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31 January 2002

GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION
JANUARY 31, 2002 • VOL XIV, NO. 5

FREE

Casco Bay Weekly

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Suddenly, the planning board is COOL

Citizens are lining up to get a chance to serve on the committee that oversees development in Portland. What's with that? Allen Dammann's story starts on page 10



ILLUSTRATION/ COREY PANDOLPH

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FOR THE
BEST OF
PORTLAND**

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PROWLER
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Advertising
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TALK

A CONVERSATION WITH

DOMINIQUE ROSOFF



“Opera can be ridiculous. You can have a wonderful passage of music, then discover that they're talking about looking for a hairbrush in a drawer.”

Dominique Rosoff, a 32-year-old Portlander, wants to be an opera singer. Rosoff has been studying opera performance and technique for three-and-a-half years.

You just had your first professional opera gig?

I was in the Maine Grand Opera in Camden. I was the second armored man in "The Magic Flute" by Mozart. It might not sound like a big role, but someone has to guard the portal of fire.

Most operas are written in Italian. Do you understand Italian?

Not really. I can sing it, and I understand what I'm singing, but I'm not fluent in other languages.

Most male opera singers are fat guys. How much do you weigh?

I'm about 6-foot 1, about 205 pounds.

Is that enough? Don't you need to bulk up a bit?

I try to eat more, but there are only so many hours in the

day. But a male opera singer doesn't have to be fat. There are roles when you need to be mobile. For example, Mephistopheles — you couldn't have a large gent playing him. You have to be very nimble to leap around and portray the devil.

Most singers your age are pursuing a rock 'n' roll career. Why opera?

I like the music, plus it gives me the chance to be a kid again. It's professional pretending. You also get a sense of power and connection to the audience and the music. It fulfills you. You can completely forget where you are and become immersed in a moment. It's very cleansing. A friend of mine once said I probably have saved thousands of dollars in shrink bills because I get it all out on stage.

Do girls think it's cool?

I'll say I'm a singer, and their eyes light up. They ask, "Oh, what band?" Then I'll say I'm opera singer, a classical singer. Usually they look away and tend to an important piece of lint on their sweater or something.

Where do you practice?

In my apartment. It's quite loud, so I go to the corner of a room.

A while back, I heard this knock at the door. Usually that means someone is complaining. I open the door, and there's this guy standing there, someone I've never seen before. "I'm your neighbor," he said. "I heard you singing. Don't stop. More, please. I love it."

You're a bass singer. What does that mean?

You're not often the hero. Bass usually doesn't get the girls. Usually the bass is a powerful character that does a fair amount of banishing. But there are many other roles for the bass, like the shoemaker's brother.

Interview and photo by Chris Barry

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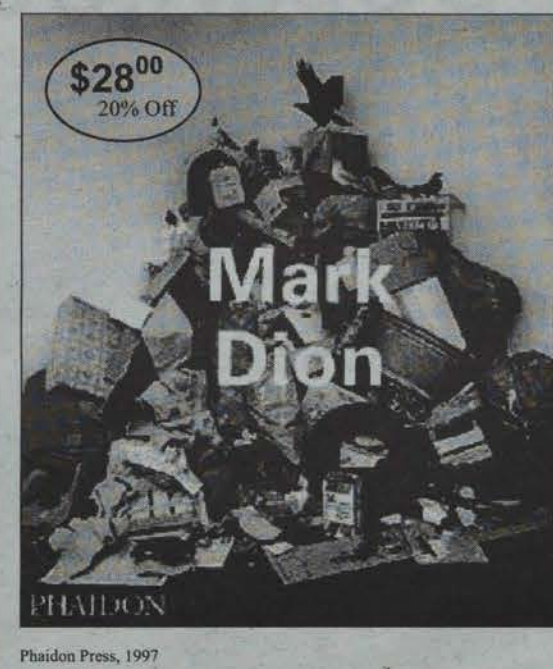
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Bygones (won't go)

The gubernatorial race is becoming a joke, so letting one more clown join in can't do a whole lot of damage. Unless, of course, you happen to be a moderate Republican. But more about that in a moment.

Political insiders have started referring to the leading candidates for the Blaine House as "Governor Noodle" (Democratic Congressman John Baldacci of spaghetti-supper fame), "Governor Brie" (Republican Peter Cianchette, who comes from a wealthy family), "Governor Flake" (Green candidate Jonathan Carter, a noted tree-hugger) and "Governor Kilowatt" (independent David Flanagan, former head of Central Maine Power).

Add to the mix Governor Baggage. John Hathaway is a former state senator from Kennebunkport. In 1996, he ran for the U.S. Senate, using the millions he made in real estate development in Alabama to fund his campaign. At first, Hathaway was given no chance in the Republican primary against two better-known opponents, Robert Monks and Susan Collins. But his conservative message began to resonate with the religious right (he's against abortion, gay rights, divorce and anything else that makes life fun), and Hathaway began to move up in the polls. With just over two weeks to go before the election, he appeared to have a solid chance of winning the GOP nomination.

Then all hell broke loose. Reporters discovered (either through a leak from Monks or through their own initiative) that Hathaway, who is married and has five children, had been the subject of an investigation in Alabama in the early '90s concerning allegations he had sex with a 12-year-old baby-sitter. Prosecutors said they had a strong case, but Hathaway was never charged because the girl's parents did not want her to go through the trauma of a trial. Nonetheless, the baby-sitter's father made sure Hathaway's business associates knew the story. Shortly afterward, Hathaway abruptly packed up his family and moved back to his native Maine.

While Hathaway vehemently denied the allegations, he never adequately explained why he ran away instead of fighting. For instance, if the girl's claim was false, he'd have had a strong basis for a lawsuit against the father for slander.

In any case, Hathaway lost the '96 primary, and, for the next few years, limited his political involvement to donating to right-wing candidates and causes and launching the conservative Web site "As Maine Goes." A year ago, a rumor began circulating that he might be planning a comeback by running for governor. Hathaway flatly denied it, but the story gained credibility in early January when the Christian Civic League issued a memo to its members that stopped just short of endorsing him.

"If John runs," league director Mike Heath is quoted as saying, "matters that are important to Maine families — life and death issues concerning human sexuality; educational choice; small focused [and] less intrusive government — would all surely get a thorough airing in the Republican primary."

What prompted Heath and other conservatives to pressure Hathaway to run was their growing concern that the only right-winger currently in the race, Republican Jim Libby, was unlikely to qualify for Clean Election funding, virtually assuring his candidacy would fizzle out even before the primary. That would leave the religious right with nobody to support.

In recent days, Hathaway's statements that he's not a candidate have included lots of wiggle room. GOP insiders say he's talking seriously with several people about running.

Not all Republicans are delighted. As one GOP moderate told me, "If Hathaway loses [the primary] because of the stories about his past, conservatives could take a walk ... eliminating what little chance Cianchette might have in the fall. If Hathaway wins the primary, people like me will start thinking David Flanagan doesn't look so bad."

Time to get a gun

Speaker of the House John Martin says a state system to provide instant background checks on gun buyers "is two years away."

— Bangor Daily News, April 17, 1990

State Public Safety Commissioner John Atwood testified before a legislative committee, saying a computerized system of criminal records would be operating "within five years."

— Maine Public Radio, Jan. 29, 1991

Lt. Col. Jeff Harmon of the Maine State Police "said a five-year, \$5 million project to make 100 percent of the state's criminal history record information available to the FBI should be completed by next summer."

— Portland Press Herald, Jan. 17, 2002, in a story about how at least 65 people with criminal records bought guns in Maine between December 1998 and June 2001

Maybe the police should get some help from the people who brought Amtrak service to Portland. It only took them 20 years.

Hot leads (but no hot lead) can be sent to this column at ishmaelia@gwi.net. Or write, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, with whatever's in your sights.

politics & other mistakes



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Bearing witness

There are many things I did not expect. I did not expect my plans to attend an out-of-state college would be foiled and that I would end up going to school in Maine. Despite my many failed attempts at flight, I did not expect I would eventually settle in Portland. I did not expect I would ever find people willing to pay me to write and that I would (eventually) eke out a living doing so. I did not expect that in the meantime, I would spend almost 15 years of my non-writing, working life in restaurants. Nor did I expect, when I was rescued from a job in the accessories department of the not-quite-yet-opened Filene's by a friend who told me she could get me a job waiting tables at the Great Lost Bear, that I would be joining a family (albeit a mildly dysfunctional, in a restaurant-sort-of-way, one) and forming friendships that would last a lifetime.

I certainly did not expect, during that time, I would receive a phone call from my brother one July afternoon informing me my father was dead. I did not expect my restaurant family to rally so. But they were there for me, with company and shoulders and, gradually, jokes. Before I was able to return to work, I would go into the Bear and just lean on the ice machine. I would stand there and lean and watch and listen and not talk. My grief made some people nervous, and they steered clear. Others forged forward. There were beers out back in the office with Dave and Chip, the Bear's owners, with whom I worked for a stint as "office manager." There was hanging around with Joyce and Mike after work. And there was the message on my machine from Norton after I returned home from that first Thanksgiving without my dad: "The firsts are always the worst. It'll get better from here. I just wanted you to know I was thinking of you."

After my dad's death, however, there was much I did expect. Once your world is booted off its axis, after what you perceive to be the most awful thing that can happen to you has, you feel prepared for almost anything... bad.

So, when, a few years later, my friend Kim received the news her father had pancreatic cancer (on the same phone in the same room as I had received my news), I was prepared. And, a number of months hence, when I met her at the airport as she returned from his funeral, I was prepared for that, too. Just as I was prepared when Jack's apartment burned, and Joyce and I went over and slogged through the wet ash with him, salvaging what we could. I was prepared when Dean and Lesley's house burned, and I slogged with them, too. And I was prepared for the death of my great Aunt Mabel, shortly before her 100th birthday.

I was prepared for the illnesses, the break-ups, the lost jobs — the small disappointments and the great griefs. I was always quick on the draw with the sympathy card, the open ear, the word of comfort. I used to like to think of myself as having a Ph.D. in grieving — hard won, never worth the cost, but prepared. Always prepared.

Nothing, however, could've prepared me for the news I received when I recently returned from a weekend in Blue Hill, spent with my best friend from high school, whose father had just died unexpectedly. I was prepared for that, but not for the news of the death of Nathaniel MacConnell, the son of one of the Bear's co-owners and one of the three teens whose lives were tragically taken in the automobile accident on Tukey's Bridge in Portland on Jan. 15. Nothing could've prepared me for the death of a friend's child.

Yet, there was one thing I did expect, and I was not wrong: The Bear family rallied for one of its own. Those three days before the funeral, the phone lines were on fire, not just among the current crew, but also those of us who had been gone for years.

Arriving alone and entering the church, I combed the backs of the mourners' heads, but the room was a blur. I stood — probably in the way — and searched and searched for a place to sit, but did not move. I then felt two fingers squeeze my wrist. It was Norton. Without thinking, I followed her to a pew. Someone sat down on the other side of me: my friend Andy, whose marriage I had performed last year. In back of me sat Pam and George. I had arrived alone and was suddenly enfolded.

After the service, there were more familiar faces: Ray and Tom and Tom and Sally and Sarah and Mike and Kathy and Bob and Terry and Joycie and Jack. And then there was Nate's family: Chip and Becky, and his brothers and sisters; his godfather, Dave, and Weslie and Mac. We stood at once together and apart on the snowy lawn and sidewalk outside the church. A family.

I did not know Nate, really. I remember him as a baby and then as a little boy. At some point, he grew up into this good-looking, tall, young man, whom I would occasionally see working at the Bear. But what I do know is that he was — and remains — a member of a larger, steadfast family that extends beyond his own immediate one.

And that's something I can expect to last forever.

With deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Nathaniel MacConnell.

outta
my way



ELIZABETH PEAVEY

"I used to like to think of myself as having a Ph.D. in grieving."

What's Going On...

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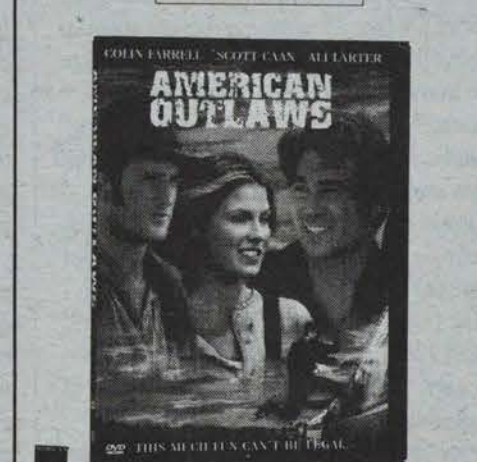
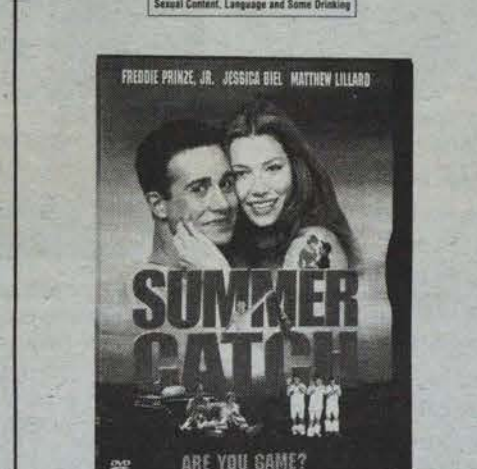
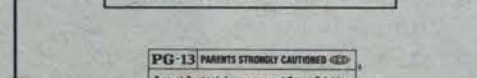
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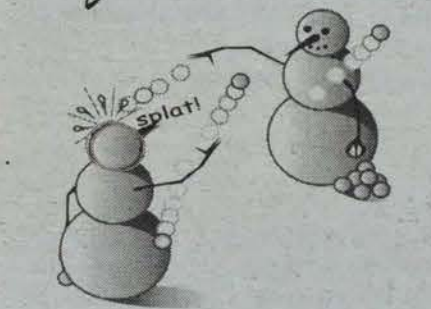
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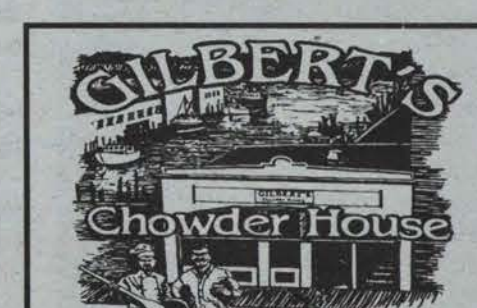
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President George W. Bush came to Portland on Jan. 25 to announce new security measures to protect the public from the threat posed by the Portland Police Department. Ha-ha. Just kidding, officer. As everyone knows, the city's cops are true professionals, who have been unfairly characterized as brutal thugs, just because of a bunch of recent abuse cases that have cost taxpayers a mere \$700,000 in settlements. And if there are a few systemic problems, they'll soon be taken care of, because on Jan. 22, Chief Mike Il Can Read The Writing On The Wall! Chitwood announced he was asking the U.S. Department of Justice to review the way his boys crack heads.

Anyway, back to Bush, who spoke in South Portland about the danger of hostile foreigners. Such as the Montreal Expos — whose owner, **Jeffrey Loria**, will soon be taking over the Florida Marlins, parent team of the Portland Sea Dogs. While Bush never specifically mentioned Loria, it was clear he was hinting at the nefarious schemes being hatched north of the border. It now appears Dave Huppert, introduced as the new Sea Dogs manager the same day Bush spoke, is not the new manager after all, because all the Marlins' brass is being canned and replaced with ex-Expos. So Eric Fox will now be managing the local Double A team, and Huppert is out on his ass.

Bush also made it clear we have to be vigilant to the point of absurdity, which explains the actions of both sides in the debate over whether Portland should accept a statue of its alleged founder, **George Cleeve**. On Jan. 23, the city's public art committee voted 5-1 not to put the larger-than-life representation of Cleeve on Maine State Pier because, according to one member, it would be too "divisive." Cleeve descendants will try to get the City Council to overturn that decision, while the local chapter of the NAACP will fight to uphold it, claiming there's evidence Cleeve owned a slave. Or was a terrorist. Or some damn thing.

Bush told Portlanders careful planning was needed to assure the country's safety. The Portland School Committee immediately decided to change its plan to put modular classrooms on Munjoy Hill to replace the mold-encrusted **Jack Elementary School**. In an effort to confuse al-Qaida members, the committee is now considering moving the displaced students to refugee camps. Or other schools, such as Adams, Reiche, Presumpscot and Clifford. That plan would save money, which the school department needs to do, since it's facing a \$4 million shortfall in the next fiscal year. Committee members will vote on the proposal on Feb. 6. But, for security reasons, don't tell anyone.

— compiled by Al Diamon from news reports, interviews and sources so secret that if we told you, we'd have to kill you

news- o-rama

CITY

Whose idea was this?

City councilors Jay Hibbard and Jim Cloutier maneuver to take credit for selling the Fore Street Parking Garage — and to control the money that sale will generate

ALLEN DAMMANN
Big bucks aren't the only thing at stake as the Portland City Council considers a plan to sell the Fore Street Parking Garage in the Old Port.

So are other things just as valuable: bragging rights and control of the proceeds from that sale.

City Councilor Jay Hibbard raised the idea of selling the 400-space facility in the spring of 2001, when he was chair of the council's community development committee. Hibbard wanted proceeds from the sale to go to the Portland Downtown Corp., to fund loans for economic development.

He brought up the idea again in a Jan. 9, 2002, memo to members of the finance committee, which he currently chairs. Hibbard told *CBW* he was planning to formally bring the motion to sell the garage before the council in February.

He didn't get the chance. Councilor Jim Cloutier, current chair of the development committee, sponsored the motion himself at the council's Jan. 23 meeting. At that session, the council approved plans to put the garage on the market.

Privately, Hibbard was said to be fuming, but publicly, he had little to say about having his idea snatched away.

Cloutier said he just wanted to get the project moving. "It was before the [development committee] all of last year," he said. "I don't dispute [they] were working on that, and that's all I have to say about it. It hadn't been taken care of by the time I became chair of that committee."

As for jumping the gun on Hibbard's plan to bring the sale idea to the council in February, Cloutier said, "If there was a reason to wait until February, I don't know what it was."

Obviously, there's more at stake here than ego. There's also lots of money. And Cloutier and Hibbard have sharp disagreements about how that money should be spent. By pushing his sales plan ahead of Hibbard's, Cloutier hopes to take control of the project and deter-



Wanna buy a parking spot in the Old Port for yourself and 399 of your closest friends? The Fore Street Parking Garage is on the market. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/TOM MAHONEY & JEFFREY CLIFFORD

mine how the proceeds are disbursed.

Built in 1979, the Fore Street parking facility was paid for with a \$1.1 million city bond and \$1.2 million from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The garage is operated by the October Corp., a division of the Portland-based Libra Foundation, which owns the Portland Public Market and numerous other properties. October also owns the land where the garage is located. Because the feds chipped in on the construction tab, any money brought in from selling the facility must be used for economic-development purposes.

At its Jan. 23 meeting, the council debated the sale of the building in executive session, effectively gagging its members from discussing how much the garage might go for on the open market. What is known is that the city's 30-year leasing privilege on the land ends in 2009, with options to renew for two, five-year periods. After that, the parking facility automatically becomes the property of the October Corp. in 2019.

Until that time, an operating agreement with October provides the city with \$129,000 a year in leasing fees, plus 30 percent of the facility's annual net income. According to budget documents from the city, the garage generates about \$180,000 a year for the city. However, \$50,000 of that

money is subtracted to help pay off a \$650,000 debt incurred in 1995 for renovations.

Mark Malone, a commercial real estate broker and city planning board member, estimated the parking facility is worth about \$15,000 per space, or a total of \$6 million. That's considerably more than the approximately \$2.5 million the city will collect in rent and revenue from the garage over the next 17 years.

Hibbard described the parking facility as a "negative cash drag," because more repairs will be needed in the near future. He said it makes financial sense for the city to cash

in its share now.

What Hibbard wants to do with the money the sale would generate is use it to fund a waterfront loan program to fix up aging piers. That program, which was strongly backed by Cloutier, is supposed to get its cash from property taxes the city has promised to return to wharf owners. In his Jan. 9 memo, Hibbard calculated that could cost the city as much as \$265,000. Rather than take on that financial burden when the city is facing a possible \$11.6 million shortfall in next year's budget, Hibbard wants to pump money from the sale of the garage into the quasi-public Portland Downtown Corp., which could make loans to waterfront businesses.

"I don't want to have to be dealing with the waterfront [loan program] every year," he said. "If there are loan needs and they come to the Portland Downtown Corp., the corporation is in a position to accommodate them without having to divert tax dollars."

But the waterfront tax break is Cloutier's project, and it's unlikely he'll let the program go without a fight. "I don't have an actual opinion on [Hibbard's proposal] at the moment," he said. "I don't think we necessarily need to do that."

Cloutier said he didn't have any "particular idea" of what to do with the money from the sale of the garage, but that there were "a lot of economic development issues before

the city: on the waterfront, in Bayside, a lot of road and infrastructure work. My guess is somewhere in that laundry list ... we'll see investment of some kind."

Negotiations to sell the parking garage could be concluded as soon as March, according to Hibbard. One likely candidate for buying the facility is the October Corp. Owen Wells, president of the Libra Foundation, said discussions had taken place about the possibility of acquiring the garage.

However, said Wells, "We don't have any signed contract."

Allen Dammann can be e-mailed at secretdgoldfish@newcity.com

WILLETTE CASE

Get out of jail free?

A court clerk found guilty of stealing money wins an unusual release from the hoosegow

Deborah Willette, a former Portland District Court clerk convicted of stealing over \$4,000 in court fees, reported to the Cumberland County Jail on Jan. 18 to serve a 40-day stint. Six days later, Willette was released after a judge granted a temporary reprieve from the sentence. But Willette's lawyer said her client didn't receive a special deal.

"I would strenuously dispute that she's getting preferential treatment," said Caroline Gardiner. "She's being treated like every other criminal defendant."

Leanne Robbin, the assistant attorney general who prosecuted Willette, said the timing of the release was unusual. In most white-collar crime cases, she said, defense lawyers immediately file a motion to keep their clients out of the slammer pending an appeal. "It's unusual to have someone report to jail; then have a request for [release] presented to the court," Robbin said.

It's not clear why Willette's original lawyer, Alexander MacNichol, didn't file the standard motion after his client was sentenced. MacNichol didn't return calls seeking comment.

According to court documents filed by Gardiner, Willette "has tried to serve the time of incarceration, but has been distraught." Gardiner couldn't be more specific about the problems Willette experienced behind bars. "I don't know if it was because people were treating her badly," she said, "or if it was just being sent to jail."

On Jan. 29, a motion for acquittal filed by Willette's lawyer was denied. "There are substantial issues of witness credibility and motive," wrote Gardiner.

Robbin said that argument is flawed. "Credibility is for the jury to decide," she said. "Twelve neutral people decided she was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. We do have significant concerns that she has never accepted responsibility for her conduct, even though records kept by the court showed she pocketed fees on more than 60 occasions."

Gardiner said she plans to appeal Willette's conviction. But in denying the motion for acquittal, Superior Court Justice Robert Crowley gave her only until Jan. 30 (after *CBW*'s deadline) to file the necessary papers. Otherwise, Willette will return to jail.

Robbin doesn't think an appeal will be successful. "This is a very tough case for a defense counsel to win," she said. "It's the paper trail that did her in. You can't cross-examine a paper trail."

CHRIS BARRY

SHERIFF'S RACE

Off to a bad start

Candidate Tom Roche can't get his petitioning — or his facts — straight

Tom Roche picked an unusual — and inappropriate — spot to collect signatures on Jan. 25. Roche, who's employed as a security guard at the Cumberland County Courthouse in Portland, is seeking the Democratic nomination for Cumberland County sheriff. Since he meets a lot of people at work every day, he decided that would be a good place to gather some names.

Trouble was, Maine courts don't allow anyone to engage in political activity on their premises.

"Whether they work for us or not, anyone doing such a thing would be inappropriate," said court administrator Ted Glessner. "It's just not allowed." Glessner said he spoke with Roche's supervisor to remind staff of that policy.

Roche admitted he collected signatures while on duty. "I wasn't politicking or anything like that," he said. "I was just asking people I know to sign ... Maybe I was wrong. But I've seen other candidates doing it."

A Roche campaign sign also briefly appeared on the wall in the court's security office. Roche said the sign was a joke, something a co-worker made on his home computer. Regardless, according to courthouse policy, such signs are not permitted.

Roche, a retired South Portland cop and former county deputy, said he has collected the 150 signatures required to challenge the incumbent, Mark Dion.

"As a taxpayer, it bothers me that he has been going to law school on an almost full-time basis," Roche said. "It doesn't appear he's watching the store. I don't think taxpayers should have to foot the bill for school."

Dion said Roche has his facts wrong. "It's not costing the county a single dime," Dion said. "A lot of cops go to school when actively employed. As sheriff, I don't miss anything that I'm supposed to do."

Roche also accused Dion of operating the jail "like a country club." He said the facility employed a full-time librarian and two cooks. "Under other sheriffs, the inmates did the work," Roche said.

According to Dion, the librarian is part time and funded through the inmates' com-

missary fund, not county money. "In essence, the inmates pay for her with the purchases they make," said Dion. "As for the cooks, he's wrong. We don't have two, we have three. Inmates still cook. If he checked, he would find that we put out nearly 600,000 meals a year. That takes staff."

Roche also accused Dion of advocating the legalization of marijuana, although the sheriff has never taken such a position. Told Dion only favored legalizing medical pot, Roche said, "I don't care what it's for. I don't think a chief or sheriff should take a stand on legalizing any drug."

Roche also criticized Dion's decision two years ago to halt the use of county deputies to provide courthouse security, a move that cost Roche, a deputy on courthouse duty at the time, his job. Dion said the courts weren't paying enough to cover the cost of the program, and his move saved the county money. Because of his decision, Dion said, the state has increased the budget for court security, and by summer, he expects his deputies will once again be providing that service.

"The issue would have never gotten to the table had we not walked," he said.

Roche also took aim at Dion's political history. Before running for office, Dion was a Republican. He then became an independent, and on Jan. 23, announced he was switching to the Democratic Party.

"I've been a loyal Democrat for 41 years," Roche said. "That's more than I can say for Mr. Dion."

Dion called his time in the GOP "a youthful indiscretion, a childish thing. Being a Democrat is exactly who I've been in terms of my politics. Anybody who looked at [my record] would say I was a progressive liberal. So I made it official."

The winner of the Democratic primary on June 11 will likely face a GOP challenger in the fall election. Bill Holmes, a captain in the sheriff's department, is reported to be running as a Republican. Holmes couldn't be reached for comment.

CHRIS BARRY

SPECIAL ELECTION

Big money

Candidates seeking to fill the state Senate vacancy in Portland could get a lot of cash to spend in a short time

Candidates seeking to fill the state Senate seat left vacant by the death of Republican Joel Abromson could receive \$17,538 in public money from the state Clean Election fund. All they have to do to qualify for the cash is collect 150 contributions of \$5 each by Feb. 7.

The candidates won't have much time to spend the money. The special election is set for March 5.

The reason for the large check to cover such a short campaign is because the Clean Election Act doesn't distinguish between regular and special elections. Even though the time frame for filling seats that become

vacant unexpectedly is usually far shorter than in a general election, the law allocates the same amount of money.

So far, former state Rep. Mike Brennan — a Democrat who was term limited out of office in 2000 and had intended to run for the Senate seat in November's regular election — has announced he's a Clean Election candidate.

Portland City Councilor Jack Dawson, a Democrat-turned independent, is also in the running. Dawson didn't return calls seeking comment, so it's not known if he'll use public financing. Chris Howard, a lawyer with Pierce Atwood, has been mentioned as a possible Republican candidate (although, according to city records, he's an independent). Attempts to reach Howard were unsuccessful.

The Green Independent Party is also trying to field a candidate for the seat, but according to Cumberland County co-chair John Eder, there's been little interest from party members. If the Greens do back a candidate, Eder said, he or she would attempt to qualify for public financing.

CHRIS BARRY

loose change

CBW's staff does not count on the groundhog to bring an end to winter. Instead, it counts the stuff below.

Number of vice presidents at L.L. Bean on Jan. 10, 2002:

according to a company spokesman interviewed by the *Forecaster*: "he couldn't release [the] information," according to the company's on-line phone directory: 22 actual number: 19 (two had been fired Jan. 4, one was demoted Jan. 10) (figures courtesy of an anonymous source)

Amount Portland is budgeted to spend in fiscal year 2002 on:

City Council: \$185,350
Parking Division: \$1,413,309
Library: \$2,524,331
Police Department: \$9,640,494
Fire Department: \$11,263,747

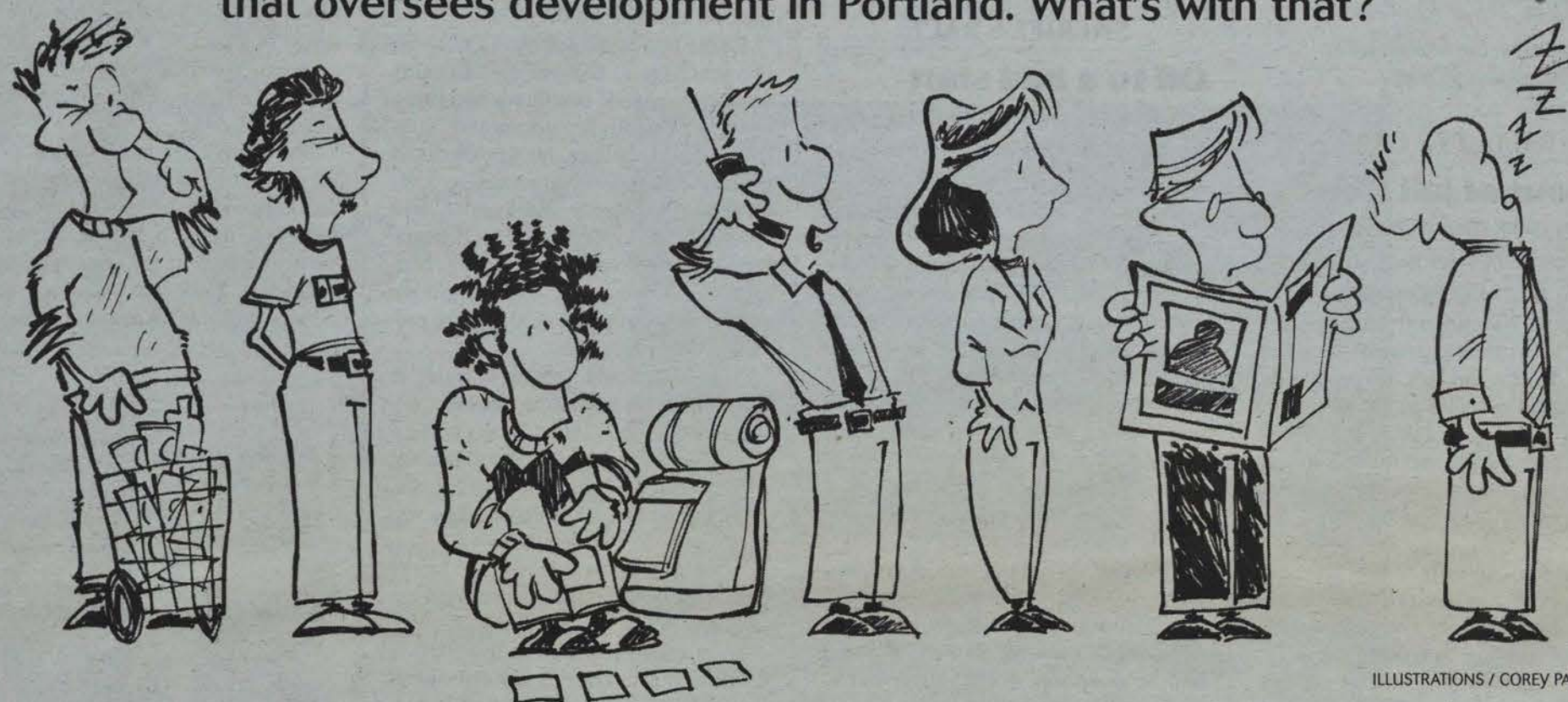
Other city spending:
conference room charts (jetport): \$1,500
stage curtains (public facilities): \$5,000
grabber bucket with adapter (sewer): \$9,000
sound system (ice arena): \$12,000
whirlpool tub (Barron Center): \$15,000

Number of days after Portland's Nov. 6 referendum on universal health care that the sign in the window of *Maine Times' Congress Street* office urging a yes vote finally came down: 66

"How does it happen there are so many people who do not understand mathematics?" asked Henri Poincaré. "If mathematics invokes only the rules of logic, such as are accepted by all normal minds; if its evidence is based on principles common to all men, and that none could deny without being mad, how does it come about that so many persons are here refractory?" Send answers to editor1@maine.rr.com or care of *CBW*, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

SUDDENLY, the PLANNING BOARD is COOL

Citizens are lining up to get a chance to serve on the committee that oversees development in Portland. What's with that?



ILLUSTRATIONS / COREY PANDOLPH

ALLEN DAMMANN

There's a new cult in Portland. And it's not those weird "Cleeves."

The members of this group pore over municipal ordinances as though they were gospel, spending long hours at the altar of public grousing and dutifully offering up their free time and sanity to the terrible God of Urban Development.

It's the cult of potential planning board members. Twenty-four people, an unusually high number, have applied to fill three vacancies on the seven-member board.

"I love this city," said Nan Sawyer, a real estate broker and one of the contenders. "I think I can bring a balanced, multifaceted look to bear on helping this city continue with controlled, sensible growth."

In the wake of last year's unsuccessful referendum to give citizens more control over neighborhood development, there's an intense amount of interest in who'll be making the decisions. The normally routine process of picking new planning board members is getting extra scrutiny, not only from the public, but also from members of the City Council's appointments committee, which is charged with recommending new members to the full council.

Terms to the planning board are three years. The longest an appointee can serve is nine years. At least one opening on the board comes up every year, but the selection process is historically biased toward reappointing incumbent members.

In February, the committee begins its task of replacing Kenneth Cole III, a lawyer, and developer Cyrus Hagge — veteran members who claim 27 years of experience on the board between them. Both are term-limited out. In addition,

Erin Rodriguez, another attorney, resigned late in 2001 to move to New York.

The loss of two lawyers doesn't necessarily mean there will be a shortage of legal expertise on the new board. Fully a quarter of the applicants are attorneys, a fact that worries some neighborhood activists, who complain the board is already ideologically lopsided in favor of business interests.

In addition, the sheer number of applicants is bound to complicate the committee's decisions.

"It's going to be a more difficult decision than usual," said Councilor Peter O'Donnell, a member of the appointments committee.

O'Donnell said he isn't surprised by the number of potential planners, given Portland's housing crisis and the unsuccessful referendum. But others were taken aback.

"I've never heard of this," said Deb Krichels, a member of the planning board. "It's unprecedented. I don't know how they're going to handle it."

Councilor Cheryl Leeman said some of the applicants may be volunteering for the wrong reason. "Perhaps they misunderstand the role of responsibility of a planning board member," Leeman said. "They don't have as much power as they think."

Councilor Nathan Smith agreed. "My impression is there are some people out there who overestimate the discretion the planning board has when it comes to reviewing developments," he said.

Charles Houghton, a retired marketer who

works part time as a tax preparer and serves on the city's parks commission, is one applicant with a clear idea of why he wants to serve.

"It's somewhat of a civic duty," Houghton said. "I'm not a lawyer and I'm not a real-estate person, so I feel I'd be objective. With the limited amount of space Portland has for development, it's something interesting to watch and give advice on."

Houghton was hardly the only applicant trying to walk a thin line between development interests and neighborhood concerns, taking care not to leave much of a footprint on either turf.

"Portland has a great balance between dynamism and preservation," said applicant William Hall, a part-time consultant for Greater Portland Landmarks who moved to Peaks Island in 1999, "an openness to change, but at the same time, we respect our heritage."

Applicant Richard Davy, owner of the packaging company WRD Associates, said he wants to get on the planning board to help make Portland "people friendly versus car friendly." Davy also wants to coordinate with surrounding communities to solve the housing crunch. One of his ideas: Commuters could travel to and from Portland via an electric, high-speed trolley.

Whatever the contenders' aspirations, Mark Malone, a current member of the planning board, sees some of that cultic masochism in their efforts. Asked why so many people would dare to join the board, Malone said, "They must be gluttons for punishment."

You need a cross section of the city of Portland, and I've often found the planning board is heavily weighted with attorneys who represent a lot of development and developers.

— William Gorham, president, Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization

A bevy of barristers

The populace of an ideal society, wrote Sir Thomas More, would "have no lawyers among them for they consider them as the sort of people whose profession it is to disguise matters."

Apparently, Portland is a long way from Utopia, because six of the 24 applicants for the planning board are attorneys.

That high number worries neighborhood activist David Haulbert, who calls it "a very serious concern." In 1999, Haulbert and others spoke out against — and eventually defeated — plans by Mercy Hospital to add a four-story office building and parking garage to its facility in the West End.

Haulbert said legal training doesn't qualify someone to oversee municipal planning. "We're talking about architectural and city planning," he said, "which is rather a distant profession from the law."

Of the four continuing board members, none is actually a lawyer, although Orlando Delogu is a law professor at the University of Maine School of Law. Malone is a commercial real-estate broker. Jaimey Caron, chair of the planning board, is a structural engineer. Krichels stepped down as executive director of the Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance on Jan. 31. (Krichels' seat on the planning board may also soon be open. Although she said she had no firm plans to move from the area, she added, "There may be a possibility I'm leaving.")

Cole said there are advantages and problems with appointing one or more attorneys to the board. On the plus side, a lawyer or two will bring legal experience to what could be a relatively inexperienced group.

"There are some advantages to [having attorneys]," he said, "basically, because the board is enforcing an ordinance, and attorneys are comfortable reading the fine print There's a danger, though, as well, which is attorneys have to be careful not to try to practice law."

Speaking of ordinances, he said, "There are always questions about what the damn thing means. The legal interpretation is not what you think it is. It's what the city attorney thinks it is. Or what the zoning administrator thinks it is, who's not even an attorney."

"There's always been a risk with having attorneys on any board," said Councilor Smith, himself an attorney and the chair of the appointments committee in 2001. "It's the perception that if someone is an attorney, their opinion may be seen to carry disproportionate weight in legal issues. The flip side is you have an attorney who advises the planning board."

William Gorham, president of the Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization, said too many lawyers make for a slanted planning board.

"You need a cross section of the city of Portland, and I've often found the planning board is heavily weighted with attorneys who represent a lot of development and developers," Gorham said.

Deb Keenan is a social worker and former spokes-



clients. I would hope people would make the effort not to do that, but it seems that happens."

Hagge argued it's useful to have lawyers on the board, because they understand real estate and land-use law. Having an attorney as a member also reduces the board's dependence on city staff to translate the legalese of a project.

Attorney Barbara Vestal, a former planning board member who hopes to regain a seat this year, disagreed. Vestal, who also has a master's degree in city and regional planning, said her desire to return to the board stems simply from an interest in urban development.

"Historically, attorneys on the board have been careful about not participating when they have any direct interest," she said. "So I don't think anybody would see it as a way to benefit their clients."

Attorney Steven Cope said he doesn't have any hidden agenda in applying to be on the planning board. "I've had a number of cases in which development issues have been part of the scope of what I've done," he said, "and it seemed like an opportunity to take on a new challenge."

Leslie Lowry III, another applicant, said, "I'm a real estate attorney, [but] I'm not sure it has any particular relevance to my interest in being on the planning board."

Leeman said the planning process makes it difficult for board members to operate in their own or their clients' interests.

"What does one gain by being on the planning board?" she said. "You review plans, but you have to operate within the regulations. There's not a lot of flexibility. A lot of people think there's flexibility to saying 'yea' or 'nay,' but there isn't. You can't bring in some crazy idea if it doesn't fit in with the zoning."

Even if all three open slots went to lawyers, Leeman isn't worried about undue influence. "With that many attorneys in the room," she said, "they'd never agree."

Take a number

When it comes to choosing who gets on the planning board, Councilor Jill Dusen, chair of the appointments committee, hopes to keep the process cootie-free.

"I don't want it to feel icky for the people who are apply-

ing," Dusen said.

Keeping the icks out of their picks may not be that easy for the committee members. The three-person group has never been charged with processing as many as 24 applications for the board. In previous years, all interested citizens, usually totaling four or five, have been individually interviewed for about 15 minutes.

To do the same thing with the latest bunch of candidates will require six hours of interrogation. Moreover, the appointments committee is also in the process of sifting through almost 50 applicants for the seven-person civilian police-review board. In spite of the work load, the committee decided at its Jan. 23 meeting to go ahead with individual interviews, which members hope to begin conducting Feb. 22.

"We just felt that everyone who has expressed an interest in serving should have the opportunity to speak to the committee and talk about what it is they do and what they're interested in and how they can contribute to the planning process," Dusen said. "We will come up with some open-ended questions for all of the applicants to get a sense of how they would try and impact the planning process, and to make sure [they have the] ability to follow what is a tightly scripted set of rules."

The number of people who have to be interviewed isn't the only departure from the past. With so many candidates to choose from, the selection process is bound to be more discriminating. Ordinarily, anyone with an interest in serving on the planning board and a credible reputation stood a healthy chance of being chosen. Now, those chances have been drastically reduced, with 21 people facing rejection.

Consequently, Dusen — who calls herself a "cheerleader for public service" — will see that each applicant receives a list of other boards and commissions in the city, along with a calendar indicating when openings on those bodies are due to come up.

"We have 24 [candidates], and I'm confident a majority of those are people with good skills and commitment to the city," she said. "I hate to see us lose the opportunity to have these folks become involved in city government."

As for ideology, it's an open question as to whether it will be considered. In the past, planning board applicants haven't been asked much about where they stand on conflicts between developers and neighborhood activists.

"The appointments committee takes it very seriously, and won't make a decision until they have enough information," Krichels said. "But it should also be said applicants to the positions aren't grilled extensively on their beliefs."

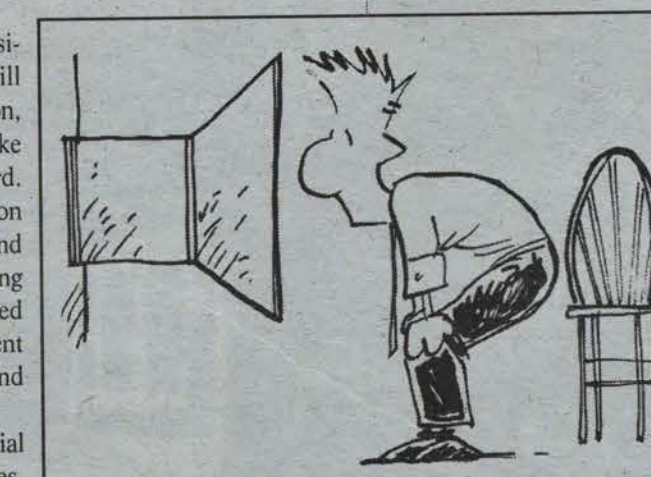
No matter how the selection process shakes out, said Malone, there's a risk to having so many inexperienced members on the board at the same time.

"Maybe we miss a condition we want to put on [because] a particular developer is known to leave a development unfinished, or has a reputation for not doing certain things," he said. "Or vice versa. Maybe [the developer has] shown they go above and beyond what they promise and we [fail to] give them the benefit of the doubt."

"To have so many with no experience," said Leeman, "it could, in some ways, slow down the process, which is a pretty cumbersome process now."

Nevertheless, the line of cult members wanting to take part in that process is longer than ever before.

Allen Dammann can be e-mailed at secretgoldfish@newcity.com.

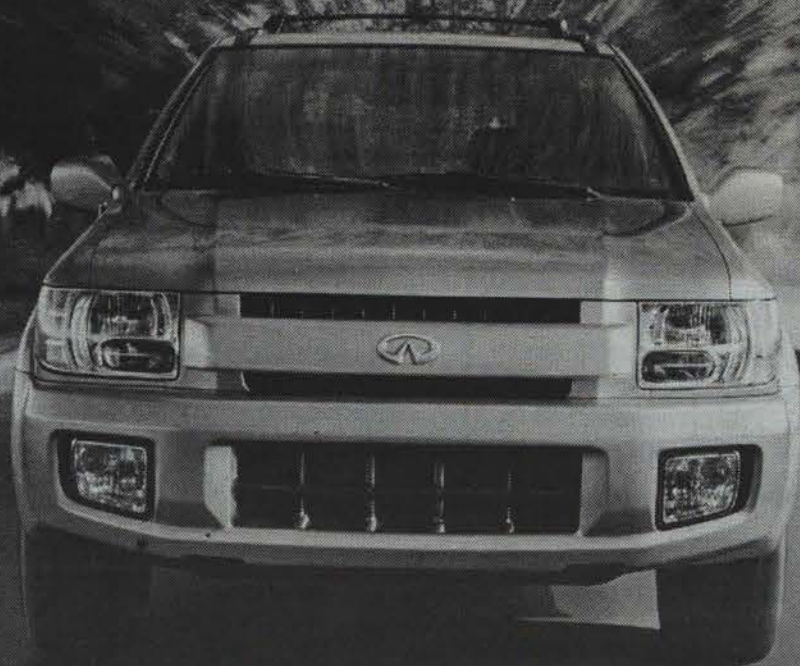


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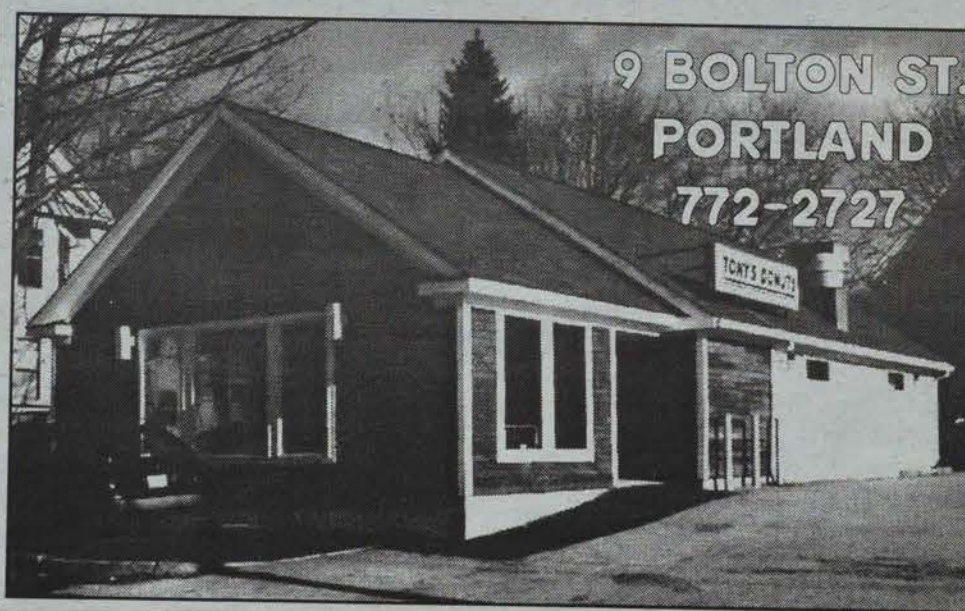


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In the spring of 2001, a group of Portland citizens formed the Campaign for a Comprehensive Plan. The activist group was concerned about the construction of a \$10 million, 70-unit apartment complex at the intersection of North and Walnut streets on Munjoy Hill. The project, they said, would block its neighbors' views, increase traffic and put a tighter squeeze on the area's parking shortage. The residents also felt left out of the city's planning process.

As a result, the group initiated a referendum that went to vote on May 1, 2001. Supporting the initiative would have led to a revamping of the planning process to include more neighborhood input. It would also have established a moratorium on development — retroactive to Oct. 16, 2000 — until such changes had been made by the city.

Changes adopted by the City Council in the weeks before the referendum helped lead to the initiative's downfall. It was defeated 5,898 to 2,814. Here's how the 2002 planning board applicants voted:

Applicant	Address	Phone numbers	Occupation	Political and/or civic experience	Voted	Why?
John Anton	8 Stratton Place	772-5187	president, Maine Housing Investment Fund	former board member of Portland West	Against	"I thought it was a flawed proposal formed by a relatively small group of people."
Kevin Beal	462 Cumberland Ave.	761-9457	attorney	member of the 1-295 Environmental Impact Assessment Committee; member of Portland Community Action	Would not disclose	Beal did say, "I thought the actual terms of the referendum were overkill."
Stuart Brown	32 Woodmont St.	775-1686	general manager of a manufacturing plant	none	Against	The referendum would have jeopardized permits already issued to developers.
Steven Cope	172 Concord St.	(not provided)	attorney	none	Against	"I was not in favor of the moratorium."
Patrick Costin	50 Gray St.	541-5083	architect	none	Against	"I think the process currently allows participation for those who are interested."
Richard Davy	418 Danforth St.	871-9285	owns packaging company	none	Didn't vote	Out of town
John Griffin	46 Congress St.	773-2373	construction safety engineer	unsuccessful City Council candidate in 2001; member of the governor's Commission on Safety and Health in the Maine Workplace	For	"I thought [the developers] took one of the best pieces of land in the city."
William Hall	317 Pleasant Ave.	766-2514	retired Air Force officer; part-time consultant for Greater Portland Landmarks	none	For	"I thought the city really needed to consider how it presented its proposals and do a better job of communicating."
Scott Hanson	24 Sheridan St.	874-0635	building renovator	member, Bayside Development Committee	Against	"I felt the motivation behind it was based in a not-in-my-backyard framework."
Margaret Hazlett	20 Willis St.	874-0689	Associate Dean of Students at Bowdoin College	none	Doesn't remember	Doesn't remember
Edward Hobler	174 Danforth St.	828-0100	landlord	member, Historic Preservation Committee	No response	No response
Charles Houghton	45 Stuart St.	878-3850	retired marketer, part-time tax preparer	member, Parks Commission	Against	"I just thought the referendum was pushed together by a few people."
John Kachmar	78 Gleckler Rd.	773-0047	professional planner	member, Portland Harbor Commission	Against	"My assessment at the time was it made sense to put affordable housing where it needed to be."
Deb Keenan	28 Dorothy St.	797-0284	social worker	none	For	Was a member of the Campaign for a Comprehensive Plan
John LeMieux	100 Sheridan St.	772-1057	investment manager	member, Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Association	No response	No response
Leslie Lowry III	60 Highland St.	772-8714	attorney	member, Zoning Board of Appeals; member, Community Development Block Grant Funds Advisory Committee	Against	"I just thought it was a bad idea."
Sarah Luck	150 Middle St.	828-5228	attorney	none	Against	Thought the system was working OK.
Victoria McCammon Murphy	5 Milk St.	871-8622	co-owner of a marketing and consulting firm	former chair of the Maine Democratic Party	Doesn't remember	Doesn't remember
Thomas Noyes	558 Allen Ave.	799-2275	vice president of an insurance company	none	Against	"I didn't think it was the best solution."
Michael Pizzo	88 Christy Rd.	797-6326	real-estate broker	none	Against	"I believed housing had to go up."
Nan Sawyer	40 Belmont St.	879-0807	real-estate broker	member, Zoning Board of Appeals; unsuccessful City Council candidate in 1995, 1998	Against	"I did not think a moratorium was appropriate."
David Silk	1187 Westbrook St.	774-9000	attorney	chair, Board of Assessment Review	Against	"Neighborhood input was very important and that was provided [by the city]."
Ken Swanberg	150 Spring St.	773-1607	high school teacher	none	No response	No response
A. Mavourneen Thompson	344 Seashore Ave., Peaks Island	780-5194	researcher at the Maine Education Policy Research Institute at the University of Southern Maine	former member, South Portland school board; former state representative; former member, Millisocket Town Council	No response	No response
Barbara Vestal	7 Fore St.	772-7426	attorney	former chair, Planning Board	Against	"I thought the actual language [of the referendum] would have created more problems than it would have solved."

COMMENT

SO
noted

The attorney conspiracy

As this week's cover story brings to light (see "Suddenly, the planning board is cool," page 10), there's a fair amount of suspicion afoot concerning the idea of lawyers serving on Portland's Planning Board. Seeing as how those who suspect lawyers of corrupting the city's planning process aren't able to offer a shred of evidence to support their suspicion, such fears appear utterly groundless.

"In the past, there were lawyers who had close ties to the development community, and that's when you start

Granted, so few citizens (journalists among them) bother to attend planning board sessions, opportunities to suss out such potential conflicts of interest are wasted. But that doesn't mean there are any.

As several city officials and planning board members pointed out, an unethical lawyer serving on the board wouldn't have much of an opportunity to carry out his or her nefarious schemes, anyway. The city ordinance governing development doesn't offer much room for interpretation. It ain't the Bible, folks.

If anything, the fact a quarter of the 24 applicants for the three open seats are lawyers is a good thing, as the planning process benefits from having people with a knack for interpreting fine details in analyzing proposals.

I can laugh at lawyer jokes as heartily as anyone, but there's nothing funny about people poisoning the already contentious atmosphere surrounding urban planning in Portland with unfounded allegations. There's much more important, constructive work to be done to ease our current housing crush.

CHRIS BUSBY

Correction

In last week's cover story, "The madness among us," the reference to Virginia Green being convicted of

murdering her mother in 1997 was incorrect. According to court documents, Green was found "not criminally responsible by reason of mental disease or mental defect" in 1996.

Welcome

With this issue, we welcome Selby Frame on board as CBW's new theater critic. An accomplished free-lance writer living in South Portland, Selby swears she's not as mean a person as her reviews may make her seem. Either way, we're glad she's with us.



ILLUSTRATION /COREY PANDOLPH

talking about an unbalanced board," said Deb Keenan, a neighborhood activist and applicant for one of three open seats on the board. Keenan, who served as spokeswoman for last year's failed citizen-initiated development referendum, asserted that some people who practice law want to get on the board "to influence the process and the decision-making to benefit their clients."

"I would hope people would make the effort not to do that, but it seems that happens," Keenan said. How? Who? When?

Answers to such questions are hard to come by, most likely because they don't exist.



Big beef hammer

I have the Jan. 17 issue (Cover story, "The times they are NOT a-changin'") in front of me as I write this letter, and I do have many gripes with your handling of my position as well as the position of my band, Big Meat Hammer, on the subject of the Afghanistan bombing and terrorism worldwide.

1. For one thing, it was me that put together the first benefit to donate money to the Red Cross for disaster relief. Your paper never bothered to mention that when the event occurred, nor did you care to say this in your article. BMH raised \$160, and it isn't much, I know, but we did do the first response in this city to help others out. Is that what you call APATHY?

2. You imply that I might be afraid to speak my mind. I don't think so! I am not afraid of anything. I have faced a large federal prison sentence. I grew up on the streets of New York City and Boston. I am not scared of violence. I am ready for death and have faced my "maker" on more than one occasion. I am not in any way scared of the police, FBI, government or any human out there. Nor am my fellow bandmates.

3. You talk of "conformity." BMH and I are not conforming to society in any way. We still sing our sick, little, twisted, punk tunes, and we are older men. We are not selling out to mainstream, corporate-rock hell or selling out to the mainstream way of life. How wrong you are!

You imply that I am stupid and call me a "big meat head." Your paper twisted the words I spoke and my band's words as well. I never said I wanted innocent Afghans to be killed, bombed or hurt in any way. I am of the firm belief that terrorists need to be rooted out and killed, that terrorist organizations need to be taken out, not innocent people.

My father was in four concentration camps and 90 percent of my father's family was butchered by the Nazis. What if back then, the world had taken Hitler and his evil regime out before he had the chance to wage the terrible war he did. Tens of millions of Jews and non-Jews would be alive today.

The world might be a better place if people of all nationalities could get together and take out these terrorists before they get the chance to become some kind of Hitler. I do indeed support the U.S. government in taking out bin Laden and crew. These are evil fanatics, who deserve to be taken out. They made the moves, not us. They brought it on themselves by killing innocent, unarmed civilians in horrible acts of terrorism.

We did what had to be done in order to:

a. save as many of our countrymen's lives fighting over there.

b. destroy the terrorist organization as quick as possible,

c. bring to world justice the terrorists.

None of us wants to see any innocent people hurt. We are not uncaring men! But we, the USA, had to respond with deadly force. No choice was truly given. The terrorists only understand strength, and they won't care about talk.

Years ago, I was drafted for service in Vietnam, and you know something, I did not burn my draft card. I am proud to be an American. I may not like this government, but at least I can speak out against it and not worry about going to a jail. I can write any songs I want, or do any videos I want in the USA.

And yes, thank you USA military. Because of you back in WW2, my father lived, I was born, and I do have a few relatives that survived Nazi Germany.

Jordan Kratz
Portland

More laughs

Your cover story should have been titled "Whiny Paranoid Left Wing Musicians Lament Their Increasing Irrelevance."

I know that being pathologically contrarian is an inherent trait for most of these people, but it's a shame that some folks just can't bring themselves to admit that every once in a while — say, once a century — the "government" and 80-plus percent of the citizens of this nation might just happen to be on the same page. It's not "mindless flag-waving" or a government conspiracy to jail or fire dissenters (a popular fantasy of the habitually marginal) that has silenced the righteous. The subjects of this article are silent and largely ignored because at this point in time, they are even more laughable than usual.

T. C. Stentz
Portland

Facing arrest?

As a former punk himself, I expected Tom Mahoney to not only be supportive of the Portland scene, but to understand it. Clearly he is unaware of the political punks in the area, since he thinks Big Meat Hammer is the epitome of punk in Portland. The bands out there who are being

political are the young punks who play the hardcore shows like the ones out at the Unity Church. Go to one of those shows, if you can drag yourself away from Geno's, and listen to the protesting of the bombing in Afghanistan. But more importantly, try and see that the word Afghanistan doesn't have to be used in a song in order to be protesting the bombing.

Protesting the system that makes people hate this country (no, not freedom, but exploitation) goes to the root of the problem. We probably can't make G.W. stop the bombing. But inch by inch, we can tear down the system that put him in charge of the bombs.

Next, Mahoney neglects to mention the fact the acoustic show he went to at the St. Lawrence was focusing on political prisoners. Tables were set up with information about various political prisoners, as well as radical zines like *Blackstar North* and the *Rag*, plus political groups like People Against Corporate Tyranny, who are organizing a trip to protest the World Economic Forum, which helps promote war based on oil, among other travesties. About 80 people came to watch an introductory video, then stuck around to listen to some highly political music. "Dancing on the Ruins of Multi-National Corporations" is a very catchy song. Busby, but you wouldn't know that since you weren't there! Punk and folk music often use humor to get a point across.

Finally, several of my friends were interviewed for the story and were quoted out of context and made to look stupid. For instance, my friend and *Rag* staffer, who writes under the name Tashuunka, was quoted about possible fears musicians have about being grouped with terrorists. But Mahoney said she was wrong, that musicians couldn't be jailed for voicing their opinions. First, she said they could be considered terrorists, not that they would be jailed. Secondly, do your homework. There is a new law. It's called the USA Patriot Act. It defines domestic terrorism as activities that "appear to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion." Still, there are musicians out there trying to coerce people, and they would like their anonymity protected.

Tom Mahoney: Improve your journalism skills, or stick to writing the listings.

Busby: Try supporting revolutionaries, instead of insulting them.

Tasha Bauer
Portland

"Us" vs. "them"

When I saw your article on mental illness (Cover story, "The madness among us," 1.24.02), I saw words like "crazy," "cuckoo" and "madness," and I was ready to condemn your article entirely. But you actually did a good job conveying and reporting on what is a major problem in our society: stigma. Stigma is defined in Webster's as, "any mark of infamy or disgrace; blemish." What I am describing is the judgment of others (often born of fear), and an inability to honor diversity.

There's somehow this "us" and "them" mentality when labels are applied to people. Funny, we say someone has cancer, but someone is manic-depressive. People need to be made aware of several points. EVERYONE has some degree of "mental illness." It's also insidious. A more severe form of mental illness can strike anyone at any time. It does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race or degree of affluence, just like other illnesses. We don't negatively stigmatize someone with cancer. We support them. Those having mental illness, on the other hand, are often discriminated against and treated like second-class citizens. Mental health should be as much a priority to all of us as cancer, heart disease and any other illness.

I agree with the providers who say there are not enough community services. I knew several people who went to Augusta to fight proposed cuts to fund many programs that serve those with mental illness and substance abuse issues. There will be upcoming elections, and people should begin to think about priorities. Because mental illness is not about "them," it's about "us." — all of us, we need to support those candidates who consider funding for community programs for a mentally healthier world a priority.

Brenda Miller
Portland

It wasn't funny

I am writing regarding the Blackstone's review (Portland Prowler, "A straight guy's guide to Blackstone's," 1.3.02). I have suspended my advertising with CBW until this gets cleared up. I am surprised that there hasn't been some statement on behalf of the paper where they stand on the writing. I find it curious that a comic strip (which one would assume by the word "comic" is funny, satirical or humorous) is removed from the paper with an apology for depicting women in a derogatory way, but a column full of stereotypes that is offensive to another minority group doesn't warrant some type of acknowledgment that it was an inappropriate attempt at humor and offensive. Instead, the columnist, who happens to be the editor, throws in another stereotype and tells those of us who are offended that we just don't get his humor.

Homophobia, as well as prejudice, seems to be justified by using humor. Some people think because they are part of the minority group that they aren't homophobic. I have an uncle who doesn't think he is prejudiced because he "has a lot of friends who are niggers." Just because you have a gay roommate who has orgies in your living room doesn't mean you aren't a homophobe. And quite frankly, I don't care if Chris Busby is or isn't.

What I care about is that a paper I advertise with uses its venue responsibly to educate, inform and enhance the lives of those who read it. We can't all agree on what is right or wrong, but we must take responsibility for our words and be accountable for them. Telling me that I just didn't get it, and I need to get a sense of humor isn't being accountable for poor taste in humor. I am disappointed in the way this is being handled.

Brenda Broder
owner, Amore Styles
Portland

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. Send to Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail: editor@maine.cw.com

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LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Or maybe it was funny

It is too bad, Chris, that you were so uptight and ever-so-slightly anal retentive during your foray into Blackstone's in search of fodder for your comic creativity — as it really is a pretty funny place — good for lots of laughs — if you can kinda go with the flow.

I mean, where else can you see big, hairy, mountain men in tutus doing the minuet? And when they freeze the floors for Sonya Heini Invitational Iced-Dancing Pairs — well, it's to split a gut! And, Sunday High Tea — which makes the Ritz-Carlton version look like coffee at Denny's! Oh, my! To laugh 'til you just wanna die!

And it really is too bad, Chris, that in your intense desire to create humor — satire, even — you missed the chance to experience one of Blackstone's occasional, unpredictable, spontaneous, sex ORGIES — where even timid and reluctant "straights" are swept up in the Bacchanalian frenzy — plumbing depths of — feelings — and reaching heights of ecstasy not usually permitted mere mortal men!

Clears your clock right out!

Oh, yes, Chris — you missed it! The sheer Dionysian humor of a Night At Bald Blackstone's — when the fun is flowin' like, well, like — semen.

Maybe you need to come again.

Alexander Wallace
Portland

No joke

Kudos to Allen Dammann for his story on Karen Geraghty's inauguration party (City, "Invitation-only party," 1.24.02). The sheer arrogance of these people never ceases to amaze me.

For one thing, the mayor of this city is a ceremonial part at best. It's based on the theory, "Hey, you be mayor this year, and I'll be mayor next year, OK!?"

Second, the mayor is not picked with any voter input at all. The job is a joke. The only power mayors seem to have is throwing themselves \$5,000 parties.

Mayor Geraghty, I would say that if you have five grand to spend, let me bring you a couple of families from the Preble Street Resource Center. Those guys will show you where five grand should go.

It is supposed to be "public service," not "self service."

Steve Harris
Portland

BEST OF PORTLAND 2002!

Welcome to the new, improved Best of Portland ballot. In response to voting irregularities in the past, this year, any illegible nomination will be considered a vote for George W. Bush. Categories left blank will be considered votes for Ethan Strimling and every 17th vote for School Committee member "Zen" Ben Meiklejohn will be given to ex-school board member Jeffrey Peters.

Please limit your nominations to people and places in our distribution area (Brunswick to Windham to Old Orchard Beach, depending which way the wind is blowing).

Particularly pithy "Reader's choice" entries may appear in print when our "Best of Portland" issue comes out March 14.

Photocopied ballots will be considered as valid as hanging chads — that is, utterly invalid — so use an original. One ballot per human.

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

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Casco Bay Weekly
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Portland, ME 04101

The deadline for entries is Monday, Feb. 11 at 5 p.m.

Best local people

Best person
Best TV personality
Best weather forecaster
Best actor
Best writer (Stephen King and CBW staff not eligible)
Best photographer (CBW staff not eligible)
Best artist

Best waiter (include restaurant)
Best chef (include restaurant)
Best radio DJ
Best bartender (include restaurant or bar)
Local politician you trust most
Local politician you trust least
Best street personality

Best food and drink

Best breakfast joint
Best lunch
Best dinner for cheap
Best dinner if money's no object
Best ethnic restaurant
Best brunch
Best coffee spot
Best sidewalk food cart
Best soup
Best restaurant
Best new restaurant
Best ice cream

Best bakery
Best desserts
Best Maine microbrewery
Best produce
Best pizza
Best burger
Best Italian sandwich
Best fried clams
Best lobster roll
Best vegetarian food
Best sushi
Best BBQ

Best entertainment

Best gay bar
Best bar
Best neighborhood bar
Best beer bar
Best martini bar
Best dive bar
Best pickup bar
Best jukebox

Best local band
Best club DJ
Best local solo music artist
Best local CD
Best place to hear live music
Best radio station
Best theatrical production
Best place to play pool

Best place to dance
Best bookstore
Best art gallery
Best CD store
Best movie theater
Best video store
Best ski/snowboard area
Best weirdness

Best services

Best clothing store
Best shoe store
Best bicycle shop
Best laundromat
Best secondhand store
Best fishmonger
Best butcher
Best jeweler

Best place to get a haircut
Best place for tattoos and piercings
Best health club
Best electronics store
Best corner store
Best florist
Best day care
Most honest garage

Best Internet service provider
Best local Web site
Best action by local or state government
Worst action by local or state government
Most effective citizen group
Least effective citizen group

Best places

Best beach
Best park
Most run-down park
Best place to walk a dog
Best public bathrooms
Best neighborhood
Most dangerous intersection for pedestrians

Name:

City/town:

Daytime phone number
(in case we have questions):

Reader's choice

Did you think of something we overlooked? Here's your chance to create your own categories and answers. CBW's editors will choose the best of them.

**Casco Bay
Weekly**

New namu. Phillip Morris NaPier, a 50-something Windham resident and independent candidate for governor, has apparently decided he needs a flashier name. So NaPier has filed papers in Cumberland County's Registry of Probate to change his moniker to — ta-dahl — **Phillip Morris NaPier: The People's Hero.**

That's not a typo. NaPier spells it "Thu" on his application, his campaign literature and his pickup truck covered with posters. Don't ask us why. If you want to know, ask him next time you spot him trolling around town, blasting away through his P.A. system. Just walk right up to him and say, "Excuse me, Mr. NaPier, er, I mean, Mr. Thu People's Hero, that is, uh, look, Phil, what's with the dopey spelling?"

► Pulling something. In its "On the Move" column in the business section of the Jan. 27 *Maine Sunday Telegram*, there was a brief item: "Barbara Noyes Pulling" has been promoted to senior producer and project manager of the series "Quest: Investigating the World" at Maine Public Broadcasting, Lewiston. Noyes Pulling, who joined PBS in 1994, is a 20-year broadcasting veteran.

Odd mistake. According to the *Telegram's* sister paper, the *Portland Press Herald* of Dec. 2, 1997, Noyes Pulling "has been named producer for Channel 8 News at Six. Pulling was most recently news producer at WGME-TV."

Of course, if you really want to find out when Noyes Pulling went to public broadcasting, you could ask *Press Herald* and *Telegram* editor Jeannine Guttman, with whom Noyes Pulling underwent a civil union in Vermont in 2000.

► Jazzercise: Look out, hepcats, the jazz scene in Portland is gonna be real, real, gone, man. But the bummer is that it's just gonna last a single month.

April is gonna be known as "AprilFest," when all the biggies come to the sticks to play some licks. Paul Lichter, who owned the far-gone but not forgotten Cafe No, is bringing swinging stars like tuba virtuoso Howard Johnson and Miles Davis' ex-sax sideman David Liebman to this sleepy burg.

You can catch them jammin' at the Skinny, the Center for Cultural Exchange and Starbird Music's recital hall. Stay tuned for dates and times.

► Calculating out. *House of India*, a clothing and gift boutique located at 399 Fore St., in Portland, is closing its doors March 31 after 27 years in business, which has to be some kind of Old Port record. Owner Mary Chulani blamed high rent for the decision.

"About three weeks ago, I got a letter from the landlord I.H.H. Sawyer Realty saying they would not renew the lease, and I had to vacate," said Chulani. "The next day, I got another letter saying that I could be a tenant-at-will. I decided to close down. I've lost my interest."

Chulani, who's been in the Old Port since 1975, said the area is becoming too upscale and is no longer a family-friendly place.

► Martinized. Seen on a motel sign on Route 1 in Scarborough just before Jan. 21: "I have a dream. It's King-sized."

— Items by Allen Dammann, Chris Barry and Tom Mahoney

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

Martians on Madison Street

A Portland musician puts his tales of alien abduction to music

by ALLEN DAMMANN

A house key inexplicably bent in half. A foggy memory of dwarfish, spindly creatures performing experiments.

A mole-like protrusion on his shoulder blade that mysteriously vanished with as little pomp and circumstance as it arrived.

Portland musician Pete Lund regards all these phenomena as proof that aliens twice whisked him from his home on Madison Street over a three-month period.

"It's just traumatic to find out you've been abducted," said the 42-year-old Lund, who's given to hysterical cackling when recounting his brushes with extraterrestrials. "Plus, there's a lot of disbelief and denial and rationalizing that goes on."

Is Lund's story true, cause for saucerites to hope Martians have chosen the Forest City to harvest human DNA and skin samples? Or is it only a comic-book yarn invented to help the musician sell copies of his new CD, "Spaceships to the Rescue"?

You decide.

The first abduction, according to Lund, occurred sometime during the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 9, 2001. He awoke that morning to discover a tiny, "flat mole" on his left shoulder blade that "felt like it had been dried, almost like it was cauterized." Roughly the diameter of a pencil eraser, the newly acquired blemish was sensitive to the touch. It began bleeding the moment Lund examined it with his fingertip.

A doctor told him the pock was a garden-variety scar, but Lund wasn't buying it.

"If I'd gotten a scar like that overnight, there would've been blood on my shirt and it would have caused quite a bit of pain," he said. "It wasn't a surface abrasion. It was kind of deep."

The blotch disappeared a couple of weeks later. Lund claims a dermatologist friend concluded it had been subjected to "some kind of accelerated healing." His curiosity aroused, the musician visited a hypnotherapist, who obligingly helped him dredge up a repressed memory of that February night.

"I recovered a typical abduction sce-



Alien out-patient: Pete Lund. PHOTO / COLIN MALAKE

nario," Lund said. "The scene was me, totally floppy, between two short, grayish figures. I was close to unconscious. I didn't have any control over my body. I believe it was some kind of medical examination."

He decided the unwelcome scar on his shoulder was the product of an incision made to obtain blood and DNA samples. What plans the aliens had in mind for Lund's genetic material, he doesn't know. The hypnotherapist was apparently unable to extract that crucial information from his subconscious.

"I didn't get details of exactly what was going on," Lund said.

His second, and latest, encounter happened on the night of April 2. Lund was sleeping in his attic to escape the fumes of a newly obtained, but odorous, carpet in his bedroom. At some point during the night, he awoke to discover a "little gray alien" peering at him, mole-style, through his attic's entry hatch. The intruder politely

asked Lund — telepathically, of course — if he'd like to go for a stroll.

Lund obliged.

"I put my hand in his hand, and the next scene I got, I was outside in the air, about 30 feet, as if I'd been teleported through my roof to just outside my house. I was looking down at the walkway beside my house."

Lund and his E.T. companion weren't alone. Nearby was a "van-sized vehicle hovering in the air," he said.

Lund recalls nothing else of his sophomore abduction, except for briefly standing outside of his house, angrily trying to insert a key into the door. The next morning, safe and sound back inside his home, he discovered the key had been bent nearly in half. Lund thinks he purposefully warped it in order to provide a "book-mark" of the experience.

Lund has a logical explanation as to why he was visited by the pixie-like life forms.

"A few days before, my friend was in love with someone who was a Satan worshipper and had become possessed," Lund said. Lund did what any good friend would do — he agreed to perform an exorcism. "There may be a connection. Some people feel alien abductions are demonic in nature, and some feel extraterrestrials themselves are demons."

Not one to let a supernatural encounter go to waste, Lund translated his alien encounters into the songs on his recently released "Spaceships to the Rescue" CD, mostly a string of follow-the-bouncing-ball-style compositions that produce the same uncomfortable feeling as children's music.

The album's third track, "Song of Ashtar," was inspired by a cryptic mantra that spontaneously emerged from Lund's psyche late one night: "Ashtar, Ashtar, neither masculine nor feminine."

Ashtar, Lund later discovered, is the name of an alien who some claim has been in contact with Earthlings since the 1950s, occasionally giving orders to human "Commanders" and "Light Workers." (Investigate it for yourself at www.theashtarcommand.com.)

The gender of the supreme leader may be

unknown, but illustrations of it resemble a glam-band castoff with a tea saucer mounted squarely on its brow.

What's more, Lund's lyrics suggest Ashtar has been spending an unhealthy amount of time reading the works of Robert Fulghum.

"Share the food and money/with everybody on the Earth/There'll be no more poor and hungry/no unwanted births."

The title track on "Spaceships to the Rescue" is a doo-wop number Lund wrote following a dream "about this guy being filled with UFOs, immensely huge UFOs, and the scene all around was one of destruction. The song 'Spaceships to the Rescue' was a way of interpreting that dream."

Hence, we get a vision of marauding space saucers that are actually here to save us "just before we're gonna burn."

All the same, Lund warns in the song, "Don't stop to see if your friends are coming/You may be the only one who's up and running."

Since his Martian encounters last year, Lund has come to terms with the fact most of his friends are skeptical of his abduction tales.

"They basically accept me for who I am, but really don't have anything to say," Lund said. "What are they going to say: 'Be careful, don't get abducted again.'"

Allen Dammann can be e-mailed at secretgoldfish@newcity.com.

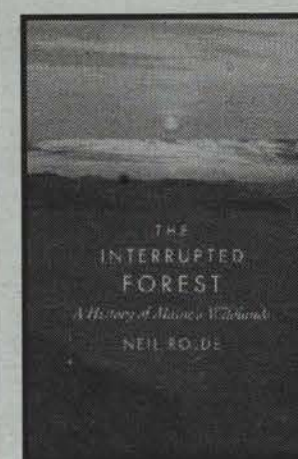
"Spaceships to the Rescue" can be found in Portland at Bull Moose Music, 151 Middle St., and Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way. Or go on-line at www.thefoxtore.com.

GLACIERS AND GENTRY

More history than you thought

In "The Interrupted Forest: A History of Maine's Wildlands," Maine historian and former state legislator Neil Rolde leads the reader on a meandering journey down the river of time with more historical tributes and anecdotal eddies than the mighty Penobscot River itself.

Drawing on his own experiences in Maine's North Woods and an exhaustive bibliography of source material, Rolde attempts to put the current debate over the forest's fate — a debate involving such issues as clear-cutting, recreational access and the proposal to turn the area into a national park — in a historical context.



It's an audacious task that Rolde tackles with narrative skill, though the abundance of topics he feels compelled to cover compromise the focus and flow of this 372-page book.

"The Interrupted Forest" begins with three chapters recapping recent environmental controversies in the North Woods. Rolde remains objective throughout the retelling, observing the arguments of "Tree-huggers" and "Property rightists" from a detached, journalistic perspective.

After that, Rolde's historical narrative takes a precipitous drop into geologic time. The reader goes, in short order, from a discussion of the collision between big paper companies and high-profile environmental organizations during the 1997 vote on the Compact for Maine's Forests to the collision of continents 500 million years ago. Given his predilection to touch on every subject with even a tenuous influence on the North Woods, one suspects Rolde crossed out the line, "In the beginning, there was infinite darkness..." with no small measure of rue.

From the migration of ancient natives across the Bering Strait (and competing paleo-anthropological theories to the contrary), Rolde delves into the history and culture of Maine tribes, before heading over to Europe to discuss the geopolitics underpinning the age of exploration in the 16th century.

Much of the history Rolde retells in the book's middle 15 chapters is interesting in its own right — he delivers a comprehensive account of major events with admirable parity and peppers it with some colorful characters — but by the time he clambers back into recent history, connections to present circumstances are difficult to make. For example, it's hard to imagine an advocate for the proposed Maine Woods National Park bringing up the peace treaty the English and French signed at Utrecht in 1713 to make a point — though, with the learned and loquacious Green pol Jonathan Carter still on the scene, anything's possible.

Rolde's book makes the point that Maine's North Woods have always been at the mercy of global forces — from plate tectonics to international capitalism — and prey to businessmen with politicians in their pockets who seek to manipulate the wilderness to their own ends. That situation's not likely to change until the glaciers begin inching back into Arrostook County.

Meanwhile, there's plenty of time to read "The Interrupted Forest" and ponder how the whole mess began.

CHRIS BUSBY

"The Interrupted Forest," by Neil Rolde, is available in local bookstores.

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HELL yeah! JOE S. HARRINGTON

Blues and blasphemy

In keeping with the duality implied by its name, Devil Gods represents both the dark spirit of the blues and an almost evangelical mission to spread it to the masses. The Boston-based band creates a weird, spaced-out realm that's equal parts free-form music and good old rock 'n' roll.

The last time I saw the group was at the Free Street Taverna in Portland last October. The Gods played its own set, then backed counterculture hero John Sinclair during his spoken-word performance.

That gig was more about evoking far-flung psychedelic madness than delivering a polite reading. Guitarist Ted Drozdowski played while rolling around on the floor, as if possessed. The band emitted raunchy waves of over-amped noise that filled the small club to the rafters. Onlookers walking by on their way to the Old Port's dance clubs stood outside the window and gaped, confused, as if saying to themselves, "So this is live music?"

Devil Gods are trying to make Portland a home-away-from-home by nailing down a residency at the Free Street. On Feb. 2, the group will present its twisted vision of the blues to Portland fans once again.

Explaining his penchant for raw showmanship, Drozdowski said, "When I just started hitting rock clubs as a kid, I was really into seeing guitar players who would do things like play guitar behind their heads or jump off the stage and play in the crowd, and who weren't afraid of just letting it fly."

"Later on, when I started investigating blues, I started seeing Buddy Guy, who hung off the balcony railing by his knees while he wailed," Drozdowski continued. "I found that kind of performing — the desire to entertain the hell out of people — came out of the blues tradition, with guys like Guitar Slim dying their hair pink and wearing fire-plug red suits."

Devil Gods are apt to pull such shenanigans, as well. On the sleeve of its only album, 1999's "Sick Little Monkey," band members are pictured in demon masks digging into a meaty skull with plastic cutlery. Drozdowski compared this comical approach with the dour days he spent playing with Boston alt-rock favorites Vision Thing. "In the alt-rock world, it wasn't cool to be too flamboyant on stage," he said. "Remember, shoe-gazing was part of the trip. And everybody had to wear black and dress and act the same on stage. I realized after living through that that none of that stuff has anything to do with rock 'n' roll."

Drozdowski formed Devil Gods in 1998 to uphold his vision of raunchy abandon. Like any venerable blues institution, the band has gone through several personnel realignments, but the current lineup consists of Drozdowski and Mark Sullivan on guitars, Rob Hulsman on drums and Bob Thayer on bass.

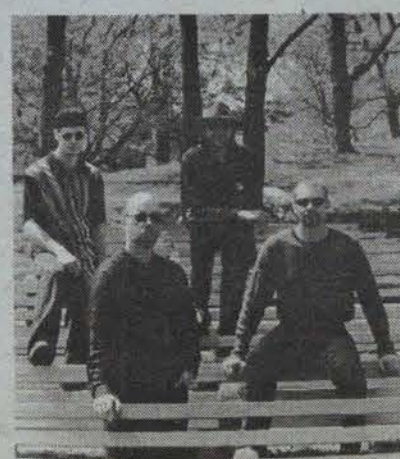
"I see us as defenders of the faith," Drozdowski said. "There's something beautiful about spending your own sweat to put on a show for people, and to getting out on the stage and knowing that there will be stuff happening at various points of the night that will be completely unplanned — solos, mistakes, improvisations. Even though we play songs, I think Mark and I see ourselves as rock-based guitar improvisers at heart. And as you can tell from the sprawl of the music, we don't care about fitting into a neat little marketing box. [We] claim the right to take the music any damn place we please."

Spoken like a true bluesman. Drozdowski's blues and rock roots go deeper than most due to his long-standing stint as a music critic. He's been writing for the Phoenix newspaper chain for several years, in addition to contributing to a variety of prestigious publications too numerous to mention.

"It took about 75 gigs before I could squeeze the rock critic out of my brain," Drozdowski said. "I'd be playing on stage and critiquing my performance as I went. It was terrible and undermined everything about playing rock."

Drozdowski seems to have overcome that hang-up. After all, it's hard to wax scholarly when you're rolling around on the floor.

Devil Gods play Saturday, Feb. 2 at Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, at 10 p.m. Tix: \$5 (21+), 774-1114.



Sick little monkeys: Devil Gods descend — ascend? — to Portland on Feb. 2.

portland PROWLER CHRIS BUSBY

The new New Order order

Forget about such obvious threats to our quality of life as terrorism, global capitalism, environmental degradation and nuclear annihilation — a far more insidious foe is on the loose, a force collectively known as '80s music.

Worried about the New World Order? You'd be best to keep your eye on synth-popsters New Order, instead. Never mind terrorist cells when Soft Cell continues to contaminate our airwaves with their "Tainted Love." And if you're wondering just who Frankie is and why he's gone to Hollywood, I am, too. I refuse to "relax" while such obscure threats fester. "Everybody Wants to Rule the World," indeed! There's a reason Prince named his '80s band the Revolution, you know.

"As far as I'm concerned, the '80s revolution's here," said Ron Raymond. Raymond's been co-hosting "Stuck in the '80s" — a show on the University of Southern Maine's community radio station, WMPG — with his wife, Kim, on Sunday nights since 1996. After the show, the couple have recently been spinning everything from ABC to UB40 at una, the classy martini bar on Fore Street in Portland. Their next occupation will take place Feb. 17.

I went on a covert reconnaissance mission there on a recent Sunday, and I'm sorry to report the situation is worse than Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge could ever imagine. There was a decent crowd of hip 20- and 30-somethings assembled that night — people who survived the initial onslaught of synth-based sonic terrorism during the reign of Reagan and George I.

Despite having presumably been inoculated against such innocuous fodder years ago, these modern Americans seemed to enjoy the music Ron Raymond was playing. I won't name names, but several of them actually wiggled their bodies in enjoyment, and one requested "99 Red Balloons" by the mysterious Nena. Raymond later confided to me that he prefers the German version of the song, but he irresponsibly played it in English, anyway.

My fellow citizens, surely our culture has progressed beyond the schmaltzy, soul-less sounds and stilted lyrics of such shadowy '80s outfits as the Human League and General Public. But believe it or not, some people still give a hoot about the Hooters. People like Ron Raymond.

"It's about a time in my life that was quite fun," Raymond said of his interest in '80s music. "I remember a lot about my high school years, the music in the John Hughes films and all of it."

These days, '80s music is an object of scorn in enlightened circles, but Raymond said that's "nothing out of the norm. Eighties music has been getting a bad rap since the '80s. In my mind, that doesn't apply to most of the '80s music out there."

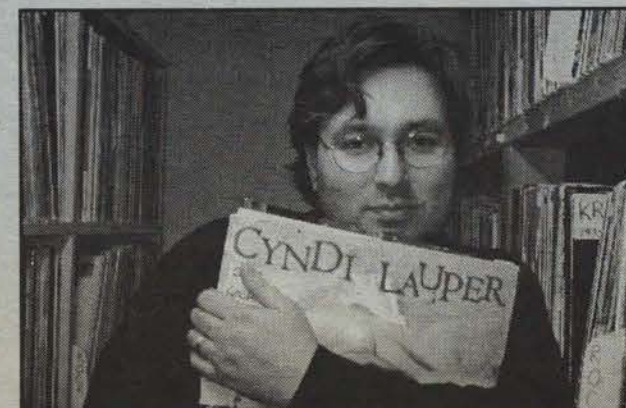
Granted, groups such as R.E.M., the Replacements and Camper Van Beethoven made great music during the decade, but they were still relatively underground at the time, repressed by a pop-music machine that foisted such fodder as Haircut One Hundred and Kajagoogoo on the masses with impunity.

The Raymonds, with a little help from a cadre of like-minded conspirators, recently compiled a list of "The 100 Best Songs of the '80s," which they presented on their radio show. Quality acts such as the Clash, Jane's Addiction and Marvin Gaye made the cut, but such standouts are few and far between goofy groups like Men Without Hats and Tears for Fears.

Thankfully, "Stuck in the '80s" is thus far the only locally produced '80s music program on the dial. More troubling, however, are indications '80s bands are making a comeback. A second assault is currently being mounted by such groups as New Order, the Human League and Depeche Mode, all of whom have released albums of new material in the last year or so.

What terror will result when A Flock of Seagulls returns and starts pecking their synth-pop sounds into the public's cars again? I shudder to think.

And so, my fellow red-blooded Americans, should you. CBW



A self-proclaimed Lauperite: Ron Raymond. PHOTO/COURTESY JIM RAND

Big Sounds in Local Music

Big Sound Studio's new owner Cheryl Hoyt, former Emmy nominee and MBA first place award winner stands at the sound control board in her studio with renowned producer Beau Hill, who has worked with various artists, including Alice Cooper, Dokken and Ratt among many others.

Recently local artists Jeremiah Freed, produced by Hill, recorded at Big Sound and were signed by Universal Records, one of the five largest record labels in the world.

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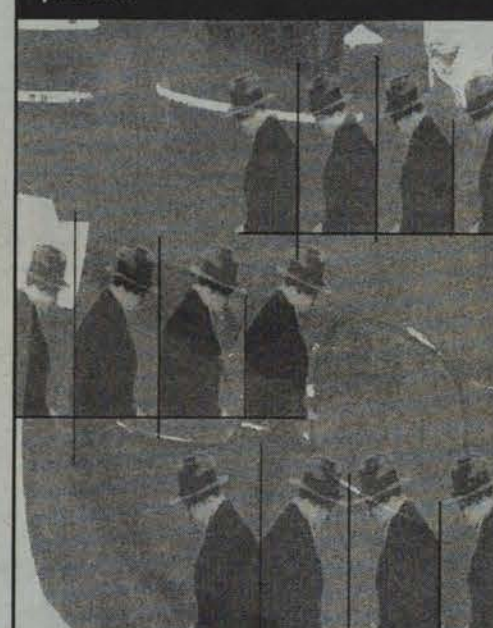
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Classical gem: Olav Chris Henriksen (left) and Bruce Fithian perform at Corthell Concert Hall on Feb. 1.

friday, february 1

BRUCE FITHIAN AND OLAV CHRIS HENRIKSEN

Ask the casual music fan, "Who's your favorite lutenist?" and expect a look of confusion. Ask University of Southern Maine faculty member and lutenist Olav Chris Henriksen, and expect 17th-century composer Francis Pilkington to get a name drop. Henriksen, with fellow professor and tenor Bruce Fithian, recorded a CD of Pilkington's lute compositions and madrigals, and now they'll perform it live. Fithian continues the second half of the concert accompanied by pianist Judith Hunt Quimby. The duo perform Ravel's "Histoires Naturelles" and the world premiere of "No More Kissing - AIDS Everywhere," a song dedicated to The AIDS Project in Portland, inspired by the music of Beethoven and the poetry of Michael Blumenthal. Get Elizabethan at USM's Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$5-\$10. 780-5555.

friday, february 1-sunday, february 3

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

The biggest buzz in the area this weekend will be generated not by a hip new band, but by the sounds of electric needles meeting flesh. Tattooists from North America, Europe and Asia coalesce at the 15th annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party, Maine's biggest tattoo convention. Educational workshops, panel discussions and tattoo judging are the highlights of the inklingers' gathering. Ogle the marked or get your own skin art at the Merry Manor Inn, 700 Main St, South Portland and the Howard Johnson Hotel, 675 Main St, South Portland. Fri and Sat, 9 am-11 pm, Sun noon-6 pm. Tix: \$10-\$15. 934-4090.



Under the needle: Tattooist and photographer Jan Seger shows off her work, such as the Ham on the right, at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party starting Feb. 1.

saturday, february 2

"MAINE'S HUNTERS OF THE SKY"

In a recently conducted, highly unscientific poll, six out of seven people were shocked by the fact that swooping peregrine falcons have been clocked at speeds of 220 mph. Fortunately, the staff members at Maine Audubon can get the speed demons to slow down enough to allow examination of their talons and wings face to, er, bill. If you have ever wondered how Maine's birds of prey breed, hunt and survive the winter, now is your chance to find out. Get the facts on raptors — the birds, not the dinosaurs — at Maine Audubon's Gillsland Farm, 20 Gillsland Farm Rd, Falmouth, at 10 am. Tix: \$3-\$8. 781-2330.

sunday, february 3

CAT POWER

Chan Marshall — aka Cat Power — picked up her pseudonym from the construction vehicle company. While not as brutally groundbreaking as her namesake, Cat Power has been known to shake the earth, or at least some asses, with her indie folk-punk. She's not afraid to present sparse, melancholy covers of the Velvet Underground, the Rolling Stones and Nina Simone. Cat Power crosses paths at the Skinny, 625 Congress St, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$10/21+. 871-8983.



Felin' feline: Cat Power plays the Skinny on Feb. 3.

tuesday, february 5 and wednesday, february 6

"PORTLAND'S HOMELESSNESS MARATHON"

Portland joins the National Homelessness Awareness campaign with 24 hours of events. Information booths staffed by organizations including the Preble Street Resource Center and the city's social services division provide educational material. Volunteers will also sleep on the streets overnight to raise awareness of the issue. Community radio station WMPG 90.9 and 104.1 FM covers the event live for the duration, with guest speakers and national programming. Confront the problem at Monument Square, Portland from 9 am-9 am. Free. 775-5568.

quick picks

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

• William Thon began to lose his eyesight late in life, but not his artistic vision, as evidenced in the paintings showcased during "Selected Works in Black and White: 1990-2000," at Aucocisco, 615A Congress St, Portland, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Wed, Feb 27. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm and by appointment. 874-2060.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

• Rockland artist Nina Scott-Hansen sculpts metal into everything from functional furniture to esoteric eye candy. See the results at "If Birds Could Fly," at Filament Gallery, 181 Congress St, Portland, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, March 9. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10 am-6 pm and by appointment. 221-2061.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

• **Maine+Acts**, the improv comedy troupe for kids of all ages, leaves its Children's Theatre of Maine stomping ground for its monthly show at the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, at 1 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$6 kids). 878-2774.



"Bird," by Nina Scott-Hansen, shows at the Filament Gallery beginning Feb. 1.

sound bites

• Singer-songwriter **Danielle Miraglia** performs humorous country-folk songs on Thursday, Jan. 31 at Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland (9 p.m./no cover/21+). 774-1114.

• Acoustic-rockers **Relish** and cow-punkers the **Watermen** share the stage on Friday, Feb. 1 at Club Subterra, 1 Exchange St., Portland (9:30 p.m./\$3/21+). 772-6550.

• **Who's the Fat Guy?** answers the questions with jam-rock on Friday, Feb. 1 at the Alehouse, 30 Market St., Portland (9:30 p.m./\$3-\$5/21+). 253-5100.

Submissions to the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Tom Mahoney, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or email listings@maine.cc.com



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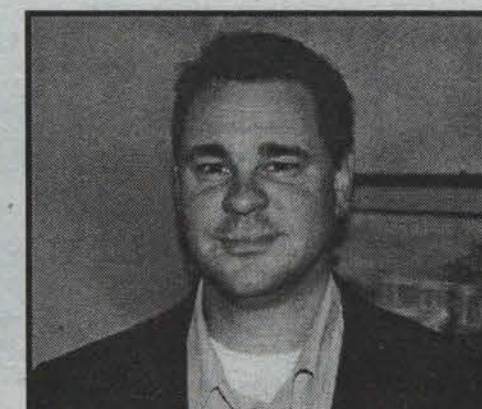
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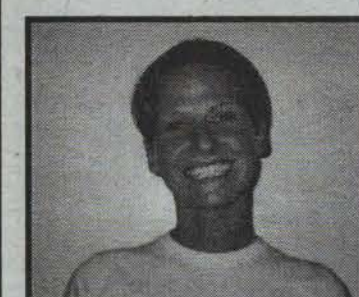
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business preview section

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Proctology Associates is a medical practice providing diagnosis and treatment of anorectal diseases and colon cancer screenings. We represent over 27 years of proctologic service for Maine patients. Our warm, friendly and caring staff is committed to providing medical treatment and solutions for a very personal area of concern. Our philosophy has always been to provide sensitive evaluation and treatment for a very sensitive area.

Located at 1375 Congress Street, our Victorian home has been tastefully converted into medical office space to incorporate the latest in advanced technology. We provide diagnosis and treatment of anorectal conditions, which include the use of Co2 laser, infrared coagulation along with the traditional methods of sclerotherapy (injections) and a range of diagnostic procedures, which include sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy for the early diagnosis of precancerous colon conditions. We offer diagnosis and treatment of other related conditions including condyloma (rectal and genital venereal warts), anal fistula, pilonidal cyst, disorders of anal incontinence (leakage of stool), puritis ani (anal itching), as well as a multifaceted approach to hemorrhoidal disease.

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As the rate of colon cancer rises in our culture, we at Proctology Associates are committed to early diagnosis and evaluation of that condition. While the majority of patients who visit our office do not have colon cancer or more serious conditions, we are committed not only to the evaluation and treatment but also allaying patient's anxiety about more serious illnesses. We feel medical education concerning the patient's diagnosis and treatments are an important part of the healing process and doctor patient relationship. We accept the majority of Maine related insurance plans and programs, including Medicare. Treatments and evaluations are completely confidential.



DR. DAVID HURST

Dr. David Hurst
Allergy, Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery
23 Spring St., Scarborough

(207) 883-6464

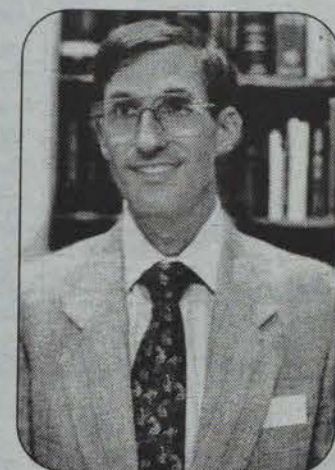
"If allergies are adequately treated, the patient can be drug and symptom free."

The doctor who proved that 90 percent of children with chronic ear disease must have allergies to foods, molds, dust or pollen has opened an office in Scarborough on Spring Street.

Dr. David S. Hurst, MD, who lives and maintains a practice in Farmington, is a nationally-recognized authority on the treatment of children with chronic middle ear diseases and allergies. He has published extensively on the relation of allergy to chronic disease of the sinuses and ears.

"If allergy is the underlying cause of sinus infections and those allergies are adequately diagnosed and treated, then the patient can attain the goal of being drug-free and symptom-free," he said. "Appropriate management of these allergies can eliminate the need for repeated placement of tubes."

Dr. Hurst is known as "the Doctor's Doctor" by his peers. Physicians often refer to him their most difficult cases of chronic sinusitis and chron-



ic ear infections. He is a Board Certified Fellow in Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery and a Fellow of the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy, both since 1986. He teaches about the relation of allergy to sinus and ear disease at numerous national meetings, for which he just received his PhD degree.

Dr. David Hurst is currently the only Maine member of the Triologic Society, the most prestigious honor society in Otolaryngology in the U.S. He specializes in diagnosing allergies to inhalants and molds where others have failed.

Dr. Hurst has lived and practiced in Farmington for 25 years. His new Scarborough office is located at 23 Spring Street. Call 883-6464 for an appointment.

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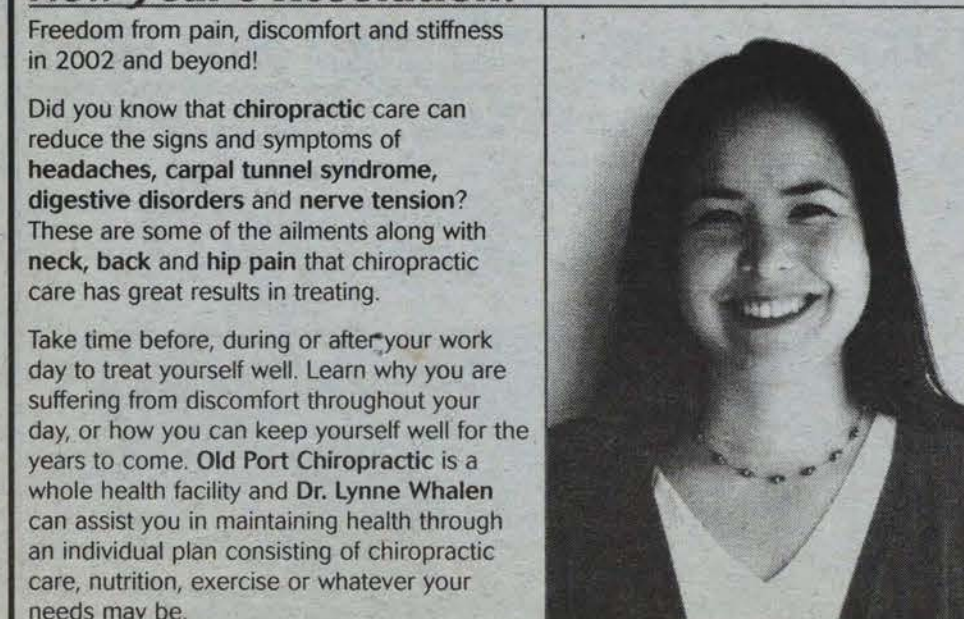
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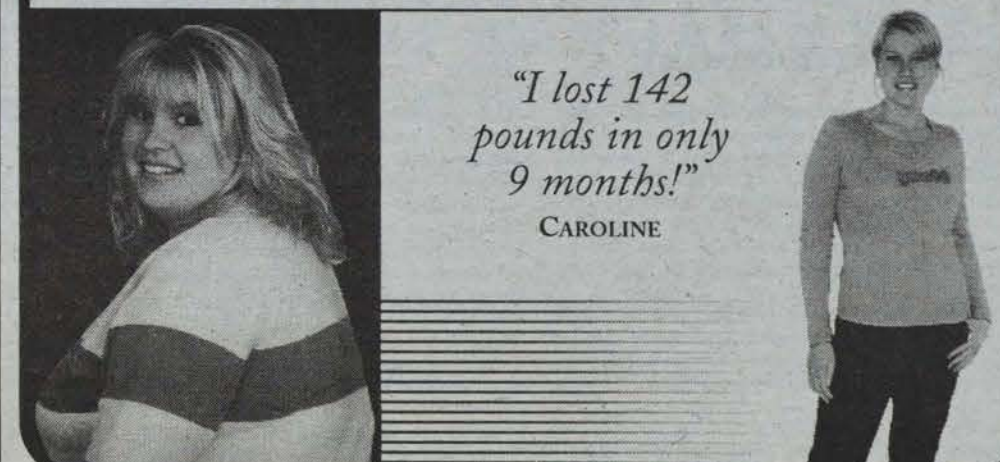
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PERFORMANCE

Submissions for the performance section should be received two weeks prior to publication.

Send to: Tom Mahoney, *Casco Bay Weekly*,
561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101
or e-mail: listsings@maine.rr.com

DANCE

"Preaching to the Perverted" Fri, Feb 8. In the early 1990s, Holly Hughes and three other dancers sued the U.S. government for being denied grants through the National Endowment for the Arts based on "obscene and lesbian content." Hughes' solo dance performance reflects on her role in the case. At Bowdoin College's Pickard Theater, Brunswick, at 8 pm. Free. 725-3375.

THEATER/COMEDY

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" Fri, Feb 8-Sun, March 3. A kid loses his best friend, doesn't get the shoes he wants and faces various mishaps in a musical adaptation of the Judith Viorst book. At the Children's Theatre of Maine, 317 Marginal Way, Portland, Fri at 7 pm, Sat and Sun at 10 am and 2 pm. Mon, Feb 18-Thurs, Feb 21 school vacation week matinees at 10 am. Tix: \$8 (\$6 kids). 828-2774.

"All Aboard for Broadway" Fri, Feb 1 and Sat, Feb 2. Members of Portland's theater community stage a musical revue featuring Broadway tunes. At MainePlay Productions, 28 Preble St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$20. 771-5611.

"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" Fri, Feb 1-Sat, Feb 16. Mel Howard directs the classic Tennessee Williams play. At City Theater Associates, 205 Main St., Biddeford. Tix: \$10-\$12. 282-0254.

Comedy Connection Thurs, Jan 31: Round 1 of the annual Portland's Funniest Professional contest at 8 pm. Tix: \$6. Fri and Sat, Feb 1 and Sun, Feb 2: D.J. Hazzard Fri at 8:30 pm, Sat at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. Tix: \$10. Sun, Feb 3: Comedy Showcase, hosted by Kelley MacFarland, at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$6. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

"Dinner with Friends" Through Sun, Feb 3. Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize-winning play concentrates on

the lives of two couples, exploring the themes of marriage and divorce in long-term relationships. At the Public Theatre, Lisbon and Maple streets, Lewiston. Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12.50-\$15. 782-3200.

"Hallowed Ground" Through Sun, Feb 17. Laura Harrington's Civil War drama, revolving around the lives of four individuals, makes its world premiere in Portland. At Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland. Wed-Fri at 7:30 pm, Sat at 4 pm and 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Wed, Feb 6 matinee at 2 pm and Sat, Feb 9 ASL-interpreted performance at 8 pm. Tix: \$20-\$32. 774-0465.

"I Do! I Do!" Thurs, Feb 7-Sun, Feb 24. The musical tells the story of a married couple, exploring the moments that define their relationship, including the birth of their children, fights, financial difficulties and other tribulations. At MainePlay Productions, 28 Preble St., Portland. Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12. 771-5611.

"I Never Saw Another Butterfly" Sat, Feb 2 and Sun, Feb 3. Ira Shapiro directs student performers in Celeste Raspanti's play about a child survivor of the Holocaust. At Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland. Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 4:30 pm. Tix: \$6-\$12. 774-2649.

"Inferno: Journey through the Mind" Through Sun, Feb 17. Blind Id Productions presents an exploration into the conflicts between the conscious, unconscious and instinctual regions of the brain. At St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St., Portland. Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 3 pm. Tix: \$15 (\$7 students). 775-5568.

"Little Shop of Horrors" Fri, Feb 8 and Sat, Feb 9. North Yarmouth Academy students present the tale of Seymour, a floral assistant, and his blood-thirsty, alien plant that happens to know some R&B songs. At Safford Auditorium, North Yarmouth Academy, 148 Main St., Yarmouth, at 7 pm. Tix: \$5. 846-9051 x357.

Maine-i-Acts Sat, Feb 2. The Children's Theatre of Maine's improv comedy group gathers for its monthly performance. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, at 1 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$6 kids). 878-2774.

"Naughty but Nice" Through Sat, Feb 9. The Broadway Cabaret's musical revue, starring Lynne McGhee and Mary MacLeod, features show tunes with a live band. At Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High St., Portland. Sat at 7:30 pm and 9 pm. Tix: \$12. 781-5093.

"Peter Pan" Fri, Feb 1-Sun, Feb 10. South Portland High School students present the musical about the inhabitants of Neverland, including the Lost Boys, Tinkerbell and the infamous Hook. At SPHS Auditorium, 637 Highland Ave. Tix: \$6-\$8. 799-0958 or 767-3266 x292.

"South Pacific" Fri, Feb 1-Sun, Feb 17. The Portland Players put on the award-winning Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. At the Portland Players Theater, 420 Cottage Rd., South Portland. Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$12-\$15. 799-7337.

"Winter Cabaret" Through Sat, Feb 16. See "Center Stage" for full listing.

The Theater Project is hosting its one-night, annual, champagne-benefit performance of "Winter Cabaret." With the theater transformed into an intimate, candlelit space, the cabaret features music and comedy sketches with Michele Livermore-Wigton, Al Miller, Wendy Poole and other local players. Peter Dugas and Neil Satin's jazz combo provides the music. In anticipation of Valentine's Day, the theme for the benefit evening is, "Wear something red." Proceeds go toward programs to promote the-

ater arts for kids. Put on your red dress or tux and down some bubbly on Saturday, Feb 2 at the Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick, at 8 pm. Tix: \$25. Regular performances of "Winter Cabaret" take place through Feb 16. Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$15. 729-0866.

Tipsy-turvy: Al Miller (standing), Christopher Price (seated) and Michele Livermore-Wigton (front) star in "Winter Cabaret" on Sat, Feb 2.

LISTINGS

Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, send complete information including dates, times, costs, complete address, a contact telephone number by noon on Thursday prior to publication. E-mail: listsings@maine.rr.com.

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, Jan 31

"Arunde" Members of the Yarmouth Historical Society discuss Kenneth Roberts' novel about a battle in Quebec during the American Revolution at Merrill Memorial Library, 215 Main St., Yarmouth, at 7 pm. 646-6259.



"From Battlegrounds to Box Office": Playwright Laura Harrington discusses her new play, "Hallowed Ground," at Bowdoin College on Feb. 5.

Grace Lee Boggs The civil-rights activist speaks on social issues affecting the Asian and African-American communities at Bates College's Benjamin Mays Center, Lewiston, at 7 pm. Free. 786-8215.

Live Poets Society The monthly gathering of poets features Jeff Burns at Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland, at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$3 (\$21+). 772-7891.

Friday, Feb 1

"Dharma Talk and Peace Meditation" Buddhist artist Lobsang Samten lectures at the University of Southern Maine's Luther Bonney Hall, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Free. 780-5009.

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party The annual tattoo festival features international tattoos, educational programs and competitions at the Merry Manor Inn, 700 Main St., South Portland and the Howard Johnson Hotel, 675 Main St., South Portland, from 9 am-11 pm. Tix: \$10-\$15. 934-4090.

"New Voices: Writers Becoming Authors" Martin Steingesser, Jan Greico and Suzanne Langlois read at Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 772-4045.

Southworth Planetarium The University of Southern Maine's planetarium, Falmouth Street, Portland, offers a variety of educational programs and laser shows. "Stars of Jade" at 7 pm, "Winter Night" at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$4.50-\$5 (\$3.50-\$4 kids, students and seniors). 780-4249.

"Women of Color" Minority women from the Portland and University of Southern Maine communities speak on their roles in society at USM's Woodbury Campus Center, Portland, from noon-1:30 pm. Free. 228-8024.

Saturday, Feb 2

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party See Fri, Feb 1 for full listing.

"Maine's Hunters of the Sky" Live birds of prey are exhibited at the Maine Audubon Society's Gileland Farm, 20 Gileland Farm Rd., Falmouth, starting at 10 am. Tix: \$3-\$8. 781-2330.

Peace Supper Peace Action Maine's annual event features speaker Oscar Moke, director of the Museum of African Tribal Art, at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland, from 5:30-9 pm. Tix: \$10. 772-0680.

Southworth Planetarium See Fri, Feb 1 for full listing. "Little Star That Could" at 3 pm, "Stars of Jade" at 7 pm, Pink Floyd "Dark Side of the Moon" laser show at 8:30 pm.

Sunday, Feb 3

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party See Fri, Feb 1 for full listing. From noon-6 pm.

Southworth Planetarium See Fri, Feb 1 for full listing. "Worlds in Motion" at 3 pm.

Tuesday, Feb 5

"Portland's Homelessness Marathon" The 24-hour awareness campaign features informational booths by local organizations and a WMFG radio broadcast at Monument Square, Portland from 9 am-9 am. Free. 775-5568.

"First Tracks: Stories From Maine's Skiing Heritage" Author and ski historian Glenn Parkinson discusses his book and the winter sport at the Center for Maine History, 489 Congress St., Portland, at noon. Free. 774-1822.

"From Battlegrounds to Box Office: Transforming History into Theater" Playwright and Bowdoin alum Laura Harrington discusses her new play "Hallowed Ground," at Bowdoin College's Pickard Theater, Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Free. 725-3663.

Wednesday, Feb 6

"Cool Art 2002" Student artists from the University of Southern Maine and the Maine College of Art carve snow sculptures at Monument Square, Portland, from 8 am-11 am and noon-5 pm. Free. 874-8793.

Ongoing

Amnesty International meets the second Tues of the month at Casco Bay Ferry Terminal's Conference Room, Commercial Street, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Free. 874-6928.

The Casco Bay Men meets every Mon at 7 pm. The first Mon of the month is potluck dinner night, the third is game night. At Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. 772-5087.

Food Not Bombs The group distributes free food to the masses in Monument Square, Portland, every Sun from 2-4:20 pm. 774-2801.

The Greater Portland Maine Genealogical Society meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. Help is available for beginning family researchers. At Thomas Memorial Library, 6 Scott Dyer Rd., Cape Elizabeth, at 1 pm. 767-4490.

The League of United Latin American Citizens meets the fourth Thurs of the month at the Reich School, 166 Brackett St., Portland, at 6 pm. 767-3642.

Maine Veterans for Peace and others hold candlelit vigils in Monument Square, Portland, every Mon from 5-6 pm. 772-1442.

Underground Railroad Tours Peace Action Maine member Wells Staley-Mays gives tours of Portland's Underground Railway and other sites important to African-American history. Complete tour is two hours or less. Tix: \$6 per person (minimum group of six). 772-7249.

PERFORMING ARTS

auditions/submissions

Actors, Actresses and Filmmakers Portland Media Artists seeks actors and actresses to star in current productions. The group meets the second and fourth Mon of the month at Java Net, 37 Exchange St., Portland, at 7 pm. In addition, original films can be sent to: PMA, c/o Frank McMahon, 452 Cumberland Ave #2, Portland, ME 04101. Visit www.mediaartists.com or call Frank at 772-5724.

Dancers Casco Bay Movers Dance Studio offers a variety of classes for dancers of all abilities for upcoming productions. Cost: \$11-\$13 per class. 871-1013.

Dancers Esduardo Mariscal is looking for dancers, actors and athletes who are in good shape. No experience necessary. 756-6027.

Dancers New Dance Studio offers classes with instructor Laura Flowers on Tues from 5:45-7:15 pm. Cost: \$10-\$12 per class. 780-0554.

Filmmakers Portland Public Access Channel 2 seeks short films and other submissions. For more info, call Molly at 775-2900 x5.

Filmmakers and Musicians Mainstream.nu features Maine artists online. To submit music or an original film, visit www.mainstream.nu and click on "How to Submit" or call 228-4867.

Musicians The Androscoggin Valley Community Orchestra invites amateur student or adult musicians to join in its rehearsals, held every Thurs at Schooner Estates, Stetson Road, Auburn, from 7-9 pm. New members are welcome to join. 576-1504.

Screenwriters A Brunswick-based screenwriters group seeks potential members. For more info, call 442-8022 or 775-6423.

Singers The Southern Maine Choral seeks singers of all ages and voice parts. The group holds rehearsal every Tues at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Storer Avenue, Kennebunk, at 7 pm. Membership is \$35. 985-0092 or 967-2793.

Writers above beginning levels are encouraged to submit poetry, fiction or nonfiction for a monthly reading group. Contact Christopher Bowe at Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, ME 04101. 772-4045.

stage

SELBY FRAME

Hellfire and head games

Hey, was that Spiderman crawling through the audience, or merely a figment of my collective unconscious? Superhero, superego — what's the diff, anyway?

Not much, if you go by Blind Id Productions' presentation of "Inferno: Journey Through the Mind," running at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center in Portland through Feb. 17. It's billed as a "metaphorical journey through the theatre of the mind, a physical representation of the conflict between unconscious ideals, instinctual impulses and conscious controls of thought and behavior" (phew!), but it looked to me like a bunch of college buddies in spandex doing the great knuckle-crawl toward Deep Thought.

Abandon all hope, you who enter here!

It's not that director/producer Ted Wallach hasn't tried to establish meaning. There are



Id, played, oddly enough, by someone known only as Id, is a character in "Inferno: Journey Through the Mind," at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center through Feb. 17.

Spidermen who sway. Spidermen who sway and look at their hands. There's even a Spiderman who writhes meaningfully atop a scaffold, seeming to pluck his own heart from his chest before reeling in another Spiderman like a fish. When the fish Spiderman gets caught, he pulls the face mask off the heartless guy. This is symbolic and causes Mr. No Heart to breathe heavily before recommencing swaying and looking at his hands.

OK, so Wallach just got out of

Colby College with an Origins of Self degree (I swear this is true!). And he's eager to plumb the archetypal depths. Still, one would hope that a year's worth of improv exploration of Dante's "Inferno" and Freudian personality theory among this group of Colbyites (recent Colby grad Sam Mateosian plays Ego and current student Eric Laurits plays Super Ego; the character of Id, according to the program notes, plays himself) would net more than this ponderous preponderance of frogmen.

But wait! There's someone else. It's a pretty young maiden (Katherine Wilkes) in a peignoir waving a staff. Could it be a female Virgil poised to lead the Three Faces of Dante into the inferno of Freudian analysis? Nah. She turns out to be just a glorified props mistress who flutters around, mothlike among the blinding lights, to supply the leotardos with more things to writhe around.

In all fairness, the show bespeaks earnest effort and creative investment from its cast members, several of whom double as set designers and composers. Mateosian's media projections give the show its best moments, especially the scene in which giant, tangled letters pulsate and scramble in perfect time to Laurits' post-modernist, electronic musical score. You can imagine this band of zealous young men gathered around Laurits' souped-up computer late into the night, trying out different midi effects. You can even remember how great it feels to embark on a creative project with friends, buoyed by a sense of undiscovered possibility.

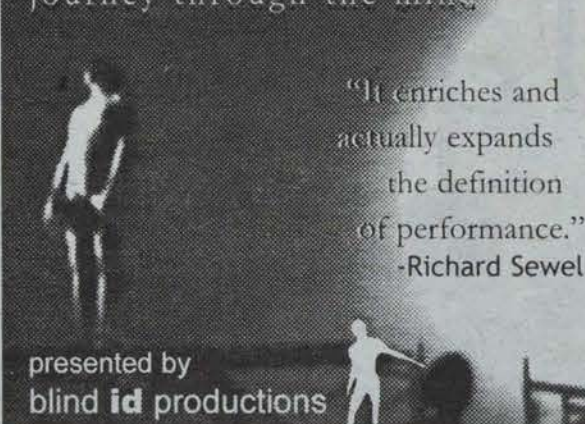
What you can't do is forget that this is almost all there is to see in a city that can't support its Mad Horse, sustain its Oak Street or even protect its Acorn.

Let us not speak of them; but look, and pass on.

"Inferno: Journey Through the Mind" plays through Sunday, Feb. 17 at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St., Portland. Thurs.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m. Tix: \$15 (\$7 students). 775-5568.

INFERNO

journey through the mind



presented by blind id productions

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-Richard Sewell

Jan. 25 - Feb 17

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76 Congress St.

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Visual Arts

Submissions for the visual arts section should be received two weeks prior to publication. Send to Tom Mahoney, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail listsings@maine.cc.

openings and events

thursday, jan 31

Aucocisco 615A Congress St. Portland. Opening of "Selected Works in Black and White: 1990-2000," paintings by William Thon, from 5-8 pm. First Friday Art Walk reception Fri, Feb 1 from 5-8 pm. Shows through Wed, Feb 27. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm and by appointment. 874-2060.

Aucocisco at the Eastland Park Hotel 157 High St. Portland. Opening of "New Paintings," works by Jan Ter Weele, from noon-5 pm. First Friday Art Walk reception Fri, Feb 1 from 5-8 pm. Shows through Wed, Feb 27. Hours: Mon-Sun noon-5 pm and by appointment. 775-2227.

Maine Historical Society 485 Congress St. Portland. Opening of "Weathering the Storm," an exhibit by King Middle School students, from 10-11:30 am. Shows through Thurs, Feb 21. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat noon-5 pm. 774-1822.

friday, feb 1

The Clown 123 Middle St. Portland. Opening of an exhibit featuring paintings by Steven Albert and fiber arts by Gayle Fitzpatrick, from 5-8 pm. Hours: Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 756-7399.

Congress Square Gallery and Mall 589 Congress St. Portland. Opening of an exhibit featuring the works and collection of Woody Dana, including signed Picasso prints, from 5-9 pm. Continues through Thurs, Feb 28. Works by over 20 other local artists and craftsmen are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm, Sat noon-7 pm, 775-1485 or 828-4240.

The Kitchen 593 Congress St. Portland. Opening of "Matthew Beaulieu: Mixed Media Works," from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sun, March 31. Hours: Mon, Tues and Sat 10 am-4 pm, Wed-Fri 10 am-7 pm. 775-0833.

Filament Gallery 181 Congress St. Portland. Opening reception for "If Birds Could Fly," metal sculptures by Nina Scott-Hansen, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, March 9. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10 am-6 pm and by appointment. 221-2061.

3 Fish Gallery 377 Cumberland Ave. Portland. Opening reception for "Sibling Rivalry," featuring paintings by Max Leon and Erin Leon, from 6-9 pm. Shows through Thurs, Feb 28. Hours: Sat and Sun 1-5 pm, weekdays by appointment. 773-4773.

galleries

Atrium Gallery University of Southern Maine's Lewiston Auburn Campus, Lewiston. "Of Reveries and Myths: New Work by Anthony Shostak," featuring paintings and drawings. Continues through Sat, March 2. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-3 pm. 753-6500.

Central Square Studios 463 Stevens Ave. Portland. Handwoven scarves, plaster masks, wooden sculpture are ongoing. Hours: Wed-Fri noon-5 pm, Sat 10 am-2 pm and by appointment. 780-1345.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St. Portland. Works on paper by Edwin Gamble and others show through Sat, Feb 23. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery at Maine College of Art 522 Congress St. Portland. "A Western Experience: New Paintings by Matt Barter," shows through Sat, Feb 23. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 879-5742 x283.

Fore Street Gallery 366 Fore St. Portland. "All-Portland Gallery Group Show," featuring works by Paul Black, Paul Bonneau, Cynthia McMullin and more, shows through Thurs, Jan 31. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 874-8084.

Hay Gallery 594 Congress St. Portland. "Distinguishing Marks," featuring metalworks by Tim McCreight and paintings by Jeff Badger shows through Sat, Feb 16. Hours: Tues-Sun noon-5 pm, Fri noon-7 pm. 773-2513.

ICON Contemporary Art 19 Mason St. Brunswick. Paintings, drawings and sculpture by Lucy Barber, John Bisbee, Thomas Cornell, Colleen Kiely, Michael Koister and more are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Institute of Contemporary Art Maine College of Art, 522 Congress St. Portland. "Faculty 2002," featuring recent works by Maine College of Art professors, shows through Thurs, Feb 28. Hours: Wed-Sun 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-7 pm. 879-5742 x229.

Maine History Gallery 489 Congress St. Portland. "Comfort and Joy: Quilting, Toys, and Winter Pleasures," a display of artifacts from the 19th century, shows through Sat, Feb 23. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 879-0427.

Mainly Frames & Gallery 524 Congress St. Portland. Pen-and-ink cityscapes by William C. Harrison and other work by gallery artists are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 828-0031.

Old Orchard Beach Gallery 20 Washington Ave. Old Orchard Beach. Photography by Eugene Cole is ongoing. Call ahead for hours. 934-1382.

189 Main 189 Main St. Yarmouth. Furniture by Duane Patricio and art quilts by Audrey Nichols are ongoing. Hours: Wed-Sat 10 am-5 pm and by appointment. 846-0678.

Orbit Jewelry 142 High St. Portland. Giftware and silver jewelry by Bren Williams and Jessica Babb are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm, Sat noon-6 pm and by appointment. 653-5821.

Radiant Light Gallery 142 High St. Portland. "Thom Adams' Recent Images," featuring photography, shows through Sat, Feb 23. Hours: Sat 11 am-6 pm and by appointment, and First Fridays from 5-8 pm. 252-7258.

William Richey Fine Jewelry Gallery 150 High St. Portland. Works by Richey are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-5 pm, Sat noon-5 pm. 772-5252.

Toby Rosenberg Gallery 293 Read St. Portland. Handbags, clothing, cloth dolls, pottery, contemporary American crafts, sculpture and Judaica by artists including Deena Whitte, Susan Butler and Gail Platts are ongoing. Hours: noon-6 pm. 878-4590.

Rough Trade 546 Shore Rd. Cape Elizabeth. Selected works by Matt Donahue are ongoing. Hours: Sat -Mon 10 am-7 pm. 799-7333.

Round Top Center for the Arts Route 1, Damariscotta. Photography by Tom Arter, Lee Hargadon and Melville McLean and sculpture by Ralph Moxcey and J.R. Pyne, shows through Mon, Feb 11. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 563-1507.

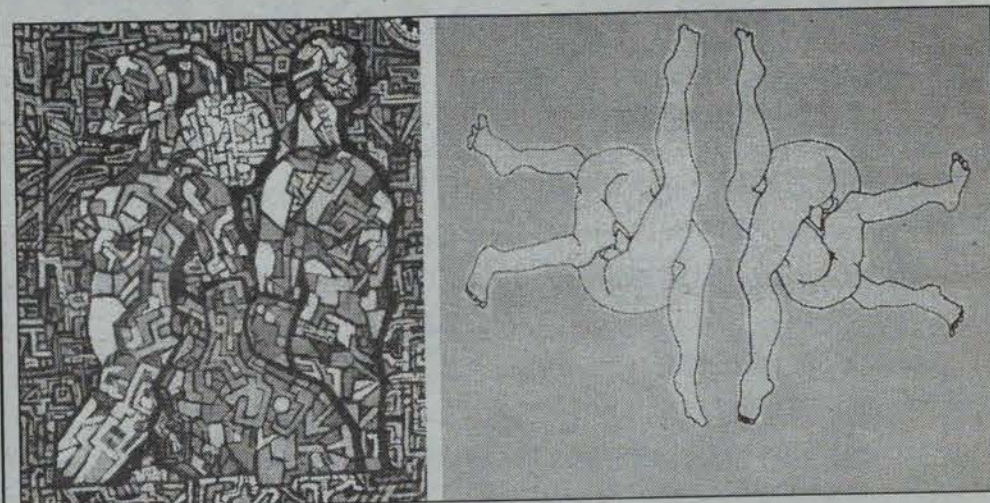
Salt Gallery 110 Exchange St. Portland. "Down East, In Town, & Out Back," a group show of work by graduating students, is ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 11:30 am-4 pm. 761-0660.

Richard G. Sandifer Studio 151 Newbury St. Portland. Black-and-white photographs from Sandifer's trip to Mexico are ongoing. Call ahead for hours. 761-3916.

Sawyer Street Studios 131 Sawyer St. South Portland. Ceramics by several local artists show by appointment or chance. 767-4394.

Silver Glass Resource Gallery 500 Congress St. Portland. "The BayView Series," photography by Donna Lee Rollins, as well as photography by Joe Della Valle,

FAMILY SPLAT



"Interim" by Max Leon (left) and an untitled piece by Erin Leon (right) are both part of "Sibling Rivalry," showing at 3 Fish Gallery.

You kids stop throwing paint

The exhibit at Portland's 3 Fish Gallery may be called "Sibling Rivalry," but brother and sister Max and Erin Leon insist they're not really rivals. "The only real rivalry there is that we're both challenging each other to do better things," explained Max, the younger Leon by four years.

OK, so call it sibling solidarity spiced with a mild artistic antagonism.

Artistically, Max said, he and Erin are on "two different sides of the scale — different size, difference in color, difference in influences." Max has worked as a professional illustrator, but has no formal art education. Color-blind, he paints on 4-by-5-foot canvases in contrasting primary colors, using heavy, black lines to define figures and shapes amid a background suggesting cubist influences. Asked about his influences, he cites such diverse sources as Mayan and Mexican cultures and his older sister.

Erin's gained some local notoriety a couple years ago, when a foam-rubber curtain she fashioned from a mold of her breast sold for big bucks in New York. In the last year, she's mainly done small-scale illustrations that explore sexual objectification with words and imagery. It is this recent work that will be showing alongside her brother's.

Comparing the symmetrical compositions of Max's "Interim" and Erin's untitled piece highlights some of the differences between their work. "My line is very simple," said Erin, "and Max's line is more complex, with overlapping lines and lines that create forms. Mine is almost like a string, where Max's is like a grid."

The two also have different creative approaches. When beginning a painting, "I don't think of anything at all," said Max. "I throw paint on the canvas," until it becomes something. The result garners an intuitive, visceral response from the viewer, rather than an intellectual one.

Erin approaches her drawings and sculpture with a preconceived idea. The work that results typically requires a fair amount of interpretation on the part of the viewer in order to grasp her meaning. Regarding the untitled piece, Erin said she was "thinking of how people can be in a relationship, and their bodies can make love, but it's not really love. They're only using the bottom part of their bodies. A lot of this work is about detachment, and this fragmentation of my femininity," caused by being objectified.

"We're always behind one another. We'll always be family," Max said, stressing the siblings' unity. "I think it would be a good idea to take one of our drawings and have the other person sculpt it."

"We'd like to have collaborative pieces working together," said Erin. "But I still think it would be really tough, because even setting this show up, we —"

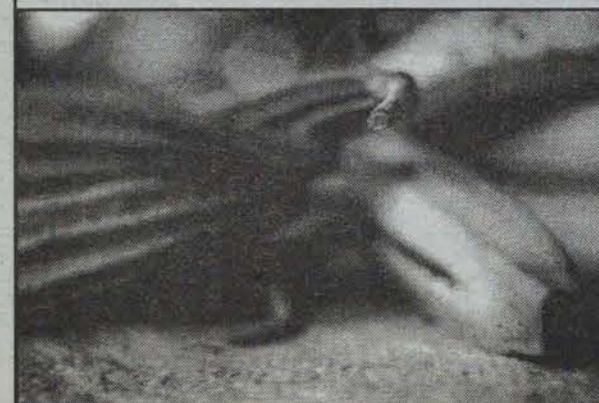
"Fight," finished Max. "We can't agree on anything."

So the title works, after all.

VICTORIA GANNON

An opening reception for "Sibling Rivalry," works by Max Leon and Erin Leon, takes place Friday, Feb. 1 at 3 Fish Gallery, 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland, from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Continues through Thursday, Feb. 28. Hours: Sat. and Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. and weekdays by appointment. 773-4773.

Visual Arts



"Bananas - West Papua," a photograph by Robert Diamante, shows as part of "Still Lives: A Tradition Retold," at the Saco Museum through April 7.

"R.S.V.P.: Human Resources," featuring photography by Robert Mapplethorpe, Elliott Erwitt, Diane Arbus and more, shows through Sun, April 14.

Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville. "Larry Hayden Drawings 1990-2001" shows through Sun, Feb 24. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-4:30 pm, Sun 2-4:30 pm. 872-3228.

Maine Maritime Museum 243 Washington St. Bath. "Working the Coast," paintings by Helen St. Clair, R. Valentine Gray, Stephen Etlier, Edith A. Sternfeld and Paul Rickert, is ongoing. Hours: 9:30 am-5 pm daily. Admission: \$8.75 (\$6 under 17, kids under 6 free). 443-1316.

The Museum of African Tribal Art 122 Spring St. Portland. "The Spirit of the Igbo Masks," masks and other objects representing over 1,000 years of sub-Saharan history, is ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Sat 12:30-5 pm. Free. 871-7188.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square. Hours: Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-9 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 6-12). Free every Fri from 5-9 pm. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

"A Ceramics Circus: Staffordshire Animals from the Collection" shows through Wed, Feb 20.

"New Acquisitions 2001," including works by designer Felix Bracquemond, photojournalists Ernst Haas and Jeanette Klute, painter Anna Eliza Hardy and Maine painter William Thon, shows through Sun, March 3.

"Open House: Tanja Alexia Hollander," photography, shows through Sun, Feb 24.

"Robert Doisneau's Paris," featuring photography of mid-century Paris, shows through Sun, March 24.

Saco Museum 371 Main St. Saco. "Still Lives: A Tradition Retold," featuring works by Judith Allen, Robert Diamante, Dennis Gilbert, Janet Manyan and more. Continues through Sun, April 7. Hours: Mon-Wed noon-4 pm, Thurs noon-8 pm, Fri noon-4 pm. 283-3861 x114.

other venues

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St. Portland. "Moral Landscape," mixed-media works by A. Collins, shows through Sat, Feb 16. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6:30 am-8 pm, Fri 6:30 am-9 pm, Sat 7 am-9 pm, Sun 7 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

Studio 656 Congress St. Portland. Works by John Driscoll are ongoing. Hours: Thurs and Fri noon-6 pm, and during First Friday Artwalks. 871-3922.

University of New England Art Gallery 716 Stevens Ave. Portland. "An Artist Collects," featuring Juris Ubans' collection of works by artists Alan Bray, Michael Waterman, Richard Wilson, Italo Scanga, Eric Hopkins and more. Continues through Sat, March 9. Hours: Wed, Fri-Sun 1 pm-4 pm; Thurs, 1 pm-7 pm. 797-7261 x4499.

University of Southern Maine Art Gallery College Avenue, Gorham. "When Horses Have Wings: Tibetan Artists in Exile," featuring works by Sonam Choephel and Lobsang Samten. Hours through Feb. 7, while Samten works on a mandala (sand painting) in the gallery. Thurs, 11 am-7 pm, Fri-Wed, 11 am-4 pm (closed Mondays). Hours after Feb. 7: Tues-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 1 pm-4 pm. Continues through Sat, March 9. 780-5009.

museums

Bates College Museum of Art 75 Russell St. Lewiston. "The 2001 Biennial Design Awards of the Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects" and "Elizabeth Donoff: Two Photographic Promenades," shows through Sun, March 24. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 786-6158.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art Brunswick. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Free. 725-3275.

"American paintings by Gilbert Stuart, John Singer Sargent, Thomas Eakins and others are ongoing."

"Art and Life in the Ancient Mediterranean," and European art from the permanent collection, are ongoing.

"Biblical Images: From Creation to Endtime," featuring European prints and drawings, shows through Sun, Feb 24.

calls for art

Art House of Lewiston/Auburn, 167 Lisbon St. Lewiston, seeks Maine artists for March gallery opening. For more information, visit www.arthouseofla.org or call 777-4673.

Central Square Studios, 463 Stevens Ave. Portland, seeks art, especially from fiber and fabric artists, for consignment and display. Call Melodi at 780-1345.

Ocean Street Arts 520 Ocean St. South Portland, seeks artwork in various media for a new gallery. Deadline: Mon, Feb. 18. E-mail: oceanstreetarts@hotmail.com or call Martha at 799-8930.

The Skinny, at 625 Congress St. Portland, seeks artwork in all media for display. Call Mellow at 871-8983.

Robert Doisneau's PARIS



January 24 through March 24, 2002

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BIBO'S MADD APPLE CAFE. Located right next to the Portland Stage Co. at 23 Forest Ave. Bibo's features American Bistro fare focusing on fresh local ingredients artfully presented. Bibo's also features an extensive eclectic wine list. Serving lunch Wed-Fri. 11:30-2, brunch Sun. 11-2:30 and dinner Wed-Sat. from 5:30pm and Sun. from 4. Rated ***** by Maine Sunday Telegram and 5 platters by foodinportland.com.

BLACK TIE. continues to serve a casual yet intimate lunch Monday through Friday in the Old Port. The take out cafe on Middle St. offers lunch and dinner, wines, desserts, hostess gifts and more. Try one or all of their locations soon, serving line fare prepared by Maine's largest catering establishment. Black Tie Cafe - Portland 761-6665; Black Tie To Go - Portland 756-6230.

BROWNIE TRADING MARKET. Come to us for all your day to day dining needs! We have an extensive selection of imported and domestic cheeses, including goat and sheep's milk varieties as well as the finest domestic and imported seafood, cut to order, and exquisite caviars. Portland's most extensive wine collection for the thinker, drinker, and collector, located on Merrill's Wharf, 262 Commercial St. Portland 775-7560. Open Mon-Sat 10am-6:30pm.

Happy Cooking

Peaks Island
Dinner & Sunday Brunch
Music Thursdays at 7:30pm
Parties/Catering (207) 766-5578
Serving up eclectic, homestyle cuisine
and great acoustic music
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Only a 15-minute ferry ride from Portland!

CAFE UPTA. Delicious food served in casual & friendly cafe that features local artists' work. Almond Encrusted Salmon on a Sugar Snap Pea, Vidalia Onion and Butternut Squash Ragout. Beef Tenderloin with Mustard Sauce and Scalloped Potatoes. Asparagus, Wild Mushroom & Corn Risotto. Entrees \$10-\$18. Breakfasts feature creative scrambles and omelets. Maine Blueberry pancakes with real maple syrup, and thick sliced. Smoked bacon. \$4.50-\$7. Dinners W-Sat. 5:30-10pm. Breakfasts Sat. 8am-noon, Sun. 9am-2pm. 190 State St., Portland. 775-3380.

DAVID'S CREATIVE CUISINE. An established Portland favorite, David's offers casual fine dining in a comfortable atmosphere. Featuring nightly specials made with the finest local ingredients, fresh baked bread and professional waitstaff. Extensive wine list, full bar and the best single malt scotch selection in Portland. Located on Monument Square across from the Portland Public Library, within walking distance to Merrill Auditorium. Reservations recommended. Lunch 11:30-4 M-F. Dinner 7 nights at 5pm. Sunday nights: Jenny Woodman Duo 6-9pm. 773-4340.

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

HAPPY COOKING on Peaks Island. Eclectic, home-style cuisine overlooking Casco Bay and Portland. Fresh local seafood, vegetarian specialties, grilled duck, roasted pork, Mely's meatloaf. Creative and affordable beer and wine list. Open Wednesday-Saturday for Lunch and Dinner. Sunday Brunch. Beautiful 20-minute ferry ride from Portland. Call 766-5578.

MAINE BEER & BEVERAGE CO. Now open, agency liquor store. Maine Beer and Beverage Co., located at 79 Commercial St. across from Casco Bay Lines is now an agency liquor store! Also find cigarettes, cigars, soda, juice, coffee, chips, snacks, wine, flowers and sundry items. Open 10am-8:30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun. 79 Commercial Street. 828-BEER.

PEPPER CLUB. 78 Middle St., Portland. 772-0531. FAX 879-9597. Credit Cards • Free Parking • open 7 nights • chef owned. Changing menu serving world cuisine. Homemade bread and soups. Fresh seafood, organic meat, chicken, vegetarian/vegan - entrees from \$7.95-\$13.95. 18 wines by the glass, organic wine and beer selections. CBD organic, coffee, handmade desserts. Now open Sun. & Mon. at 5pm.

STONE COAST BREWING COMPANY. Full service restaurant, great for a quick lunch or a night on the town. From fresh lobster & steak to a range of vegetarian items, and fresh soups made everyday. Stone Coast has something for everyone. Open everyday 11:30am serving till 10:00pm Sun-Thru. 11:00 Fri & Sat. Plenty of free parking. 14 York St., Gorham Corner, Portland. 773-BEER.

ITALIAN

FRESH MARKET PASTA. Fabulous FRESH! pastas, sauces, amazing salads and pizza made right here everyday! Perfect take-out or cook at home. Open for lunch and dinner. Wine, beer, espresso, cappuccino, desserts. Bring the family! Kid's meals. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover. 43 Exchange St. Old port, Portland 773-7146 and Mill Creek Shopping Center, South Portland 767-0135.

JAPANESE

BENICAY. Sushi bar & Japanese Restaurant. Known for premier quality sushi, traditional and fancy maki rolls, tempura, teriyaki, sukiyaki, shabu-shabu. Elegant dining for the discriminating sushi lover. Delightful vegetarian and cooked selections. Serving lunch and dinner. Rock 'N Roll Sushi Thru-Sat until 1am. 2 India Street, Portland finds at Commercial 773-5555.

FUJI. Quite possibly the best sushi on the east coast. In the heart of the Old Port, Fuji offers traditional Japanese specialties, sushi, hibachi tables, Korean entrees. Thai selections and Japanese tatami room in their dining room, sushi bar and lounge. With over 40 years experience in Japanese style cuisine, Fuji has the best sushi chef around. Hours M-Th 11:30am-10pm, Fri & Sat 11:30am-10:30pm, Sun & holidays 12-10pm. Hibachi tables 5-close daily. 29 Exchange St. Portland. 773-2900. Parking validation available. Reservations suggested.

SAPPORO. Best sushi in town. Chicken & Beef teriyaki. Shrimp tempura. Sukiyaki. Vegetarian entrees & sushi. Popular weekly luncheon box. Private party room available. Dine-in or take-out. Free parking available. Tel: 772-1233, Fax: 871-9275. 230 Commercial St., Union Wharf Portland.

MEXICAN

AMIGOS. Maine's first Mexican restaurant. Celebrating 25 years in the Old Port. Full Bar - Happy Hour 4-8. Microbrew specials. House specialty, Beef, chicken Habanero dinner (not for the faint of heart) Hours: Dinner Tu-Th 5-9, Fri & Sat 5-10. Take out available. 9 Dana St., Portland. 772-0772.

EL MIRADOR. The Mexican delicatessen at the Portland Public Market featuring hot prepared foods such as chile rellenos, tacos, enchiladas, and tamales. They offer an extensive selection of Mexican groceries including fresh and dried chilies, chorizo, queso and mole, chilito in adobo, etc. Hours: M-Sat 9am-7pm, Sun. 10am-5pm. Portland Public Market. 25 Preble St. 228-2047.

GRANNY'S BURRITOS. All of your Mexican favorites featuring Portland's Best Burritos. Everything prepared w/fresh ingredients & made daily on premises. Start w/ nachos or quesadillas, then try one of our burritos (chicken mango, sweet potato, vegan, beef, etc) or create your own! Beer & wine, music upstairs in Granny's Attic. M-Th 11-10pm, F 11-12, Sat 12-12, Sun 12-9. 420 Fore St. 761-0751.

Celebrate our 18th Anniversary!
Sapporo Expanding again

Now serving cocktails,
liquor, and a variety
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GILBERT'S CHOWDERHOUSE. Enjoy fresh Maine Seafood and award-winning chowders in a casual atmosphere. Daily lunch and dinner specials including all you can eat Friday Fish Fry 11-4. All you can eat Fried Shrimp Dinners. Full bar featuring local microbrews. Take out menu available and all major credit cards accepted. 92 Commercial St., Portland, ME. 871-5636.

JS OYSTER. Enjoy white linen quality dining in a relaxed atmosphere with a lovely view overlooking Portland's working harbor. Savor our specialty shellfish and pasta dishes and much, much more. MC/Visa/Discover accepted. Parking in adjacent lot. 5 Portland Pier, Portland. 772-4828.

SEAFOOD

WOK INN PORTLAND. Szechuan, Hunan, Cantonese & Thai. Excellent food, fast and affordable. Choose from more than 60 delicious menu items. Eat in or take out. Delivery available. Hours: Su-M 11:30am-9:30pm, T-Th 11am-11pm, F-Sa 11am-2am. 1209 Forest Ave., Portland. 797-9052 or 797-9053. FOOD *****/12. VALUE FOR THE \$ *****. Portland Press Herald.

THAI

WOK INN PORTLAND. Szechuan, Hunan, Cantonese & Thai. Excellent food, fast and affordable. Choose from more than 60 delicious menu items. Eat in or take out. Delivery available. Hours: Su-M 11:30am-9:30pm, T-Th 11am-11pm, F-Sa 11am-2am. 1209 Forest Ave., Portland. 797-9052 or 797-9053. FOOD *****/12. VALUE FOR THE \$ *****. Portland Press Herald.

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Buy one lunch and
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Offer good Tuesday through Friday for the month of February. Offer not good on beverages.

MOVIES

"Brotherhood of the Wolf"

review



A lot of lupine, a little loopy: Mark Dacascos as Mani in "Brotherhood of the Wolf."

Directed by Christophe Gans. Rated R. At Nickelodeon Cinemas, Temple and Middle streets, Portland, 772-9751.

If Christophe Gans has tossed a few scenes of explicit sexual intercourse into "Brotherhood of the Wolf," he would have created a whole new category of cinema — the all-genre film. While this movie never qualifies as porno, it does manage to include just about everything else. Most of the time, it does it pretty well, too.

"Brotherhood" is a historical-kick-boxing-horror-mystery-socio-political fable cum costume drama based, naturally, on a true story. Did I mention that it's also a foreign film? With animation?

To his credit, Gans handles this rich mixture with a degree of ease that makes the film easy to watch.

The movie concerns events in the village of Gévaudan in 18th-century France. Over a three-year period, the town was terrorized by an enormous, wolf-like beast that claimed more than 100 victims. While the film is based on historical fact, it takes this incident-turned-folklore in some far-fetched directions.

The killing that opens the movie looks like an homage to the first scene in "Jaws." Substitute mountains for water and day for night, and you have a familiar scene of a young woman filmed from the chest up as a powerful creature flings her around and rips her to shreds.

The beast, which we don't get a clear view of until well into the movie,

has a certain knack for murder, and a particular taste for women and children. Its reign of terror soon becomes a national issue, and King Louis XV sends multi-talented naturalist/buttkicker Gregoire de Fronsac (Samuel Le Bihan) and Fronsac's Iroquois blood brother, the shaman/buttkicker Mani (Mark Dacascos), to sort out the situation. To do so, both men will need every ounce of martial-arts skill they possess.

The scene in which the pair first arrives at Gévaudan is among the movie's more striking action sequences. The two interrupt a beating being administered by a motley crew that resembles a collection of 18th-century "Road Warrior" rejects, and put the hurt on the aggressors in fine style.

NEW RELEASES

BIRTHDAY GIRL The drama-comedy follows the pairing of a shy man (Ben Chaplin) and his Russian mail-order bride (Nicole Kidman). **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Clark's Pond**

THE INDEPENDENT The mockumentary follows the life and times of fictional B-movie filmmaker Morty Fineman (Jerry Siller), responsible for countless exploitation flicks about killer nurses, STDs and a flick called, "World War III, Part II." **The Movies.**

SLACKERS Jason Schwartzman ("Rushmore") plays a college nerd who blackmails his cheating classmate into helping him win over a girl. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

TAPE A moviemaker returns to his hometown for a film festival, only to be accused by his former buddy of mistreating the girl they both liked back in high school. When she shows up unexpectedly, the arguing continues. Directed by Richard Linklater ("Waking Life"), the comedy stars Ethan Hawke and Uma Thurman. **The Movies.**

ALSO SHOWING

AMELIE Director Jean-Pierre Jeunet ("The City of Lost Children") returns to virtuosic form in the French hit about a Parisian waitress focused on bettering the world. **The Movies**

A BEAUTIFUL MIND Russell Crowe stars as John Forbes Nash Jr., an award-winning mathematician combating Russian cryptography and his own mental illness. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema**

BLACK HAWK DOWN Josh Hartnett and Ewan McGregor star in a dramatic retelling of the battle of Mogadishu, a 1993 clash in Somalia that resulted in the downing of two U.S. military helicopters. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema**

BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF See review, this page. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO Director Kevin Reynolds is the man responsible for "Waterworld" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves." Fortunately, he is trying to make cinematic amends, foregoing Kevin Costner and casting Guy Pearce and Jim Caviezel in the classic tale of a wronged man seeking revenge. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Clark's Pond**

GOSFORD PARK The focus of Robert Altman's latest film is a 1930s English dinner party that turns into a mysterious, murderous evening. Features Kristin Scott Thomas, Ryan Phillippe and Emily Watson. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Clark's Pond**

I AM SAM A mentally handicapped man (Sean Penn) fights to regain custody of his young daughter with the help of a lawyer (Michelle Pfeiffer). **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

IN THE BEDROOM The only son of a Maine couple becomes tragically

involved with an older woman. Filmed in Maine, the adaptation, based on an Andre Dubus short story, stars Sissy Spacek and Marisa Tomei. **The Movies, Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS A youngster uses science to create a fantasy world. It's animated using technology the creators' supposedly purchased from a large electronics chain. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

KUNG POW: ENTER THE FIST Written, directed and starring Steve Oedekerk, this spoof of 1976's martial-arts classic "Savage Killers" features nunchaku made out of beavers and cows that know kung fu. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING Director Peter Jackson the auteur behind gorefests like "Dead Alive" and "Meet the Feebles" spent two years and nearly \$300 million in his native New Zealand filming J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy of fantasy novels. The first installment begins the story of a young hobbit in possession of a ring that, if in the wrong hands, could wreak devastation. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema**

THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES A journalist (Richard Gere) begins encountering paranormal activity after his wife dies. Based on real-life events that took place in West Virginia during the 1970s. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

OCEAN'S ELEVEN George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts and others on Hollywood's A-list star in a remake of the 1960 Rat Pack heist comedy. Directed by Steven Soderbergh ("Erin Brockovich," "Traffic"). **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

ORANGE COUNTY Tom Hanks' son and Jack Black are brothers in a comedy about a smart kid trying to get into Stanford so he doesn't have to hang out with his loser friends anymore. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS An unhappy family of eccentric geniuses and the wacky world they reside in are brought to light in the newest feature by director Wes Anderson ("Rushmore"). Starring Gene Hackman, Ben Stiller and Gwyneth Paltrow. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema**

THE SHIPPING NEWS A newspaperman (Kevin Spacey) gets divorced, moves to Newfoundland and discovers his family's secrets. Based on the novel by E. Annie Proulx and directed by Lasse Hallstrom ("Chocolat"). **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

SNOW DOGS For dog-powered sports enthusiasts comes a family film about, er, dog-powered sports. The dogs also talk and sunbathe. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

A WALK TO REMEMBER Pop star Mandy Moore makes her big-screen debut in the pro-Christian story about a minister's daughter falling for the town rebel. Based on the Nicholas Sparks novel. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

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

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BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30

IN THE BEDROOM (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:25

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A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13) 1:15, 4, 7, 9:40

THE SHIPPING NEWS (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45

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

AMELIE (R) SHOWS WED., JAN. 30-TUES., FEB. 5 SHOWS WED.-TUES. 5, 9-SAT.-SUN. 1

IN THE BEDROOM (R) SHOWS WED., JAN. 30-TUES., FEB. 5 SHOWS WED.-TUES. 7:15-SAT.-SUN. 3:15

THE INDEPENDENT (R) SHOWS WED., FEB. 6-TUES., FEB. 12 SHOWS WED.-TUES. 5, 9-SAT.-SUN. 1

TAPE (R) SHOWS WED., FEB. 6-TUES., FEB. 12 SHOWS WED.-TUES. 7-SAT.-SUN. 3

NICKELODEON CINEMAS 1-6 Temple and Middle Streets, Portland, 772-9751

GOSFORD PARK (R) 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35

BIRTHDAY GIRL (R) 1:35, 5, 7:30, 9:50

BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:35, 9:30

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BIRTHDAY GIRL (R) 1:35, 5, 7:30, 9:50

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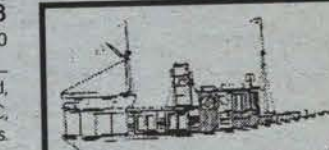
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0	KANSAS RD	71,400
0	KNIGHTS HILL RD	129,000
345	MALCOLM RD	165,000
0	THE LEDGES	270,000

NAPLES

68A	FL ST	\$21,500
550F	KING HILL	120,000
0	LAMBS MILLS RD	104,000
448	LEWIS RD	43,900
11	POLAND SPRING RD	94,000
0	RUSH WAY	159,000
10	SONGO SCHOOL RD	70,000

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9	CASCADE RD	99,000
1	CLEAVES ST	150,000
34	DATE ST	155,000
215	GRAND AVE	340,000
47	MILLIKEN ST	101,500
406	NOBLES LN	86,900
5	OREGON AVE	95,500
129	PORTLAND AVE	91,500
29	RYEFIELD DR	27,000
39	SMITHWHEEL RD	74,000
131	TEMPLE AVE	107,000
20	TWELTH ST	65,000
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REAL ESTATE

Trend statement

I have been talking to Real Estate Agents for the past year and each one has a different slant on the market and how they see the future. The chat that stands out most this month came from a veteran Realtor who observed that most summer homes never go on the market. The reason, he said, so few seasonal places are available are because most waterfront homes stay in families for generations, either passed down through wills or sold to another family member. He said it was the memories of going to the family "camp" every summer or snowmobiling every winter that keeps these properties off the market. Families don't want to give up special times like that and want to pass the joy on to their kids. Makes perfect sense to me. So if you have a "camp" that no one in your family wants there seems to be plenty of people who would take it off our hands. Right now there are more buyers than there are properties.

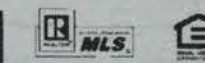
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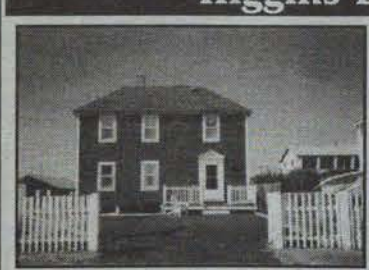
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY - WEEK OF JANUARY 24 © 2001
By ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A slew of holidays is coming: Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, Carnival, Chinese New Year, the Jewish Purim, Lent, Black History Month, and the pagan Brigid's Day, celebrating the return of the light. According to Chase's Calendar of Events, February also brings 1 Hate Financial Planning Awareness Week, and is Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month. National Wild Bird Feeding Month, and International Boost Self-Esteem Month. But even this plenitude of excuses to celebrate isn't enough for you, Aries. You need and deserve more. Why? Because you're bigger than life and hotter than sin right now. Luckily, February is Expand Your Web of Allies Month and Harvest the Fruits of Your Long-Term Hard Work Month-for Rams only.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In 1979, my Taurus brother Tom began a gig as janitor at India Jose restaurant in Santa Cruz, CA. Through hard work and charm, he ultimately traded his overall for three-piece suits and became "partner" of the place by 1984. I'm not predicting an ascent as spectacular or swift for you, beautiful Bull, but I do believe you will climb at least one rung up the ladder of success between now and March 15. Take five minutes right now to rehearse the exhilarated feelings that will course through you when you leap to the next level.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When his royal cash flow slowed to a trickle, England's King Richard II (1367-1400) pawned his golden crown. When my financial health suffered a downturn a few years back, I panicked and raised some funds by selling my treasured baseball card collection from childhood. Now you, Gemini, may be tempted to lease your soul to a devil in disguise in order to buy some time. It's not my place to dictate how you should proceed, but I want you to know that you do not have to purchase as much of an extension as you might imagine. Besides, there is a cheaper option available. Shop around.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): French Impressionist painter Henri Matisse wanted his art to be "free from unsettling or disturbing subjects... soothing, a cerebral sedative as relaxing as a comfortable armchair." Spanish painter Pablo Picasso had a different opinion. "Art is offensive," he asserted. "At least, art should be allowed to be offensive. It ought to be forbidden to ignorant innocents, never allowed into contact with those not sufficiently prepared. Yes, art is dangerous." At most times, Cancerian, your effect on the world tends to be more like Matisse's. In the coming weeks, though, Picasso is a better role model. (But avoid going so far as to imitate Frank Zappa, who said, "My guitar wants to kill your mama.")

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I'm offering you a new nickname, Leo: *Overture*. It's a French word that means "opening." Here's a little history of the person who had it before you: Toussaint Breda (1743-1803) was the leader of a slave rebellion in Haiti. He was called "Overture" because he had a talent for discovering openings in enemy lines. You currently possess that skill, as well as a knack for finding openings among friends and potential allies. My dear Overture, I believe you'll be able to get yourself invited anywhere you really need to be. Furthermore, you're primed to transform any situation in which you have been acting even a little bit like a slave.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): On behalf of Brigit, the goddess of gypsy communication, I hereby relieve you of any tendency you might have to believe the lies everyone tells themselves. You are under no obligation to reinforce the wishful thinking your cohorts indulge in. Feel free to critique fantasies that are no closer to being fulfilled now than they were a year ago. But wait. There's more. You have a cosmic mandate not just to tell the truth, but to tell the righteous, pulsating, up-to-the-minute truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In Homer's epic tale, *The Odyssey*, he described *nerperthe*, a potion that induced forgetfulness of pain and trouble. At other times in your life, Libra, you could have really used a drink like that. But these days you'd benefit more from a different form of magical

assistance: a tonic to stir up memories of all the experiences that have gone right in your life. Since there is currently no such elixir available, I suggest you do the next best thing: Spend quality meditation time ruminating on past events that have brought you happiness and fulfillment. That will serve my hidden agenda, which is to make you highly receptive to the wondrous secrets that are so close to spilling forth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let me direct your attention to the burgeoning "Slow Food" movement www.slow-food.com. Created as an antidote to the global blight known as fast food (read *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of The All-American Meal* by Eric Schlosser), this alliance promotes the conviviality that blooms when we take time and care with the rituals surrounding food. A snail figures prominently in the Slow Food logo. I recommend you adopt this creature as your mascot for the next few weeks. May it inspire you to be luxurious and unhurried and devoted to the art of living with good taste. Can I also convince you to try Slow Sleep, Slow Perception, and Slow Love? The stars recommend it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Science writer Carl Sagan liked marijuana, according to Keay Davidson in the S.F. Examiner magazine. "I don't one occasion while high," Sagan is quoted as saying, "I had an idea on the origins and invalidities of racism in terms of Gaussian distribution curves. I went to write the idea down. One idea led to another, and at the end of an hour of hard work I had written 11 essays on a range of social, political, philosophical, and biological topics... I have used them in public lectures and my books." I bring this up not to urge you to take drugs. Sagittarius, but rather to egg you into being edgier about where you get your information. The same old sources aren't rich enough to help you understand the changes you're going through.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some piranhas are vegetarians. A few Christians really do love their enemies, as Jesus recommended. The Capricorn tribe isn't exactly renowned for fomenting revolution, yet some benevolent troublemakers have been born under your sign, like insurrectionary leader Benjamin Franklin, abolitionist and suffragette Lucretia Mott, muckraker I. F. Stone, and civil rights champion Martin Luther King. I hope these role models inspire you to rebel freely in the coming week, Capricorn. This is one of those rare and anomalous moments when you will really benefit from finding the exception to every rule-especially the rules that desperately need their authority questioned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Happy birthday, Aquarius. I suggest you launch a new tradition this year. Celebrate your special day for at least two weeks. Throw little surprise parties for yourself continuously, always sweetly demanding gifts and handing out favors like key chains bearing your favorite Rumi poem or homemade comic books starring you as a superhero. Tell your co-workers you were born on, say, February 2, but make your buddies at the gym think it's February 4, while assuring various friends it's February 6 or 8 or 11 or 13. Only your mom will know when it really is. Now here are my two presents for you: 1) the arrival of an ingredient that has been missing forever; 2) a wild card you can use to penetrate a circle that has previously been closed to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): My old girlfriend Elisa once dragged me to a psychic workshop. Arriving early, we found a roomful of people sighing loudly as they unleashed non-stop historic yawns. "Yawning opens up your telepathic faculties," Elisa explained. Though skeptical, I opened my mouth wide and joined the gang. Maybe it was the power of suggestion, but in a few minutes I was seeing auras and picking up what seemed to be the thoughts of nearby people. This yawning trick may be overkill for you Pisceans, since you're in the most psychic phase of your cycle and you're already the most psychic sign of the zodiac. But try it anyway. You can never have too much inside information, right?

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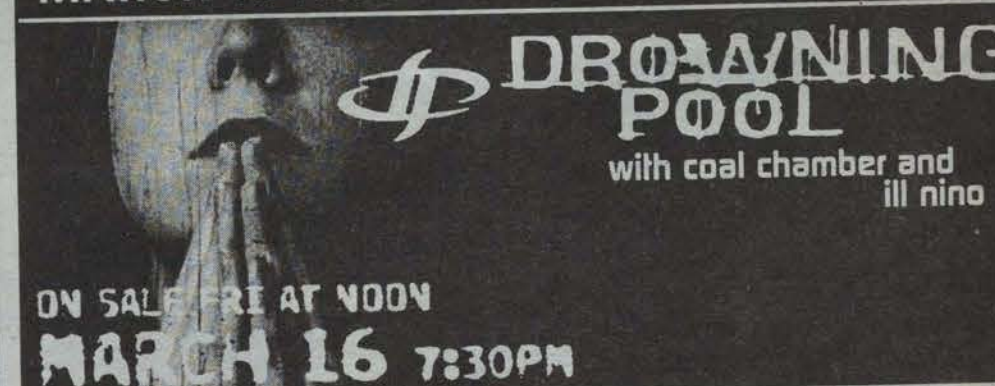


State Theatre

609 Congress Street, Portland (207) 780-8265



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