gospel stories was evangelical, and it is extremely unlikely either account is based on what historians — or journalists — of today would consider "reliable sources." The familiar narratives are acknowledged by many devout and learned Christians to be, in modern terms, religious propaganda.

For Portland's daily newspaper to present the Christian gospels as "stark facts" to its audience — filled as it is with Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, atheists, agnostics, pagans and Wiccans — is sloppy thinking indeed. To dress the Christmas story in pseudoscientific language ("about 9.7 kilometers") is ludicrous.

But from people who run things on spellcheck, it's not that surprising.

Send tips for this column c/o CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland 04101, or via e-mail to goodyear@gwi.net.

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Portland City Councilor Karen Geraghty's Waterfront Task Force has completed months of work, during which the group delved into every aspect of the question before it: Does anyone remember what we're supposed to be doing? On Jan. 4, the committee released a preliminary report, which concluded the city could greatly improve its waterfront by hiring a consultant. "Mostly, what we tried to do," said Geraghty, "is to try to create a vision with the residents of the city of Portland." Meanwhile, **Bath Iron Works** was busy announcing it would not exercise its option to buy the property it currently leases from the city, opening eight acres on the eastern end of the harbor for new uses, such as docking cruise ships or building new housing for consultants. City officials say the site won't be turned over to developers to become hotels or a convention center, but City Hall has yet to reach a consensus on what else to do with the land. Nor are our municipal leaders up to speed on where they'll come up with the \$20 million or so it's going to cost to do whatever it is they haven't yet decided to do. As if all that weren't enough, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Boothbay Harbor is looking for a new location, and Portland is trying to lure it to the waterfront as part of the Gulf of Maine Aquarium complex, which, at last report, didn't exist.

news-o-rama

Is this the bitter end for the Bitter End? Portland police are recommending the City Council refuse to renew the liquor license for the Fore Street club because of an increase in fights and disturbances, several liquor-law violations and incidents involving Bitter End owner Scot Orchow. A public hearing on the matter is scheduled for Jan. 20, although Orchow is asking to have it moved to a later date. The cops say Orchow was twice found drunk in his bar and told to leave. He was fined for one of those violations, in which he was discovered to have returned to the establishment after he thought the officers had left. In the other case, Orchow was involved in a disturbance outside the bar. The police report describes him as "out of control while his employees tried to restrain him." He refused to leave, allegedly telling officers he could do whatever he wanted. Orchow said he's "actually quite nervous about the situation," claiming the threat to his license is the result of "a personal vendetta" by city lawyer Gary Wood and "a couple of made-up reports." He admitted getting into fights outside his establishment, but only to break them up. "I have a right to protect my own bar," he said. He denied he had an alcohol problem, although the police report said he was arrested for drunk driving in July and his driver's license has been suspended. "The police think in the last six months the bar has gone to hell," he said. "But my business has tripled in the last six months. I've had 12 fights in a year and done half a million dollars." **CBW**

CITY

Shut up!

Neighbors say noise is increasing at the Portland International Jetport, but management can't hear their complaints



PHOTO / STEPHEN DEMETRIOU

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/JEFFREY P. CLIFFORD

CONNIE PACILLO

Diane Worthington says noise from planes flying over her house in Portland's West End is often so loud, she's afraid the vibrations will shatter her china. Despite her complaints, Worthington says Portland International Jetport officials have done nothing to alleviate the growing problem. "They've ignored the problem and they

want it to go away," she said. "They're very polite, they're well-trained to listen to you, but I don't think they're taking it seriously."

Worthington may be right.

In 1997, the Jetport received 31 noise complaints, but by the end of 1998 that number had increased to 127, though daily scheduled flights remained steady at 142.

And while jetport officials say they're doing what they can to keep noise down, they admit that recent changes in personnel have stymied their best efforts. "We have one of the smallest staffs in the country for an airport this size," said Jeff Monroe, Portland's director of transportation.

That answer isn't convincing people who live near the Jetport. Patrick Murphy, a member of the Western Promenade Neighborhood Association, said community dissatisfaction with the airport is on the rise because present Jetport management have reneged on a noise abatement agreement that had been in place since 1989.

According to Murphy, the deal calls for Jetport officials to tell pilots to use the east-west runway — which is farther away from residential areas — whenever possible, and fly only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Pilots were directed to take off in various directions to more evenly distribute noise throughout surrounding communities. Incoming planes were supposed to fly in over Portland Harbor, instead of densely populated residential areas. Under former transportation director Tom Valteau — who stepped down in 1998 — neighborhood "relations were much closer," Murphy said. "They understood the fine line between providing airport service and an airport in the middle of the city."

Jetport manager Jeff Schultes said he's frustrated by the perception that he and his staff are doing nothing to lower excess noise. Schultes said the Jetport continues to operate in the spirit of the 1989 agreement. "We here in this office are very concerned with noise and we want to work with the neighbors," he said. The upswing in complaints "told us something happened and that maybe the control tower was giving wrong information to pilots or pilots were not following procedures."

In an effort to alleviate the problem, Schultes said, he sent a letter along with navigation packets to each pilot, commercial airline manager and control tower personnel, reminding them of current noise procedures.

Still, Schultes said, he's aware that not everyone complies with the recommendations. "It's a continual education process," he said. "We're doing as much as we can, but we're not stopping. We could just say forget it, but no, we're continually trying to get the word out."

Murphy said communication may be a priority for Schultes, but said that spirit of openness hasn't extended to the Jetport manager's treatment of neighborhood groups. Murphy said Schultes was invited to an Oct. 14 meeting, but did not show up. Frustrated neighbors sent Schultes a letter Nov. 2, outlining concerns that had been raised at the meeting. "If necessary, we will pursue this issue directly with our elected representatives if we do not see adequate attention to our concerns," the letter states, but the Western Prom neighbors have yet to hear anything in response from the Jetport.

"Relations between the neighborhoods and the airport is almost to the point of severe antagonism," Murphy said. "They have yet to reach out and communicate with the people."

Cyrus Hagge, a Portland Planning Board member and a member of the noise committee set up by the Portland City Council, said the feedback he's received about recent noise problems, ranging from curfew violations to flying too low over residential areas, are the result of Jetport personnel turnover. Hagge argued the disturbances stem from the management transition from Valteau to Monroe. "I think Jeff Schultes and the new transportation director fell asleep at the switch this summer," Hagge said. "And ... things just got forgotten."

Schultes admits a staff shortage has hindered his ability to address neighbors' concerns as comprehensively as in the past. After assistant manager David Ishihara left last year, Schultes said, the noise problem received less attention. He said he expects community relations to improve when Ishihara's spot is filled in mid-January. "We do care," he said. "The problem is, with a small staff, if you lose one of your staff, you can't spend as much time on things. We're still spending a lot of time, but you can't spend as much time."

Monroe said he knows there has been frustration all around and he "can understand why they feel a bit of a [communication] gap." He said filling the assistant manager post, along with bringing on a new assistant operations manager, should help bring the number of complaints down. "Rounding out staff is going to be critical for us," Monroe said. "I feel really bad that we didn't communicate well, and I apologize to the community. It should have happened and I'm going to correct that."

But neighbors bothered by the Jetport noise say they're not about to sit back and wait for Monroe or Schultes to fulfill promises to do a better job. The group's current strategy is simple: Complain often so Jetport officials know they're there, they're concerned and they expect change. "The squeaky wheel gets the oil," Hagge said, "and we're going to be all over their case for the next couple of years until it quiets down." **CBW**

loose change

Here are some numbers, collected with frigid fingers by CBW's shivering staff.

Number of letters received at CBW in December from Amnesty International supporters in Scandinavia complaining about conditions at the Maine Youth Center in South Portland: 15

Number of people convicted of drunk driving in Maine, 1988-98: 50,985
Number convicted more than once: 10,783
Number convicted more than twice: 2,267

Least expensive hospitals in Maine, according to a study by Data Advantage Corp. of Louisville, Ky.:

1. Charles A. Dean Memorial, Greenville
2. St. Joseph's, Bangor
3. Stephens Memorial, Norway
4. Franklin Memorial, Farmington
5. Mercy, Portland

Most expensive:

1. Arnostook Medical Center, Presque Isle
2. St. Mary's Regional Medical Center, Lewiston

Number of white-water rafting customers in Maine:

- 1985: 44,540
- 1995: 80,337
- 1996: 79,569
- 1997: 76,806
- 1998: 81,314

Average hourly wage for manufacturing jobs in Greater Portland:

- 1995: \$11.02
- 1996: \$11.22
- 1997: \$11.10

Value of Maine products exported to Europe:

- 1995: \$189 million
- 1996: \$279 million
- 1997: \$304 million

Value of European investment in Maine:

- 1995: \$1.3 billion
- 1996: \$1.4 billion
- 1997: \$1.3 billion

Value of Maine products exported to Quebec:

- 1995: \$222 million
- 1996: \$212 million
- 1997: \$250 million

Value of Quebec products imported into Maine:

- 1995: \$373 million
- 1996: \$368 million
- 1997: \$440 million

Number of Furbys sold at Wal-Mart in Scarborough in 1998: 216

Number of fur coats cleaned by Crystal Cleaners in Falmouth in 1998: 400

"Poverty, of course, is no disgrace," wrote William Pitt, "but it is damned annoying." Annoy people by sending their financial records to CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or e-mail editor@cbw.maine.com, and disgrace somebody.

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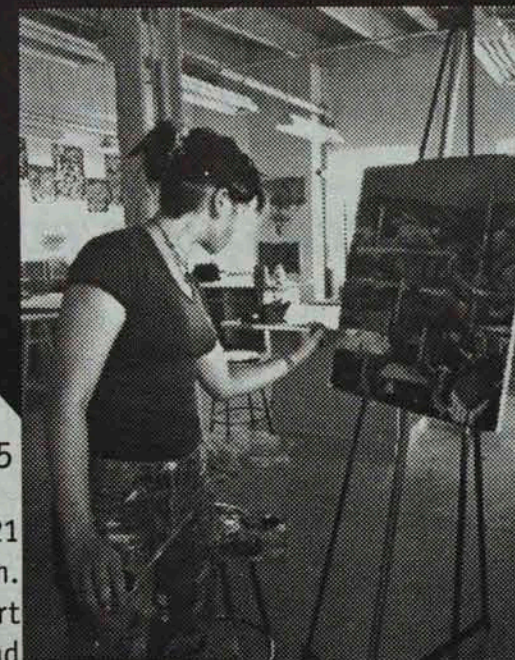
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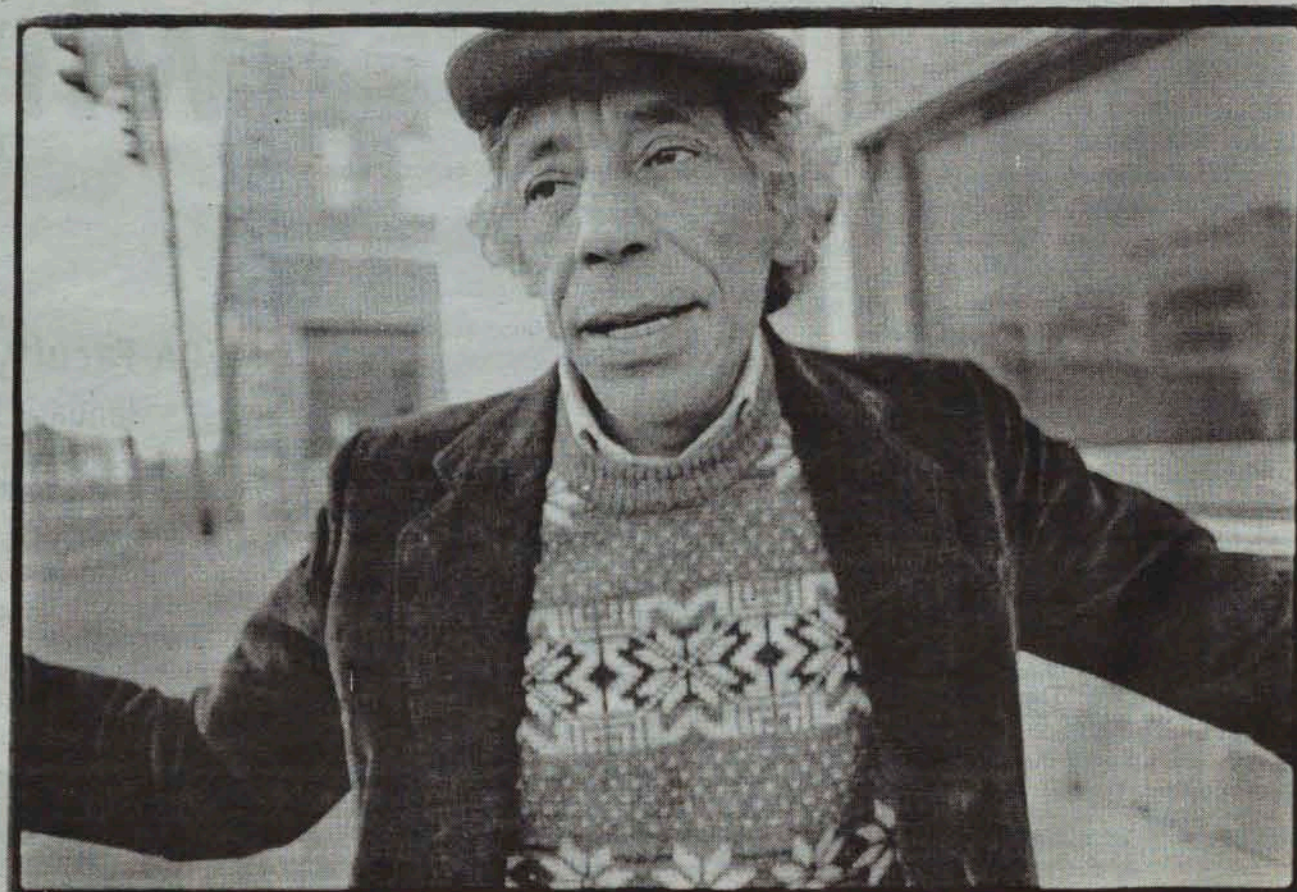
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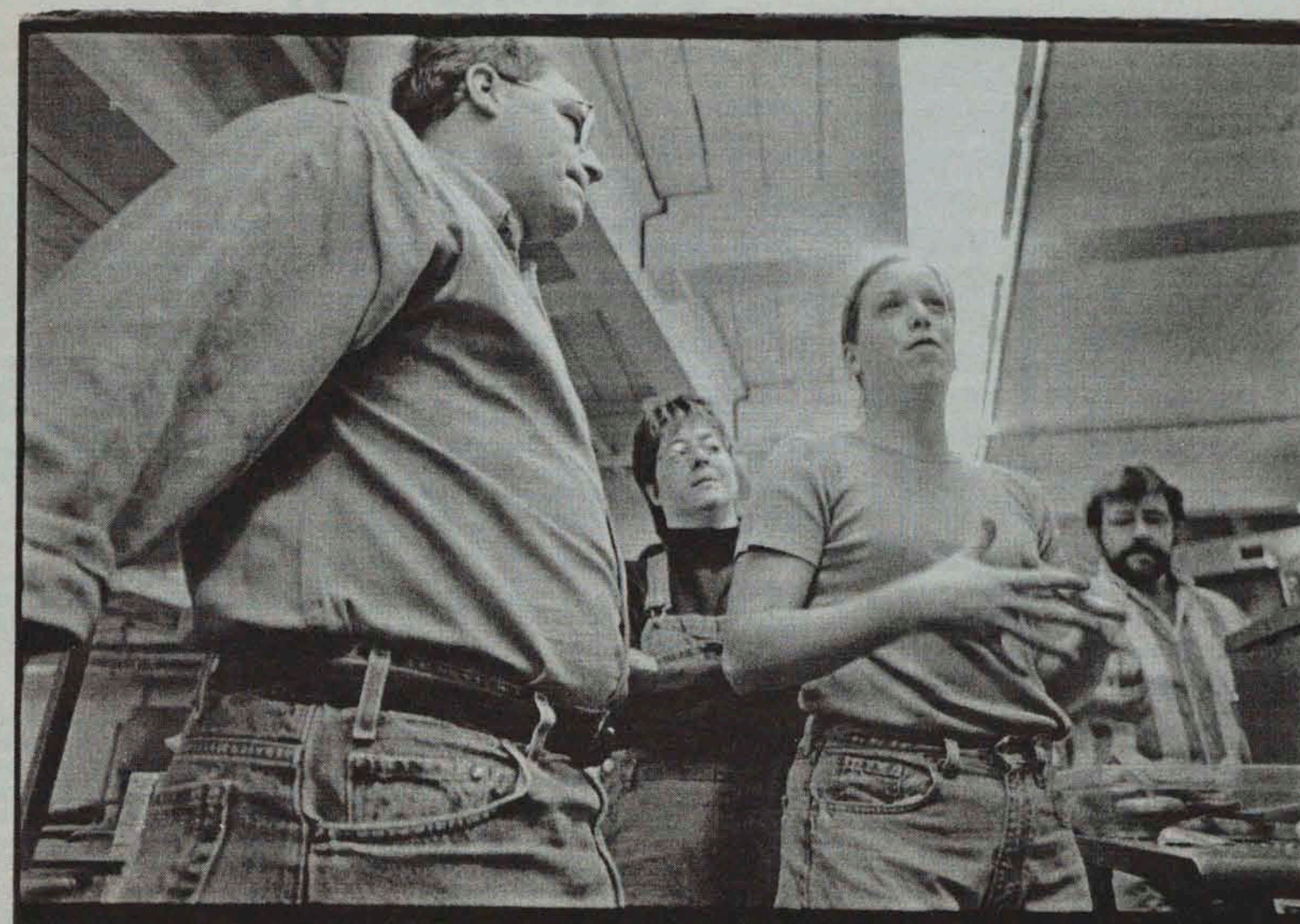
Sometimes, volunteer Shannon Browning says, she feels overwhelmed by the task of feeding hundreds of people. "I just trust that it's going to happen," she says. "I pray that he — God — will lead me." PHOTOS/SHOSHANNAH WHITE

FEEDING PORTLAND'S HUNGRY

Serving hundreds of free breakfasts every day demands more from Shannon Browning than labor. It demands her faith as well.



Hafid Lalaoui says he depends on the meals Shannon Browning serves for strength at his physically demanding job.



Shannon Browning (second from right), volunteer director of the Preble Street Resource Center's breakfast program, organizes an early morning crew.

KIMBERLY JEAN SMITH

A few days before Christmas, Shannon Browning greeted dawn from an industrial kitchen on Oxford Street.

Browning made her way past the roaring oven and shelves lined with metal bowls the size of small islands, weaving through Preble Street Resource Center volunteers. Nervous school kids, uptight bank officers and holiday do-gooders stood at her heels, each wearing the same quizzical expression: "What can I do to help?"

Within an hour, Browning's hodgepodge crew would serve breakfast to 250 of Portland's poorest people, but at first light those meals still needed to be made. "OK," said Browning, stopping midstride and making a quick assessment. She handed the school kids sponges to wipe down tables. She dispatched the bankers to sort cans in the pantry. Then she gathered the rest — a group that included some of the same unemployed people she was getting ready to serve, people she calls "loyal, loyal volunteers" — into a loose but efficient knot of egg scramblers, bagel cutters and oatmeal makers.

"I have no idea how many [volunteers] will come every morning," said Browning. Sometimes it's "just me and another guy."

Come summer, when Portland's homeless population soars and many regular volunteers vacation, Browning may have to serve up to 300 people with the help of just two or three volunteers, said Mark Swann, executive director of the Preble Street Resource Center. Browning runs the center's breakfast program as part of the Jesuit

Volunteer Corps, which assigns recent college graduates to cities and towns across the nation to work with the poor. A native of Knoxville, Tenn., Browning is committed to work at the center through July. With her at the helm, Swann said, he doesn't worry that the kitchen will be overwhelmed or the people who eat there treated shabbily. Browning radiates a kind of contagious optimism. "It's hard to believe she's only been here for four months," Swann said. "It's on her shoulders — the actual getting the meal done — so she's got broad shoulders."

Browning speaks with a Southern drawl and has the small burns, bruises and cuts of a kitchen worker up and down her thin arms. She said when she thinks of the responsibility of feeding hundreds of people each day, she does sometimes feel overwhelmed. That leads to panic, and so she has learned to cultivate faith instead. "I just trust that it's going to happen," she said. "I pray that he — God — will lead me. I will follow. I give up the control and follow. Sometimes it's hard, you know, 'cause your mind has this [need to] control."

Brown learned early on that people volunteer at her soup kitchen for different reasons. To make the breakfasts run efficiently and ensure that the people who eat them are always treated with respect, she must create a union between such diverse workers as the kids from a "Life Skills" class at a junior high school in one of Portland's wealthy suburbs and a woman who, having overcome a brush with homelessness, has come to the center to give something back.

"[My teacher] just wanted us to help out and volunteer and stuff," said Meagan Fitz, a Greely Junior High School student. "I'm not sure why."

In contrast, Ellen Dalton, who has had the actual life experience Fitz is studying, has a more analytical view. "I

do think there's probably a variety of reasons people volunteer," Dalton said. "[But they] need to put their egos on the back burner, because it really turns the clients away."

Browning navigates this murky water by creating a place where everyone has something to give and to gain. "Kids come here and they want to play their music," she said. "I'm not going to say no." If a volunteer wants to fry eggs instead of scramble them, add chocolate chips to cookies instead of walnuts or serve the oatmeal with cinnamon and raisins, Browning readily approves. "That's the way they've added to the morning," she said.

Browning's day begins in a Munjoy Hill apartment she shares with three other Jesuit volunteers, young people from all over the United States who've been sent to Portland to serve the city's poor. They pay no rent and get a stipend of \$85 a month, plus grocery money. They have formed tight friendships, which include gentle teasing and brutal understanding of each other's quirks. "[Shannon] has like 10 cups of coffee before she starts work," said Browning's roommate Dan Womac, as Browning raced around the kitchen behind him. "In the middle of the day she'll say, 'Do you want to get a cup of coffee?' I'll say, 'No! You can't have any more coffee.'"

Unlike Womac, Browning isn't Catholic. But she does believe in God and she thinks she was drawn by divine fate to the Jesuit volunteer program after she graduated from the University of Tennessee. Browning comes from a family of volunteers. A family friend suggested she look into the Jesuit program. Her only request of the Jesuits was that she not be sent to a large city and that she be placed near the ocean. The brothers sent her to Portland. "[I ended] up here with unbelievable roommates who are my best friends," she said. "I love this city."

When she finishes her work in Portland, Browning may attend Boston College to pursue graduate studies in either social work or psychology, combined with pastoral ministry.

In the beginning, Browning believed that somehow she was going to be able to do more for people than just feed them. She wanted to get them off the street. But she has come to understand how complicated the lives of Portland's poor are and how varied and large the obstacles they face. With that understanding, Browning's dreams have gotten smaller. "If I can feed them," she said, philosophically, "I can help get their minds off hunger. So they can think about how to get out of the shelter and into a job."

Her work may not solve all the problems of the poor, but it does provide a lifeline. Hafid Lalaoui, a photographer who has been homeless since returning to Portland after trying his luck in New York City, said the food Browning serves has been vital to him as he struggles to get back on his feet. Lalaoui works as a janitor, so he needs a solid meal to have strength for his job. "It's a good breakfast here," he said, between bites of egg and toast, "that will sustain you the whole day."

Mostly, Browning said, she wants the people who eat at the center to feel free to take whatever they need — to not feel, for a moment, the inevitable pressure of being unable to afford your own food. "It's so hard when people ask us, 'Can I take this?'" said Browning, gesturing to the shelves lined with boxes of cereal, pieces of fruit and tanks of milk. "I just try and make it really comfortable." CBW

VOLUNTEER ISSUE CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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VOLUNTEER ISSUE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Volunteer listings

You don't have to be rich to help the poor. You need only to be generous with your time. With this in mind, we present CBW's annual compilation of volunteer opportunities in Greater Portland. Each of the following organizations can put you to work for at least a few hours a week, making the world a better place. Given the diversity of this year's offerings, it should be easy to find a match for your interests.

Organizations helping the destitute deserve special consideration this year. As a recent multimillion-dollar slash in funding proved, the federal government doesn't give a HUD about homelessness in our hometown. People in southern Maine are still hungry and sick. There are kids without guidance and elders without companionship. There are starving felines roaming the streets. It's easy to get distracted watching feral politicians cat around the capital, but fixing them won't fix anything. We'd better take care of each other. Here's how.

LOW-INCOME

Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council
181 Brackett St., Portland

Portland West offers services for low-income families and at-risk youth. Volunteers are needed for the after-school story camp, classroom tutoring, vocational assistance, teen center activities and other programs. Call Rhonda Barker at 775-0105.

Family Institute of Maine Foundation
38 Deering St., Portland

The foundation provides training opportunities for the public and low-cost services to clients with limited resources or special needs. Call Cindy Osborne at 773-6658.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland
Box 10505, Portland

This is part of a nonprofit international organization that builds homes in partnership with lower-income families who apply for no-interest mortgages. They need volunteers to select families, plan events, write the newsletter, raise funds and help with office work and construction. 772-2151.

Maine Housing — Building Materials Exchange
169 Lewiston Rd., Gray and 148 Main St., Sanford

This group assists low-income home owners with home rehab through a thrift store that collects donated materials. They need office help and people to help solicit and pick up donations. Call Kathleen Scott at 657-2957.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance
88 Federal St., Portland

This agency provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income people. Volunteers interview prospective clients regarding legal problems. Call Lynn Martin-Hunt at 774-4518 x223.

Portland Street Clinic
15 Portland St., Portland

The clinic provides free health care to low-income uninsured adults in the Greater Portland area. They need volunteer physicians, nurses, social workers and receptionists. Call Amy Doherty at 874-8982.

Preble Street Resource Center
5 Portland St., Portland

The center provides services to the homeless and people with low incomes. Volunteers are needed to help serve breakfast 7:30-10 a.m. and sort clothes. Call Mollie Mahanna at 874-6560.

Project FEED
202 Woodford St., Portland

Project FEED operates a food pantry open Mon.-Fri. 1-3 p.m. They welcome volunteers to help with interviewing clients and grocery pickup and bagging. Call Barbara Craig at 797-6887 from 1-3 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen
10 Locust St., Portland

Portland's oldest soup kitchen is open Mon.-Fri. 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. 772-1113.

Volunteer Lawyers Project
88 Federal St., Portland

The VLP provides a variety of legal services to low-income people statewide. Volunteers interview prospective clients. Call Lynn Martin-Hunt at 774-4518 x225.

Wayside Evening Soup Kitchen
252 Oxford St., Portland

This soup kitchen provides evening meals 7 days a week. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and clean up from 4:30 p.m. and especially needed

after 5:30 p.m. A minimum 2-hour-per-month commitment is required. Groups of up to 30 people are encouraged to work together to volunteer a night a month for a year — a great opportunity for businesses or clubs. Call Tom Vacca at 775-4939.

HEALTH AND HEALING

AIDS Lodging House
142 High St., Suite 625, Portland

This residential program provides safe, affordable housing and support services to people with AIDS. Homemaking and transportation volunteers are needed. Call Chris Monahan at 773-7165.

The AIDS Project

Box 5305, 615 Congress St., 6th Floor, Portland

TAP provides services, advocacy and prevention education for men, women and children in southern Maine infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The greatest needs are for cleaning, moving and transportation assistance (particularly from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.), hotline operators between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., front desk coverage and clerical work. Volunteers are also needed for events such as the Spring for Life art auction in March. Training sessions are ongoing. Call Daniel Schnorbus at 774-6877, or visit their web site at www.aidsproject.org.

American Cancer Society
52 Federal St., Brunswick

Volunteer drivers with their own vehicles are needed to drive patients to and from treatment between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. They also need people to deliver and help sell daffodils during "Daffodil Days" March 23-27, and to help with the Spring Gala dinner dance May 8. Team captains are needed for the "Relay for Life" May 21 and 22. Call Donna Muto at 1-800-464-5102 x203.

American Red Cross
524 Forest Ave., Portland

The Red Cross teaches health and safety courses, leads aquatic classes and responds to disasters. They need volunteers to serve as family caseworkers, emergency action team members, health and safety instructors, HIV/AIDS awareness presenters and clerical staff. Training is provided. 874-1192.

The Arthritis Foundation, Northern New England Chapter, Maine Region

201 Main St., Suite 6, Westbrook
This organization needs people to lead educational programs and support groups. Training is provided. Volunteers are also needed for fundraising and clerical work. Call Diane Woodworth 854-3100.

Center for Community Dental Health
813 Washington Ave., Portland

The center needs volunteers to assist patients while they wait for care in their nursing home and school programs. Volunteers also needed to assist with dental exams and give fluoride rinses, and for clerical work in Saco. Call Bonnie Vaughan or Patty Pettegrew at 874-1025.

Community Counseling Center
343 Forest Ave., Portland

The center provides counseling and children's case management services. Call Roberta Lipsman at 874-1050.

Community Health Services
901 Washington Ave., Suite 104, Portland

This home health agency provides home and community health services. They need people for sewing and woodworking, office assistance, mass mailing and visiting clients in their homes for two hours once a week. 2-8 hr./wk. time commitment. Call Dolores Vail

at 1-800-479-4331.

Day One for Youth and Families
Fort Williams, Box 231, Cape Elizabeth

Day One provides services for youth and families affected by alcohol and other drugs. Volunteers are needed to help with mailings and transporting clients. Call Laura Deines at 767-0991.

Family Crisis Services
Box 704, Portland

Volunteers, who go through a training session, work directly with victims of domestic violence on the 24-hour hotline or person-to-person as peer and outreach advocates. Call Kim Patnode at 767-6180.

Foundation for Blood Research
69 Rt. 1, Scarborough

The foundation provides biomedical research, genetic counseling, testing and outreach education to medical professionals, students and the general public. They need volunteers to catalog, pack and deliver donated supplies and equipment. Call Joanne Beaudoin at 883-4131.

Friends of Maine Medical Center
22 Bramhall St., Portland

335 Brighton Ave., Portland, 100 Rt. 1, Scarborough
Bucknam Rd., Falmouth

Maine Medical Center volunteers serve patients, their families and visitors and assist staff in more than 90 areas of the hospital on four campuses. Volunteers assist with giving directions, escorting patients, delivering flowers and mail, working in the coffee shop, gift shop and flower shop and staffing the Child Life Center. All volunteers must attend a 2-hour general orientation and be screened for tuberculosis. Some positions require further training. Call Volunteer Services at 871-2205.

Hospice of Maine

693 Congress St. (rear entrance), Portland

The hospice trains and certifies volunteers to provide non-medical support to terminally ill patients. Volunteers are needed to give emotional support and companionship to patients and run errands, do chores, provide transportation and more. A 33-hour training session and a \$50 fee (refunded after a year of service) is required for those willing to commit 6 hours per week to a patient and his/her family. Volunteers are also needed for fundraising and office work. Daytime availability is especially helpful. Call Terry Cronin at 774-4417.

Ingraham
237 Oxford St., Portland

Ingraham operates Cumberland County Crisis Response, a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline at 774-HELP. Training sessions are 40 hours over 6 weeks. The next session starts in March. Call Cherylan Camire at 874-1055.

La Leche League of Greater Portland

La Leche League brings mothers together who wish to breastfeed their babies. Call Amy at 797-7457 or Ashley at 773-6985 or see www.laleche-league.org.

Mainly Parents / Parents Anonymous of Maine
Fort Williams Park, Box 284, Cape Elizabeth

The program provides support and encouragement for parents. The program needs group facilitators and child-care volunteers for their support groups. Call Maureen Bickford at 767-5506 or 1-800-249-5506.

March of Dimes, Maine State Chapter
8 Portland North Business Park, Falmouth

The March of Dimes seeks volunteers interested in birth-defect-prevention programs to serve on fundraising and volunteer committees, work on legislative issues and healthy moms and babies programs, recruit other volunteers and help in the office. Call Jeri D. Hoover at 878-1199 or 1-800-668-5678.

McAuley Residence
91 State St., Portland

McAuley residence is a long-term program that provides housing, life-skills counseling and supportive services for women and children. They need volunteers to provide child care, share life skills and work on fundraising. Call Barbara Nielsen at 773-5289.

Mercy Hospital
144 State St., Portland

Volunteers are needed to provide office support and escort and transport patients. All volunteers are trained. Call Jennifer Fitzpatrick at 879-3286.

My Choice — Maine Adoption Placement Service
306 Congress St., Portland

My Choice assists pregnant women and teens who decide to go through with childbirth and need to choose between keeping the child and placing it for adoption. They need drivers for food pickups, furniture donations and doctor appointments, and volunteers for mentoring, child care and teaching. Call Bonnie Porter at 772-7555.

New England Rehabilitation Hospital
335 Brighton Ave., Unit 201, Portland

The hospital needs volunteers to assist with crafts, pet therapy and music projects, and to help transport patients. Help is also needed with patient events, entertainment, game playing and office work. Call Nicole Hupper at 879-8589.

Peabody House
14 Orchard St., Portland

Over 150 people currently volunteer at this boarding home for those with an advanced case of AIDS, doing everything from routine office work to massage therapy. Call Gloria Vetro at 774-6281, e-mail at peabody@me.net, or visit their web site at www.portlandwebsmith.com/peabody.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
970 Forest Ave., Portland

Planned Parenthood provides reproductive health services, medical examinations, health educational programs and more. Volunteers are needed to help with mailings and other administrative tasks. For more information, call Sharon Grossman at 874-1100 x326 or 1-800-230-PLAN.



Find a million uses for cardboard at the Creative Resource Center.

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine
Box 1371, Portland

The center offers workshops, support groups and a 24-hour hotline for people dealing with sexual assault. They need volunteers to answer hotline calls. They provide a 40-hour training session 2 or 3 times a year (next session is in Feb.). The center needs volunteers to plan and run the Chocolate Lovers Fling in March and perform administrative duties. Call 799-9020 or 1-800-513-9900.

Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice
50 Foden Rd. So. Portland

VNA provides a variety of home health services and community clinics for residents of the greater Portland area. Call Jennifer Fitzpatrick at 879-3286.

YWCA

87 Spring St., Portland

The YWCA needs volunteers to teach workshops on job skills and the arts at the Adult Women's Residence; lifeguards and promoters for the Aquatics

and Wellness programs; child-care providers; activity leaders for Fair Harbor Residential Services; transportation, donation coordination and office help in the Family Center; women with disabilities to serve as mentors in the Maine Leap program; and volunteers to help with special events such as the Monday morning Time Crafts Workshops, Swimarama on March 14 and the Race Against Racism on May 1. Call Sarah Snow at 874-1150 x3024.

EDUCATION

Creative Resource Center
1103 Forest Ave., Portland

The center provides a place for teachers, day-care providers and families to buy low-cost scrap materials and exchange ideas on their creative use. Call Diana Johnson at 797-9543.

Greater Portland Landmarks
165 State St., Portland

This organization needs volunteers to work in the library, run special events and help in the office. Annual training for tour guides begins Feb. 23 and meets every Tues. 9 a.m.-noon until April 27. Call Gretchen Drown at 774-5561 x45, or www.portland-landmarks.org.

Junior Achievement of Maine
185 Lancaster St., Suite 204, Portland

Junior Achievement needs volunteers to teach children in grades K-12 about the business world. One hour weekly for 5-10 weeks is required. Call Chad Flynn 773-5200, or program@jamaine.org.

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Portland
Box 8585, Portland

This organization works to alleviate adult illiteracy. Tutors are prepared through an 18-hour training program (next session in Feb.). Volunteers are asked to commit to an hour a week for a year. Volunteers are also needed for fundraising. Call Jodi Moore at 780-1352.

JANUARY 7, 1999 13
in working at the Book Peddler. Call Linda Albert at 871-1757.

The Portland Partnership
331 Veranda St., Portland

Volunteers are needed for general classroom assistance, help with the multi-lingual program, tutoring and mentoring. Call Carole Jellison at 874-8236.

Public Schools

You can put your skills to use at almost all area schools, especially these:

Baxter Elementary, 150 Ocean Ave., Portland.
Call Phyllis Hey at 874-8190.

Jack Elementary School, 414 E. Promenade.
Portland. Call the volunteer coordinator at 874-8185.

King Middle School, 92 Deering Ave., Portland.
Call Charlotte Henderson at 874-8140.

Lyman Moore Middle School, 171 Auburn St., Portland.
Call Sue Doyon at 874-8150.

Many Rivers Program, Hall School, 25 Orono Rd., Portland.
Call Sue Ghelli at 874-8205.

Portland Arts and Technology High School, 196 Allen Ave., Portland.
The video technology/multimedia program needs actors to volunteer in student production work. Call 874-8165.

Reiche Community School, 166 Brackett St., Portland.
Call JoAnn Ellis at 874-8175.

Riverton Elementary School, 1600 Forest Ave., Portland.
Needs people to present workshops at this spring's "Multicultural Mosaic." Call Kathy Cole at 874-8210.

South Portland Schools Volunteer Program, 130 Westcott Rd., So. Portland.
Call Mary Lou Kiley at 773-5629.

Westbrook Volunteer Program, 125 Stroudwater St., Westbrook.
Call Jennifer Connolly at 797-4689.

Refugee and Immigration Services
562 Congress St., Portland

Volunteers are needed to work with families and individuals, helping them adjust to American culture. Volunteers for office assistance are also needed. Call Sister Kate Walsh at 871-7437 x121.

South Portland Public Library — Children's Room
482 Broadway, So. Portland

The library needs volunteers to straighten shelves, keep books in order and help with special projects. Call Tom Werley or Pat Unnold, 767-7660.

Spring Point Museum
SMTC Fort Rd., So. Portland

Spring Point needs volunteers to help greet visitors, staff the museum shop, care for museum artifacts, do office work, perform research and help with visiting school groups. Call Linda McLoon at 799-6337.

ELDERLY
Barron Center
1145 Brighton Ave., Portland

The Barron Center offers long-term care for elderly and chronically ill people, respite care and adult day care. Volunteers are needed to help patients with activities such as cooking, Beano and arts and crafts. The Barron Center also needs people to do clerical work, help in the kitchen, work as waiters/waitresses in the resident café and do laundry. Call Tonya Heskett at 774-2623.

Cedars Nursing Care Center
630 Ocean Ave., Portland

This facility that cares for the aging needs volunteers to help with pet visitors, play groups (moms and babies) and entertainment. Dedicated teenagers and ASPIRE volunteers especially welcome. Primarily daytime, weekday hours. Call the volunteer coordinator at 772-5456.

Enriched Golden Age Center, Salvation Army
297 Cumberland Ave., Portland

This club for senior citizens is looking for teachers to start a beginning art class, an exercise class for older seniors and a quilting class. Volunteers are also needed to serve meals Wed. and Thurs. from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. People available on short notice for short-term projects are also needed. Call Jeanette Henry at 774-6974 x254.

Portland Adult Education
57 Douglass St., Portland

PAE uses tutors in reading and writing, English as a second language, business skills and math. Training is provided for all volunteers. The next session for reading and writing starts in January. Call Mary Bloom 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 grades 3-12 Mon.-Thurs. 3:30-7:30 p.m. ESL classes for adults are held at Riverton. Tutors needed to mentor students and help with homework. Call Mike Wilson at 773-4753.

Portland Public Library
5 Monument Sq., Portland

The library can always find a use for those with particular talents, particularly volunteers interested

VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY OF GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

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This is one time you don't have to be afraid to walk toward the light! Come in and check out our full spectrum light bulbs: 60 watt, 100 watt, and the never lonely one; 3-way.

Dark and Lonely Winter? Nah!!

And for a little fun on those cold nights warm up with some Romance Moisture Bath or soothing bath oil, light an aromatic beeswax candle, crawl under our cozy flannel sheets, then turn out the lights! Open 7 days a week.

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Ours is moms, dads, kids, aunts, uncles, cousins,
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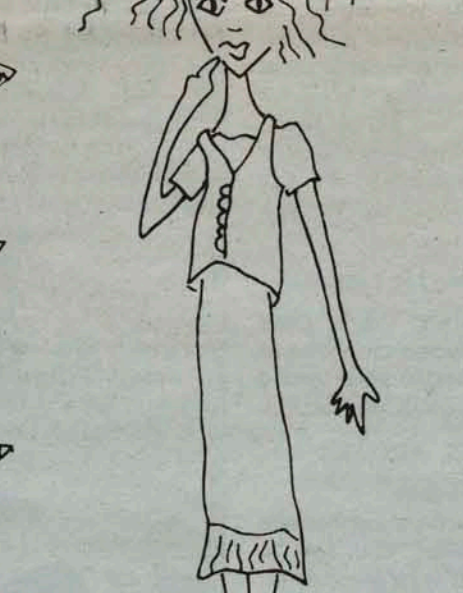
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Yarmouth 846-36999

VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



Bring history to life at the Spring Point Museum.

Fallbrook Woods 418 Ray St., Portland

Fallbrook Woods is an assisted living facility for the elderly. Activities assistants, friendly visitors, entertainers and pet therapy volunteers are needed. 878-0788.

Pine Point Center for Health and Rehabilitation 67 Pine Point Rd., Scarborough

Pine Point provides long-term and respite care and rehabilitation. They need volunteers to accompany residents on Mon. morning bus trips, assist with social interaction and coffee on Tues. mornings and reading. Call Libby Herrick at 883-2468.

St. Joseph's Manor 1133 Washington Ave., Portland

Volunteers are needed to spend time with the elderly. Volunteers' activities are limited only by their imagination but include arts and crafts, bingo games, mall trips, entertaining residents and serving food. Call Mary Chick at 797-0600.

Senior Enrichment Center 56-58 North St., Portland

The center is a day program for older adults with developmental disabilities. Volunteers are needed to share time and talents such as storytelling, music, exercise and crafts. Call Jan Bogart at 761-4538.

Seventy-Five State Street, Portland

This senior citizen center needs shoppers to run errands for or with residents and visitors to read, write letters or enjoy conversation with residents. Call Lori Bellefeuille at 772-2675 x224.

Southern Maine Agency on Aging 307 Cumberland Ave., Portland

This program provides resources to senior citizens in York and Cumberland counties (except Brunswick) to help seniors remain independent. Volunteers are needed to help with yard work, snow shoveling and home repair. Grocery shoppers and deliverers also needed. There are also friendly-visitor and meals-on-wheels programs to aid senior citizens who cannot get out. Call Heather Brown at 775-6503 or (800) 427-7411.

Springbrook Center for Health Care and Rehabilitation 500 Spring St., Westbrook

Springbrook is a facility that includes adult day care, boarding home, skilled rehab, and long-term care. Volunteer needs include one-on-one visitors, entertainers, bingo assistants, activity escorts, special events helpers, outing escorts, artists, crafters and pastoral visitors. Call Patricia Flynn at 856-1230 x128.

YOUTH

Altrusa Around the Lakes
Box 747, Windham 04062

Altrusa is a worldwide association of professional united in volunteering. Primary projects include Camp Sunshine, a vacation camp for children suffering life-threatening illnesses; Crossroads, a treatment

center for women and their children recovering from substance abuse; and Camp Safe Haven, a vacation camp for kids with HIV and AIDS. A benefit dance to raise money to send a Maine child to Camp Safe Haven will be held Feb. 6 at the Roost, Buxton. 892-2880.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Portland Suite 216B, 175 Lancaster St., Portland

Big Brothers Big Sisters is currently looking for volunteers (especially Big Brothers) 18 years or older willing to give a one-year commitment for 3-5 hours a week or every other week. Volunteers needed to act as friends, role models and positive influence on children 7-14 years old in need of more adult companionship. Informational meetings held monthly. Call 773-KIDS.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Portland 277 Cumberland Ave., Portland 169 Broadway, So. Portland

The clubs work with children (especially those in need) to develop citizenship and leadership skills, cultural enrichment, health education and personal skills. A computer specialist; arts, crafts and reading assistants; help in the Learning Center; and assistants for the Kids Chorus, cheerleading and athletics are needed. Call Virginia Doss at 874-1070 (Portland) or John Lee at 874-1076 (So. Portland).

Catherine Morrill Day Nursery 96 Danforth St., Portland

This facility provides child care for children 2 1/2 to 5. They need field-trip chaperones, classroom assistants, pianists, guitarists, storytellers and puppeteers. Call Paulette Grondin-Cardillo at 874-1115.

Catholic Charities — Maine Family Child Care 562 Congress St., Portland

Family Child Care provides subsidized child care to income-eligible families, including a food program. Volunteers are needed for the Toy Box toy distribution program. Call Theresa Walsh at 871-7443.

The Center for Grieving Children 49 York St., Portland

This organization needs volunteers to work with children and their families who are grieving the loss of a family member or friend. Volunteer facilitators go through a 25-hour training before placement. Volunteers are needed for office help and to work on such events as the Annual Pet & People Walk in May. Call 775-5216.

Child Development, People's Regional Opportunity Program 510 Cumberland Ave., Portland

Volunteers read to children and watch them during nap time, help prepare lunches and lead field trips. Call Jami Collins at 874-1140 x352.

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

The museum aims to provide parents and children with "hands-on" learning experiences at 15 permanent exhibits and temporary exhibits, workshops and demonstrations. They need educators to help demonstrate the Camera Obscura exhibit, supervise hands-on activities on the Explore Floor, work on Make and Take projects and help with school groups and visitors. Call Henry Vaccini at 828-1234 x241.

Choices Program, PROP 510 Cumberland Ave., Portland

This outgrowth of PROP's Peer Leaders program seeks men and women to be mentors for girls and boys between the

ages of 9 and 12. The commitment involves a meeting per month plus time with a "mentee." Call Jackie Gardner at 874-1140 x322.

Cumberland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council 400 Congress St., 1st Floor, Portland

The council provides leadership in mobilizing the community to prevent and alleviate child abuse and neglect. Volunteers are needed to write and edit newsletters, work on fundraising projects, provide on-site child care and help with family events. The council also needs parents to mentor other parents. Call Lucky Hollander at 874-1120.

East End Children's Workshop 215 Congress St., Portland

The workshop runs publicly funded child-care centers for preschool and school-age children. Desk receptionist and classroom volunteer positions are available. Call Laurie O'Neal at 772-5468.

Foster Grandparent Program — PROP 284 Danforth St., Portland

This program develops supportive relationships between foster grandparents and special-needs children. Volunteers are also needed to serve on the advisory council. There is a mandatory 2-week volunteer training program. A small stipend is provided for those income-eligible volunteers who commit 20 hours per week in service; all volunteers are reimbursed for expenses. Call Susan Lavigne at 773-0202.

Head Start — PROP 510 Cumberland Ave., Portland

Head Start is a cost-free child development program providing meals, parent involvement opportu-

nities and access to social services for eligible families with kids between 3 and 5. Call Jami Collins at 874-1140 x352.

Jump Start, Portland Area Chapter 401 Cumberland Ave., Apt. 1205, Portland

This program pairs nonviolent (shoplifting, vandalism) first-time offenders ages 12-18 with mentors. Jump Start offers an informal, 8-week course that provides mentoring and teaches decision-making, goal-setting and community responsibility skills in order to get youth back on the right track. They need volunteers to be mentors and facilitators. Call Paul Offill at 879-7130.

Kennebec Girl Scout Council 138 Gannett Dr., So. Portland

The council's jobs for volunteers include troop leaders and people to serve on task groups. Applicants are screened and trained. 800-660-1072.

Maine Youth Center 675 Westbrook St., So. Portland

This center for young offenders needs volunteers to mentor or tutor primarily boys once a week for an hour. Call Linda Johnson at 822-0050.

Muskie Independent Education Project 295 Forest Ave., Suite 191, Portland

The center provides mentors to adolescents in state foster care who are making the transition to independent living. They need volunteers, at least 20 years old, to serve as friends and role models to young adults 16-21. Call Holly Killmer at 879-0996.

Peaks Island Child Development Center Box 7, 71 Herman Ave., Peaks Island

The center provides child care and family support for the Peaks Island community. They need classroom volunteers and help with equipment and building maintenance. Call Janine Blatt at 766-2854.

Pine Tree Council, Boy Scouts of America 125 Auburn St., Portland

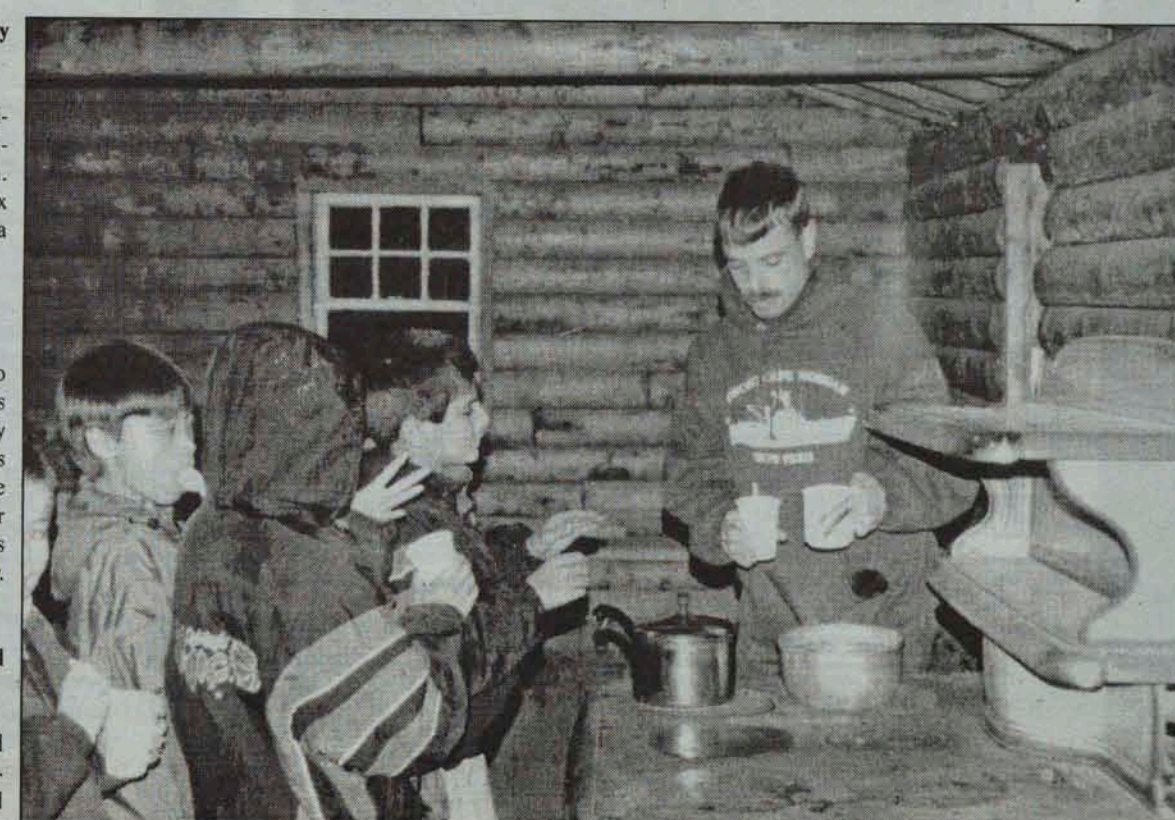
The Boy Scouts' volunteers serve as everything from president and planning committee members to troop leaders and merit badge counselors. If a volunteer has a skill and wants to work, a place can be found. Contact Eric Chamberlin at 797-5252.

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

This center offers affordable child care for infants and toddlers of teen parents and lower-income families. Contact Althea Hall at 874-2370.

The Root Cellar 94 Washington Ave., Portland

The Root Cellar needs volunteers to spend time with children in its after-school program (Mon.-Fri. 3-5 p.m.) and with teens (Tues. and Fri. 7-9 p.m. and at various times on weekends) at the drop-in center.



Mentor a young person at the People's Regional Opportunity Program.

VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

Custom Framing Sale

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VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

It welcomes help with food distribution on Munjoy Hill and volunteers for single mothers and teens programs teaching crafts and cooking skills. Volunteers are also needed to mentor teens and lead Bible classes and trips for its outdoor program. People with experience leading worship services are also needed. The Root Cellar asks that volunteers belong to a local church. Call Pat at 774-3197.

St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center — Catholic Charities
87 High St., Portland

The center provides developmental child care to children 18 months-6 years. They need classroom assistants; help with painting, yard work, sewing and blanket making; and Advisory Board Volunteers. Call Kathy Collins at 871-7444.

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

This program welcomes people with knowledge or experience in the outdoors or environmental issues to act as leaders and guides for at-risk youth ages 11-15 on outdoor trips. Call David Finitis at 874-2370.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension - 4H
Box 9300, Portland

This organization helps Mainers improve their lives through hands-on activities and life skills development. They're looking for 4H Club Leaders to help youth ages 5-19 in informal "learn by doing" educational programs. Call Julie Kosch at 800-287-1471.

West Side Child Development Center
64 Clark St., Portland

The center provides child care for children ages 2 1/2 to 6 years old. They need child care assistants. Call Darlene Dehler at 772-9817.

YMCA
70 Forest Ave., Portland

Opportunities range from working in child care or summer camp to teaching aquatics or helping raise funds. Call Megan Brennan at 874-1111.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Alpha One
127 Main St., So. Portland

Directed by people with disabilities, this group is committed to providing information and services that help disabled people to live independently. Volunteer receptionists and general office help are needed. Call Leigh Baade at 767-2189 or 800-640-7200.

Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter
163 Lancaster St., Suite 160B, Portland

This organization provides resources and services for Alzheimer's families and caregivers, educates the public and advocates on behalf of people with the disease. Office support volunteers are asked to commit 3-4 hours per week (weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.). Volunteers are also sought for the Helpline to answer calls and provide emotional support, information. Training and ongoing support provided. Call the office manager at 772-0115 or 800-660-2871.

Case Management for Youth, Inc.
543 Forest Ave., Portland

Case Management for Youth has the goal of taking mentally disabled children from formal, publicly financed care and transitioning them into informal, natural and sustainable support systems. They need mentors, tutors and transportation volunteers. Call Julia Burns at 842-3609.

The Center for Therapeutic Recreation, Inc.
222 St. John St., Suite 254, Portland

The center offers a range of adult social recreation activities for individuals with disabilities, with a focus on aquatics. The center will train volunteers to assist aquatics instructors and participants. Call Desiree at 772-0504.

Community Partners, Inc.
66 Pearl St., Suite 212, Portland

Community Partners helps developmentally disabled individuals become part of their communities through employment, social and other life activities. Volunteers are needed to help with activities. 780-9575 (Portland) or 282-7113 (Biddeford).

Creative Work Systems
443 Congress St., 2nd Floor, Portland

This group's mission is to enable people with disabilities to increase or regain self-sufficiency through employment, personal skills development and other opportunities. Activity coordinators are needed. Call Allen Moss 879-1140.

Gaia Group Home and Noyes Home
48 High St., So. Portland and 889 Sawyer St., So. Portland

Gaia Group Home needs volunteers to assist on outings and take people to church and meetings. Noyes needs volunteers to assist on outings, help with activities at home and take people to do errands. Call Katie at 799-2237 (Gaia) or 799-6434 (Noyes).

Goodwill Industries of Northern New England
353 Cumberland Ave., Portland

Goodwill provides support for people with disabilities in residential, employment and rehabilitation settings. They need volunteers to provide friendship and companionship through their mentor program. Minimum commitment is 6 months. Call Dan Paradis at 774-6323 x288.

Independent Transportation Network
309 Cumberland Ave., Portland

This group provides transportation for seniors who have had to limit or give up driving. They need volunteer drivers with their own vehicles (gas costs are reimbursed). A 3-hour block commitment per week or month is required. Office volunteers with computer experience are also needed. Call Katie at 828-8608.

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

The center needs assistants and guides to help with cross-country skiing outings and drivers for downhill skiing outings. They also need sighted guides and drivers for various recreational events. Call Rebecca Goodwin at 774-6273.

Maine Special Olympics
125 John Roberts Rd., Suite 19, So. Portland

Volunteers are needed to coach, officiate and run Maine's Special Olympics. While this organization needs help year-round, volunteers are particularly needed for the winter games at Sugarloaf Jan. 31-Feb. 2 and the summer games at the University of Maine Orono campus June 10-13. Call Mark Capano at 879-0489.

Multiple Sclerosis Society, Maine Chapter
175 Lancaster St., Portland

General office help is always needed and there are many volunteer opportunities at such special events as the MS Walk, the MS Regatta and the MS 150 Great Bicycle Escape. Volunteers staff rest stops, distribute brochures and register participants. Creative talents are also needed for help with public relations, graphic design and public speaking. Call Diane Reaves at 761-5815 or 800-639-1330.

Port Resources
175 Lancaster St., Portland

Port Resources provides residential services and respite care to adults and children with developmental disabilities. Call Celia Schafer at 828-0048.

Regional Transportation Program
127 St. John St., Portland

This organization offers transportation services to elderly, disabled and low-income residents of Cumberland County who need a lift to medical, counseling or training services. They're currently recruiting volunteer drivers with their own safe, reliable vehicle (miles reimbursed at 30 cents/mile). For more information, call Charles Baker at 774-2666 x37.

Riding to the Top
10 Lilac Dr., Windham

This organization provides therapeutic horseback riding services to disabled children and adults on a weekly basis, starting in March/April. Volunteers needed for barn help and assistance with lessons. Training provided. Days and hours flexible. Call Sarah Bronson at 892-2813.

Shalom House, Inc.
400 Congress St., Portland

Shalom House provides housing and other services to individuals with mental illness in Portland. Call Richard Lindgren 874-1080.

Transportation Services, PROP

This service offers transportation for Medicaid-eligible medical appointments, family visits or child care referred from the Department of Human Services. Call 874-1140 x297.

Very Special Arts Maine

142 High St., Suite 428, Portland

Very Special Arts creates innovative and inclusive arts opportunities by, with and for people with and without disabilities. They seek office team members and hands-on volunteers to assist artists in the classroom and at festivals and for a variety of other program needs. People with event-planning and/or computer skills are particularly useful. Call 761-3861.

ART

Danforth Gallery

34 Danforth St., Portland

The Danforth Gallery is a community-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to providing exhibition space for Maine's artists. Volunteers needed for gallery-sitting, fundraising, organizing exhibitions and all other aspects of running the gallery. Call Helen Rivas at 775-6245.

Mad Horse Theatre

92 Oak St., Portland

The theater needs volunteers to distribute posters, assist with mailings, help with set construction (if skilled), answer phones and usher shows (they offer free tickets in exchange). Call Conny Carlson at 828-1270 or 885-5562.

Maine Arts

582 Congress St., Portland

Maine Arts especially needs volunteers to plan and run its two biggest events — the Maine Festival and New Year's Portland. It also needs help with the Congress Square Festival, One World Portland and other community arts events. Tasks include stage management, technical assistance, office work, ticket selling, concessions, community outreach, data input and poster. 772-9012.

PCA Great Performances

477 Congress St., Portland

PCA Great Performances presents touring opera, dance, theater, music, and family entertainment at Merrill Auditorium. They need volunteers to put up posters. Volunteers are compensated with those tickets that are available. Call Jane Banquer at 773-3150.

Portland Lyric Theater

176 Sawyer St., So. Portland

This primarily volunteer theater is looking for people interested in carpentry, painting, costumes and lighting. They also need ushers and box office help. Volunteers receive tickets to shows. Call Linwood Dyer at 774-4318.

Portland Museum of Art

7 Congress Square, Portland

The art museum needs volunteers to assist in its offices and at the museum shop, work on fundraising projects and to serve as guides. Contact Jean Graves at 775-6148.

Portland Players

420 Cottage Rd., So. Portland

This community theater is run almost entirely by volunteers. They need help with ushering, costumes, concessions, mailings, set building, lights, acting, special events, fundraising, children's programming, posters, the box office and volunteers for committees. Call Brian Allen at 799-7337.

Portland Stage Company

25A Forest Ave., Portland

Portland Stage Company needs volunteer help in the areas of administration, guest artist hospitality, production and ushering. Prior experience and a flexible schedule are necessary in some areas. Call 774-1043.

Vintage Repertory Company

35 Brackett St., Portland

Vintage Rep wants creative volunteers to build and paint sets, make costumes and design lights for touring productions. There's always a need for people to usher, distribute posters and put together programs. Contact Jane Bergeron at 774-1376.

ENVIRONMENT

Bicycle Transportation Alliance of Portland

333 Forest Ave., Portland

This organization seeks to promote alternative transportation in Portland and celebrate the pleasures of walking and bicycling. Fundraisers, publicity assistants and community advocates are needed. Call Cheryl Oliver at 773-6906.

Commute Another Way Week

233 Oxford St., Portland

This effort is organized by RideShare to encourage alternative modes of commuting that are environmentally and economically friendly, such as carpooling, vanpooling, use of bus and ferry, biking and walking. They need event organizers and an outreach assistant to contact area employers. Call Carey Kish at 1-800-280-RIDE or www.ridesharemaine.org.

Gorham Trails, Inc.

188 Narragansett St., Gorham

Gorham Land Trust

Box 33, Gorham

Gorham Trails and Land Trust maintain over 850 acres of land in the Gorham area for hikers, cross-country skiers, horseback riders, mountain bikers and snowmobilers. They are presently working on the Twin Falls trail in Westbrook and the Cumberland-Oxford canal trail in Gorham. They need volunteers to help maintain trails, trail signs and bridges and for special events including the cross-country ski and snowshoe races on Feb. 6, the Presumpscot River canoe race on May 1 and the 5K road race in Aug. Contact Bob Frazier at 839-8000 or 839-4644.

Maine Audubon Society

20 Gilsland Farm Rd. Falmouth

Novice to expert naturalists with an interest in teaching are needed for the Audubon Society's seasonal walk programs, speakers' bureau and public programs. They're also looking for weekend docents to answer phones and greet visitors. Volunteer opportunities include options for short or long-term commitments, one-time special events or ongoing projects. All volunteers receive benefits that include discounts and enrichment training. Opportunities are available year-round; training for Winter Walk leaders begins Jan. 12. Call Stephanie Cox at 781-2330.

Maine Island Trail Association

41A Union Wharf, Portland

This nonprofit conservation organization has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. Possibilities range from data entry and fundraising to island cleanups and the Adopt-A-Island program. Call Leanne Dech at 761-8225.

ALSO...

Amnesty International

Box 8703, Portland

This human rights activist group needs people who want to participate in letter-writing campaigns to bring pressure on governments around the world that violate human rights, especially Nigeria and Tibet. Members can attend monthly educational meetings the third Wed. of each month at 7:30 p.m. Call Louis Sigel at 874-6928.

Convention and Visitors Bureau of Greater Portland

305 Commercial St., Portland

Volunteers are needed, primarily on weekends, at the Visitors Information Center to provide tips to the public about places to stay, eat and sightsee. Call Helen Nielsen at 772-5800.

Friends of Feral Felines

Box 8137, Portland

Friends of Feral Felines has many rescued stray cats who need both permanent and foster homes. Adults are fixed, vaccinated and have been tested for leukemia and feline AIDS. Kittens are available. Volunteers are also needed for trapping and feeding the cats, transportation, fundraising, finding foster homes, screening telephone calls and marketing/publicity. 797-3014.

Friends International, Inc., Portland chapter

Box 8506, Portland

Friends International, Inc. is a nonprofit group that works with volunteers to develop community improvement projects in developing countries. Projects include the International Educational Resource Center at Andover College and Sailing For Peace, a sailing program that teaches responsibility to inner-city kids. People interested in working in the sailing program, helping solicit publishing companies for books and getting a discussion group started on intercultural issues are needed. Call 775-0547 or e-mail them at Friends@gwi.net.

Maine Civil Liberties Union

233 Oxford St., Suite 32K, Portland

The MCLU is looking for volunteers to do a wide variety of tasks, from office work to legal research to desktop publishing. They are particularly in need of volunteers with paralegal experience, and help with education programs. Call 774-5444.

Maine Coalition for Food Security

1 Pleasant St., 4th floor, Box 4503, Portland

This group is dedicated to providing food security for the citizens of Maine through education, research and networking. They need volunteers to participate in the food cooperative. Volunteers receive the benefit of lower food prices. They also need assistance with clerical tasks. Call Jim Hanna at 871-8266.

Maine Grants Information Center

USM Library, Box 9301, Portland

The center is a research facility for grant-makers and nonprofits in the area of philanthropy. It needs

Peace Action Maine

1 Pleasant St., 4th Floor, Portland

Peace Action Maine needs volunteers in all aspects of its operations. Some opportunities include planning and implementing their disarmament letter-writing campaign and conflict resolution projects, assisting with bulk mailings and volunteering in the office. Call Jessica or Scott at 772-0680.

Peace and Justice Center of Southern Maine

1 Pleasant St., 4th Floor, Portland

The center is a meeting space and resource library for Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Coalition for Food Security, Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, Veterans for Peace, Let Cuba Live, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Maine Foreign Affairs Education Fund, Pax Christi, Outright, MaineShare and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. The center needs volunteers for administrative work and is a convenient place to volunteer for one of these peace and justice organizations. Call Jessica or Scott at 772-0680.

Portland's Downtown District

400 Congress St., Portland

The Downtown District provides marketing, information and promotion services to help enhance the economic viability of Portland's downtown area. They need volunteers to run special events and distribute promotional materials. Call 772-6828.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Box 10480, Portland

RSVP seeks out people 55 and older who would



Lead nature walks for the Maine Audubon Society.

associates to help monitor the center and welcome the public, as well as people interested in database management. Call Jacqueline Read at 780-5039.

Maine People's Alliance and Maine People's Resource Center

192 State St., Portland

The Maine People's Alliance is a grassroots organization that works statewide on issues including the environment, health care and civil justice. They need people to do data entry and help on various projects, and interns to perform research. Call Jane Jennings at 761-4400.

Maine Preservation

Box 1198, Portland

Maine Preservation is a statewide advocacy organization that works to preserve historic buildings and neighborhoods. They need people to help with special events, mailings and office administration. Call Roxanne Elin at 775-3652.

Munjoy Hill Community Policing Center

101 Atlantic St., Portland

The Munjoy Hill Community Policing Center needs volunteers for office help, to distribute food and for coordinating community programs. Call Janine Kaserman at 756-8135.

World Affairs Council of Maine

Box 9500, Portland

The World Affairs Council promotes understanding of international affairs. They need volunteers for such tasks as bookkeeping, membership assistance, mailings and program registration. They also need committee volunteers and help developing their home page. Call Barbara Ganly at 780-4551.

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A LITTLE
CITY. IT'S
TIME FOR
YOU TO
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HOW MUCH.

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Greater Portland's best coffee shops, dive bars,
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all those things that make our fair city
(and fair suburbs) home.

Please confine your nominations
to people and places in our
distribution area (roughly
Brunswick to Windham to
Old Orchard Beach). If
you rave about your
choices, we might in-
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when we write up the
winners for the
March 12 "Best of
Portland" issue.

Send your ballot to
the address below, or
put it through our
convenient Congress
Street mail slot.

The deadline for
entries is 5 p.m. on
Monday, Feb. 8.

Mail or
drop off ballot:

Best of Portland
Casco Bay Weekly
561 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

Best local people

Best person	Best chef
Best TV personality	Best radio DJ
Best weather forecaster	Best club DJ
Best actor	Best bartender
Best writer (CBW staff not eligible)	Local politician you trust most
Best photographer	Local politician you trust least
Best waiter	

Best food and drink

Best breakfast joint	Best soup
Best doughnuts	Best bread
Best lunch	Best desserts
Best dinner for cheap	Best Maine microbrew
Best dinner if money's no object	Best produce
Best restaurant you never actually go to	Best pizza
Funkiest restaurant atmosphere	Best burger
Best brunch	Best Italian sandwich
Best free eats at happy hour	Best fried clams
Best coffee spot	Best lobster roll
Best sidewalk food cart	Best vegetarian food
	Best sushi

Best entertainment

Best Old Port bar	Best club to hear live music	Best movie theater
Best neighborhood bar	Best radio station	Best movie theater concession stand
Best bar outside Portland	Best theatrical production	Best video store
Best dive bar	Best place to play pool	Best place for a cheap date
Best pickup bar	Best place to play darts	Best sporting event
Best jukebox	Best place to dance	Best ski area
Best local band	Best bookstore	Best weirdness
Best local solo music artist	Best tape/CD store	

Best services

Best clothing store	Best place to get a haircut	Worst action by local or state government
Best bicycle shop	Best place for tattoos and piercings	Most effective citizen group
Best laundromat	Best health club	Least effective citizen group
Best junk store	Best corner store	Best gas station
Best cab company	Best florist	Best pottery shop
Best place for outdoor gear	Best honest garage	Best day care
Best fishmonger	Best action by local or state government	
Best butcher		
Best jeweler		

Best places

Best building	Most run-down park
Ugliest building	Best place to walk a dog
Best graffiti	Best public bathrooms
Best place for people-watching	
Worst intersection for pedestrians	
Best beach	
Best park	

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**

COMMENT

**SO
noted**

Sacking football, lending a hand

Having grown up a Southerner, I have to admit I love football. When nobody's looking, I sometimes sneak out to a bar to watch a game. This fall, I even drove to Biddeford on a frigid afternoon to see two high school teams square off. Thousands turned out to cheer their athletes, and victorious fans later told sportswriters the game had given their town reason to live. It was the kind of event that makes you proud to be part of a community.

But when I skied past a popular sledding hill on a recent sunny Saturday, and saw that it was absolutely empty of kids, I knew football must die.

It seems we're forever surrendering our culture to one amusement or another. These days, football is a force powerful enough to draw people away from churches and cafés and sledding hills in search of a TV broadcasting the Big Game. Gone is the era when people watched a single contest on a weekend afternoon. These days, we shut out the rest of life to watch football on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday — a nonstop parade of steroid-driven crunch, bang and pound.

Meanwhile, our homeless shelters and soup kitchens go begging for help. Our literacy programs go without tutors. Our kids make do with scraps of our attention, and their teachers ask in vain for more parental involvement.

This week, we're asking you to put aside televised diversions like football and take on the task of helping the poor survive. Our annual "Volunteer Issue," which starts on page 10, includes information on dozens of organizations that would benefit from even a single afternoon of your time.

What if, instead of staring into the tube at replay after replay, we spent a few

hours visiting with an elderly resident of Franklin Towers or leading a nature walk at the Audubon sanctuary? What if we watched just one game, then went to the Preble Street Resource Center to join in fixing the evening meal? What if we took our responsibility to help others more seriously than our appetite for the overhyped mayhem of NFL playoffs?

People in southern Maine have been spoiled by Portland's laudable response to helping the destitute. We rarely see homeless people camped on the sidewalks, and it's rare to catch a view of a line outside a soup kitchen or food giveaway. We have been lulled into thinking it's OK just to keep staring at the flickering Sony. We have taken for granted that nonprofits could hire the people needed to take care of the poor, and in some cases we were right.

We're unlikely to have it so easy again. Just before Christmas, the federal government axed Maine's funding for homeless shelters, a loss of millions of dollars. We no longer have the luxury of assuming the poor have a cot to sleep on. Shelters in Portland are already running out of money. Some may have to close no matter how many volunteers they have, but for others our volunteering may keep the wolf at bay.

Our generosity, our willingness to help provide for those who can't provide for themselves, can make this community better. The feds may have taken away the money we used to care for our homeless, but they can't swipe our shared belief that no one should have to sleep on our streets. It's up to us to make up for what has been lost. Giving our time is the first step.

Volunteering has never mattered more.

LAURA CONAWAY

@ PM 1998 letters

Bayside's new neighbors

To complete my quote used by Kimberly Jean Smith in her story about Bayside ("Considering a neighborhood's fate," 12.31.98) I would add that I was encouraging the Bayside Neighborhood Association to make information about home ownership available to responsible renters in the area.

The New Neighbors program has been very successful in increasing owner-occupied buildings in Portland. This helps more than anything else in stabilizing and improving a neighborhood. As Marginal Way development creeps towards Cumberland Avenue, it's inevitable that this area will become a much more desirable place (at least for affluent young professionals) to live and the rents will increase.

That leaves current area renters three options: (1) buy, (2) increase income or (3) move. The city cannot guarantee residents affordable rents, but they can help in finding ways to purchase buildings for owner-occupancy.

Jay York
Portland

Stay out of people's closets

I am not gay, but I found Connie Pacillo's article about closeted people in Greater Portland media ("Holiday outing," 12.24.98) to be violently obnoxious. Our constitution seeks to guarantee us "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." I intend to seek happiness in

my own way, thank you.

Ms. Pacillo chooses to fight for what she believes. I am glad she does and I support her right to engage in open political debate. However, she has no right to pompously declare that her choice is the choice. Surely, the right to privacy is a gay right.

If this irresponsible and reckless threat gets to the point of naming names, I know what I will do. I ask everyone else to do the same. If this holier-than-thou crusade violates even one person, I will "come out" myself. If one media person is named as gay or lesbian, every other member of that group as well as the rest of us can immediately "admit" to being gay or lesbian. Ah, what a fine stew that would make! Who is? Who is not? Ultimately, the truth will dawn, even in the most self-righteous minds: It doesn't make any difference.

And besides — it's none of your damn business.

Charles Gould
Portland

Editor's note: Gould writes CBW's new astrology column, found on page 44.

Tax breaks and politics

This is in reply to two letters from the Dec. 31 issue. First, Sheldon Kaye's paean to Bookland's recent receipt of a \$600,000 Tax Increment Financing break from the Portland City Council ("Thanks, Bookland"). I hope Mr. Kaye is aware that the \$600,000 in funds lost to the city through this TIF will not be available, in part, to the public library he is director of. We are all very pleased that Bookland takes part in the cultural life of Portland by funding programs at the library, but corporations, like citizens, have a civic duty and this seems to be theirs. They will never replace, however, the funds you would have received from the city if this TIF had not been passed.

More importantly, Mr. Kaye, you fail to mention that your home address is Scarborough. Your myopic, and out of town, look at the \$600,000 TIF shows a lack of feeling for some of the recipients of these lost funds: the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the disenfranchised — people for whom these lost funds loom so much larger now with the recent loss of federal funds. Take a look around your library, Mr. Kaye. Is Bookland willing to help those that avail themselves of the libraries' warmth, bathrooms, maybe something to read, because they have no other place to go?

Second, Ms. Janet Harvie's "family values" letter regarding U.S. Rep. Tom Allen's disappearing act in Washington. Harvie's hubris is showing, as if she were the only person who takes time out for family — which really does not have much to do with the point. Allen represents tens of thousands of Mainers. It is for these crises for which he was elected and it was clearly a dereliction of duty to leave before the vote was concluded. If Allen feels it is more important to be at his daughter's wedding (not really time-sensitive and could have been changed), maybe he should get a job in Portland. Maybe then we could send someone a little more qualified to Washington.

Jack Bussell
Portland

Just say no to HMOs

This is an urgent message to Maine's seniors about Medicare Plus Choice, which is coming this year. Medicare Plus Choice is part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, passed by Congress in an attempt to save lots of money by getting seniors into HMOs and other forms of managed care. Medicare Plus Choice is terribly confusing, even for experts, and it is way off track already. A real question has been raised about whether it can save any money at all.

@ PM 1998 letters

What seniors have to know is that they can keep traditional Medicare if they're satisfied with it, without lifting a finger. They don't have to make a choice or do anything at all.

An HMO with a prescription drug benefit and a lower monthly charge than the typical Medicare supplement (Medigap) plan, can be very attractive for seniors living on limited incomes. But Medicare HMOs have been cutting back on benefits, increasing deductibles and raising premiums and fees. It's hard to make a good profit out of health care for older folks. Some experts believe Medicare Plus Choice is the first step in dismantling the Medicare system.

The Maine Council of Senior Citizens advises all seniors, "Just say no to HMOs." Please call our congressional delegation and tell them we could use an improved Medicare program that offers fuller benefits — like prescription coverage — not questionable choices.

Robert Goldman
Maine Council of Senior
Citizens president
Augusta

One way to fix the bridge

Isn't it nice to hear everyone's parking fine records have a chance of being cleared ("Getting off easy," 12.24.98). From what I've seen of the parking operation, it has proven its inadequacy with painstaking accuracy. How else can you explain \$3.3 million in overdue accounts?

Speaking of millions, I witnessed something on the Casco Bay Bridge last winter that would have the state officials, U.S. Coast Guard and half the other so-called experts in this country scratching their heads with their slide rules.

On the morning of the start of last year's ice storm, the red- and white-striped crossing barriers would not lift up at the push of a button on the big board in the bridge control tower. After about 15 minutes, a woman was sent out with a plastic milk jug filled with what appeared to be water. After pouring the contents sparingly on the barrier, it still did not rise.

CBW

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.

Well, about five cars back, John Q. Mainer got out of his scruffy truck, trudged past me in his practical red and black wool coat. I noticed he had a sophisticated instrument in his grip. I knew this utilitarian device was the decisive solution to our dilemma: a \$20 ball-peen hammer to chip away at the thickening ice.

And finally, what a hammering the taxpayer is taking this year from dedicated public servants. How about Portland School Superintendent Mary Jane McCalmon? You know, I calculated a 40-hour work week for her, and found to my surprise she pulls in \$46 an hour. What a hard worker she must be!

John McEvoy
South Portland

Problems at MECA? Blame Jesse Vear

This is in reaction to letter-writer Jesse Leah Vear's reaction ("Valentine from MECA," 12.31.98) to my response to her letter in regards to some issue at the Maine College of Art, which at this time in this way is completely obscured.

I'm glad you talked to Kate Webb but I see now that wasn't the problem. From your reaction to my letter, I see it's that you don't listen.

Paul DiBiase
Portland

My lost nickel

So, Ma Bell decided to raise the price of a local call from 25¢ to 35¢, and I have to pay 10¢ more for the price of such a call and this money goes into making the phone call more of a monopoly over my life?

What about the 5¢ I lose every time I make a phone call with four dimes because I forget that it now takes a quarter and a dime to make a phone call that should legally cost less because of Ma Bell's deceptive billing practices?

Not much I can do about this except hope that enough people decide to call up Ma Bell for this area (Bell Atlantic) and tell her how you really feel about deceptive billing practices. You'd think that with the technology that phone companies use and have to defraud the American consumer — you and me — the technicians at Ma Bell would have gotten that nickel back to me after I put 40¢ in the phone to make a local call without being ripped off all the time.

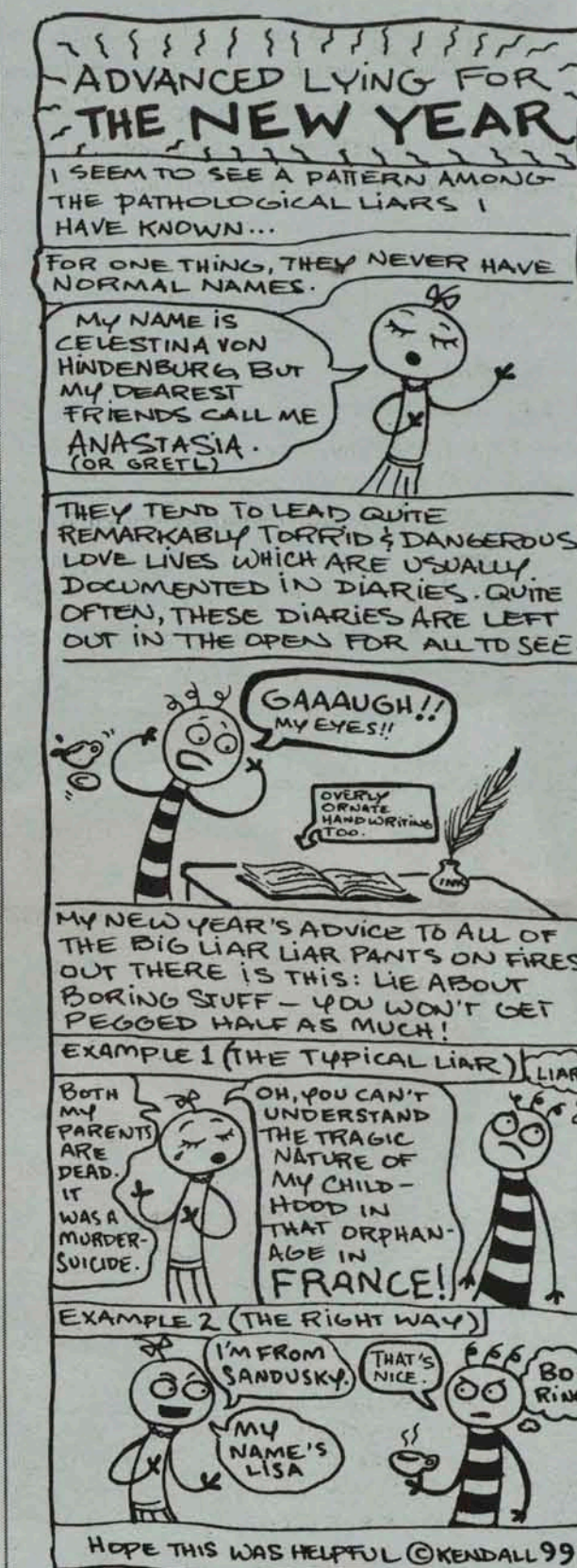
I'm bummed and quietly plotting my next legal moves.

Ashley Lenartson
Portland

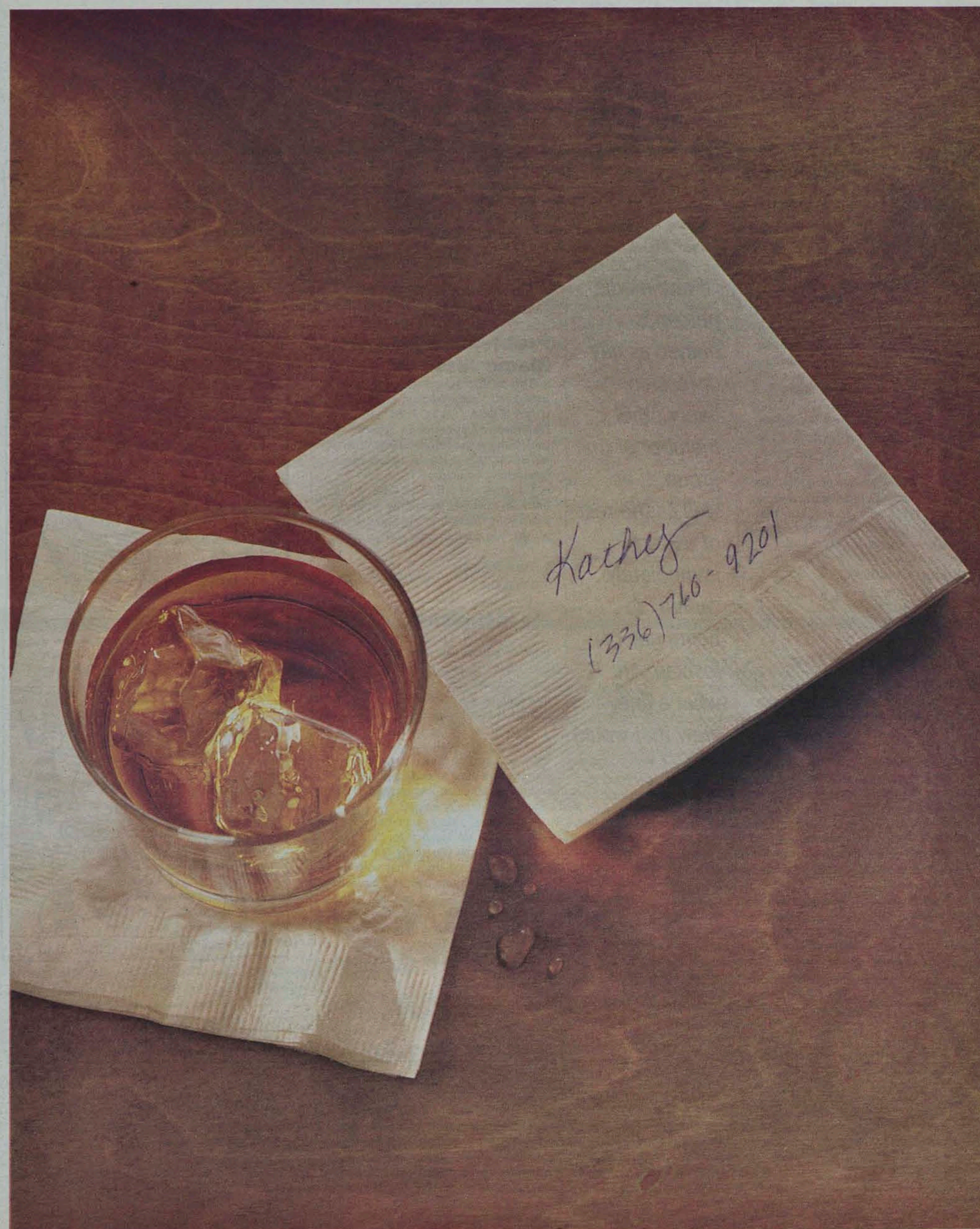
I heard that University of Southern Maine president Richard Pattenau, called CBW after the paper ran a story Dec. 17 pointing out the college's steep increase in temporary faculty, who complain they're being exploited. What did Pattenau say?

Let's just say Pattenau was a bit miffed by the coverage he received. He stayed on the line only about 30 seconds. "Thanks for the hatchet job," he said. "If you want to hatchet us in the future, that's fine. Just don't expect our cooperation." Then he slammed down the phone so hard our ears are still ringing.

crawlspace



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@maine.com.



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 7

"ROAD TO NIRVANA"

Fame and power — the subjects of Arthur Kopit's satirical play "Road to Nirvana" — don't come cheaply. As a matter of fact, many Hollywood big shots are expected to fork over \$39.95 for a monogrammed bib at Red Lobster. However, it's not a dollar amount that's attached to stardom in the Mad Horse Theatre Company's production of "Nirvana." As the play's ambitious hero discovers, the real price of fortune and glory goes way beyond the wallet. Hit the road at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$10. The performance continues through Sun., Feb. 7. Thurs. at 7:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m. Also Mon., Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. Tix: \$18/\$20 Sat. nights (\$16 students and seniors/\$18 Sat. nights). Sun., Jan. 10 and Jan. 17 are pay-what-you-can. Thurs., Jan. 14 and Jan. 21 are 2-for-1. (professional non-Equity) 775-5103.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

"CHAMPIONS ON ICE"

Oksana Baiul is an ice-skating jewel/who once was a famous pariah/For she won a gold prize/which led to her demise/at the hands of Sir Stolicznaya. Now back on her skates/she and her mates/are together in "Champions on Ice," and we all hope and pray/Baiul makes her way/without resorting to vice. But if the ice fairy has a Bloody Mary and gets herself thoroughly blotto, /she can't take the blame/because you'd do the same/if you worked with Brian Boitano. The ice people cometh to the Civic Center, Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$45. 775-3458.



Go figure: Olympic skaters Dorothy Hamill (left), Oksana Baiul (right) and Brian Boitano (far right) appear in "Champions on Ice" at the Civic Center, Fri., Jan. 8.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9

"NEW ACQUISITIONS 1998"

It's no surprise that Winslow Homer, Frederic Church and Claude Monet are all featured in the exhibition "New Acquisitions 1998." The three painters are known to have gotten along famously, often referring to their trio as "The Three Stud-skateers." But they're not the only artists turning up in "Acquisitions." The collection boasts more than 100 works obtained over the course of last year. Get the big picture at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq. A selection of Maine landscapes starts things off on Sat., Jan. 9. The remaining pieces go on display Sat. Jan. 30. The exhibition continues through Fri., March 19. Hours: Mon.-Wed., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors/\$1 kids ages 6-12). Admission is free every Friday from 5-9 p.m. 775-6148.

TERRANCE SIMIEN

For zydeco musicians like Terrance Simien, fame often turns out to be a burden — a burden roughly the shape and weight of an accordion. But that hasn't prevented Simien from scaling the heights of the music industry. The Louisiana native — who blends soul, funk, reggae and gospel into a spicy Bloody Mary of swamp romp — has recorded singles with Paul Simon and Dennis Quaid (yes, the actor). Squeeze into the Big Easy, 55 Market St., Portland, at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5. 871-8817.

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Chris Busby, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

"MAJESTIC CREATIONS"

Violinist Misha Keylin is famous for more than being an international award-winning musician. The Russian virtuoso is also renowned for being the only 28-year-old in the universe not in grad school or slaving at a temp job. A native of St. Petersburg, Keylin performs with the Portland Symphony Orchestra in "Majestic Creations," a concert featuring works by Henri Vieuxtemps, Joan Tower, Jean Sibelius and Witold Lutoslawski. Get a tune up at Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$21-\$47. 842-0800.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE MEN'S HOCKEY

Hockey players are famous for their tempers, so don't be appalled if a match between the University of Maine and Yale dissolves into an exchange of heated insults like "Smooth move, Ex-Lax" and "Have a nice trip, see you next fall." But then, victory is rarely pretty, especially between razor-bladed gladiators who carry big sticks but don't feel the least obligation to speak softly. Pucker up at the Civic Center, Portland, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$9-\$13 (\$5 kids 12 and under, \$7 seniors). 775-3458.

QUICK PICKS

FRI., JAN. 8

• Show off your rusty medal moves and laugh while others fall flat on their Oksana at an old-fashioned skating party. At Deering Oaks Park, Portland, from 6-8 p.m. Free. 874-8793.

SAT., JAN. 9

• Yuck it up with the youthful members of the Maine-i-Acts, the Children's Theatre of Maine's improvisational comedy troupe. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, at 3 p.m. Tix: \$3. 774-5554.

MON., JAN. 11

• A moonraker, or dunce, may spend hours staring up at the ceiling. Do the same watching "The Moonrakers Advise," a hanging installation by Astrid Bowby. At the University of Southern Maine Area Gallery, Portland campus, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. 780-5008.

SOUND BITES

• Skavooovie and the Epitones open up and say "ska" Thurs., Jan. 7 at Asylum (7 p.m./\$6/all ages).

• The Piners pine like rocka-hillbillies Sat., Jan. 8 at Free Street Taverna (10 p.m./\$3).

• Reggae Cowboys hogtie reggae and rock together Sun., Jan. 10 at Stone Coast Brewing Company (9 p.m./\$5).

Tub & Massage Packages

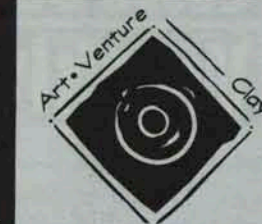


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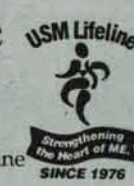
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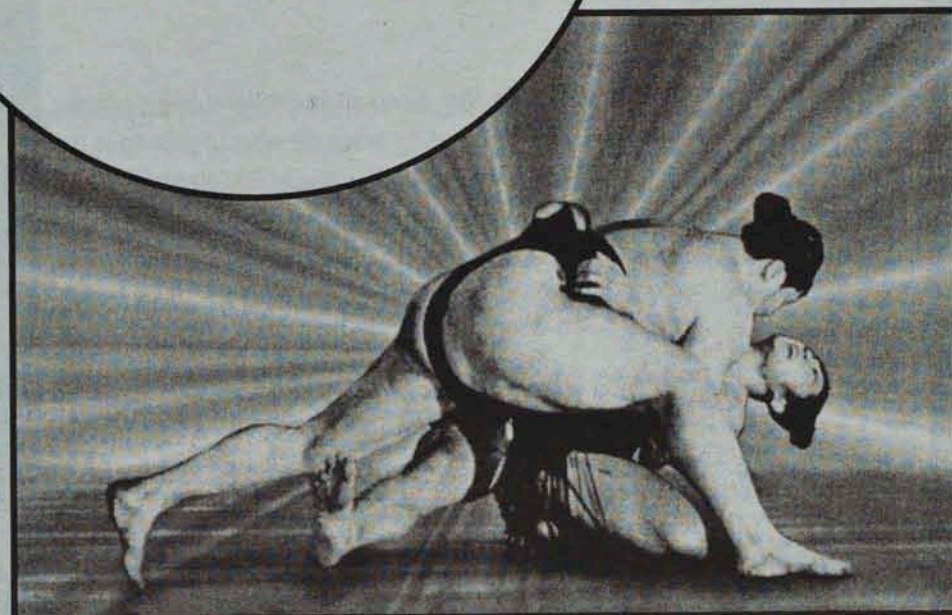
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Cheeko and the Fat Man: Cover of Eggbot's "Sumo Erotica" disc.

In a rocky landscape peopled by more posers than composers, Eggbot and Schleigho stand out as musical misfits whose twisted sonic anomalies make them all the more endearing. Portland's Eggbot scrambles genres to hilarious effect, while the Boston-area band Schleigho combines jazz, funk and Zappa-esque arabesque with inventive panache. Sat, Jan 9 at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St, Portland, at 10 pm. Tix: \$5.

thursday 7

Asylum
Skaville and the Epitones (aka/7 pm/\$6 all ages)
The Basement
Call ahead (9:30 pm/cover T.B.A.)
The Big Easy
Chris F&B Band (9 pm/\$3)
The Bitter End
Dance Night with DJ Jon (9:30 pm/cover)
The Comedy Connection
Butch Bradley's Comedy Showcase (8:30 pm/\$6)
Empty Pockets
Scottish session (8 pm/no cover)
Free Street Taverna
Bella Zerkova (10 pm/no cover)
Gilligan's Tiki Bar
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)
Loose Moose Saloon
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 (9 pm-1 am/no cover)
Old Port Tavern
Blue Steel Express rock and blues (10 pm/no cover)
Sisters
DJ dancing (8 pm/no cover)
Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry (9 pm-1 am/no cover)
The Underground
DJ Bob Look's All Request Night (70s, 80s and 90s dance hits/9 pm)
Zootz
Jazz night (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)

Brian Boni
Rakish Paddy traditional Irish/9 pm/no cover
The Comedy Connection
Butch Bradley's Comedy Showcase (8:30 pm/\$6)
Commercial Street Pub
Folk acoustic night (9:30 pm/no cover)
Swing Night (9 pm/no cover)
Empty Pockets
Kevin Reams (Celtic/6-9 pm/no cover)
and Decast (7 pm/\$7 all ages)
Free Street Taverna
The Piners (10 pm/\$3)
Geno's
Info not available to CBW
Gilligan's Tiki Bar
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)
The Industry
College Night (DJ Joyce spins hip-hop, R&B and dance/10 pm-3 am/21+, \$3/18+, \$5)
Loose Moose Saloon
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 (9 pm-1 am/no cover)
Metropolis
Chem-free party with DJ Thunder (hip-hop and Top 40/9 pm-1 am/\$5) Sunday in Room Two with guest DJ house, trance, techno/9:30 pm-7 am/\$5)
Old Port Tavern
Inflatable Friends acoustic alternate/10 pm/no cover
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover)
Sisters
DJ Jack MF (10 pm/no cover)
Somewhere
Mary Murphy (piano/8 pm-12:30 am/no cover)
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Freddie J. Eaglesmith and Diesel Doug and the Long Haul Truckers (9 pm/\$5/21+)
The Underground
Andy's Weekend Dance Party (9 pm/\$2)
Verillo's
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)

Zootz
Urban Dance with DJ Moshé (hip-hop, trip-hop, house and acid jazz/9 pm-1 am/\$3 after 11 pm/all ages after 1:15 am)
Old Port Tavern
Hemlock rock and blues/10 pm/no cover
O'Rourke's
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)
The Pavilion
DJ Shane Staples (Top 40 dance hits/9 pm/\$3)
Sisters
DJ dancing (Top 40/9 pm/\$3)
Somewhere
Mary Murphy (piano/8 pm-12:30 am/no cover)
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Schleigho and Eggbot (10 pm/\$5/21+)
The Underground
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)
Zootz
Zootz Suit Rot (swing/4:30-9 pm/call ahead/all ages)
Decades of Dance (70s, 80s, 90s dance music/9 pm-3 am/\$3 after 11 pm/all ages after 1:15 am)

saturday 9
Angle's
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)
Asylum
Sigmata, Reach the Sky, Last Call and Decast (7 pm/\$7 all ages)
The Basement
Call ahead (9:30 pm/cover T.B.A.)
Sisters
DJ dancing (Top 40/9 pm/\$3)
Somewhere
Mary Murphy (piano/8 pm-12:30 am/no cover)
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Schleigho and Eggbot (10 pm/\$5/21+)
The Underground
Call ahead (9 pm/no cover)
Zootz
Zootz Suit Rot (swing/4:30-9 pm/call ahead/all ages)
Decades of Dance (70s, 80s, 90s dance music/9 pm-3 am/\$3 after 11 pm/all ages after 1:15 am)

sunday 10

The Basement
Call ahead
The Bitter End
Reggae/Ska night with DJ Supa (9:30 pm/no cover)
Brian Boni
An Grain Irish traditional/3-6 pm/no cover
Cafe Ulla
Hospital with José Ayerle of Spouse (6:30 pm/\$5)
The Comedy Connection
George Hamm's Comedy Showcase (8:30 pm/call ahead)
Empty Pockets
Irish session with Skip Healy (3-8 pm/no cover)
Free Street Taverna
Jason Rawn (8:30 pm/no cover)
Gritty McChuff's
Bebop Jazz (6 pm/no cover)

The listings above are for live entertainment and dancing. Bars and clubs may be open on additional nights. Submissions for this section should be received the Friday prior to publication, including dates, times, cost and type of music. Send listings to Chris Busby, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St, Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail listings@casco.me

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CD Release Jan 15
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Late w/ Radio Kings
21+ \$5 9pm



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KAREN BLACK
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Jan 24: Queens of the Stone Age
Featuring Former members of Kyuss
Jan 27: L.E.S. Stiches
Tix for all shows available at Bullmoose, Strawberries & ASYLUM

the next BIG things

Sonia Dada
Stone Coast Brewing Company, 1/20
Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Merrill Auditorium, 1/29
Merle Saunders
Stone Coast Brewing Company, 1/30
Strangefolk
State Theatre, 2/6

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with DJ Don (10 pm/no cover)
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover)
Sisters
Tea Dance (4-8 pm/no cover)
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Reggae Cowboys rock-reggae/9 pm/\$5/21+)
The Underground
DJ Colin W. and karaoke with Stormin' Normin (9 pm-closed/call ahead)
Zootz
Free Fall Sunday with DJ Moshé (hip-hop/9 pm-1 am/\$3/21+)

wednesday 13

The Basement
Call ahead (9:30 pm/cover T.B.A.)
The Big Easy
Red Lite Revue (9 pm/no cover)
The Bitter End
Local revue (9:30 pm/no cover)
Commercial Street Pub
Acoustic open mic (9 pm/no cover)
Free Street Taverna
Billy (10 pm/no cover)
Gritty McChuff's
Crash 22 (9 pm/no cover)
Old Port Tavern
Karaoke contest finale with DJ Don (10 pm/no cover)
The Pavilion
Ladies' night with DJ Shane Staples (Top 40 dance hits/9 pm/\$3/dress free)
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover)
Sisters
DJ Dancing (8 pm/no cover)

tuesday 12
Call ahead (9 pm/cover T.B.A.)
The Big Easy
Blues Jam with Mike Hayward (9 pm/no cover)
The Bitter End
Dance Night with DJ John (9:30 pm/no cover)
Commercial Street Pub
Acoustic open mic (9 pm/no cover)

Angle's 121 Commercial St, Portland, 773-8593
Asylum 121 Center St, Portland, 772-8274
The Basement 1 Exchange St, Portland, 828-1111
The Big Easy 55 Market St, Portland, 871-8817
The Bitter End 446 Fore St, Portland, 874-1933
Bramhall Pub 769 Congress St, Portland, 773-9873
Brian Boni 57 Center St, Portland, 780-1506
Cafe Ulla 190 State St, Portland, 775-3380
The Comedy Connection 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554
Commercial Street Pub Commercial St, Portland, 774-1100
The Fernata Club 365 Forest Ave, Portland, 772-6693
Free Street Taverna 128 Free St, Portland, 774-1114
Gilligan's Tiki Bar 38 Wharf St, Portland, 761-9363
Gritty McChuff's 396 Fore St, Portland, 772-2739
The Industry 50 Wharf St, Portland, 879-0865
Loose Moose Saloon Route 100, Gay, 657-7171
Metropolis 1037 Forest Ave, Portland, 797-3781
Old Port Tavern 11 Moulton St, Portland, 774-0444
O'Rourke's Landing 175 Pickett St, So. Portland, 767-3611
Pete and Larry's Doubletree Hotel, 1230 Congress St, Portland, 774-5611
The Seamen's Club 375 Fore St, Portland, 774-7777
Silver House Tavern 340 Fore St, Portland, 772-9885
Sisters 45 Danforth St, Portland, 871-9169
Somewhere 117 Spring St, Portland, 871-9169
Stone Coast Brewing Company 14 York St, Portland, 773-2337
The Underground 3 Spring St, Portland, 773-3315
Verillo's 155 Riverside St, Portland, 775-6536
Zootz 31 Forest Ave, Portland, 773-8187

Unless otherwise noted, clubs require that entrants be 21 years or older.

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thurs. jan 7 **GREG POWERS CONCERT KARAOKE**

fri. jan 8 **FRED J. EAGLESMITH w/Diesel Doug & L.H.T.**

sat. jan 9 **SCHLEIGHO 21+ 10 PM**

sun. jan 10 **REGGAE COWBOYS**

mon. jan 11 **IN THE BIZ NIGHT \$1 DRAFTS FOR OTHER RESTAURANT WORKERS**

tue. jan 12 **HUCK \$1 DRAFTS/\$1 COVER**

wed. jan 13 **HUMP DAY HAPPY HOUR**

NEXT WEEK

thurs. jan 14 **GREG POWERS CONCERT KARAOKE**

fri. jan 15 **VIPERHOUSE w/MIRACLE ORCHESTRA & FIGHTING GRAVITY**

sat. jan 16 **BE-BOP JAZZ ENSEMBLE JON BROWNS BODY**

sun. jan 17 **Big Screen Sports all day**

mon. jan 18 **IN THE BIZ NIGHT \$1 DRAFTS FOR OTHER RESTAURANT WORKERS**

tue. jan 19 **MISSING JOE/CANINE \$1 DRAFTS/\$1 COVER**

wed. jan 20 **SONIA DADA w/todd thibeau**

UPCOMING- 1/21 Fuel (all ages) 1/22 Heavy Metal Horns 1/23 moe. (tentative) 1/29 Motor Booty Affair 1/30 Merle Saunders 2/3 Nathan and the Zydeco Cha Chas 2/7 John Gorka 2/13 Percy Hill 2/20-21 Bim

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directed by Joan Sand

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PERFORMANCE

Submissions for the performance section should be received two weeks prior to publication. Send to: Allen Dammann, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail: zmler@maine.rr.com.

MUSIC

Frank Glazer Sun, Jan 10. World renowned pianist Frank Glazer performs works by Haydn, Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Chopin. At the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St. Bath, at 3 pm. Tix: \$14-\$16. 442-8455.

Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Fri, Jan 15. Jazztree, a group of jazz, funk and fusion instrumentalists will accompany vocalist/poet Richard Pleasant in a celebration of civil rights. At the Saco Coliseum, 60 School St. Saco, at 8:30 pm. Open mic at 8 pm. Donation: \$5 (\$12 family). 282-0062.

Noonday Concerts Thurs, Jan 14. The Portland Conservatory of Music presents lunch time entertainment with the Portland String Quartet. At the First Parish Church, 425 Congress St. Portland, at 12:15 pm. Free. 775-3356.

Phong Nguyen Sat, Jan 16. Portland Performing Arts brings the National Heritage Fellow to town to perform traditional Vietnamese music. At the Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St. Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$10. 761-1545.

Portland Symphony Orchestra Tues, Jan 12. Violinist Misha Keylin sits in with the band to jam Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto No. 2. The PSO will also rock out Tower's "Sibelius," Sibelius's "The Swan of Tuonela" and Lutoslawski's Concerto for Orchestra. At Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St. Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$21-\$47. 842-0800.

Scharf Brothers Sat, Jan 9. CD release party for the folk guitar duo's second laser-ready offering "Both Points of View." At the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Routes 35 and 1, Kennebunk, at 7:30 pm. Donation: \$8. 985-3700.

THEATER

Amahl and the Night Visitors Fri, Jan 8. Freeport Community Players present the musical/opera by Gian-Carlo Menotti about Kings Casper, Balhazar and Melchior's visit with a widowed mother and her disabled son at a time when the social safety net was nearly as non-existent as

today. At the First Parish Congregational Church, 40 Main St. Freeport, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$7-\$33 kids, seniors and students. 865-6041.

Maine-i-Acts Sat, Jan 9. The Children's Theatre of Maine's first improvisational comedy troupe for kids premieres its routines. The members, ranging from ages 6-13, improvise skits based on the audience's suggestions. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, at 3 pm. Tix: \$3. 774-5554.

"Music, Magic and Marvellous Movement" Sat, Jan 16. Sun, Jan 17. The Portland Lyric Theatre presents music by the Down East Barber Shop Ensemble (Sat only), the Boy Singers of Maine and Quartets of Reminiscent Quintessence, magic by master magi-

cians and movement by the Carol Jordan Dancers, the Cheryl Greeley Theatre-Dance Ensemble and others. Benefits the Building on Success Fund. At Portland Lyric Theatre, 176 Sawyer St. So. Portland. Sat at 8 pm. Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$15. (community company). 799-1421 or 799-6509.

"Nora" Tues, Jan 12. Sun, Jan 31. Portland Stage Company presents Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Ibsen's "A Doll's House." "Nora" is the tale of a woman's self discovery in the midst of oppressive social constraints. At Portland Performing Arts, 25 Forest Ave. Portland. Wed-Fri at 7:30 pm. Sat at 4 pm and 8 pm. Sun at 2 pm. Tues (Jan 12 only) at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$18-\$30. (professional Equity) 774-0465.

"Road to Nirvana" Thurs, Jan 7-Sun, Feb 7. Mad Horse Theatre Company pops the bloated bubble of our country's vacuous popular culture with the tale of Jerry, a man whose quest to chronicle the life of the world's most super star brings him to the brink of bad things. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St. Portland. Thurs at 7:30 pm. Fri and Sat at 8 pm. Sun at 5 pm (2 pm matinee Mon, Jan 31 only). Tix: \$18-\$20 (\$16-\$18 students and seniors). (professional non-Equity) 775-5103.

"Welcome to Hell" Thurs, Jan 14-Sat, Jan 16. The Deering Players present "a divine little comedy" not necessarily about the high school itself. At Deering High School, 370 Stevens Ave. Portland. Thurs and Fri at 8 pm. Sat at 2 pm and 8 pm. Tix: \$5. 772-6260.

Julie Dretzin as the title character in Portland Stage Company's "Nora."



Portland Stage Company's production of "Nora" is an adaptation of Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's 19th-century drama "A Doll's House." It is the tale of a woman's journey toward self-discovery in the face of stifling social and marital conventions. Julie Dretzin, whose television credits include "You're the One" and "Aliens in the Family," appears as the title character. Scott Ripley, who has appeared on "Conan the Destroyer," plays, appropriately enough, Nora's husband. Get dolled up Tues, Jan 12 at Portland Performing Arts, 25 Forest Ave. Portland, at 7:30 pm. Continues through Sun, Jan 31, Wed-Fri at 7:30 pm, Sat at 4 pm and 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$18-\$30. (professional Equity) 774-0465.

center stage

January 12 - 31

NORA

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from Ibsen's *A Doll's House*
directed by Bartlett Sher



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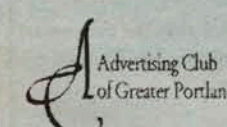
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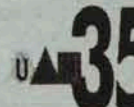
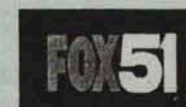
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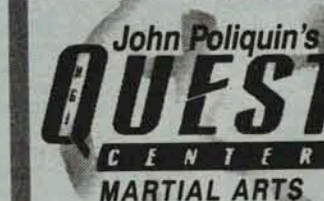
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VISUAL arts

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OPENINGS

Bates College Museum of Art Bates College campus, Lewiston. "In Black and White: Landscape Prints" by Claire Van Vleet show Fri. Jan. 15-Fri. March 19. Highlights from the permanent collection are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 785-6158.

Chocolate Church Arts Center 804 Washington St., Bath. "The Hidden Landscape," slide show and gallery talk by photographer Wil Richard. Thurs. Jan. 14 at 7 pm. Shows through Thurs. Jan. 28. The 1999 June Photography Exhibition runs concurrently. Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-4 pm, Sat noon-4 pm. 442-8455.

Danforth & Daughters Contemporary Art 148 High St., Portland. Opening reception for "Friends Downeast," oil on board landscapes by Bill Irvine, mixed media figurative/landscapes by Sandy Olson, mixed media "Cities" by Rebekah Raye and ceramic sculptures by Elizabeth O'Connor. Sat. Jan. 16 from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat. Feb. 13. "Heart and Soul," acrylics by Gail Henry show in the adjoining gallery space. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm, 780-0766.

Institute of Contemporary Art Maine College of Art, 522 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "MECA Faculty 1999," the annual exhibition of work by Maine College of Art faculty. Thurs. Jan. 21 from 5-7 pm. "Tribute to Allan Gardiner" runs concurrently. Shows Tues. Jan. 12-Fri. Feb. 5. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm, 775-5098.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St., Portland. Opening reception for oil and acrylic paintings from the 1970s by William Manning. Thurs. Jan. 14 from 5-7 pm. Shows through Sat. Feb. 13. New work by Steve Soper shows through Sat. Jan. 9. Hours: Mon-Sat noon-5 pm, 772-1961.

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USM Area Gallery Campus Center, Portland. "The Mountaintop: A hanging installation" by Astrid Bowley shows Mon. Jan. 11-Thurs. Feb. 11. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-10 pm, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm, 780-5009.

GALLERIES

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DeLia's Pottery 134 Spring St., Portland. Oil paintings by Paul Brubaker show through Fri. Feb. 5. Hours: Tues-Fri 11 am-6 pm, Sat noon-4 pm, 871-1594.

Foghorn Gallery 4 Clinton St., Portland. International folk art, decorative wood carvings, black pottery and crafts of indigenous peoples. Ongoing. Hours: by appointment. 781-2563.

The Fore Street Gallery 366 Fore St., Portland. Group show of photographs by Nancy and Matthew Sleeth and paintings by Tom Macleay, Nancy Swasey, Alfonso Cobos, K. Dana Nelson, Marcia Baker, Richard Rollow, Tom Ellington and John Bickford is ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 12-5 pm, 874-8084.

Frost Gallery 411 Congress St., Portland. Paintings by Alfred Chaboud, Alan Magee, Laurence Sisson, William Thon, Dahlov Ipcar, Stephen Elmer, John Laurent and Thomas Cobby are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri noon-6 pm and by appointment. 773-2555.

Gallery at 108 High Street Portland. Group show featuring work by Peter Balle, Eve Bennett, Julie Gillespie, Cal Schwank and others shows through Sat. Jan. 9. Hours: Thurs-Sat noon-5 pm, or by appointment. 761-0076.

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"Art and Life in the Ancient Mediterranean" Work spanning the 4th century A.D. ongoing.

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"Portraits" American portraiture, dating from the 18th century to turn of the century. Ongoing.

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"Winter Scenes" Woodblock prints by Winslow Homer and photographs by Barbara Cooney depicting winter activities show through Sat. Jan. 30.

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CALLS FOR ART/ARTISTS

Danforth Gallery seeks art works, installations, performances, artistic renderings and visual presentations for its 10th anniversary celebration exhibition, "The Way Maine Inland Was." Send SASE to the Spirit of Danforth 300th. The Maine Artists' Space/Danforth Gallery, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland, 04101, by May 1, 1999.

Front Room Gallery seeks slides/photos of work for upcoming exhibitions. Send to Front Room Gallery, 378 Cottage Rd., So. Portland, ME 04106, 767-9070.

The Frost Gallery seeks to represent two or three sculptors with strong ties to Maine. Send slides and/or photographs, along with a personal biography and résumé, to: Adelle Gabrielson, Associate Director, 411 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, 773-2555.

Hinge Gallery seeks women's artwork in all mediums including artist's books for an exhibition in March, 1999. Send slides and biography with return postage by Fri. Jan. 15 to Hinge, 576A Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, 761-9552.

Maine Arts Commission is developing a new program for artists in all disciplines and seeks to survey Maine artists about their experiences and needs. To receive a survey, call 287-2724 or e-mail jan.poulin@state.me.us.

Portland Parks and Recreation seeks artists to submit work for exhibitions rotating every two months. A portfolio must be submitted for consideration. Call Brenda at 874-8793.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq., Portland, invites artists to submit work for a one-month exhibition in the Lewis Gallery, 971-1758.

The Round Top Center for the Arts seeks work for an exhibit benefiting the Red Cross relief efforts in Central America. The exhibit will take place Thurs. Jan. 7-Sat. Jan. 9, 563-1507.

Southern Maine Wellness Center invites artists to exhibit framed works in their therapy center. Call Merrill at 767-1385.

Studio 313 seeks work for possible exhibitions. For an application form, write to Studio 313, 313 Danforth St., Portland, ME 04101.

Union of Maine Visual Artists seeks digital art for a March, 1999 show at the College of the Atlantic. New members invited. Submit slides or prints to Douglas Barkley, RR 1 Box 625, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. For more info, call 288-5199 or Robert at 326-8459.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

ACTS has photography and drawing for adults and kids. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland. By appointment only. 761-2465.

The Clay Cafe has classes for kids. At the Clay Cafe, 26 Free St., Portland. 775-3004.

Clay Classes If you are somebody interested in skillful wet clay class classes, call Allison Arnold at Pleasant St. Collective at 761-7909. All hand-building. Any age over 7 is welcome.

Creative Resource Center offers free programs for kids of all ages, including "Apple Picture Mats" and "Pumpkin Pictures!" At the Creative Resource Center, 1103 Forest Ave., Portland. Enrollment is limited. 797-8543.

Brenda Haberman, B.E.A. M.Ed. holds classes for kids, teens and adults. At JR Learning Center, 273 Main St., Yarmouth. 846-9965.

Kaplan offers classes in interior decorating. 846-5663.

Maine Mobile Arts offers classes at Stone Soup Artisans, 102 Maine St., Brunswick. 721-8634.

Personal Creations Workshop offers classes in decorative painting, stencil-making, kids' crafts, pressed flower pictures and calligraphy. At Personal Creations Workshop, 87 Market St., Portland. For a full schedule, call 761-0991.

The Portland Museum of Art offers a variety of classes. At the PMA, 7 Congress St., Portland. 775-6148.

Portland Pottery offers a variety of pottery classes for adults and kids, in addition to classes in silver, ceramics, moldmaking and metal. At Portland Pottery, 118 Washington Ave., Portland. 775-4334.

Sawyer Street Studios has pottery classes for adults and kids. At Sawyer Street Studios, 131 Sawyer St., Portland. 767-1113.

Sheldrake Studio offers drawing and painting classes for adults, beginner or experienced, and fun art classes for kids in Klemmington and surrounding. 775-2653.

The Wilderness School offers a number of classes. At the Wilderness School, 89 Woodside Rd., Brunswick. 729-8616.

"Young At Art" Judy Faust offers unusual art classes for kids ages 5-13 and their parents, including "Clay Studio," "Found Object Art" and "Glow-in-the-Dark Art." 761-9438 or 767-7650.

Zygal Bookworks & Cafe offers classes on book repair and book and portfolio making at its bindery at 61 Pleasant St., Portland. Classes limited to six people in calligraphy. Call Scott at 775-4121.

INTERNSHIPS & FUNDING

The Maine Arts Commission offers grants and services to assist arts organizations, artists and communities in various projects. Call 287-2724, e-mail jan.poulin@state.me.us or visit www.mainearts.com.

EVENTS & LECTURES

"Activating Your Creativity" Share your creative process and products of whatever form in a safe and supportive environment. If you wish to share, plan on 5-10 minutes. Meets the first Wed of the month at Apple, 651 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation, \$5. 780-1500.

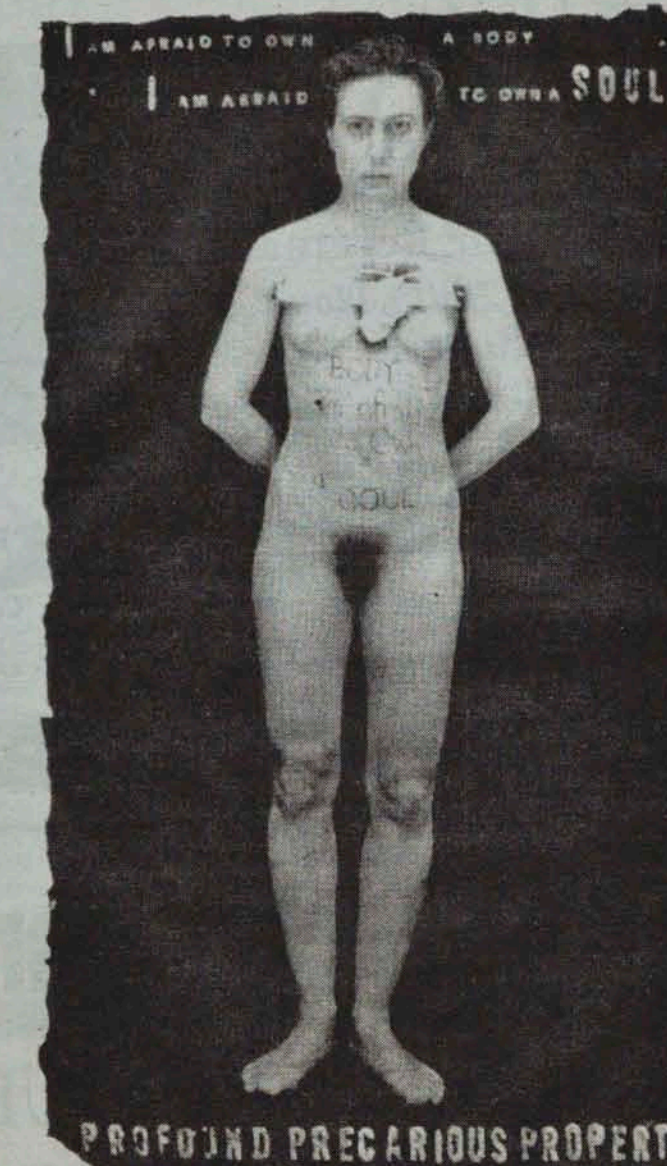
The Central Maine Friends of Photography holds meetings the first Tues of each month at the Creative Resource Center, 1103 Forest Ave., Portland. 761-9552.

"An Eye on Maine" Wed. Jan. 13. Friends of the Scarborough Library and donors of the Portland Museum of Art explore the works and lives of Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth, Marsden Hartley and other well-known Maine artists. At Scarborough Library, 48 Gorham Rd., at 7:15 pm. Free. 883-4723.

MECA Open House Tours Visit Maine College of Art's studio space the first Tues of every month at the MECA Building, 522 Congress St., Portland, at noon. 809-775-5098.

Open Side Night The Union of Maine Visual Artists invites artists, craftspeople and anyone interested to attend an open side night the second Fri of each month at Jay York Studios for discussion/feedback. 773-3434.

The Portland Museum of Art has free lectures held in conjunction with its exhibitions. At the PMA, 7 Congress St., Portland. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.



The visible woman: Uniting text and imagery, "Profound Precarious Property" and other works appear in "Lesley Dill: The Poetics of Form."

Brutal and beautiful

A curious synthesis occurs in the work of Maine artist Lesley Dill. Elements meticulous and at times brutal combine to create pieces that are occasionally disturbing and often beautiful.

Working in two and three dimensions, utilizing a variety of media and techniques—photographs, paint, wire, horse hair, thread, charcoal, bronze, muslin, even gold leaf—Dill examines the human body, dissecting its emotional and physical frailty. Male and female, black and white figures appear against stark backgrounds, their limbs frequently staked down with thread.

Some look completely vulnerable. One woman is placed naked against an ebony ground, her arms behind her back. She stands passively, her gaze direct, even though something seems to have been stripped away, revealing her heart. "I am afraid to own a body. I am afraid to own a soul," say the words that hover around her head. Below her feet, additional text proclaims her "Profound Precarious Property."

Other subjects, like the white-clad male in "Honey Nose Bleed," are more mysterious. Though dreamlike, he stands upright, perhaps because of the thread that anchors him to the ground, apparently oblivious to the fluid streaming out of his nose and the words behind him.

In much of the work here, text plays an essential part, forming backdrops or internal dialogue for the human figures set against it, crawling up an arm or leg or transformed into wire sculpture across an entire wall. For Dill, words are nearly magical, capable of creating connections or protecting the defenseless. In "Poem Hands," Emily Dickinson's lines "I felt my life with both my hands/ To see if it was there" can be found on two opened palms; quotes from the work of Franz Kafka and Rainer Maria Rilke are also sprinkled throughout the show.

At times, Dill, who attended the Waynflete School in Portland, exposes her subjects mercilessly. The nude woman in "A Thought Went Up My Mind Today" poses with her back to the camera, arms upstretched. Though she seems not to be suffering, she appears to be the victim of vivisection, the skin of her back peeled away.

But Dill's revelations are not of the gawking, voyeuristic variety. In fact, when she strips away her subjects' skin, it's because that's as close as she can get to their souls using traditional photography. The rest of the journey she makes with her evocative blend of materials and processes and careful appropriation of language. In exploring our innermost feelings, she lays bare her subjects in a straightforward way, their dignity elevated rather than threatened.

PAT SIMS

"Lesley Dill: The Poetics of Form" shows through Sunday, Feb. 21 at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., 775-6148.

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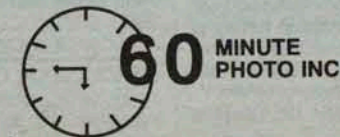
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January 9th & 10th

Sat. 6-9pm / Sun. 11am-4pm

BANGOR, ME

Ruthy's Catering

Sunday, Jan. 17 • 10am-4pm

AUGUSTA, ME

Augusta Armory

Sunday, Jan. 31 • 10am-4pm

MANCHESTER, NH

Holiday Inn - The Center of NH

Holiday, Feb. 7 • 11am-4pm

OUT OF THE WOODWORK: WOOD CARVERS

Thursdays
January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 7 p.m.
PMA Auditorium
Free with Museum Admission

January 7:
David Smus: wildlife wood-carvings and bronze sculptures
Vlademar Skov: architectural and furniture detailing
David Pollock: floral sculptures in domestic and exotic wood



David Pollock



David Smus

This lecture series is a collaborative program between PMA and the Maine Crafts Association, featuring Maine master woodworkers.

Portland Museum of Art

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VISUAL arts

Submissions for the visual arts section should be received two weeks prior to publication. Send to Chris Busby, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail listings@maine.cc.com.

OPENINGS

Bates College Museum of Art Bates College campus, Lewiston. "Black and White: Landscape Prints" by Claire Van Vleet show Fri, Jan 15-Fri, March 19. Highlights from the permanent collection are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 786-6158.

Chocolate Church Arts Center 804 Washington St. Bath. "The Hidden Landscape" slide show and gallery talk by photographer Will Richard. Thurs, Jan 14 at 7 pm. Shows through Thurs, Jan 28. The 1999 Junior Photography Exhibition runs concurrently. Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-4 pm, Sat noon-4 pm, 442-8455.

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art 148 High St. Portland. Opening reception for "Friends Downeast," oil on board landscapes by Bill Irvine, mixed media figurative/landscapes by Sandy Olson, mixed media "Circles" by Rebekah Rowe and ceramic sculptures by Elizabeth Olander. Sat, Jan 16 from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, Feb 13. "Heart and Soul," acrylics by Gail Henry show in the adjoining gallery space. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm, 780-0786.

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Montgomery Memorial Gallery at MECA 522 Congress St. Portland. Works by Claude Montgomery. Ongoing. Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-6 pm, 775-5098.

The Steile Gallery 195 Middle St. Portland. "Scent, Sparkle and Jayne Redman," perfume bottles by 15 American glass artists and the jewelry of Portland artist Jayne Redman show through Sun, Jan 10. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm, 772-9072.

Hugh Verrier Studio 13-15 Boynton St. Portland. Sculpture and paintings by Hugh Verrier. Ongoing. Hours: Call ahead, 773-9814.

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"The Prints of Will Barnet, 1930-Present," shows through Sun, Jan 24.

The Spring Point Museum at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Road, So. Portland. "Spring Point Ledge Light House," a permanent exhibition of photographs and artifacts documenting 100 years in the light's history. "Portland Harbor, 1865-1900 Making a Living in Stormy Times," a permanent exhibition of the clipper ship Snow-Squall. Hours: Fri-Sun 1-4 pm. Cost: \$2 kids and members free, 799-6337.

Umbrella Cover Museum 105 Brackett Ave, Peaks Island. A humorous display of umbrella sheaths. Ongoing. Admission by foreign currency. \$2. American donation requested. Hours: by appointment, 766-4496.

OTHER VENUES

Americana Workshop Route 1, Kennebunk. Oil paintings by Jean Colquhoun. Ongoing. Hours: Thurs-Sun 10 am-5 pm, or by appointment or chance, 985-8356.

Green Design Furniture 267 Commercial St. Portland. The landscape and floral paintings of Lois Strickland. Ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, 775-4234.

Maine Audubon Society 20 Gililand Farm Rd, Falmouth. Hand woven tapestries and clothing by Nancy Wines-Delham show through Sun, Jan 31. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm, 781-2330.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 149 Main St, Freeport. Display of hooked rugs by members of the Tie Pedlar Chapter of the Association of Traditional Hooking Artists shows through Sun, Feb 7. Hours: Mon-Thurs, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Fri 10 am-8 pm and Sun 11 am-5 pm, 865-4519.

Online Art Exhibition Company Works by local emerging artists can be viewed at <http://home.maine.cc.com/oaec>.

Portland Coffee Roasting Company 111 Commercial St. Portland. Works by B.J. Danforth. Ongoing. Hours: 6:30 am-5:30 pm daily, 772-9044.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq. "Watercolors by Pome McVane," show through Fri, Jan 20. Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9 am-6 pm, Tues and Thurs noon-9 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm, 871-1700.

Salt Center for Documentary Field Studies 19 Pine St. Portland. "From Performance Artists to Donal McKee to Hip Hop: A Group Show of Recent Photography and Nonfiction Writing by Fall 1998 Salt Students" shows through Mon, Feb 22. Hours: Wed-Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm, 761-0660.

USM Outer Map Library 314 Forest Ave. Portland. Maps of Spain from the Engass collection show through Sat, Feb 13. Hours: Tues 12:30-4:30 pm, Wed and Thurs 12:30-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm, 780-4850.

USM Stone House 642 Wolf Neck Rd, Freeport. "2600 Hours in National Service: Remembering My Ameri-Corp Service," photography exhibit by Georg Johnston Hamilton shows through Fri, Jan 15. Hours: by appointment, 865-3428.

Yarmouth Historical Society 215 Main St, Yarmouth. "Seasons of Community," an exhibition depicting Yarmouth's landscape, people and organizations, shows through June 1999. Hours: Tues-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, 846-6259.

CALLS FOR ART/ARTISTS

Danforth Gallery seeks art works, installations, performances, artistic renderings and visual presentations for its 10th anniversary celebration exhibition, "The Way Maine (Maine) Was." Send SASE to the Spirit of Danforth 300th, The Maine Artists' Space/Danforth Gallery, 20-36 Danforth St. Portland, 04101 by May 1, 1999.

Front Room Gallery seeks slides/photos of work for upcoming exhibitions. Send to Front Room Gallery, 378 Cottage Rd.

So. Portland, ME 04106, 767-9070.

The Frost Gully Gallery seeks to represent two or three sculptors with strong ties to Maine. Send slides and/or photographs, along with a personal biography and resumé, to: Adelle Gabrielson, Associate Director, 411 Congress St. Portland, ME 04101, 773-2555.

Hinge Gallery seeks women's artwork in all mediums including artist's books for an exhibition in March, 1999. Send slides and biography with recent postage by Fri, Jan 15 to Hinge, 576A Congress St. Portland ME 04101, 761-8552.

Maine Arts Commission is developing a new program for artists in all disciplines and seeks to survey Maine artists about their experiences and needs. To receive a survey, call 287-2724 or e-mail jan.paulin@state.me.us.

Portland Parks and Recreation seeks artists to submit work for exhibitions rotating every two months. A portfolio must be submitted for consideration. Call Brenda at 874-8793.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq. Portland, invites artists to submit work for a one-month exhibition in the Lewis Gallery, 571-1750.

The Round Top Center for the Arts seeks work for an exhibit benefiting the Red Cross relief efforts in Central America. The exhibit will take place Thurs, Jan 7-Sat, Jan 9, 563-1507.

Southern Maine Wellness Center invites artists to exhibit framed works in their therapy center. Call Merrill at 767-1385.

Studio 313 seeks work for possible exhibitions. For an application form, write to Studio 313, 34 Danforth St. Portland, ME 04101.

Union of Maine Visual Artists seeks digital art for a March, 1999 show at the College of the Atlantic. New members invited. Submit slides or prints to Douglas Bailey, RR 1 Box 625, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. For more info, call 288-5199 or Robert at 326-8459.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

ACTS has photography and drawing for adults and kids. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave. Portland. By appointment only, 761-2465.

The Clay Cafe has classes for kids. At the Clay Cafe, 26 Free St. Portland, 775-3004.

Clay Classes If you are somebody interested in skillful yet casual clay classes, call Allison Arnold at Pleasant St. Collective at 761-7909. All hand-building. Any age over 7 is welcome.

Creative Resource Center offers free programs for kids of all ages, including "Juglife Picture Mats" and "Pumpkin Pictures." At the Creative Resource Center, 1103 Forest Ave. Portland. Enrollment is limited, 797-9543.

Brenda Haberman, B.A. & M.Ed. holds classes for kids, teens and adults. At 3R Learning Center, 273 Main St. Yarmouth, 846-9965.

KopiKat offers classes in interior decorating. 846-5663.

Maine Mobile Arts offers classes at Stone Soup Artisans, 102 Maine St. Brunswick, 721-8634.

Personal Creations Workshop offers classes in decorative painting, stencil-making, kids' crafts, pressed flower pictures and calligraphy. At Personal Creations Workshop, 87 Market St. Portland. For a full schedule, call 761-0991.

The Portland Museum of Art offers a variety of classes. At the PMA, 7 Congress Sq. Portland, 775-6148.

Portland Pottery offers a variety of pottery classes for adults and kids, in addition to classes in silver, ceramics, moldmaking and metal. At Portland Pottery, 118 Washington Ave. 772-4324.

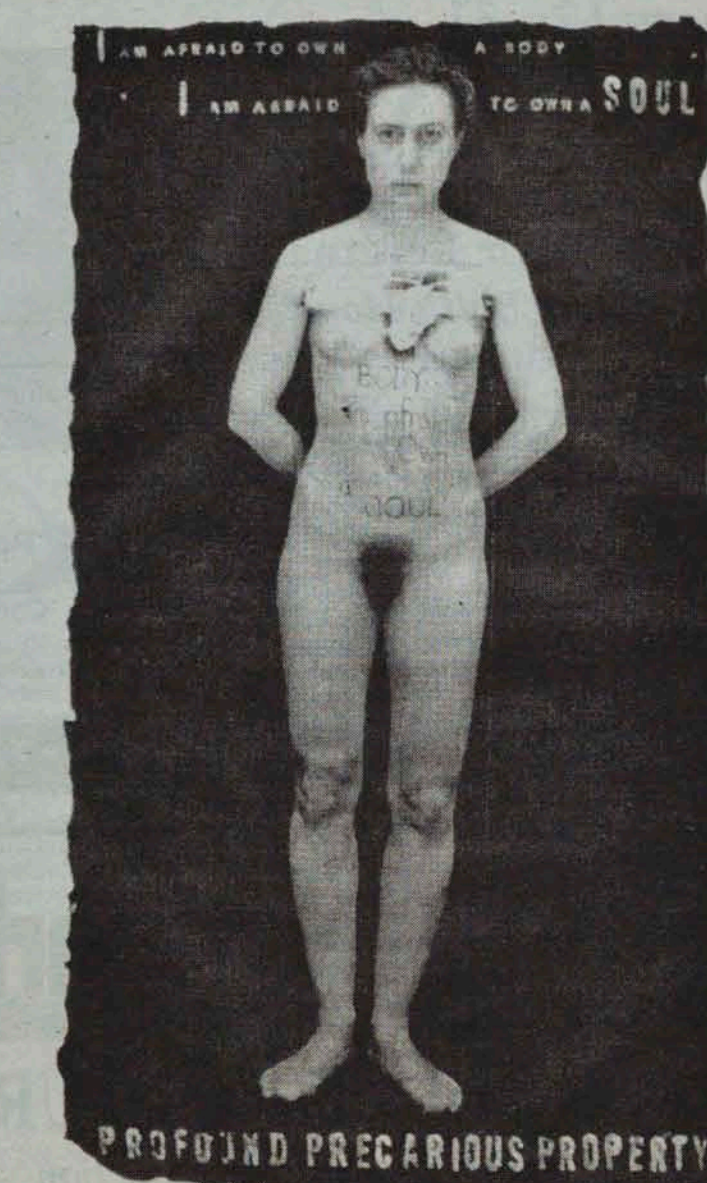
Sawyer Street Studios has pottery classes for adults and kids. At Sawyer Street Studios, 131 Sawyer St. So. Portland, 771-113.

Shedrake Studio offers drawing and painting classes for adults, beginner or experienced, and fun art classes for kids in lettering and papermaking. 775-2653.

The Wilderness School offers a number of classes. At the Wilderness School, 99 Woodside Rd. Brunswick, 729-8616.

"Young Art" Judy Faust offers unusual art classes for kids ages 5-13 and their parents, including "Clay Studio," "Four Object Art" and "Glow-in-the-Dark Art." 761-9438 or 767-7650.

Zygot Bookworks & Cafe offers classes on book repair and book and portfolio making at its library at 61 Pleasant St. Portland. Classes limited to six light in calligraphy. Call Scott at 775-4121.



The visible woman: Uniting text and imagery, "Profound Precarious Property" and other works appear in "Lesley Dill: The Poetics of Form."

Brutal and beautiful

A curious synthesis occurs in the work of Maine artist Lesley Dill. Elements meticulous and at times brutal combine to create pieces that are occasionally disturbing and often beautiful.

Working in two and three dimensions, utilizing a variety of media and techniques — photography, paint, wire, horse hair, thread, charcoal, bronze, muslin, even gold leaf — Dill examines the human body, dissecting its emotional and physical frailty. Male and female, black and white figures appear against stark backgrounds, their limbs frequently staked down with thread.

Some look completely vulnerable. One woman is placed naked against an ebony ground, her arms behind her back. She stands passively, her gaze direct, even though something seems to have been stripped away, revealing her heart. "I am afraid to own a body. I am afraid to own a soul," say the words that hover around her head. Below her feet, additional text proclaims her "Profound Precarious Property."

Other subjects, like the white-clad male in "Honey Nose Bleed," are more mysterious. Though dreamlike, he stands upright, perhaps because of the thread that anchors him to the ground, apparently oblivious to the fluid streaming out of his nose and the words behind him.

In much of the work here, text plays an essential part, forming backdrops or internal dialogue for the human figures set against it, crawling up an arm or leg or transformed into wire sculpture across an entire wall. For Dill, words are nearly magical, capable of creating connections or protecting the defenseless. In "Poem Hands," Emily Dickinson's lines "I felt my life with both my hands/ To see if it was there" can be found on two opened palms; quotes from the work of Franz Kafka and Rainer Maria Rilke are also sprinkled throughout the show.

At times, Dill, who attended the Waynflete School in Portland, exposes her subjects mercilessly. The nude woman in "A Thought Went Up My Mind Today" poses with her back to the camera, arms upstretched. Though she seems not to be suffering, she appears to be the victim of vivisection, the skin of her back peeled away.

But Dill's revelations are not of the gawking, voyeuristic variety. In fact, when she strips her subjects to their skin, it's because that's as close as she can get to their souls using traditional photography. The rest of the journey she makes with her evocative blend of materials and processes and careful appropriation of language. In exploring our innermost feelings, she lays bare her subjects in a straightforward way, their dignity elevated rather than threatened.

PAT SIMS

"Lesley Dill: The Poetics of Form" shows through Sunday, Feb. 21 at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., 775-6148.

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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. E-mail: listings@maine.rr.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

auditions/submissions

Actors Flaming Productions seeks a male character actor between the ages of 20 and 35 capable of playing multiple roles for its upcoming production of "Jeffrey." For more info, call Craig at 761-5959. Athletes, actors and dancers are wanted for a spring '99 performance of Esdras Mariscal's community dance-theater project. 871-9056. Independent Filmmakers seek short stories and/or screenplays (20 minutes or less) for local production. Contact Bob at 828-4030 or artists@sigw.net. Narrator wanted for a documentary film about an Italian American immigrant. Mature male with Italian accent preferred. 685-4630. Singers/Instrumentalists Sun, Jan 10. Auditions for The Studio Theatre of Bath's production of "Smoke on the Mountain," a bluegrass gospel Broadway show. At the Chocolate Church Arts Center, 804 Washington St. Bath, at 6:30 pm. 389-1759. Writers Beginning to advanced writers wanted for a writing group meeting eight Mon from 7-9 pm starting Jan 11. 773-8355 or e-mail sglenel@maine.rr.com.

workshops/lectures

"Shakespeare Meets Verdi" Tues, Jan 12, 19 and 26. Mini-course exploring the bard and the opera composer's contributions to the Opera Nazionale Italiana's upcoming production of "Otello" with Dawn McAndrews of Portland Stage Company and James Parakkias, Professor of Music at Bates College. At Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq, Portland, from 7-9 pm. Free. 773-3150. Vietnamese Music Workshop Tues, Jan 12. Workshop on Vietnamese culture and musical traditions by musician and scholar Phong Nguyen. At Portland Performing Arts, 181 State St, Portland, at 7 pm. Cost: \$5. 761-1545.

HAPPENINGS

Redpath Chautauque Exhibit Through Sun, Feb 28. Exhibition of manuscripts pertaining to the early 20th century traveling show. At the Maine Historical Society Library lobby, 485 Congress St, Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. Free. 879-0427. Travelers' Club Thurs, Jan 7. Margaret Macleod and Keel Kemper show slides from their recent trip to selected northern European cities. At Maine Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm, 20 Gilsland Farm Rd, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 pm. Free. 833-2810. Champions on Ice Fri, Jan 8. The only place in town you'll be able to see two people named Oksana. Olympic champions Oksana Baiul, Dorothy Hamill, Brian Boitano, Victor Petrenko and Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev will be joined by less-precious medalists Elizabeth Manley, Philippe Candeloro and others. At the Civic Center, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$45. 775-3458. Skating Party Fri, Jan 8 (rain date: Sat, Jan 9). Show off your own tight ass at this Portland Parks and Recreation/WPQR radio sponsored event featuring music, refreshments and free lessons. At Deering Oaks Park, Portland, from 6-8 pm. Free. 874-8793. Portland Pirates Sat, Jan 9: Against Lowell. Sun, Jan 10 and Mon, Jan 18: Against Fredericton. Bluegrass Jams Jan 10, Feb 7, March 14 and April 11. Session held one Sun a month for unplugged, stringed instruments. At Roost Function Hall, Chicopee Rd, Buxton, from 1-6 pm. Suggested donation: \$2. 879-9492. "How Meditation Works" Tues, Jan 12. Talk on Tibetan Buddhist meditation by Lama Orgyen Zangpo. At the Unitarian Universalist Church, 60 School St, Saco, at 7 pm. Donation requested. 286-1602. Merr's Hockey Wed, Jan 13. Watch our boys beat the puck out of their Ivy League rivals as the University of Maine plays Yale. At the Civic Center, Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$9-\$19 (\$4 discount for seniors and youth 18 and under). 775-3458. CBW

congress street MINUTES

ANNE SEIKONIA

WHY I HATE STARBUCKS

1) Despite its homey facade (described by CEO Howard Schultz in his vapid memoir "Pour Your Heart Into It" as "a break from the negative noise that inundates us all"), Starbucks is one of the fastest-growing companies in America, having joined forces with giants like Pepsi-Cola Co. (to wholesale Frappuccino). Starbucks has stealthily invaded airlines, office buildings, supermarkets and hotels, and now operates over 1,600 shops worldwide. Last year, sales reached \$966 million.

2) Schultz smugly writes that Starbucks "channel[s] our competitive energies against rivals far larger than ourselves, like the big packaged foods companies, not against local mom-and-pop coffeehouses," while quietly stabbing mom and pop in the back.

3) Starbucks displays work by art school students and hosts folksingers, while quietly destroying the character of downtowns.

4) After denying it had plans to open in the historic Hay Building on Congress Street, Starbucks proceeded to renovate that space with just such a plan in mind. Keeping things hush-hush helps quell opposition.

5) Starbucks paints itself as a progressive employer, giving employees health benefits and stock options, when this is really nothing more than employees deserve. This strategy has helped build a stronger organization with less turnover — though there was a "now hiring" sign on display at their Middle Street location last time I checked — so it's not truly altruistic.

6) Starbucks' hip, recycled napkins bear the following drivel: "I feel the sun/on my face/let me touch it/growing."

7) The 16 oz. cup of coffee I purchased from Starbucks for the purposes of this article wasn't that great — and it cost \$1.50. More evidence that brainwashing works.

8) Starbucks markets its flavors as virtual lifestyles, describing the "Rich Traditions" line of coffee as "deep, complex and satisfying" and the "Bold Expressions" line as "diverse, distinctive and intriguing."

9) Starbucks does not franchise. All the money goes back to the greedy mother ship.

10) Starbucks markets its own brand of everything from espresso makers to chocolate-covered cherries. The chain even sells a beanie penguin toy in a chocolate ball, and has been working on a prototype "Cafe Starbucks" in Seattle that may feature eggs, pastries, sandwiches and more. Can mocha toothpaste be far behind?

11) The name "Starbucks" was ripped off from a coffee-swilling character in Herman Melville's "Moby Dick," a copy of which can be found in the Middle Street store next to "Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life." That's a classic example of how Starbucks waters down its upscale, intellectual facade with easily swallowed New Age pap.

12) Starbucks sells its own CDs, featuring a smorgasbord of artists ranging from Eartha Kitt to the Cocteau Twins, jazz lite ("Winterlude") and even classical ("Baroque Blend"). Compilation CDs produced by Starbucks and PlayNetwork, Inc. (whose motto is "the music you want for the image you create") are played nonstop throughout the empire, a form of subliminal marketing.

13) Starbucks attempted to trademark the name "Christmas Blend," but backed off due to public outcry.

14) Starbucks has copied a pose of urban chic by using an arty mermaid logo and a decor that is a mishmash of plums, mauve, gold, pea-green and acorn tones while smugly touting the flag of social responsibility.

Our cultural heroes and their traits of rebelliousness and individualism, of difference, have been co-opted by giant corporations, from Microsoft to Levi's. But, hey, in a capitalist society, people with money and power have the freedom and right to become as absurdly wealthy as they want, ruthlessly trampling whatever small, unique entity gets in their way.

But consumers have an even greater freedom — the freedom of choice. Don't be another sheep. Boycott Starbucks.



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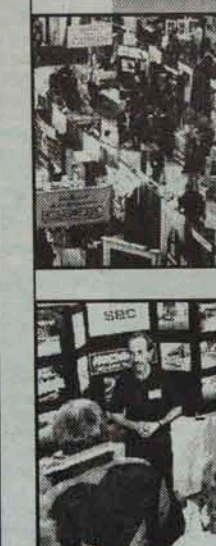
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MOVIES

review

"The Faculty," directed by Robert Rodriguez. Rated R. At Hoyts Falmouth 10, 206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, 781-5616, and Maine Mall Cinema, Maine Mall Rd., South Portland, 774-1022.

What's outlandish about the ick flick "The Faculty" is not that it envisions high school teachers as murderous, unfeeling, alien-controlled automatons out to do in their teenage pupils. After all, Hollywood has never missed a beat in validating the fears and suspicions of its adolescent audience, whether depicting sexual maturation as terrifying ("I Was a Teenage Werewolf"), exposing parents as psychotics ("The Stepfather") or demonstrating that adults are only too happy to gobble up their young ("Night of the Comet"). So it's natural we now get cinematic assurance that teachers, for all their jabber-jawing about intellectual horizons, really do exist for the sole purpose of turning their students into drooling, conformist zombies — just as teens have always thought.

No, what's truly outlandish is that a juvenile fantasy about murderous, unfeeling, alien-controlled automatons can also be genuinely funny and entertaining. A monster movie in the kitschiest sense, "The Faculty" takes place at the overcrowded and chaotic Herrington High School, where photogeek Casey Connor (Elijah Wood) stumbles upon a desiccated shrimplike organism as he's ambled across the football field. Connor no sooner pockets the strange specimen than Herrington's resident taskmaster, Coach Willis (Robert Patrick of "Terminator 2"), accosts him. Earlier in the film, Willis literally attacked a water cooler bench after a disappointing scrimmage. But when he confronts Connor on the football field, his temper still hovers around 300 degrees.

Connor's specimen turns out to be of an unknown amphibious species — a spectacular find considering Herrington High is smack-dab in the middle of Ohio. A classroom experiment reveals that the organism not only reproduces at an incredible rate, but that it has something in common with Coach Willis besides thirst. Equipped with needle-sharp chops, the revived and viable organism nearly severs the finger of biology teacher Mr. Furlong (a bearded Jon Stewart).

As mysterious as the creature's origin is the spooky behavior of the school's staff. One by one, the previously haggard teachers are arriving at work looking 20 years younger. Radiant expressions are framed by expensive new coiffures, and in addition to a sudden faculty-wide preference for drinking bottled water, the educators have rediscovered their sexuality. Once dowdy schoolmarmms now

slink around in revealing skirts and openly boastful blouses. It's the kind of transformation pubescent fantasies are made of, but one marred by the teachers' razor-sharp, vaguely devouring smiles.

Connor isn't deceived by the faculty's new personalities, particularly after he and the editor of the school paper, Delilah (Profia Jordana Brewster), witness a murder in the staff lounge. As the epidemic spreads from the teachers to the student body, Connor and Profit inform four other schoolmates of their preposterous theory. Aliens are taking over Herrington High and — of course — the world. Their friends' skepticism is quickly brushed away when it becomes obvious they're the only six students not drifting through the halls like grinning, solvent-stoned veggie.

The protagonists themselves are stereotypes, a loud wink from director Robert Rodriguez ("Desperado," "From Dusk Till Dawn") that they're no less props than their computer-animated foes. Each is a misfit in his own way: the outcast Connor, the bright but underachieving Zeke (Josh Hartnett), the football star Stan (Shawn Wayne Hatoss), the tomboy Stokely (Clea DuVall), the new girl Marybeth (Laura Harris) and the ambitious bitch Deliah.

"The Faculty" floats above its silly, B-movie premise by never letting the characters or the audience forget they're all in on the gag. In fact, the sustained awareness is the gag. The movie's aliens are controlling our minds; story line is a thick porridge made from a trillion similar flicks, something the characters understand from the get-go. They openly acknowledge the movie's source material — the sextet's campaign for fighting back is based entirely on what they've



An alien ate my term paper: Shawn Wayne Hatoss (standing), Josh Hartnett (driving), Jordana Brewster (backseat, far left), Laura Harris, Clea DuVall and Elijah Wood try to stop "The Faculty."

extracted from science-fiction stories — and "The Faculty" is rife with visual and spoken homage to its predecessors. Does a human head crawling around on spider legs ring any bells?

Sill, Rodriguez sets out to do more than just warm up leftover celluloid. He waits until the movie's formulaic plot has taken hold of the audience, then cheekily drops in his biggest punch line. Undermining years of public service announcements, he makes drugs — in this case, a home-made batch of nose candy cooked up by Zeke — the film's true hero. The sextet of courageous teens quite literally smacks it to the enemy.

And there's only one word for that sort of thing: outlandish.

ALLEN DAMMANN

now playing

NEW THIS WEEK

A CIVIL ACTION Author Jonathan Harr padded against the stream of sensationalist legal novels when he wrote "A Civil Action," a factual account of lawyer Jan Schlichtmann's David-and-Goliath battle with big business. In director Steven Zaillian's screen adaptation of the best-seller, John Travolta plays the unlikely playboy-turned-crusader Schlichtmann, who sacrifices everything — not least of all his sanity — to bring down two corporate heavyweights accused of contaminating drinking water and causing numerous cases of leukemia in a rural Massachusetts town. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

VARISTY BLUES James Van Der Beek of "Diagnosis: Creek" goes for a Hollywood townhouse in this tale of a high school football team with a coach who's a teaming, raving ball-breaker. Hoyts Falmouth 10.

WAKING NED DEVINE The small Irish village of "Tough Nuts" pronounced "small Irish village" is thrown into a tizzy after the newspaper announces one of the town's 52 residents has won the lottery. But which one? Ned Devine, of course, who escaped from the moment he learned the news. Determined to collect the prize money for himself, two old timers scheme to impersonate the deceased ticket holder. Directed by Kirk Jones. The Movies.

ALSO SHOWING

ANTZ Woody Allen provides the voice of the insect, to be sure, but Allen, who's determined to win the heart of the beautiful princess, Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

BABE PG In the CITY The walking talking bacon returns. Separated from his kindly owners Farmer and Mrs. Hoggett during a public appearance tour, the little squealer hooks up with a band of urban animals. Babe's hammy performance in the flick is already generating buzz, and many critics are betting the little critter will pick up an Oscar Mayer in '99. On the horizon, meanwhile, Babe turns first dramatic performance in next summer's "The Jungle." Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

A BUG'S LIFE Disney's response to the popular "Antz" is this computer-animated tale about an insect looking to overcome his fate and prove himself the better bug. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10. BULWORTH The idea of a stiff deflected liberal of a while politician Warren Beatty turning into a homeboy seems so embarrassing and offensive that it couldn't possibly work. But somehow, Beatty's racial and political parody harnesses the goofy power of its leading character to a smart and witty message, taking the most despicable elements of mainstream politics, juxtaposing them with the rarest aspects of African-American culture and wrapping them tightly inside a comedy, while never descending to the level of caricature. Reviewed 6/4/98. Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

ELIZABETH Director Shekhar Kapur's basic look at the life of the 16th-century monarch, Queen Elizabeth I. With Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush. Keystone Theatre 1-6.

ENEMY OF THE STATE Will Smith finally ventures out to see if his dizzying popularity from "Men in Black" remains the same. Directed by Ridley Scott's flash-and-crash brother, Tony Scott ("Top Gun"). "Enemy of the State" plunges a labor lawyer (Smith) into a nightmare of double-crossing and hi-tech surveillance. Jerry Bruckheimer's "Changeous Minds," "Amageddon" produced, so you can expect music videos to replace traditional storytelling devices, such as dialogue and plot. With Gene Hackman. Reviewed 12/3/98. Maine Mall Cinema.

THE FACULTY Pssst! The teachers are possessed by aliens. I mean, more than usual. I saw the geometry teacher devour two sophomores today. Fascist jerk! We're meeting after school to decide if we're going to fight back or what. Or maybe we're gonna play touch football. I can't remember. Pssst! On. Directed by Robert Rodriguez. Reviewed 1/7/99. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema.

HAPPINESS Three sisters struggle to deal with each other and their faded love lives. Helen receives obscene phone calls from a neighbor while condescending to her siblings. Joy assuages her guilt over the suicide of a lover by doing on her current squeeze. And Trish fails to see that her husband is chasing pubescent boys. Directed by Todd Solondz. Keystone Theatre 1-6.

JACK FROST A cold-shouldered father (Michael Keaton) gets his comeuppance when he dies and is resurrected as his son's snowman. Wily enscourer, the film ignores overwhelming scientific evidence that all dead people return as Benji Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

MEET JOE BLACK Tired of always being the bearer of less than thrilling news, Death (Brad Pitt) takes human form and decides to see what living is all about. His host is an aging tycoon (Anthony Hopkins) past his expiration date, whose beautiful

daughter (Claire Forlan) is not at all unhappy about Death's appearance. And vice versa, is that a scythe in your pocket or are you just happy to see me? Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

MIGHTY JOE YOUNG A zoologist (Bill Paxton) stumbles across what looks to be King Kong's baby brother playing in the big backyards of Africa. Pursued by poachers, Paxton and Donkey Kong Jr.'s orphan hilder (Charlize Theron) bring the specimen to LA, where he promptly goes apeshit in traffic. Reviewed 12/24/98. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema.

PATCH ADAMS Robin Williams stars as the founder of the Gesundheit Institute. A med student with a penchant for probing the funny bone, Patch uses humor to ease patients' ills. Sadly, the goofy doctor is helpless to do anything about the nausea induced by another dying Robin Williams film. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema.

PLEASANTVILLE Ted Turner's dream come true. A pair of teens are zapped into "Pleasantville," a wholesome black-and-white TV show from the '50s. As the town's milk-and-prezidents learn a thing or two about independence, they discover something else they never dreamed imaginable: color. Then again, maybe it's Maybeline's dream come true. Reviewed 10/29/98. Keystone Theatre Cafe.

PRINCE OF EGYPT Holy Moses! Seventy to 100 million bucks to turn the Bible into a cartoon while thousands of kids are eating string popcorn for Christmas dinner? DreamWorks studio partner Jeffrey Katzenberg's gonna have some "splaining" to do when he meets the big M in person. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

PSYCHO Punts are already wetting themselves over the thought of lamping with Hitchcock's masterpiece. In this shot-by-shot remake directed by Gus Van Sant ("M. Own Private Island"), Anne Heche takes over the role of a woman on the run who makes the latest mistake of checking into the Bates Motel. Vince Vaughn stars as the creepy bellboy and taxidermist, Norman. Reviewed 12/10/98.

THE RUGRATS MOVIE From the Rat Pack to the Rat Pack — back to the Rat Pack again. TV's trouble-making ankle-biters hit the big screen. Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

SHON HOUR Chris Tucker is a cop whose efforts to retrieve a baron's kidnapped daughter fail — landing him in an oil-and-water partnership with kung fu maestro Jackie Chan. Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

THE SEIGE As the head of an anti-terrorist team, Denzel Washington joins forces with Annette Bening to save the Big Apple from a wave of attacks. When their moderate measures fail to solve the problem, general Bruce Willis moves in and declares martial law. Reviewed 11/12/98.

SMOKE SIGNALS More antagonists than friends, two boys living on a reservation travel to Phoenix to recover the ashes of one of the boys' deceased father. Directed by Chris Eyre. With Adam Beach and Evan Adams. Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

STEPANOM Isabel (Julia Roberts) has a way with kids — a way that makes them lust her with smug comments and airborne cereal, anyway. When she attempts to play doctor to her boyfriend's nagging, Isabel discovers she's no substitute for the real thing: ex-wife and supermom Jackie (Susan Sarandon). Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION Picard and the crew take to their phasers to protect a colony of the eternally young. But as Trekkers know, the real foe here is that "insurrection" in the sixth film in the series — the dreaded odd number. Reviewed 12/17/98. Hoyts Clark's Pond.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY Every guy's dream: the chance to go to prom with the most beautiful girl in school. Every guy's nightmare: losing up that chance by getting his lahemi manhood caught in his zipper in front of the most beautiful girl in school. What's ya do? Wait for years, here a P.I. to find the girl and take another crack at a date. With Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller and Matt Dillon. Reviewed 7/23/98. Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

THE WATERBOY A bumbling water slop-hor on a college football team turns out to be a tackling juggernaut. With Adam Sandler and Henry Winkler. Reviewed 1/7/99. Hoyts Clark's Pond.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME A man is killed in an automobile accident and transported to the afterlife. Once there, he learns his wife committed suicide not long after his death. Stuck in a different region of the afterworld, the loving husband goes in search of his spouse. With Robin Williams. Nickolodeon Cinema 1-6.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL An independent bookseller (Meg Ryan) is suddenly up against the Wall-Mart when a mega-bookstore chain owned by Tom Hanks invades her borders without, however, the help of a massive tax break! Nevertheless, they navigate through the storms of kiddie porn on the Internet to find safe harbor in each other's living arms. Reviewed 12/1/98. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema.

times starting Friday

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, JAN. 8-14. Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

HOYTS CLARK'S POND

333 Clark's Pond Rd., So. Portland. 879-1511

A CIVIL ACTION PG-13 12:50, 1:30, 3:40, 4:10, 6:40, 7:10, 9:20, 9:50
VARISTY BLUES R 1:10, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15-ND 6:45 SHOWING ON FRI.
STEPANOM PG-13 1:40, 6:30, 7:20, 9:30, 10

PRINCE OF EGYPT PG 12:40, 3:20, 7:40
STAR TREK: INSURRECTION PG 1:10, 3:30, 6:45, 9:15-ND 6:45 SHOWING ON FRI.
JACK FROST PG 1:20, 3:50
A BUG'S LIFE G 12:30, 1:40, 3:40, 6:50, 9:10
THE WATERBOY PG-13 7:30, 9:55

HOYTS FALMOUTH 10

206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. 781-5616

A CIVIL ACTION PG-13 12:40, 3:15, 7:45
THE FACULTY R 7:25, 9:55
PATCH ADAMS PG-13 12:50, 1:30, 3:30, 4:05, 6:45, 7:15, 9:20, 9:50
STEPANOM PG-13 1:10, 3:30, 6:50, 9:25
MIGHTY JOE YOUNG PG 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9

PRINCE OF EGYPT PG 1:50, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50
YOU'VE GOT MAIL PG 1:45, 6:40, 7:20, 9:15, 9:55
JACK FROST PG 1:40, 4:10
A BUG'S LIFE G 1:10, 3:40, 6:35, 8:50
THE RUGRATS MOVIE G 1:15, 3:10

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HAPPINESS R 6:30-SAT-SUN MAT 2
ELIZABETH R 6:30, 9:15-SAT-SUN MAT 1, 3:30
PLEASANTVILLE PG-13 7:30-SAT-SUN MAT 1:30, 4

MAINE MALL CINEMA

Maine Mall Road, So. Portland. 774-1022

YOU'VE GOT MAIL PG 12:55, 3:45, 7:35
PATCH ADAMS PG-13 1:30, 3:50, 4:15, 7:20, 9:45, 9:55
MIGHTY JOE YOUNG PG 1:20, 3:55, 7:05, 9:40
THE FACULTY R 1:30, 7:30, 9:50
THE RUGRATS MOVIE G 12:45, 2:50, 5

ENEMY OF THE STATE R 1:15, 4:05, 7:45
THE MOVIES 10 Exchange St., Portland. 772-9600

THE MOVIES

10 Exchange St., Portland. 772-9600

WAKING NED DEVINE PG JAN 8-14/FRI-TUES 5, 7, 9-SAT-SUN MAT 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-SUN 1, 7, 9-MON-TUES 5, 7, 9 JAN 20-26-WED-TUES 9-SAT-SUN MAT 3

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BULWORTH R 7:30, 9:45
SMOKE SIGNALS PG-13 4:50, 7
URBAN LEGEND R 4:40, 9:45
MEET JOE BLACK PG-13 4:30, 9:50-SAT-SUN MAT 1
RUSH HOUR PG-13 4:15, 7:20, 9:30-SAT-SUN MAT 1:45
BABE PG IN THE CITY G 5:15-SAT-SUN MAT 1, 3:15
PSYCHO R 9:30

ANTZ PG SAT-SUN MAT 12:45, 2:45
WHAT DREAMS MAY COME PG-13 7:10-SAT-SUN MAT 1:30
THE SEIGE R 9

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY R 4:50, 9:30-SAT-SUN 1:10

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HANDSOME, RUGGED WM, 38, 6', brown/hazel, secure, artistic, sensitive. Seeking similar for friendship, passion and romance. Blonde a plus. No bar flies, please. #85780

INTRIGUING DISHEVELED student of life, 36, lover of animals and people, with a whimsical smile from the heart, diverse interests include arts, fitness and home. Dreaming of a Man with a character of gold and a heart full of love. #85717

IS THIS little pond all fished out? Portland GWM, 41, Ivory League, world traveler, marathoner, 5'10", 160 lbs, looking to hook a keeper. Any nibbles? #85938

LOOKING for something different. GWM, 24, 6'3", 340 lbs husky/chubby. Guy next door. Classy Guy, likes to go for coffee, movies, hanging out and conversation. Race, age, size does not matter. Willingness to explore new things a must. #85775

LOVE is a drug and I need to score! 27, black hair, blue eyes, 130 lbs. Love movies, music, laughing! Looking for cute Boy to keep me out of trouble. Tons of energy and devilish streak. #85807

MY HEART says I'm ready and after three years of being single and concentrating on my career, meeting that special Guy would be incredibly cool. I'm sincere, athletic, trim, healthy-living, 40 and seek the masculine, rugged type in greater Portland. #85719

NEW TO Maine and looking. GWM, 31, 5'5", 160 lbs, brown/black, recently moved, looking to make new friends, do some dating, LTR. Love dogs, cinema, outdoors, the Arts, games, writing, much more. Works hard already, want to play equally hard. #85927

NO GAMES. GWM, 35, 5'9", 175 lbs, looking to meet other GWM, 25-35, for a relationship. Tired of the heart games, have many interests. Portland area. #85697

OUTGOING, SARCASTIC, but sensitive GWM, 25, 5'11", 220 lbs, enjoys movies, fast-paced conversation, Madonna remixes and GSPAN. Hoping for something real. Seeking fun, funky, enlightened GWM, 25-40, who is not intimidated by well-adjusted Guy. Give me a ring. #85574

READY TO share! Educated professional, 38, n/s, enthusiastic, optimistic, practical yet spontaneous, outgoing yet reflective, responsible yet impulsive, enjoys outdoors, fitness, food, films, theater, sleepovers, affection, sincerity, home, animals, passion, gardens, friends, spirit, laughter! So call, it's worth the chance. #85531

REAL MAN. SGM, tall, blonde, honest, earthy, looking for another real Man, SGM, good heart, honest, loves outdoors, n/s, n/d, in-shape, likes to exercise each day. #85518

REALIST LEANING to optimist, tired of swimming against the current alone, 50-year-old GWM. I like lakes, rugged coasts, seals, buffheads, Christmas, Tchaikovsky, friendships, lady slippers, skinny dipping, sherry and camembert. Taurus, Leo rising, Libra moon. Ponder these things first. #85548

SEEKING FRIEND to visit with me. Interests are movies, music, football, love wrestling. GWM, 51, 5'11", 150 lbs, balding hair, blue eyes, funny and loves life. Let's talk and meet soon. All calls answered. #85684

SINGLE GAY parent of a toddler, 6', blonde/blue, 33, 195 lbs, sensitive, emotional, caring, intelligent feminist, n/s, n/d. Seeking Masculine, sensitive Guy to make friends for support and maybe long-term relationship. Please call me. #85640

STUNNING MAN sought by tall, handsome GWM, 40s, off center, hairy, intelligent, earthy and celestial, actor, teacher, talker. ISO stunning, hairy, interesting, thinking, feeling, equipped Man for occasional dates, hopefully leading to many long, passionate nights and LTR. #85711

SWF, 21, looking for like-minded soul. Busy mom of an almost 3-year-old, seeking friends who understand the importance of trying and aren't afraid to be unique and a little eccentric. #85917

WE HAVE one life to live! If you're bold and beautiful, why not grab this dynamic Irish, youthful 40, by the horns and ride into a world of nature, horses, fitness, laughter, support, success, strength, responsibility and passionate romance. #85718

WRESTLING ANYONE? One of the best exercises, football and wrestling are my favorite sports. GWM, 51, southern Maine, interested in meeting others who would love to exercise, watch movies and enjoy each other's company. Call, let's talk. #85683

YOUNG MAN wanted to share life with SGWM, 43. Must be 18-30, slim, thin, skinnny, also love sports, candlelight dinners, leather, dancing, very romantic. Looking for the same, not into head games, do some dating, LTR. Love dogs, cinema, outdoors, the Arts, games, writing, much more. Works hard already, want to play equally hard. #85927

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REAL MAN. SGM, tall, blonde, honest, earthy, looking for another real Man, SGM, good heart, honest, loves outdoors, n/s, n/d, in-shape, likes to exercise each day. #85518

ARE YOU for me? GF, 28, intelligent, humorous and sensitive, enjoys movies, music, dancing, reading, dining out, stimulating conversation and taking walks. Seeking independent, educated and healthy GF, 25-35, to spend time and have fun with, for possible LTR. No games. #85559

ARE YOU for me? GF, 28, intelligent, humorous and sensitive, enjoys movies, music, dancing, reading, dining out, stimulating conversation and taking walks. Seeking independent, educated and healthy GF, 25-35, to spend time and have fun with, for possible LTR. No games. #85559

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women/women

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COMPASSIONATE, SINCERE, outgoing, 24-year-old SWF, looking for friendship, possible relationship. ISO Female, 24-32, enjoys hiking, camping, skiing, movies and dining out, someone who enjoys casual conversation and a good sense of humor. #85902

GREAT FRIENDS have moved away. GF, 36, desires new friendships, time for connections, interests: plays and musicals, movies on the big screen, a little travel, "meaning of life" conversing. Laughter is my sport of choice. If you'd like to spend some free time together, call. #85933

HAPPINESS AWAITS GWF, 29, loves cats, music, music and more music, all kinds, foreign films, basketball games live or on tv, theater, piano bars, cafes, body surfing, lazy Sundays, a game of pool, books, travel, humor, bathhouse, a crossword puzzle I can finish, work place. ISO 25 to 35-year-old GF. #85799

HERE'S THE thing. I don't mind being single and I have some great friends, but I hear that dating can add years to your life. Could be true, am looking for others willing to participate in this research. I'm 42, have the "cane of age" in the 70s' influence, or at least the same haircut. Favorite things include any outdoors, good live music and walking with my dog. What are you doing next Saturday night? #85578

HIGHLY ENERGETIC GWF looking for that special LTR, 35-50, likes outdoor activities as well as quiet romantic evenings, enjoys plays and music of all kinds, n/s, n/d, no games, secure with her sexuality. Let's talk. #85662

I'M NOT perfect, but I'm nice. GWF, 46, relocating to Brunswick area. Employed in Social Services, 5'8", 175 lbs, like writing, home life, animals, travel, passion. Seeking LTR with commitment, yet freedom to still be unique individuals. #85536

IF YOU don't play by most people's rules, have a larger vocabulary than, like anything...and witty too! and you can seek fun and introspection without a cigarette, you may be the friend I'd like to meet. Not seeking romance nor mediocrity. #85768

LATE 40s, athletic, adventurous, enjoys play outdoors/indoors, important things: joy, spirituality, friends, living each day to the fullest, bean soup, humor, playing. If you are a 40s, n/s and the above plagues you, interests, call quick, as time is a wasting. #85812

LUCY RICARDO looking for her Ethel Mertz, 40, outgoing, professional lesbian who enjoys travel, music, theater, dogs, movies, walking the beach. Are you out and proud, professional, fun-loving, financially stable? Please call me, I'm awaiting you. #85662

OUTGOING, 24-YEAR-OLD Single White Female looking for friendship, possible relationship. Seeking Female, 22-32 years of age, who enjoys outdoor activities, quiet times, going to the movies or out to eat. Let's talk. #85905

LOOKING for friend, maybe more. Attractive, physically fit SWFF, 38, easygoing, fun-loving, affectionate, considerate, ISO GWM, 35-45, who likes to laugh, enjoys children, spending evenings in with home cooked meals and movies, also getting out to dine and dance, camp, picnic or any fun activities we can come up with. Let's do lunch! #85716

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WINTER FUN. Love the outdoors, movies, candlelight, reading a good book. Are you between 35 and 45? Let's talk. No games. Be honest. #85567

YOUNG OF heart and body. Emotionally and financially stable, 37-year-old, searching for playmate to share such things as a full moon on snow shoes, romantic candlelit dinners and rowdy WNBA parties at home. #85773

friends first

FRIENDS ARE for life. Single, young, thirty-something, heterosexual Female seeks same for quiet, social times, sharing and laughing. #85924

OUTGOING, ACTIVE, heterosexual WF, 27, looking for some other chicks to hang out and laugh with. #85514

POETS, WRITERS. Seeking the company of poets and other writers for literary, intellectual, creative inquiry. I appreciate probing curiosity, incisive insight, irreverent humor, passionate exploration of the sacred and the profane. #85922

I saw you

DO! WE met you too briefly at Zoo's on 12/21. You told me you were working on Lughnasa. I would love to hear more. #85928

FREE STREET. Incredibly buff, handsome, great smile, cowboy hat. Impressed by that alphabetic attitude. Can't resist a little Man with a big truck! Rattlesnake is a nice touch. But I just got word that my company is transferring me to your office, effective immediately. Later, duh...uh, babe. #85890

NOVEMBER 25, 1:30pm, Show n' Save, Forest Ave. You, in line ahead of me. I enjoyed your banter. Meant to say so you. I read Newsweek too. Cup of coffee. #85865

SHOP-N-SAVE on Marginal Way, late one night, 5 weeks ago, you were looking at cocoa melts, you in blue and white wind breaker, I in multi-colored one. I said "You can't go wrong for \$5," you said "Sold." Give a call. #85745

IF YOU don't play by most people's rules, have a larger vocabulary than, like anything...and witty too! and you can seek fun and introspection without a cigarette, you may be the friend I'd like to meet. Not seeking romance nor mediocrity. #85768

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Ask The Advice Goddess
BY AMY ALKON

Extended Player

Last year, I met a guy who is in his early twenties, like me. I learned from his friend that he was "mesmerized" by me, and thought I was "gorgeous," but he never asked me out. I started hearing that he is into dating and bedding a lot of women. He's very wealthy and handsome, so a lot of women like him. Recently, we bumped into each other at a party, and we spent the night talking and kissing. He knows I'm inexperienced sexually, and he hasn't tried to get me to come home with him, but he pays me a lot of attention whenever he sees me...even leaving the side of the girl he's with to come talk to me. (The girls he dates are usually cheap looking, but always pretty.) The question is not how I can come home with him, but what I can be to him while he is playing. How do you think he feels about me? And my final question - what kind of girl makes a "player" settle down?

-Player Hater

This is a guy who should give the women he sleeps with stick-on name tags so he's clear on whose name to yell out when the moment comes. A computerized telemarketing machine would automate all of his tedious day-after calls while keeping foolish, relationship-minded sex kittens at bay. Ringing, ringing... (A girl in sweatpants and sequined pasties answers the phone. Roll his recorded message) - "Hello, Beautiful...it's Mick. I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed bending you over the back of my Porsche yesterday night. It was really, really special. I'd kill to see you again sometime, but I just got word that my company is transferring me to your Prague office, effective immediately. Later, duh...uh, babe."

What kind of girl makes a guy like this settle down? One who happens to be there when he finally tires of playing McCasanova - ("200 million serviced...drive-through window for quicker satisfaction"). Perhaps this player is just weeks away from filling out mortgage application for a house in a good school district. Then again, it's entirely possible that he'll still be bulk-purchasing Trojans when he starts emptying the store shelves of large economy-size boxes of Depends.

You try to come off as someone who knows better than to waste her time pining after a guy who appears to define a committed relationship as more than one date with the same woman; probably because you know I'll slap you around in print for doing it. Well, duck now. The twenties are "The Boink Years," especially for guys. Player Boy isn't much different from the rest of the twenty-something guys, except that it's a lot easier to pick up chicks in a 1998 Porsche convertible than in a 1974 Grenlin that drops a trail of parts behind it like bread crumbs for crows. He probably likes you and is attracted to you, but he understands that he'll have a waking nightmare on his hands if he treats you like the rest of the girls du jour. What can you be to this guy? Someone who waves to him as he speeds off with The Playmates Of The Big Ten piled into his Porsche, followed by the glares of the guys in the stalled 76 Grenlins.

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**Astrologer Charlie Gould's
POWER OF CHOICE WEEKLY**
The Astrological Weather report Affecting Us All
1/07/99 ~ 1/13/99

Quick Overview: 1/8-1/15 Let's get-on-with-it Mars tells Big-time
Jupiter that it's time to move on to something new and different. That
might mean letting go of someone/something that is no longer serving
you. Clean out old limiting beliefs/attitudes/ideas. 1/11-1/14 Make
needed changes in how you relate to your friends, co-workers, lover.
Relational Venus is invited to more freely express he needs by both
Deep change Pluto and Wake-up Uranus. Gracefully assert your
needs to those that need to receive them.

Day-by-Day
1/7/99 Moon in Virgo is a great time to pay attention to detail. Review the plans to
look for potential glitches. Attend to routine today as Moon is V/C 6:07am-7:53pm
Evening. The mood lightens up after 7:53 pm when the Moon enters Libra. Watch for
difficulties in communicating daydreams/fantasies as the Moon first trines Neptune, then
squares Mercury at 10:28 and 11:00pm respectively.

1/8/99 5:05am Moon and Venus cozy up. Folks may be a bit late for work this morning,
wearing a satisfied smile. 2:23pm Moon sextiles Pluto. Notice a change of heart you
may have. Take a moment to clear up a misunderstanding. After Work: Moon time
Uranus. 6:23pm take a break! Do something new. Social gatherings with sparkling
conversations.

1/9/99 Could be a little edgy this morning as third quarter Moon is exact at 9:21am.
Channel the energy into your Saturday chores. Evening: Not a great party night. Mars
energizes the Moon at 5:03pm. Passions ride high. Focus your energy on getting some
work done. Walk away from people with chips on their shoulders. Late night: Moon
opposes Saturn. Sunday at 1:32am Moon is downbeat. Avoid people who want to tell you
their hard luck story. Better to be alone than with a self-absorbed "victim".

1/10/99 Moon V/C 1:32am-7:48am. Moon enters Scorpio at 7:48am. More of a
stay-at-home quiet sort of day. If people want to be alone, let'em! Moon square Neptune
at 10:40am may cause you to feel emotionally upset without really knowing why. Evening:
Communication improves a Moon sextiles Mercury at 7:40pm. People still sensitive, so
watch what you say. Late Night: Moon square Venus. Monday at 12:23am. More emotional
stress. go to bed early and get some rest.

1/11/99 Cranky start to the day as Moon squares Uranus at 7:08am. Watch for folks
to assert their "right" to do it their way and maybe screw it up for everyone. Rest of the
day: Moon in Scorpio. Respect others' need for privacy. Today is the strong point of the
Mars/Jupiter "to something different" mentioned above. Evening: High point of the
Venus/Pluto aspect. Sometimes you can get what you need if you simply and honestly ask
for it.

1/12/99 Feeling better this morning as Moon trines Optimistic Jupiter at 7:53am. Cut
somebody a break this morning. You'll both feel better. Moon V/C at 7:53 am until 3
Evening: Moon enters Sagittarius at 8:23pm. A more adventurous and fun-loving time. A
little easier to express some truth. Moon sextiles Neptune at 11:23 pm. You may get a
glimpse of your ideals. Sweet dreams if you're asleep.

1/13/99 High point of Venus/Uranus aspect above. Refresh an existing relationship,
start a scintillating new one. What does it mean to be free to be you? 3:24pm. Moon con-
junct Pluto, clear the air with someone. Speak your truth with integrity, but without intent
to hurt. Evening: Moon triggers the Venus/Uranus conjunction 7:40pm. Unless everything
is hunky-doo in your relationships, speak now. If you snore, you lose. Some may
find an electrifying but unstable new relationship. Enjoy, but do not commit.

***Void-of-Course Moon periods:** The time between the last aspect
the Moon makes while in a sign and the time it enters the next sign is
a Void-of-Course Moon. Major decisions and purchases tend to not
go as planned, but creative projects favored. Check it out for yourself.
Astrologer Charlie Gould consults with clients by phone, mail or in person.
Please contact him for an appointment. P.O. Box 901, Portland, ME 04104
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BIFEMAL SEEKING BIFEMALE to fulfill my fantasies and your. No strings. Call me and let's get together. #90269

BIG SQUEEZE, 27-year-old California Girl will be in Portland mid-December. Seeking artistic Male, 23+, with a warm studio for some hot nights. #90314

CAN YOU HELP? Still looking for a few good men to fulfill my fantasies of three men, gentle but dominant. Asking for a willingness to please. Must be ok with my husband there. I'm 45, fit, attractive, with many exceptional qualities. #90207

DARK CURIOSITY, Overweight, Married WF, 29, ISO SWM, under 35, for occasional, very enthralling to fulfill my secret desires and cravings. LTR preferred. Healthy, safe and discreet. You be too. #90185

HEART-OF-GOLD, SPINE of iron, warm and sensitive, by strong and independent DMF, 33, earthy, sensual, likes movies, music and arts. Seek SWM, 30-40, for friendship, possible LTR. #90178

TM 34, brown/blue, 110 lbs, searching for Miss Right, I want to surprise my husband or make new. #90230

MY MASTER, Married WM, has trained me. (Married WM) in the joy of submission. Seeking Female for intimate relationship. You Attractive, desirable, bi-curious/bisexual, HWP, doing has similar interests, healthy, sane, consensual. #90187

SOF, 38, seeking funny, compassionate, understanding Woman who enjoys walking, talking, movies, music. Let's do coffee. #90261

SPEICE IT UP with someone different, fiery, independent, literate, sensitive, witty and a bit eccentric. DMF, 33, ISO SWM, 30-40, to share movies, music and the arts. #90263

TAME ME! SWF, enjoy many things, seeking loving, understanding SWM for serious relationship, smokers and drinkers ok. Like to get to the good stuff fast. Try me! #90212

TIREDF Tazari, Tall, very full-figured, blonde, Amazonian, 29, is seeking a new live to swing on. Prefer an intelligent, funny, tall, sensual SWM, 30-on, to dance to the jungle drums with. Londonish optional. A Har must. #90225

WILE THE DEMOCRATS REITERATED THEIR MESSAGE AS RELENTLESSLY AS DISNEY AUDIO-ANIMATRONICS

WHAT THE PRESIDENT DID WAS WRONG... BUT IT DOES NOT RISE TO THE LEVEL OF AN IMPEACHABLE OFFENSE--CLICK!

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COULD SOMEONE HAVE MADE ME A SCREW-DRIVER?

BIF, WHO WAS PRESIDENT OF COURSE? WHY?

OH, NEVER MIND.

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men seeking

Men Seeking

A SECRET friend, a welcome smile, a glad voice, a good listener, a gentle touch. Lonely Married WPM, 40, tall, attractive, HWP, ISO warm, open, attractive Married F, 25-45, for long talks, laughter, mutual support, discreet companionship, possibly more. Let's talk. #90343

ADVENTUROUS, INTELLIGENT, sensitive, masculine, in shape, seeks portable heater for winter. Funny, huggable snow buddy for friendship, companionship and oh so much more. Only one of these fine items left. #90268

AMOUR THIS, Married WM, of a discreet delight, seeking aggressive, wild, older woman for hot times. You limit is respected. I'm 30, brown/brown, 6', 190 lbs, healthy and discreet. you be too. No couples. #90194

ATTENTION LADIES, White straight Male, 36, 6', 200 lbs, good condition, seeks Ladies for afternoon get-togethers. No commitments, no baggage, just honest and good adult fun. Strong-minded Ladies, 25-55, need apply. Color and size unimportant. I can fulfill all your needs. #90357

ATTRACTIVE, mid-40s, 5'11", 165 lbs, healthy, clean, nice-looking, very discreet, n/s, seeks Married/SF, 25-50, for quiet times and to share a life. You won't be disappointed with a call. #90319

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BI-CURIOSUS, Married WM, mid-40s, 5'7", 160 lbs, seeks bi-curious, Married Man whose height and weight are proportionate, to exchange full body massage, possibly more. Must be healthy, clean and very discreet. #90277

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couples

Couples

ACTIVE, SNOWMOBILE Couple ISO snowmobile Couple for weekend getaways and trail adventures. #90328

ATTRACTIVE COUPLE, with straight Male and experienced BF, ISO SWF, 21-30, who is an experienced BF, curious, 23, brown/brown, 5'5", 135 lbs, He: 28, brown/brown, 6'3", 225 lbs. We are looking for another partner to have unbridled, adult fun with. #90294

ATTRACTIVE MARRIED White Couple looking for Couple with BF or SF. He's 33, straight, 6', 240 lbs, with a great personality. She's 29, 5'8", 120 lbs, a great body, likes movies, dining and partying, must be clean and discreet. #90309

ATTRACTIVE, ADVENTUROUS Couple with straight Male and bi-curious Female. He's 45, 5'10", 160 lbs, She: 35, 5'11", 155 lbs, seeking another Couple with straight Male and bi or bi-curious Female. We enjoy dinner, drinks, pool, movies, dancing, outdoors, laughing and having fun, looking for friendship and exploring intimate desires. Healthy and discreet must! #90216

ATTRACTIVE, FUN-LOVING, sensual Couple seeks BF or Couple with BF for sensual meetings. She is 5'7", brown, very hairy, hair, green-eyed, shape like a 5'7", strawberry blonde/blue, Italian stallion. Must be discreet. #90315

BI-CURIOSUS GW Couple, 20s, seeks fit, attractive F, possibly Couple, for BF experience. We are both attractive and of above average endowment, help make our fantasies come true. #90164

BNF, 35, 5'8", 180 lbs, 18-year-old straight boyfriend looking for a BF, friendly. No strings, must be clean. Come play with us. #90331

CLEAN, FIT, attractive, submissive SWM seeking the same in a dominant Female, who enjoys the sensual aspect of domination. Interested in light BDSM, role playing and body worship. Very oral and love to please. Let's have fun, no strings. #90321

COUPLE SEEKING, He: 22, straight, cute. She: 21, bi-curious, sexy. ISO BF for fun times. I've got 18-30, slender and attractive, call us. #90265

COUPLE SEEKING Married White Couple, in their mid-30s, seeking unbridled, Single BSMale who desires excitement. #90171

COUPLE SEEKING snowbody to take snowmobiling on long weekend and possibly more you enjoy our company. Light driver ok, a need for fun and pleasure a must. We are healthy and discreet, you be too. #90334

DOMINANT COUPLE, 40s, looking for experienced, healthy, discreet, dominant Couple to help dominant woman learn the pleasures of training submissive husband. #90120

DOMINANT MARRIED Couple, mid-30s, he's curious, she wants more. Seeking well-equipped Male who's submissive and ready to please. Let's party and have fun. #90165

DOUBLE OUR pleasure and double our fun. SWM, mid-30s, ISO straight Married White Couple for some crazy times, cold brew. Me. Easygoing, first ad. You: Open, honest, fun-loving. All calls answered. #90252

FUN, GOOD-LOOKING Couple looking for Couple with straight Male, BF male. I'm 5'11", 130 lbs, 30s, blonde/blue. He's 5'10", 160 lbs, 40s. Enjoy dinner, drinks, outdoors, pool, sexual excitement and new ideas. #90324

GW COUPLE, 40s, one 5'8", 140 lbs, compact, muscular build, other 5'10", 190 lbs, husky, Irish desc, looking for hot, active Men for adult fun. Located in York County but will answer all calls. #90271

HAPPY TOGETHER, She: 30, bi-curious. He: 25, straight. Seeking BF, 21-30, wanting to make our dreams come true. Must be healthy and discreet. Will answer all. #90149

JUST CURIOUS, Bi Married WM, 38, self-employed, flexible day and weekend schedule. Seeks very understanding, open-minded Couple for long-term, discreet friendship. Clean, discreet, very anxious to meet and connect. Select Singles considered. #90211

MARRIED WHITE Couple ISO other Couples or Single Male or Female to share good adult times. No age or race hang-ups. Please be HWP. Serious replies only. #90217

MARRIED WHITE Couple looking for Married Couple or BiFemale. We're healthy, attractive. She is Bi, he is straight. For get-togethers. Looking forward to hear from you, will return all calls. #90249

MARRIED WHITE Couple, 30s, straight, seeking another Couple for dinner, cards, camping, conversation, sensual encounters. Must be healthy and discreet. #90332

MARRIED WHITE Couple, 40s, first time ad. Seeks healthy, discreet Male for adult fun. #90348

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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

A FEW WEEKS AGO, WE CASUALLY NOTED THAT THE IMPROVEMENT PROCESS HAD "OBVIOUSLY" LOST MOMENTUM...

THIS WAS A TERRIBLE MISTAKE--AND WE APOLOGIZE! WE ARE VERY SORRY FOR MISLEADING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE--AND WE DEEPLY REGRET THE PAIN AND EMBARRASSMENT WE MAY HAVE CAUSED OUR EDITORS...

ON, SHUT THE HELL UP.

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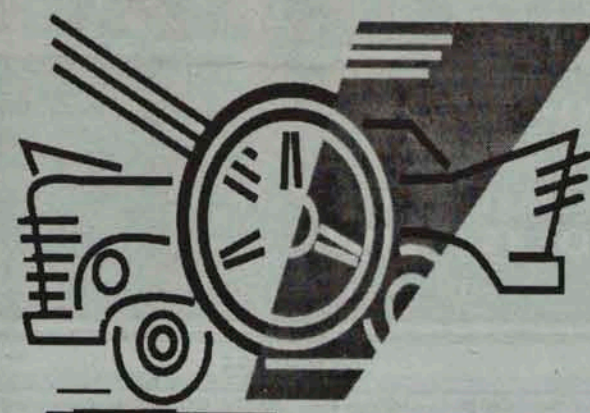
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