

3-4-1999

## Casco Bay Weekly : 4 March 1999

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MAR 4, 1999

MARCH 4, 1999 • VOL XI, NO 9 • GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION • FREE

**SNEAKY BAN  
ON SMOKING  
IN BARS**

**5**

**PORTLAND  
SCHOOLS  
WANT TO  
BORROW  
MORE MONEY**

**8**

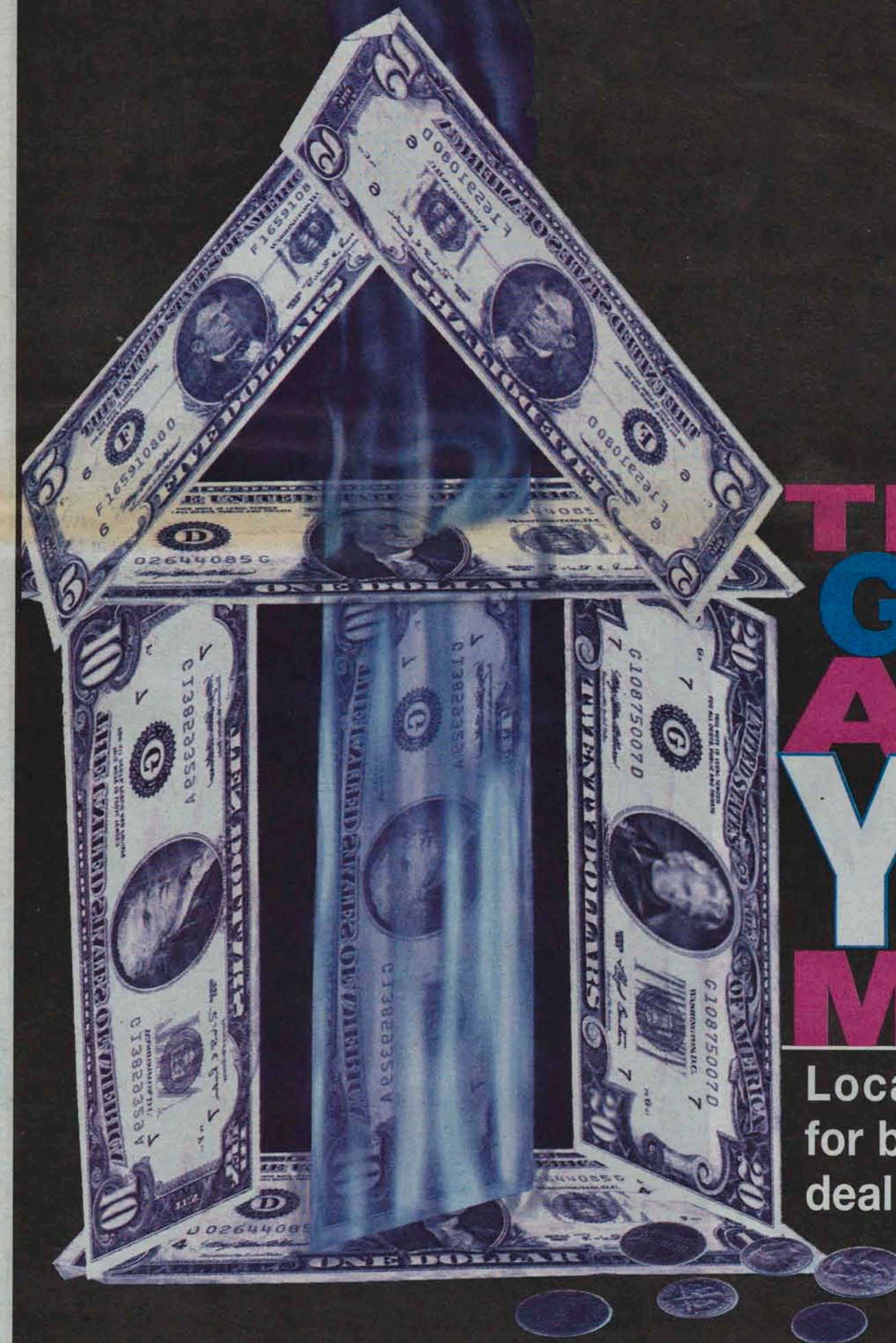
**WHAT'S  
ON  
LOCAL TV**

**16**

**ONE  
BOY'S  
ICEBOAT**

**29**

**Casco Bay  
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www.cascobayweekly.com



**THEY'RE  
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AWAY  
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MONEY**

Local property tax breaks  
for businesses can be a bad  
deal for taxpayers

ILLUSTRATION/JOANNA AMATO



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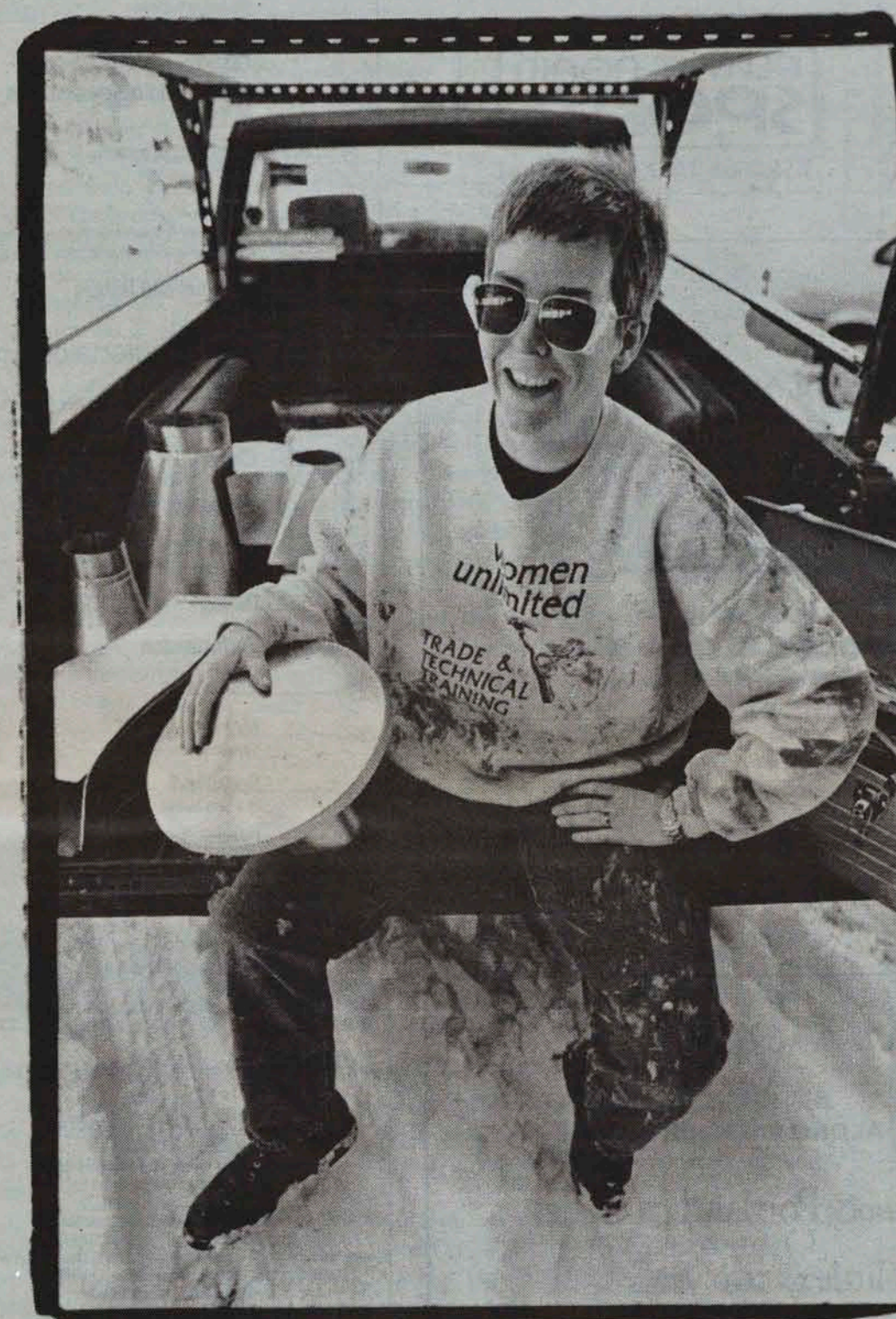
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PPR, A 94M

# TALK DAWN FORTUNE



"I don't have a lot of emotional stress — 'Oh, this guy hates me!' I don't have a lot of that on the job."

At 33, Dawn Fortune is doing something too few women have done before: becoming a sheet metal worker. Fortune, a former reporter, learned truck driving and welding through Women Unlimited, then began apprenticing for her new career. In January, she won a local award for expertise in her trade.

## How many years will you have to apprentice?

I'm in my third year of a five-year apprenticeship program. We go to school two nights a week for four years and then there's a fifth year of just working in the field. But while we're going to school we have to work, too. You know, you work 40 hours and then you go to school nights.

## What exactly do sheet metal workers do?

Essentially, if something is made out of sheet metal, we make it. When somebody has forced hot-air heat in their house or in a hospital, or anything like that, that duct work is made in a shop by sheet metal workers and it's installed in the field by sheet metal workers.

## Does anyone ever look at you and say, 'But you're just a tiny little girl'?

Yeah, sometimes. At first the guys, some of them, were a little skittish. I think they were more nervous than anything else. I never really got any open hostility. They just wanted to carry my toolbox.

Some wanted to hold the door for me, and some of them were like grandfathers, just really sweet. Some of them I had to say, 'Listen, if I can't carry my toolbox, I shouldn't ought to be doing a trade.' When they hear that they say, 'You know, you're right.'

## Why do this instead of teaching something like home economics?

Don't get me wrong. I love to cook, but I need somewhere I can work with my hands, do something physical. I had a desk job for years, but by the end of it I was unhappy and was working on an ulcer. Since I've been in the trades, my hands are dirty, but that doesn't mean I'm doing hard labor.

I do some pretty technical stuff. I mean where a sixteenth or a thirty-second of an inch can really screw up a whole project. So don't think it's just stupid construction. We use our brains. Lots of geometry and a lot of trigonometry. All of that stuff. I use 3.14 [pi] more times before lunch than a lot of people do in a year.

## Do you ever dream about going back to a pantyhose job?

Never. No. I don't think I ever wore pantyhose, but when I had to wear business clothes, that stuff came off when I got home and I put on my jeans.

Interview by Connie Pacillo; photo by Matthew Robbins

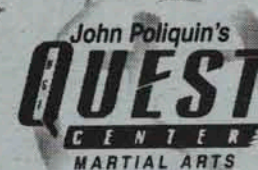
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[Featuring 5 "toy instrument" players]
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[Last, perhaps greatest, Mozart symphony]

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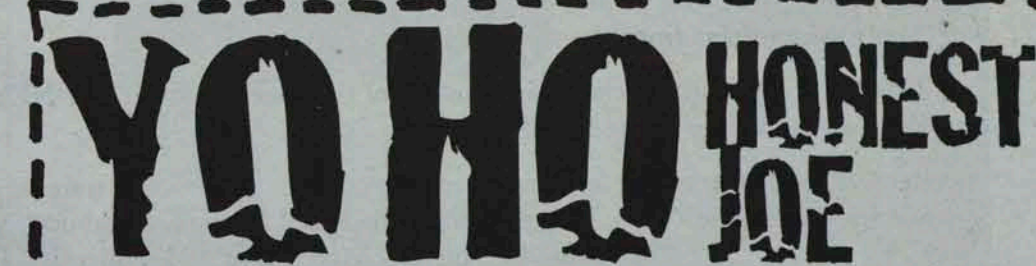
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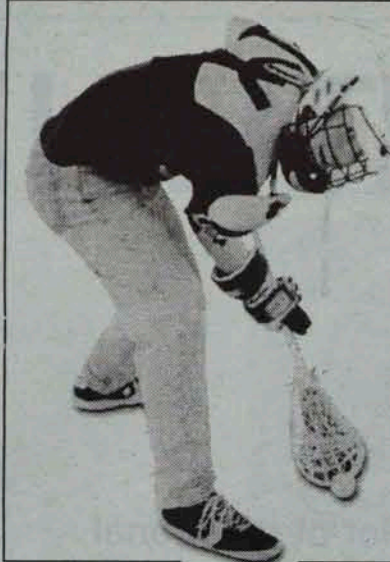
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### My Dating Adventure...

Three weeks ago I placed my free 40-word personals ad in the Casco Bay Weekly. I'm ready to start dating again, (but it's been difficult). So here I am, responding to personals ads and I'm meeting a lot of great women.

Date #1 Ms. Librarian

An Irish pub was the setting for our date. I arrived late due to traffic, but Ms. Librarian was more than forgiving. In fact, she was very sweet. After ordering drinks and getting to know each other better, I realized that I definitely wanted to see her again.

It's time you started your own

Dating Adventure...

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### Casco Bay Weekly

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editor1@maine.rr.com

#### Cover Story

They're giving away  
your money

Local property tax breaks for businesses can be a bad deal for taxpayers

#### News & Views

Politics and other mistakes

by Al Diamon

Stop the presses

by Sarah Goodyear

#### City

If you thought Portland's recently renovated middle and high schools were in good shape - think again

Editorial and letters

#### Arts & Entertainment

Edge

With more money and better studios, Portland's public access TV station shows signs of new life

#### Clubs

Calendar

Short Cuts

By Dan Short

Dining

Performance

Visual Arts

Movies

"Hush" reviewed

Sportland

By J. Barry Mothes

Personals

Classifieds

#### DESIGN DEPARTMENT WORK TUNES

• Jimi Hendrix, "Blues"  
• Luscious Jackson, "Natural Ingredients"  
• Beck, "Mutilations"  
• Various Artists, "Holding Up Half the Sky"

WHAT WE LISTENED TO THIS WEEK

A.A.N. VERIFIED

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Tonee Harbert, John Monroe, Matthew Robbins, Shoshannah White

Illustrators: Patrick Corrigan, Rebecca Kendall,

Corey Pandolph, Martin Shields

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Circulation Manager/Purchasing Director: Walter T. Harrington

Receptionist: Regina Branch

Publisher: Julie Watson

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Every Thursday 30,000 copies of CBW are distributed free throughout

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selected York County locations. Casco Bay Weekly is also on the Web at

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### Dim lights, thick smoke and loud, loud music

We now have scientific evidence that not smoking makes people devious. Supporters of a statewide ban on tobacco use in restaurants are using what a noted researcher (me) says is deceptive wording in order to sneak one by us. They're quietly planning to expand that prohibition to include most bars.

When anti-smoking forces decided last year to push for an ordinance in Portland that would clear the air in restaurants, they did some polling. That survey revealed there was widespread support for the idea, but it also showed most people were less inclined to include bars in the new restrictions. The prohibitionists decided they'd be better off leaving the saloon issue alone for the time being, fearing that including such watering holes in the Portland proposal would dilute the measure's appeal.

That proved to be sound political thinking. Though restaurant owners managed to collect enough signatures to force the ban out to referendum last November, voters overwhelmingly supported the idea of outlawing smoking in eateries.

Now a similar proposal is before the Legislature, expanding the anti-tobacco initiative statewide. Except this latest measure isn't quite as similar as it looks at first glance. The proposed law would cover many establishments that, under the Portland ordinance, are considered bars.

Portland's law says any place that earns 60 percent or more of its revenue from alcohol sales is a bar, and lighting up is OK. If the booze figure is less than 60 percent, the establishment is considered a restaurant, and smoking is illegal. But the statewide measure includes some different definitions. A restaurant is an indoor establishment "that invites the public to be served food on the premises." "Restaurant" does not include an establishment that according to its licensing requirements ... generally prohibits minors from being served or present.

What that means is that a lot of places that look like bars are, for legal purposes, going to be considered restaurants — places like Gritty McDuff's and Three Dollar Dewey's in Portland, Theo's and the Bag in Carrabassett Valley, Suds and Sunday River Brewing in Bethel, Cappy's and the Sea Dog in Camden and (chances are) your favorite public house. The only operations exempt from the smoking ban will be lounges and taverns that don't serve food or people with all their teeth. It appears anyone seeking authentic bar atmosphere will be forced to have a little dental work done.

The smoking ban's sponsor, state Rep. David Etnier of Harpswell, didn't return phone calls inquiring about this ever-so-quiet expansion of the measure. But Etnier already has the support of Gov. Angus King and co-sponsors like Speaker of the House Steve Rowe, Senate President Mark Lawrence, Senate Majority Leader Chellie Pingree and Senate Minority Leader Jane Amaro (who, while running for re-election last year, said she was against a restaurant smoking ban). So he probably figures there's little to be gained by answering a researcher's questions about whether a lack of nicotine in his system is causing him to try to slip this one through.

### Always the last to know

The strangest news release of the week comes from Republican state Rep. Michael McAlevy of Waterboro, who, as far as I can tell, is in a snit because he wasn't the first to see a recent report detailing problems at the Maine Youth Center in South Portland.

McAlevy claims that because a draft of the report was shown to Democratic state Reps. Eliza Townsend and Michael Quint of Portland (both of whom have been active in pushing for an investigation into abuses at the juvenile corrections facility), the entire document is "tainted." He demanded that David Lakari, chair of the youth center's board of visitors and the man who gave Townsend and Quint the report, either resign or be fired.

Exactly why McAlevy thinks the document should have been kept secret from anyone is a puzzle, since by his own admission, "The report doesn't say anything we didn't know two years ago." Could it be McAlevy, who ran for office promising to oppose all increases in state spending, is worried the study will finally convince the Legislature to allocate the resources needed to fix the deficiencies at the youth center?

### The end is the beginning is the end

From an article in the Feb. 18 edition of "Impact," the newsletter of the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance, opposing legislative efforts to impose restrictions on tax increment financing (TIF):

"Municipalities have very few economic development tools at their disposal .... Without TIFs, municipalities would have very few economic development tools at their disposal."

Your letters to this column — care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or e-mailed to [ishmaelia@gwi.net](mailto:ishmaelia@gwi.net) — are one of the few tools at our disposal to gain information and ward off boredom. Without them, we'd have few tools (mostly beer and Maine Chamber newsletters) left.

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## There's no use crying ...

The house ad in the Jan. 28 issue of *Maine Times* would have been brilliant, if it had been a joke.

"An in-depth look at MILK in *Maine Times* February 18th issue," the plain type read. "Deadline for advertising February 12." It really did seem, at first, like a "Saturday Night Live"-style spoof on the pompously sober tone of the paper in recent years, and on its ever-more-desperate attempts to win advertisers with ever-less-interesting themed issues.

Then I realized the ad wasn't meant to be funny.

When the touted milk issue dribbled onto the stands Feb. 18, the whole thing appeared even more delightfully absurd. First of all, there wasn't a drop of dairy to be found in the editorial pages. The cover story was about community colleges. And there was exactly one lactic advertisement, from Maine Dairy Farmers, singing the virtues of chocolate milk. Any other week, it would have been enough to send me into gales of laughter.

Except that this fat-free 24-page issue was the final edition of *Maine Times* to go to press. Friends reminded me the death of a newspaper is a somber occasion. Giggling at funerals is frowned upon.

After years and years of losing money, the once-proud statewide alternative newsweek-ly finally ended with a whimper. It was no surprise to anyone who had been watching its life force ebb away.

When the paper was under the same roof as *CBW*, I had seen enough of its bookkeeping to know it needed one of two things: an owner who didn't mind dropping hundreds of thousands of dollars a year indefinitely (Dodge Morgan, who owned it for years and who still owns *CBW*, has admitted to losing that much) or a radical editorial/advertising strategy that would revive its intellectual and fiscal health. In the end, it had neither.

When John Cole and Peter Cox founded *Maine Times* in 1968, it was a publication with a mission. It gave radical, articulate voice to Maine's environmental movement and was the paper of record for the state's back-to-the-landers. Throughout the '70s and early '80s, *Maine Times* defined issues and influenced policy. It was a newspaper that mattered. I wasn't around for those glory days, but I have looked through the back issues. And I have seen the wistful glow in longtime readers' eyes when they recall what *Maine Times* used to be.

Many of the old-time faithful held onto their subscriptions until the bitter end. It had become a part of their identity to take the *Maine Times*, one of the virtuous things they did, like buying organic oats instead of Quaker. But while I'm sure these environmentally conscientious folks recycled their copies of *Maine Times*, or at least used them to fire up the woodstove, most of the ones I talked to admitted they rarely read it — at least not recently.

Few things are more pathetic than unread newspapers. It takes a lot of energy and willpower, as well as a lot of money, to put out one of the damn things, and it's painful to see that effort go to waste. Nothing hurts an editor more than the sight of all those carefully crafted pages fluttering wantonly along the sidewalk, or — worse yet — stacked unread, like sacrificial virgins, on their way to the dump.

Which is why I haven't shed any tears over the demise of *Maine Times*. It had become irrelevant to the discourse of its intended audience. Watching it cling to life was depressing. When I bought my copy of the last issue at Borders (couldn't find it anywhere else), the clerk behind the counter muttered, "I've never seen this before," as he rang in the quaint 95¢ cover price. Publications have life spans, and greater ones than the *Maine Times* have died more untimely deaths. The hour had come to put the old girl down.

Let's look on the bright side: Now that *Maine Times* is gone, the coast is clear for some people with fresh ideas and a lump of cash to start up a new statewide paper. Maine has changed since 1968; *Maine Times*' downfall was that it thought the paper didn't have to. Even more dangerously, *Maine Times* came to stand for the idea that change was vulgar, frivolous, perhaps even sinful.

A new statewide alternative paper could begin with the energy and irreverence of the old *Maine Times*. It could look at the people and places of Maine without generational prejudice. It could dig up dirt and gore sacred cows (like the dairy industry?). It could put a tough reporter on those bozos up at the State House, who get less and less scrutiny from the media every day. And it could, I believe, sell ads. Not with gimmicks like education issues and business issues and milk issues. With good, hard-hitting, engaging journalism. Sound too good to be true? So was *Maine Times*, before it went bad.

Got any items for this column? Send them c/o Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland 04101, or e-mail goodyear@gwi.net.

**stop**  
the presses



SARAH GOODYEAR



Past its expiration date: *Maine Times* is pulled from the shelf

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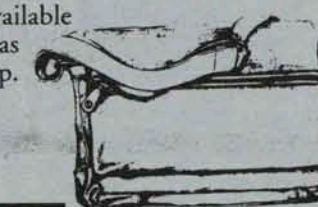
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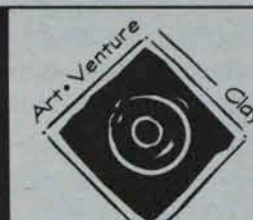
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In the biggest development of the week, **Cherry**, Mark Trail's wife, got another new hairdo, bringing her appearance into the 1980s. After that, everything else we have to tell you is going to seem pretty lame.

Speaking of lame, the **Maine Youth Center** is just that, according to a consultant's report released Feb. 22. It found the juvenile corrections facility in South Portland was warehousing kids, failing to provide counseling and education and overusing restraint devices. These are the same complaints state legislators and advocates have been making for years, but Gov. Angus King acted like it was news to him. King promised "a full response and action plan," but didn't say what that might include.

Is this the bitter end for the **Better End**? Probably not. The Portland City Council voted 5-3 on March 1 to deny the Fore Street club a liquor license, mostly because owner Scot Orchow has gotten drunk and obnoxious on a couple of occasions. But Orchow can still appeal the decision to the state Board of Liquor Enforcement, a process that will allow him to remain open for a few more weeks. Councilor Charlie Harlow distinguished himself by voting against a motion to extend the Better End's license until July, even though he apparently intended to support that plan. "Well, if I voted yes, it wouldn't change anything," Harlow said afterwards, "so I'm not going to change my vote."

The Council also refused to block **Maine Rubber International's** plans to move to the Riverside Industrial Park. Neighbors, worried about odors, wanted a ban on tire manufacturing in the area. They're also worried the city won't do an adequate job of policing Maine Rubber's air emissions. Councilor Harlow cast the only vote in favor of the ban, although it could be he was just confused again.

The **Portland Pirates** all but wrapped up the title of lamest team in the American Hockey League in late February. Not only are the Pirates' playoff hopes gone, but so are a lot of fans. The team's average attendance is hovering below the 4,200 mark, a long way from the 5,000 to 6,000 needed to break even. Dave Fisher, one of the owners, said he wasn't worried, since the team was planning some hot promotions such as Student Achievement Night and Church Night.

The U.S. Postal Service committed a terrible gaffe when it invited prominent African-Americans to a Feb. 24 event in Portland marking the release of Malcolm X and Jackie Robinson stamps. The postal service forgot to consult with the NAACP, which is apparently required before any event involving black people. NAACP chapter president **Moses Sebuluna** told the *Portland Press Herald* it was "an attempt to suppress the voices of a portion of the African-American community." To which we can only say amen.

CBW

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# CITY

## We want more money

If you thought Portland's recently renovated middle and high schools were in good shape — think again



Renovating Lincoln Middle School in 1995. Now school officials want additional cash for more fix-up work. FILE PHOTO / SHOSHANNAH WHITE

LAURA CONAWAY

Portland education officials want the city to borrow \$620,000 this year to fund major repairs at the recently renovated middle and high schools. And next year they plan to ask for another \$390,000. City administrators say those requests may violate Portland's charter, which requires voter approval for bonds over a certain amount.

City Manager Bob Ganley said the improvements — which include masonry work, new roofs and replacement boilers — should have been included in borrowing that financed expensive renovations of the middle and high schools during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Ganley said borrowing any money now without a referendum would be an illegal end run around the voters. "I just don't think you can do that," he said. "I mean, we just rebuilt those schools."

On the heels of big-ticket upgrades at Deering and Portland high schools, voters in 1993 passed a \$14.8 million bond issue to cover renovations of the three middle schools. The size of the bond had been determined largely by Ganley, who warned that the city couldn't afford to borrow more than \$15 million without a significant tax hike. School supporters argued Ganley's price tag didn't provide sufficient cash to finish the job, and in 1995 succeeded in

passing another bond, for \$1.2 million — a sum critics charged still wouldn't pay for everything that needed fixing.

Three years later, the city manager said he doesn't understand why school officials are back asking for more. Neither school superintendent Mary Jane McCalmon nor finance director Donn Davis returned *CBW* calls. "They raise a lot of questions as to why that stuff wasn't done," Ganley said.

The educators' proposal has also raised questions about whether it will require voter approval. Portland's charter mandates that bonds of more than \$1.6 million be decided by referendum. The school department's request is less than that, but Ganley and others say the latest round of repairs is merely an extension of earlier work that shows no signs of stopping.

City Councilor George Campbell compared the situation to the one faced by renovators of Merrill Auditorium, who won voter approval for some bonds but ended up needing \$300,000 more — money the city couldn't borrow without a second referendum. "I think it's a strictly legal interpretation," Campbell said. "I would think Ganley's interpretation is accurate."

Portland officials have asked the city's bond counsel to review the matter and rule on whether the school department's request

can be included in the 1999 capital improvement plan. City finance director Duane Kline said he expected a response by mid-March. If the attorney gives the proposal the go-ahead, the Council may add it to the list of infrastructure improvements to be paid for with bonds. If the attorney nixes it, school officials will have to either delay the repairs, seek a referendum on the borrowing or fund the work out of their operating budget.

Meanwhile, Ganley and city councilors had scheduled a meeting on March 3 (after *CBW* went to press) with the School Committee to discuss the issue.

Whatever they talk about will be news to School Committee member Don Hamill, who serves on the board's finance committee. Asked about the \$620,000 request, Hamill said he knew little about it. "They've done the middle schools, so most of the

big improvements are going on at the elementary level," he said. "I'm aware of the issue generally, but I can't give you any details."

Hamill suggested asking veteran school board member Jim Banks, who isn't on the finance committee but had no trouble explaining the borrowing proposal. Banks said some repairs were left out of the 1993 bond because they weren't top priorities then. "People say why didn't you do that five years ago," he said. "Well, at that time it wasn't the number-one need."

Phased in over two years, the proposed spending now includes such high-priced items as new boilers for Lyman Moore Middle School (\$250,000), a new roof at Deering High (\$295,000) and a repaired archway at Lincoln Middle School (\$50,000). If a boiler failed now, Banks said, the school department could probably fund the purchase of a new one from a contingency account. But he argued the proposed infrastructure improvements are a separate project from the original renovations, and said they should be paid for with bonds.

Banks said he expected the disagreement between school and city officials to be resolved quickly and peacefully. But relations between City Hall and educators have

been strained since the School Committee approved huge raises in December for top administrators and the superintendent. Ganley criticized the pay hikes, sparking a public furor that led the board to reduce the increases.

Ganley first announced his opposition to the request for more bonds at a Planning Board meeting Feb. 23. Since then, he said, he's heard nothing from school administrators in response. "Our lines of communication aren't real good right now," he said.

NORMAN DICKINSON

### Sex offender may return

He may live in Portland

Watch out, Portland — a self-described "time bomb" is about to return.

On April 21, Norman Dickinson will be released from Maine's Super Max prison in Warren. Dickinson, who was jailed for sexually assaulting area women, told authorities that he may want to come back to Portland.

Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood confirmed negotiations are under way to help Dickinson relocate after his release.

Chitwood said he has serious reservations about Dickinson coming back to Portland because the unpredictable inmate hasn't participated in any sex-offender counseling programs during his incarceration. Chitwood said he received a letter recently from Dickinson, in which the inmate said he "intends to live free." But Chitwood said, "I'll make sure people know where he is."

Dickinson was sent to Super Max several months ago after attempts to place him in apartments and sheltered-living situations in both Portland and Bangor failed because of community protest and his own erratic behavior.

Cumberland County Sheriff Mark Dion said it's not clear whether Dickinson could be placed in the jail's pre-release center. "The ball's in Augusta's court now and we're just waiting," Dion said.

Peter O'Donnell, regional director of the state Department of Mental Health, said Dickinson was considering other locations besides Portland, but O'Donnell declined to name them.

CONNIE PACILLO

SOLEYWATCH

### \$15,000 fine

More building boo-boos

On March 1, a Maine District Court judge signed a consent decree fining mega-landlord Joe Soley \$15,070 for electrical and housing code violations at his properties at 9-11 and 8-10 Exchange St. in Portland's Old Port.

According to Charles Lane, lawyer for the city of Portland, on Feb. 23, inspectors found 21 violations in the building, including holes in shower walls, loose ceiling fixtures and broken glass. Soley has until March 22 to bring his properties up to code. If he doesn't do the work, he'll be assessed an additional \$200 per day in fines for each violation.

Evan Smith, Soley's attorney, said his client attempts to fix his buildings in a timely manner. But, Smith claimed, "Joe Soley is unfairly singled out, and the city is relentless in its pursuit of him."

"The more difficult aspect of dealing with Mr. Soley," Lane said, "is normally when you're handling a matter with somebody you will assume that they will act in their own best interest. Mr. Soley, in my opinion, does not do that, which makes my tactical decisions difficult."

Soley has other court dates coming up. On March 30, his lawyers will argue in his appeal of previous fines for violating city ordinances totaling \$44,500. On April 27, Soley will appeal fines for code violations at his now-closed Seamen's Club restaurant.

CONNIE PACILLO

PORTLAND ELECTION

### Old dog and two new tricks

Cheryl Leeman finally jumps in

Incumbent Portland City Councilor Cheryl Leeman and newcomers Brian James Murphy and Jay Hibbard have added their names to the list of candidates running for City Council seats in the May 4 election.

Leeman, who lives at 37 Savoy St. and works for U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe, is running unopposed for the East Deering seat she's occupied for 14 years.

Murphy, of 432 Fore St., is taking a stab at the at-large slot currently held by Councilor Jack Dawson. David Costa and Ethan Strimling are also in the race. Murphy works at the Better End, a beleaguered Old Port bar. "The Council is full of people who can't think straight," he said.

Hibbard, of 129 Pinelock Dr., former executive director of Maine's Republican Party, will be competing with newcomer Richard Dodge and incumbent Councilor Charlie Harlow for the North Deering seat.

CONNIE PACILLO

### loose change

Please take a number, gathered by *CBW's* staff, and wait in line.

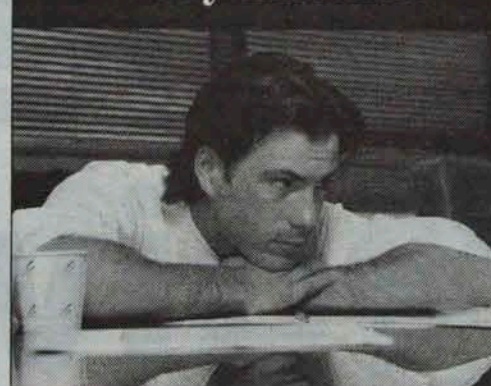
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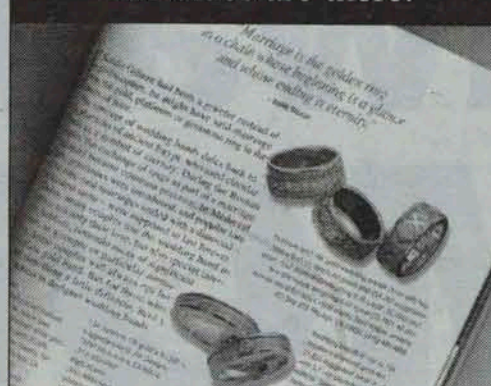
Class A downtown office: \$18.00  
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Class A suburban office: \$16.00  
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Mall retail: \$35.00

"Ready money," said Byron, "is Aladdin's lamp." Grant our wish by sending items for this column to *CBW*, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or e-mailing editor1@maine.rr.com.

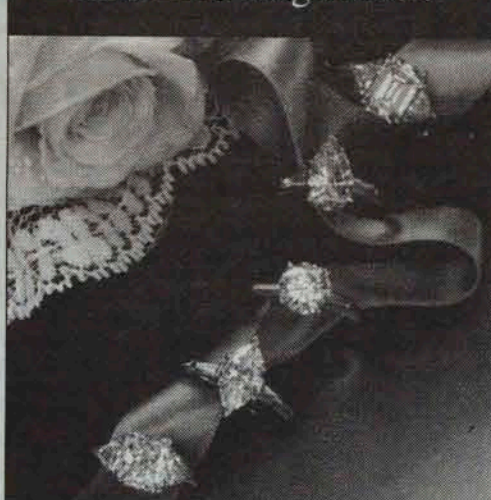
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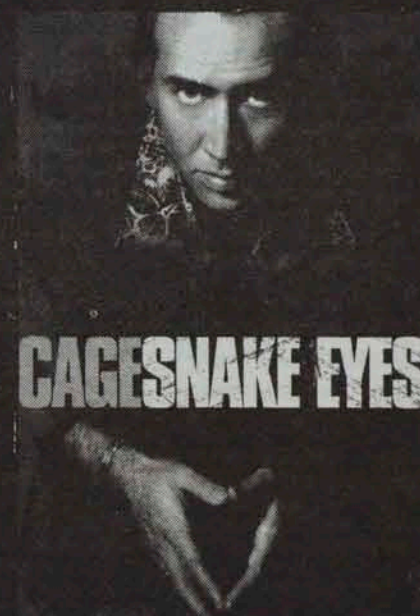
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# They're giving away your MONEY

**Local property tax breaks for businesses can be a bad deal for taxpayers**

## DAL DIAMON

The principal difference between extortion and tax increment financing is extortion is illegal. Otherwise, the two systems are pretty similar.

For instance, in an extortion scheme, powerful guys show up and demand your money. ("Pay up, or we'll break your legs.") The same is true in tax-increment financing. ("Pay up, or we'll take this project somewhere else, thereby breaking your economy.") Extortionists make lots of promises they have no intention of keeping. ("If you pay, we won't bother you anymore.") People seeking a tax break do likewise. ("If you pay, we won't spend the money on executive vacations in countries with no extradition treaties with the United States.") And both extortion and property tax giveaways appear to have about the same impact on the local economy — none.

Or almost none. Extortion, at least, provides jobs for people who would otherwise be drunk or in jail. The same cannot necessarily be said for tax increment financing.

Nevertheless, tax increment financing (TIF) — a complicated program that allows new or expanding companies to avoid paying all or most of their property taxes — is not only legal, but increasingly popular with municipal officials desperate to attract development. The Maine Chamber and Business Alliance calls it "the most effective economic development tool that municipalities possess."

Other observers call it something close to bribery.



ILLUSTRATIONS/COREY PANDOLPH

"It's allowing the corporate forces to laugh all the way to the bank," said Christopher St. John, executive director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy.

In a way, both St. John and the chamber are correct. State law allows cities and towns to use TIFs to take control of growth, directing it where it's most appropriate. The statutes can be used to shield taxpayers from the costs associated with new development. The law also allows municipalities that are smart enough to work out the math to grant property tax breaks to companies without costing the rest of their citizens a dime. It's even legal for local officials to place conditions on TIFs that require businesses to provide money-back guarantees that the deals will create well-paid jobs.

That's what the law allows. But it's not what the law requires. As a result, many municipalities, including Portland, are giving away millions of dollars, sometimes without receiving any quantifiable public benefit. TIF supporters have a ready answer to that complaint. They say it's impossible to come up with hard numbers that justify restoring abandoned buildings, such as Holt Hall in Portland's Bramhall Square (see sidebar, page 13), or cleaning up blighted sites, such as the abandoned industrial plant on Newbury Street that is now the home of the Shipyard Brewery. They say it's obvious when a project has been successful. At least it's obvious after the fact. "We know it case by case," said Portland City Councilor George Campbell. "We know it in the local community. It's a pure local economic development partnership. Every single case has to go before the local council or the town meeting. That's how we know we're getting a benefit."

Campbell makes his living helping companies prepare TIF applications, so he might be something less than objective. But his opinion is not atypical of the attitude among municipal officials.

"People don't like tax breaks," said Portland City Manager Bob Ganley, "but that's what triggers investment. I don't care if it's on Wall Street. I don't care if it's tax-exempt municipals. I don't care if it's new construction or whatever. Tax breaks is what triggers invest-

ment."

In spite of Ganley's and Campbell's gung-ho attitudes, Portland actually has one of the best-run TIF programs in Maine.

Scary, isn't it?

## Creating a monster

In the beginning, TIFs were harmless little creatures. So harmless, in fact, that almost nobody paid attention to them. Created by the Legislature in 1985, tax increment financing was originally intended to be a strictly limited economic development tool. In their original form, TIFs could be employed only to funnel a portion of the property taxes created by new developments into a fund to pay for public infrastructure improvements required by those developments.

For example, in 1991, Scarborough was seeking to lure new business. The town had lots of prime undeveloped land in the Eight Corners area, just over the border from the Maine Mall in South Portland. But there were no sewers serving that property, and putting in the needed plumbing would cost taxpayers \$20 million, a ridiculously high expense for land that was only assessed at \$3.5 million. To overcome that problem, Scarborough created a special TIF district in Eight Corners. Part of the property tax collected from any new projects built in the neighborhood would go to pay off the sewer bonds. The rest would go to the town's general fund.

Today, Eight Corners hosts a Wal-Mart and numerous other stores and businesses that employ more than 1,000 people. The site's valuation has increased 14-fold to approximately \$50 million. The taxes Scarborough collects more than cover the cost of the sewer system and help keep the tax rate in the rest of the town among the lowest in Greater Portland. Town officials are already planning a similar special tax district around Exit 6 of the Maine Turnpike, hoping to turn that area into another cash cow.

"We wanted people to pick Scarborough rather than South Portland for development," said Harvey Rosenfeld, Scarborough's economic development director. "Would the development have happened anyway? It could have, but the TIF certainly accelerated that process."

Unfortunately, some other instances of municipalities using TIFs to pay for infrastructure improvements weren't quite as successful. In 1992, Old Orchard Beach attempted to follow Scarborough's path by using a \$3.2 million TIF to improve downtown streets. The idea was that the upgraded thoroughfares would attract businesses eager to cater to the annual summer influx of Canadian tourists. All those new companies were supposed to pay enough in property taxes to cover the cost of the street work. But Canadian tourism dried up, and with it went any new businesses. Local taxpayers were stuck with the bill.

Augusta put in sewers and road improvements that allowed Wal-Mart to build one of its stores on the edge of town. But an enclosed mall that was also supposed to be part of the project has yet to materialize, leaving that tax break in the semi-successful category. Likewise, a TIF in Waterville helped open a section of Kennedy Memorial Drive to yet another Wal-Mart and other large retailers, but has done little to reverse the slow economic decline that's gripped the central Maine town for more than a decade.

From a business standpoint, the trouble with TIFs for sewers, roads and other infrastructure is they don't funnel any money directly to companies. Instead, the newly generated property taxes are used to pay for the municipal costs caused by new development. Because those TIFs provide more benefit to cities and towns than to businesses' bottom lines, they offer little inducement for companies to locate anywhere that isn't already a prime spot for development. And it's unlikely most people

favor giving up tax dollars to fill prime spots.

As a result of complaints from municipalities about the limited benefits of TIFs, the Legislature changed the law in 1993 to make the tax breaks more attractive. A new type of TIF was created that allowed municipalities to return property-tax dollars directly to new or expanding companies. In return, local governments could, in theory, require developers to meet a variety of criteria. Or, as soon became the common practice, almost no criteria at all.

The stage was set for some serious extortion.

## Pay up or else

In 1994, University of Southern Maine economist Charles Colgan told *CBW*, "The TIFs would hibernate if we got back to boom times."

We did. They didn't.

Today, Colgan believes TIFs have become a standard part of business financing. "I doubt there's a developer that isn't thinking TIF in the first 10 minutes of planning a project," he said.

Thanks to that 1993 change in the law, companies now expect a tax break. If they don't get one, they're likely to take their new plants to other, more accommodating towns. National Semiconductor used the promise of a \$600 million expansion to convince South Portland to give back half of all the property taxes the company will owe on the new construction for 15 years. If SoPo had balked, National said it was prepared to shift the project to Texas. Using similar strategies, International Paper extracted \$50 million in tax concessions from Jay, and James River strong-armed over \$39 million from Old Town. In 1995, Freeport tried calling DeLorme Mapping's bluff when the company insisted on a TIF to help finance its expansion. Some bluff. Today, thanks to a \$3.9 million tax break, DeLorme's new facility is located in neighboring Yarmouth.

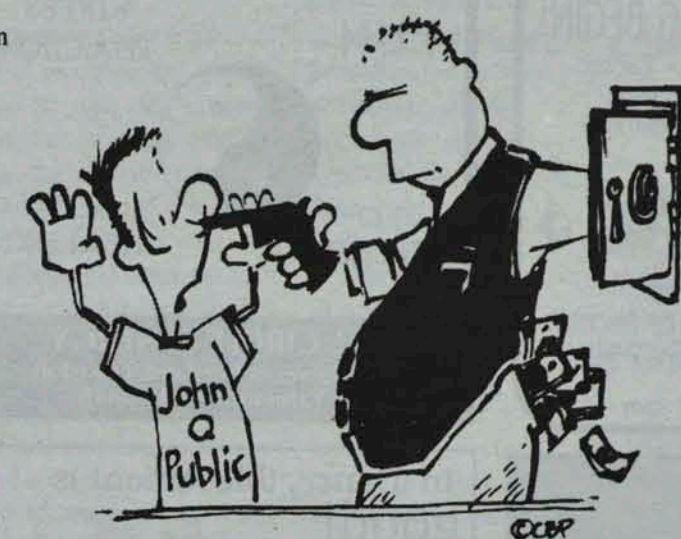
Portland officials recognized the problems with the new TIFs sooner than most municipal leaders. In 1994, the city drafted guidelines that, by the standards of the time, were extremely conservative (and that have since been copied by several other cities and towns). To coerce Portland into coughing up a tax break, a company has to demonstrate a TIF is "essential" to a project's financing. In theory that sounds impressive, but in fact, it doesn't amount to much. Unless the business' CEO is lighting cigars with hundred-dollar bills, the city is inclined to take the applicant's word it needs the dough. "Are we supposed to doubt everything a corporation says to us?" asks Councilor Campbell. "Are we supposed to assume they are all abject liars?"

In addition, Portland's rules require a completed project to be worth at least \$2 million, and limit the amount of the tax break to 75 percent of the new tax revenues generated. That 75 percent figure appears to be somewhat arbitrary. It also appears to be considerably higher than it should be. And because it is, it's costing taxpayers money, perhaps enough money to wash away any economic benefits of TIFs.

## Breaking even

Communities can get more out of TIFs than just new factories and jobs. They can also save money on the deal. That's because the state decides how much money to return to cities and towns for education and revenue sharing based, in part, on how much all the property in each municipality is worth. The higher that worth, the less state aid the city gets. Likewise, county taxes are calculated on that same figure. The more a town's property is worth, the more it owes in taxes.

Ordinarily, any new development increases a municipality's worth, thereby reducing its state aid and increasing its



county tax bill. But under the TIF law, it's as if that new development didn't exist. The state doesn't count it in calculating school funding and other programs. The county ignores it in deciding on the tax bill. The city or town gets to keep some cash.

If, for example, a developer built a warehouse worth \$50,000 in Portland, the city would collect about \$1,200 in property taxes on that building annually. Because Portland would be taking in more money, state officials would reduce the amount of revenue sharing and school funding the city receives from Augusta. In addition, Cumberland County would increase the amount of taxes the city owes.

If, however, the developer had a TIF deal with Portland, all that would change. Anything built under a TIF doesn't count in the state and county calculations, so state aid doesn't decrease and county taxes don't rise.

But it's not a simple dollar-for-dollar deal. State funding doesn't decline by the exact amount raised in new taxes, nor do county taxes jump by that amount. There's a complex formula used to decide how the figures vary. The trick is to figure out where the break-even point is — to calculate how much of a project's worth to protect with a TIF so the amount lost in uncollected property taxes equals the amount gained in school aid, revenue sharing and a lower county tax bill. If Portland achieved the right balance, that tax break to the warehouse would end up costing the municipal treasury nothing at all. If the city failed to do the math correctly, all other taxpayers in the city would be forced to pay the difference.

While Portland allows TIFs of up to 75 percent, other municipalities have set a much lower limit. Lewiston and Auburn recently worked out the numbers, discovering that the break-even point for TIFs in those cities is just under 40 percent of the new property taxes generated by a project. As a result, the two City Councils developed joint rules limiting future TIFs to no more than 40 percent, unless the developer makes what the regulations call an "exceptional investment," defined as an investment of at least \$5 million and the creation of a minimum of 100 full-time jobs.

"You wouldn't want to go beyond that [40 percent point], because there's no benefit to the community," said Auburn City

THEY'RE GIVING AWAY YOUR MONEY CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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THEY'RE GIVING AWAY YOUR MONEY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Manager Pat Finnigan, "unless it was an incredibly large employer with benefits for years to come. Otherwise, you wouldn't want to give someone a 50 percent TIF because it's not to the citizens' advantage to do that."

In Portland, the idea of breaking even on a TIF appears to be an alien concept. In fact, Portland officials haven't even calculated where the break-even point is. "We haven't done that analysis recently," said Kathleen Brown, the city's economic development director. "We're currently looking at what we've done previously to see whether it was effective or not. When you do a TIF, you're balancing a

Auburn's. According to rough figures worked up by Mayor Tom Kane and City Councilor Jim Cloutier, both critics of the current tax-break policy, the city starts losing money if it gives back more than 35 percent of the taxes owed. That's far lower than the 75 percent allowed under Portland's current rules.

"I'm more than willing to say let's not do anything more than 35 percent, because there's no cost to the taxpayers," said Kane. "To me, anything over 35 percent is coming directly out of the taxpayers' pockets."

During the recent debate over granting a 75 percent TIF to Bookland for a superstore on Marginal Way, Kane and Cloutier tried to convince their fellow councilors to cut the tax break to 25 percent. "We'd actually have gotten more back than it cost," said Cloutier. "But it was clear the votes weren't there to do it."

#### Tiffs over TIFs

Even staunch supporters of TIFs like Councilor Campbell say Portland's rules for granting tax breaks could be improved. But Campbell's ideas for possible reforms have little in common with those suggested by TIF critics.

For instance, Campbell admitted that, although he voted for the Bookland TIF, giving tax breaks to retail operations is "very marginal." He said the city needs to "raise the threshold a little in terms of retail and service-type TIFs." To do that, Campbell suggested requiring a two-thirds majority vote to approve such deals. He'd also look favorably on increasing the amount developers of retail projects must invest to qualify for a TIF — it's currently a minimum of \$2 million — to some unspecified higher figure. He also indicated he might support a requirement that retail businesses agree to pay wages above the prevailing standard for their industry.

That doesn't go far enough to satisfy Cloutier. In the near future, he plans to ask the Council to approve a "claw-back" rule for TIFs. Under that arrangement, companies that fail to meet their promises of creating well-paid jobs would see their tax breaks "clawed back." In other words, if a business said its development would result in 100 new jobs that paid an average of \$15 an hour, the city would set time limits for accomplishing those goals. If the jobs or wages weren't there by a specific time, property taxes would have to be paid in full. In Lewiston and Auburn, new TIF rules require companies to prove they've created at least 50 percent of the promised jobs within two years and 100 percent within three. Failure to do so results in the loss of that year's tax break. Missing those goals for three consecutive years renders the entire TIF agreement null and void, forcing the developer to pay all back taxes plus interest.

In addition, Cloutier and Kane are trying to devise rules that would require TIF recipients to pay wages at or above the standard for their industry. While Lewiston and Auburn specify companies must pay a "livable wage" of at least \$9.65 an hour, the two councilors are seeking



a more comprehensive standard for Portland. "For instance, \$12 an hour is a good wage in restaurants," said Cloutier, "but it's cheap in health care. We might want a sliding scale."

Meanwhile TIF critics in the state Legislature, spurred on in part by the Bookland tax break, are preparing their own restrictions. State Sen. Peter Mills of Skowhegan introduced bills to ban not only retail TIFs, but those for restaurants and hotels as well. (Another notorious Portland TIF went to the Regency Hotel in 1996 to help pay for its expansion. But financing for the project fell through, and, in spite of the tax break, it was never built.)

**"PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TAX BREAKS, BUT THAT'S WHAT TRIGGERS INVESTMENT. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S ON WALL STREET. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S TAX-EXEMPT MUNICIPALS. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S NEW CONSTRUCTION OR WHATEVER. TAX BREAKS IS WHAT TRIGGERS INVESTMENT."**

— Bob Ganley, Portland city manager

effect, they get two tax breaks for the price of one. (During recent negotiations over the Bookland TIF, city attorney Gary Wood insisted that if the company received a rebate on 75 percent of its property taxes for a proposed superstore on Marginal Way, it would have to agree to forego a "double-dip" tax break from the state.)

"The law is wide open," said Mills. "It's astonishingly wide open. We need policies that show when we're not going to use [TIFs]."

Mills isn't alone in Augusta in expressing concern about how the law is used. Last year, Senate Majority Leader Chellie Pingree of North Haven introduced a bill placing strict limits on TIFs. Companies would have been forced to disclose far more detailed financial information before qualifying for a tax break. In addition, they'd have to agree to pay livable wages, offer good benefits and refuse to use strikebreakers or replacement workers. The measure was watered down with the final result being a committee to collect information on TIFs and make recommendations for new legislation. (The information-gathering aspect is certainly needed. The most recent data Pingree's office could supply on TIFs is over a year old, and lists the Cumberland County town of Scarborough as being in York

County and Topsham as being in both Cumberland and Sagadahoc counties.)

Pingree is also seeking more public accountability from companies that get TIFs, the same kind of accountability government demands from individuals who get state aid. "If you're collecting welfare," she said, "and you receive a windfall, back child-support payments or the like, the state takes that money to cover part of your welfare costs. If you get Medicaid to cover the cost of nursing-home care, when you die, the state takes your home and sells it to cover the cost. We do this with individuals, but not with businesses. It's odd public policy."

Christopher St. John of the Maine Center for Economic Policy is philosophically opposed to TIFs, but recognizes they're politically necessary. To reduce inequities in the system, St. John proposes granting the tax breaks only to companies that score well on matters of social concern. For instance, he would look more favorably on businesses that are locally owned, and would give particular attention to ones that have some measure of employee ownership. "The government should enhance broader ownership by people who currently have little control," he said. "We could use the TIF structure to implement that change."

#### One for all, all for one

The simplest reform of the TIF system may be the most politically difficult to achieve. Under the current setup, companies can play one town off against another, demanding bigger tax concessions and fewer conditions in return for not relocating to a neighboring municipality. DeLorme pitted Freeport and Yarmouth against each other. Unum threatened to shift its new headquarters building to South Portland unless it got a no-strings-attached TIF from Portland. SoPo recently used the tax-break law to grab Durastone, a Portland concrete-step manufacturer with a poor environmental record. And Portland TIFed Bookland away from South Portland.

It would seem to make sense for these communities to coop-

erate by developing uniform TIF rules and joint economic development strategies. But outside of Lewiston and Auburn, no municipalities in the state have taken those steps.

"Very few businesses move into Maine," said Rosenfeld, Scarborough's economic development director. "Most of them move around Maine. We shouldn't be competing with each other [for them] that way. That's a big problem."

It's a problem that has more to do with politics than with economics. Local officials are nervous about giving up control of their economic development efforts, and fearful of negative reaction from voters if they don't appear to be fighting for every potential development. "It makes sense for Greater Portland to get together and talk about ... TIFs," said USM economist Colgan. "But political values and economic values have little to do with each other. It makes a lot of sense, but the fact it hasn't happened shows what makes more sense to the existing system."

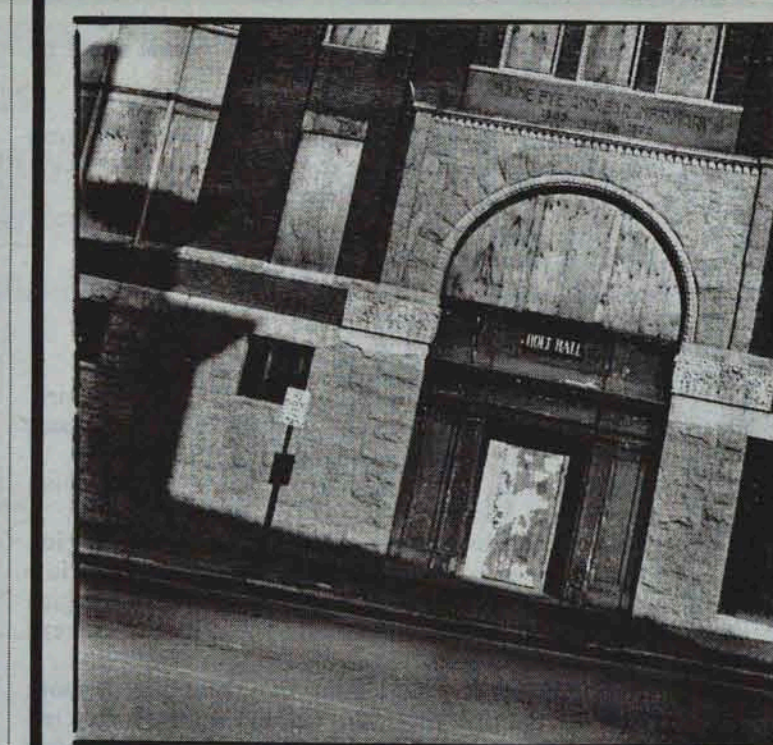
"A common system for TIFs," he sniffed. "We can't even run a common bus system."

Which explains not only why tax breaks for businesses cost ordinary taxpayers so much, but why it's so expensive to ride the Metro.

Al Diamon is CBW's political columnist.

**IT'S POSSIBLE, CONSIDERING SOME OF THE NUMBERS DEVELOPED BY BOTH CONSULTANTS AND COUNCILORS, THESE TAX BREAKS FOR BUSINESSES ARE DRAINING ENOUGH FROM THE PUBLIC COFFERS TO WIPE OUT ANY FINANCIAL GAINS THEY MIGHT GENERATE.**

## SOMETIMES IT'S NOT ABOUT JOBS



Holt Hall: no plywood, but not many jobs either  
FILE PHOTO/SOSHANNAH WHITE

ic. While a sandwich shop located across the street has expanded in hopes of gaining increased business from Holt Hall tenants, the principal boost to the area seems to be that the renovated building looks better. The plywood is gone from the storefront windows, replaced with curtains. The trash that collected in the alley behind Holt has been cleaned up. A dilapidated house next door has been torn down to make way for a parking lot. And people living in the apartments, which rent for up to \$1,350 a month, have a great view of areas north and west of Portland.

While city officials remain optimistic those improvements will eventually encourage other property owners in the area to spruce up their buildings, it remains to be seen if some painting and patching of nearby houses — as well as those 14 jobs — will be enough to justify the money the taxpayers put into Holt Hall.

A.D.



## COMMENT

so  
noted

## Tracking down your tax dollars

Follow the money. That's the mantra of people who want to figure out what's going on in government. But when it comes to following the cash from municipal tax breaks to businesses, most of us lose the trail.

In this week's cover story ("They're giving away your money," page 10), we take a look at whether Portlanders benefit from so-called tax increment financing, or TIFs. That's not an easy question, because local officials haven't collected much hard data on the effects of tax incentives. Has the city made up for the lost tax dollars with increases in state aid? Could run-down properties have been fixed up without tax breaks to lure developers? How large can a TIF deal be before the city has no hope of profiting from the arrangement?

Portland officials don't know. "When you do a TIF, you're balancing a number of community goals," said economic development director Kathleen Brown. "Lots of things can't be quantified."

If you look at the experiences of other towns and cities, it appears Portland may be giving away the proverbial store. Lewiston and Auburn, for example, won't cut more than 40 percent off a firm's taxes, because that's the break-even point in those cities. Portland, on the other hand, continues to hand out whopper TIFs. The latest one went to Bookland, knocking 75 percent off the store's tax bill. That's more than twice the amount Mayor Tom Kane and Councilor Jim Cloutier calculated Portland can afford. The retailer had threatened to build in another city, and in fact that might have been better for Portland.

Portland leaders haven't shown much eagerness to tackle the complicated policy issues that go along with handing out several hundred thousand dollars to already profitable businesses. The City Council has guidelines for approving tax breaks, but the rules don't do much to limit TIFs. Bookland, which pays many of its people poverty-level wages of \$16,000 a year (including benefits), qualifies for the same kind of incentives as Nichols Portland, a large manufacturer that does out much higher

salaries.

Should the Council look more favorably on locally owned businesses that offer livable wages? Should leaders sacrifice public money for bookstores and factories alike? Should they give a break to Bookland over the objections of smaller Old Port shops that will have to compete with a subsidized superstore on Marginal Way?

You don't have to have much social conscience to see livable wages are better than pittance, manufacturing jobs offer more opportunity than running a cash register and existing businesses deserve the same support given to attract new ones. Yet the Council has barely begun to consider whether those issues should be a factor in tax-break policy. Likewise, Portland officials are nowhere near ready to talk about cooperating with neighboring municipalities — as Lewiston and Auburn already do — instead of using TIFs to snatch companies back and forth across the border.

Few other city programs get so little scrutiny. We track the cash spent by parks and schools, and argue endlessly over which programs and upgrades need more funding. We debate the fine points of obscure candidates' murky platforms, but we devote scant attention to tax breaks after the initial excitement dies down. With no ongoing discussion about where we want to put our money, we're doomed to keep considering requests for TIFs on a case by case basis. That's no way to run economic development, and it's certainly no way to handle the public coffers.

## Correction

In the Jan. 14 edition of "Loose Change," we should have explained that 60 Minute Photo does two types of film development. Normal processing, available at the Portland store on Middle Street, takes no longer than 40 minutes. Archive-quality processing, available at the South Portland store on Ocean Street, takes 80 minutes.

LAURA CONAWAY

@ PM 1999 letters

## Bus of dreams

As James Carville might say, "It's the routes and stops, stupid." If "middle-class riders are the missing link in Metro's success" ("Running out of gas," 2.18.99), make it available to all of us. Bring the routes back to where we live (how about Ocean Avenue?), install stops near condo/apartment complexes and developments. Keep in mind we don't all work in town and don't shop exclusively at the mall.

Personally, I find a bus ride enjoyable, but if I need a cab to get to the bus stop, I may as well take a cab to my destination. Oh, and one more note to the city: If you don't tell them you built it, they won't come! The people can't be expected to use it if the people aren't advised that it's available to them.

Carole Unruh  
Portland

## Driven crazy

If I want to read the dominant thinking of the day again, I can always pick up the *Press Herald*. That's why it's so frustrating to see a front-page tag line on *CBW* that reads: "Metro: high cost, low ridership" (2.18.99).

The real headline should be: "Thousands die, hundreds of thousands of lives ruined, air and groundwater polluted, ridership (per car) down, costs soar as Americans continue to drive cars."

But that's boring, old news. That headline could be written every month. Why bother? I guess what's good for General Motors is good enough for *CBW*, and all the rest of us. Gee, where did I put my *Press Herald*?

Peter Monro  
Portland

## Thank heaven for little girls

In Connie Pacillo's column "Sorry, I'm just a girl" (2.18.99), Ms. Pacillo equates girl athletes talking about their femininity to girls belittling themselves.

Ms. Pacillo, I want you to know, my dear lesbian friend, Inga Muscio, who just had her book "Cunt: A Declaration of Independence" published, dresses in pink frilly dresses and wears mascara and blue eyeshadow while she's doing chin-ups before she writes her "vagina dentum" column and has girly sleepovers where everyone plays jacks.

Many of us feminists think our femininity is more powerful than playing boy. The girl athletes may tell everyone about their femininity because they're playing by their own rules.

Femininity is not belittling — femininity rules!

Mary Pat Warming  
Portland

## Spit decision

I am writing in response to the letter in *CBW* titled "A Chief Complaint" (2.25.99). It shames the chief for his remarks about the possibility of contracting HIV from saliva. I feel the true mark has been missed on this emotional subject. I am not going to argue about saliva being a carrier of the virus because I am not a doctor.

But in this case the true cause for alarm was blood in the mouth, which anyone who has kept themselves marginally educated on the subject of HIV/AIDS knows is a carrier. The fact is that there was an altercation between the officer and the man he was trying to arrest and during the scuffle the man's mouth was injured.

I am not a Chitwood fan, though for this cause I applaud him for standing behind his officer. I am responding to the fact that there is a human being involved who is having to undertake a dramatic drug therapy in order to combat any potential (however insignificant) for catching this devastating disease and will no doubt have anxiety over several months before final testing.

I realize the rights of people with HIV and AIDS to be protected to the fullest extent possible. However, I can't imagine those same people would stand for the act of an individual who potentially could have HIV to allegedly spit in the face of a police officer.

Christina Tripp-Maynard  
Saco

## Be true to your school

As a student of Portland High School, I was appalled by "Separate but not equal" (2.18.99) regarding the differences between Portland and Deering High.

My first grievance to address is that of those who were interviewed. I understand the importance of getting a DHS student's opinions, but I don't think the student's view should have been published (especially in such large, bold print). The student obviously knows nothing about PHS and the classes offered. The statement that said advanced placement and honors classes aren't offered at PHS is absolutely false. Not only are such classes offered, but they are all fine programs that prepare students for the future.

Also, stereotypes are constantly produced about

@ PM 1999 letters

Portland — many of which appeared in the article. Being an inner-city school doesn't mean drugs are dealt between each class and fights break out left and right. I wish everyone could spend a day at Portland to see that it is just as safe as Deering's "private-academy atmosphere."

Regarding the diversity in our school, I feel that I am truly fortunate to be in such an environment where I have the opportunity to learn firsthand about many of the world's cultures.

Regarding the statement that an athlete goes to Portland while a finely cultured student goes to Deering, I strongly disagree. Our school does often excel in sports, but I believe our fine arts program is one of the best in the state. The writers, artists, actors and musicians at PHS are, in my opinion, phenomenal.

I'm not saying Portland is better than Deering, but I believe they're wonderfully unique in their own ways. I chose PHS as an eighth grader because I felt it best fit my needs and I believe Portland is where I comfortably belong.

Erin E. O'Connell  
Junior at Portland High School

## Proud to be a Portland grad

As a graduate of Reiche Elementary School, King Middle School and Portland High School, I was dismayed to read that I had received an education substandard to that of my friends across town. However, as I read the article I was relieved to find the author had few facts to back up her assertion and she was reduced to holding Portland High School accountable for solving racial issues that plague our entire country.

The negative and sensational tone of the article only serves to undermine educators working in the schools. I am proud to have attended a unique and diverse institution such as Portland High and I applaud the efforts of all the people who work to enact positive changes in the community.

Chelsea V. Thaxter  
New York City

CBW

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

## Smells like school spirit

I am writing in response to your article on the diversity in Portland High School and the lack of it at Deering. I'm a senior at Deering and find most of this article false and misleading.

I realize the importance of using strong words in an article's title, but you need to use facts to support your argument. I found no facts contributing to "separate but not equal." I did notice the following: "In fact, graduates from Deering and Portland seek postsecondary education at nearly identical rates — just under 60 percent." You also mention Deering had 51 more suspensions than Portland in the fall 1997 semester. Obviously, if Portland has a higher racial diversity, then it would have a higher percentage of suspensions given to minority students.

I would also like to point out that diversity by its simplest definition is the state of being of a different kind, form, character — multiformity. By ruling out Deering as a diverse school, you contradict what your article set out to prove. Although 94 percent of our population is white, our thoughts and expressions are diverse in their own way. I agree that some of the student body are snobby and middle-class, but we have a large number of groups from different walks of life, i.e., jocks, preps, nerds, smokers, druggies, wanna-bes, etc. I understand the purpose of the article was to show the difference of ethnic diversity between Portland High and Deering, but I also believe it wasn't fair to label Deering as an all-white, conformist high school.

In all fairness, I would like to state that Deering does need the classes that will attract minority groups. An ethnically diverse school environment does have its advantages, and if a kid of color lives next to Deering they should have the right to attend. It made sense to put the kids who need help with their English in a school close by their neighborhood. If recent housing counts indicate increasing numbers of immigrant families settling in neighborhoods like Rosemont and Sagamore Village, then Deering should make plans to accommodate these changes. I think people don't realize these things take time and they shouldn't be so quick to judge Deering as all white. If Komakech wants to come to Deering, I would be the first to shake his hand and welcome him here, and so would a lot of other kids.

Samuel Lowell  
Portland

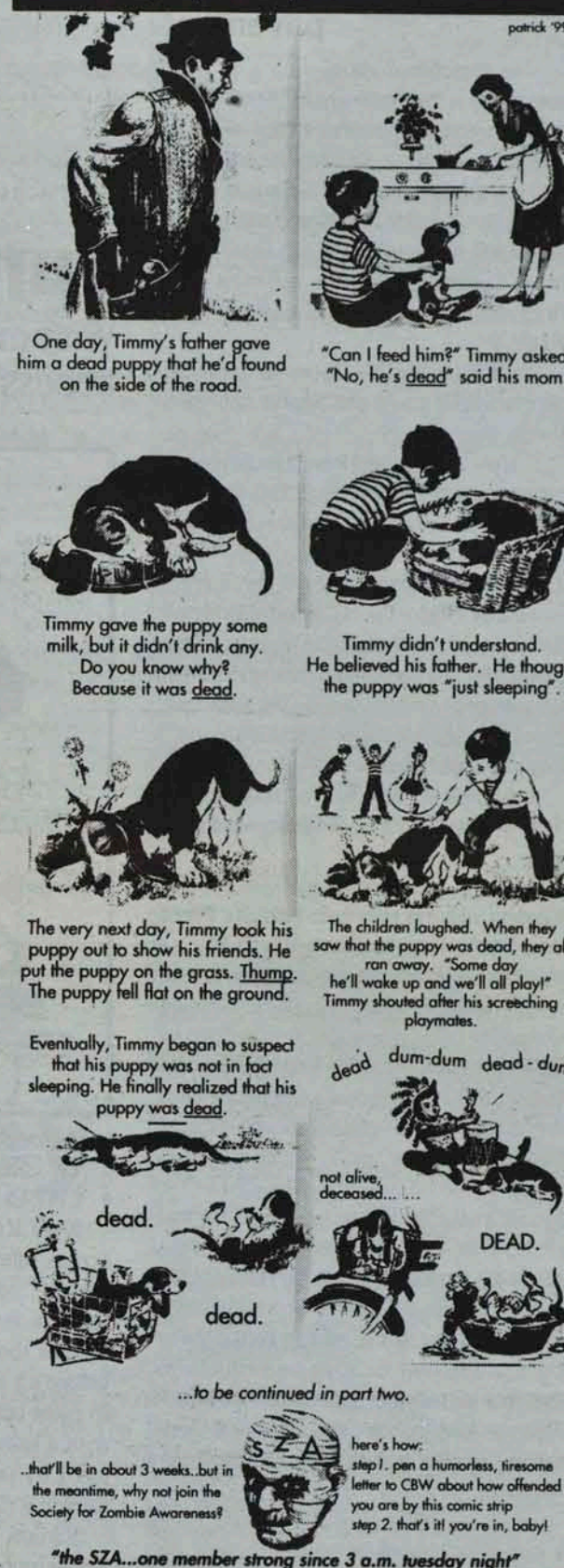
Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@maine.m.com.

## How many dollar bills are tacked up on the ceiling at the Free Street Taverna, and could I use one of them to help pay for a meal?

Pete Kastopoulos, owner of the Portland watering hole, guessed there are about 880 bills on the wall. Kastopoulos explained that he and a friend were sucking down a few beers the night before they opened in 1992, and for no particular reason decided to write on some dollar bills and display them on the wall. "After we opened, people just started to follow suit," he said. You can use one of the dollar bills, Kastopoulos said, but only if you are the person who put it there in the first place.

## The Zombified Puppy (part one)

a cautionary bedtime story brought to you by The Society for Zombie Awareness





Film flap: When "My Mother's Courage" screens on March 6 at the Maine Jewish Film Festival, Benmet Damte will be outside the Movies on Exchange Street inviting others to join a protest vigil. An Ethiopian Jew, Damte is the only black member of the Congregation Bet Ha'am in South Portland, which presents the festival.

His objections? He sees racism in the film, in which a Jewish woman convinces a Nazi official to release her. Damte says a reference in the festival brochure to a "handsome" German officer perpetuates the idea of a **European, Aryan standard of beauty**. He also believes the movie "legitimizes totalitarian and racist practices in the reform Jewish community in Portland."

"In that temple, it's the white folks who decide what is racist and what is not," says Damte.

"I know that we don't have a racist congregation," says Bet Ha'am Rabbi Paul Cohen. "I know we have members who make mistakes and who say things that are careless and hurtful... and that's true even within your own family."

Festival director David Connerty-Marín says Damte doesn't understand the message of the movie, which is based on a true story. "What this woman in the film says is, 'The Nazis have blond hair and blue eyes just like my son,'" Connerty-Marín says.

But Damte still objects. "You wouldn't show 'Birth of a Nation' for Black History Month," he says.

Rolling with the eight ball: **Nappi's Pizza and Pool** plans to close March 27, but may reopen at an undisclosed location in mid-May. The Portland watering hole is being shoved out of its Commercial Street building by the new tenant, Standard Baking Company. Owner John Nappi said he's negotiating for a new space but won't reveal its whereabouts until the deal is final.

Bruno's back: Bruno's, an India Street bar that closed in the early '90s, is being reborn at the site of the former Yankee Bingo Hall on Allen Avenue in Portland. Owner Bob Napolitano, who also owns Erik's in the Old Port, plans to open at the new location by early April. Bruno's will revive its popular menu of Italian-American food, including its famous steak sandwiches, and will feature a deck and satellite television.

Pain relief: Handbills started showing up around Portland recently bearing the slogan "We're coming to take away the pain." Religious fanatics? Aspirin manufacturers? Somebody who plans to haul Jolly John off to the funny farm? As it turns out, the posters are promoting a power boost at **WUNH**, the University of New Hampshire's student-run station in Durham. If all goes as planned, WUNH will up its power on March 7 from 1,750 watts to 6,000, enabling the signal to reach Portland.

Much of the station's programming is similar to what's already available on WMPG. Although a staffer described the mix of shows as "mostly progressive alternative," WUNH does offer an evening of classical music each Monday and jazz on Tuesday nights.

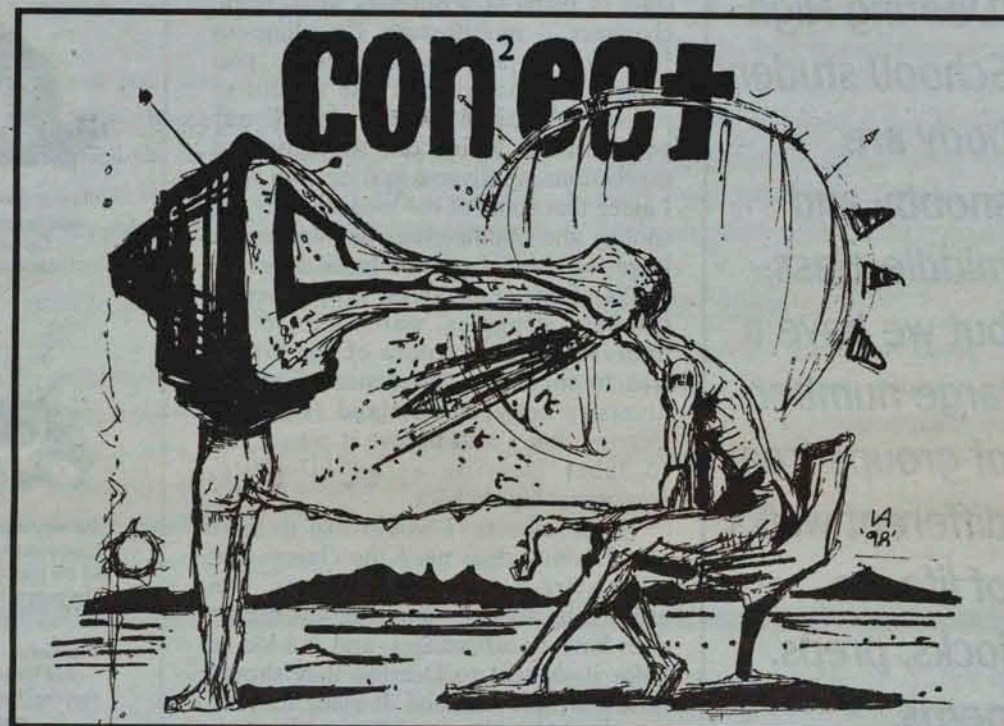
Check it out by tuning in at 91.3. **CBW**

## Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

# EDGE

## Fund it and they will come

With more money and better studios, Portland's public access TV station shows signs of new life



Not for the faint of heart: Channel 2's "Connect."

### CHRIS BUSBY

Kyle Rankin, of the infamous public access television show "Live with Kyle & Efram," recently went on a "walking ass tour" of Portland, pressing his ham against various monuments in town. It wasn't long before an angry Korean War vet called him to point out that his ass had come in contact with a Korean War memorial. Rankin countered by saying the veteran had fought for Rankin's right to do just that.

Rankin says offended viewers often call up claiming they've taped an episode and plan to hand it over to the police. "They complain about 10 different things and you realize — they've watched the whole show!"

In fact, more people are watching public access Channel 2 than ever — not to see public asses, but because of the station's public assets. Since the move to new facilities at 100 Oak St. in Portland last July, a steady stream of prospective video artists has shown up to take monthly production classes, spurring the creation of new shows. The cable station now features 21 hours of original programming spread over seven days a week, up from a year ago when it aired just 12 hours of original programming over four days.

Last June the station received \$161,000

to pay for upgraded equipment. Most of that came from Time Warner Cable, but \$25,000 came from the Portland City Council in an unprecedented show of support. Demand for the station's studio, cameras and editing facilities may soon force more purchases. "We never had a problem scheduling studio time before because no one wanted to use it," says executive director Tom Handel. "Now there are times when two editing systems are not enough."

Would the City Council cough up more money for new equipment? "Sure," says Councilor Cheryl Leeman, an influential member of the Council's cable television committee, "based on demonstrated need."

So who's supplying the programs that have created this need? Here's a look at a few shows you may have missed.

### "Off-Center"

During the day, schoolteacher Chris Newcomb teaches gifted kids at Falmouth's Plummer-Motz Elementary School. But every other Wednesday night at 8 p.m., he becomes the host of "Off-Center," a variety show featuring such local musicians as Tin Tin's Rocket, Tomorrow's Compost and Voluntary Relatives.

Music isn't the only point of "Off-

Center." Newcomb, also the show's executive producer since its debut in September 1998, uses it to inspire people to consider life from an "off-center" perspective. "I'm trying to get people who are numbed out by society, not living their own lives and dreams, to say, 'Oh, there's a different way of doing things.'"

A recent episode included Newcomb delivering a kind of secular sermon on the theme of "getting stuck," songs by the world-music band Luna Coro and an installment of "Among the Oats," an ongoing comedy sketch about three people trapped in a cylinder of oatmeal.

### "Boomers and Beyond"

Fern Gladstone is Channel 2's Renaissance woman. She started out working on "Off-Center," but wanted to do more than just camera work. She began producing her own programs last fall, covering topics like animal adoption and taping cultural events like a gospel music celebration at the United Methodist Church. After taping a gig by local musician Tee Tee Soul, she approached him with the idea of co-hosting a variety talk show. Four days later, the first episode of "Boomers and Beyond" was in the can. It airs Sundays at 8 p.m.

"There are really no shows for people 40 and over in real terms," she claims. "Tee Tee and I are really real." "Boomers and Beyond" radiates public-access charm. In the first episode, the hosts fumble with a recalcitrant can opener during a cooking segment, then segue into the "Boomer Bounce" exercise segment while the microwave works its magic. Gladstone wrote the lyrics for the show's opening theme ("We are the Baby Boomers/brought up on sitcom humors") to which Soul added a catchy reggae beat. A future program may feature Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood, singing songs from "West Side Story."

### "A Show Called Betty"

The brainchild of Adam and Eric Stockman, "A Show Called Betty" has been in existence since January 1997. The brothers write, produce and act in the sketch-comedy program. Reminiscent of "Monty Python's Flying Circus," "Betty" spoofs such targets as commercials and Christianity.

"You try with comedy to put a little social satire in," says Adam Stockman, "to feel as though you're doing some benefit to society."

### "Connect"

Unlike anything you've seen in your waking hours, "Connect" consists of what might be described as "ambient visuals" accompanied by a trippy electronic soundtrack. But the show has been off the air recently, due to visuals that often reach 200 percent color saturation, causing it to "bleed" into adjacent cable channels in violation of federal technical guidelines.

The producers of "Connect" are shrouded in mystery. According to access coordinator Patrick Bonsant, "They just come in to drop off the tapes."

### "Change"

Perhaps the most promising new pro-

ducer at public access is Alex Silva. His cinema verité documentary on Portland's homeless teens, "Change," realizes the potential the station has to cover the city in ways local network affiliates never would.

"Change" begins with a long stream-of-consciousness interview with a homeless teen. A street-level camera captures the legs of passersby, the teen's obscenity-laden opinions and the near-constant howl of sirens in the background.

Silva learned production at Channel 2 and began producing shows six months ago. "I've always liked the idea of being able to show people my point of view," he says. "I wander in and out [of the studio] and grab the camera if I get a good idea."

For producers like Silva, public access provides a unique opportunity to comment on Portland's social issues and cultural events. "If you want to make a statement," he says, "you go through the communication lines."

For a complete Channel 2 schedule, call 775-2900.

## SMALL WORLD, BIG SCREEN

### Framing Jewish culture in film

For all Portland's multicultural atmosphere, it's a city in which the Jewish population is relatively quiet. Delis do not abound. The closest Jewish bookstore is in Boston. "In Portland the only place you can feel Jewish is at synagogue," said David Connerty-Marín, director of the Maine Jewish Film Festival.

The festival may help change that. Held for the first time in 1998 (a smaller version originated at a local synagogue a few years back), the event sold out every show, playing to enthusiastic audiences.

This year's celluloid celebration features 19 films representing six countries. Respected German director Michael Verhoeven will be in town to introduce his critically hailed Holocaust trilogy, "White Rose," "The Nasty Girl" and "My Mother's Courage." Also on hand will be Israeli actress Dalit Kahan. She stars in the opening-night feature, "Song of the Siren," a contemporary tale of an Israeli ad exec who focuses on love despite a backdrop of air-raid sirens on the eve of the Gulf War.



"The Harmonists"

The films run the gamut from tragic to humorous to inspiring. On Monday, March 8, the documentary "Love Story" will be screened. It recounts the true story of two women in love, one the upstanding young wife of a Nazi, the other a member of the Jewish resistance.

"September Songs: The Music of Kurt Weill," a tribute to the German-born composer, features Elvis Costello, Betty Carter and William Burroughs. It plays Tuesday, March 9 along with "Art and Remembrance: The Legacy of Felix Nussbaum," a look at an artist whose work

examined life during the Holocaust and who was put to death at Auschwitz.

Closing-night films include "The Shvitz," a short film about Jewish bathhouses in New York and "The Harmonists," a true tale of the rise to fame of the Comedian Harmonists, a 1920s German a capella group — three of them Jews — which garnered wide critical acclaim, until being overtaken by political events.

Connerty-Marín says Portland's festival is bigger than ones in Hartford and New Haven, Conn., a testament to its importance to the Jewish community. And, on a more everyday level, he says, "It's nice to feel Jewish in the secular world, just going to the movies."

PAT SIMS

The Maine Jewish Film Festival shows March 4 to 10, The Movies, 10 Exchange Street, Portland. Tix: \$5 and \$6, with discount passes available. 879-0028.

Don't worry, you haven't entirely missed it.

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Friday, March 12, 8 pm State Street Church, 159 State St.  
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Music, dancing, potluck desserts! Cathedral Guild Hall, 307 Congress St. \$6 at the door.

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BY PAUL RUDNICK  
DIRECTED BY WENDY POOLE

**jeffrey**

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DAN CONLEY  
CRAIG HOUK  
CHRISTINE MARSHALL  
J.D. MERRITT  
BOB POIRIER  
DENNIS SCOTT  
BENJAMIN TURNER

"...stinging, extremely funny & deeply moving."  
— Pat Sims, *CRW*

**FEBRUARY 17- MARCH 7TH**

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WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 8PM  
SATURDAY MATINEE 1PM • SUNDAY MATINEE 5PM  
@ THE OAK STREET THEATRE  
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CALL 775-5103 FOR INFO & RESERVATIONS



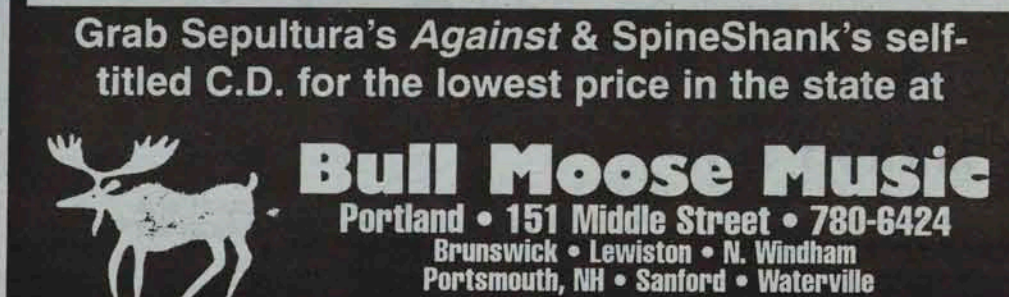


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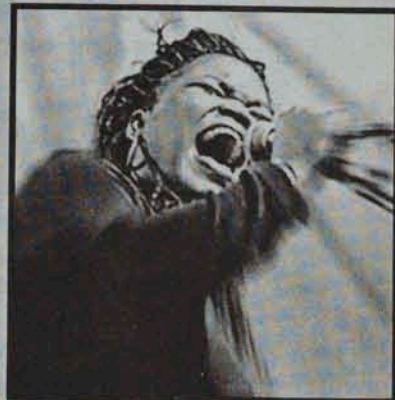
**SEPULTURA**  
*SpineShank*  
**See Them LIVE!**  
On Tour with **BIOHAZARD** and **ONE MINUTE SILENCE**  
Live at the State Theatre, Sunday, March 7!



Grab Sepultura's *Against* & SpineShank's self-titled C.D. for the lowest price in the state at  
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# CLUBS

Prime  
cut



Shemekia Copeland belts out the blues Sat, March 6, at Stone Coast Brewing Company.

**Shemekia Copeland**, daughter of the late Texas blues guitar legend Johnny Clyde Copeland, has the blues in her blood. Like most of us, she came out of the womb wailin'. Unlike most of us, she has a voice powerful enough to rock a room full of blues fans — sans microphone. Sat, March 6, at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St, Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$23 with dinner).

## thursday 4

The Basement  
Call ahead (10 pm/cover T.B.A.)  
The Better End  
Dance Night with DJ Jon 9:30 pm/no cover

The Big Easy  
Honest Eds 9 pm/\$3  
Bramhall Pub  
Jerk of Grass 9:30 pm/no cover

Casey's Lounge  
Red Light Revue 9 pm/no cover  
The Comedy Connection  
Portland's Funniest Professional  
Amateur Contest with Jim Dunn  
9:30 pm/\$9

Empty Pockets  
Sons' Irish quartet 9 pm/no cover

Fine Arts  
American Waste, Urban Alliance,  
Big Heat Hammer, Rhinoceros, C.D.S.  
and Don't Hit Your Sister 7 pm/\$9

Free Street Taverna  
Brotherhood Dogs 10 pm/no cover

Gilligan's Tiki Bar  
Call ahead 9 pm/no cover

Granny's Burritos  
Jason Wilkins 7 pm/no cover

Loose Moose Saloon  
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 9 pm-1 am/no cover

Old Port Tavern  
Riot Act rock/10 pm/no cover

Sea Dog  
Paul Meyn 9:30 pm/no cover

Sisters  
DJ dancing 8 pm/no cover

Somewhere  
Karaoke with Larry 9 pm-1 am/no cover

The Underground  
DJ Bob Look's All Request Night  
70s, 80s and 90s dance hits  
9 pm/call ahead

Zootz  
Triple Nipple 80s all-new wave/9 pm-1 am/no cover

## friday 5

Aggie's  
Call ahead 9 pm/no cover

Asylum  
Rehabilitation dance night with DJ  
Dale Dorsett 9 pm/no cover 9-11 pm, \$2 after 11 pm/21+

The Basement  
Call ahead 9:30 pm/cover T.B.A.

The Better End  
Stand Up Eight and Crash 22 9:30 pm/\$1

## saturday 6

Aggie's  
Call ahead 9 pm/no cover

Brian Bond  
Rakish Paddy traditional Irish/9 pm/no cover

The Comedy Connection  
Jim Dunn and Chuck "Puffy" Roy  
9:30 pm/\$9

Commercial Street Pub  
Folk/acoustic night 9:30 pm/no cover

Bramhall Pub  
Blue Fuse 9:30 pm/no cover

Brian Bond  
Rakish Paddy traditional Irish/9 pm/no cover

Fine Arts  
American Waste, Apollonia,  
Razorming, the Commonwealth,  
Disorder Force, the Studs and Fury  
4:40 6:30 pm/\$9

Free Street Taverna  
The Pipers 11 pm/\$3

Gen's  
Info not available to CBW

Gilligan's Tiki Bar  
Call ahead 9 pm/no cover

The Industry  
College Night DJ Joyce spins hip-hop, R&B and dance/10 pm-3 am/21+, \$3/18+, \$5

Loose Moose Saloon  
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 9 pm-1 am/no cover

Metropolis  
Chem-free party with DJ Thunder  
hip-hop and Top 40/8 pm-1 am  
\$6; synergy in Room Two with  
guest DJ's house, trance, techno  
9:30 pm-7 am/\$6

Old Port Tavern  
Riot Act rock/10 pm/no cover

Pete and Larry's  
Red Light House 9:30 pm/no cover

Sea Dog  
Petting Zoo funk/9:30 pm/\$2

Silver House Tavern  
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover

Sisters  
DJ dancing 8 pm/no cover

Somewhere  
Larry "Real" Allen (piano) 9 pm-12:30 am/no cover

Stone Coast Brewing Company  
Lincolnville 9 pm/\$3

The Underground  
Rockin' the House with DJ Colin W.  
9 pm/call ahead

Vermilion's  
Chameleon top 40/9 pm/no cover

Zootz  
Urban Dance with DJ Moshé hip-hop, trip-hop, house and acid  
jazz/9 pm-1 am/\$3 after 11 pm/all  
ages after 1:15 am

DJ Dice rockabilly and swing/same  
as above

## sunday 7

The Basement  
Call ahead

The Better End  
T.B.A. 9:30 pm/cover

Brian Bond  
An Irish traditional/3-6 pm/no cover

Cafe Lilla  
Bully Pulpit 6:30 pm/\$3

Comedy Connection  
George Ham's Comedy  
Showcase 8:30 pm/\$6

Empty Pockets  
Freedom traditional Irish/9 pm/no cover

Fine Arts  
MSBR and Gov't Alpha 8 pm/\$5

Free Street Taverna  
Mystic Vibes 11 pm/\$3

Gen's  
Info not available to CBW

Gilligan's Tiki Bar  
Call ahead 9 pm/no cover

The Industry  
DJ Mix spins Top 40, hip-hop and  
techno 11 pm-3 am/21+, \$3/18+,  
\$8

Loose Moose Saloon  
TJ the DJ spins Top 40 9 pm-1 am/no cover

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

Old Port Tavern  
Riot Act rock/10 pm/no cover

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

Sea Dog  
Blue Steel Express blues/9:30 pm/\$2

Silly's  
Actual Size (10:30 pm/T.B.A.)

Sisters  
DJ dancing (Top 40/9 pm/\$3)

Somewhere  
Mary Murphy (piano) 9 pm-1 am/no cover

Stone Coast Brewing Company  
Shemekia Copeland 7 pm/  
\$10/21+

The Underground  
Rockin' the House with DJ Colin W.  
9 pm/call ahead

Vermilion's  
Chameleon top 40/9 pm/no cover

Zootz  
Joy house music with DJ Joe  
Bernandez 9 pm-1 am/no cover

## monday 8

Free Street Taverna  
Open mic with Hawk 10 pm/no cover

Granny's Burritos  
Blue Fuse 7 pm/no cover

## the next BIG things

The Black Crowes  
Colby College, 3/12

Jonny Lang  
w/ Chris Whitley  
State Theatre, 3/16

George Carlin  
Merrill Auditorium, 3/20

Harlem Globetrotters  
Civic Center, 3/27

Fear Factory  
Asylum, 4/3

Slayer  
Central Maine Civic  
Center, 4/3

B.B. King  
Merrill Auditorium, 4/7

G. Love & Special  
Sauce  
Asylum, 4/13

Ani DiFranco  
State Theatre, 4/17

Ben Folds Five  
Bowdoin College, 4/16

Merle Haggard  
Merrill Auditorium, 4/20

Dar Williams  
Bowdoin College, 5/1

Yo-Yo Ma  
and Jeffrey Kahane  
Merrill Auditorium, 5/13

Old Port Tavern  
Concert karaoke with DJ Don  
Coman 10 pm/no cover

Zootz  
Dominate the Species (guitar  
industrial dance and fetish night/9  
pm-1 am/\$2/21+)

The Big Easy  
Blues Jam with Mike Hayward 9  
pm/call ahead

Commercial Street Pub  
Acoustic open mic 9 pm/no cover

Empty Pockets  
Open session with Billy  
McComiskey (first/11 pm/no cover)

Fine Arts  
Hot Rats to Hell (metal disco/9  
pm/\$2)

Free Street Taverna  
Tee Tee Soul 10 pm/no cover

Granny's Burritos  
Steel String Quintet 7 pm/no cover

Gritty McDuff's  
Kevin Midgey 8 pm/no cover

Molly's  
Mike Morris 9 pm/no cover

Old Port Tavern  
Concert karaoke with DJ Don  
Coman 10 pm/no cover

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

Silver House Tavern  
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover

Slaps  
DJ Randy 9 pm/no cover

Una  
T.B.A. (jazz/8:30 pm/no cover)

Zootz  
Local Yoke Night (local band  
demo/9 pm-1 am/21+)

Una  
DJ Laree Love (acid house/9  
pm/no cover)

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

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

The Basement 1 Exchange St., Portland, 828-1111.

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

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

Bramhall Pub 780 Congress St., Portland, 773-9873.

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

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

Casey's Lounge 867 Riverside St., Portland, 878-2685.

The Comedy Connection 6 Cotton House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

The Comedy Connection 6 Cotton House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Empty Pockets 27 Forest Ave., Portland, 774-1100.

Fine Arts 365 Forest Ave., Portland, 772-6683.

The Fermata Club 365 Forest Ave., Portland, 772-7682.

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

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

Gilligan's Tiki Bar 38 Wharf St., Portland, 761-9363.

Granny's Burritos 420 Fore St., Portland, 761-0751.

Gritty McDuff's 386 Fore St., Portland, 772-2739.

The Industry 50 Wharf St., Portland, 879-0865.

Loose Moose Saloon 100, 773-6571.

Metropolis 1037 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-3781.

Molly's 46 Market St., Portland, 761-4084.

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

O'Rourke's Landing 175 Picket St., Portland, 767-3611.

The Pavilion 188 Middle St., Portland, 773-6422.

Pete and Larry's Doubletree Hotel, 1230 Congress St., Portland, 774-5611.

The Portland Club 156 State St., Portland, 761-4499.

Sea Dog 231 Front St., Portland, 799-6555.

Silly's 40 Washington Ave., Portland, 772-0360.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## wednesday 10

The Basement  
T.B.A. 9:30 pm/cover T.B.A.

The Better End  
T.B.A. 9:30 pm/no cover

The Big Easy  
Blues Jam with Mike Hayward 9  
pm/call ahead

Commercial Street Pub  
Acoustic open mic 9 pm/no cover

Empty Pockets  
Open session with Billy  
McComiskey (first/11 pm/no cover)

Fine Arts  
Hot Rats to Hell (metal disco/9  
pm/\$2)

Free Street Taverna  
Tee Tee Soul 10 pm/no cover

Granny's Burritos  
Steel String Quintet 7 pm/no cover

Gritty McDuff's  
Kevin Midgey 8 pm/no cover

Molly's  
Mike Morris 9 pm/no cover

Old Port Tavern  
Concert karaoke with DJ Don  
Coman 10 pm/no cover

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

Silver House Tavern  
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover

Slaps  
DJ Randy 9 pm/no cover

Una  
T.B.A. (jazz/8:30 pm/no cover)

Zootz  
Local Yoke Night (local band  
demo/9 pm-1 am/21+)

Una  
DJ Laree Love (acid house/9  
pm/no cover)

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

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Bramhall Pub 780 Congress St., Portland, 773-9873.

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

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

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Granny's Burritos 420 Fore St., Portland, 761-0751.

Gritty McDuff's 386 Fore St., Portland, 772-2739.



**ZOOTZ**  
check out our  
**NEW**  
schedule!

put this on  
your fridge

**M** dominate the  
species

9PM-1AM  
21+ industrial gothic dance party.  
dominatrix, slaves, equipment.  
w/ dj slup.

**T** available for private parties

**W** Local yokel  
night (rec room)

9PM-1AM  
21+ Local band listening party. bring down your  
dooz park at 10pm. WOLF-PACK EVERYTHING!!  
\$1.50 micros, 1.75 pms. hosted by jorge

**Th** triple nipple  
thursday

9PM-1AM  
21+ A hodge-podge of 80's and 90's new wave, pop,  
and alternative. Nautilus to the go-gos, plunks  
to the squires, drink specials with a zootz  
twist. ask the bar for details.

**F** urban dance

9PM-3AM  
21+ til 1:15 dj moshé spins acid jazz.

**S** decades of dance

9PM-3AM  
21+ til 1:15 dj moshé spins acid jazz.

**Su** JOY!

9PM-1AM  
21+ a brand new night to zootz.  
djed by dj joe bernandez.  
house music all night.



**STONE COAST BREWING**

thu. feb 25  
**KARAOKE**  
w/Greg Powers

fri. mar 5  
**LINCOLNVILLE**  
ed release w/ mog and  
figurehead



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**EMPTY POCKETS**  
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**SPECIAL CONCERTS IN MARCH**  
**LIVE BANDS • NO COVER**

**Fri. March 5**  
 Kevin Reams

**Sat. March 6**  
 "Freedom" - Traditional Irish Band

**Wed. March 10**  
 Open session with Billy McComsky

**WED. MARCH 17TH**  
 Celebrate St. Patty's Day at Empty Pockets with traditional Irish bands from 6pm on...

• Ask about our daily beer specials  
 • Check out our new appetizer menu  
 • Pub games, darts, chess, cribbage, backgammon.

**YOU COULD WIN A FREE TRIP TO IRELAND FOR 2**  
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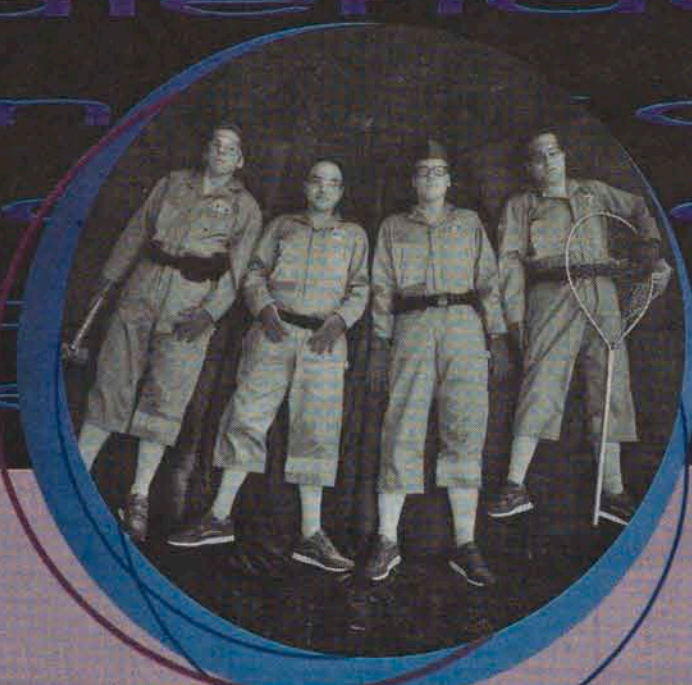
emptypocketspub.freesevers.com  
 Wed-Sat, 5-1am • Sun, 3-1am  
 Dinner until 10pm

## CENTER FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Portland Performing Arts has changed its name to the Center for Cultural Exchange and moved into a new home at One Longfellow Square. To celebrate, the group is hosting a two-day bash with enough multicultural guests to rival Kofi Annan's birthday party. It all kicks off Fri., March 5, at 7:30 p.m. with the **Cabaret du Monde**, a gala opening concert co-hosted by soul singer/gospel shouter JD Steele, postmodern visionary performance artist Ann Carlson and singer/drummer/actor/activist Jorge Arce. The House Island Band will jam Irish/Québécois music, the Humano Quartet will lay down some Latin jazz, Pirun and Rebecca Sen will perform a tribute to Cambodia's cultural heritage and the Rev. Margaret Lawson and Gospel Explosion will rock the house for the ages. Tix: \$25. The Center gives you most of the morning to nurse your hangover, then hits you with **The Big Bang** on Sat., March 6, from noon to midnight. Following an international interdenominational invocation, the multicultural open house hits its stride with more gospel by the Maine Mass Gospel Choir, klezmer music by the Casco Bay Tumblers, swing music by the Pinetones, bluegrass and honky-tonk favorites by the Fogg Brothers and an African and Afro-Caribbean Drum Circle. Avner the Eccentric and Tony Montanaro will supply comedy, and Irish set-dancers and French Canadian step-dancers will do their thing. Free. Both events are at the Center for Cultural Exchange, 1 Longfellow Square, Portland. 761-1545. Proving that the Big Bang is only the beginning, the Center brings the **Dancers and Musicians of Bali** to town on Wed., March 10, to perform ancient Balinese communal rituals and dramatic dances to the accompaniment of a Gamelan orchestra. At Portland High School, 284 Cumberland Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$23-\$26. 761-0591. And from the other side of the globe, the Center presents accordion virtuoso Billy McComiskey, who will kick off the third annual **Portland Irish Festival** with an open jam session at Empty Pockets Pub, 27 Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Free. 774-1100.

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

# calendar



Cough up \$25 to see Soul Caughing and the rest of the Levi's Sno-Core Tour '99 on Tues., March 9, at the State Theater.



It's not ballet, it's Balinese. The Dancers and Musicians of Bali perform Wed., March 10, at Portland High School.



Come face to face with Ingrid Bergman, Jerry Winters, at the opening reception for Faces, Wed., March 10, at the University of New England Art Gallery.

## thursday & friday, March 4 & 5 PUNK ROCK FEST

Listen up, punk! You say you're so sick of listening to commercial radio you could puke up your Everclear? Then this is the show for you! A dozen bands will take the stage over two nights. The City of Brotherly Shove's American Waste will play on Thursday with C.D.S. and Urban Alliance from central Maine and Portland's Big Meat Hammer, Rhetorics and Don't Hit Your Sister. On Friday it's Baltimore's political peace punk band Apolitical, Boston's Razorwire, central Maine's Commonwealth and Dissident Force, locals Fury 440 and the Studs and more American Waste. Get wasted at the Fine Arts, 627 Congress St., Portland. Thurs. at 7 p.m., Fri. at 6:30 p.m. Tix: \$6 each night. 772-7662.

## SEPULTURA sunday, March 7

Brazil hasn't scared the shit out of the world like this since its economy hit the poop deck! The Brazilian sonic juggernaut **Sepultura** is back with a new singer (from Cleveland, actually) and more multicultural metallic mayhem to rattle the world's confidence. The band's latest album, "Against," incorporates ancestral Brazilian sounds and African roots music into the heavy mix, and includes a song the group did with the Japanese percussion group Kodo. Joined by Biohazard, Spineshank and One Minute Silence. Get real at the State Theater, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$17.50. 775-3331.

## a picks bitsounds

• You know what you are, a fan of Portland pop-rock favorites **Lincolnville**. Own up on Fri., March 5, at Stone Coast Brewing Company (9 p.m./\$5).

• Stop staring at the same four log walls, and go see the **"Cabin Fever Reliever,"** new folk and blues performances by Anni Clark and Lynn Deeves on Sat., March 6, at the First Parish Church (7:30 p.m./\$12. \$6 kids 12 and under).

• Don't give up good music for Lent, because the **Choral Art Society Camerata** is presenting "My Spirit Rejoices," a concert of songs of devotion, on Sun., March 7, at the Immanuel Baptist Church (2:30 p.m./\$12).

## THURS. MARCH 4

• Open yourself up to another side of the art scene at the opening reception for **"Shut Up, Voices of Maine Women Artists"** at Hinge Gallery, 576 Congress St., Portland, from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. 761-9552.

## SAT. MARCH 6

• The daughter of a Cuban comedian and a Puerto Rican exotic dancer, exotic comedian **Marga Gomez** wants to make you look at her and laugh. At Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at 8 p.m. Free. 725-3375.

## MON. MARCH 8

• Helen Nearing lived the Good Life before her body went back to the land. Her biographer and helmate Ellen LaConte presents a lecture, **"The Wind Was With Her: Helen Nearing's Spiritual Odyssey,"** at Abbot's Library, University of New England's Westbrook College campus, 216 Stevens Ave., Portland, at 7 p.m. Free. 797-7261.

## TUES. MARCH 9

• PCA Great Performances celebrates the art of good cookin' at its third annual fundraiser, **"Epicurean Performances,"** featuring grub from over a dozen fine local restaurants. At Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, at 6 p.m. Tix: \$25. 773-3150.

## WED. MARCH 10

• Stare at a face other than your own at the opening reception for **"Faces,"** photographs of famous artists by famous photographers. At the University of New England Art Gallery, UNE Westbrook College campus, 216 Stevens Ave., Portland, from 5:30-7 p.m. 797-7261.

## LEVI'S SNO-CORE TOUR '99 tuesday, March 9

Proving that rock stars can get just as sweaty as exploited factory workers in an attempt to please their corporate overlords, modern rockers Everclear headline this pants promotion tour with beat architects Soul Caughing, Black-Eyed Peas and D.J. Spooky. Get the 501 blues at the State Theater, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$25. 775-3331.

## "PURSUING A PASSION"

Since the vast majority of us are more likely to buy a sub at Christy's than a Cézanne at Christie's, it's a treat to have "Pursuing a Passion: The Scott M. Black Collection" in town. A native of Portland now residing in Boston, Black collects Impressionist and Modernist artwork by Picasso, Monet, Degas, Rodin and others from auction houses in New York and London, then shares the spoils with the public. This will be the first exhibition of his entire collection of 66 pieces. Share the wealth at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors/\$1 kids 6-12). 775-6148.

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## FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH

7:00 PM DOORS / 8:00 PM SHOW

WADSWORTH GYM, COLBY COLLEGE  
 WATERVERILLE, ME

TICKETS ARE \$22.50 AND CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR. THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW WITHOUT A SERVICE CHARGE. ADVANCE TICKETS: ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS, SELECT BULL MOOSE LOCATIONS, AND THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT COLBY COLLEGE. CHARGE BY PHONE: (207) 775-3331. FOR DIRECTIONS AND INFORMATION CALL: (207) 872-3338.

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EVERY FRIDAY  
9PM-2AM NO COVER UNTIL 11  
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UPCOMING:  
MARCH 26: THE JIM ROSE TRAVELING  
FREAKSHOW  
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## short CUTS

DAN SHORT

### Broken-down blues

There are tens of thousands of blues guitarists in America and Papa Chubby is just one of them. After listening to "One Million Broken Guitars," his fifth CD, one can be forgiven for thinking that pretty much sums him up. Papa, who was born Ted Horowitz in Brooklyn, N.Y., plays a sort of blues rock similar to that of Blues Traveler and early Eric Clapton. And, to be fair, he's more than competent at what he does, playing relatively good riffs and leads on guitar while proving equally adept at crooning and growling his songs.

But that still means there are legions of guitarists as good as Papa. And the best of them play like they're on fire. Meanwhile, Papa is lucky to throw off a few sparks, which he manages to do halfway through this CD with the soulful "Long Way Home" and the groove-heavy "Protected." The rest of the CD, unfortunately, is tame and uninspired, ending with a tale about a fight with first brother Roger Clinton that effectively demonstrates Papa is even more pedestrian a storyteller than he is a musician. Papa fans would say one must experience him live, when he gets a chance to expand his solos and bring up the intensity level. Of course, that's true for nearly every other blues guitarist.



Papa Chubby plays Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St., Portland, on March 11 at 8 p.m. Tix: \$10. 773-2537.

### Snares

In some ways, Snares & Kites, centered around Yarmouth-based singer-songwriter Mitchell Rasor and Boston-based guitarist Chris Brokaw, is as much a throwback as a blues rocker. The band's debut CD, "Tricks of Trapping," on the Dutch label Inbetween Records, easily recalls the height of underground rock music in the late 1980s, when lots of great bands were putting out album after album of quirky, individualistic rock that made no dent on the charts but truly affected the lives of their fans.

That they would recall this era should be no surprise since Rasor was a member of the '80s indie rock band Absolute Grey. Though Brokaw missed the genre's heyday, he did help supply some memorable moments afterward, as the guitarist for Come and a founding member of Codeine (where he was replaced by Doug Scharin, ex-Portland resident and future member of Rex). Brokaw is also a member of Pullman, a group that includes Curtis Harvey, another ex-Portlander who's in Rex.

But if Snares & Kites is reminiscent of late '80s underground rock, that isn't such a bad thing. Since that scene mutated into both the insultingly bland modern-rock radio sound and the hopeless pretensions of the current underground scene, it's more than a little refreshing. Musically, Snares & Kites' sound gets closer to the twisted electrified rock of Brokaw's work with Come than the acoustic sound of Absolute Grey and Rasor's solo work. There's also a good deal of sonic resemblance to such cult bands as Television and Mission of Burma.

The core of "Tricks of Trapping" lies in the interplay between Rasor's melodic songwriting, which keeps the music rooted, and Brokaw's knotty guitar work, which keeps it challenging. The lyrics are a bit obtuse and the song titles — like "Lewis Versus Clark" or "Herself Without Parliament" — are perplexing, but Rasor is a good enough singer to convey meaning with intonation as much as with words.

The rest of the band, bassist Peter Bloom and drummer Matt Maloney, keep the music moving forward and Rasor and Brokaw from being too high-handed. Lincolnville drummer Ryan Dolan adeptly substitutes for Maloney on three songs. In the end, "Tricks of Trapping" is a fascinating, intelligent record and a valuable reminder of why underground rock mattered in the first place.

Snares & Kites' "Tricks of Trapping" is available at local record stores.

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## MOVIES

## review

"Hurlyburly," directed by Anthony Drazan. Rated R. At Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Pond Rd., South Portland, 879-1511.

Looking for a shred of redemption in a morally slumped dunghill doesn't sound like a whole hell of a lot of fun. And, for the most part, watching playwright David Rabe pick the sores off Hollywood's corrupt in "Hurlyburly" is a harrowing experience. But from time to time Rabe's script elicits the same soaring rush David Mamet produces in his best, lacerating works. The searing dialogue is oddly invigorating. There is no joy, no relaxation, no peaceful get-the-day-started cup of coffee for Eddie (Sean Penn), a casting director whose hold on sanity is at the white-knuckle point. Enhancing his tightly strung already achieved maximum emotional hysteria by the time Mickey (Kevin Spacey), his temporary condemned and business partner, comes down for breakfast. "So what is this, Bolivian health food?" asks Mickey, a man who expends all his energies balancing on the superficial edge of any situation, careful to avoid any emotional truths.

Eddie's current state comes in reaction to his out-of-work actor friend Phil (Chazz Palminteri), who's dropped by with some news. Phil is a terrifying, hulking Neanderthal driven by a hostility so imbedded in his psyche he is constantly on the verge of being consumed by it — or consuming others. He has broken up yet again with the mother of his child. He has yelled at her. He may — he's not sure — have struck her.

As the day progresses, Eddie descends deeper into his pharmaceutical hell. In scenes suffused with anxiousness, he and Mickey drive at top speeds through the Hollywood Hills in separate cars, their cell phones linking them umbilically, analyzing and dissecting what's going on around them. "I want to be in reality," Eddie agonizes.

At home that afternoon, a present awaits. Artie (Gary Shandling), a producer, has brought by Donna (Anna Paquin), a barely postpubescent runaway he has discovered loitering in an elevator. They can consider her, he offers with Shandling's trademark half-apologetic, half-insincere smirk, as "kind of like a little Care package." She skitters around the cold empty spaces of the condo — all glass and hard surfaces — like a nervous poodel, finally coming to rest

in Eddie's bed. Nubile young bedmates aside, the woman Eddie really loves is Darlene (Robin Wright Penn). In an impressively nuanced performance, Wright Penn reveals the skimpily emotional core inside Darlene's sick package. Similarly distracted and self-absorbed, she and Eddie are perfect for each other. At a party that night, they talk and flirt, despite the fact that Mickey — whom Darlene is currently dating — is nearby. "Where are we? This is a place for what?" she asks Mickey, stepping onto a rooftop terrace where Darlene and Eddie sit. His question might pertain to the party, or it might be as close as Mickey can come to really examining his existence.

Like cold and lonely little planets, these desperate people orbit each other, occasionally colliding. Eventually, Meg Ryan as Bonnie, the prostitute stripper who dances naked "artistically" with balloons and is always "up for anything" will also be sucked into their Armani-and-amphetamine vortex. Struggling to throw off the shackles of cuteness, Ryan does her best to instill dignity — and cleavage — into the somewhat unoriginal role of the easy girl whose cheap exterior hides a wise old soul.

Penn throws himself into the role of the thoroughly screwed-up Eddie with the total abandon of a man flinging himself down a staircase. While the other characters don't appear to realize the damage they've done themselves with their moral impover-



Man on the verge of a nervous breakdown: Sean Penn in "Hurlyburly."

ishment, Eddie seems to know and to want to extract some kernel of meaning from life. As Penn portrays him, he's a raw nerve end of a man, his gigolo mustache fooling nobody, a tortured soul haunted by TV images of hostages, natural disasters and anthrax scares. Kevin Spacey's performance as Mickey has the ideal hollow ring: He's coolly collected outside but so empty inside he must know he's on the edge of an abyss.

"Hurlyburly" is clever and diamond-sharp, but what exactly is it saying? Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned in this story of the lifestyles of the rich and soulless. Or perhaps not.

PAT SIMS

## new on video

Now Available:	Release Date: Tues, March 9:
Ever After	What Dreams May Come
Soldier	A Bug's Life
	101 Dalmatians

## NEW THIS WEEK

**CRUEL INTENTIONS** Former "All My Children" actress Sarah Michelle Gellar sets up more dangerous killers in this fourth remake of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses." Gellar plays a rich Manhattan heiress who seduces her stepbrother Ryan Reynolds to whether he'll deflower her new, straight-faced neighbor (Jesse Whitehouse). Directed by Roger Kumble. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Hoyts Clark's Pond.

**IN OUR OWN HANDS** A one-of-a-kind documentary of the Jewish Brigade. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

**HOMESICK** The "Siren" is a short film about an Iraqi family in Iraq watching our tea set on work in the bombing of Baghdad. "Song of the Siren" is an Israeli film about a 30-something woman more interested in the howl of her hormones than the warring sense of the Gulf War. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

**THE NASTY GIRL** When a schoolgirl named Sonya tries to do research for her essay, "My Town During the Third Reich," her fellow townsperson get hostile over her homework. Directed by Michael Verhoeven. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

**MY MOTHER'S COUSIN** The sadistic tale of a woman from Budapest who, while being sent to the death camps, confronts her Nazi captors and is released on a whim. Based on a true story. Directed by Michael Verhoeven. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

**OUT FOR LOVE...BE BACK SHORTLY** SYNCHRONIZERS: "Out for Love...Be Back Shortly" is a documentary love story set in Israel during the months following Prime Minister Rabin's assassination. "Nichtstun" follows the adventures of a man who is a Jewish orthodox Jewish soldier, an alternative chick and an Arab in the way to the Am. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

**LIKE A BRIDE** A woman and a man become engaged in a Jewish wedding ceremony. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

**THE WHITE ROSE** A film about students at the University of Munich to rise by publishing a journal about the Nazi regime. Directed by Michael Verhoeven. Part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. The Movies.

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## times

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, March 5-11. Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

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## sportland

## The iceboy cometh

It all started, according to 13-year-old Will Ginn, when the first skims of ice began forming last November. He and his friends, Ryan Rodell and Pete Robbins, were standing in the parking lot of the Bow Street Market in South Freeport, staring at a partially frozen river. The pristine surface stirred visions of winter adventure. "We started talking about how fast iceboats go and how amazing it would be to ride one across the ice," said Ginn, who lives in Pownal and is an eighth grader at the Waynflete School in Portland.

For someone just into his teens, Ginn has a pretty impressive sailing and boating background. Last summer, he attended the Wooden Boat boatbuilding school in Brooklyn and, with his grandfather, later began restoring a classic 1924 Old Town wood-and-canvas canoe. With that experience under his belt, Ginn started sketching out ideas for an iceboat with his friends. "It was just going to be a bunch of boards nailed together with a sail my friend has for his little boat," said Ginn. "But we never really got started building. Then my Dad found the plans for the DN."

"DN" — the most popular iceboat model in North America — stands for *Detroit News*, the newspaper that built a few models in its own woodshop in the early 1930s and published construction plans to provide readers an easy-to-build, lightweight, inexpensive craft for a growing winter pastime on big Midwestern lakes. It cost \$25 to build one in 1937. Today, a complete DN runs about \$3,000. Will Ginn's father, Bill, had gone in search of information on iceboats once he heard of his son's interest. It was a trail that led to out-of-the-way specialty hardware parts, glue and epoxy makers and, finally, to a DN iceboat kit from Wolff Iceboats in Sarnia, Ontario.

"I'm of the mind that when a teenager expresses an interest or passion in something like building an iceboat that you should do everything you can to encourage it," said Bill Ginn, as the Ginn family, including Will and his friend Rodell, spent a recent



Iceboat Will Ginn

was amazing to see all the iceboats."

Boats like his 12-foot-long DN can reach speeds of up to 55 mph on open ice, according to Will. He's hoping to take the boat out again this winter, whether it's at Great Pond or, as the temperatures warm up, somewhere farther north or inland. "It all depends on the weather," he said. "We're a spur-of-the-moment family. We just decide we're going to go and we go."

Asked if he plans to pursue his new hobby next year, Will said, "Oh, definitely .... I wouldn't mind competing eventually, but Damariscotta kind of burst that bubble. But we'll see." Another goal is to give his boat, with its decorative red lightning bolt on the bow, a name. "I just have no clue," said Ginn, "but I'm still thinking." CBW

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# CASCO BAY WEEKLY

## PERSONALS

**BLACK LAB** puppy seeks a partner for 25-year-old SWM owner. Must love dogs. You should be happy and self-assured. Call soon, please, he's no fun when he's moody. #86137

**BRIGHT** and beautiful, loving and loyal, witty, warm and wise SWF, 35, seeks SM for romantic partnership. I am tall, fit, spiritual, emotionally healthy (and perfectly flawed), shining star! I am seeking a Man who welcomes commitment, change, children (in the future?) and dogs (now). If you are open, honest, smile and laugh often and are in love with yourself, I think we might have a few things in common! Please be n/s, 32 to 42 (or thereabouts), lighthearted and kind. Special consideration for those who dance and cook (not necessarily at the same time) #86154

**TIL DEATH** do us part. Healthy, attractive, honest, sensitive, educated, marriage-minded Woman, in 40s, seeks life-long committed partner, 35-55, n/s, social drinker, who believes he has the same traits. Burton, ME, near Portland. #85868

**35-YEAR-OLD, PROFESSIONAL** SWF, attractive, physically fit, enjoys classical music, hiking, cross-country skiing, interested in starting a family. ISO professional SWM, 34-40, attractive, physically fit, n/s, similar interests. #85908

**52-YEAR-OLD, PETITE** DWF, professional, energetic, positive, love for outdoors, hiking, music, life, sense of spiritual well-being. Looking for Male, at least 5'10", to share same. #86189

**AFFECTIONATE, LOVING** SWF, 42, 5'5", ISO Man, 40-48, who doesn't drink or is a social drinker, honest, very affectionate and not afraid to show it, great sense of humor, who wants someone to share life with, for possible LTR. Please call. #86130

**ARE YOU** striving for the best that life can offer? Very attractive, blonde SWFF, 36, seeks someone to enthusiastically share this goal. This someone should be a gorgeous SWPM, 30-44, n/s, tall, distinguished and warm-hearted #85547

**ATTRACTIVE, PHYSICALLY** fit, 50s, professional with depth of character and light spirit. I love elegance and simplicity, champagne and natural foods, Jung and Mother Goddess, kayaking and movies, coast of Maine and islands in Bahamas, aesthetic home and lush perennial gardens. Seeking likehearted equal with a sensual soul, communication skills and financial healthiness. #86067

**ATTRACTIVE, EDUCATED** DWF, 44, 5'8", 130 lbs, independent, adventurous, fit. Enjoys nature, cross country skiing, canoeing, sailing, golf, spirituality and travel. Seeking S/DPM, 38-50, who is open, sensitive, aware, healthy, n/s, n/drugs. Portland area. #86011

**ATTRACTIVE, AVID** lover of life, creative, spiritually/emotionally/physically healthy, humorous, moves, jazz, blues, Borders DWF, ISO DWM, 45-60, professional, humorous, intelligent, n/s, light drinker. Let's find the path to magic, it's not too late. #86159

**ATTRACTIVE DWF**, 50, HWP, n/s. Connect the capitals. Grounded. Respect. Exotic. Adventurous. Theater. Playful. Exploring. Communicative. Sea coast. Oprah. Nurturing! Romantic. Art. Laughter. Life Music. Energy! Portland area. #86112

**AVERAGE, GOOD-LOOKING** Woman, SWF, 37 (can pass for 28), likes music, dancing, walks, dinners in and out and fun times. Seeking special Man. Serious replies only. #85275

**BAR SCENE** tale. Tall, attractive, wholesome, but sexy DWF, 40s, desires attractive SWM, late 30s to early 50s, enjoys movies, dining in/out, outdoor concerts and activities, culture and dancing. Shares similar values. If you're that tarzan, let's swing. Portland area. #85465

**BOLD, SMART, GOOFY, PLAYFUL** Woman, 33, White, working, feminist. Not into playing dumb or acting cool. Looking for a confident, smart, sensitive, goofy, n/s Man with an edge. #86016

**Caring DWF**, 35, HWP, mother of two, enjoys snowmobiling, camping, skinny dipping, fine dining, dancing, a free-spirited professional. Seeks S/DWCM, 30-40, compassionate, easygoing Gentleman, who enjoys long walks, star gazing, children. #86186

**CLASSICAL MUSIC** lover. SWF, 42, slender, blue-eyed, brunette, with two children, moving to Portland area, liberal, professional, generous spirit. Wants openhearted, good-humored, energetic SWM to share the beauty of nature and life. #85447

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

**CURIOUS, ADVENTUROUS**, intelligent, spontaneous, eccentric, raw and refined, friendly, pretty, wise, responsible and spunky SF, 24, seeks similar SM, 24-32, for laughter, friendship and/or romance. Interests can be introduced. #85986

**CUTE BLONDE**, 40 (looks 25), business owner, many interests, seeks S/DW, age unimportant but maturity is. For companionship, romance, dating, possible LTR. Greater Portland area preferred. #86010

**CUTE DFF**, 46, 90 lbs, 4'9", a good fit with a Man a foot taller, n/s, n/d, non-religious, interests include hiking, biking, swimming, cuddling, Renoir, Cesset, Bach, Mozart, holding hands and cats, hoping to meet a DPM with similar interests. #85995

**DANCE PARTNER**. SF, 47, would like to meet dance partner, primarily swing dancing. SM. #86197

**DOWN-TO-EARTH, PROFESSIONAL** with a great sense of humor. DWF, 35, 5'8", brown/blue, n/s, social drinker. Enjoys the theater, dancing, listening to music (especially folk and most outdoor activities in moderation...there's just too much to do! Passionate about the simple things in life: Good music, good friends, good food, good beer. Seeking nice, caring S/DWM, 32-42, with a positive outlook and a good sense of self, for friendship first. #86042

**DWF, 50S, 5'8"**, 133 lbs, some say young-looking and attractive, fit, n/s, honest, caring, intelligent, sense of humor, enjoys outdoor sports, walking, biking, boating, gardens and music. Looking for the same in a BM, 43-57, 5'8", HWP, for LTR. #86160

**EARTHY, CREATIVE**, healthy, funny, free, funky cool, movie, book and music-loving, mid-life dancing goddess wishes available, positive partner for sincere, successful relationship. #86052

**ENERGETIC LASS** ISO stocky stuffer. DWF, 37, creative, witty, irrelevant, ravaged, 5'8", shapely, n/s, not fat. You are interesting, self-sufficient, kind and fun-loving. Please be single, financially stable, non-icky. #85840

**FAIR MAIDEN** looking for a brave knight. SWFF, 25, tall, slender, enjoys dancing, movies, social drinking, exercising, singing, ISO SWPM, n/s, 24-29, tall, HWP, emotionally/financially secure. #86070

**FIRST TIME** ad. You are handsome, 25-35, with dark hair/eyes, drinker, smoker ok, bad boys need not apply, likes alternative music, R&B music, independent 25-year-old NAF, friends first. #85977

**FIRST TIME** ad. SWF, 21, seeking tall Guy who is as amazingly cute as I am, 21-29, n/s, no coach potato, fit, fun and sense of humor. #86105

**FIRST TIME** ad. Smoker, social drinker, loves dancing, seeking romantic, fun-loving partner, 44-59. #85512

**HEY YOU!** Tired of cookie-cutter personal ads, like cookie-cutter restaurants around the Maine Mall? New to dating scene, heard this was a good avenue. Sounds fun. Seeking good-looking, well-balanced Guy, 20-41, I think he'll be pleasantly surprised. Interested? Please apply within. #85831

**I DREAMED** about you. You were 40-ish, tall, handsome with intense eyes, mischievous smile. You were sincere and athletic with a gentle/spiritual soul, a great kisser. You read poetry to me while I painted a picture of you. Both our kids were playing tennis. You said I was an attractive blonde with a great sense of humor. Are you real? #86165

**LOOKING FOR** someone to complement your life, not change it? So am I. DWF, 28, no kids, attractive, medium build, brown/brown, outgoing, athletic, noted for wonderful smile, good-nature, loving heart. ISO someone to enjoy my interests with, from various outdoor activities, traveling, dining, dancing, nights out with friends, to relaxing at home, spending time with family. If you have similar interests, are 28-40, attractive, professional, secure, n/s, light drinker and want to develop a great friendship, into LTR, please respond. #86166

**LOOKING FOR** Guy, 18-27, with alternative look, attractive, 5'8"-6", dark hair and eyes, n/s, casual style, likes alternative/metal music, tattoos and piercings plus, sense of humor. Is this you? Call me. #86184

**MAINE'S BEST** kept secret. Very attractive, petite SWFF, n/s, fit, energetic, sexy, vivacious, love to travel, ski, sail, dance, etc. You are tall, dark, very handsome, n/s, 35+ SWPM, fit and think you can keep up with me, let's talk. #85767

**NEW TO** bar scene. ISO creative, attractive, honest SWM, 21-35, 5'9", with great sense of humor and enjoys bar/club hopping. I am 21 years old, attractive, plus-sized, 5'7", with long, curly auburn hair and green eyes. #86123

**NO EGOS**, please. DWF, 41, n/s, petite, brown/brown, attractive, bright, sincere, loving, active, independent, happy and healthy. Loves children, animals, nature, new adventures, bookstores, dining out, movies and sharing life with a wonderful Man. He is 38-48, n/s, fit, affectionate, humorous, secure, considerate, self-aware. Values honest, emotional intimacy and understands that a successful relationship requires mutual caring and open communication. #85068

**NON-HIBERNATING, 42-YEAR-OLD** DWF, petite, grounded, funny, artistic, mom of two, 40s, 5'6", 120 lbs, 30-40, seeking DWM, dad, who enjoys outdoor activities (cross country skiing, snow shoeing), reading, theater, music, with lust for life, learning and adventure. #85841

**OUTGOING, FUN-LOVING** SWF, 5'2", average build, great sense of humor, n/s, ISO SWM, 25-30 with similar interests. Dancing a plus, but to make me smile a must. Won't hurt you to answer this ad. Well, go ahead and call. #85469

**PARTNER** sought to learn to dance swing and/or ballroom. Height between 5'8"-5'8" and between the ages of 27-35. #86135

**PASSIONATE** SEEDS adventurous, 32, attractive, fit, intelligent, successful, enjoys skiing, hiking, reading, travel, literature, art. Seeking SM, fit mentally and physically, preferably 5'8" and over, college-educated, athletic and ambitious. Kids ok. #85582

**PERPETUAL SMILE** SWF, 25, brown/green, 5'8", slim build, enjoys movies, dancing, outdoors, travel and reading. ISO SWM, 6'1", 25-30, with no excess baggage. Must be secure, strong-minded, compassionate, romantic and have a sense of humor. #85809

**PETITE DWF**, with children, 40, would like to meet Man for movies, dinners, walks, etc. Like kids? Are you kind, considerate, supportive, caring, want LTR? Will respond to all calls. Portland area. #85772

**PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED** SWF, 33, brown/brown, seeks friendship only with SWM, 33-40, loves to talk on the phone, receiving and giving spontaneous gifts just because, very affectionate, needs to be cuddled and maybe even spoiled rotten. #86116

**LOOK NO** further, here I am. DWF, 28, attractive, spontaneous, outgoing, open-minded, warmhearted, enjoys photography, travel, hockey games, ocean walks in moonlight. Seeks handsome, gentle, open-minded, active Man, 25-35. Everything you ever dreamed of is just a phone call away. #86172

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### WOMEN & MEN

**POSITIVE, ATTRACTIVE** SWF, 42, blonde/blue, size eighteen, 5'2", no children, good job, time to enjoy companionship. Seeking SM, 38-48, to share talks, movies, wine, dine, dance and time. All calls answered. #85929

**READY TO** rumba. Smart DWF, tall, slim, attractive, late 30s, seeks S/DPM, who is intelligent, emotionally mature, honest with himself and others, ready for a relationship. My interests include reading, cross country skiing, cooking, art, yoga, exploring new ideas. Portland area. #86061

**RED RIDING** Hood. DWF, 41, tired of wolves knocking at my door, seeking a burly woodsman to rescue me. Be down-to-earth, honest, committed, respectful and love kids. Please don't be a wolf in grandma's jamies. Be an open storybook. #86181

**SEEKING** A friend, n/s, who is a lover of people, animals, all life. Sense of humor, secure, happy with himself, supportive, secure, open-minded, free-spirited, spiritual. Mac Young-al heart. 50s, loves to dance, walk, read, write, play Scrabble and have fun. Portland area. #86124

**SEEKING BRIGHT**, professional Male, high on the integrity scale, for skiing and song, warm talks that grow long and adventures by kayak or sail. #86062

**SEEKING** HONEST, humorous, intelligent SM, with a kind, gentle soul, integrity and the ability and desire to think beyond oneself. I am same in Female form. #86122

**SERIOUSLY** ISO a nice Guy on a Harley. SWF, 35, 5'8", medium build, attractive, brown/green, self-employed, affectionate, hopeless romantic, loving life and want someone special to share hugs and kisses, outdoor activities, dancing to the blues and long, hot summer rides with. You are late 30s to early 40s, responsible, secure, clean-cut, facial hair ok, but have a fun-loving, wild side and know what you want out of life. No heavy drinkers, possible LTR. #86164

**SINGLE CHINESE** Lady ISO pen-pal, possible partner for life. Me: Age 37, 5'3", Masters degree, n/s, never-married, A+ character, loyal, pleasant personality, sincere. Work for small trade company. You: SWM, age 38-48. #86193

**SOLO MOM** looking for solo dad. Devoted mom, 41, bright, loving, committed, 80's values with 90's edge, looking for Man who isn't afraid to share responsibilities, our children, love, acceptance, joy and sadness. Be emotionally intense and devoted. #86051

**SOPHISTICATED SAILOR** who is comfortable at the symphony or the helm, for lifetime of sharing with this youthful, interesting, loving 50-year-old. #85751

**STAR GAZING**. I'm a dreamer, laughter, lover of life, also intelligent and practical. Feminine, also strong and independent. Looking for a Man who knows his own heart, with strong sense of self, listening skills, sensitivity and good sense of fun. Be open-minded. I am 5'8", HWP, n/s, 27. #86076

**STOP** and smell the roses! DWF, 5'5", auburn/green, half century young, non-smoker, social drinker and pet lover, beach walking, hiking, cuddling, country music, home cooking, own car, apartment, own income. Seeking WPM, 6'4", HWP, to make me his one and only. I don't want to be second place to anything and anyone. Socko area. I'll make you number one and give you 110 percent, all calls answered. #86131

**SWF**, 18, nonsmoker, currently attending Carnegie Mellon University, intelligent, open-minded, attractive, 5'7", fun-loving, open to new experience, looking for tall, handsome, romantic, easygoing, funny, intelligent Gentleman. #86201

### PERSONALS

#### women & men

**SWF, 33, HWP**, Single mom of young son, honest, easygoing, good sense of humor, varied interests. Looking for someone who values honesty. #85959

**SWF, 40S**, combining spirituality and holistic living and academia, intense, loves nature, music, books, movies, interaction, ISO long-term relationship, based on soul connection. #86149

**SWF, 47**, with sense of humor, looking for humorous SWM, 40-50, 180 lbs, no beards or ponytails, who's not shy and likes dining, dancing and watching movies. Honestly is a must. Intelligence and good looks would be nice. #85199

**WHAT DOES** she want? For starters, intelligence, affection, self-awareness. This slender SWF, mid-40s, enjoys outdoor activities, movies, theater, music and dining out. If you're a S/DWCM, 40s-50s, n/s, with similar interests, who also seeks LTR, perhaps you're what she's looking for. #85852

**WISH LIST**. Quick mind, rebel spirit, passionate heart, gentle soul, warm hands, lover of dogs, fast car. If you possess six or more, let's talk. Happy, curvaceous SF, 45, n/s, seeks playmate. #85534

**WORLD TRAVELER** seeks partner for 12000 and beyond. SWF, 38, is an accomplished professional and sports enthusiast, who's sincere, adventurous, attractive. ISO S/DWM, 33-45, who's thoughtful, financially/emotionally secure, well-spoken, family-minded and outdoor-oriented. Over 5'8" and sense of humor a plus. #85993

**YOU WON'T** be disappointed. Attractive SWFF, 40s, brown/blue, 5'4", HWP, n/s, ISO polished S/DWM, 42-50, financially secure, to share a passion for life, fine dining, travel, many outdoor activities, sense of humor, ability to laugh at oneself a must. #86120

#### men & women

**"MOST ELIGIBLE"** DWM from Boston, regularly visits second home in southern Maine, ivy, writer/businessman, 52, 5'11", fit, fun, handsome, sexy, offbeat. Seeks interesting, artistic, educated, feminine Woman in Portland area, for conversation, inspiration, perspiration and whatever's on your mind. #85989

**1999 CELEBRATION!** Warm smiles and hugs, n/s, youthful, young-looking DWM, 33, 5'8", nice/medium build, HWP, fun-loving, friendly, warm, intelligent, passionate, affectionate, seeks Woman who is shorter, similar in spirit, mind and body to also celebrate music, dancing, nature, seashore, movies, home time. #85777

**2012 AD**, approaches, where will you be on December 21? Forward-looking, backrubbing, organic-dining Man of means by no means. Accompany me while we swing through these exciting end times. Be adventurous and 30-45. #85619

**ARTISTIC, CREATIVE** DWM, 34, attractive, intelligent, romantic, is seeking out S/DWF, for intelligent conversation, nights and dining, dancing and romantic things together, with possible LTR. #85972

**ATTRACTIVE, ADVENTUROUS**, athletic, sensual, kind, thoughtful, passionate and romantic. Many interests outdoors and in, seeking slim/average, n/s, affectionate, adventurous Woman to share laughter, have fun enjoying all that life has to offer. Portland area. #85880

**ATTRACTIVE, EASYGOING** SWM, 26, with brown hair and hazel eyes, 5'10", seeking S/DWF, 21-32, for good conversations over coffee and adventurous evenings. Possible LTR. Your weight/looks not important, but you must be warmhearted and sincere. #86143

**BE MY** partner. I love to dance, how about you? I'm attractive, affectionate, educated, introspective and playful, 47, professional, seeking kind, sincere Man with sense of humor, ready for relationship, 45-53. Let's dance the night away. #86168

**38-YEAR-OLD ROMANTIC**, caring, emotionally stable, n/s, solo dad seeking someone to share movies, walks on the beach, dinner, theater. Must like children, looking for commitment. #86147

**41-YEAR-OLD MALE**, 6', black/blue, smoker, hardworking, easygoing person, looking to meet someone to go dinner and dance with, also the movies, for rides or just watching tv at home and willing to try new things. #86071

### PERSONALS

#### women & men

**ALL WORK** and no play makes me a dull boy. SWM, 35, working two jobs, but wish to seek free time with SWF, 25-40, n/s, n/d, enjoys movies, dining in or out, horseback riding and sci-fi channel. All calls answered. #86191

**AMPHETAMINE? SINGLE**, 30s, artist, seeking "mo' phun". In my head and yours. Hit the road to everywhere, Jacqueline. Pouring diesel on the fire Gal with PhD encouraged. No ready-mades, ok? #86205

**ARE YOU** looking for "tall, dark and handsome"? Well, I'm tall and dark... You be the judge. SWM, 34, 6', n/s, dark hair/eyes, full-time commercial fisherman, no time to meet the night girl. Seeks attractive SF, 23-33, for possible LTR. #86179

**COASTAL ECCENTRIC**. Tall, liberally educated, improvisational Male, 50s, seeks Female, 40s, to experience natural beauty, islands and ruins, historical oddities, everyday routines, physical and intellectual intimacy. Please be fit, tolerant and reasonably hedonistic. #85944

**DANCE PARTNER**, S/DWF, wanted for serious dancing. Me: DWM, 36, 5'10", n/s, love to do all kinds of dance often. You: 25-40, n/s, petite or slim, brunette preferred. This could lead to a LTR. Call soon. #86175

**FINALLY READY**. Tall, good-looking SWM, 38, medium build, never-married, no children, seeks a friend, lover, wife, future mother. Serious responses only, please. #85100

**FIRST TIME** ad. Smoker, 22-year-old WM looking for SWF, 18-24, who is romantic, fun-loving, likes outdoor activities and lives in Portland area. #86104

**FREE FOR** the taking, unconditional friendship, honesty, trust, compassion, affectionate DWM, 42, 5'6", 145 lbs, n/s, n/d, seeking Woman, 35-45, who enjoys the simple things in life, short rides, walks, holding hands, quiet times. Friendship first, long-term relationship desired. #86204

**HEY BABY**, how's it going? SWPM, 24, seeking SWF, 21-28, for beer and good times, enjoys anything, especially country music, no skate chicks or hippies, please leave a message, have a good day. #86176

**HOT BLUES**, cool jazz DWM, 37, n/s, sales representative and local musician, many interests, quiet, fun, normal. Seeks S/DWF for companionship, let's chat for awhile. #86180

**HOW CAN** it be so difficult to meet sincere, emotionally available, physically fit S/DWFF, 28-36, for friendship, as prerequisite to developing relationship and starting family? Enjoy four seasons outdoors, shot my tv long ago, love animals, n/s, eclectic music, movies, theater, self-employed, lives within means, Oxford Hills. #86177

**I AM** looking for someone to spend time with and give me a reason not to work so much. I am 6'1", brown dusky hair, brown to hazel-green eyes (depends on season) and love songs that make your heart bound to making you think of that special someone in your heart. Love my job and am secure in which direction it may go. Should I take you with me? Call me, let's find out together. #86103

**I HATE** country music. DWM, young 50's, educated, professional, loyal and funny. Looking for that someone special with similar attributes, who likes weird food, reading, jazz, traveling, talking, cuddling, attractive, 35-45, Portland area. Would love to hear from you. #86182

**I'M NOT** talking about love, but wouldn't it be great to actually find it? SWM, 31, 5'9", 200 lbs, brown/hazel, athletic, fit, college-educated, enjoys cooking, writing, lifting weights, ice hockey, ISO SF, any race, 30-40, who is ready to take chances. #86206

**IF THE** world ends and I'm still single, that's really going to suck. Mom says I'm handsome and I have a good job, so why aren't you ladies lining up? 28-year-old SM, 5'9", 190 lbs, ISO happiness. #85871

**IF THIS** were a winter picnic, I'd bring my Bauers, the boom box and the Merlot. You'd bring Tori Ames CD, the chocolate and your silver blades. DWM, 38, 5'7", brown/blue, very athletic, committed dad, seeks complement to a busy life. You're attractive, athletic, petite, 30-38, introspective and passionate about your pursuits. #85885

**IF YOU'RE** polished, bright, beautiful, emotionally healthy and thin, 42-48, this DWF, would like to talk with you. I'm educated, emotionally/physically healthy, 45, 5'11", brown/brown, very good-looking, with a great smile and a good sense of humor. #86018

**IF YOU'RE** college-educated, reasonably tall and in your mid-50s, let's talk. I'm an educated, emotionally/physically and financially healthy DWM, 61, 6'2", #86194

**IRRESISTIBLE** and honest. Looking for someone to snuggle up to these cold winter months? Easygoing SWM, 43, with a good sense of humor, would love to share outdoor activities, movies and more with you: S/DW, 30-45. #85298

**OPENHEARTED, OPEN-MINDED**, free-spirited, emotionally available, spiritual, 5'11", 170 lbs, brown/blue, romantic, affectionate and loves life, supportive, caring, wants LTR. Will answer all calls. #85859

only \$1.99/MIN RESPOND NOW 1-900-454-2195

### men & women

**CHUBBY TUMMY**, handsome, warm DWM, 54, 5', part-time teacher and writer, southern accent. Enjoy reading, hugging, cooking, walks, hate dining out, sports on tv. Seeks educated, humorous Lady, 45-55, looks unimportant. Plus-sized ok. #85514

**COASTAL ECCENTRIC**. Tall, liberally educated, improvisational Male, 50s, seeks Female, 40s, to experience natural beauty, islands and ruins, historical oddities, everyday routines, physical and intellectual intimacy. Please be fit, tolerant and reasonably hedonistic. #85944

**DANCE PARTNER**, S/DWF, wanted for serious dancing. Me: DWM, 36, 5'10", n/s, love to do all kinds of dance often. You: 25-40, n/s, petite or slim, brunette preferred. This could lead to a LTR. Call soon. #86175

**HERE I AM!** I'm a SWPM, 26, 5'6", 180 lbs, physically and emotionally fit, honest, sincere, enjoy outdoor activities, travel, working out, cooking. ISO SWF, 21-30, fit, active, with similar interests. #86190

**HEY BABY**, how's it going? SWPM, 24, seeking SWF, 21-28, for beer and good times, enjoys anything, especially country music, no skate chicks or hippies, please leave a message, have a good day. #86176

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# PERSONALS

## MEN & WOMEN

**PASSIONATELY PATIENT** SWM, 27, 6'2", honest, hardworking handyman, romantic thinker, old-fashioned heart, seeking SF with same interests and positive attitude. #86163

**ROCK MUSICIAN** seeks soulmate. Honest, talented, intelligent, faithful, funny, slim, loving DWM, 37. You: Beautiful eyes, full lips, slender, jeans to heels, rock music lover, heart-of-gold, funny, emotionally happy. Good kisser! Guaranteed happiness or your money back. #85546

**SALTY DOG** seeks wild cat, to howl, hiss, bay and purr. Outrageous beauty and vicissitudes of life. I'm 56, fit, widowed, tall, spiritual, irreverent, thin, creative and unconventional. You are intelligent, artistic, beautiful, sophisticated and perhaps a bit crazy? #85870

**SEACOAST WWM**, 60, 5'10", 175 lbs, good-looking, in good health, financially secure homeowner, college graduate. Seeking Lady for companionship. I have lots of TLC to give. #85537

**SEEKING EXOTIC** playmate. DWM, 53, 5'10", drop-free, healthy, brownish-black hair, with varied interests. Seeking very exotic Female, H/W/P, over 25, for wine, dinner, cuddling, snuggling, pillow talk and more. Possible LTR. #86142

**SEEKING SERIOUS** companionship. SWPM, 38, 5'10", 150 lbs, n/s, enjoys walks, camping, hiking, concerts, theater, antiques, NPR, along with sharing, exploring and quiet times. Seeking fit, active, confident, n/s, S/DW/P, with similar interests and a great sense of humor, for companionship (at least) to share life's conversations, adventures and more. #86079

**SHARE LIFE'S** adventures. Divorced White Male, 48, 5'2", nonsmoker, romantic, self-employed, professional, seeks affectionate, intellectually inquisitive Lady who engages life with passion. #85318

**SHARE TIME** with gentle, flexible Man, 5'10", 180 lbs, n/s, seeks trim Lady, mid-40s to early 50s, who wants to hear, be heard, share, build, laugh. She knows life can be fuller. Friendship is the goal through communication, trust, support, empathy. #85478

**SHARP DRESSED** Tarzan seeks all terrain Lady. This sporty, fit handsome, professional SWM, 38, 5'8", 145 lbs, seeks a Woman for all seasons. #86161

**SINGLE FATHER** of 3-year-old boy, young 40s, sculptor, teacher, highly energetic, runner, spiritually-oriented. Looking for S/DW with young children or interested in family, wish to share depthful, loving relationship and child-centered partnership. #85558

**SINGLE, HANDSOME**, honest, sincere, active, humorous, outgoing, fun-loving, open-minded, 38-year-old professional seeks attractive mate, 25-45, with similar values, for long evenings by the fire and relationship. #85781

**SM**, 42, 6', trim and fit, University of Maine graduate. Likes skiing, hiking, camping, movies, videos, fine wine and cold beer. Seeking Female for dating, possibly leading to LTR. #86005

**SOLO DAD**, ultra young 39, tall, attractive, long-haired, available, loving, sensitive, seeking similar, intelligent, trustworthy, friendly, commitment-minded old soul, love mate, kind of Woman. Intensity, perseverance, sensuality and loyalty are all pluses. Call me to talk, I'm for real. #85959

**SPRING IS** almost here! Athletic, tan SWPM, mid-30s, 5'8", still in search of that special someone to enjoy new beginnings. I can be all you've imagined, plus more. The only way to find out is to call. #86183

**SURPRISE YOURSELF**. Eclectic, mid-life BM, doctoral student, 6'4", 220 lbs, ISO tall, slender, n/s, groomed, attractive, centered F, 33-45. Race and nationality not important. Baggage accepted. Snow shoe back-packing, kayaking, jazz, salsa. Monogamous only. #86151

**SWCM SEEKING** SWCF. All I have to offer is myself, 32 years old, 5'9", mentally and physically attractive, easygoing and humorous. ISO non-superficial WCF, 30-45, looks unimportant, honesty is. Portland area. #86207

**SWM, 29**, dad of one, homeowner, attractive, easygoing, clean-cut, all around nice Guy. Seeks SF, 23-35, for possible long-term relationship. Bonus points: If you enjoy good beer, good music, good movies. Call now, I'm all yours. #85978

**SWM, 30**, 6'11", brown/blue, cultured, creative, entrepreneur, enjoys sports, chess, NPR, reading, animals, movies, old houses. Seeking S/DW/H/W/P, 20-36, laid-back, to share the good life. #86110

**SWPM, 30**, 6'2", 225 lbs, n/s, blonde/blue, rugged, lonely. Seeking sincere, honest F, 20-35, n/s, 5'7"-5'9", slender, with long hair. US Conversation, coffee, long walks, pizza, movies. Seek friendship, possible long-term relationship. #86171

**TALL, HANDSOME**, 39-year-old SWM, honest, caring, intelligent, self-employed, smoker, n/d, physically/emotionally fit, seeks SW/BF, attractive, physically/emotionally healthy, for LTR. #86187

**TRAITS I** have, traits I seek: Gentle, warm, compassionate, loving, intelligent, attractive, inquisitive, sincere, politically aware. Me/DJM, 54, professional. You? #85508

**TRUE GENTLEMAN** seeks queen, 50+, I'm a quiet, somewhat shy, 6', 35-year-old BM, 195 lbs, considered intelligent, athletic, witty. However, I find it difficult to break the ice. Can you help? #86185

**VERY FUNNY** Man seeks funny Lady. Love my daughters, PBS, reading, tennis, South Park. Seeks fun, humorous, wacky (smart ones are noticing a pattern here), independent, emotionally and physically healthy Woman. Not looking for the perfect Barbie, nor Roseanne. #85234

**VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY**. SWPM, 28, homebased dream, old-fashioned ideas, seeking playful, affectionate SF, 20-30, who loves to travel, outdoors, singing. If you love a wood stove and would rather ride a horse than shop, perhaps we should talk. #86097

**WARM HANDS**, great smile. Handsome, fit DPM, 45, brown/blue, 5'11", 170 lbs, searching for pretty, slender, intelligent, affectionate, attentive and available S/DW/P, 35-43, who values spirituality and connecting with nature. #85780

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## MEN & MEN

**WHAT ARE YOU** Women thinking? You don't find love in the newspaper, love just happens. Even if you discover a romantic, relaxed, attractive, educated, professional SWM, 31, destiny will deliver him, not witty responses to his lame, personal ad. #85845

**WOMAN WANTED** by a tall, attractive, 39-year-old Single White Male. I am romantic, enjoy music, movies and romantic evenings. #86106

**YOU WON'T** be disappointed here. SWPM, 32, very attractive, physically fit, educated, great conversationalist, sense of humor, wide variety of interests, seeks truly attractive, healthy, fit SW/PF, 26-33, n/s, Romance, fun, new adventure await. All you have to do is respond. #85963

**YOUR LIFE** is now. Healthy, diabetic DWM, 42, 150 lbs, dark hair, green eyes, loves Harleys, camping, traveling. Seeks down-to-earth, nonjudgmental Woman, 21-45, race unimportant, attitude is. #86108

## MEN & MEN

**A PUZZLE**: How does an introverted Man meet someone? I'm 42, bright, introspective, yie-witted, socially-conscious, left leaning, ready for the Guy I've always dreamed of. If you're between 32-50, care about someone, are hopeful and you're not conservative, let's have coffee. #85999

**ARE YOU** feeling creative? ISO someone over 35, n/s, who would like to create a healthy, loving, compatible, monogamous relationship. Ready, willing and able to expose his truth, share his trust and show his love. To create a real "Us"! #86138

**GREAT FRIEND**. GWM, 34, 5'6", 135 lbs, black/hazel, n/s, looking for GM, to enjoy life, laughter, sensuality, for real loving relationship of his own. I have a lot to offer the right Man, are you him? #86004

**GWM, 35**, enjoys campfires or cruise ships, barbecues or brunches, beaches or big city, two step or symphony, n/s, stable, sincere, honest, romantic, 5'11", 200 lbs. I want a Man who I can show dance with in my living room. #86173

**GWM, 36**, in search of another GM for good times and hopefully more. My ultimate goal would be to meet someone who wants a long-term relationship. I am considered good-looking. Call me. #86084

**GWM, 39**, nice-looking, H/W/P, masculine, seeks same for friendship, hopefully more, prefer dark hair, blue collar, 30-40, down-to-earth Guy, who knows what he wants out of life, enjoys a good time and is LTR-oriented. #86139

**GWM, 41**, not bad-looking in subdued lighting, have multiple interests and personalities, seeking a Man between 35 and assisted living, who's wise enough to know the porcupine's underbelly is tender and that all that glitters is not gold. #86125

**GWM, 44**, Windham area, brown/blue, educator, seeking masculine GM, 25-50, who's Single, caring, healthy, for friendship and possible relationship. Me: Sincere, caring, healthy, honest, sense of humor. You be the same. I have many indoor/outdoor interests. Please call me. #85878

## WOMEN & WOMEN

**GREAT FRIENDS** have moved away. GF, 36, desires new friendships, time for new connections. Interests: Plays and musicals, cooking and going to all types of restaurants. Also enjoy quiet life style. ISO GWM, similar interests. If this is you, please call. #86162

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

**NEW TO** the area. 26-year-old GWM, 6'1", 220 lbs, black/blue, seeking honest, funny, sincere Guy, for friendship, possible relationship. I'm sincere, honest and down-to-earth, enjoy quiet times at home as well as going out and having a good time. #85990

**REAL FRIEND**. GWM, 33, enjoys music, movies, nature, sports, life, 5'7", 145 lbs. Would like to meet GM, 20-40, for friendship, relationship. #85843

**LESBIAN WOMAN** looking for another Woman, who likes to have candlelit dinner, dining out, all kinds of music, who is 45-50 years old. Friendship before anything. #85053

**LOOKING FOR** a challenge? Me too. Femme Woman, 25, ISO feminine pool player, 21-30, who enjoys all types of music, movies and going out. Interested? Give me a call. #86196

**MY HEART** is lonely, ISO a friend. We can dance in the moonlight and talk until dawn. Your place or mine, if we two become one. Yours truly, #86140

**MY LIFE** is too exciting to experience alone! ISO emotionally secure, feminine, financially stable GF, age isn't important, maturity is. I am 19 and enjoy intellectual debate, winter beach walks, poetry, gangster movies, cocktails, literature. No BS. Friends first. #86202

**NO ARTIFICIAL** sweeteners, vegetable dyes ok. Feminist Vegan Lesbian seeking long walks, deep talks and fun nights. #86129

**SOUND GOOD** to you? Professional SGF, 33, a little bit cocky, know exactly what I want and not afraid to go for it. You're smart, adventurous and a little kooky. Together we could enjoy building snow forts in our catty jeans, sipping tea at the Met or listening to Rachmaninov at home with a bottle of Merlot. Intrigued? Give me a call. #86064

**THE UNDERGROUND**, last Saturday night, 1/30, you danced, I danced, we sort of danced together. You were wearing a black and white striped hat, I was wearing a black hat. Eyes met more than once. Ring me! #86113

**AT THE** Nickelodeon Cinema, on 2/2/99, 3:30 showing, you sat in front of me during Water Boy, you wore a class ring and my friend handed you a tissue. I thought you were cute, but couldn't say anything. #86200

**WHEELS & KEELS** Deal — \$55/rtn 'til it sells (15 words; vehicles and boats only). Call for details. Internet Classifieds — as low as \$25 for 6 months for 50 words! Display Ad Rates, Webvertising and frequency discount info available upon request. Deadline: Mon., 5pm pre-paid

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items for sale  
valued sales  
antiques  
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wanted  
arts  
holiday gifts  
theatre arts  
bed & breakfasts  
getaways  
fairs & festivals  
music  
wheels  
motorcycles  
trucks/vans  
RVs  
boats  
recreation  
campgrounds  
summer camps  
publications  
animals  
legal notices  
dating services  
gardening

## I saw you

2-12-99, AT Civic Center, Alanis Morissette concert, we talked briefly, I wish I had said more, I gave you two tickets, you gave me \$3.00 and good smile. You: Tall and handsome, Single? I'd like to be friends, maybe more. #86195

2/28, WINDHAM Pizza Hut, 3:00-ish. You: Beautiful blonde, brown eyes, 5'5", gray sweatshirt, jeans, we made eye contact three/four times. You were with friends. We sat right behind each other. Me: Nice-looking, goatee, green sweatshirt, black wind pants, black hat. Can't stop thinking about the way you were looking at me. Pizza and a beer? #86198

AT THE Nickelodeon Cinema, on 2/2/99, 3:30 showing, you sat in front of me during Water Boy, you wore a class ring and my friend handed you a tissue. I thought you were cute, but couldn't say anything. #86200

WHEELS & KEELS Deal — \$55/rtn 'til it sells (15 words; vehicles and boats only). Call for details. Internet Classifieds — as low as \$25 for 6 months for 50 words! Display Ad Rates, Webvertising and frequency discount info available upon request. Deadline: Mon., 5pm pre-paid

## RATES

First 15 words — \$11.00/wk., additional words @ 25¢ ea.  
Buy 3 wks, get the 4th free  
WHEELS & KEELS Deal — \$55/rtn 'til it sells (15 words; vehicles and boats only). Call for details. Internet Classifieds — as low as \$25 for 6 months for 50 words! Display Ad Rates, Webvertising and frequency discount info available upon request. Deadline: Mon., 5pm pre-paid

## GET IT TO US

Phone: 775-1234 or 1-800-986-6601  
FAX: 775-1615  
Mail: Classifieds  
P.O. Box 1938  
Portland, ME 04104  
Hand: 561 Congress St.

## FINE PRINT

Classified ads must be paid for in advance with cash, personal check, money order, Visa or Mastercard. Lost & Found items listed free. Classified ads are non-refundable. CBW shall not be liable for any typographical errors, omissions, or changes in the ad which do not affect the value or content or substantially change the meaning of the ad. Credit will be issued when viable error has been determined within one week of publication. Readers are advised that an attempt was made to verify the authenticity of all ads, but that such verification is not always possible. The Better Business Bureau may have more information on the companies advertising in this publication.

## HELP WANTED



## FRESH SAMANTHA ROUTE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

**Juice Heads come grow with us!**  
Fresh Samantha Juice, the Maine-based, family-owned, all-natural juice company, needs Route Sales Representatives. As a Route Sales Rep, you act as the manager of your own business, selling, delivering & stocking the accounts on your established route, and delivering juice to supermarkets, coffee and bagel shops.  
Expect a 10-hour day, starting at 4am. You must have a clean drivers license, be energetic, able to lift 25lb boxes, possess an entrepreneurial spirit & be ready to relocate anywhere from Philly to Miami. We offer a great salary & benefits including health, dental, 401K & employee stock option AND relocation allowance.  
We need Route Sales Reps to complete a comprehensive 6-week paid training & then take their knowledge & hard-working Maine ethic to locations along the Atlantic seacoast, including New York, Washington, DC, New Jersey, Philadelphia; Raleigh/Durham, NC; Atlanta, GA; and Miami.  
Serious applicants please Fax resume: 207-284-8331 or call Eric at 1-800-658-4635, at Job Hotline Extension 575

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Your best alternative to staff relief

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Hiring RN's, LPN's, CNA's for staff relief. Excellent wages, Medical and Dental Insurance, 401k plan. Full and Part-time positions available.  
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Needs models for trainee cuts/color program. Call 772-9060 and ask for Zahra, Lisa or Robyn.

## For all your recruitment Needs

Call Dona 775-1234

## RN or LPN

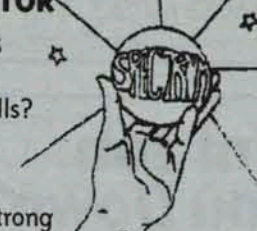
11-7 (Monday through Friday)  
RN or LPN  
3-11 (Full & Part Time)  
CNAs  
(Full Time 3-11 & 11-7)

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Sedgewood Commons, the Alzheimer's Care Community of Falmouth has immediate openings in nursing.  
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EOE

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Heidi FitzGerald  
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04106  
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We are accepting Letters of Interest, Resumes, and writing samples for the position of Assistant to the Director of SPECTRUM ENTERPRISES. Degree preferred. Pay commensurate to experience and abilities. Full time with benefit package. Stop by our offices for a detailed job description.

Respond in writing or by telephone to:

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12 Q Street  
South Portland, ME  
04106  
(207) 767-8000

The Maine Chapter of the Sierra Club is seeking a part time (20 hrs./week) Volunteer Coordinator who can support, motivate and encourage grassroots conservation activities. This position requires strong interpersonal and organizational skills and:

- co-ordinates grassroots Legislative lobbying efforts
- develops outreach programs to identify potential volunteers, connects interested members to appropriate chapter leaders.
- helps various chapter committees implement committee agendas
- handles miscellaneous projects and duties in the chapter as assigned.

This is a one year position, with a strong possibility of continuation depending on available funding. Please send resume and cover letter to the Maine Chapter Sierra Club, 192 State Street, Portland, Maine 04101. No calls please. The Sierra Club is an equal opportunity employer.



## FLEXOGRAPHY QUALITY DIRECTOR

The Sunflower Group, a leading national marketing and sampling company, is looking for a part-time employee in close proximity to Greene, Maine to attend press checks for flexographic printing on polyethylene and to do some quality control of plastic bag converting. Applicant must have a background in print production, an excellent eye for color, a flexible schedule and a commitment to quality. It is preferred that the applicant have a knowledge and background in flexographic process printing on polyethylene and plastics converting. The employee will be expected to communicate effectively with fellow employees and with printers. If interested, please send cover letter and resume to the Sunflower Group, 10561 Barkley, Suite 300, Overland Park, KS 66212. Attention: Gennelle, or to gennelle.trail@sunflowergroup.com.

## HOMEWORKERS NEEDED

6035 weekly processing mail. Easy! No experience needed. Call 1-800-426-3203 Ext. 5500, 24hrs.

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LEGAL-NURSE CONSULTANT WILL COLLABORATE with businesses, attorneys and other professionals needing assistance in preparing for medical-legal litigation. Details, Brochure & CV at request. jantion@topmonad.net or 603-352-7076.

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## Nurse Connections

R.N.'s, L.P.N.'s & C.N.A.'s

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Community Health Services

DEATH & DYING:  
EASING THE TRANSFORMATION AT THE END  
OF LIFE

G. Richard Polkinghorn, MD  
Maine Center for Cancer Medicine, Brunswick

Wednesday, March 10, 1999, 5:30 to 7:00pm

at

Community Health Services

901 Washington Avenue

Portland, Maine

Dr. Polkinghorn is an oncologist who understands that spiritual and emotional issues are as important as medical care for patients and families facing terminal illness. He will discuss stages of death and dying as outlined by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross. More importantly, he will share some new thinking and technologies relevant to the end of life process.

There is no charge to attend; refreshments will be served. Please call Lauri Ann McLeelan at Community Health Services, 775-7231 or 1-800-479-4331 for additional information and to reserve your seating. Space is limited.



The MaineHealth Family

**WORKSHOP AT BIRTHWISE MID-WIFERY SCHOOL.** Introduction to the Heart, Mind and Soul of a Midwife. Two week ends: April 17, 18 and May 22, 23, 24. This series of two week end intensives is designed for those wanting to explore the world of midwifery. Each workshop focuses on the hands-on skills and practical knowledge used by midwives as they practice their art. For more information contact: Birthwise at 66 S. High St., Bridgton, Maine 04009 (207)647-5968 birthwise@me.net

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**PROP** IS NOW ACCEPTING applications for rental of a 1-bedroom apartment located in Portland's West End neighborhood. \$450/mo, 1 month security deposit required, 1 year lease. Unit is located in a quiet, professional building and is available immediately. Please call 874-1140, ext. 343, for more information.

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By Rob Bressny

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): My spies report that you've been compulsively believing your personal anthem off-key. And that you've been using your symbol of wholeness as a battering ram. And that you've ignored your dreams' suggestions until they turned into a list of demands. Keep this up and you'll soon be a candidate to run away and join a millennial cult. Oh well. I'm your cheerleader, not your policeman. If you insist on silencing down the path to adulthood, may I suggest my favorite, the Rich Socialist Libertarian Pagans for Lascivious Feminism?

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): As skilled as you are at standing back and making astute observations, I urge you to forego this pleasure for now so that you may plunge in and make the kind of loud sweaty punts that come with total commitment. Forget about your graceful talent for tactical compromise. In other words, and start a graceful nod in behalf of the side that your favorite god is on. Witty, evasive action, no. Hard-nosed gut-checks, yes. Be the mover and shaker with a thousand ruts and bolts, not the big talking hero with a thousand theories.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A friend of mine witnessed a group of Turkish Sufi doing a ritual dance which had never before been performed for the public. She was riveted by their disciplined yet ecstatic whirling. Imagine her dismay, then, when she briefly roused herself from her trance halfway through the show to find that more than a third of the audience had walked out. How to explain it? She decided the dance had exuded too much gorgeous sanctity and unsentimental benevolence. It simply overladen the circuits of the iron-addicted materialists in the crowd. I hope you're not like those jaded moles, Scorpio, because then you'll fail to take advantage of the shocking beauty that will flood your world this week.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): What do you look for in a god or goddess? Gemini is the perfect moment for you to define exactly the kind of divine presence you'd most like to have pouring down on you. You should I say erupting up inside you? on a regular basis. Write your description on a piece of paper, then put it under your pillow for nine consecutive nights. As you drop off to sleep, silently call out with all your heart to the deity you've envisioned. Within two weeks, I predict the two of you will enjoy a communion you will always remember.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): If you were a cow, it would be prime time to move on to new grazing lands. If you were a monogamy buff, you'd now have temporary permission to let your eyes wander and wide to find out what you're missing—and what you're not. If you were a journalist, it'd be a perfect moment to stop forcing the raging ambiguity of real life into neatly packaged news bites. If you were an immortal god-like being who had impulsively taken on a human form as an experiment only to have forgotten your origins, you'd be on the verge of remembering the truth.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Warning: Truth decay is now in progress. Do you have the guts to rip the cover off the cover? Are you willing to be on the clean-up crew after the local matter hits the rotary-bladed breeze-blowing device? If not, I completely understand. Accept the fact that deceit will triumph, and so your way in peace. But if you're too agitated to simply swallow the loss, by all means organize your facts and compose your expose—now. Don't procrastinate. By next week the fraud will be more entrenched and difficult to prove. Just one caveat, though: Make sure you're not driven by a personal vendetta. That would damage the beautiful truth you want to protect and defend.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Will you accept the cosmic invitation to solve the riddle that could lead to more lyrical acts of intimacy? Are you willing to go anywhere, ask any question, and make a damn fool of yourself in order to coax your most important relationships into living up to their juiciest potentials? Are you prepared to believe that it's possible for you to induce a dream of finding ripe strawberries growing in the desert?

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): As a director, Clint Eastwood never starts scenes by barking "Action!" He prefers to ease into the performance by getting the camera rolling before everyone's on full alert. That way, he feels, he disposes of the number one enemy of good acting—and, I might add, a major obstacle to good life—which is self-consciousness. I suggest you adapt a similar approach. Pisces, as you launch a brave new chapter in your life story. Nothing is more important right now than conquering up more spontaneity than you dreamed you were capable of.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Scientists at the Cosmic Yo Yo Institute of Perpetual Surprise have announced the discovery of a secret, eighth day of the week. It's called Sunday, and though evidence is still too scant to determine its exact location, the researchers speculate that it often hides between Thursday and Friday. Living this up, Taurus, because although you're usually too hypnotized by the clock to even hope to sense the presence of this extra 24 hours, there is now a brief window of opportunity for you to break your trance and dive into the missing time. While you're at it, be alert for other covert lauries and buffer zones that may only be visible out of the corners of your eyes.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You Sagittarians are famous for feeling right at home as you wander afar. Indeed, many of you can't help but be yourselves unless you regularly escape your familiar haunts. And yet even you, the cheerful ramblers, now and then fall victim to feelings of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. During these times, in contrast to your usual ability to regard the whole world as your neighborhood, you can't find your power spot anywhere and no one seems capable of appreciating the special gifts you have to give. If I'm reading the astrological omens correctly, this is exactly the state you've been in lately. Fortunately, exile is a temporary condition. You're just in the wrong place—and an instinct for hunting it down. Storyteller Michael Meade taught me that. That's why I'm quite confident you'll be coming home soon.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): My chair and desk are made of environmentally-conflict timber. The twa tropical hardwoods harvested in Papua New Guinea by a small-scale, sustainably managed, community-run forestry project. The paper I'm using to jot down these words is composed of 100 percent tree-free kenaf plant paper, and the ink in my pen is soy-based. I'm sipping organic green tea, and every item of clothing I'm wearing is made of organic hemp. Oddly enough, however, I'm feeling a strange urge to advise you to seek out experiences involving beluga maitsool caviar. Don't Peignon champagne, embroidered silk sheets, and stretch limousines. I must have something to do with the fact that Venus and Jupiter are conspiring to activate your deepest needs for luxurious elegance.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): While driving my seven-year-old daughter Zoe to a restaurant, I told her about a mystical breakthrough I'd had. I awoke in the middle of the night, "I rhapsodized," and "I swear I heard the Goddess singing my name." I went on to describe the amazing revelations that followed. When I was finished, Zoe waited a respectful ten seconds, then said, "Daddy, does Round Table make pizza with artichokes on it?" I'm telling you this tale, Aquarius, because I believe that this week you should maintain an attitude similar to Zoe's. Keep your attention very practically focused on what'll nourish you in the here and now.

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private phone numbers! 1-900-737-1122 Ext. 796. \$2.95/min. T.T. 18+, NNI (702)593-0303.

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**women seeking**  
21-YEAR-OLD YOUNG MAN looking for a good time. Do you have any ideas? I'm 6'2", 170 lbs, brown/blue, in great shape and always ready for love. #90432

**men seeking**  
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**Others...**

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**couples**  
31-YEAR-OLD, ATTRACTIVE Woman, 5'3", 115 lbs, long auburn hair, seeking BF or select Couple for long-term friendship and friendship. Will try anything once. Bi-curious wife, mid-30s, playful, dominant, whatever. First time's always to begin. Dinner, wine, travel, sailing, straight. Call if interested. #90403

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Check out the PERSONALS starting on page 30  
Casco Bay Weekly



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**State Theater** 609 Congress St. Portland ME  
**Tuesday, March 9th. 7:30PM**

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**SEPULTURA**

**BIOHAZARD**  *Spine Shank*  
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Secrets of the Strange

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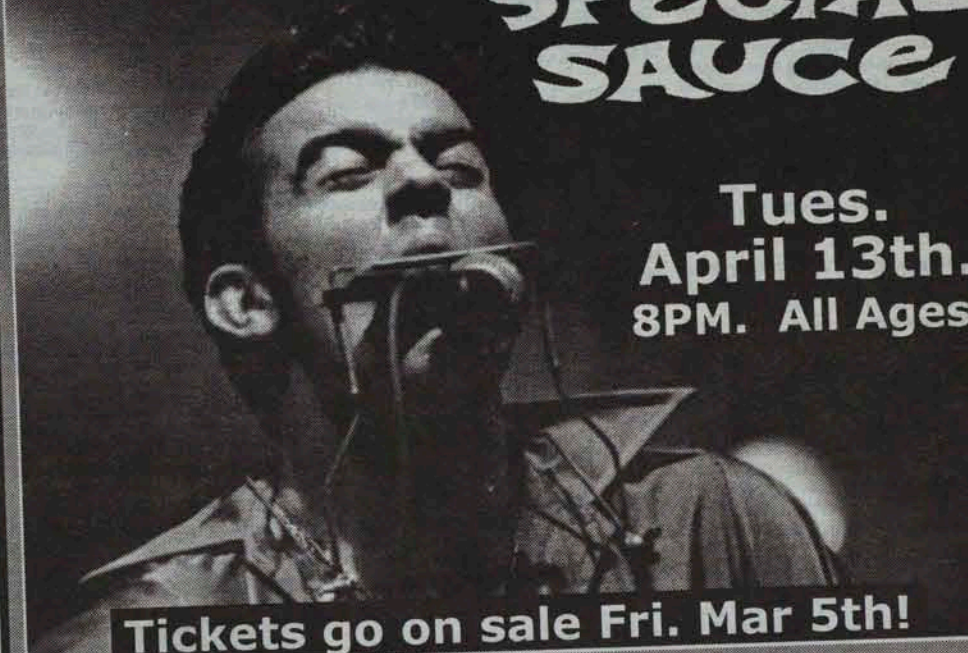
This sensational Multi-Media show is a psychological thriller about human behavior. Be taken on a journey through *Black Magic, Mentalism, Mind Control, Psychics, Faith Healers* and *Brainwashing*. All done with a touch of wicked wit!



**Fri, Mar. 26th.**  
**7PM** showtime. **21+.**  
(Limited seating available.)

Tix go on sale Fri Mar. 5th!

**G. Love & SPECIAL SAUCE**



**Tues.**  
**April 13th.**  
**8PM. All Ages.**

Tickets go on sale Fri. Mar 5th!

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April 3rd.

Tickets available at Bull Moose Music stores,  
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