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JAN 6, 2000

Casco Bay Weekly

JANUARY 6, 2000 • VOL XII, NO 1
GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION **FREE**

www.cascobayweekly.com

VOLUNTEER ISSUE



PHOTO: LUC DENIERS

NO QUESTIONS

BETH MARTIN BECOMES THE
BEST FRIEND OF REFUGEES IN
PORTLAND BY MINDING HER
OWN BUSINESS

BY STEVE HARGREAVES
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THE BEST OF
PORTLAND

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ENTERTAINMENT

TALK A CONVERSATION WITH ELIZABETH ISELE



"Some think this is just another bingo game. But it truly keeps minds sharp and in focus."

Elizabeth Isele, 57, just won a \$7,500 interactive education initiative grant from the America Online Foundation for her Portland based CyberSeniors program, which connects elders with the Internet statewide. Isele, a former CBW contributor, has been asked to showcase her program for the federal Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

What inspired you to start CyberSeniors?

I was creating a community Web site for the New Media Development Group when I realized exactly what a virtual community was. I wondered who could make the best use of it and thought of seniors who can no longer get out in the real community. I thought, 'All I have to do is tell them about it.' That was about three years ago.

How did you get the program off the ground?

With a \$5,000 grant from Maine Community Foundation and my own money. I started with 12 stu-

dents, 18 months ago, and they all went home and told everybody else. We've grown solely by word of mouth. Now we have 1,200 students and have been invited to expand the program in other states like Massachusetts, Florida, Washington and New Hampshire.

What kind of folks has your program attracted?

The average age is 70 and about half a dozen are in their 90s. Don't think these are people who just want to keep in touch with their grandchildren. You'd be amazed at what they're into. These seniors are smart, and the greatest tragedy in our culture is pushing them off with nothing to do. They want to be back in the world and they know they have something to contribute.

What makes CyberSeniors different from other senior programs?

All of them but ours assume the seniors are already online. Most of our students have never gotten close to a

computer before and many are scared to death. Most people don't realize how different it is to train seniors.

What's the main difference?

The patience required. We have about 60 teachers, all volunteers. Our teaching ratio is two to one or three to one. Our biggest rule is that it's not a teaching environment but a learning environment. And you have to have fun!

Are you? You used to be in publishing and you've taught creative writing. How does running CyberSeniors compare?

My personal wealth has never been smaller but I'm happier than I've ever been. One of our students told me, 'You're going to keep me out of the nursing home if it kills us both.' I know I can really make a difference here.

Interview and photo by Lael Morgan

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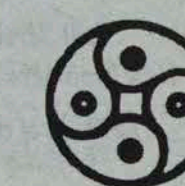
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Misery and gin

This is the story of a lawbreaker, a man who could face prosecution if his identity became known. So I'll call him "Bal Biamon."

Biamon is a Maine resident. Because he likes a nip now and then, Biamon makes occasional visits to state liquor stores. But not the ones in his home state. Biamon — I mean, Biamon — buys his booze in New Hampshire.

That's against the law. Maine limits people entering the state to no more than one gallon of liquor at a time, and I — excuse me, he — sometimes imports a case or two. But Biamon deserves our scorn not because he's a scofflaw. He deserves it because he's paying too much for his alcohol. If Biamon had done a little research, he'd have discovered he could buy liquor for the same price as in New Hampshire — or less — right here in Maine.

Actually, Biamon can be partially excused for not knowing this, since Maine, for reasons that have more to do with politics than marketing, doesn't advertise its low prices.

A 1998 survey by the *Portsmouth Herald* found many of the most popular brands of spirits were priced lower in the Pine Tree State than in the Granite State. The catch is that Maine offers those bargain prices only at its discount stores in Kittery and Calais.

For instance, in December, both Maine and New Hampshire had sales on some of their biggest selling items. Maine knocked off five bucks on a bottle of Chivas Regal, bringing the cost down to \$24.99. Which is not much of a deal when compared to the \$19.99 sale price in New Hampshire. But at the Maine discount stores, Chivas was retailing for just \$19.49. Smirnoff Vodka was marked down to \$17.99 in most Maine stores, but the discount stores matched New Hampshire's price of \$14.99. Or take Captain Morgan Silver Spiced Rum. Maine's sale price: \$10.99. New Hampshire's sale price: \$8.99. Maine's discount store price: \$8.49.

"It's not widely known," Eben Marsh, the director of the Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages, told the *Portsmouth Herald* in '98. "We should do a better job of making people aware of [the lower prices]."

"That's been the perception for years, that New Hampshire has lower prices," Dolores Brown, the bureau's marketing manager, told me (or was it Biamon?) in late 1999. "We've never been able to break that perception."

The reason isn't exactly a mystery. New Hampshire promotes its lowest prices. Maine, on the other hand, spends its advertising dollars flaunting its highest prices. As a result of this novel marketing strategy, state liquor officials regularly pay for newspaper inserts that alert customers to the \$26.99 price tag on a 1.75-liter bottle of Beefeater Gin, while neglecting to mention the same thing can be purchased at Kittery and Calais for \$23.99. If it's Tanqueray you prefer, the state's ads list it at \$31.99, but it's only \$26.99 at the discount stores. Crown Royal's 750-ml bottle goes for \$19.99 at any of the 25 regular state liquor stores or 200 agency stores. It's \$15.99 at the two discount stores.

"We wouldn't advertise statewide for two sites," explained Brown. "The rest of the state doesn't have that price."

What the rest of the state does have is the idea that New Hampshire (or in northern Maine, New Brunswick) has the best deal on alcohol. State officials have estimated that people like Biamon, who stock their liquor cabinets with bottles from across the border, cost Maine between \$20 million and \$40 million in lost revenue each year. Since total annual booze sales in Maine amount to about \$76 million, even a drunk can figure out the state is losing up to 35 percent of its potential market.

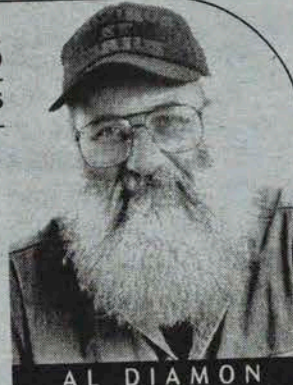
The reasoning behind this bizarre marketing scheme is singularly tortured. If the state aggressively promoted its discount stores, the thinking goes, it would hurt sales at the regular-price outlets. Instead of reaping \$29.99 for a bottle of Absolut Vodka, Maine would have to settle for \$24.99. Of course, that's money the state is probably losing to New Hampshire, anyway. But there's another, more important, consideration.

If the discount price were advertised, lots of liquor outlets located within driving distance of Kittery or Calais might lose so much business, they'd be forced to close. That would anger legislators representing those areas, since no one wants to be known as the state representative from a place too small to support a package store. In effect, Maine would rather let millions of dollars slip away than bruise the egos of its elected officials.

As for me — er, I mean, Biamon — he pointed out Maine often sends state cops to Portsmouth to stake out the liquor store in an attempt to apprehend people bringing too much booze across the border. Maybe, he said, similar zeal could be applied to convincing customers to shop in Maine in the first place.

Gimme a shot of what's on your mind, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Or e-mail ishmaelia@gwi.net, and make it a double.

politics & other mistakes



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Family Crisis Services
needs volunteers to provide advocacy to women and children experiencing Domestic Violence
Advocate Evening Training
Spring 2000 Portland location, Mondays & Wednesdays 6-9 p.m. 7 weeks starting March 6th
Gina Dearani, Volunteer Coordinator
874-2372

VOLUNTEER ISSUE

NO QUESTIONS

BETH MARTIN BECOMES THE
BEST FRIEND OF REFUGEES IN
PORTLAND BY MINDING HER
OWN BUSINESS



Don't ask. Do tell. Beth Martin provides answers to refugees' questions through her volunteer work at Catholic Charities Maine.

PHOTOS/LUC DEMERS

STEVE HARGREAVES

"A man with no questions," said a character in a Walter Mosley novel, "is a man you could almost trust."

Beth Martin keeps her questions to herself when dealing with recent refugees arriving in Portland. Martin, 30, is one of 130 volunteers at Catholic Charities Maine's Refugee and Immigration Services, which provides services to people fleeing political violence, religious intolerance and war. In a city that posted multilingual signs on municipal buildings only a year ago, she believes asking questions isn't as important as providing answers.

"I would love to know their story," Martin said of the Sudanese family she's currently working with. "But I haven't been tempted to ask. I don't want to be a voyeur. That's not why I'm here."

What Martin is here for is to help refugees adjust to life in Portland. And refugees need a lot of help in overcoming problems that are significantly different from those dealt with by the typical immigrant. Most people who come to Portland from other countries do so voluntarily. Refugees have no say in where they end up. After waiting in makeshift camps, they're shipped out to any country that will take them. Most have experienced major catastrophes, such as the death of a family member, the loss of their homes and the loss of their self-reliance.



Lost in translation: Beth Martin checks through an English/Arabic dictionary.

"[Being a refugee] is the most traumatic experience a human being can have and still be alive," said Matthew Ward, director of the program.

In addition, those coming to the United States must pay their way, signing a promissory note to reimburse the government within two years. "You arrive in the U.S. with no job, no home and about \$10,000 in debt," said Ward. "Welcome to America."

The welcoming committee consists of Martin and her fellow volunteers. Martin is employed as the coordinator of women's services at the University of Southern Maine's Women's Center, where she's working on a program to mentor students in Portland schools who come from refugee and immigrant families. She's also a volunteer for the hot line run by Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine, helping victims of rape and abuse. In addition, she's chair of the Portland chapter of the American Red Cross' international social services committee, which is attempting to organize a clearinghouse for translation services that would be available 24 hours a day. And since last fall, she's been helping refugees adjust to life in Portland.

Martin usually spends one afternoon a week at the house of the Sudanese family, where she and the mother pour over homework assignments from the woman's English as a Second Language class or flip through an English/Arabic dictionary, picking out words and phrases and identifying objects in the room.

Language is the single biggest problem refugees confront, and Portland contin-

ues to lag in providing adequate services. Martin said she saw a sign recently in a Portland hospital offering translator services. But the sign was written in English. For someone who doesn't speak the language, she said, "that's not going to be very helpful."

But Martin is more than an unpaid English tutor. She's also a friend. In addition to the language lessons, Martin, the mother and sometimes her children take field trips to the Children's Museum, Smiling Hill Farm, Mackworth Island and the University of Southern Maine's holiday parties.

They love the East End Beach, although the family doesn't own bathing suits. "We'll have to work on that," said Martin.

Martin was born in Germany. Her father, she later discovered, worked for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. For her first 11 years, her family moved frequently, spending time in Virginia, California and South Korea, before arriving in Wiscasset, Maine. She didn't learn about his involvement with the CIA until 5th grade, but her father died before she could ask him about his work. "He was flying off to Latin America a lot," she said. "What role did he play in these places that had so much conflict?"

"There are so many situations that I don't know about, [but] I know he wasn't a bad person."

After graduating from the New School for Social Research in New York in 1992, Martin took a job as the assistant to the executive director of a psychiatric training institute. But she was unhappy, suffering from depression and eating

"[BEING A REFUGEE] IS THE MOST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE A HUMAN BEING CAN HAVE AND STILL BE ALIVE."
—MATTHEW WARD,
DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC
CHARITIES MAINE'S REFUGEE
AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

"I'VE MET A FAMILY THAT I REALLY ENJOY AND HAVE FUN WITH. THESE PEOPLE, THEY ARE NOT OTHERS, THEY'RE A PART OF MY COMMUNITY AND I'M A PART OF THEIRS."
—BETH MARTIN, VOLUNTEER

disorders. She returned to Maine in 1995 and joined a women's empowerment group. "I reframed my sense of self," she said. "[Women have] grown up our entire life with a sense of powerlessness, no sense of self-esteem, no sense of individuality, no sense of validation."

While that sort of insight is undoubtedly helpful in dealing with refugees, who experience many of the same problems, Martin said it was a trip to West Africa in 1998 that "triggered my interest in refugees."

Her sister, a former Peace Corps volunteer, was working with Liberian refugees in Guinea. "She was the one who was focused early," Martin said, "and I was the one who was trying to figure out where I was going."

In the Ivory Coast, she met three men who joked with her that they wanted an American girlfriend. They invited her home for Christmas dinner, where the women in their family did all the cooking and cleaning. She told the men an American woman wouldn't put up with that. After she brought it up again at dinner, the men took the unprecedented step of jumping up and clearing the table.

Now in Portland, it's Martin's turn to deal with somebody else's culture shock. One day while walking down a Portland street, Martin noticed the Sudanese family's shocked reaction to two people cuddling on a park bench. "They just don't express intimacy the way we do publicly," she said.

The family is also puzzled by Martin's seemingly un-American ways. She doesn't drink soda or own a TV. "They don't understand that," she said. "[The mother's] like, 'You don't watch TV?'"

Martin struggles with the Sudanese tradition of a male-dominated society. "This is where I feel the split," she said, "as a feminist, as a woman. I'm working with a culture that's in a different place."

But Martin doesn't question the family about its values. "In this situation I wouldn't say to them, 'What do you mean? That's crazy!'" she said. "That would be awful."

Asked why she does so much volunteering, Martin said, "It wasn't some kind of 'Well, now I need to do for others.'"

So what is it?
"I go and spend time, and I learn a lot, and I enjoy myself," she said. "And perhaps I am giving something as well."

There must be more to it.
"I've learned about the strength of community and family," Martin said. "I think about how fragmented this society feels to me, and how much less importance we put into extended family and community, and I think sometimes that's really sad."

"Privacy is such an enormous issue here. We have all these layers and layers between the individual and society here."

"I've tried to break down this artificial boundary. It's about how to find a community and create a community."

"It's definitely helped me develop a relationship with people I normally wouldn't have," she said. "I've met a family that I really enjoy and have fun with. These people, they are not others, they're a part of my community and I'm a part of theirs."

No question.

Steve Hargreaves is an intern at CBW. Additional reporting for this story was done by David Tyler, CBW's editor.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LOW-INCOME

Emergency Food Pantry
Various locations
Emergency Food Pantry accepts donations of nonperishable food items at various congregations in So. Portland and Cape Elizabeth. 795-3361.

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. Volunteers are needed to select families, plan events, write the newsletter, raise funds and help with office work and construction. 772-2151.

The 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. Volunteers are needed to help organize the Portland Food Festival. Assistance with clerical/office tasks is needed. Volunteers need to gather and organize data and statistics on hunger and poverty. Volunteers also needed to maintain the Web site (meinfoodsecurity.org). Staff the booth at the Common Ground Fair, prepare mailings and work in community gardens. Call Jim Hanna at 871-8266.

Maine Housing-Building Materials Bank
169 Lewiston Rd., Gray
148 Main St., Sanford
A nonprofit organization providing household fixtures and appliances for low-income home owners seeks donations of reusable materials. People are needed to help solicit, arrange and pick up donations, and for office help. Yard sales are held every Sat. at 169 Lewiston Rd., Gray. Call Jim Smith at 657-2957.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance
88 Federal St., Portland
The Portland office of PTLA handles client intake for the 10 southern and central counties of Maine. Volunteers are responsible for answering incoming calls dealing with a variety of housing problems, public benefits issues and some domestic violence matters. In cases requiring professional legal counsel, staff paralegals and attorneys provide assistance. For more information, call Lynn Marti-Hurt at 774-4518 x223.

Portland Street Clinic
15 Portland St., Portland
The clinic provides free comprehensive health care to low-income, uninsured adults in the Greater Portland area with a volunteer staff. Needed are volunteer physicians, nurses, social workers and receptionists or anyone willing to donate time and skills. Call Ronnie Ervin at 874-8982.

Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council
181 Brackett St., Portland
Portland West is a neighborhood agency offering services for low-income families and at-risk youth. Programs include AmeriCorps (juvenile restitution/community service), Even Start (family literacy), Youth Build (community enrichment program designed to help students obtain their GED and vocational training and provide low-income housing), Building Alternatives (youth education and trades training), affordable housing for low-income residents and community outreach (arts access, camp scholarships, teen drop-in center). Volunteers are needed for the after-school study center, classroom tutoring, vocational assistance, youth supervision, teen outreach activities and other programs. Call Rhonda at 775-0105, ext. 27.

Proble Street Resource Center
5 Portland St., Portland
The center provides case management and services to the homeless and people with low incomes. Volunteers are needed to help serve breakfast 7:30-10 am and sort out clothes seven days a week. Call Mollie Mahanna at 874-6560.

Project FEED
202 Woodford St., Portland
Project FEED operates a food pantry that is open Mon-Fri from 1-3 pm. They welcome volunteers to help with interviewing clients and grocery pick-up and bagging. Call Barbara Craig at 797-6887 from 1-3 pm.

St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen
10 Locust St., Portland
St. Vincent's is the oldest soup kitchen in Portland. The program is open Mon-Fri from 10:45 am-12:45 pm. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Eddie Manning at 772-1113.

Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP)
88 Federal St., Portland
The VLP relies on volunteers from the community to provide the vital link between a low-income person in need of legal assistance and the services available through the program. Volunteers are responsible for interviewing those individuals who contact the program and reviewing that information with legal staff. Volunteers are trained in a variety of legal matters such as family law (divorce, custody, visitation issues), domestic violence, bankruptcy, unemployment and other areas of law. Communication skills are a must! If you are interested in learning more about the law and want to help others, please call 774-4518 x223 or check out their Web site at www.vlp.org.

Wayside Evening Soup Kitchen
252 Oxford St., Portland
This soup kitchen provides evening meals seven days a week. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and clean up from 5:30-7:30 pm. A minimum two-hour-per-month commitment is required. Groups of up to 30 people are encouraged to work together to volunteer one night a month for a year - a great opportunity for businesses or clubs. Call Tom Vacca at 775-4939.

HEALTH AND HEALING

ABBA
470 Forest Ave., Suite 211, Portland
This organization works with women with unplanned pregnancies.



Mercy Hospital volunteers Norman and Lorraine Jonassen have given over 3,000 hours of volunteer service to the hospital.

If a woman chooses to parent, ABBA will help with clothes and supplies. Volunteers are needed for accident education for teens. This requires training. Twenty-six hours of training are needed to be a one-on-one counselor. Volunteers are also needed for computer work and the like. Call Judy Cushing at 235-5555.

AIDS Lodging House
142 High St., Suite 623, Portland
See HAVEN for volunteer opportunities.

The AIDS Project (TAP)
Box 5305, 615 Congress St., 6th floor, Portland
See HAVEN for volunteer opportunities.

American Cancer Society
52 Federal St., Brunswick
This group is the only nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, service and advocacy. The group can always use volunteers, and will connect you with whatever your interest is. The major need in the Portland area is volunteer drivers (with their own vehicles) to drive patients to and from treatment between 9 am and 5 pm. Help is also needed with community fairs and planning fundraising events. Dafoodi Days are March 30, 31 and April 1. Volunteers are needed to contact businesses for pre-orders in Jan and Feb and to deliver the dafoodi to the businesses March 29 and 30. Volunteers are also needed to sell the dafoodi at direct sites for two- to four-hour shifts during Dafoodi Days. Anyone is welcome to apply, but retired social workers and nurses are especially encouraged. 1-800-464-3102.

American Red Cross
524 Forest Ave., Portland
The Portland Red Cross teaches health and safety courses in the community, leads aquatic classes and responds to disasters in the Cumberland County area. It offers workshops in CPR, fire guarding and first aid. It needs volunteers to serve as disaster instructors, family caseworkers, emergency action team members, health and safety instructors, HIV/AIDS awareness presenters and clerical staff. Training is provided. Volunteers who are computer literate and can help to keep the Web page updated would be useful. Call the director of volunteer services, Dawn Carroll, at 874-1192 x234. Also needed are volunteers to give comfort and support to blood donors. To donate your time to Blood Services, call Renee Tardiff at 775-2366. The Red Cross is having a winter golf tournament in Feb and is looking for help. To volunteer, call Tracy Gary at 874-1192 x219.

The Arthritis Foundation, Northern New England Chapter, Maine Region
201 Main St., Suite 6, Westbrook
This organization, dedicated to educating the public about arthritis, needs people to lead educational programs in their community and to lead support groups. Training is provided. Volunteers are also needed for fundraising and clerical work who are willing to give 10-20 hours a week. Call Darny at 854-3100.

Birthing, Catholic Charities Maine
562 Congress St., Portland
Birthing provides alternatives to abortion. It's a crisis pregnancy service for women and young families dealing with unplanned pregnancies. The program provides emotional support and helps

families to locate community resources. It primarily needs volunteers to staff clothing closets and do publicity work. It also needs volunteers to staff the crisis pregnancy support Helpline. Birthing supports Project Rachel, in which volunteers provide postabortion counseling. All services are free and confidential, and no church affiliation is required for volunteers or families. Call Annette Roux at 871-7464.

Center for Community Dental Health
813 Washington Ave., Portland
The center needs volunteers to assist elderly 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 the free dental clinic in Saco two evenings a month. Call 874-1028.

Community Counseling Center
343 Forest Ave., Portland
The center provides various counseling and children's case management services to people in the Greater Portland area. Call Roberta Lipsman at 874-1030.

Community Health Services
901 Washington Ave., Suite 104, Portland
This group is a home health agency that provides compassionate, clinically excellent and cost-effective home and community health services in Cumberland County. It needs volunteers to visit homebound people, help with installation and maintenance of Life Line (a help line for homebound elderly), help with supplies, assist with the switchboard and help with office duties. Dolores at 775-7231 x4484 or 800-478-4331.

Donate Your Old Car to Benefit Kidney Patients
The National Kidney Foundation of Maine is looking for old cars for its Kidney Cars Program. Donations may qualify you for a tax deduction. 800-488-2277.

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 Virginia, 874-2372.

Greater Portland YMCA
70 Forest Ave., Portland
The YMCA has the following volunteer opportunities: facilities volunteer; wellness ambassadors, who assist members with equipment; aerobic, kick-boxing, self-defense, yoga and tai-chi instructors; certified or certifiable instructors; tour guides; grant writers; fundraisers; office organizers; help answering phones; type letters, distribute bulk mailings; communications volunteers, help producing internal newsletter, help creating and managing public relations communications; Web developers; aquatic instructors and lifeguards; child-care assistants, to assist with before or after-school programs; chaperones for field trips with children of all ages; artistic teachers to teach art, writing or drama classes; volunteer coordinator. Contact Scott Krouse, 874-1111.

HAVEN Volunteer Opportunities
Portland
The HAVEN Collaborative is composed of the AIDS Lodging House, Peabody House and the AIDS Project. These agencies are united in their effort to provide services and support to people liv-

ing with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are needed for several positions. Administrative assistant: Assist staff with administrative procedures including phone coverage, filing, photocopying and assisting with large mailings. Client care volunteers: Paired with one client to fulfill individual client needs including running errands, satisfying social needs and participating in community leisure activities. Volunteers in this category are also offered the opportunity to plan and execute social activities in addition to offering bereavement assistance when necessary. Homemakers: Includes meal preparation and cleanup, grocery shopping, cleaning apartments before and after client moves. Housing Maintenance: Assist staff in maintaining housing structures. Duties change seasonally. Minor repairs and garden maintenance are included in this category. Maine AIDS Hotline: Answer questions about AIDS/HIV, safer sex issues and prevention, make appointments with counseling and testing. Movers: Transport client's possessions from one residence to another. Transportation: Volunteers are needed for a variety of transportation requests including rides to medical appointments and other support services in the Portland area. Various: There are volunteer needs that do not readily fit into these categories or they are not pressing on such a consistent basis. An example of this would include individuals needed to represent the AIDS Project at community functions or to assist Peabody House with development events.

Those interested in volunteering with any of the HAVEN agencies should contact David or Shelly at 774-6877.

Hospice of Maine
693 Congress St. (rear entrance), Portland
The hospice trains and certifies volunteers to provide nonmedical 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 \$50 is required for those willing to commit six 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.

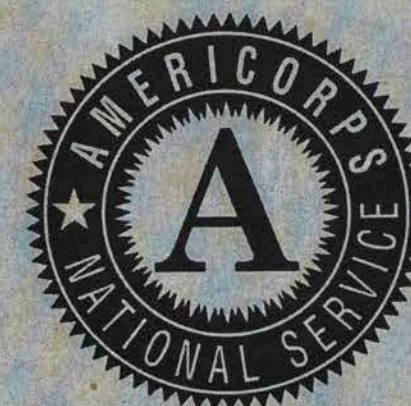
Ingram
237 Oxford St., Portland
Ingram operates Cumberland County Crisis Response, a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline at 774-HELP. All volunteers get training and assistance. Training sessions are 40 hours over six weeks, and the next session starts in March. Volunteers for administrative positions are also available. Call Cherylan Camie at 874-1055.

La Leche League of Greater Portland
71 Pleasant Ave., Portland
La Leche League brings mothers together with other mothers who wish to breast-feed their babies. Provides information and support for breast-feeding mothers via monthly meetings, the telephone or Internet (www.lalecheleague.org). Call Amy at 883-1963 or Ashley at 773-6965. E-mail: fertam@jme.net.

Maine Children's Cancer Program
233 Vaughn St., Portland
Volunteers are needed to serve on an organizing committee for the 13th Annual 10K Walk, which will take place in late August. Opportunities include service on the following committees: teams, breakfast, publicity, logistics, food and entertainment, volunteers, marketing and development. For more information, call Jim or Lisa at 871-6274.

VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Next Year Could Change Your Life



...an adventure in citizenship...

AmeriCorps members serve in communities across Maine. They make a difference in education, health care, the environment, and public safety.

Benefits may include: living stipend, educational award (to pay for higher education or student loans), health insurance, child care allowance, extensive training.

For information, contact the Maine Commission for Community Service at 287-5313. Or, check us out on the web: www.state.me.us/spo/mccs

AmeriCorps positions are open to US citizens of all ages & abilities.

AmeriCorps. Getting Things Done.

Do you know where your business is headed?

The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) is Maine's business finance authority.

To meet the financial needs of Maine's business community, the Finance Authority of Maine offers a variety of business assistance programs, ranging from loan guarantee programs for small and larger businesses, to tax credits for investments individuals make in dynamic, growth-oriented firms.

If you are thinking about expanding your small business, and you need financial assistance, perhaps we can help. Please call FAME's toll-free hotline at **1-800-228-3734**. Or, if you prefer, please visit us on the World Wide Web at www.famemaine.com. We look forward to your call.

Finance Authority of Maine
5 Community Drive
P.O. Box 949
Augusta, Maine 04332-0949
1-800-228-3734
(207) 623-3263
(207) 623-0095 FAX
(207) 626-2717 TTY
E-Mail: info@famemaine.com
URL: www.famemaine.com

FAME
Finance Authority of Maine

Are You Up to the Challenge?

The Governor's Initiative:

Communities
for
Children



An opportunity to work in one of 30 local communities throughout the State of Maine, helping local community leaders develop prevention programs for children and youth. 6 positions also available for regional and statewide mentoring, youth service, public relations, school health and social service delivery efforts.

Each AmeriCorps*VISTA position is a full-time, 12 month commitment. Openings are available in February, June & September.

Benefits include: a living stipend, education grant, health care coverage, childcare allowance, and extensive training.



For more information contact Denise Riehlman.

Send resumes to Communities for Children,
State House Station 170, Augusta, Maine
04333. (207) 287-4341 • FAX: (207) 287-4375

BUSINESS FINANCE PROGRAMS

LOAN INSURANCE

- Commercial Loan Insurance
- Small Business Loan Insurance
- Veterans Small Business Loan Insurance
- Rapid Response Guarantee
- Plus 1 Computer Loan Program
- Non-Traditional Lender Loan Insurance
- Export Financing

TARGETED LENDING

- Intermediary Relending Program
- Regional Economic Development Revolving Loan Program
- Economic Recovery Loan Program
- Development Fund Program
- Occupational Safety Loan Fund
- Potato Marketing Improvement Fund
- Oil Storage Facility or Tank Replacement Loan Program
- Overboard Discharge Program
- Linked Investment Program for Agriculture
- Linked Investment Program for Commercial Enterprises

EQUITY FINANCE

- Maine Investment Program
- Adaptive Equipment Loan Program
- Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund
- Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program
- Small Enterprise Growth Fund

TAXABLE & TAX-EXEMPT BONDS

- SMART Bond Program
- Customized SMART-E Bond Program
- Major Business Expansion Program

1-800-228-3734
www.famemaine.com

VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mainly Parents / Parents Anonymous of Maine
Fort Williams Park, Box 284, Cape Elizabeth
The program provides support and encouragement for parents. A parent talk line for parents under stress runs weekdays from 9 am-4 pm. The program needs group facilitators and child-care volunteers for its parent and children's support groups and parent education classes. Call Maureen Bickford at 767-0991 or 1-800-249-5506.

March of Dimes, Maine State Chapter
8 Portland North Business Park, Falmouth
The March of Dimes organization is committed to preventing birth defects, low birth weight and infant mortality through community service, advocacy, research and education. It seeks volunteers generally 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. Additional office help is needed in January and Feb. Call Jeri D. Hoover at 878-1199 or 1-800-668-5678.

McAuley Residence
91 State St., Portland
The McAuley Residence is a long-term program that provides housing, life-skills counseling and supportive services for women and children. Committed volunteers are needed to provide child care, share life skills and/or work on fundraising projects. Call Jennifer Patrick at 879-3286.

Mercy Hospital
444 State St., Portland
Volunteers are needed to provide office support and to escort and transport patients. Volunteer placements are by appointment and interview. All volunteers are trained. Call Jennifer Fitzpatrick, 879-3286. E-mail: jfz@mercy.org

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 decide whether to keep their children or put them up for adoption. The program needs food and furniture donations and drivers to pick up those donations. It also needs drivers to take clients grocery shopping and to doctor appointments, and volunteers for mentoring, child care and in-service 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 Hopper at 879-8589.

Peabody House
14 Orchard St., Portland
See HAVEN for volunteer opportunities.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
970 Forest Ave., Portland
Planned Parenthood provides reproductive health services, medical examinations, health educational programs and much more. Volunteers are needed to help with periodic mailings and other administrative tasks. People are also needed to help work on the public policy initiative to promote reproductive freedom and health-care reform. Training for effective activism will be provided. For more information, call 874-1100 x326.

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine
Box 1371, Portland
The center offers workshops, support groups and a 24-hour hotline for people dealing directly or indirectly with sexual assault. It needs volunteers to answer hotline calls. It provides a 40-hour training session two or three times a year (next session is in the spring of 2000). The center needs volunteers to plan and run the Chocolate Lovers Fling in March and perform various administrative duties. Call Megan at 878-1035.

Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice
50 Foden Rd., So. Portland
VNA and Hospice provide a variety of home health services and community clinics for residents of the greater Portland area. Call Jennifer Fitzpatrick at 879-3286.

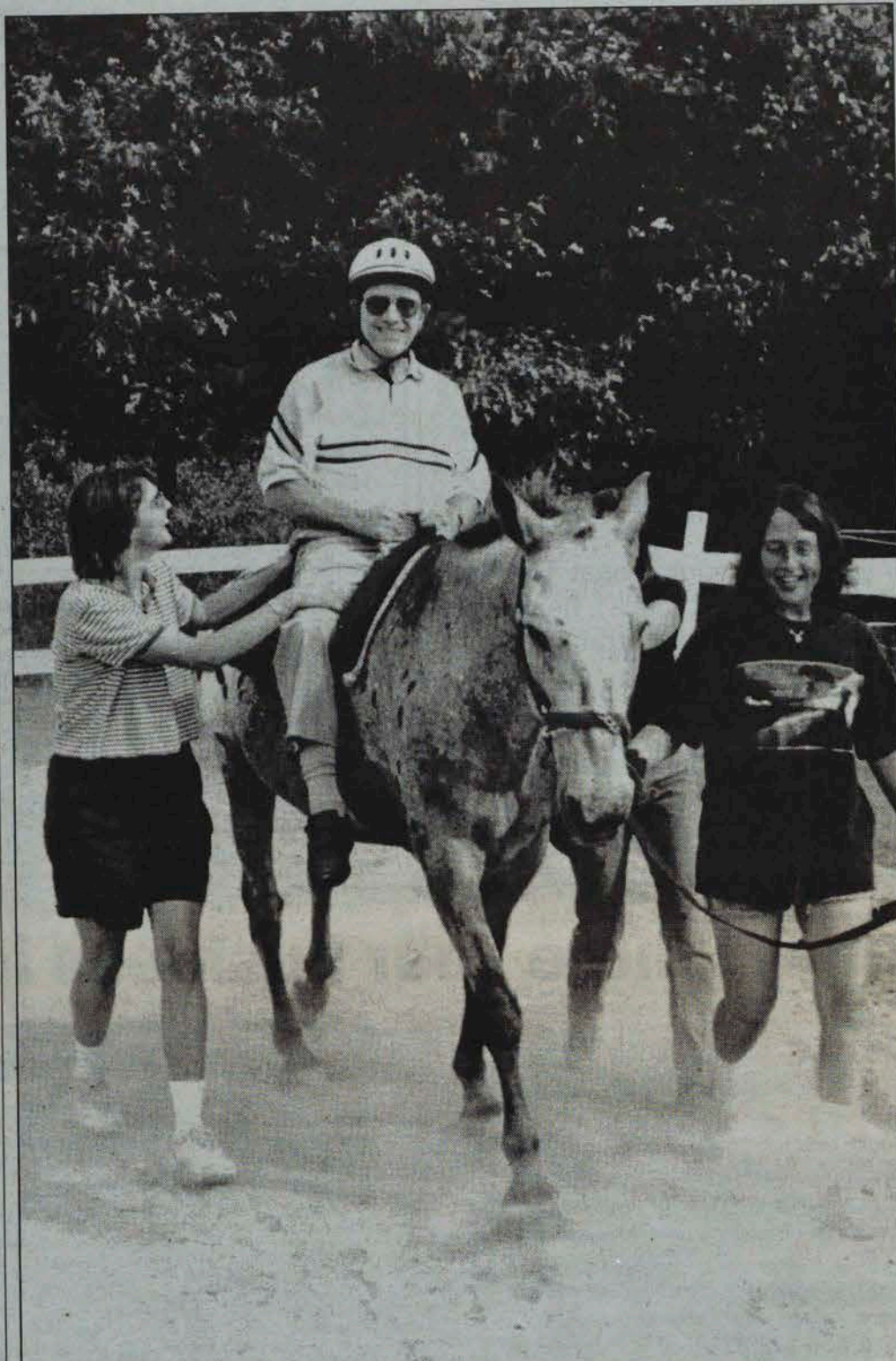
YWCA
87 Spring St., Portland
Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year, especially during special events time. Volunteers needed for fundraising at annual phone-a-thons in March. Volunteers needed to register races and pass out water for Race Against Racism 5K race, May 6. Volunteers needed for YWCA/Kwanzaa Pancake Breakfast, Saturday and Sunday morning of Harborfest 2000. Five adult volunteers needed each day to help set and clean up events and pass out materials for Week Without Violence in October. Help needed to pack cookie ingredients in jars for Maine Leap Cookie Sale, to help women and girls with disabilities in November. People needed to help cook and serve dinner to the women in the teen shelter, women's shelter and women's residence for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Volunteer opportunities in child-care services. Particularly needed for this program are responsible adults in the late afternoon and early evenings. Contact Jen Bolduc, 874-1100, x 3035 for special events. Call Mary Hunter at 874-1100, ext. 3016 regarding child-care services. For Maine Leap, ext. 3015.

EDUCATION

AIFS Foundation
Seeks host families for foreign exchange students. Students are ages 18-18, have at least three years of English and will stay 5-10 months. 800-322-4678.

Andover College
901 Washington Ave., Portland
Seeks members of the business community to help bridge the gap between education and business. Join its advisory committee and help assess and develop current and future programs at the college. Contact John Paradise at 774-6126.

Creative Resource Center



Volunteers Ellen vanHaasteren (left) and Kim Mathieu (right) help John Jacobs at the Riding to the Top Therapeutic Riding Center.

103 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 creative uses for them. Volunteers are needed to work on computers and as workshop leaders working with children (materials and project ideas are provided). Both jobs would be for an hour or so a week. Call Diana Johnston at 877-9543.

Greater Portland Landmarks
865 State St., Portland
This preservation organization needs volunteers to work in the library with archives/conservation. Needed are people familiar with Portland history to identify slides of old landmarks and buildings. Other duties include clipping articles and filing. Office help is needed for duties such as bulk mailings and word processing. Volunteers can help out at events too such as the trade show March 18 and 19 and house tours May 13. Call Gretchen Drown at 774-5361 x45 or www.portlandlandmarks.org.

Junior Achievement of Maine
855 Lancaster St., Suite 204, Portland
Junior Achievement needs volunteers to teach children in grades K-12 about the business world. The time commitment is one hour per week for 5-10 weeks. Training and materials provided. Call Jennifer Connolly at 773-5200 or e-mail: program@janmaine.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) and then assigned advisors to assist in their work. Volunteers are asked to commit to one hour a week for one year. Volunteers are also needed for fundraising. Call Jodi Moore at 878-3907.

Portland Adult Education
57 Douglas St., Portland

help students with homework and to act as mentors. Call Mike Wilson at 773-4753 or e-mail: mikes@porthouse.org.
The Portland Partnership
331 Veranda St., Portland
What could be more fun than being a volunteer with kids? The Portland Partnership has all kinds of kids: suburban kids, urban kids, island kids and always lots of fun kids. Volunteers are needed to relate their most interesting travel stories, read favorite stories, listen to children read their favorite stories, discuss hobbies, teach English, math or science or a thousand other things. The partnership coordinates volunteerism for kindergarten through 12th grade at the Portland Public Schools. Call 874-8236.

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You can put your skills to use at just about all of the area schools, especially the following:

Baxter Elementary, 150 Ocean Ave., Portland. Needs classroom volunteers to help students with their schoolwork either one on one or in groups and to assist in preparing classroom materials in various capacities. Will provide training and ongoing training. Various opportunities available during and after school hours; flexible program. Rosemary Warrick at 874-8140.
Many Rivers Program, Hall School, 23 Orono Rd., Portland. This program provides parents and children with an educational option within the Portland Public School system. It offers developmentally appropriate, hands-on learning experiences. Volunteers are needed to work one on one and with groups, as kitchen and cafeteria support, and as library help. Call Sue Ghelli at 874-8205.
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World Heritage
World Heritage is a nonprofit student exchange program. Area volunteers needed to work as community counselors to help support students from various countries. Community Counselors organize student orientations, meet with local high schools, screen host families and assist exchange students. Call Barbara Hazewood at 1-800-785-9040. The group needs adults to volunteer up to 8 hours per week representing the WH exchange program. It also needs high school students to become exchange students abroad and host families for foreign exchange students here in Maine. Call 716-684-7270.

Youth Exchange
This foreign exchange student program needs volunteer host families for cultural exchange students, ages 15-18, for a semester a year. 1-800-648-2121.

Portland Harbor Museum
Fort Rd., South Portland
Spring Point is a maritime museum that shows exhibits on Portland Harbor. Volunteers are needed 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 McLean at 799-6337.

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Portland Housing Authority Study Centers
14 Baxter Blvd., Portland
The centers at Riverton Park, Kennedy Park, Front St. and Segamore Village provide a quiet study area for students in grades 3-12 Mon-Thurs from 3:30-7:30 pm. They need tutors to

PAE inspires lifelong learning in a culturally diverse environment. This program offers more than 200 courses in the academic, vocational and community life programs. PAE is seeking volunteers to tutor in ESL, math, basic reading and writing, or business skills. Volunteers should call Mary Bloom at 874-8155.

Barren Center
1145 Brighton Ave., Portland
The Barren Center, located near Exit 8 of the Maine Turnpike, 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, Bono and arts and crafts. The Barren Center also needs people to do clerical work, help out in the kitchen, work as waiters/waitresses in the resident care and do laundry. Call Tonya Heskett at 774-2623.

Cedars Nursing Care Center
630 Ocean Ave., Portland
This is a facility that cares for the aging. Volunteers at Cedar Nursing Care Center make a tremendous difference in the quality of their aging residents' lives. Volunteers are now needed to assist and escort residents throughout the week. Ongoing support and training is provided. Please call Jane Andrews at 772-5456.

Enriched Golden Age Center, Salvation Army
297 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This is a club for senior citizens from the Greater Portland area. It is looking for teachers to start a beginning art class, to teach simple crafts, an exercise class for older seniors and a quilting class. Segamore Village provides a quiet study area for students in grades 3-12 Mon-Thurs from 3:30-7:30 pm. They need tutors to

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The centers at Riverton Park, Kennedy Park, Front St. and Segamore Village provide a quiet study area for students in grades 3-12 Mon-Thurs from 3:30-7:30 pm. They need tutors to

PAE inspires lifelong learning in a culturally diverse environment. This program offers more than 200 courses in the academic, vocational and community life programs. PAE is seeking volunteers to tutor in ESL, math, basic reading and writing, or business skills. Volunteers should call Mary Bloom at 874-8155.

Barren Center
1145 Brighton Ave., Portland
The Barren Center, located near Exit 8 of the Maine Turnpike, 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, Bono and arts and crafts. The Barren Center also needs people to do clerical work, help out in the kitchen, work as waiters/waitresses in the resident care and do laundry. Call Tonya Heskett at 774-2623.

Cedars Nursing Care Center
630 Ocean Ave., Portland
This is a facility that cares for the aging. Volunteers at Cedar Nursing Care Center make a tremendous difference in the quality of their aging residents' lives. Volunteers are now needed to assist and escort residents throughout the week. Ongoing support and training is provided. Please call Jane Andrews at 772-5456.

Enriched Golden Age Center, Salvation Army
297 Cumberland Ave., Portland
This is a club for senior citizens from the Greater Portland area. It is looking for teachers to start a beginning art class, to teach simple crafts, an exercise class for older seniors and a quilting class. Segamore Village provides a quiet study area for students in grades 3-12 Mon-Thurs from 3:30-7:30 pm. They need tutors to

help students with homework and to act as mentors. Call Mike Wilson at 773-4753 or e-mail: mikes@porthouse.org.

The Portland Partnership
331 Veranda St., Portland
What could be more fun than being a volunteer with kids? The Portland Partnership has all kinds of kids: suburban kids, urban kids, island kids and always lots of fun kids. Volunteers are needed to relate their most interesting travel stories, read favorite stories, listen to children read their favorite stories, discuss hobbies, teach English, math or science or a thousand other things. The partnership coordinates volunteerism for kindergarten through 12th grade at the Portland Public Schools. Call 874-8236.

Portland Public Library
5 Monument Sq., Portland
The library is looking for volunteers to sell books at the cart for two-hour shifts, to read at story hour and to provide general office support. Call Linda Albert at 871-1757.

Public Schools
You can put your skills to use at just about all of the area schools, especially the following:

Baxter Elementary, 150 Ocean Ave., Portland. Needs classroom volunteers to help students with their schoolwork either one on one or in groups and to assist in preparing classroom materials in various capacities. Will provide training and ongoing training. Various opportunities available during and after school hours; flexible program. Rosemary Warrick at 874-8140.
Many Rivers Program, Hall School, 23 Orono Rd., Portland. This program provides parents and children with an educational option within the Portland Public School system. It offers developmentally appropriate, hands-on learning experiences. Volunteers are needed to work one on one and with groups, as kitchen and cafeteria support, and as library help. Call Sue Ghelli at 874-8205.
Portland Arts and Technology High School (PATHS), 196 Allen Ave., Portland. The video technology/multimedia program needs actors to volunteer in student production work. Call Sue Mullen at 874-8165.

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

South Portland Schools Volunteer Program, 130 Westcott Rd., So. Portland. Needs volunteers to be trained for the library program and to help middle school children in math. This is a great opportunity for retired community members. Clinical support for the school and the library and people with computer skills are also needed. Call Mary Lou Kiley at 773-5629.

Westbrook Volunteer Program, 125 Stroudwater St., Westbrook. Needs in-class volunteers, art helpers, special activities volunteers and library help (one night a week). Call 797-5222.

Refugee and Immigration Services, Catholic Charities Maine
562 Congress St., Portland
This program welcomes refugees from around the world to Portland each year. The program needs volunteers to work one on one with families and individuals. Work can include home tutoring for ESL, helping immigrants adjust to American culture and volunteering at the donation center. Volunteers also needed for general office assistance. The program provides training for all services. Call Sister Kate Walsh at 871-7437 x121.

World Heritage
World Heritage is a nonprofit student exchange program. Area volunteers needed to work as community counselors to help support students from various countries. Community Counselors organize student orientations, meet with local high schools, screen host families and assist exchange students here in Maine. Call 716-684-7270.

Youth Exchange
This foreign exchange student program needs volunteer host families for cultural exchange students, ages 15-18, for a semester a year. 1-800-648-2121.

Portland Harbor Museum
Fort Rd., South Portland
Spring Point is a maritime museum that shows exhibits on Portland Harbor. Volunteers are needed 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 McLean at 799-6337.

Portland's History Docent Training Program
This is a 10-week volunteer guide recruiting and training program. Upon completion of the program, volunteers choose to serve 6 to 12 hours a month at either the Center for Maine History, Greater Portland Landmarks, Tate House or Victoria Mansion. The Center for Maine History is looking for individuals interested in working with schoolchildren to serve as guides at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House and to help with gallery programs. Greater Portland Landmarks offers docents the opportunity to lead walking tours in Portland that explore the city's architectural history or to be guides at the newly restored Portland Observatory. At the Tate House Museum docents are needed to talk about the 1755 house to both school groups and adult audiences. Victoria Mansion is seeking volunteers to work with a variety of audiences at one of America's most significant Victorian homes. The year 2000 program begins on Feb. 29. Call Stephanie Takes-Desbiers at 774-5561 x46 or e-mail: desbie1@maine.rr.com.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Family Crisis Services

needs volunteers to provide advocacy to women and children experiencing Domestic Violence Advocate Evening Training
Spring 2000 Portland location, Mondays & Wednesdays 6-9 p.m. 7 weeks starting March 6th

Gina Dearani, Volunteer Coordinator

874-2372



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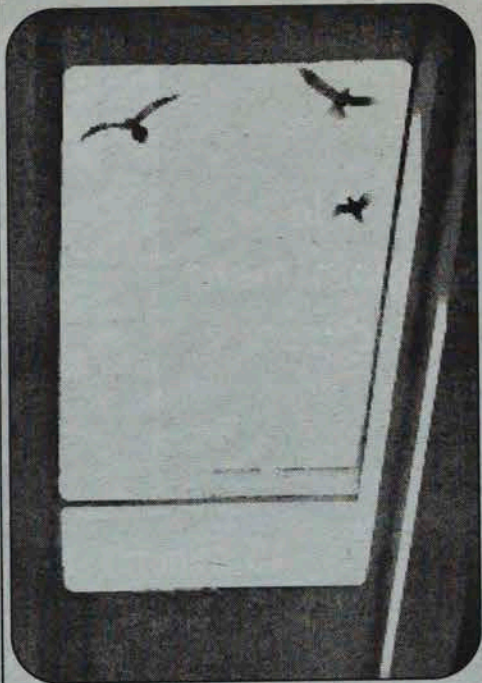
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Portland, Maine
(207) 772-4439
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Sun 11:30 - 5:30

PHOTO/ANDREA AGAMOTIS



skYLIGHT

Written by David Hare
Directed by Andrew Sokoloff
at the Oak Street Theater,
92 Oak St., Portland



**JAN. 12TH -
30TH**

**WED. & THURS 7:30 PM
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8 PM
SUNDAYS 5 PM**

Previews Wed. 12, Thurs. 13 and

Fri. 14 - \$10 Tickets

**Tickets:
Thursday, Friday, Sunday \$18/\$16
Saturday \$20/\$18**

**CALL 775-5103 FOR
RESERVATIONS**

VOLUNTEER LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Maine Audubon Society
20 Gileland Farm Rd., Falmouth
Maine Audubon has long played a leading role in efforts to protect Maine's wildlife communities, instilling an understanding and appreciation for nature among children and adults, speaking out on behalf of wildlife and its habitats, conducting research and advocating for laws to conserve natural resources. Call Stephanie Cox, volunteer coordinator, at 781-2330. There is a workshop for volunteers for the winter and spring exploring nature program. Volunteers will learn how plants and animals survive winter and prepare for spring, and how to guide groups of children outdoors. The nature tours begin Jan. 18 and run through March 31. Mon-Fri. Volunteer training is from 9:30 am to noon on Jan. 7, 10, 12, 13. Call Linda at 781-2330 x213 or e-mail to: woodard@maineaudubon.org for more information and to register for training.

The Maine Conservation Corps
124 State House Station, Augusta
The Maine Conservation Corps' SERVE (state environmental resource volunteer effort) program places volunteers with natural resource agencies such as Bureau of Parks and Public Lands, state Department of Environmental Protection to complete various projects. 287-4931. The Maine Conservation Corps seeks volunteers to work along with its year-round field teams to complete significant trail projects throughout the state. 287-6914. The SERVE/Maine Volunteer Leader program seeks volunteers to complete water quality monitoring projects in southern Maine. 287-6914.

Maine Island Trail Association
414 Union Wharf, Portland
A nonprofit conservation organization, Maine Island Trail Association has a variety of volunteer opportunities available all year long. Possibilities range from data entry and fundraising to island cleanups and the group's Adopt-An-Island program. Since MITA relies so heavily on volunteers, big jobs are often available for those who want the challenge. Call Leanne Dech at 761-8225.

The Wells Reserve
342 Loudholm Rd., Wells
Needs maintenance workers, parking attendants, tour guides and information desk attendants. Also need people interested in water quality monitoring and help with clerical work. Call Nancy Viethmann at 646-1555.

ANIMALS

Animal Refuge League of Westbrook
449 Stroudwater, Westbrook
The Animal Refuge League of Westbrook takes in an average of 4,000 strays and surrendered pets each year. It needs volunteers for general shelter care, socializing, dog walking, a development assistant for fundraising and an adoption counselor. Foster homes are also needed. Orientation is once a month on the third Tues. at 7 pm and lasts an hour. Call Wendy Edwards, volunteer coordinator, at 854-9771.

Friends of Feral Felines
Box 8137, Portland
Friends of Feral Felines has many rescued stray cats who need both permanent and foster homes. Cats are fixed, vaccinated and have been tested for leukemia and feline AIDS. Volunteers are also needed for trapping and feeding the cats, transportation, fundraising, finding foster homes, screening telephone calls and marketing/publicity. The group also seeks cat lovers with barns to adopt unneutered adults. 797-3014.

Maine Puppy Raisers of Guiding Eyes for the Blind
RFD 1, Box 1620, Belfast, 04915
Guiding Eyes for the Blind is a program that was started in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. Maine Puppy Raisers raise puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Volunteers are asked to open their homes to these puppies, which are specially bred to become guide dogs, and raise them from the ages of 8 weeks to 21 months. Puppy Raisers get together once a month to help each other out. No special skills are needed; puppy raisers will have support when needed. For more information, call Pat, area coordinator at 338-5520.

ALSO...

Amnesty International
Box 8703, Portland
This is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for fair and prompt trials, to end torture and executions and to release prisoners of conscience. It needs people who want to participate in letter-writing campaigns to bring pressure on governments around the world that violate human rights. The organization gratefully accepts donations, especially for postage and printing for letters abroad. Members can attend monthly educational meetings the third Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm at the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal Conference Room. Call Louis Siegel at 874-6928. Write to: AI 174, P.O. Box 8703, Portland ME 04104, or call 767-4305.

Community Television Network
100 Oak St., Suite 2, Portland
Volunteers needed for general administrative and video operational assistance, including cablecasting, program schedules, correspondence, production work and many other opportunities. Volunteers needed weekdays from 8 am-5 pm and 6-10 pm. Contact Lesley, 775-0280, ext. 5.

Consumer Complaint Mediators
Key Bank Tower Building, Water St., Augusta
The Public Protection Unit of the Maine Attorney General's Office needs people to volunteer six hours per week mediating complaints over the phone or by mail. To volunteer, call Assistant Attorney General James McKenna or Gladys Gagan at 626-8800.

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.

Crossing Cultures Language Rights Project
85 Lester Dr., Portland
This organization is dedicated to bridging language and cultural differences. In order for refugees, immigrants and migrant work-

ers to obtain their civil rights, volunteers are needed to monitor compliance with federal laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of national origin. Opportunities to participate in federal investigations and litigation. For more information, call Kathy at 878-5198.

Dignity Maine
1500 Massachusetts Ave NW Suite 11, Washington D.C. 20005
Dignity Maine is a branch of a national organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Catholics committed to spiritual development, education outreach, social and religious reform and the advocacy of feminist and progress issues. To join, call 800-877-8797.

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

Food Not Bombs
Food Not Bombs is a small volunteer organization that serves free vegetarian meals on Sundays 1-3 pm in Monument Sq., Portland. Volunteers, cookware, food and donations are welcome. Drummers also welcome. Call Neal or Matt at 774-2801.

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. International and domestic projects include the International Educational Resource Center at Andover College and Sailing For Peace, a sailing program that teaches responsibility to inner-city kids and kids who are blind, visually impaired and mentally challenged. Needed are people interested in working with kids in the sailing program, to help solicit publishing companies for books and to help get a discussion group started on intercultural issues. Also needed: help with a new Kids to Kids program, which aligns schools in Maine with schools in developing countries. Call 775-0547 or e-mail the group at Friends@igwi.net. Check out its Web site at www.friendsinternational.org.

Maine Civil Liberties Union
233 Oxford St., Suite 32K, Portland
The MCCLU is looking for volunteers to do a wide variety of tasks, from office work to legal research to desktop publishing. It's particularly in need of volunteers with paralegal experience, people with office experience and help with its education program. 774-5444.

Maine People's Alliance and Maine People's Resource Center
84 Bishop St., Portland
The Maine People's Alliance is a nonprofit grassroots organization that works statewide on issues including the environment, health care, and civil justice. People are needed to do data entry and help on various projects, and volunteer student interns to perform research for the Resource Center. Call Jane Jennings at 761-4400.

Maine Preservation
Box 198, Portland
Maine Preservation is a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization that works to preserve Maine's historic buildings and neighborhoods. It needs people to help with special events, mailings, and general 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 one Sat a month, and for coordinating community programs and projects. Call Janine Kaseman at 756-8135.

Peace Action Maine
1 Pleasant St., fourth floor, Portland
Peace Action Maine is the state's largest peace organization and has worked for 18 years to promote peace through grassroots organizing, citizen education and issue advocacy. PAM works to eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, stop the use of landmines, stop the sale of weapons to dictators, reduce defense spending in order to provide for human needs and build peace in our community. PAM needs volunteers in all areas including volunteering in the office, assisting with bulk mailings and participating in program committees. All inquiries welcome. Call Scott Miller at 772-0680.

Peace and Justice Center of Southern Maine
1 Pleasant St., fourth 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, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), MaineShare and Outright. The center needs volunteers for administrative work and is a convenient place to volunteer for one of these peace and justice organizations. Call Scott, 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. It needs volunteers to run periodic special events and distribute promotional materials. 772-6828.

United Way
Box 15200, 400 Congress St., Portland
The United Way supports many community service programs in Greater Portland through funding and volunteer support. It needs help for special projects year-round. It also prints a free booklet, "Let's Help," which describes volunteer opportunities in the area. For a copy, call 674-1000 x318.

World Affairs Council of Maine
Box 9300, Portland
The World Affairs Council promotes understanding of international affairs. It needs volunteers for mailings and program registration. It's also looking for volunteers with ACTI Contact Management experience. Call Barbara Canly at 780-4551 or email ganly@wacmaine.org.



Break out those pens and pencils and vote for Greater Portland's best coffee shops, dive bars, day-care centers and lobster rolls — 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 include your remarks when we write up the winners for the March 9 "Best of Portland" issue. Photocopied ballots won't be counted, so use an original ballot from an issue of CBW, one ballot per person.

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. 7.

Mail or drop off ballot:

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

Best local people

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

Best food and drink

Best breakfast joint	Best bread
Best doughnuts	Best desserts
Best lunch	Best Maine microbrewery
Best dinner for cheap	Best produce
Best dinner if money's no object	Best pizza
Snobbiest restaurant	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 soup	Best sushi

Best entertainment

Best Old Port bar	Best local solo music artist
Best neighborhood bar	Best local CD
Best bar outside Portland	Best club to hear live music
Best beer bar	Best large venue to hear live music
Best dive bar	Best radio station
Best pickup bar	Best theatrical production
Best jukebox	Best place to play pool
Best local band	Best place to play darts

Best services

Best clothing store	Best place to get a haircut
Best shoe store	Best place for tattoos and piercings
Best bicycle shop	Best health club
Best laundromat	Best computer store
Best secondhand store	Best corner store
Best cab company	Best florist
Best fishmonger	Best pottery shop
Best butcher	Best day care
Best jeweler	

Best places

Best graffiti	Most run-down park
Best hangout for teenagers	Best place to walk a dog
Best hangout for old people	Best public bathrooms
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**

An advocate for open government

It's rare that *CBW* praises a politician. But Peter J. Feeney, a Cumberland County commissioner, was unusual in that he both believed in open government and did something about it.

Feeney, who was 25, died on Dec. 26. At 22, he was the youngest-ever commissioner elected to the board when he beat incumbent Commissioner Lyle B. Cramer three years ago.

Unlike most politicians, Feeney realized that government is a public trust, and that the public has a right to know what goes on. The county commissioners had never been particularly concerned about involving ordinary people in their activities. They held public hearings, but they knew nobody was going to show up.

Feeney understood it was important to reach out to the public and the news media so that people were aware of the workings of county government. He started a call-in cable television show to talk about the county's operating budget. And he took that show to every community in Cumberland County.

Feeney believed it was important that a politician go to the public when there are problems. When Owen Wells' Libra Foundation proposed a gift of land and money to help build a new \$46 million sports arena in Portland, the future of the aging

Cumberland County Civic Center became uncertain. Civic center trustees did not want to talk about what would happen to the old building while the debate over the new arena was raging, for fear of derailing that proposal. But Feeney said county officials had an obligation to discuss the matter in public and to investigate other uses for the civic center, so that it didn't become an abandoned hulk if the new arena were built.

Feeney was also vocal about the low rent the state paid the county to house the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, as well as the Superior and District courts. The county said it needed a rent increase to help pay for security. The court system has acknowledged the problem, but, so far, hasn't come up with a solution. To do so now would be a fitting tribute to Feeney's all-too-brief career as a public servant.

Outside his political life, Feeney gave his time and energy to important causes. *CBW*'s cover story this week is about the importance of volunteering. For the past two years, Feeney was the weekend breakfast coordinator for the soup kitchen at the Preble Street Resource Center.

Feeney's outspoken style and desire to inform the public will be missed. We hope the issues he addressed won't be ignored by his replacement on the commission.

DAVID TYLER

Here we go again

**E
ssay**

by CHERYL LEEMAN

What would happen if Portland held its city elections in November instead of May? A group called the November Impact Coalition has formed to promote this idea. In the Dec. 30 *CBW*, City Councilor Jim Cloutier, the treasurer of the coalition, explained why he thinks this change should be made. This week, City Councilor Cheryl Leeman writes in opposition to the proposal.

HERE WE GO AGAIN!!! The same coalition of city councilors with the same self-serving partisan agenda, but with a new name: the November Impact Coalition. Now they want to move Portland's municipal elections from May to November. Do not be fooled by their assertions that all they want is to increase voter participation. When and where have we heard that before?

Ironically, this coalition that touts more democracy and power to the people consists of the very same individuals who ignored the vote of the people when they tried to hand Ethan Strimling, a political ally, a seat on the City Council. This attempt to steal Jack Dawson's council seat by politically manipulating the recount was by far the most blatant misuse of power and should serve as an example of what the coalition is capable of in the name of partisan politics. Clearly, political preference played a large part in

the decision by coalition members when they voted to overturn the election results in the Dawson/Strimling contest.

Don't be fooled by the message — remember, you know the messengers! They have shown us time and time again that their agenda is clear — partisan politics and power.

Let us not forget, this coalition was also the driving force behind changing our current city manager form of government to an elected mayor. They argued an elected mayor was about more democracy, and campaigns for mayor would mean more "voter participation." Does this sound familiar? Same rhetoric and partisan politics — just a different day, different issue.

We have a presidential election coming in November 2000. Imagine, if you will, what it would be like for an everyday citizen with no political connections, no name recognition and no money trying to run for a local City Council seat. Do you think the media would cover those local elections? Highly unlikely. The end result would be candidates who can raise the most money and are politically connected to partisan interests. The "little guy" from your neighborhood or mine will never have a chance (or desire) under these conditions. A coalition member publicly stated, "I think it's justifiable to say that there's so much on the ballot in November, [city elections] might be the last thing on voters' minds."

This is not about increased voter participation. It is about increased odds for electing partisan representation

on the City Council as evidenced by the voter demographics for the city of Portland. We have a little over 39,000 registered voters. The breakdown is as follows:

Democrats, 17,741 (45.32 percent);
Republicans, 7,713 (19.70 percent);
Unenrolled, 13,047 (33.33 percent).

These figures reveal the truth about how November elections will serve partisan interests.

Also, only 43 of Maine's 483 communities, less than 9 percent, hold municipal elections in November. A number of those communities holding elections in November do so in the odd numbered years to avoid presidential and gubernatorial elections overshadowing local concerns.

Preserving the integrity of the process and keeping partisan politics out of local elections are at issue here. The creators of the city charter in Portland saw the wisdom in protecting local government from political shenanigans by establishing a nonpartisan elected City Council to best represent the views of all citizens, regardless of party affiliation, in a fair, unbiased way. Let's keep it that way!!

Finally, this is not the time for "more rabble-raising," as suggested by one of the coalition members, and it is not the time for another divisive issue that keeps the City Council's focus away from the city's business. A more laudable goal for the millennium would be to work together in the city's best interest and to rebuild the public trust, which was badly damaged in the Dawson/Strimling recount issue. How about a City Council Cooperation Coalition for 2000?

@ letters

Poor, oppressed southern Maine

Ah yes, northern Maine as vassal to the south. An interesting if unappealing version (Al Diamon's vision for the future?) of the two-Maine scenario ("What is and what should never be," *Politics & Other Mistakes*, 12.16.99).

I must admit, I admire the hypocrisy of southern Maine as preserver of the forests, air and water. Go to Cumberland County, the smog capital of Maine! How 'bout a new motto for tourism in Cumberland County: "Maine, the vacation state; Cumberland County, smells like home." Or perhaps it could be "Damn the emissions testing, full smog ahead."

We may need your tax dollars, but we do not need your automobile-caused air pollution (and now MTBE-poisoned water), the bitching about traffic congestion (the "widen the turnpike" and "what the hell do we do about State Street/Forest Ave.?" syndromes) and now your whining, sniveling and carping on the injustice of being an oppressed member of privileged southern Maine.

Maybe it would be more productive to air some ideas on how to generate real jobs in the rest of Maine instead of the pseudo-job telemarketing and neocolonial resource extraction, cut-it-all-down phenomena. Ideas that would make all of Maine stronger, without becoming any more Massachusetts-like than southern Maine already is.

Perhaps some productive ideas on improving education standards, so that maybe, in another 20 years, we have kids who are smart enough to get jobs outside the mills and MBNA. Or perhaps fostering many of the small businesses that already exist, so they can grow and take the place of jobs lost to foreign competition. Maybe some improvement of transportation networks to make shipping and receiving goods easier, and I don't mean constructing an east-west highway.

Or maybe, just maybe, you folks in southern Maine might have some good ideas, too. Now, if you could only bring them up in a way that isn't preaching and self-serving, without the better-than-thou-what-we-say-not-what-we-do attitude. Then perhaps we can all discuss this like intelligent adults and not school-yard rivals.

Ed Kitson
Industry

More fluffy bubblegum music

Why did WCLZ have to go away? Portland had a unique and different radio station that people around here could be proud of and enjoy telling their friends from out of town about. But after listening to some stupid computer countdown for five days, I was shocked to hear fluffy bubblegum music where every song sounds alike. Once again, corporate commercialism has reared its ugly head and as usual it sucks. Who now will play blues, jazz, folk and local talent? What was once a great radio station now sounds like one of a dozen other stations. No, I don't GET THE POINT!

Jim Marchbanks
Brunswick

I don't want to know about your fetishes

Your article on the growing popularity of suburban S&M in Maine makes me wonder if the social phenomenon (and its practitioners' pleas for acceptance) is another sign of society's moral liberation or disintegration ("When it comes to S&M, Portland's hurting," 12.9.99).

Instead of acting out my quirky psychological impulses in my relationships, I chose to explore them through intense emotional release therapy. It took years but I tracked them to their childhood roots. One critical insight was realizing how my traumatic birth had imprinted me with the neurotic urge to create life problems and situations that I could struggle against. Marching through my personal hell and facing extremely painful demons eventually freed me from the emotional knots I'd been tied up in all my life.

There's an important difference, yet fine line, between the private exploration of sexual feelings, fantasies and boundaries and the dramatizing of personal neuroses. I suspect the most effective way to erect a mental fire wall against childhood traumas is to find a way to make a living symbolically acting them out.

I do wish the S&M community (along with the numerous other psychologically dysfunctional social networks masquerading as "alternative lifestyles") would Tell the Truth about one thing. Their urges, and especially the urge to experience or inflict intense pain on another living creature, is in no way a need. A compulsion, a desire and most likely a neurosis, but not a need.

And let's decide as a matter of etiquette and common courtesy that some private behaviors don't need to be flaunted in public, incorporated into fashion or reflected in advertising.

Maurice Harter
Portland

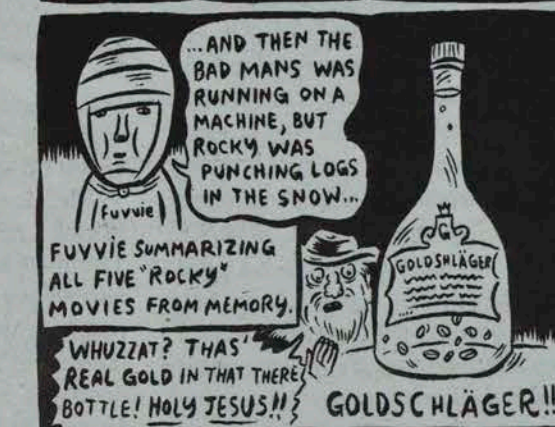
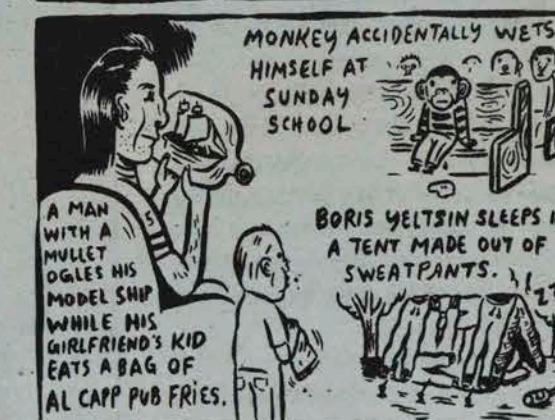
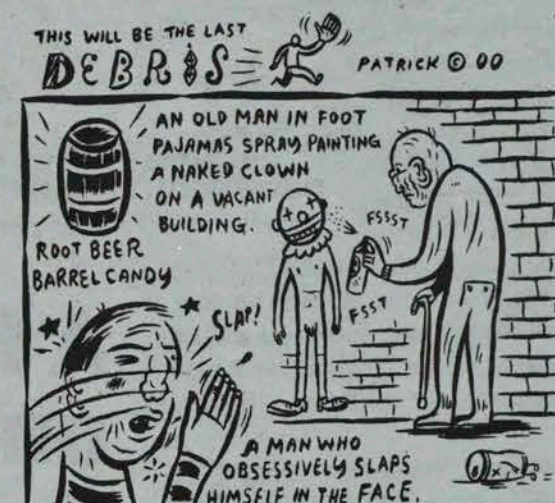
"And let's decide as a matter of etiquette and common courtesy that some private behaviors don't need to be flaunted in public, incorporated into fashion or reflected in advertising."

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 e-mail at editor@maine.rr.com or by fax: 775-1615.

Why can't the city make the signs regulating overnight parking easier to read? Why not put the day of the week in big letters?

"It is the driver's responsibility to know what the rules are and if you can't read the sign, move closer," said Larry Ash, a traffic engineer for the city of Portland. Or to put it another way: Because that's the way we do it, asshole.



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.rr.com

Empty Pockets, literally. **Empty Pockets**, the Irish pub on Forest Avenue in Portland, officially closed its doors on Jan. 3. "I am sorry to report that Empty Pockets is permanently closed, effective today," owner Jeff Feingold announced in a short e-mail. "Best of luck to all in the future!"

Rumors of the pub's demise had surfaced several times in the last few months, only to be refuted by Feingold. But this time the rumors were right. "Closure has been a threat since the day I opened the pub, for a number of reasons," Feingold said in a telephone interview. "It just got to be too much of a burden."

An Empty Pockets employee said the pub lacked the financial backing to make it through the slow winter months. Feingold declined to elaborate on his finances, but noted the difficulty he had running the pub from his current residence in Boston.

The pub's closure happened four days before acclaimed Irish rock/reggae band Black 47 was scheduled to hold a CD release party there. Beth Marks of Shanachie Entertainment, the group's publicist, said she and the band were both disappointed with the turn of events and would try to reschedule a Portland performance at another venue, but nothing was definite as CBW went to press.

Opened in October 1998, Empty Pockets hosted live music, dance and poetry in a relaxed, TV-free environment. Though numerous other bars had already failed at the same site in the Portland Performing Arts Center, Feingold was confident he'd found the formula to break the upper Forest Avenue hex. "If the pub doesn't work for me, they may as well close that part of the building down," he said. "Ear to the Pavement," 9.24.98.

Rumors the part of the building Empty Pockets occupied will be closed down had not yet surfaced by the time CBW went to press.

► **Fermata fermé.** Further down Forest Avenue, the **Fermata Club** has also met its demise, at least for the time being. Since June of 1998, the club had hosted live music (often of the hard-core/heavy-metal variety), dance nights and karaoke. That changed on Dec. 29 when it shut down. "The owner is kicking us out to sell the building," said Greg Burns-Jackson, a bartender and booking agent at the Fermata.

Larry Adlerstein, the club's landlord, said the situation is more complicated. "The building was part of a divorce settlement," Adlerstein said. "My wife was getting the building, but because it was not a trouble-free tenant, I thought it best that I sell the building. That way she gets the cash proceeds instead of a troublesome tenant. She's not a landlord."

Adlerstein said the Fermata was too loud for the neighborhood, but Burns-Jackson said the only complaints the club received were from Adlerstein's real estate agent, who, he said, lives nearby.

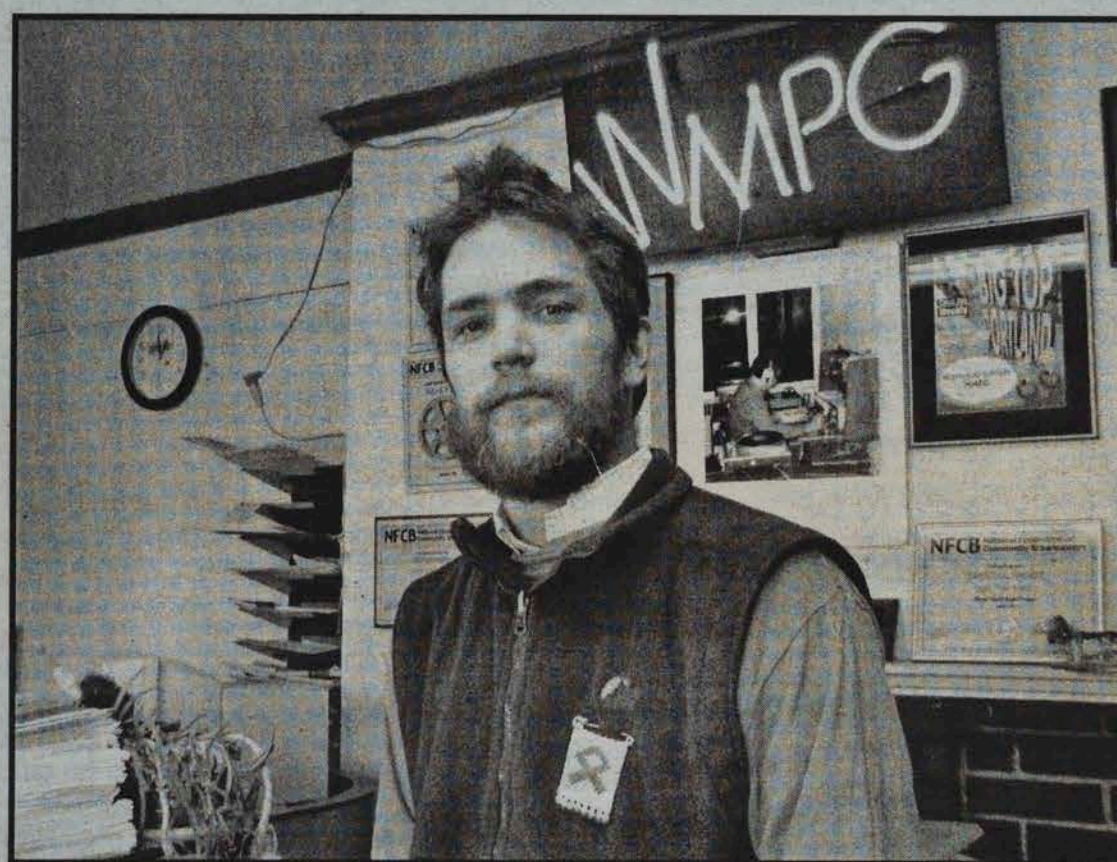
The Fermata Club is currently looking for a new home in Portland. According to Adlerstein, the building has been sold and will be used for distribution by an unspecified company. **CBW**

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

A funny thing happened on the way to Shop 'n Save

James Barnes is trying to get his tales of life in a fanciful Portland on the radio



In your ear: James Barnes is trying to organize Portland's only radio theater. PHOTO / JOHN ALPHONSE

► AUTUMN PHILLIPS

The door lets out a long creak and a minor chord slams out of the piano. Trumpets announce the arrival of the villain. A scream is cut short by scratchy music from a phonograph. The music fades, and the deep voice of the narrator describes a teetering house on the top of Munjoy Hill. Thunder claps. A foghorn blows.

Portland Radio Theater is on the air. Or will be if everything goes right. "Radio theater is something you visualize from what you hear," said James Barnes, who is in the beginning phases of fulfilling a year-long dream to start a radio theater project on community radio station WMPG. "I want to air writing that has to do with Portland. I want real place names, but fictive characters, like a funny thing happened on the way to Shop 'n Save with dragons. Portland as kind of a fantasyland."

Portland Radio Theater would be a half hour show, once a week. Though

Jessica Lockhart, WMPG's program director, said that the station is behind Barnes' efforts, no air time has yet been set aside. "I think it's a great idea," said Lockhart. "We don't do anything like that right now, and it's classic."

Everything rides on Barnes' ability to round up at least five interested writers and actors. If all goes according to Barnes' plan, each broadcast would be a dramatic reading of an original work by himself or another Portland writer. He points to three large boxes overflowing with his plays and short stories.

Barnes, 26, imagines the audience listening to the radio and seeing Portland in a new light as they imagine it through the words of the characters. To prepare, Barnes has been papering the city with fliers announcing the need for actors and writers. He is accepting submissions of one-act plays, short stories and poems. So far, he has had one response from a man specializing in sound effects.

Directing a radio drama is much like

directing an orchestra. The director faces the cast. He makes sure the sound effects happen at the proper time with a point of the hand, and he mouths directions to the actors, like "More emotion" or "Louder." The radio audience can easily be confused by voices that sound similar. Characters have to work harder than they would on TV or in the theater to distinguish themselves and their personalities behind the microphone.

As Barnes talks about Portland Radio Theater, he reveals the technical information he has pieced together over the past year. He knows the correct microphone height for maximum sound, he knows how long it takes to read through a page of script and he believes that he knows what can hold an audience.

"To keep people interested in radio theater, you have to have at least two subplots. People get bored easily," he said. "And you always have to have a villain and a hero or heroine." The formula has not changed since the '40s.

"In the past, radio theater was one of the things that people did around 5 or 6 o'clock," said Barnes. "When 'War of the Worlds' aired, everyone panicked. They took their radio very seriously and those were good effects."

Today, listeners can hear a few radio theater programs on National Public Radio, such as the pieces on Garrison Keeler's "Prairie Home Companion," but Barnes knows of nothing like that produced locally.

Barnes is a senior at the University of Southern Maine, majoring for the moment in media studies. Born in Sierra Leone in West Africa, he moved to Maine recently after a life of traveling. Among his writings is an autobiographical story called "Cherub — An Epic Episode," which he has recorded onto cassette.

"It's about being rootless," he said.

To get into Barnes' basement apartment, one has to squeeze through a narrow hallway past his surfboard, before entering the one room that acts as kitchen, living room and bedroom. The place is littered with empty cans of Bugler tobacco and drama chapbooks full of book-marks. The furniture includes a bed, a desk and a record player. His vinyl collection is a mix of opera and dramatic readings of poetry, Shakespeare and Hemingway.

According to Barnes, the recordings of Shakespeare are what initially got him interested in the spoken word. He listens to the records and reads along in his 8-inch-thick "Illustrated

Annotated Complete Shakespeare." He also experiments with the sound of his own work.

"For years, I have been recording my stories onto tapes. That's one of my interests," said Barnes. "It took me a long time to figure out what to do with them."

Barnes was part of a radio drama troupe in Washington state a few years ago at Western Washington University in Bellingham, but the show was cancelled. "People out there said that surveys show that radio theater does not captivate the audience as much as music," said Barnes. "That's up for debate. A good radio script will keep the audience listening."

To contact Portland Radio Theater, write to P.O. Box 4052, Portland, ME 04101.

HARE TIME

Politics and love

Rehearsals for "Skylight," the next production of the Mad Horse Theatre Company, have been taking place in a small space above the Subway sandwich shop on Portland's Congress Street. The space is so small that director Andrew Sokoloff often sits near the actors in the performance area, pretending to be invisible. He jokes that when rehearsals shift to Mad Horse's home at the Oak Street Theatre, he'll have to sit in the fifth row and shout, "Be louder!"

"Skylight" is the work of acclaimed British playwright David Hare, who recently had two high-profile shows on Broadway: "The Judas Kiss" (starring Liam Neeson as Oscar Wilde) and "The Blue Room" (featuring a frequently nude Nicole Kidman). Hare is known for putting politics into his plays, and articulate dialogue into the mouths of his characters.

"Skylight," says Sokoloff, "marries politics with a very human love story." It gives us one night in the lives of Kyra (Kymberly Dakin) and Tom (Michael Howard), old lovers who have not spoken since Tom's wife discovered their affair three years ago. Now Tom's wife has died, and, hoping for a reconciliation with Kyra, Tom drops by her flat.

Kyra and Tom clearly still hunger for each other, but they have completely different theories of life. Tom is a wealthy businessman, who cannot understand why Kyra chooses to teach at-risk youth in a shabby neighborhood. Kyra is a social worker, who resents being looked down upon by people like Tom while she does the dirty, necessary work of society. Can even love span this ideological abyss?

Sokoloff says Mad Horse chose to do "Skylight" because actors Howard and Dakin "were hot to do it," and because it is a play about two people "really trying to understand each other." Sokoloff notes that although Hare is known for his socialist views, he does not write mere propaganda; Tom, the conservative, argues his point of view as forcefully as Kyra, the liberal, states hers. In contrast, says Sokoloff, most American plays are about "what the characters can't say."

JASON WILKINS

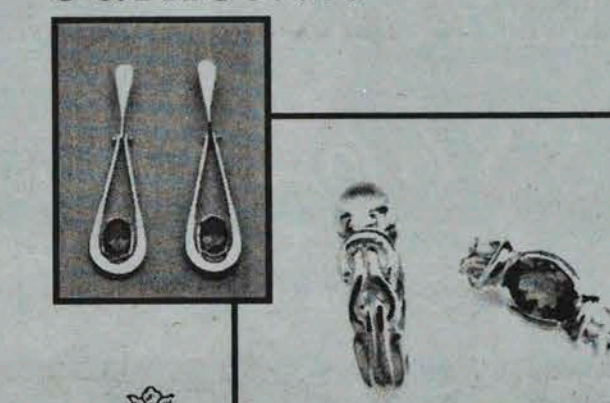
"Skylight" runs from Wed., Jan. 12 to Sun., Jan. 30, at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Wednesday/Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday/Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. Gala opening night on Sat., Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$18 (\$16 students and seniors), \$20 (\$18 students and seniors) for Saturday performance, \$10 previews. 775-5103.

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Garnet....

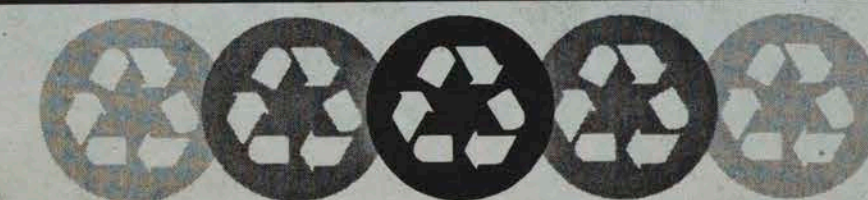


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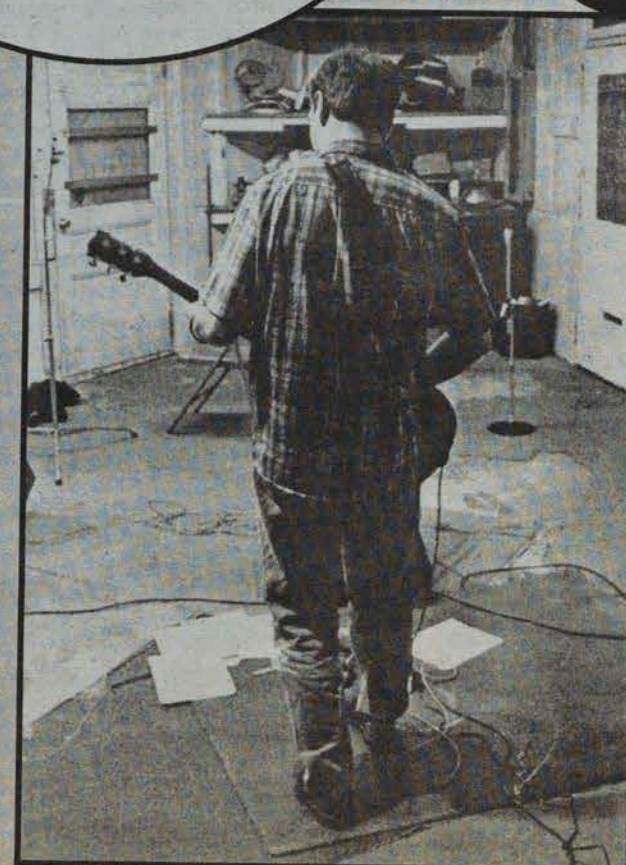
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MUSIC

Prime
cut



Doug Cowan of Bully Pulpit will face the crowd when the band plays Zootz on Thurs, Jan. 6.

"Soap box pop." That's how **Bully Pulpit** drummer/vocalist John Nunan describes the group's sound. In other words, it's hard to describe. Lyrically driven roots alternative pop comes a little closer, but if you really want to know what the band sounds like you should check out its upcoming show with alternative country rockers the **Coming Grass**. Bully Pulpit has been playing around town in various incarnations for a couple years now. The current lineup includes veteran bullies Nunan and Doug Cowan on guitar and vocals and relative newcomers Bill Irish on bass and Jose Ayerle (also of Spouse!) on guitar and vocals. Pick on somebody on Thurs, Jan. 6 at Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland, at 9 pm. Tx: 773-8187.

thursday 6	Somewhere	Breakaway Blues Lounge	Metropolis
The Basement Karaoke with Larry (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)	Karaoke with Larry (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)	The Mark "Guitar" Miller Blues Band (9:30 pm/\$20/21+)	Chem-free party with DJ Thunder (hip-hop and Top 40/8 pm-1 am \$50. Synergy in Room Two with guest DJ's house, trance, techno/9:30 pm/7 am/\$50)
The Better End Dance night with DJ Jon (9 pm/no cover/21+)	Stone Coast Brewing Company Gig bandcore/10 pm/\$5/21+)	Brian Boni Rakish Paddy traditional Irish/9 pm/no cover/21+)	Old Port Tavern Strange Pressure rock/10 pm/no cover/21+)
Bramhall Pub Jerk of Grass (bluegrass/9:30 pm/\$12/21+)	Top of the East Kent Howard jazz, pop, show-tunes piano/5-8 pm/no cover/21+)	Chappies Brad Hamois (5 pm/no cover/21+)	Silver House Tavern Karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Chappies Brad Hamois (5 pm/no cover/21+)	The Underground Come to our Clubhouse with DJ Mikel (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)	Free Street Taverna King Memphis with the Sean Mencher Combo (rockabilly/9:30 pm/\$3/21+)	Sisters DJ Kate top 40/9 pm/no cover/21+)
Commercial Street Pub Jelly Amulet folk rock/9 pm/no cover/21+)	Zootz Bully Pulpit with the Coming Grass (9 pm/\$2/21+)	Geno's Brain Freeze (10 pm/cover T.B.A./21+)	Somewhere Mary Murphy piano/9 pm/\$3/21+)
Free Street Taverna Truckstop Jones (10 pm/no cover/21+)	Old Port Tavern Open mic with Living Large (10 pm/no cover/21+)	Hanson Bros. Seafood Cafe BeBop Jazz Ensemble (5-7 pm/cover)	South Portland High School 637 Highland Ave. "2000 Maine All State Jazz Festival" with 75 high school musicians (2 pm/\$5, \$3 students/7-7:30 pm)
Sisters Top 40 dance night (9 pm/no cover/21+)	The Better End Call ahead (9 pm/\$10/21+)	The Industry College Night (DJ Jeremy spins Top 40 dance hits/10 pm-3 am/21+, \$3/18+, \$8)	Top of the East Kent Howard jazz, pop, show-tunes piano/5 pm-midnight/no cover)
	The Big Easy Michelle Wilson (9 pm/\$3/21+)	The Big Easy Michelle Wilson (9 pm/\$3/21+)	Old Port Tavern "Landlocked Boogie Cruise" with Captain Jeff and DJ Don (9:30 pm/no cover/21+)

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@maine.casco.com.

the next
BIG
things

Keb' Mo'
Bowdoin College,
2/5

Def Leppard/
Joan Jett and the
Blackhearts
Civic Center, 2/15

Moe
State Theatre, 2/27

Susan Tedeschi
State Theatre, 3/8

ZZ Top/Lynyrd
Skynyrd
Cumberland County
Civic Center, 1/26
(sold out)

BeauSoleil
Central Maine
Technical College,
2/5

The Underground
Uninhibited Friday with DJ Ken (9
pm-1:30 am/\$2/21+)

Vermilio's
Soul Remedy (9 pm/no
cover/21+)

Zootz
WNXX Leftover Lounge '80s alter-
native dance 9:30 pm/\$1 before
11 pm, \$4 after

saturday 8

Asylum
The Sheila Divine alternative
rock/8 pm/\$3/21+)

The Better End
Call ahead (9:30 pm/\$12+)

Bramhall Pub
Muddy Marsh Ramblers blue-
grass/10 pm/no cover/21+)

Brian Boni
Rakish Paddy traditional Irish/9
pm/no cover)

Commercial Street Pub
Acoustic blues with Keith (9
pm/no cover/21+)

Free Street Taverna
Helo Mendez heavy pop/10
pm/\$3/21+)

Hanson Bros. Seafood Cafe
Bill Cameron (11:5 pm/no cover)

The Industry
DJ Jase and DJ Max hip-hop and
house/10 pm 3 am/21+, \$3/18+,
\$8/1

Lobstah Cafe
Ken Grimsey acoustic guitar/9
pm/no cover)

Metropolis
'70s, '80s and '90s dance night
(Top 40 dance mix/9 pm-4
am/18+ from 1-4 am/ladies
night/men pay \$3)

Old Port Tavern
Strange Pressure rock/10 pm/no
cover/21+)

The Pavilion
DJ Shane Staples (Top 40 dance
hits/9 pm/\$3/21+)

Sisters
DJ Jan top 40/9 pm/\$3/21+)

Somewhere
Mary Murphy piano/9 pm/no
cover/21+)

South Portland High School 637
Highland Ave.
"2000 Maine All State Jazz
Festival" with 75 high school mus-
icians (2 pm/\$5, \$3 students/7-
7:30 pm)

Top of the East
Kent Howard jazz, pop, show-
tunes piano/5 pm-midnight/no
cover)

The Underground
Abduction weekend with DJ Mikel
9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+)

Vermilio's
Soul Remedy (9 pm/no cover/21+)

Zootz
Decades of Dance '70s, '80s,
'90s dance mix/9 pm-3 am/\$1
before 11 pm, \$4 after 11
pm/21+, all ages after 1:15 am/
DJ Moshe hip-hop/midnight-3
am/call ahead)

monday 10

Free Street Taverna
Open mic with Hawk (10 pm/no
cover/21+)

Old Port Tavern
Concert Karaoke with Don Coman
(10 pm/no cover/21+)

Zootz
The Inquisition with DJ Gimp and
DJ Dark Orphan (gothic industrial
dance and fetish night/10 pm-1
am/\$3/21+)

tuesday 11

The Basement
Lazy Lightning (Grateful Dead cov-
ers/10 pm/\$2/21+)

The Better End
Dance night with DJ Jon (9 pm/no
cover/21+)

Chappies
Brad Hamois (5 pm/no cover/21+)

Commercial Street Pub
Acoustic blues with Keith (9
pm/no cover/21+)

Gritty McDuff's
Intews (8 pm/no cover/21+)

Merrill Auditorium
Oksana Yablonskaya with the
Portland Symphony Orchestra
works by Khachaturian,
Shostakovich and Prokofiev/7:30
pm/\$1-\$47)

Old Port Tavern
"Landed-coke booze Cruise" with
Captain Jell and DJ Don 30 pm/no
cover/21+)

Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry (9 pm-1 am/no
cover/21+)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
DJ Dollar Night (10 pm/\$12/21+)

Top of the East
Kent Howard jazz, pop, show-
tunes piano/5-8 pm/no cover)

wednesday 12

The Basement
Open mic 9:30 pm/no
cover/21+)

The Big Easy
Red Light Revue (8 pm/cover
T.B.A./21+)

Breakaway Blues Lounge
Blues jam with Mark "Guitar" Miller
(9 pm/no cover/21+)

Commercial Street Pub
Jeff Aumiller folk rock/9 pm/no
cover/21+)

Down-East Restaurant, 705
Route 1, Yarmouth.
Port City Jazz (7-9 pm/no
cover/846-5161)

Free Street Taverna
Hawk, Rocky Iron/10 pm/no
cover/21+)

Gritty McDuff's
Kevin McGloidy (8 pm/no
cover/21+)

Old Port Tavern
Concert Karaoke with Don Coman
(10 pm/no cover/21+)

The Pavilion
Ladies' night with DJ Shane
Staples (Top 40 dance hits/9
pm/\$3/ladies free/21+)

Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)

Sisters
Karaoke with Bartender John (8
pm/no cover/21+)

Top of the East
Kent Howard jazz, pop, show-
tunes piano/5-8 pm/no cover)

Valle's Steak House
Ira Stockwell piano bar/5:30-9
pm/no cover)

Angel's 121 Commercial St., Portland, 773-8593.

Asylum 121 Center St., Portland, 772-8274.

The Basement 1 Exchange St., Portland, 775-6654.

The Better End 446 Fore St., Portland, 874-1833.

The Big Easy 55 Market St., Portland, 871-8817.

Bramhall Pub 769 Congress St., Portland, 773-9873.

Breakaway Blues Lounge 35 India St., Portland, 541-4804.

Brian Boni 57 Center St., Portland, 780-1506.

Cafe Ulla 190 State St., Portland, 775-3380.

Center for Cultural Exchange 1 Longfellow Sq., Portland, 761-1545.

Chappies 1192 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-9155.

Chocolate Church Arts Center 804 Washington St., Bath, 442-8455.

Civic Center 1 Civic Center Sq., Portland, 775-3458.

Commercial Street Pub 129 Commercial St., Portland, 761-9970.

Conthel Concert Hall USA Gorham campus, 37 College Ave., Gorham, 780-5265.

The Falls Riverside Ave., Sanford, 324-5430.

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church 425 Congress St., Portland, 775-3356.

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

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

Gritty McDuff's 306 Fore St., Portland, 772-2739.

Hanson Bros. Seafood Cafe 25 Probie St., Portland, 228-2008.

The Industry 50 Wharf St., Portland, 679-0865.

Jon on the Blues 7 Ocean Ave., York Beach, 351-3221.

Jones Landing Pele Island, Portland, 766-5542.

Kresge Auditorium Bowdoin College, Brunswick, 725-3895.

Lobstah Cafe 1 Portland Street Pier, So. Portland, 767-3387.

Luckie Auditorium 716 Stevens Ave., Portland, 797-7261.

Jack Magee's Pub Bowdoin College, Brunswick, 725-3375.

Merrill Auditorium 20 Myrtle St., Portland, 842-0800.

Old Port Tavern 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Olin Arts Center Bates College, 75 Russell St., Lewiston, 786-6135.

Round Top Center for the Arts Bus. Rte. 1, Danvers, 563-1507.

Saco Coffeehouse 60 School St., Saco, 282-0062 or 284-9574.

Silver House Tavern 340 Fore St., Portland, 772-9885.

Sisters 45 Danforth St., Portland, 774-1505.

Somewhere 117 Spring St., Portland, 871-9169.

State Street Church 159 State St., Portland, 774-6396.

State Theatre 609 Congress St., Portland, 775-3331.

Stone Coast Brewing Company 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

Top of the East 157 High St., Portland, 775-5411.

Ulla 505 Fore St., Portland, 828-0300.

The Underground 3 Spring St., Portland, 773-3315.

Valle's Steak House 1140 Brighton Ave., Portland, 775-6536.

Vermilio's 155 Riverside St., Portland, 775-6536.

Zootz 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are all ages.

Center for Cultural Exchange

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CHRISTOS GOVETAS
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Maine premiere of this virtuoso performing the spirited regional folk music from Greece and the Aegean.

LOS PLENEROS DEL COCO
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 8 pm, CCE
Electrifying Puerto Rican plena music by Miguel Almestica and his outstanding orchestra.

AN GRIAN
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 8 pm CCE
Maine's own An Grian plays pungent Irish flute, fiddle, Uilleann pipes, guitar and banjo for celtic and set dancing.

QURAISHI
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29
8 pm CCE
Simultaneously soulful and delicate, Afghan rebab master and singer Quraishi duets with astonishing tabla player Satter Khan.

To charge tickets or for more information call 761-1545. Also at CCE's box office and Amadeus Music with cash or check.

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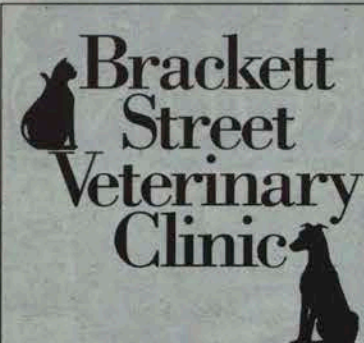
DJ NOVA
ALL REQUEST

DJ KEN

DJ MIKEL

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BLACK OUT
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LIVE
THIS WEEK (1/6) **Bully Pulpit**
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calendar

Submissions to 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, or e-mail listings@maine.rr.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

"MISSION: MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS IN ARGENTINA"

Plastic surgery isn't just for the rich and vain. Last year, an international volunteer medical team traveled to Santiago del Estero, Argentina, to provide reconstructive surgery to children and others suffering from facial deformities like cleft lips and palate disorders. Scarborough photographer Tim Byrne made the trip to document the project. Smile during the opening reception at the Maine Photo Co-Op, 100 Oak St., Portland, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. 774-1900.



"Mission: Medical Volunteers in Argentina," photographs by Tim Byrne, begins showing Fri., Jan. 7 at Maine Photo Co-Op.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

SKATING PARTY

Skating isn't just for hockey players. Europeans named Elvis and adolescent girls in short skirts. Portland Parks and Recreation is hosting a skating party for regular Joes and Janes like us who still have most of our teeth and don't care to be scrutinized by an international panel of judges. There'll be music, lessons, refreshments and, hopefully, ice. Stay upright at Deering Oaks, Portland, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Free. 874-8793.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

ZERO STATION

Art isn't just for people on the Portland peninsula. Artists Keith Fitzgerald and Joshua Eckels recently left a gallery on Commercial Street in Portland to open a new space, Zero Station, in South Portland. Their opening show, "Newborn," includes paintings, sculpture, furniture, clothing, an art farm and who knows what else. Find out during the opening reception at Zero Station, 380 Cottage Rd., South Portland, from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. 767-2788.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

"COLLECTED STORIES"

Is a story from an author's past only for the author to use? Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize-nominated play "Collected Stories" explores this question and Portland Stage Company brings the play to life. "Collected Stories" is about Ruth Steiner (played by Kristin Linklater), a successful author and college professor, who hires a student, Lisa Morrison (Andrea Mauellett), as her assistant. Tensions arise when Morrison uses a story from Steiner's life in her first novel. Plagiarize for yourself at the first preview performance at Portland Performing Arts Center, 25 Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Previews Tues., Wed. and Thurs., Jan. 11-13. Opening night is Fri., Jan. 14. Continues through Jan. 30. Tix: \$19 preview/\$24 Wed.-Fri./\$29 Sat.-Sun. 774-0465.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

OXANA YABLONSKAYA

Figure skating isn't the only thing people named Oxana excel at. Russian pianist Oxana Yablonskaya plays one hell of a classical piano. She'll join the Portland Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Khachaturian's Piano Concerto. The concert, titled "Russian Festival," also includes performances of Shostakovich's Festive Overture and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5. Emigrate to Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$21-\$47. 842-0800.



Russian pianist Oxana Yablonskaya joins the Portland Symphony Orchestra for "Russian Festival" on Tues., Jan. 11 at Merrill Auditorium.

QUICK PICKS

FRI., JAN. 7

•Go crazy when the Mainiac Swing Dance Society offers lessons and swing dancing to the sounds of the Delta Knights at Presumpscot Grange, 1844 Forest Ave., Portland, at 8 p.m. (dancing starts at 9 p.m.). Tix: \$8. 828-1795.

SAT., JAN. 8

•Sail away to the opening reception for "Maiden Voyage: Five Monhegan Artists," work by Dyan Berk, Susan Gilbert, Elena Jahn, Frances Kornbluth and Daphne Pulsifer, at Davidson & Daughters, 148 High St., Portland, from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. 780-0766.

WED., JAN. 12

•Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, gives a lecture at the Bates College Chapel, Bates College, Lewiston, at 7:30 p.m. Free. 786-6330.

SOUND BITES

•The up-and-coming local hard-core band 6gig gigs on Thurs., Jan. 6 at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St., Portland (10 p.m./\$5/\$21+). 773-2337.

•Michelle Willson belts out the blues on Fri., Jan. 7 at the Big Easy, 55 Market St., Portland (9 p.m./\$3/\$21+). 871-8817.

•Get mired in the heavy electronic pop of Hello Monster on Sat., Jan. 8 at Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland (10 p.m./\$3/\$21+). 774-1114.



Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund speaks at Bates College Chapel on Wed., Jan. 12.

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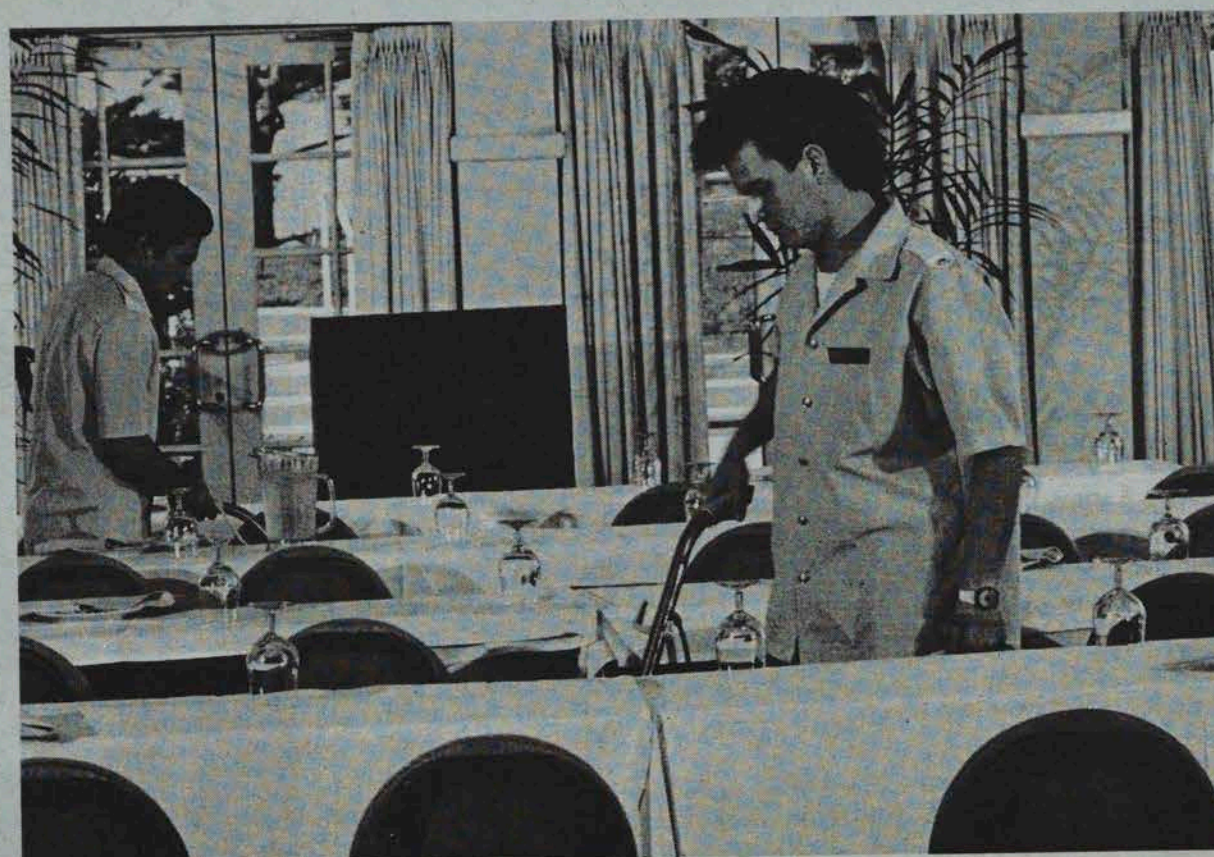
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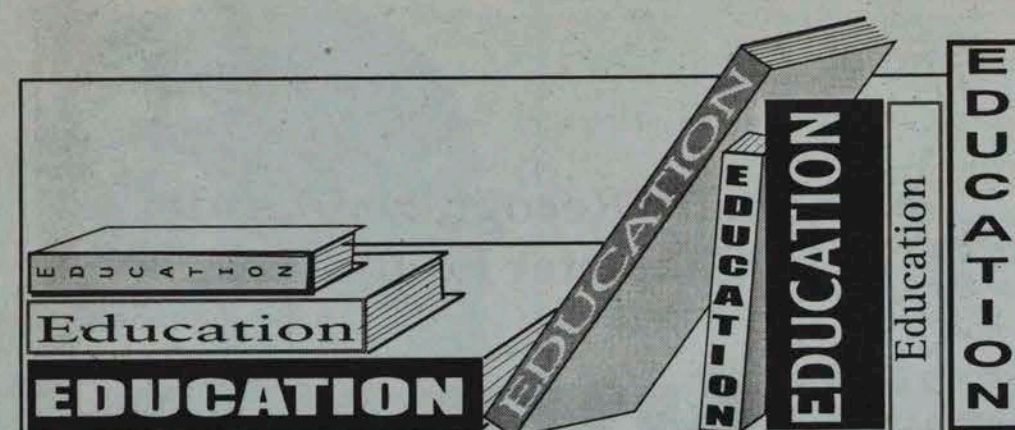
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short CUTS

DAN SHORT

Playing the castanets

The style of the Ray Mason Band can be summed up as traditional rock
with a little country influence thrown in. But that hardly does justice to the
music on the group's latest CD, "Castanets." The songs may feel familiar, but then
there's the left-of-center lyrics, the titles such as "Breathing the Hopeful Rain" and
"You'll Never Catch Me Out of Her Mind," idiosyncratic turns in the melodies and
Mason's treble-heavy voice. For all of his traditionalism, he never becomes pre-
dictable or stale.

A performing musician
since 1982, Mason is a tal-
ented composer, capable
of writing such effective
songs as "Heaven in a Jar"
and "Pop Dreams" and the
title track, which is catchy
as hell. His backing band,
which includes ex-Scud
Mountain Boys Stephen
Desaulniers on bass and
Tom Shea on guitar, as
well as drummer Frank
Marsh, supports him in a
perfectly understated style.

But what truly makes
the album is Mason's atti-
tude. Affecting none of the cynicism of a seasoned professional, he plays with the
enthusiasm of someone who's just fallen in love with rock 'n' roll. Give Mason a lit-
tle of your time and you may feel the same way.



Masonic lodge: The Ray Mason Band is from left
Tom Shea, Frank Marsh, Ray Whatshisface and
Stephen Desaulniers

The Ray Mason Band plays at the Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, on
Sat., Jan. 15 at 10 p.m. Tix: \$3. 774-1114.

Homegrown bound

WCLZ may be gone, but its legacy lives on in "Homegrown IV,"
the latest, and most likely last, in its series of compilations of
Maine artists. Anyone familiar with the Homegrown series, or the
now-defunct WCLZ format, pretty much knows what to expect from this CD.



Diesel Doug just before being run over by a big old
format change.

Though there are only a
couple of tracks where
artists break out of the
format — Shawn Saindon
with the Beatles-esque
"Watching Daisy Fall"
and Blue Steel Express
with the straightforward
blues of "Dexter's Rag" —
there's enough variety to
avoid predictability, and
there are quite a few good
tracks.

Most of the best stuff is
from roots rockers like
Diesel Doug & the Long
Haul Truckers, the Piners
and the Boneheads. There are also some surprisingly strong songs from Lisa Gallant
Seal & the Brotherhood Dogs as well as the McCarthys. Despite a couple of
embarrassments, fans of the previous Homegrown CDs won't be disappointed with
number 4.

"Homegrown IV" is available at local record stores.

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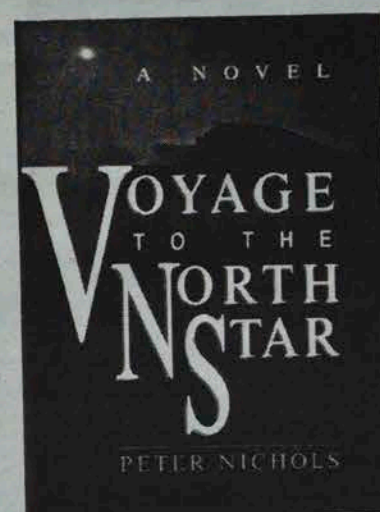
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Friday, February 11- Maine author Gerry
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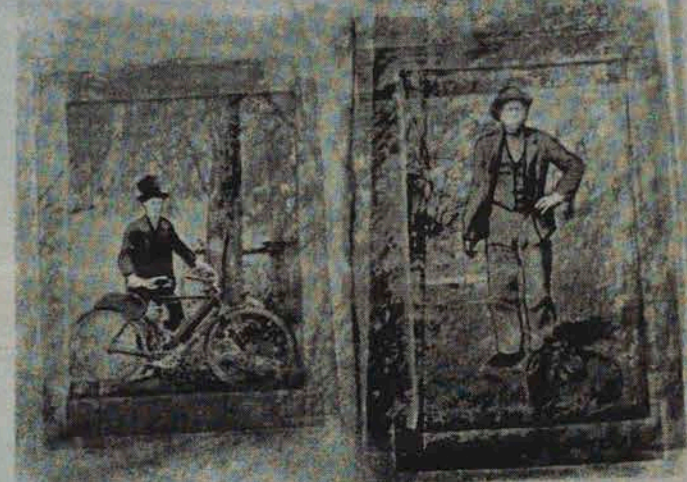
VISUAL arts

Submissions for the visual arts section should be
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ME 04101 or e-mail listings@maine.rr.com.

OPENING

The Clown 123 Middle St, Portland. Opening reception for
"Menticiano: Images from Tuscany," photographs by Jack
Montgomery, "Vessels & Gods," paintings by Lisa Dombek,
and sculpture and paintings by Oliver Fernandez, Thurs, Jan 6
from 5-8 pm. Shows through Mon, Jan 31. Hours: Mon-Wed
10 am-6 pm, Thurs 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 756-7399.
Coffee By Design 620 Congress St, Portland. Oil paintings by
Dennis Fournier show through Sat, Feb 5. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7
am-9 pm, Fri 7 am-9 pm, Sat 7 am-8 pm, Sun 7 am-6 pm.
772-5533.
Coffee By Design 67 India St, Portland. "Whimsical World,"
work by David Cedrone, shows through Sat, Feb 5. Hours:
Mon-Fri 6:30 am-6 pm and Sat 7 am-5 pm. 879-2233.

CHAIN REACTION



"Untitled" by Steve Soper, part of "Framed, Unframed"
at the June Fitzpatrick Gallery.

Listening to art

The way artist Steve Soper sees it, he's only one link in the chain of his creative process. "I work within
the context of a partnership," he said, "myself, the idea, the materials, the process and the viewer."

Soper, who says he works "in any medium that I can get my hands on," sees the process as a dialogue
between all of the elements. "The dialogue is both unconscious and conscious," he said. "It's a matter of lis-
tening."

In "Framed, Unframed," his upcoming show at the June Fitzpatrick Gallery in Portland, Soper will display
art that falls into three categories: wall pieces, some of which contain found-object collages; multiple-unit
sculptural pieces; and framed two-dimensional work.

He collects objects for his collages on walks around town, "everything from hunks of asphalt, pieces of
rusty metal to dog hair," he said. "I'm unconsciously picking up on colors or shapes or things that are
attractive to me. I pull the elements together and then things will pull together like a life form. I'm just kind
of the vehicle."

The idea behind his sculptural pieces is that the parts make up a whole, but can also function separa-
tely. His "Fifty States of Maine" encompasses 50 individual pieces made of foam core, each with its own
illustration or graphic, each shaped like the Pine Tree State.

Five images dealing with figures and five abstract ones make up Soper's two-dimensional work in this
exhibit. His inspiration for the figurative pieces comes from newspaper pictures and the photos in a friend's
family album. Using colored pencil and Magic Marker, he colors the photos, which he attaches to paper
with Scotch tape, which, also colored, serves as another element and as a framing device.

An incandescent abstract of geometric shapes was created with felt-tipped pen and colored pencil. Its
lustrous surface results from Soper's technique of building up layers of color, then scraping them off.

After he feels a work is done, Soper lives with it for a while, deciding if it's really complete. Letting it out
of his grasp ends some anxieties and creates others. "Once you put yourself in the crosshairs of the view-
er, that's the final link," he said. "Then it becomes a living object the world has to deal with."

PAT SIMS

"Framed, Unframed" runs Mon., Jan. 10 through Sat., Jan. 15 with an opening reception Thurs., Jan. 13 from 5-8 p.m. at
the June Fitzpatrick Gallery, 112 High St., Portland. Hours: Mon-Sat, noon-5 p.m. 772-1961.

Coffee By Design 24 Monument Sq, Portland. "Whimsical
World," work by David Cedrone, shows through Fri, Feb. 4.
Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-5:30 pm. 761-2424.
Davidson & Daughters 148 High St, Portland. Opening
reception for "Maiden Voyage: Five Northeast Artists," work
by Ryan Berk, Susan Gilbert, Elena Jahn, Frances Kornbluth
and Daphne Pulsifer, Sat, Jan 8 from 5-8 pm. Shows through
Sat, Jan 29. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 780-0766.
June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St, Portland. Opening
reception for "Framed, Unframed" new work by sculptor Steve
Soper, Thurs, Jan 13 from 5-8 pm. Shows Mon-Sat, Jan 10-
15. Hours: Mon-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.
Institute of Contemporary Art MECA Building, 522 Congress
St, Portland. Opening reception for "Faculty 2000 Exhibition,"
work by 32 members of the Maine College of Art faculty,
Thurs, Jan 20 from 5-7 pm. Shows Thurs, Jan 13-Thurs, Feb
10. Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9
pm. 879-5742.
Maine Photo Co-Op 100 Oak St, Portland. Opening reception
for "Mission: Medical Volunteers in Argentina," photographs
by Tim Byrne, Fri, Jan 7 from 6-8 pm. Shows through Sun, Jan
30. Hours: Tues-Thurs 11:30 am-9 pm, Fri 11:30 am-5 pm,
Sat 10 am-6 pm and Sun noon-5 pm. 774-1900.
Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Sq. "In Praise of
Nature," work by Ansel Adams and other photographers of
the American West, shows Wed, Jan 19-Sat, March 19.
Hours: Tues, Wed, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-9
pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Admission: \$6 (S students & seniors/\$1
youth). Admission is free 5-9 pm every Friday evening. 775-
6148 or 1-800-639-4067.
Portland Public Library 5 Monument Square. Opening recep-
tion for "From Mime to Monotype & Oils," works by Tony
Montanaro, Thurs, Jan 6 from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, Jan
29. Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9 am-6 pm, Tues and Thurs
noon-5 pm. Sat 9 am-6 pm. 871-1758.
The 3 Fish Gallery 377 Cumberland Ave, Portland. Opening
reception for "In the Flesh," work by the members of the
Portland Life Drawing Group, Fri, Jan 14 from 6-9 pm. Shows
through Sun, Jan 16. Hours by appointment. 773-4773.
C.W. White Gallery 7 Pleasant St, Portland. "Winter 2000,"
work by abstract painters Roy Lerner, Marjorie Minkin and
Jerald Webster, shows Thurs, Jan 13-Sat, March 11. Hours:
Thurs-Sat from 11 am-6 pm. 871-7282.

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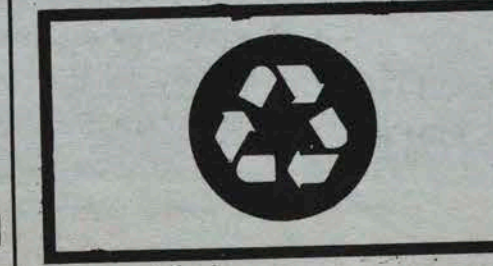
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PERFORMANCE

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

theater

"Amahl and the Night Visitors" Fri-Sun, Jan 7-9 and Sat and Sun, Jan 15 and 16. The Freeport Community Players perform the classic tale of three gift-bearing monarchs, Jan 7-9 at St. Jude's Church, Main St., Freeport, ME at 7:30 pm. Sat at 2 pm. Jan 15 and 16 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Gilman Rd., Yarmouth. Sat at 7:30 pm. Sun at 4 pm. Tix: \$7 (\$5 seniors, students and kids). 865-4311.

"Forever Plaid" Fri, Jan 14-Sat, Jan 22. The Portland Lyric Theater presents the musical comedy about a harmony group from the '50s that dies and comes back to life to perform. At Portland Lyric Theater, 176 Sawyer St.

Can I be Frank with you? Elizabeth Smith as the title character in the Children's Theatre of Maine's production of "The Diary of Anne Frank," opening Fri, Jan 7 at Portland Yacht Services.



Not only is Anne Frank's diary more widely read than the personal musings of anyone else in history, it's actually interesting to people other than the author. The Children's Theatre of Maine brings Frank's personal account of her life in hiding during World War II to the stage in its production of **"The Diary of Anne Frank."** Hide out on Fri, Jan 7 at Portland Yacht Services, 58 Fore St., Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$7 (\$5 kids). Continues through Sat, Jan 15. 828-0617.

center stage

South Portland. Fri and Sat at 8 pm. Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$14. (community company) 799-1421.

"Skylight" Wed, Jan 12-Sun, Jan 30. Mad Horse Theatre Company presents David

Hare's play about lovers divided by their differing opinions about business and its role in society. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Wed and Thurs at 7:30 pm. Fri and Sat at 8 pm and Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$18 (\$16 students and seniors). \$20 (\$18 students and seniors) for Sat performances. \$10 preview performances Wed-Fri, Jan 12-14. Pay-what-you-can performances on Sun, Jan 16 and 23. Buy-one-get-one-free performances Wed and Thurs, Jan 19, 20, 26 and 27. (professional non-equity company) 775-5103.

"Stomp" Fri-Sun, Jan 14-16. PCA Great Performances presents the international percussion sensation. At Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland. Fri at 8 pm, Sat at 2 pm and 8 pm, and Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$27-47. 842-0800.

"The Subject Was Roses" Thurs-Sun, Jan 13-16. The Acorn School for the Performing Arts presents Frank Gilroy's drama dealing with the conflicts within an Irish Catholic family in the Bronx in 1946. At Acorn School Studio, 496 Congress St., Portland. Thurs at 7:30 pm, Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$5. 761-0617.

"Who Stole Grandma Lambini's Body?" Sat, Jan 15. Murder du Jour and Maine humorist John McDonald invite you to help them solve the mystery of Grandma Lambini's ashes. At the Snow Squall Restaurant, 18 Ocean St., South Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$39 (dinner included). 799-2232.

sportland

Priming Portland's big pond

It was a welcome late December sight. Three city workers were stringing hundreds of feet of fire hose around the surface of Deering Oaks pond in Portland, the jet spray leaving dark wide skirts of fresh water atop a solid base of natural ice. Early morning drivers zipping past the pond slowed down for a closer look, a few honked their horns in what seemed like genuine appreciation. Portland's favorite skating pond was finally getting some tender, loving care.

While the fact that we're somewhere near 15 inches below normal snowfall levels here in southern Maine may have ski shop owners and winter resort publicists grinding their teeth, this brown winter has been great news for at least one winter recreational group — outdoor ice skaters. Low temperatures in late December resulted in the best early winter skating conditions in memory, with surfaces taking on that pristine, mirrored look that seems to beg for blades to leave their swirling, curling impressions.

One local skating spot looking better than usual was the Oaks, the heart of the city's skating scene. The tree-ringed, rock-walled pond, the largest outdoor skating surface within city limits, is always a victim to fast-changing winter weather patterns. Rapid temperature changes and the quick hits of snow followed by rain so common in Portland always make keeping the surface at the Oaks in good shape a challenging proposition. In years past, it has also seemed to suffer from a lack of grooming and fussing needed to keep the ice smooth. But the lack of early winter snow, as well as the increased attention of city work crews (a notable development in recent years under city parks director Dana Souza), have built a 3- to 4-inch base of clear ice that could keep the pond skateable in spite of the unseasonably warm weather in early January.

"This is a really big help for the pond right now with the lack of snow," said Bob Fogg, a city parks and recreation department worker. Fogg and his four crewmates started their first Deering Oaks flooding job of the 1999-2000 season the Tuesday after Christmas. Reports vary, but the first skating on Deering Oaks pond took place sometime between



Getting hosed: city workers build the ice base on Deering Oaks pond.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The first resurfacing followed only days later. "If we can get a base going here," said Fogg, "then we'll be able to keep something going later even if it snows."

Resurfacing the Deering Oaks pond with a skim of fresh water is a time-consuming venture, but it's one step the city's parks department has followed through on more consistently the past few winters. It takes a three- to four-man crew up to six hours to completely spray the pond. To reach every nook, the crew uses 300 to 400 feet of 1 3/4-inch fire hose, which must be carefully lugged back and forth across the surface.

Deering Oaks is the most prominent of the four outdoor skating surfaces the city maintains. The others are the Deering Memorial Pond off Ludlow Street behind Deering High School, Payson Park and a small surface at the Jack School on North Street on Munjoy Hill.

Decked out in orange foul-weather pants, a lined canvas work jacket, a weathered Patriots baseball cap and blue rubber gloves coated in a sheen of ice, Fogg worked the nozzle for the first three hours of the recent Deering Oaks flooding. Strapped over his winter boots were cleats to provide better traction.

"Since they got us these cleats, this job isn't so bad," he said. "With the pressure coming out of the front of the hose, you used to need someone right behind you. We had guys falling down and cracking their elbows and their heads. No one wanted to be on the front of the hose. Now it's a lot better."

While Fogg and crewmates Charlie Gonzalez and Phil Lapiere worked the spraying, another two crew members used hoes and scrapers to get rid of a rough strip of dead leaves that had been caught on the ice surface in the first freezing of the season.

"The leaves are a pain," said Fogg. "The other frustrating thing is kids throw rocks and sticks onto the surface of the pond and then they get stuck in the ice."

"I'm sure the snow's coming," said Gonzalez, hoisting the hose onto his shoulder as he followed Fogg. "And once you get any snow on this thing, it gets tough. You get a little snow and then if it gets warm, it's like an insulating blanket. But it's good right now." CBW

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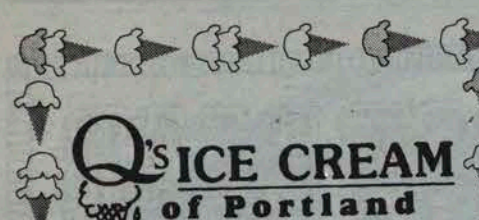
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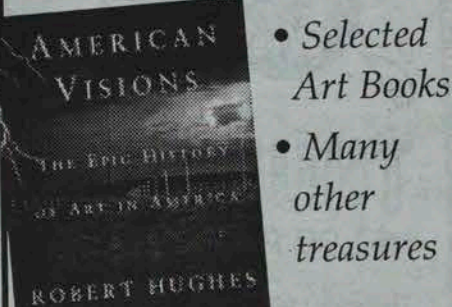
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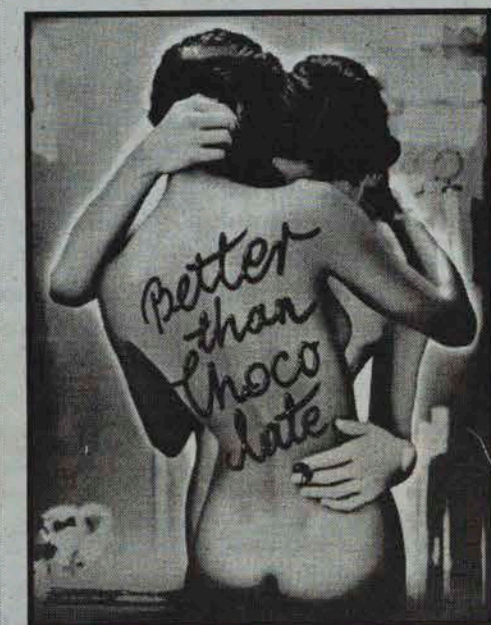
MOVIES

well as capture the woman he/she is attracted to. Kim appears to be the only character at peace with herself, and at the same time Margaret's great teacher.

I wish I could give you some hint as to the story line, except there's none to give. Sure, the plot has a few mild twists and turns, but none that can lose you or impress you. The film is a cliché from start to finish, and even throws in an Italian coffeehouse owner and local skinheads to harass our stars.

My guess is that the director and writer wanted to create a sort of Fellini-like atmosphere where free love leads to ubiquitous love on a surreal comic level, but the film simply misses the mark. What's meant to be a story of liberation and acceptance—of both ourselves and another—becomes a trite tale of human relationships in the 1990s. The fact that the film's title comes from a Sarah McLachlan song should speak miles for the range of creativity attached to it.

The actors are terrible. The director takes every opportunity to put Margaret and Kim making out front



and center. And, quite frankly, after a while, it becomes tedious to watch, as I didn't buy for one second that there is any attraction between them. It's like watching paper dolls knock their faces together, again and again.

This is not art, this is amateur filmmaking, and how it managed to find a distributor remains a mystery to me. There are so many good videos out there to rent. Start with the classics and work your way forward. I guarantee you that years from now, this one will never be missed.

DEBORAH KRANIN

VIDEO review

"Better Than Chocolate," directed by Anne Wheeler. Rated NC-17. Originally released in August 1999. Released on video Dec. 27.

The most important advice I can give anyone who comes across "Better Than Chocolate" in a video store is to keep on moving to another choice. Meet Margaret (Karyn Dwyer), a college dropout working at a hamoceric bookstore, whose mother, Lila (Wendy Crewson), informs her that she and Paul (Kevin Mundy), Margaret's brother, are moving in with her for a while. Lila is divorcing her husband, who's cheating on her, and has no resources to live elsewhere.

Margaret, a bit of a free-spirited imp, is suddenly thrown into terror over the idea of her family discovering she's a lesbian. Moreover, she's just met Kim (Christina Cox), a painter and drifter whom she has fallen head over heels for and asked to move in.

I'm guessing the director, Anne Wheeler, pays homage to the love scene in "Ghost" at the pottery wheel, as we watch Margaret and Kim douse themselves with paint and "create" love from there. Unfortunately, the scene is no more erotic than watching a horse sweat flies with its tail.

Margaret and friend Judy (Peter Outerbridge), a transsexual who has almost completed the process of becoming a woman, both sing at a cabaret-style bar where anything goes. Judy befriends Lila, and the women bond over heartbreak and love.

Of course, Lila is a bit shocked to discover three-fourths of the way through the film that her best girlfriend is really a man. How shocked? Rent it if you actually find yourself interested thus far. The plot moves like glue.

The bookstore is threatened by the customs department over its racy titles being held at the border. Paul discovers his sister's secret and not only doesn't care, he actually enjoys it. Lila is convinced only chocolates can fulfill her now, and constantly criticizes Margaret's choices for life. Judy is desperate to reunite with his family and be accepted by them, as

times starting friday

HOYTS CLARK'S POND
333 Clark's Pond Rd., So. Portland. 879-1511

MAGNOLIA (R)
12:10, 4:10, 8:10
GALAXY QUEST (PG)
12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:50
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
12:20, 3:20, 6:50, 9:45
BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG)
11:50, 3:10, 6:20, 9:10
STUART LITTLE (PG)
11:55, 2:45, 5:30, 8:30
THE GREEN MILE (R)
12:12, 3:40, 6:20, 7:30, 8:00
THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG-13)
3, 9

HOYTS FALMOUTH 10
206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. 781-5616

GALAXY QUEST (PG)
12:50, 3, 6:45, 9:45
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
12:05, 3:15, 6:30, 9:30
MAGNOLIA (R)
12, 4, 8
MAN ON THE MOON (R)
11:10, 4:15, 7, 9:40
ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R)
12:15, 4, 7:45
BICENTENNIAL MAN (PG)
12, 3:25, 6:40, 9:25
SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS (PG-13)
12:20, 3:20, 6:50, 9:35
STUART LITTLE (PG)
12:10, 2:10, 4:10, 6:15, 8:30
THE GREEN MILE (R)
12:30, 4:15, 8:10
TOY STORY 2 (G)
12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50

NICKELODEON
Temple and Middle Streets, Portland. 772-9751

FLAWLESS (R)
5:00, 7:30
STAR WARS: THE PHANTOM MENACE (PG)
4, 6:50, 9:30
TARZAN (G)
SAT-SUN, MAT. 12:45, 2:40
THREE KINGS (R)
4:30, 7:20, 9:45
SAT-SUN, MAT. 1:45
BRINGING OUT THE DEAD (R)
4:30, 7:00, 9:30
THE BONE COLLECTOR (R)
4:15, 7:10, 9:45
SAT-SUN, MAT. 1:30
END OF DAYS (R)
9:45
SUPERSTAR (PG-13)
SAT-SUN, MAT. 1:00, 3:00
ELMO IN GROUCHLAND (G)
SAT-SUN, 2:00
RIGHT CLUB (R)
3:50, 6:40, 9:25

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, Jan. 7-Jan. 13.

Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

KEYSTONE THEATRE CAFE
504 Congress St., Portland. 871-5500

BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R)
FRI 7
SAT-SUN 1:30, 7
TUES-WED 7
AMERICAN BEAUTY (R)
FRI 6:30, 9:15
SAT-SUN 1:15, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
TUES-WED 6:30, 9:15
DOGMA (R)
FRI 9:30
SAT-SUN 4, 9:30
TUES-WED 9:30
NO SHOWING THURS.
SLEEPY HOLLOW (R)
FRI 6, 8:45
SAT-SUN 1, 3:30, 6, 8:45
TUES-WED 6, 8:45
THURS 6, 8:45

MAINE MALL CINEMA
Maine Mall Road, So. Portland. 774-1022

ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R)
1, 3:50, 4:20, 7:10, 7:35, 10:25
MAN ON THE MOON (R)
1:20, 3:25, 4, 6:05, 7:10, 9:15, 9:45, 11:55
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG-13)
1:30, 3:50, 4:15, 6:35, 7, 9:20, 9:40, 12
DEUCE BIGALOW: MALE GIGOLO (R)
1, 2:38, 3:10, 4:48, 5:15, 6:53, 7:30, 9:08, 9:40, 11:15
ANNA AND THE KING (R)
1:15, 3:56, 4:25, 7:06, 7:40, 10:21
SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS (R)
1:25, 3:42, 4:15, 6:32, 7, 9:17, 9:40, 11:57
TOY STORY 2 (G)
12:50, 2:36, 3:05, 4:51, 5:20, 7:06, 7:30, 9:16, 9:40, 11:26

THE MOVIES
10 Exchange St., Portland. 772-9600

THE STRAIGHT STORY (G)
SHOWS WED., JAN. 5-TUES., JAN. 11: 5, 7, 9:15
SAT-SUN, MAT. 1, 3
THE LINEY (R)
SHOWS WED., JAN. 12-TUES. JAN. 18: 5, 7, 9
SAT-SUN, MAT. 1, 3

CASCO BAY WEEKLY PERSONALS

women & men

27-YEAR-OLD DWPF, striking red/green, 5'8", 145 lbs, positive, athletic, independent, emotionally/financially secure, outdoor goddess whose interests include fly fishing, golf, skiing, Shakespeare, fine dining, NPR, star gazing, full moons, thunder storms, travel, all music, Sunday afternoons and reading voraciously. Ready for S/D/M, 27-35, to complement my life, am looking for my soulmate, maybe you're him. Please be 6'4", dark, handsome, in good physical shape, hardworking, emotionally available, honest, who is looking for a companion to share and savor life with. Children ok. #85145

44-YEAR-OLD DWPF, 5'9", enjoys laughing, tennis, animals and adventures. Seeking intelligent, witty, successful SWM, 45-55, who likes same. #85240

45-YEAR-OLD, TALL, fit, brown-eyed Woman, warm, creative, professional nurse that is looking for an articulate, honest Man that will make me laugh. I'm ready to find an intelligent Man, 45-50, that knows how to enjoy a fine wine and great conversation. Love reading challenging books, traveling to new cities, movies that make you think, sea spray in your face, hearty laughter and discovering new people. Surprise me. #85097

A LITTLE quiet, but well worth getting to know, SF, 32, 5'6", enjoys reading, movies, working out, desire SWM for friendship, hopefully more. #86881

AFFECTIONATE, INTELLIGENT, independent, outgoing, witty DWPF, 27, mother of two, blonde/blue, enjoys movies, cooking, social drinking/dancing, ISO tall, educated, sincere, romantic, passionate, well-groomed Man, mature, 30-45, with good sense of humor and genuine love for life. #86905

ARE YOU THERE? Petite SWF, over 40, seeks spontaneous, sincere Man who is philosophical, secure mentally and financially, who has a birthday number that equals 3, 6 or 9, born in the sign of Pisces, 50+, for communicative and monogamous relationship. #86879

ARTISTIC, FUN-LOVING! Enjoys nature, camping, hiking, exploring new places. Loves music, dance, gardening and home life. Attractive DWPF, 39, 5'5", seeking partner with same qualities who's self-aware and values spirituality, professional with a sense of humor. #86315

ATTRACTIVE WF, 46, outdoorsy, 5'3". Seeking educate, slim n/s for an occasional date. #85083

ATTRACTIVE, ARTISTIC, amorous, adventuresome, absolutely adorable, ageless 52-year-old Single White Woman looking for attractive, amicable, active Man. #85129

ATTRACTIVE SWPF, 25, 5'6", brown/blue, who enjoys skiing, camping, going out or cuddling on the couch. Searching for attractive SWPM, n/s, 25-30, tall and somewhat fit, to share relationship with. #85151

ATTRACTIVE 31-YEAR-OLD, athletic, loves outdoor and indoor sports, dining arts, seeking n/s SWM, late 20s-42, for dating. #85218

CHARMING PROFESSIONAL, 28, blonde/blue, HWP, n/s, Catholic, positive, social, active and impatient (tergo the ad). Way too many indoor and outdoor interests to list. Seeking SPM, 21-38, must have diverse interests. Call. #86656

CONTRADICTION OF OPPOSITES. Sweet, feisty, highly-educated, ditzy, serene/motivated. 40s DF seeks shy/ascerbic, abstract/uncomplicated, normal/abnormal Guy who loves people, enjoys exercise and finds life thrilling. No matter what. #86552

CREATIVE AND FUN, courageous, spiritually aware, financially stable, intellectually curious SWPF, 39, tall, attractive, loves art, nature, music, movies, animals, friends, conversation. Seeking SWPM, 35-50, who's thoughtful, gentle, has polish, depth, appreciates beauty and wants to share center stage with wonderful Woman. #85195

CREATIVE, FUN-LOVING, 51-year-old blonde, 4'7", baby blue eyes you get lost in, cuddles, hugs, kisses and spark. Remember, good things, small packages, n/s, n/drugs, light drinker. Enjoys dancing, painting, old cars, photography, camping, Scottish festivals, sunrises, sunsets, oceans and candles. #86767

CREATIVE, CARING, 51-year-old WF has enthusiasm for life, learning, play. Enjoys nature, outdoor activities, home, family, n/s, social drinker. Physically, emotionally, financially fit. Seeking someone with similar interests. #85179

DO YOU believe in life with love? I do. Full-figured SWF, 40, enjoys dining out, movies, television, quiet and intimate moments together. You are: large-built SWM, 40-50, who shares the same interests. #85093

DWF, 59, older Woman seeks younger Man, 35-50, 3rd shift worker, I'm heavy-set, brown/hazel, smoker, enjoy long drives, old movies, conversation, you must have a sense of humor, willing to have fun with no strings attached, race and looks unimportant. #85108

EXPERT KISSER, DWF, 47, blonde, chubby, bubbly, fun, intelligent, loving, movie buff, enjoys art, alternative music, ISO SWM, 35-50, honest, loving, sincere, sense of humor, race open. #85086

FABULOUS, 35-YEAR-OLD, big, beautiful blonde, smart, sexy, active, outdoorsy, healthy, capable, solvent. I garden, sail, canoe, stargaze, read, cook. I'm seeking a smart, self-reliant, active, outdoorsy Man who likes pets, Scrabble and NPR. #85191

FREE! SWF, 39, 5'6", 130 lbs, n/s, no kids, wants to love and be loved by intelligent, funny, honest, monogamous, attractive, fit, 40-ish, Portland area Man. Florida in the winter, Maine in the summer? #85224

FRENCH, CATHOLIC, blonde, 36, medical professional, spiritual, compassionate mother, pleasing to the eye with shining inner beauty, traditional values, enjoys fine dining to snowmobiling. Seeking best friend, 33-43, who loves to talk and enjoys the little things in life. #86947

GENUINE, UNIQUE, elegant, sincere, fit, caring, n/s, professional DWF, enjoy live performances, sailing, cross-country skiing, movies, hiking, fine dining, wine, candlelight, seeks 49- to 59-year-old, n/s, honest, romantic, monogamous, financially stable, educated professional to share warm moments, laughter, interest for LTR. #85194

I'M NOT Cinderella, but I could be your dream come true. Full-figured princess, 26, looking for a prince, 27-37, to go camping, watch lightning in the sky, walks on the beach, swimming at night and adventurous drives to anywhere. #86656

women & men

IN TUNE, offbeat, attractive SF seeks accompaniment for passionate, long playing duet. We'll enjoy harmony and improvisation, yet entertain the possibility of discord for creative inspiration. I'm tall, slender, 37-year-old, seeking tall, fit, romantic Man who enjoys outdoors, arts, new ideas. #85168

INQUISITIVE, UNCONVENTIONAL, free-spirited, with some tendencies, SF, 27, woke up this morning and said "I need to get me some good lovin'". Seeking burly Man, n/s, n/d, under 35-ish, to hold me close but not too tight. #86939

INTELLIGENT, SERIOUS DWF, 50, medium build, mature, spiritual, seeking available BM, 45-60, born elsewhere than America preferred. Companionship first. #85203

NICE-LOOKING, YOUNG-LOOKING, 52-year-old SWF looks 10 years younger, 5'6", 133 lbs. Seeking nice-looking Man, 40s to young looking mid-50s. Above average intelligence, preferably literate, appreciate culture, arts, nature. Seeks fun personality. Honest. I'm a popular but struggling poet. If smoke! Children okay. #85186

OPEN-MINDED, HONEST, real SWF, 37, n/d, smoker, enjoy dining in/out, evenings at home, talking and laughing. Seeking Gentleman, late 30s to early 40s, n/d, for companionship. Must have sense of humor, be spiritually fit and also open-minded, honest and real. #85188

OUTGOING DWF, 60, looks 40-ish, 5'7", dirty blonde/blue, full-figured, n/d, n/drugs, enjoys yard sales, flea markets and country music. ISO friendship, possibly more with a S/DWM, over 40, n/drugs, social drinker, smoker ok. #86950

PASSIONATE, ROMANTIC, full-figured WF, 39, autumn/green and a great sense of humor, interests include music, cooking, indoor and outdoor activities. Looking to develop LTR with a n/s S/DWM, 34-41, who is kind, romantic and has a good sense of humor. #85152

REALLY DON'T care to settle, just wanna have fun with Guys who dig 100 percent Woman. Strong, upbeat, very attractive, intelligent, honest, Southern Lady. Please be S/DWPM, 33-45, tall, strong, giving, masculine, authoritative, confident, humorous, educated, imaginative, tolerant, sophisticated, real Gentleman. #85225

INTENSITY, ROMANCE, intellect, conversation, debate, touch, feeling, sensuality, caring, emotional intelligence, spontaneity, love of nature, touch, sharing, smiles, holding, intimacy. This 38-year-old mother of two seeks all these things and can return them one hundred fold. Are they you? #86772

INTERESTING, WARM, cultured, intelligent DWF seeks attractive, eclectic, 50-ish, liberal Man for Merrill, Madhorse, PSC, good food, wine, and conversation, film, travel, dance, exploring city and country, maybe life. #85105

IT TAKES a good Man to appreciate what this good Woman has to offer. I'm a pretty, blonde SWPF who's drawn to a tall, n/s SWPM. He should be a youthful 30-40, who enjoys participating in a variety of seasonal activities. #85185

KIND, CARING, fun, intelligent Woman seeking kind, caring, fun, intelligent Man, preferably 45-60, for friendship, possibly leading to more. I'm 51, 5'4", 129 lbs, with many interests. Let's talk. Boring, stuffy, uptight Men need not reply. Sense of humor a must. #85100

LET ME be your Christmas present and we can ring in the New Year together. SWF, 40, a little bit shy, enjoys reading, cribbage, walking, dancing, music, movies, dining in/out, desire S/DWM, 30-45, friendship first, then LTR. Portland area. #85183

MANHATTAN ROOTS, loves the sea, sailing and Maine lifestyle. Attractive, youthful 50s, seeks the above, to share life in the New Millennium. #85751

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men & women

ALL I want for Christmas is you in my arms. Attractive DWM is seeking a warm soul to hold for the holidays and other good times to come. 32-47, n/s. #85196

ALWAYS HOPING I will find this special, nourishing person for a fulfilling relationship, fun, frolic, romance and adventure. Be youthful, 45-52 and willing to have fun in the New Millennium. #85242

ARE YOU attractive, intelligent, physically fit? 26-year-old SWM, 6', 180 lbs, bright blue eyes, black hair, athletic, into good conversation, good food, books, city life, mountains, beach, lover of music and culture, seeks like-minded Female. #85219

ARE YOU curious, kind, affectionate, eclectic, eccentric, sensuous, gentle, warm, intelligent or any of the above? Do you like to dream, hike, cuddle? SWM, 26, 6'2", 170 lbs, seeks kindred spirit. Let's blend our thoughts and hearts in true intimacy. #85037

ARE YOU wishing to be spoiled? Are your dreams being met? Affectionate, romantic, caring, honest Man seeks you. Looking for eventually permanent Woman, 30 and under, open-minded, no real hang-ups. Take a chance on happiness. WPTH preferred. #85187

BLONDE BOMBHELL are you out there? If you're a petite, sexy SWF or DWF, young 30s, maybe we'll click. I'm a DWM, 38, 5'9", 170 lbs, likes going out or quiet nights, romance, passion, friendship, is it you? #85217

CARING, SENSITIVE, outgoing SWM, 37, 6', blonde/baby blue, enjoys dancing, singing, walks on the beach. Looking for someone to share the same. SW/HF, 27-40, for solid friendship, possible relationship later. #85223

CHRISTMAS WISHLIST: to find an attractive, affectionate, fit, n/s SWF, 26-36, for passionate, lasting adventures and cuddling in front of my fireplace. Me: 6', 185 lbs, brown/brown, n/s SWM, 33, #85157

CHUBBY GUY, 6'1", 250 lbs, brown/brown, enjoys walking on the beach, dining in or out, movies, theater, dancing, but most of all spending time with someone special. Seeking honest, trustworthy, caring, loving SF, 25-40. Saco and Biddeford area. #85045

COASTAL TRADER, shipwrecked on MDI, vigorous, balding, bookish, antiquarian, with interests in art, ecology, Maine history, kids and gardening. Interested in meeting a SF with similar interests, for conversation, dinner, travel to Europe, possible LTR. #86810

COMPANIONSHIP AND MORE. Creative SWPM, 40, 5'10", 150 lbs, n/s, enjoys camping, hiking, canoeing, snowshoeing, concerts, theater, antiques, NPR, along with sharing, exploring, quiet times. Seeking fit, active, confident, n/s S/DWPF with similar interests and great sense of humor to share life's conversations, adventures and more. #86902

DEAR GOD, I'm writing this ad in hopes of finding her. Is she tall, attractive, fit, who loves life and is 35-47? I'm handsome, fit, SWM, 41, 6'4", loves life. Let's get together for coffee. #86829

DEAR UNIVERSE, please send me a petite, shapely, athletic, feminine playmate who values health and fitness, trust, devotion, self-improvement, courtesy, passion, touch, sensuality, risk, music, dance and inspiring others. I'm 40, 5'8", 145 lbs and offer all that I seek. #85226

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men & women

DESPERATELY SEEKING W/BF for dinner, dancing, movies, live theater, travel, Anubis, hugs, kisses, romance, friendship, companionship, much more! SWM, 51, 5'8", fit, n/s, n/d, light drinker, decent, clean-cut, down to earth, sense of humor, outgoing, energetic, communicative, affectionate, open, flexible, sincere, honest. #85220

DWM, 34, ISO S/D/F, 25-40, long, dark hair, medium build, attractive, intelligent, positive, with sense of humor, enjoys being outdoors. I'm 6'1", 200 lbs, enjoys outdoor activities, kids, family, cooking, storms, dislikes are bars, dancing, traffic, negative, selfish, inconsiderate people. #85067

DWM, 44, 5'10", 170 lbs, brown/brown, quiet, kind and considerate Guy, enjoys dancing, movies, dining in or out, camping, cross country skiing, quiet times with a special person. ISO attractive, slim F for friendship, possible relationship. #86926

DWM, 59, going on 45, 5'9", 185 lbs, athletic, love to walk, Boulevard, beach, yoga, meditate, movies at The Nick, you, sense of humor, fit, intelligent, serene, healthy, n/s. Let's lighten up life together. #85177

DWM, MID-30S, rebuilding, cook, cute, cut-up, clean, blues, comedies, horror, gym, books, good heart. Can't find S/DWF, any race, clean and quiet life, light drinker, loves children, attractive, WPH. Wants to end search, all answered. No bar girls, only sincere replies. #85115

ECLECTIC, SENSITIVE, imperfect, out-doorsy, sensual, ENFP Male looking for 40-ish Female for companionship, cuddles, conversation and to dance through the universe together. #85204

FRST TIME ad. Athletic, outgoing, tall, 5'10", 200 lbs, 18-22, for friendship. #85213

FORTYSOMETHING DWM ISO mature, independent, adventurous, balanced Woman for dating and companionship. I am a self-employed, secure, professional who enjoys music, movies, dining out, reading, walks on the beach, drives through the country. Seeking a friend to share this journey. #86382

FREE SPIRIT seeks soulmate. SWM, 6, 235 lbs, grayish hair and beard, blue eyes, fit, emotionally/physically and spiritually fit, romantic, oceans, roses, candlelit dinners. Seeking SWF, 45-55, attractive, fit, sense of humor, aware she deserves love and nothing less. #85764

FULL-FIGURED WOMAN wanted by SWM, 40, tall, good-looking, decent build, enjoys home life and romantic evenings at home. I am very sensual and passionate, please be the same. #86932

GENUINE SWFM, 43, 6'1", 170 lbs, fit, n/s, attractive, no children, grounded in nature. Looking to find true intimacy. Looking for S/D/F, 33-43, to navigate together on true course for LTR. As co-captain, let's stay on course together. Friends first. #85153

GOOD GUY with a streak of bad. Attractive, blue-eyed SWM, 27, seeks youthful, sane, confident, attractive, sensual SWF, 23-30, to discover what it means to be young, free and alive. #85162

GOOD MEN are hard to find. SWM, 37, 5'7", brown/brown, honest, active, likes practically everything, talented (musical), college graduate, faithful, kind and romantic. You: smart, down-to-earth, emotionally happy, 25-37, fit and active, for strong friendship and possibly more. #86693

GOOD-LOOKING, ACTIVE This SWM, 44, is looking for companionship with you! I enjoy hiking, camping, fall foliage, movies and more! You should be S/DWF, 25-45, active outdoors and have a good sense of humor. I know you're out there! #86892

HANDSOME, 35-YEAR-OLD DWM, with two kids, brown/brown, 5'9", 170 lbs, much wiser and self-aware now, enjoying the simpler things in life, n/s, light drinker, great sense of humor, ISO relationship or LTR with good-looking, intelligent, easygoing, kind, 28-to-38-year-old Woman. Let's share everything life has to offer. #85113

HAPPY, FUN, easygoing 39-year-old, 5'8", 180 lbs, blonde/blue, fit, seeking Woman, 40-ish, for quiet evenings and nights on the town. #85182

HEARTWARMING, ESSENTIAL, 20-year-old Male, 6'1", 160 lbs, brown hair/eyes, interests include music and arts, drug and alcohol-free, seeking affectionate, petite blonde Woman, late teens, early twenties with same interests, possible LTR. #85211

I AM a hardworking SWM, 19, who enjoys dining out and an occasional movie. I like playing pool and am open-minded to new things as well. I stand 5'11", weigh 180 lbs and have blonde/blue ISO SWF, 19-23, who has similar interests, loves affection and doesn't play hard games. Truth and honesty a must. No chemical drugs, smoking/drinking okay. Let's meet. #85180

I STILL can't believe I'm still single, but I am. SWM, 31, twice college-educated, former hockey player, chef, have criminology degree, works out, seeking SWF, 25-35, who is athletic, n/s, likes to work out and do things outdoors. Children ok. #85166

I WANT a partner, not just a date. Seeking adventurous, affectionate and fit, blonde-haired beauty, 22-32, to share life's journey with. This handsome, 33-year-old SWM, 5', sincerely interested in meeting a special lady to pamper and grow with. #85222

I'M A very good driver, artist, designer, dad, attractive, fit, 5'9", 43, reclusive, shy DWM ISO canvas to paint with a pen-chant for art, nature, cooking, wine, cuddling, conversation and the unanswered questions: No pets, smoking, sitcoms. #85235

IMAGINE YOU'RE at Borders. As you reach for this month's Outside Magazine, a SWM, 46, does also. You discover a shared enjoyment of biking, hiking, canoeing and skiing in the check out, he shamelessly flirts with you because he is psyched to meet a well-educated Woman with a sense of humor, who shares his enjoyment of the outdoors, theater, story telling, and Italian food. At the door, you throw caution to the wind and... #86930

IS THERE anyone out there not materialsitic? SWCM, 5'9", 33, mentally, physically attractive, easygoing, humorous, never married, no children, enjoy walking, beach, gardens and more. ISO non-superficial SWF, 30+, looks important, honest is Portland area. #86207

LITTLE SHY, M, 6'4", 250 lbs, short brown/blonde I like to be intimate and spend quiet times at home. Looking for Woman, 25-40, Friends first, possibly leading to a relationship. #85154

LOOKING for a companion to make the most of beautiful fall weekends. 38-year-old, tall, attractive Male. Let's see the joys in life and make the most of it. #86170

LOOKING for a partner! SW dad of one, 5'9", 160 lbs, with good looks, athletic build, charming personality, enjoys snowboarding, hiking, outdoor activities, travel. ISO n/s, attractive, trim SWF, 28-38, 5'5" or under, caring and outgoing, for possible relationship. #85184

LOOKING for a partner! Someone who can travel back when dating was fun and forward in a LTR. I'm 40-ish, 5'10", teddy bear type, nice smile. You: from greater Portland, happy with yourself, great inner beauty. Give me a call. #85216

LOST SOUL. My lost soul, can you find it? SWM, 36, independent, financially secure, great personality, funny, spontaneous, compassionate, role model, caring, open, seeking big, beautiful White Lady for get-aways, long drives to nowhere, for dining out, cuddling, communications. 30-50. #85155

LOVING, CARING soul searching for another. 45, 5'10", 195 lbs, blue eyes, great smile looking for Woman, 30-45, inner beauty more important than outer beauty. Enjoys talks, walks, cuddling, midnight swims, sharing things. If this is you, call. #85215

M, 30, seeks very confident, intelligent, energetic and sensual Woman, 40+, for good conversation and whatever may follow. You will find me attractive, fun, discreet and entertaining. Let me cater to your whim. We will have a wonderful time. #85201

ME: BOYISH at 50, adult educator, affectionate, romantic, quirky humor, outdoorsy, kayaks and canoes, tennis, NPR addictions, films, chess, jazz, eating. You: n/s, young-spirted, world-wise, fit, self-aware, comfortable in your skin, engaged in passions, share some of my interests. #85167

ME: LIKE Weird Al, '60, '70s, '80s and some '90s music, believe Mick Foley is God. I'm guessing there is no F out there with my interests. Me: 41, not Fabio, in shape, like slow dancing. #85231

MEETING TOO many ingenious. Are there any intelligent, cultured Women in Portland? DWM, 37, 6'1", loves literature, movies, conversation, jazz vocalists, candlelight, working out, dogs, playful weekends, spontaneity, seeks S/D/F to share her interests, who is clever, stylish, educated. #85101

MIGHT BE you and fun, mutual vulnerability, down-to-earth, creative person, n/s, n/d, spiritually, physically health-minded. Compromising Male seeks Female, 47-57 (smooth like driftwood), with sense of humor, for companionship, conversation, friendship, aesthetics and maybe LTR! #85569

NEW AGE blue-collar Guy with white-collar values, who's more comfortable with the personals than with the bar scene, is seeking friendship, possible LTR with right, New Age or Wiccan Woman. My interests are philosophy, poetry, art and self-improvement. #85131

OPEN-MINDED, CULTIVATED professional, attractive, financially secure BM, 43, 5'8". I enjoy art, traveling, jogging, cooking, dancing and music. Seeking an attractive, professional, n/s, athletic, fun-loving F. Race unimportant. #85232

ROCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE SWM, 62, 5'10", 180 lbs, college graduate, home-owner. Seeks Female, 52+, for day trips, eating in/out, cooking, walks on the beach, one-on-one, romantically inclined. For a lot of TLC, for LTR. #86254

ROMANTIC GENTLEMAN seeking to share life's adventures. 49-year-old, 6'2", romantic, n/s, seeks intellectually inquisitive, elegant, slender Lady to share life's adventures. Must be affectionate and willing to engage life with passion. #85318

SEXY BLACK Man looking for you. 37-year-old, 5'5", 150 lbs, seeking SF, 23-45, for long-term relationship and more. Enjoys cooking, dancing, eating out, movies, walks. All players welcome, race open. #85096

SHORT TERM: A date to accompany me to a wedding. Long term: a mate to accompany me to a wedding. Seeking smart, slim, fun, attractive Female, 25-35. I'm a SWM, handsome, witty, financially secure and ready. Please call. #86832

SILLY BOY seeking looney Girl. Quark sense of humor? Lazy on Sundays? Trying to save the planet? Don't wait to do it alone? 27-year-old SWM, pinball playing, 6', downtown dwelling, sort of fit. Please live in the city. #85139

SM, LEAN, muscular, cute, 5'6", hardworking, honest, no smoking, drinking or drugs, seeks fit, cute Female to accompany me in the journey of life or at least dinner and a movie. #85243

SOULFUL, SENSIBLE, kind DWM, 49, seeks feminine, gracious, affectionate, 38-to-46-year-old, n/s WF for poetic, meaningful LTR. I love music, art, movies, romantic endeavors and intellectual conversations. Cat lovers and Portland area preferred. #86816

SWM SEEKING friend. I'm 35, 5'11", dark/dark. I have a speech impediment that makes it hard to meet people. I have a steady job and own my own home. The right Girl should be 35-45. Please call. #85076

SWM, 24, nonsmoker, social drinker, drug-free, enjoys Shakespeare, Dos Eyzers, walks on Eastern Prom, into Mozart, Ellington and the Stones, seeking spontaneous, charismatic SF for dating, possible LTR. #85120

SWPM, EARLY 30s, tall, tanned, good-looking, athletic build, with interests in sports, dining out and just having fun. ISO F with similar interests. If you're looking for some excitement then you're looking for me. Try me. #85221

UNCONDITIONAL PORTLAND area. No Richard Gere but not Frankenstein either, nonsmoker, nondrinker DWM, father of three, 5'9", 150 lbs, physically fit, emotionally/financially secure, hardworking, honest, spontaneous, cuddling, dancing, veggie-ing, various interests. ISO attractive, independent, honest, career-minded S/D/F, 21-40. Kids ok. LTR. #85193

UNDER TALL, over-educated, Danny Devito/Michael J. Fox-sized, PhD, living in Brunswick, seeks refined, educated, n/s companion, over 40, to share theater, classical music, candlelit dinners, witty/intelligent conversation and my gourmet cooking. No pressure, low impact friendship. Call now. #85127

WANTED: SWF for very lonely Guy, 24-57 (smooth like driftwood), with sense of humor, for companionship, conversation, friendship, aesthetics and maybe LTR! #85569

WWM, 42, in Texas, seeks F, 18-38, for marriage. Good Christian Man, kind, gentle, for loving, country family life. #85189

men & men

47-YEAR-OLD M, 240 lbs, enjoys walks, movies and candlelight dinners. Looking for M, 27-47, for friendship and possible LTR. If interested call. #85237

BWM, 5'7", 148 lbs, a well-preserved, 51, average looks. Enjoy outdoors, home-life and friends. ISO male for companionship and friendship. 30s-50s, must know himself. First time ad placer, give me a try. #86945

GWM SEEKING M, 18-27, to go on dates with. I'm 21 and living in Biddeford, 5'10", brown/brown, 155 lbs. Looking for someone who is compassionate and loves to cuddle. #85208

GWM, 30, 6'1", 190 lbs, black/brown, honest, outgoing, romantic, go-getter, organized, dog owner, enjoys old movies, camping, outdoor activities, arts and crafts. Seeks giving, honest and sincere GWM, 18-30, with similar interests, for friendship and possible relationship. #86545

GWM, 31, average looks, caring, honest, loving, seeks Man, 30-65, who likes dining out, movies, walks. Looks aren't important, what's inside is. If this sounds good, please call. #85181

GWM, 39, 5'10", good-looking, wanting to meet another Man for friendship or the possibility of a long-term relationship. Like cooking and just being myself. I'm open to about anything. Let's get together. #85233

GWM, 5'9", brown/green, ISO friendship, maybe more later. Seeking someone, 18-26, who enjoys movies at home and occasional nights out. #85227

GWM, HIV+, 35, blonde/blue, caring, honest, kind, loving, seeks Man, 30-45, looks aren't important, what's inside is. Likes dining out, movies and walks. If this sounds interesting, drop me a line at my box. #86843

GWM, PORTLAND area, brown/brown, 175 lbs, mid-30s, average looks, n/d, n/drugs, professional, likes shooting pool, horror movies, variety of music and dining out. Seeks Man of substance, honesty, mid-20s to mid-30s, who has a life, race open, for friendship, possible LTR. #86949

GWM, WINDHAM area, blonde/blue, slim, average looks, n/d, n/drugs, professional, seeks Man of substance, who has a life and a direction. Prefers a larger Man, not consumed with himself, for possible LTR. #86906

KIND, SWEET, shy and caring 22-year-old M. Seeking humorous, intelligent, mature Man, 21-32, for conversations and craziness. Enjoy music, movies, writing and travel. #85206

men & men

LIFE'S TOO brief for small muscles, minds, hearts or dreams. WWM, 36, 5'11", 210 lbs. ISO n/s M, 18-42, for friendship and hard-core comprehensive mind and body building. Interested in sexy body in Portland? Call. #86836

LOOKING for someone with a strong mind, smart body, effervescent shyness, humorous personality and open heart. Tall, dark and handsome are a plus, but not a requirement. Please be in your 30s and have integrity. No head games, bar scenes or online existences. I'm 35, 6', 180 lbs, romantic but respectful, out yet iconoclastic, understanding but monogamous, polite yet honest. Boyfriend material seeks same to share family, friends, conversation, laughter and life. Is an honest, old-fashioned dating relationship possible between two Men? Call. #86880

PASSIONATE, BEAUTIFUL, masculine, physically smart, lean and muscular, well-adjusted, Taurus: WWM, 40, 5'10", 165 lbs. Seeks the serious, courageous mind, with an undaunted heart of love, to his mid-40s. A lover of music/dance a plus. #85158

REAL NICE Guy, 33, 5'9", 145 lbs, brown/bluish-green, enjoys dancing, travel, watching sports. Seeking similar type of Guy to share our quality time together. #85143

SEEKING FUN, 25-year-old GWM, enjoys movies, dancing and good times. Want a walk on the beach and could that be you? Friendship, possible LTR. #85109

VERITABLE BULL, 56, needs a tamer. If you're the Man for the job, rewards will be endless. Please call for more details. #85085

women & women

BIFEMALE, 5'1", 115 lbs, seeking another Bifemale who likes sex movies and wants to try anything new. #85229

BRAINY, SUNNY, openhearted, spiritual seeker. Music, art galleries, woodlands, coast, literature, art films, cooking, dining out, wines, coffees, stimulating conversations. You: n/s, 40-50, brainy, professional and kind. #85112

DO YOU like to be spoiled? Then I'd love to talk to you. GF, 33, n/s, enjoys children, animals, the outdoors, good conversation and quiet evenings at home. Looking for someone to spend time with. Possible LTR. Let's talk. #85128

GF, 45, seeking Female friend or possibly more. I love the outdoors and enjoy walking. I have a good sense of humor and am fun to be with. Let's hear the sleigh bells together. Hope to hear from you. #86900

HEY YOU, tired of staying home week-ends watching the same television shows? Like movies, dancing, dining out or just having fun? Must have sense of humor. #85095

I'M LOOKING for a princess! Spiritual, kindhearted, Bisexual, feminine Woman, 26, is seeking a very feminine Lady who has new-age philosophies, is a nonsmoker, light drinker, with a positive attitude, for romance. Who will wear the slipper? #85049

SEEKING A sharp, witty, lively mind with a gentle heart, for friendship and possible LTR, to explore life's mysteries and laugh at its whimsical absurdities. Educated, professional, 43, enjoys art, classical music, eastern philosophy a variety of eclectic sciences, n/s, no drugs, animal lovers a plus. #85146

SENSITIVE, FEMININE Woman, 26, looking to dating a very feminine Woman, 26, nonsmoker, light drinker, drug-free, positive attitude, 21-45. Coffee first. #85170

SINCERE, PEACEFUL, independent, attractive, grounded, spirit driven, 45-year-old, outdoor lover, seeks "stable" (check-book balances, knows who they are and wants to learn more, is out and not just their cat knows about it), lighthearted, intelligent, energetic soul, who is eager to teach, touch, learn from and love a new partner. #85134

women & women

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NEW TO Portland. SWM, 30s, good sense of humor, advanced degree, enjoys museums, movies, NPR, Scrabble, books, looking to meet compatible Men and Women for friendship to expand social network and make some good friends. #85165

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP, BF, 30s, good sense of humor, enjoys skiing, movies, bowling, etc. Seeking n/s friends for friendship only. #85228

YOUNGISH, 48-YEAR-OLD Female would like to meet friend from the Gray, Raymond, Poland area, with whom to go to dances or other social activities. I have a positive attitude, sense of humor, energy and enthusiasm and look for same. #85124

I saw you

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SAW YOU ON Tuesday, 12/28, Starbucks, The Old Port, Bookland. Wanted to say hello, was shy. You: dark hair, dark skin, red pants, great smile. You waved as you left. Me: blue vest, jeans, couldn't take my eyes off you. Cappuccino? #85244

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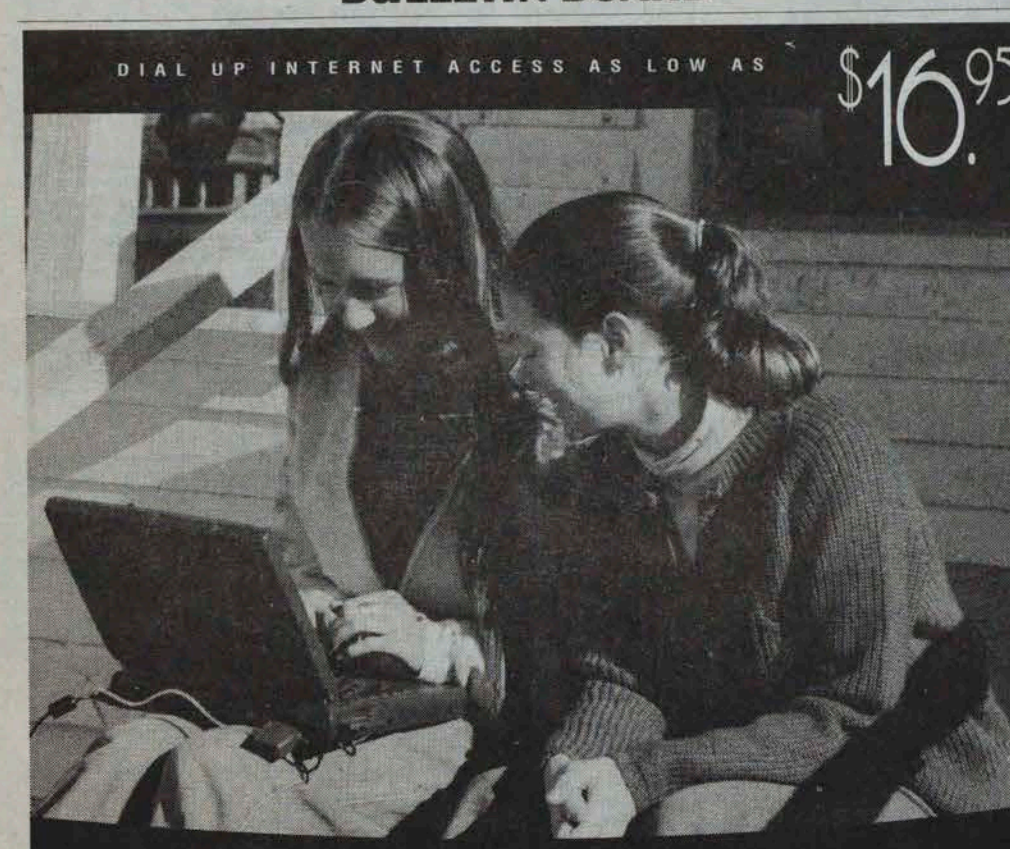
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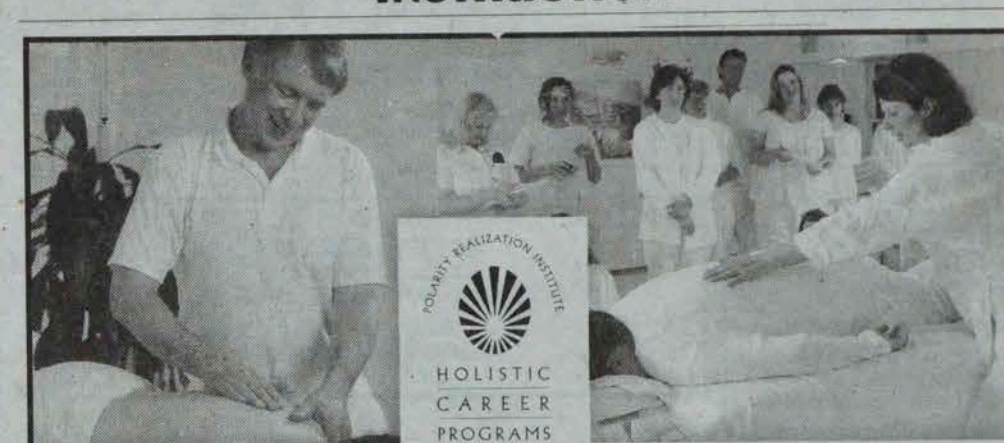
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REAL ASTROLOGY - WEEK OF JANUARY 6
BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): When you were a kid, did you ever spend summer Saturdays selling homemade lemonade to passersby from a table in front of your house? If so, recall the spirit that moved you to do it. The year 2000 will be an excellent time to reinvigorate that blend of innocent idealism and entrepreneurial fun. For extra credit, take inspiration from the innovation my daughter Zoe tried last August. In addition to lemonade, she offered bottles of holy water which she'd filled with water drawn from the tap and blessed by glazing on images of her favorite goddess. In other words, Aries, add mischievous soulfulness to your innocent idealism and entrepreneurial fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The wisest person I know is a 44-year-old woman who manages to be both a crafty crane and an enterprising maiden. I won't tell you her name because I think her gifts are more effective if they're anonymous. At my request, she has plucked out a gray hair from her mostly blonde mane and given it to me. Tonight I will place it in an ebony box and imagine making it to you. I'll envision you placing it on your own head, thereby encouraging your brain to see with the eyes of babyhood and the eyes of visionary maturity at the same time. This will serve you well as you navigate your way through the ancient yet futuristic mood that will prevail in the year 2000.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "The Power of the Power" works in circles," the Lakota holy man Black Elk said. "The sky is round. The wind, in its greatest power, whisks birds make their nests in circles, for there is the same religion as ours. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to old age, and so it is in everything where power moves." I hope you Gemini keep this meditation uppermost in mind during the year 2000. Let the image of the straight line lose its hold on you, as well as its companion concept, linear progress. Instead, your entanglement with hierarchies and people who are allergic to mystery, in the months ahead, the spiral path should be your by and by.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The Italian city of Florence harbors the richest trove of art treasures in the world. It is also the home of a rare psychiatric disorder caused by its plenitude of gorgeous masterpieces. With uncanny regularity, foreign tourists experience breakdowns in the face of such overwhelming loveliness and delight, and are rushed to the mental ward of a local hospital. I bring this up, Cancer, as a way to prepare you for the onslaught of beauty headed your way in 2000. If you begin building up your expectations for now, I'll never knock you on your ass.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Study these excerpts from Ric Carter's list, "The Top 100 Study Ideas I've Ever Had": "I became an Overlord." They'll be invaluable in 2000, when you're likely to become an overlord yourself—though hopefully not a bad one. "No matter how tempted I am with the prospect of unlimited power, I will not consume any energy field bigger than my head." "I will throw my enemies into conflict. I will dress in bright, cheery colors." "One of my advisors will be an average five-year-old child. If he's able to spot flaws in my plans, I'll correct them before implementation." "I will bring this up, Cancer, as a way to prepare you for the onslaught of beauty headed your way in 2000. If you begin building up your expectations for now, I'll never knock you on your ass."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Late in life, after a brilliant career as a jazz pianist, band leader, and composer, Duke Ellington expressed profound thanks to his parents for not forcing him to grow up too fast. They were wise enough to keep his feet off the ground till he was nine years old, he said. It allowed him the leisure to grow a robust imagination, which became his greatest resource as a musician. What's this got to do with you? If I were your parent or mentor or guardian angel, Virgo, I'd do everything possible to help you keep your feet off the ground for long periods in the coming months. That would be the best.

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1992 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500, 4x4, 350 standard, longbed, A/C, cruise, tilt, must see 59975. 655-4870.

1998 VW GOLF GL. Excellent condition. Low miles. Power moonroof, A/C, PVL, dual airbags, 4cy/2 liter. Great gas mileage. Fun to drive. 5sp. \$12,528.32/BO. 207-761-8218 or 207-871-1912.

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ATTRACTION, WELL-PROPORTIONED, masculine, 30-year-old
Male seeks another Male for ongoing
physical relationship during daytime.
I'm clean and disease-free, you be too.
Discretion is guaranteed and
expected. #90532

ATTRACTION, FINANCIALLY secure,
soon to be DWM seeks a sexy, erotic
Woman to show a good time. I want it all. #90815

ATTRACTION, HEALTHY, safe, discreet,
Married Male, late 40s, hairy
upper body, available to preferably
Married, not overly Gay, older or
much younger, healthy Male. Sorry
no reciprocation but very few limits
for you. First time ad. #90835

BARE FEET excite you? Are dungeons
stories delicious? Secretly obsessed
reading European history (1600s,
Inquisition? Seeking your counterpart
and "sole" mate? Still believe
love's forever and monogamous?
Quality SWM, 50s, seeks Female
soulmate, 45-56. Must: exercise,
healthy lifestyle. (CA) #90410

BI-CURIOSUS WM, 42. Seeking similar
Male for discreet first time
encounter. #90752

BISWM, 35, good-looking, good
build, nice package, down-to-earth,
squeaky clean and discreet. Seeking
sexy, erotic, romantic Couple, who
likes long lasting foreplay and enjoys
role-playing, XXX movies, with possible
lasting friendship. #90721

BI-CURIOSUS WM, 42. Seeking similar
Male for discreet first time
encounter. #90752

BI-CURIOSUS WM, 32, 6'2", 175 lbs,
seeking older BWWM, 30-75. #90812

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Others...

men seeking

23-YEAR-OLD WM ISO older, chubby
Male for first time encounter.
#90806

31-YEAR-OLD WM, 5'8", 150 lbs.
Seeking BW/GM, 20-25, with smooth,
hard body for first time, discreet
encounter. Please be real, understanding
and in the Portland area.
#90825

42-YEAR-OLD, MARRIED WM in the
Portland area, seeking a discreet
affair. Would like to meet F in similar
situation. I'm clean, drug-free, and
discreet. Essential, you be also. My
schedule is somewhat flexible and I
can travel if necessary. Let's get it on
and start the new year on an up note.
#90830

ACTIVE, ENERGETIC, outgoing
BWWM looking for same for possible
long-term relationship. 5'8", 160 lbs,
straight-acting, with sense of humor,
40 in years, 30 in outlook and energy.
Life is too short to spend it alone
or with a channel changer.
#90670

AFFAIR LOOKING for a Man to
please me. I'm not getting what I
need at home. Looking for a country
Boy who can ravish me. No strings,
you be clean and discreet as I am.
#90796

ATHLETIC TYPE, Male, 18+, sought
by good-looking (for real), older
GWM, limits respected, muscular,
friendly Guy preferred. I have a lot to
offer the right individual. #90760

ATTRACTION, FINANCIALLY secure,
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Woman to show a good time. I want it all. #90815

ATTRACTION, HEALTHY, safe, discreet,
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Married, not overly Gay, older or
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BIWM ISO Bi, Married or straight
Men around the Lake Region. We're
out here. Must be healthy, rugged,
very discreet, hairy, equipped a plus.
We don't want our spouses or lovers
to know. We must act very cool about
this. I'm 39 years old, 6'1",
200 lbs, blonde/blue, very equipped.
#90216

BIWM, 43, Brunswick area, professional,
5'9", 165 lbs, healthy, n/s,
very discreet, good-humored, enjoys
outdoors, massage, quiet times.
Seeking similar M to share enjoyable
times. #90707

BUXTON, GORHAM, Me: slim,
clean-cut, straight-acting GWM, 47,
seeks slim, sexy, clean-cut SW/BM
for good times. Let's make the year
2000 a bang! Don't wait babe, call.
#90827

DISCREET, SATISFACTION
assured. I can keep secrets, how
about you? Submissive Male seeking
other Male, 20-50, to entertain at my
private home. #90454

EASYGOING WHITE Male,
Separated, 155 lbs, 5'10", 47, sense
of humor, safe, clean, discreet. Seeks
one Married or SF, 20-50, for safe
adult fun. Will answer all call.
#90809

EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR. I'm in need
of some sexual excitement. If you are
clean and discreet and think you can
satisfy me, please respond. #90764

GAY WHITE Male, very good-looking,
5'11", fair/blue, seeks very good-looking,
5'11" type, 35-45, 1m 45
minutes north of Portland. #90507

GWPM, 31, 5'9", 185 lbs, goatee,
furry, seeking 30+ GWM, burly/bare,
for friendship, possibly more.
Portland area. #90771

HI GUY. Can you fulfill my dreams?
Me: slim, cut, clean, straight-acting
GWM, 47, seeks slim, clean, sexy
Male for my dreams. Discreet.
Waiting. #90686

KICK BACK and enjoy. Give in
search of well-endowed receiver for
oral fantasy. #90765

KNIGHT QUEST Well-educated,
extremely fit, minor born, professional
DWM, 40, seeks open, eccentric,
fit, n/s, n/drugs F, 30-45, interest,
include art, photography, ancient
history, old things, world travel, the
British Isles, nature, moonlight, sun-
sets and fireplaces. Portland to mid-
coast. #90834

LET'S HAVE FUN! Two straight WMs,
mid-30s, looking for attractive cutie
to share hot tub fantasies. Let's party
for what your not getting, answer
this ad, need not be Single, very discreet.
#90839

LOOKING to meet someone new
for the new year, all fetishes welcome.
#90727

MARRIED WHITE Male, 35, 6'3",
235 lbs, brown/brown, seeking
White Couple, Male and Female or
Married or Single Females for discreet
fun. #90733

MARRIED WHITE Male seeks
Couples or Female for uninhibited
sexual fun. Will explore all fetishes,
fantasies and role-playing. I'm attractive,
fit, Weight, race, size unimportant. Ok
with wife. #90823

MARRIED WM, 39, brown/brown,
175 lbs, looking to meet F or Couple,
25-45, for adult fun. #90788

OLDER MALE seeks help in his feminization
and expansion of his feminine side.
Take me to the beauty shop and do
with me what you want. I dress me
as you wish or have me do things I
need to do. #90767

ORAL DESIRES. Handsome, separated
Male, 38, looking for hot times
on occasion, with a S/Married
Woman and possibly the night
Couple? Please be discreet. Call me
soon, you'll be glad. #90744

PASSABLE CROSS-DRESSER seeking
someone for fun, adventure and
relationship. Location: is Southern
Maine. Enjoys outdoor sports such
as, running, cross-country skiing,
swimming. If you like someone with
long legs and short skirts, please call
me. #90819

SANTA is making his list. Are you
naughty or nice. Call now to meet
under the mistletoe. #90817

SBM, BI-CURIOSUS, seeking other bi-
curious M for oral encounter only. I'm
healthy and clean-cut, you should be
too. #90837

SEEKING DISCREET friend with safe
playground for ongoing friendship.
Looking for well-endowed top who
can be a bottom as well, into xxx
movies, good smoke, light drink and
hours of fun. Flexible day schedule,
some evenings and weekends.
#90633

SEXY, very healthy, spiritually fit,
43-year-old Puerto Rican with HIV. I
work out daily and enjoy the finer
things in life, friendships and love. Be
in shape and healthy. #90778

SINGLE WHITE Male seeks uninhibited
Female, 18-50, for fun times,
into just about everything, loves to
please, will be discreet and expect
the same. #90786

SM, 26, Muslim, 5'6", 130 lbs, enjoys
movies, music, travel. ISO SF, 23-34,
religion open, looking for friendship,
possible relationship. #90816

STRAIGHT-ACTING and discreet
GWM, 26, 5'11", 170 lbs, dark
blonde/bazel, clean-cut, smooth-
body. I enjoy dining out, outdoors,
reading, cuddling on couch. Seeking
18-29, smooth, slim, trim. I'm
attached to jocks, preps and skiers.
Lewiston and Auburn area.
#90678

SWPM, 32, 6', 225 lbs, very fit, n/s,
ISO somewhat fit F to have some
consenting adult fun. If your looking
for what your not getting, answer
this ad, need not be Single, very discreet.
#90839

WELL-BUILT GUY, 36, 180 lbs, 6',
educated, witty and stable, seeking a
Woman of any age and size who will
let me worship her heels. Please
grind my face under your dirty,
smelly feet. I am sincere. #90714

WELL-BUILT, MASCULINE, 36-year-
old M, 180 lbs, 6', seeking discreet
pleasure from a young, slender feminine
cross-dresser. I enjoy hot, sexy,
stocking feet in killer heels. #90732

WILLING SWF wanted for discreet
Bohemian pleasant. Smoke and drink
and private fun. #90833

MARRIED WM, 39, brown/brown,
175 lbs, looking to meet F or Couple,
25-45, for adult fun. #90788

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Looking for well-endowed top who
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movies, good smoke, light drink and
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Brunch All Week!

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WEEKEND DISHES, ALL WEEK, ALL DAY!**

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LUNCH • mon- free lunch • tues-fri 11-2:30 • **DINNER** • thurs 5-9pm / fri-sat 5-10pm

OUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION the **FREE LUNCH** project

Every Monday throughout the year, Natasha's Restaurant will offer **FREE LUNCH**, buffet-style. All are welcome. This is an opportunity for those with means to



the volunteers

help those without. A voluntary donation of any amount for your meal will be used to buy lunch for the person who cannot donate and aid in the contribution of the **FREE LUNCH PROJECT**.

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