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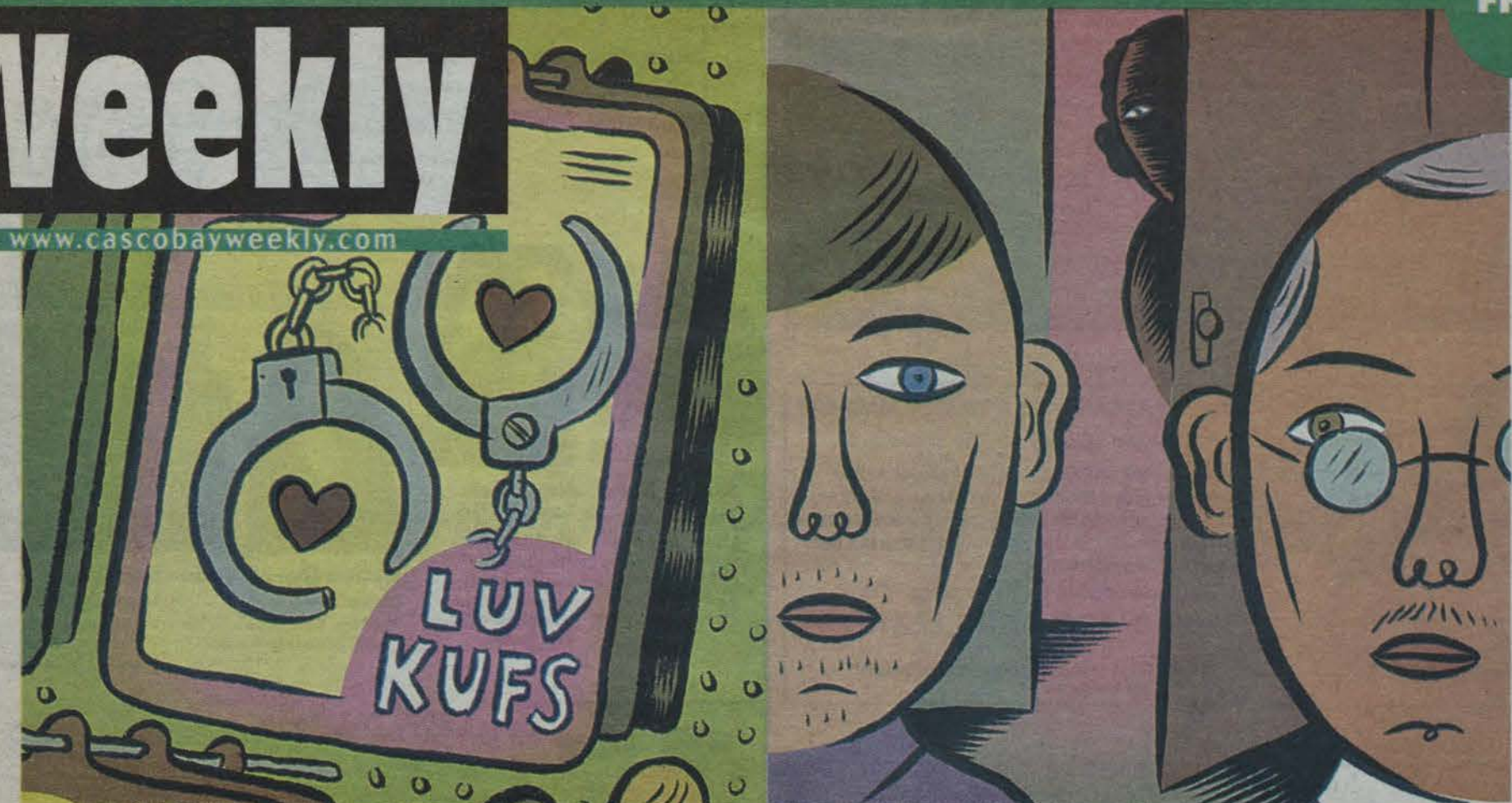
7 MARCH 2002

Casco Bay Weekly

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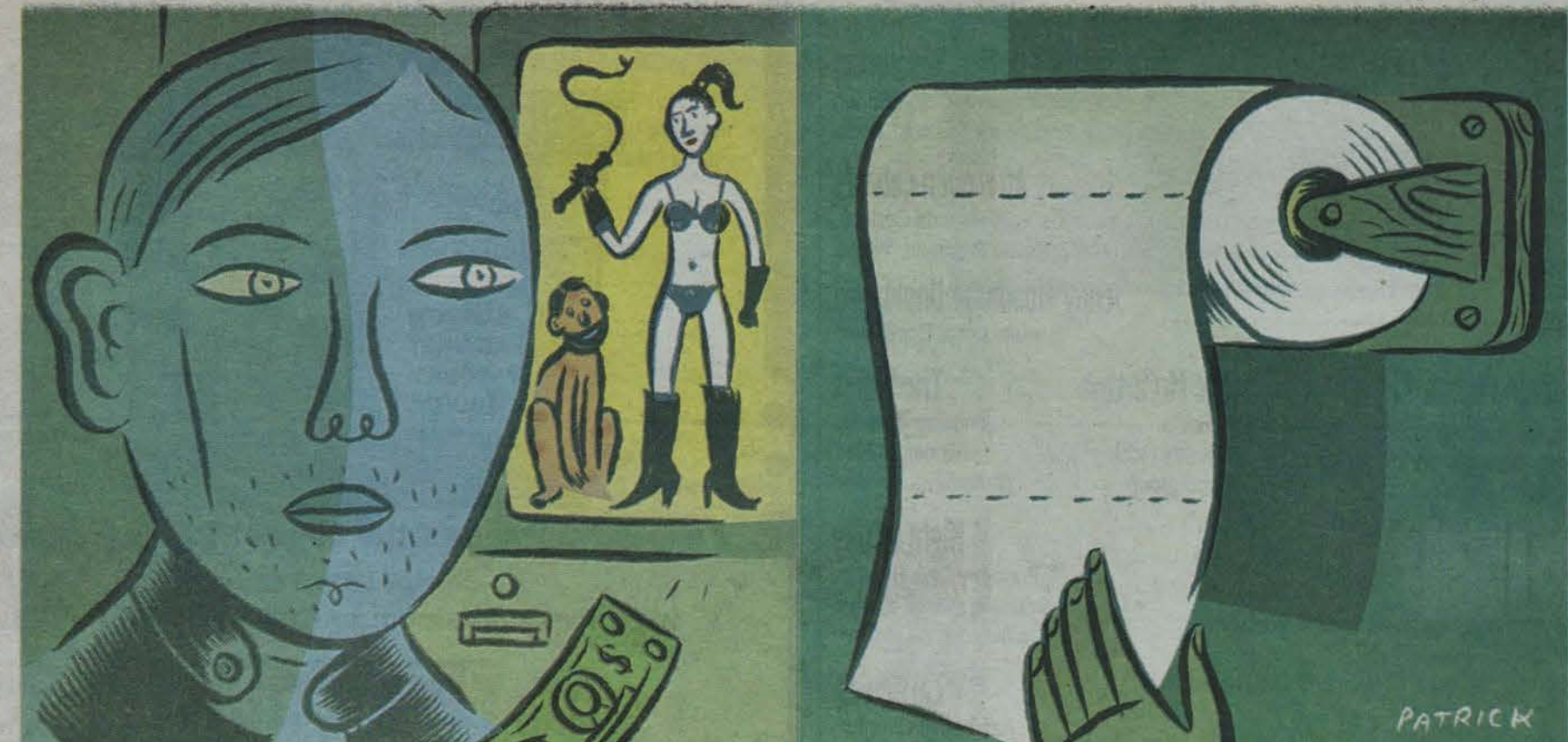
GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION
MARCH 7, 2002 VOL XIV, NO 10

FREE



"ONAN THE LONELY"

Portland's porno-booth sex scene is still thriving. Chris Barry reports from the back rooms of Video Expo and the Treasure Chest. His story starts on page 10



PATRICK

ILLUSTRATION / PATRICK CORRIGAN

INSIDE

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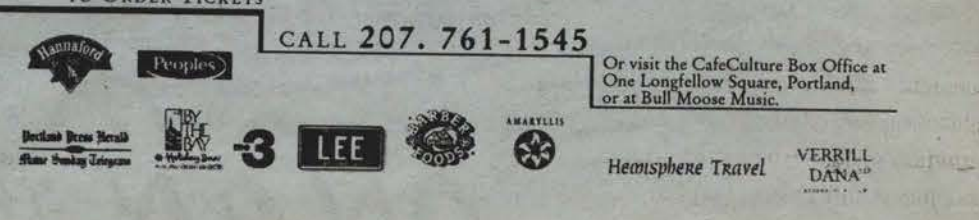
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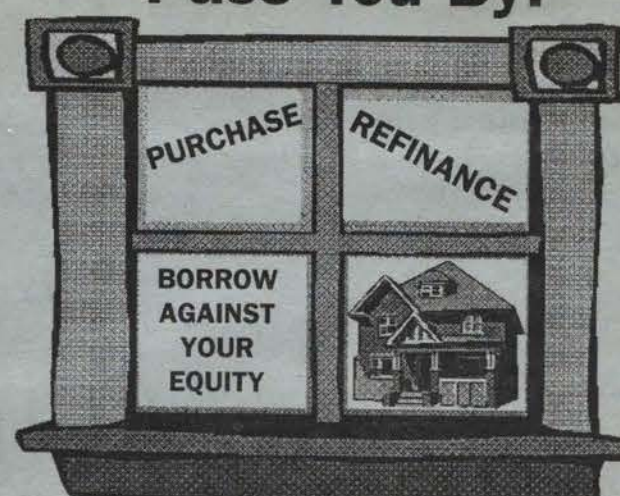
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TALK

A CONVERSATION WITH

GARY SMALL

"One of the principles of aikido is to protect our attackers
as we protect ourselves."

Last November, South Freeport resident Gary Small, 43, opened Shobu Aikido of Maine in a former taxi garage on Anderson Street in Portland. Small and his wife, Ania, both teach classes in aikido (translated as "way of harmony"), a martial art developed in Japan during the last century that is often referred to as the "art of peace."

We're defending our war in Afghanistan on the basis that we're acting in self-defense. Is this what aikido practitioners would call self-defense?

Self-defense in aikido has a little bit wider meaning than reacting to individual attacks. Through practicing aikido movements, one develops the ability to respond to people in a centered and connected way, whether it's a peaceful interaction or a threat. Aikido's founder's vision was that this ability would allow people not only to deal with the conflict at hand, but to prevent future ones and create a more peaceful society.

Aikido as self-defense is not viewed as fighting against the other person. In fact, the goal is to leave your partner with the feeling that there is nothing to fight with. That de-escalates the conflict and anger that is behind it.

How might police officers benefit from the practice of aikido?

We have had good experience training law-enforcement personnel. Excessive force and litigation associated with it are a real concern for police departments nationwide. Aikido training

is about creating choices. The timing and position make martial sense, but then we choose to either hurt and destroy, or contain and protect, our partners. What makes the second choice possible is a sense of control and confidence, without fear or anger driving our actions.

Being centered and engaged can help police deal with difficult situations and de-escalate the tension This can be a tense occupation, and the more skilled one gets at staying calm, the safer they will be.

How does emotion affect one's abilities in the practice of aikido?

Our emotions are great teachers. Aikido is a partner practice where one person attacks a practice partner, and ends up receiving the energy of the person they attack in a movement that can end as a fall or pin, etc. This close, physical contact brings up lots of feelings — anger, frustration, fear, joy.

The aikido dojo [school] is a safe place to work with and through these emotions.

When we are scared, we tighten up and raise our shoulders; when we are angry we lean forward, which brings us away from our center. Emotions — whether they are fear, anger, or joy — are energy, and it's important to not stop them, but to polish and develop them into martial effectiveness.

Interview and photo by Colin Malakie



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Casco Bay Weekly

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Onan the Lonely

Portland's porno booth sex scene is still thriving

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Gettin' aggressive

Maine Republicans are rockin'.

Not literally, of course, unless you count the kind of rocking done in chairs by elderly residents sitting on the verandah of the Margaret Chase Smith Home for the Politically Enfeebled. And I suppose there could still be a few sprightly GOP veterans who can work up some semblance of a boogie when they hear one of Ted Nugent's classic anthems to the Second Amendment. But I don't think we can count the erratic swaying of members of the state House Republican caucus. They're just experiencing balance problems as a result of their swollen right wings.

In general, though, when the terms "rock" and "Republican" show up in the same sentence, they're usually separated by the word "ribbed," indicating the GOP is the kind of organization that's dedicated to doing things the way they've always been done.

Which is to say, badly.

Since the 1982 elections, Republicans have controlled the Maine Senate exactly once (from 1995 to 1997, and that was an accident). They've been in charge of the state House not at all. Such a two-decade-long record of frustration has to be the result of something more than misfortune. It requires institutionalized incompetence.

The GOP often didn't bother to recruit candidates for seats in heavily Democratic areas, or, worse, it filled those spots with people so out of step with their would-be constituents that the word "Republican" came to be a polite euphemism for "in need of powerful psycho-active drugs."

In spite of clear evidence that quality candidates waging aggressive campaigns stood a reasonable chance of winning almost anywhere — Joel Abromson took a previously Democratic Senate seat in Portland in 1994, and that same year, John Hathaway prevailed in heavily Democratic Biddeford (that was before public disclosure of allegations of child sexual abuse that have dogged Hathaway's political career ever since, although, between now and the June gubernatorial primary in which he's a candidate, I don't intend to mention them more than 20 or 30 times) — Republicans failed to capitalize on the gains they made in the state Senate and, in 1996, fell back into the minority.

After the 1998 elections, only 14 members of the GOP were left in the 35-seat Senate. Nevertheless, the party's leaders were employing their usual methods to recruit candidates for the 2000 campaign ("Sure, he has a New York Yankees logo tattooed on his forehead, and he demonstrates his commitment to cutting bureaucracy by biting the heads off live chickens, but we're not gonna win in that district anyway, so what the hell?"), when Rick Bennett stepped in.

Bennett is a state senator from Norway and a former congressional candidate (he lost narrowly to John Baldacci in 1994). He had the peculiar idea that Republicans could win if they recruited good candidates, taught them to campaign effectively and backed them with advice and money. He took control of GOP planning for the 2000 campaign and put his outlandish theory to the test.

Gone were the Republican Senate candidates with more teeth than IQ points. Banished was the doctrine that members of the GOP couldn't be competitive in Democratic districts. Bennett even rejected the ideological litmus test, recruiting several candidates who admitted to being (gasp) moderates.

Oddly enough, this approach worked. While Republicans failed to capture a majority in the Senate, they managed to achieve a first-ever tie with the Democrats (there's one independent). Under a power-sharing arrangement between the parties, Bennett is now the Senate president, albeit a presiding officer with little of the authority the position usually commands. That shortcoming will likely be corrected after the November elections.

Thanks in large part to Bennett's leadership, the GOP is poised to assume an absolute majority in the Senate.

The party has 14 incumbents running for another term. None appears to be in danger. Of the eight open seats, three will almost certainly go Republican (those currently held by the GOP's Mary Small of Bath, Democrat Susan Longley of Liberty and Democrat Marge Kikelly of Wiscasset). That's 17 senators, just one short of a majority. If Republicans can win any of four open seats considered too close to call (districts currently represented by Democrat John Nutting of Leeds, Democrat Mike Michaud of East Millinocket, Republican Peter Mills of Skowhegan and independent Jill Goldthwait of Bar Harbor) or knock off a shaky Democratic incumbent (such as first-termers Lynn Bromley of South Portland or Ken Gagnon of Waterville), they'll own the Senate.

At least until 2004, when Bennett is term-limited out. Then, if history is any guide, it'll be time for a rockin' Republican relapse.

Be boulder. Cast the first stone by e-mailing this column at ishmaelia@wi.net. Or write, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, with quaries, er, queries.

politics
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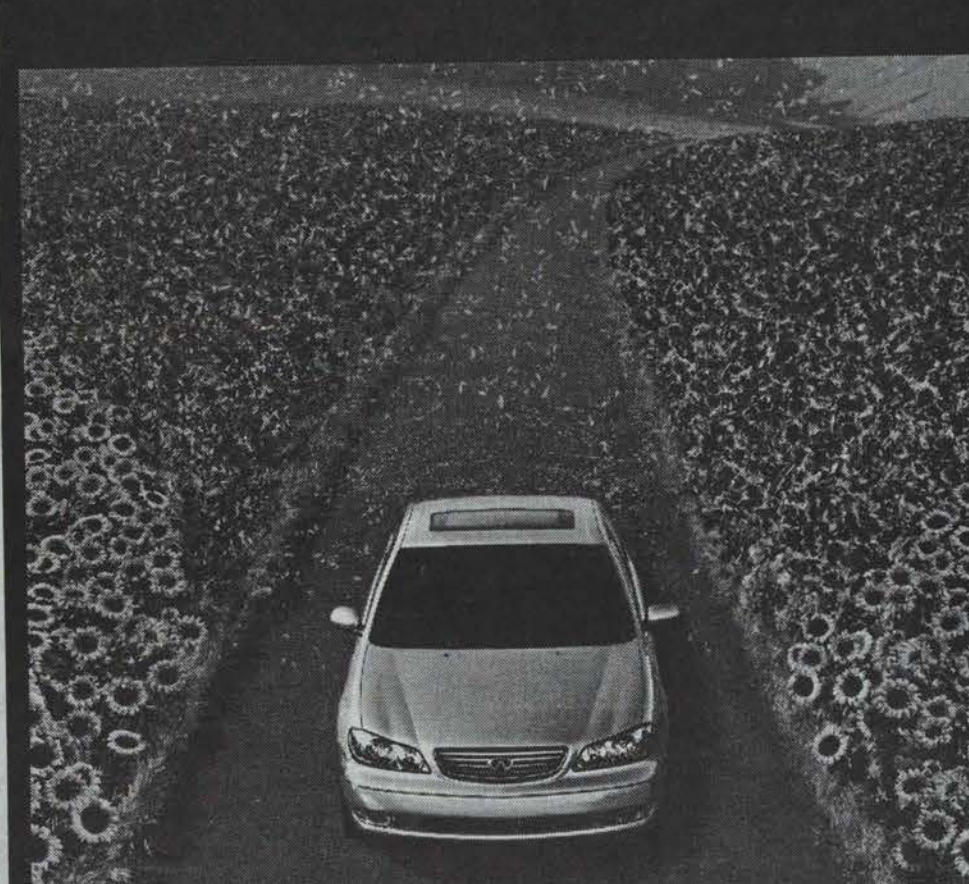
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news-o-rama

In the event Portland can't scrounge up enough special elections to keep the cash flowing, there'll still be some development. On March 4, the City Council voted to allow **Gritty McDuff's**, the Fore Street brew pub, to expand a whopping 900 square feet. The project had been delayed for weeks while bureaucrats at City Hall argued the new space was more than was permitted under zoning regulations for the Old Port, which limit bar expansions to 10 percent of existing space. The naysayers, including Councilor Peter O'Donnell and Mayor Karen Geraghty, claimed only bar space should be counted, which meant the new construction would increase Gritty's size by 23 percent. But the bar's owners said the entire area occupied by the business, including kitchen, storage and office areas, should be counted. The super-sized Gritty's was approved on a 7-2 vote.

On the Portland waterfront, the bizarre plan to dock a surplus Soviet submarine next to the old Bath Iron Works land and turn it into a tourist attraction has been scuttled. City officials refused to lease berthing space to the sub's owners because they didn't have a business plan, financial information or tactical nuclear warheads. Instead the property will likely be used by **Cianbro Corp.** for the next 18 months to two years to perform finishing work on two submersible oil rigs the company is building. That project is expected to involve 500 workers.

The city will also realize some profit and publicity in 2003, when Portland plays host to the **American Hockey League All-Star Game**, which will be televised on ESPN2. The exact date has not yet been announced, but Portland Pirates officials are already scrambling to line up corporate sponsors. Suggestion: We know some legislative candidates who have plenty of extra cash.)

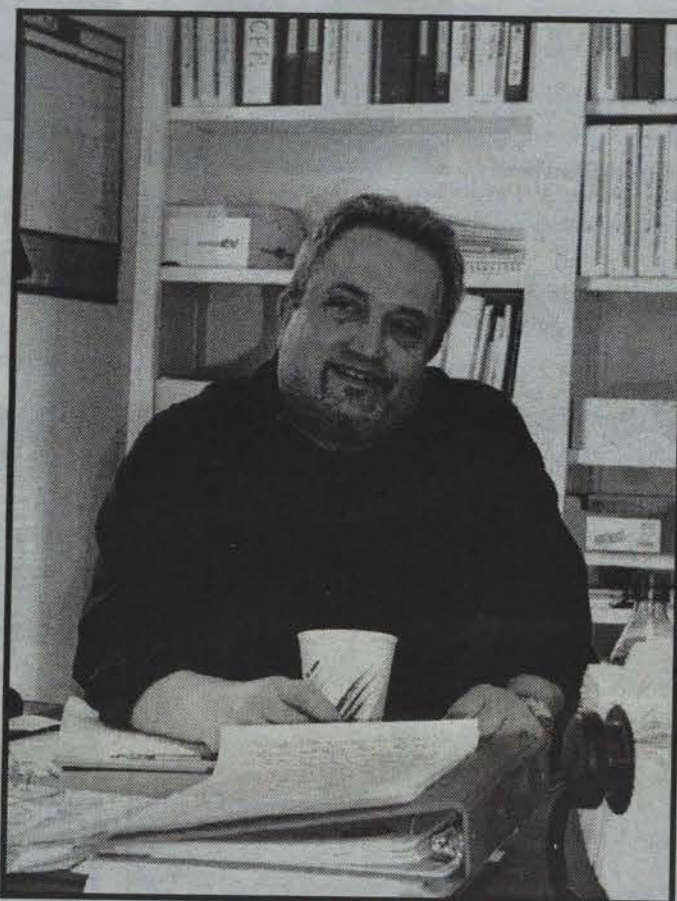
— compiled by Al Diamon from news reports, interviews and stuff the Vamvakias campaign made up but couldn't use

CITY

Out there

The Maine SpeakOut Project's new director talks about the future of civil rights

Scott Robbe was recently appointed executive director of the Maine SpeakOut Project, following the resignation of Jonathan Lee last summer. A native of Wisconsin, Robbe, 47, comes to Maine from New York and Los Angeles, having worked for the past 20 years in the film and television industry and as founder of Out in Film, an organization that promotes the use of positive, on-screen images of gays and lesbians. Maine SpeakOut, formed in 1995 to promote respect and understanding among persons of differing sexual orientations, has recently endured months of funding problems and staff cutbacks. Robbe spoke with CBW columnist Steven Rowley.



Out in film, out in person: Scott Robbe, new director of the Maine SpeakOut Project. PHOTO: TOM MAHONEY

What brought you to Portland?

My brother and his partner have a place in Ogunquit. I started visiting them a year ago, and I just really liked it. I saw that the Maine SpeakOut Project was looking for a new executive director. I had always been doing pro bono work around gay and lesbian issues and HIV treatment issues, so I applied for the job, and they called me.

You have a brother who is also gay? Your mother must be thrilled.

A lot of my family is gay, actually.

What's in the water in Wisconsin?

There's definitely something. My uncle and his lover have been together for over 25 years. My brother and his partner have been together about 13 years, and we're all from rural areas. Growing up, we really didn't know a lot of gay or lesbian people. As soon as we got done with school, we headed for the first big urban area we could find. And now we're back in more rural areas. I think that if we had known more gay people, or that the atmosphere had been a little more loving or conducive, we would have stayed in the same areas where we had grown up, like many straight people do.

How does that affect your mission for Maine SpeakOut?

The whole concept of the Maine SpeakOut Project in the beginning was to

celebrity status But I think it's more important to see that doctor down the street come out, to see someone comfortable in their own community.

Maine SpeakOut's deputy director, David Swander, lost his position last year due to budget cuts. What are you doing to address the fund-raising problem?

We are going to try to broaden the ways in which we raise money. We do pretty well with a personal appeal and foundation funding. We may be doing a benefit in New York, as there are people willing to give who realize that there is more of a struggle here than, say, in Manhattan.

How can Maine SpeakOut have more of an impact politically?

The Christian Civic League is rearing its ugly head yet again. What we have to do is really commit as a society and say this is backward thinking, not forward thinking, and that we have to commit to voting. We need to get out the vote in large numbers, and ensure that the good and sensible people of Maine are heard.

How do you argue with someone who believes the Bible says homosexuality is wrong, period?

I'd say they have to go back and read their Bible again. Jesus had absolutely nothing to say about homosexuality, not one word. The rest of the passages that they love to quote are passages written by other men at other times in history, given what is happening around them There are Biblical passages that talk about how slaves should honor their masters, but I don't see the Christian Civic League saying that this is something that we should honor. Why do they only want to pick up just one of the many outdated messages and say it is the word of God? I think that's such an arrogant notion. Each person has to define God in his own life. The CCL wants to define him for us.

Or her. Exactly.

Oh, that's a big help. Do you think there's anyone who doesn't know Rosie O'Donnell is a lesbian?

I don't think many people will be surprised. But there are many gay and lesbian stars who are not out.

Can a celebrity coming out affect someone in Maine?

It absolutely has a positive effect. Americans are so in love with celebrity and

Or maybe God is transgendered? Exactly. Exactly.

Tell me about Walk with the One You Love.

It's scheduled for June 9, and [Massachusetts congressman] Barney Frank is the honorary chair. Basically, Walk with the One You Love is a very simple statement. It's gays and lesbians walking together, straights and gays walking together, families walking together, just taking a stroll. It's about visibility. It's about family. We're all part of the same world. It's non-threatening. We're just saying let's forget about our differences, and act upon the idea that we can all get along in society and co-exist.

What do you say to gays and lesbians who are out to their families, and out in the community, but are still not comfortable holding their partners' hands in public?

I think that there's a definite risk ... but I think that it's something you have to do. Things are not going to change unless people take risks. There's a real psychological price that's paid by gays and lesbians when they grow up fearful and confused about displaying simple affection that stems from their own sexuality.

What are some of your goals for the coming year?

One of the aims of the board this year is to try and get all the diverse gay and lesbian groups throughout the state together, and work as a true coalition on many of the issues Maine faces. I would also like to organize the business community to enact domestic-partnership benefits in terms of insurance for their gay and lesbian employees Speaking from my experience in the entertainment industry, there were no benefits offered at the studios until the employees organized themselves and said we want to be treated equally. You have to ask for equal rights when you deserve them.

Steven Rowley can be e-mailed at rowley@maine.rr.com.

JACK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Moving fast

Did city officials ignore a possible rent reduction before deciding to close the Munjoy Hill institution?

Some parents whose children attended Jack Elementary School in Portland are accusing the School Committee of not doing its homework.

Munjoy Hill resident Cynthia Keith said committee members didn't have all the facts when they voted on Feb. 27 to redistribute Jack's students among Adams, Reiche and Clifford schools next year. Those students are currently attending classes at "Downtown Jack," rented space in an office building on Congress

Street where the students were sent last fall after toxic mold was discovered in the school.

Keith said the committee ignored the option of negotiating a cheaper rent for Downtown Jack, which would allow the students to remain together. "They made a decision based on the budget, not the well-being of the kids," she said.

On Feb. 25, school board members told Martha Ruby, who has two children at Jack, they were going to explore the possibility of lower rent with Downtown Jack's landlord, Penny Carson (who is also CBW's landlord). The next day, Ruby telephoned Carson, who said she was receptive to the idea of reducing the \$25,000-a-month rent and working out a longer lease. But two days later, the school board voted 5-3 not to explore that option.

"I feel I was lied to," Ruby said. "They told me they were all going to look into this And they never did."

At the Feb. 27 meeting, committee member Herb Adams argued in favor of negotiating with Carson. "We have a short list of options, and before we picked and chose among them, I wanted the information on all options, good or bad," Adams said. "I don't know if it would've made a difference in the majority's decision. But it certainly would've helped mine."

Carson was disappointed no school officials contacted her. "For the elected school board to make a decision, they'd have to have all the facts," she said. "But they don't have all the facts."

Proponents of redistribution argue it's cheaper than keeping kids at Downtown Jack — and better for the students. The city is paying \$25,000 a month — \$225,000 a year, because Carson was willing to waive rent in the summer — for the Congress Street space, which lacks a gymnasium, cafeteria, playground and even classroom windows. Conversely, the cost of sending students to Adams, Reiche and Clifford is expected to be \$80,000 the first year to build three classroom-modules at Adams. Maintenance and upkeep of the modules will cost another \$45,000 each subsequent year, in addition to some increased transportation spending to shuttle the students to their new destinations.

Randy Stewart, the school department's finance officer, said redistribution could also save the city as much as \$245,000 a year, because some staffing positions will not be re-filled.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Jo O'Connor believes redistribution is the best path. "I've been pretty vocal all year saying [Downtown Jack] was a good, adequate, temporary solution," O'Connor said. "It was all those things, with the focus being on adequate and temporary."

O'Connor said she did not favor negotiating with Carson because of Downtown Jack's inadequacies as a school facility, both for students and teachers. "My recommendation would've

been, 'Thank you, Penny, you've been a wonderful landlord,' but it would be my recommendation not to keep [students there]."

Meanwhile, rumors are swirling on Munjoy Hill concerning the original — and now vacant — Jack. One unconfirmed report claims a Boston developer has already drawn up blueprints for tearing down the school and putting up condominiums. City officials deny any knowledge of such a plan, but admit there's interest in the site, which has a sweeping view of the water.

"I've heard if the school district wanted to sell that property, they could sell it in a heartbeat, and developers would say, 'Whoo, we'll take that on,'" said Planning Board member Orlando Delogu.

"Given its location, they could realize ... a high price for the property," said City Manager Joe Gray. But, Gray said, if a new Jack school gets built in three to five years, there aren't many other places on Munjoy Hill to locate it.

Ruby has no interest in any development scheme for the Jack site.

"Jack school belongs where it is," she said. "You want to tear it down? Go ahead. But you'd better build it up just as fast as you tear it down."

ALLEN DAMMANN

OLD PORT BARS

New restrictions

A committee considers reducing the number of bars and slapping a big landlord

Portland officials are proposing new restrictions designed to reduce the number of Old Port bars. At its March 6 meeting, the City Council's public safety committee is also considering a legal change to prevent mega-landlord Joe Soley from acquiring control of more bars.

Among the potential changes on the committee's agenda is one that would tighten the rules concerning how many bars a person can own. Current law says no one can hold a majority share in more than three Old Port bars, but allows unlimited minority ownership. The proposed rule would restrict anyone who already controlled three bars from holding more than a 20 percent interest in any additional, licensed establishment.

Another possible change would reduce the number of entertainment licenses (there are currently 27 in the Old Port) and distribute the remaining licenses by lottery. Such a change would probably have to grandfather existing licenses, but city attorney Gary Wood, in a memo to committee members and other interested parties, wrote that it might be legal to revoke the licenses over a long period of time, although he added such a move "would probably lead to a legal challenge."

In addition, Wood wants to give failed bars just 90 days (instead of six months)

to sell their licenses, and suggests increasing the distance new bars must be located from existing ones.

All those changes are designed, according to Wood's memo, "to diminish over time the number of bars operating in the Old Port."

As for Soley, who owns numerous buildings that house bars, the city wants to outlaw a provision he often includes in his leases. It requires the owners of failed bars to sign over their entertainment licenses to the landlord. "This proposed amendment would end that practice," Wood wrote.

Glenn Gaudin used to own the Basement, (now called Club SubTerra), a bar located at 1 Exchange St., in a Soley property. Gaudin lost his license to Soley when his club went under. "He's a smart guy," Gaudin said. "He knows that most of the businesses that go into his facilities are going to fail because he charges such ridiculous rent." Gaudin was paying \$2,000 a week for his bar.

According to Gaudin, Soley sometimes allows tenants to pay less rent during slow seasons, then demands repayment when their lease comes up for renewal. When the bar owner can't pay, Soley closes the business and takes the license. That's what happened to Gaudin. "Soley uses debt to grab more licenses," he said.

Portland's Downtown District (PDD) favors the proposed changes, especially the new rules on transferring licenses. "In terms of the Joe Soley issue, the board takes issue with the way he runs his businesses," said Rena Masten, PDD's director. "Something that can tighten license transferal would be a good thing."

The PDD also favors more restrictions on the number of bars. "I think the board believes that fewer bars and nightclubs in such a concentrated area could help alleviate some of the public safety concerns of the Old Port," Masten said.

Gaudin sees it differently. "This is backward thinking," he said. "[The city] can't clean up the Old Port by sending the evil alcohol vendors out of town. If we did, we'll lose a significant spark."

City Councilor Peter O'Donnell, a member of the public safety committee, said he doesn't believe any rules will change, especially after the council on March 4 voted to allow Gritty McDuff's, a Fore Street brew pub, to expand. "It sets a dangerous precedent," said O'Donnell. "I don't think the council has any real intention to try control liquor activity in the Old Port."

O'Donnell is also skeptical of the rule change targeting Soley. "So we're going after Joe Soley because we don't like him," he said. "It seems like every time we deal with an Old Port issue, the outcome depends on who the person is."

Wood, Soley and councilors Jay Hibbard and Jack Dawson, the other members of the committee, didn't return calls seeking comment.

CHRIS BARRY

Onan the lonely

Portland's porno-booth sex scene is still thriving.

CHRIS BARRY

The old man leaned seductively against the open door of the last video-viewing booth in the back room of Video Expo, a porn shop located at 888 Congress St. in Portland. Wearing a faded denim jacket and a creased baseball cap, he watched me as I left one booth and walked toward another. The old man looked me in the eye, but I turned away, distracted by the sight of his hand moving furiously back and forth on his exposed penis. I ducked into another booth.

The guy creeped me out. I'd only been hanging at the Expo for an hour, and he'd already approached me a half-dozen times. He was silently cruising the joint, looking for sex, but not finding any takers.

Video Expo's back room is actually a hallway lined with seven booths on each side. A paper-towel dispenser hangs on the back wall next to the bathroom at the end of the corridor. Each booth is about 3-feet wide by 3 1/2-feet deep. The walls are painted black. The lighting is dim. The chairs are plastic.

The place opens at 9 a.m. If you arrive in the afternoon, you're likely to find many crumpled paper towels on the cement floor — both the floor and towels sticky with semen. Customers enter the booths to watch pornographic videos on a small screen. A dollar gets you about four minutes of footage.

There are dozens of cinematic choices from various pornographic genres, including gay, lesbian, transgendered and heterosexual films. Scenes include couples, threesomes, foursomes, orgies and gang-bangs. There's S&M, B&D and some really strange offerings, like a movie in which a masked woman beats a man with a whip while he has intercourse with an inflatable, plastic sheep. There were films of naked people dripping candle wax on each other. Some movies were set in Army boot camp. Others were foreign, with no sound and occasional subtitles.

The rules of the back room are clearly posted on a wall. Customers must be at least 18 years old. No loitering in the hallway. Videos must be playing while you're in the booth. Only one customer per viewing booth.

The rules were put in place in 1995 after the Portland Police Department cracked down on porn-shop cruising as part of Chief Mike Chitwood's crusade against public sex. Now, seven years later, the question is whether the crackdown has had any impact.

These days, men looking for companionship at the

Video Expo simply leave their booth unlocked. Several times during my first visit, someone would jiggle the knob, find it unlocked and open the door. Each time, the interloper would peer into my booth, waiting for an encouraging glance or invitation. Not getting one, they'd close the door and move on.

The old man did this repeatedly. One time, he didn't shut my door all the way. Looking over my shoulder, I saw him watching me through the 2-inch crack, hoping to catch sight of whatever he expected me to be doing.

Over three days in late February, I spent about eight hours and \$35 in booths at Video Expo and Portland's other porn shop, the Treasure Chest. The lonely old man exposing himself was the only illegal act I witnessed, a violation of the public-indecency law.

That's not to say there weren't other incidents that might make some members of the community a little queasy. For instance, the wall of one Video Expo booth I entered has a seemingly opaque piece of Plexiglas about 2 1/2-feet wide by 3-feet tall built into it. It wasn't until someone entered the adjacent booth that I realized it's possible to see a shadow through the plastic, backlit by the light of the video screen.

Actually, I saw two shadows. At first, it was difficult to tell what was happening, but after a couple of minutes, I figured it out.

When one of my neighbors pressed his shoulder against the glass, I saw the outline of a cartoon character tattooed on his bicep. The man's silhouette was masturbating frantically. A couple minutes later, he stopped. I watched the shadow of his ejaculate slowly flow down the surface of the Plexiglas between us.

But the show wasn't over. The other shadow wasn't finished masturbating.

A minute later, he was done. The video ended and the phantoms disappeared. Strangely enough, their

interaction was almost completely silent. The moans and groans were coming from the video soundtracks, joined, on occasion, by the cranking of the paper-towel dispenser. As far as I could tell, the two shadows never exchanged a word as they stood together performing onanism.

By 4 p.m. that first day, I was too overwhelmed to head over to the Treasure Chest, as originally planned. I'd had lost my appetite for porn. I was also tired of standing in the semen of strangers. The Expo had had a busy day, and not all its customers bothered to use the paper towels. I left the store and headed to a nearby alley to wash the soles of my shoes in a puddle.

Chest of many treasures

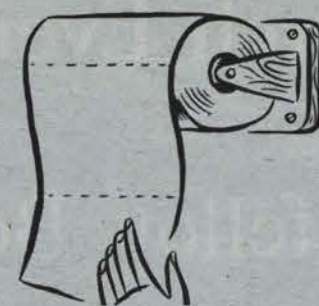
The next morning, I went to the Treasure Chest, a smaller establishment about a block away from Video Expo, just across Longfellow Square, on Pine Street.

Before I entered the booths, I checked out the store's merchandise. The Treasure Chest stocks not only the latest in sex toys and porn tapes (unlike the Expo, the Treasure Chest's porn is available for rental), but also a supply of glass pipes and bongos. The emphasis, however, is on sex.

The gadgets are displayed on a long wall toward the back of the store. Items available for purchase include inflatable dolls, artificial vaginas and asses made of foam, clitoral stimulators, penis pumps and butt plugs in a wide variety of sizes. A diverse selection of dildos, vibrators and other artificial phalluses is also on hand, plus fetish accoutrements such as nipple clamps, candle wax, whips, paddles, collars, handcuffs and gags. One bizarre item can only be described as a vaginal periscope. The label on the box of this combination sex toy/gynecological contraption warns users to turn off the inside light if the device gets too hot.



PHOTOS/CHRIS BARRY
ILLUSTRATIONS/PATRICK CORRIGAN



It's sex in its most basic form. No mind games, no dating, it's just a quick fuck and getting their rocks off for people who have repressed themselves.

-- "Matt," Video Expo viewing-booth customer

While I perused the inventory, a regular customer I'll call "Ken" came into the store. He and the clerk hadn't seen each other in a while. They exchanged small talk about the weather, and Ken griped about being laid off from his job. Then Ken complained about an incident that had taken place a couple weeks before.

He and another customer had been discussing some activity that transpired in the Treasure Chest's viewing booths. The clerk on duty had snapped at Ken and told him to shut up.

"We have to do that," the current clerk told Ken. "We can't be aware of anything illegal going on back there."

A minute later, I headed to the back room where the illegal activity allegedly took place. The area was more cramped, but better lit than Video Expo's hallway. I chose a booth at random and was surprised to discover a small, white curtain hanging behind a pane of glass on the wall separating my booth from the next. Next to the video screen were two buttons marked "curtain up" and "curtain down."

I put a dollar in the machine and started channel surfing, but after a few minutes, I gave in to my curiosity and pressed the up button. The device made a low, whirling noise as the curtain slowly lifted. Once it rose about 6 inches, I was able to see the hips and exposed penis of my neighbor.

Shocked, I pushed the down button several times in an effort to stop the show, but the curtain continued to go up. Soon I was standing face to face with my neighbor. I had no interest in watching this chubby, middle-aged man masturbate. He looked at me, but didn't smile. I turned away to focus on the movie. I think he understood my discomfort and turned to watch his movie, as well.

Then, after a couple minutes, for reasons unknown — perhaps because my neighbor's film ended — the curtain returned to the down position. (It wasn't until a subsequent visit that I noticed the sign on the door explaining the rules of the "buddy booth." Both customers must push the up button to make the curtain rise. The video machines must also be running.)

I didn't witness any illegal activity during my two visits to the Treasure Chest, but the place seemed more seedy and desperate than Video Expo. Maybe it's the requests for sexual favors scrawled on the doorjams of the booths.

Fuck club

Who visits the back rooms of these places? I only saw men — dozens of men of diverse ethnicities and ages. I watched men in business suits and nice sweaters enter the booths. Old men, skinny men, fat men and

young men all opened my doors. The people I saw looked like anyone's neighbor, brother, father or grandfather. Several wore wedding rings.

Based on my impressions, I'd say most of those cruising the booths don't openly identify as gay. And not everyone who visits the booths does so in hopes of having sex with other men. Some are just there to watch a

I'm not a big fan of people watching me. Maybe I have insecurities about my penis size. I just want the privacy."

Matt prefers Video Expo to the Treasure Chest. "I only went there once," he said of the Pine Street establishment. "It's seemed pretty skeezy." Plus, the Treasure Chest has stools instead of chairs. "It's just a comfort thing," he said.

He offered me advice on how to get a semen-free, porn-viewing experience. "Look around," he said. "Nine times out of 10, you'll find a booth not covered in man seed."

The satisfaction straight customers like Matt get at the Expo is different from that which draws many gay men to the back room. "Ed," another man in his 20s, worked as a clerk at Video Expo for a couple of years. He told me about a man he met and befriended during his stint there. The customer was in his late 60s or early 70s, married and the father of several grown children. He'd been aware of his homosexuality since he was young, but the homophobia rampant in his rural Maine hometown kept him in the closet as he lived the life of a married man.

It had only been recently that the man felt he could share his true feelings with his wife and, eventually, his children. The anonymity of the Expo's back room



allowed him to finally, during the last phase of his life, express his true sexuality.

No sex, please, we're public

In 1995, after a series of sting operations and arrests of men having sex in the booths at Video Expo and at the now-closed Fine Arts Cinema, the city's attorney forced porn-shop owners to sign an agreement regulating activity in the back rooms. Employees would have to patrol the hallways to ensure no illegal action was under way. "Glory holes" in booth walls, through which men offered their penises to their neighbors for anonymous sex, were covered up. The city threatened to shut the businesses down if they didn't comply. The Fine Arts

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READING OF LOCAL LAWYER'S
ACCLAIMED NEW MYSTERY
Saturday, March 9th at 4:00 PM

SHACKLING WATER

By Adam Mansbach

"Breathtaking debut..."
-Author, Michael Eric Dyson

READING &
JAZZ PERFORMANCE
Saturday, March 16th at 4:00 PM



THE CAPRICES

By Sabina Murray

"Stunning."
-New York Times

READING OF 'NEW YORK TIMES
NOTABLE' SHORT STORIES
Saturday, March 23th at 4:00 PM



ESTHER STORIES

By Peter Orner

"Unusual delicacy and beauty"
-Author, Charles Baxter

READING OF SHORT STORIES
BY PUSHCART PRIZE WINNER
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At the Portland Public Library

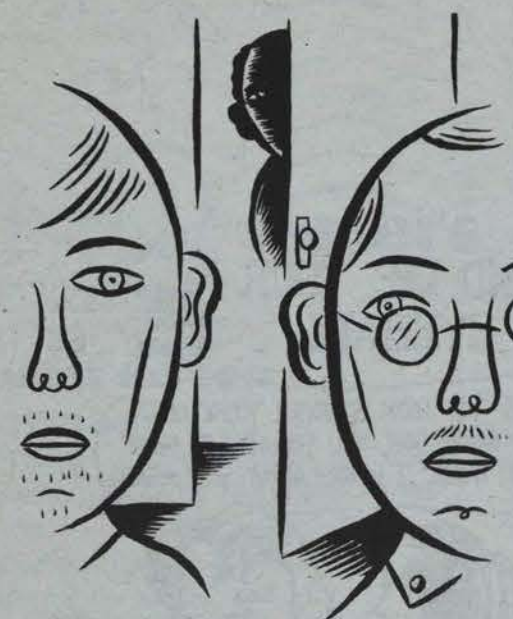


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health issue. Rightmire agreed, but had misgivings about focusing outreach efforts on such establishments. "There is no reason to believe that people who connect in a [porn shop] or one of the [parks] or other places identified as cruising spots would be more infected than someone who meets at an Old Port nightclub," he said recently.

After the cops started busting porn patrons,

revealing.

"A lot of barriers to testing and counseling were identified," Nickerson said. "We heard concerns about police harassment, concerns about the stigma related to testing, and we heard this view that HIV is a treatable and manageable illness, so some think it's not a big issue." To overcome those barriers, Nickerson hopes to soon have outreach workers visiting bars that cater to

"People look for little places where they can get away from values imposed on them externally and judgment of what they do.... If that means sexual expression in a public place, then they cross a line the law has drawn. That can cause trouble."
-- Myles Rightmire, public health outreach worker

closed on its own, and the Expo cleaned up its act.

For the Portland police, arresting men cruising for sex is an annual pastime. Since 1993, the department has run patrols and undercover operations in search of those seeking partners in public places. In 1996, in response to lobbying by Chitwood and residents in neighborhoods frequented by cruisers in cars, the City Council passed a law making it illegal to repeatedly drive through certain areas, namely the West End, East End and Parkside. As recently as last fall, the police arrested dozens of men walking on the Western Prom after dark.

Rightmire began visiting the businesses to spread his safe-sex message with condoms and cards redeemable for a free HIV test. It was a rather delicate assignment. "I was going into a place that might be defined as someone else's space," he said. "I had to be respectful of the people who were there." Rightmire said the proprietors of the porn shops warned him against accosting customers with intrusive messages, but he had some success.

"It's a very subtle form of outreach. I thought it went really well," Rightmire said. "After a while, people would come toward me with their hands out for a free condom." About a quarter of the cards for the no-charge HIV tests were redeemed, and many cruisers showed up without cards but wanting to be tested.

Rightmire doesn't hit the streets too often anymore. The grant that funded outreach to the cruising locations ran out years ago, so he spends most of his time at the STD clinic, counseling those already infected.

He's also, at 52, getting too old for such outreach work. "You want somebody that's more of a peer as an educator," he said, pointing out that he faces more hurdles talking to a 24-year-old than another 24-year-old would. "You'll be seeing new people out there soon," he said.

That is, if the cash-strapped city budget can afford it.

Even so, the police have failed to stop public sex, although they seem to have driven it indoors, at least during cold weather.

Myles Rightmire has worked for the city of Portland's public health division as an outreach worker, HIV counselor and STD-prevention educator since 1982. When Video Expo and the other porn shops were busted in the mid-'90s, Rightmire's then-boss decided it was a public

Portland's public health department is attempting to start a new outreach program geared toward men who solicit sex from other men in public places. This as-yet-unfunded program (for which city health officials have proposed a \$50,000 budget) was the result of focus groups public health workers held with sexually active young men. According to Nate Nickerson, director of the city's public health division, the discussions were

gay men and, eventually, cruising spots like the back-room porn booths.

As far as the legal enforcement of cruising ordinances is concerned, Nickerson said, "Different people in the city have different ideas of moral issues. But our job is about promoting a healthy community.... There is always a delicate balance between public health and public safety issues."

"We need to be able to reach and talk to people about behavior that could be dangerous," he continued. "If those people are driven underground, then we won't be able to reach them."

Rightmire agreed. "Sometimes the more pressure exerted, the more covert people become in connecting," he said. "It makes it hard to find people and to educate them."

Rightmire thinks cruising is declining, but not because of police interference. "Many people are connecting these days in cyberspace," he said. "Prevention is going to be changing, because people are meeting and conversing in a different way. Outreach to the on-line community is the next place where we will find people who might benefit from what we do."

As for the continued attraction of the porn-booth scene, Rightmire said, "People look for little places where they can get away from values imposed on them externally and judgment of what they do. Generally speaking, heterosexual people have that permission in our culture. I would say that gay, lesbian, transgendered and questioning people don't have that permission at all. People seek places where they have permission to be fully who they are. If that means sexual expression in a public place, then they cross a line the law has drawn. That can cause trouble."

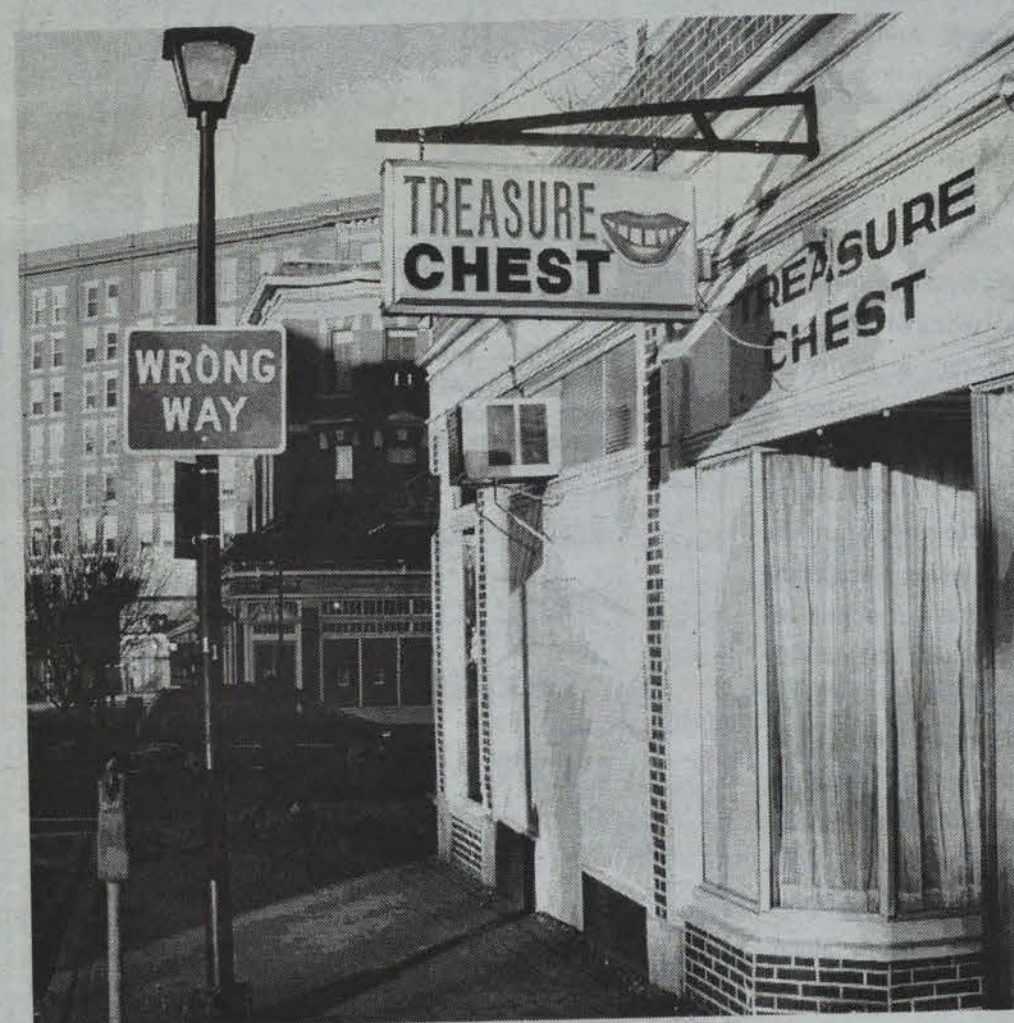
On the last day of my assignment, I returned to Video Expo shortly after it opened. A manager was showing a new employee how to stock movies in the retail side of the business — a clean, well-lit area not unlike any other video store.

The clerks at the Expo were friendly. Customers of all types — couples, single women, older men and young studs — were shopping without shame.

I headed into the back room. At 9:30 a.m., four booths were already occupied. The hallway smelled of disinfectant and the booth I entered was spotless.

Help-wanted signs were hanging everywhere. The job: a morning gig cleaning up the booths.

Chris Barry can be e-mailed at
chris_barry@hotmail.com.



COMMENT

**SO
noted**

Cruisers and losers

Considering the scenes CBW writer Chris Barry found when he ventured into the back rooms of two Portland porn shops brings one emotion to mind: sadness (see "Onan the lonely," page 10). It brings another feeling to the gut: disgust. But when one ponders what, if anything, should be done about the goings on in the porno-video-viewing booths operated by Video Expo and the Treasure Chest, the reaction isn't so clear.

What desperate, lonely circumstances drive a man

and theaters in the mid-1990s, and continue to make arrests in enforcing the city's cruising ordinance (a law that, should someone ever have the mind and finances to challenge, would likely be found to be standing on shaky constitutional ground, to say the least).

Efforts to combat cruising either in cars or the back rooms of sex shops ostensibly target gay men, and thus exacerbate the sense of shame that accompanies their pursuit of sexual happiness.

What's more, the cops' efforts to combat illegal hanky-panky are inconsistent, at best. I note with irony — and not a little annoyance — the fact the cops spent untold (that is, they're not telling) amounts of money and time concocting an elaborate sting operation to catch men who want hand jobs with their massages, while the cop who acted as the madame in that scheme, Officer Gayle Petty, works the downtown community policing beat, where men beat each other off and expose themselves in local businesses right under her nose.

Such sex crimes and their enforcement are a reflection of our community's moral standards. When it comes to cruising outdoors, the cops are clearly applying a double standard. And when it comes to cruising and public indecency in Portland's porn shops, there seems to be no standard at all.

In publishing this week's cover story, I hope we can begin a public dialogue about the heretofore (somewhat) secret things taking place in the back of Portland's porn stores. What's it gonna be, folks? Either we condemn these practices and actively work to eradicate such scenes — realizing that by doing so, as a city health worker pointed out, we'll most likely just drive such people further underground — or we embrace the repressed homosexuals and pud-pulling porn freaks among us the same way we celebrate diversity at the Center for Cultural Exchange next door to Video Expo — effectively leaving such people alone, but for the helpful health worker or two we can pay to reach out to them.

I suppose there's a third option, too. We can ignore whatever happens in the porn-viewing booths until either: a. something truly awful happens in there or b. the chief needs some easy press about a dirty topic.

Stay tuned.

CHRIS BUSBY

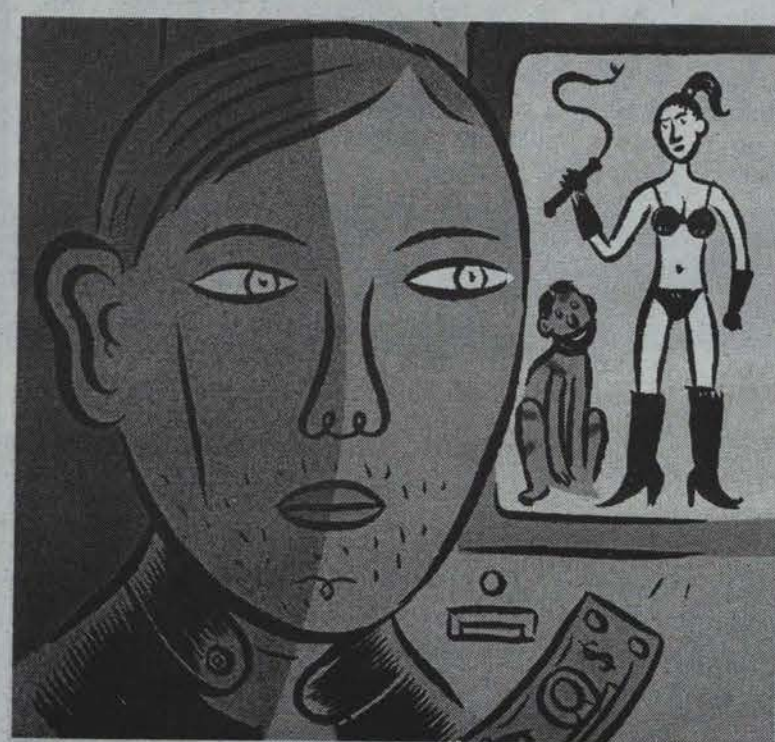


ILLUSTRATION / PATRICK CORRIGAN

to masturbate in a public place? Surely those circumstances are too tragic for the public to want to ponder. And why should we care, anyway? All the "Real men don't use porn" billboards in the world won't stop people from consuming pornography and satisfying themselves accordingly.

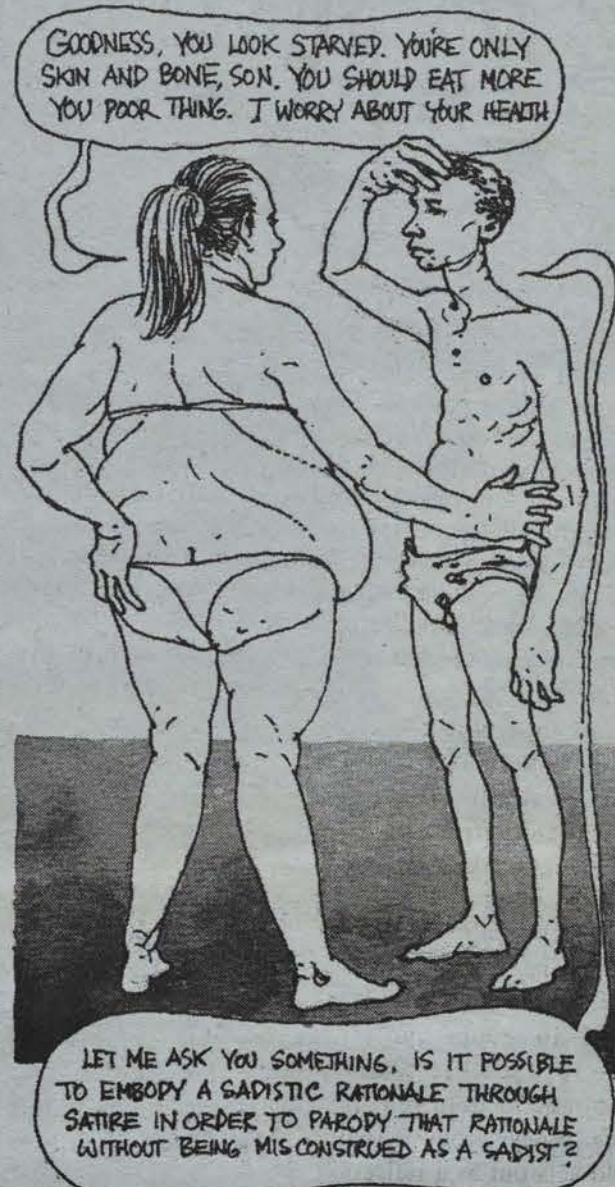
But the scene in these back rooms is about much more than masturbation. These businesses are also bustling locations for gay cruising, and as such, their existence is indicative of the shame and alienation homosexuals unfortunately still experience, even in Portland, with its enlightened, lesbian mayor.

Gay shame and alienation are also, unfortunately, not likely to disappear any time soon. Which brings us to the Portland police.

As "Matt," a hetero, Expo-porn-booth junkie, said, "There's no such thing as the morality police." Except, of course, there is. Portland cops, led by Chief/paragon-of-virtue Mike Chitwood, cracked down on porn shops

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Kudos for cop coverage

Thanks and admiration to your valuable pursuit of the foibles of the Portland — and by extension, other — police departments (Cover story, "Policing the police" and City, "Log on," 2.14.02; City, "Log bog," 2.28.02). They choose reluctance to reveal the methodology and mentality behind their self-determined duty. When police make arrests and otherwise strive to deal with those they consider to be our local "evil-doers," they act on their own perceptions and knowledge. Our system, ostensibly a "Rule of Law," is manifested through the eyes of the police, not the scales of un-sighted justice. Policing has a culture of its own. It carries itself forward on a wave of prior learning and experience, but comes to us with all the baggage of any culture forging its way in the present social mix.

Learning opportunities abound in every policing encounter, just as when a preschool kid gets his first lessons in peer-group activity. A child acts out as a reflection of his parenting and home life, but stands to benefit by guidance and consequences only if the behavior is noted and dealt with promptly and specifically. Policing activity would benefit from a similar feedback system. Appeals for authority and platitudes intended to harmonize clashing factions don't carry adequate effect.

What if we don't have swift revelation and feedback concerning police behavior, mentality or perceptions? We can only assume police will continue, insulated by their own acculturation. Current police culture rises from a past still influenced by the zealotry of far too much fear, class and racial prejudice, repression, bigotry and brutality. These negative traits are acted out despite the best of oversight from within the police culture. But they can only be eliminated if outside attention is

focused on them when they happen.

The activity of police must therefore be absolutely and constantly notorious. It must always be subject to immediate scrutiny, criticism and publicity. Furthermore, any behavior or position contrary to policing must be recognized as part and parcel with that activity, and handled with equal notoriety. The current shrouds, whether of secrecy or of guilt and shame, impose egregiously assumed barriers to our trust and appreciation of police services.

Open and notorious behavior carries the added benefit of offering every participant's story to the public media's stage. In a defense of civil rights, we offer an individual citizen the right to maintain a cloak of silence, even while offering an opportunity to defend himself in the media. But we can not and must not relinquish such a right to any agency of the state, including the police. An opportunity for self-defense in the public media is rendered unavailable to the arrested when their circumstances are sequestered by police. Open and fair reporting requires that the arrested be offered equal and unbiased benefit of media attention. Agencies acting in the name of "the People," as we public are known before the bar of justice, must be privy to any and all done in our name.

Not only must we be promptly informed of an arrest and its particulars, but we must then be offered, even obliged within its context, to examine the antagonists' positions. It would serve to make the social (or anti-social) activity a less threatening, more comprehensible part of our common experience and daily meditations. When we are called to judge our peers in extreme cases, we need such a basis for opinion. Our justice system might then have more to work with and yield more substantial results when it's time to mete out corrections and consequences.

Peter Eliot
Bar Mills

Blacker than you

While I appreciate the space given to Mayor Karen Geraghty's response to a

previous piece written about her efforts to have an inclusive but inexpensive (read: save taxpayers some money) inaugural celebration, I was put off by the headline, "Diversity on the cheap," that you appropriated for her well-written letter (2.21.02).

What bothered me was the implication that diversity can come cheaply and that it had come cheaply the night of her inaugural celebration. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the seven years I have lived and worked in Portland, this city has become one of the most diverse, if not the most diverse, cities in northern New England. But what is most noteworthy is that we have become so fairly well. Other cities have had a number of problems when there was an influx of refugees or immigrants or migrants. We have had some of our own, but in relation to other cities, some similar in size even (Lowell, Mass., a close example), Portland should be proud.

The mayor's inaugural celebration was not only a celebration of Portland's wonderful diversity, it was also a moment to celebrate how well (bumps and bruises notwithstanding) this city has become as diverse as it is.

One last point to make: It is time that CBW became a participant in the above effort and begin to diversify itself in terms of staff of color. Was there anyone of color on your editorial board when you chose the headline for Karen's letter? If so, I say "finally." If not, well, that's cheap.

Nolan Thompson
Portland

More pro-hip-hop than you

While it was great to see an article acknowledging Portland's hip-hop scene, we here at Free Street Taverna are feeling a bit slighted (Cover story, "Ill or natural," 2.28.02).

We went out on a limb and started "Open Mic Hip-Hop Nite" four months ago, and have watched it grow into a successful Monday night scene. DJ Boondocks (the house DJ) spins old-school hip-hop, '70s soul, '90s rap and funk all in one. Several DJs pop in for guest appearances, and soon we will be adding a drummer and bassist to our show.

The hip-hop scene is up and coming, and we here at Free Street are doing our part to support local hip-hop. My question to CBW is, "Are you?"

Amy Prout
Portland

Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Send to: Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail: editor1@maine.rr.com

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Disabled label. It's happened to **Rustic Overtones**, again. Tommy Boy, the New York record label that rescued Portland's most famous rock band after it was released by Arista Records in 2000, is out of business. Tommy Boy went under just after the start of the year.

Warner Brothers owned 51 percent of the label," said Rustic keyboardist Frankenstein (aka Spencer Albee). "They pulled funding and the label closed."

Tommy Boy's troubles screwed up promotion of "C'mon," the band's first single from the "Viva Nueva" album. With the label in financial chaos, it did nothing to get the song on the radio. "It killed the single. Tommy Boy's spin on it was that music sells itself," Frankenstein said. "But the reality is that if they dumped promotional dollars into it, it would have gotten more air play."

For the album's second single, "Combustible," the band hired an independent promoter. That song got more play, and every concert the group has played since has sold out. "Of course, then what happens: Tommy Boy folds. It's frustrating as hell," Frankenstein said. "Seems like you just can't get a real break."

The disappointment over Tommy Boy's demise wasn't as hard for the band members to take, he said, as the end of the Arista deal. "We were still pie-eyed then, and it was the rock 'n' roll dream for us," Frankenstein said. After getting screwed once before, "We learned it's just the way the business works. It happens all the time. Especially to us."

Frankenstein is trying to look at the bright side. "In music history, so many groups, from the Stones, the Beatles and the Police, had so many changes," he said. "It can take a while for the stars to line up. You get signed for a reason, but it doesn't necessarily mean it's the right combo. I think we're all figuring out what the right combination is."

So what's next for Rustic? Members and management aren't talking, but sources close to the band said there's the possibility the Overtones might subdivide into two bands. One, featuring founding members Dave Gutter and Jon Roods, is said to be a rock band, while the other is Frankenstein's pop-rock band Popsicko.

But that won't be the end of the Rusty O's. Even if the rumors of the split are true, the band plans on releasing a greatest hits album and playing several Portland-area shows that have already been booked.

Meter depressed. An epidemic of **impatient parking meters** seems to have broken out in Portland's Old Port. According to a man who works in the area, three meters on Moulton Street, one on Market Street and two more on Commercial Street are all stinky with their time. In return for a dollar, they give not the standard two hours of parking, but a mere one hour and 48 minutes.

Confronted recently with one of these obstinate devices, our informant inserted an extra quarter in the hopes of getting his full 120 minutes. The meter's needle promptly moved — back to an hour and 30 minutes.

— items by Chris Barry and Allen Dammann

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

Where the girls aren't

Portland's lesbian nightlife scene searches for a shot of vitality

by VICTORIA GANNON

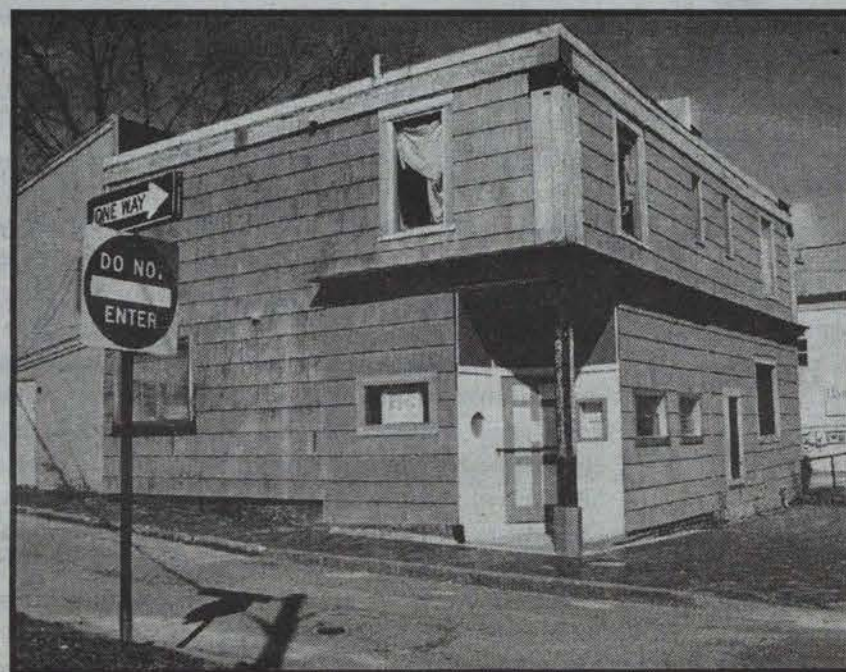
Ami DeRienzo stood on stage at Sisters, a lesbian bar on Danforth Street in Portland, on a recent Sunday night and addressed the five women in attendance for the poetry open-mic event: "I'll go first, but I expect all of you to get up and suffer like I am right now."

DeRienzo, 28, is one of three women who initiated the event at Sisters last October. Five months later, she's the only one still organizing it. Scheduled for the second Sunday of every month, the event is an attempt to fill what many perceive to be a hole in Portland's social scene: the lack of lesbian nightlife for queer women in their 20s and early 30s.

When it comes to finding a place where single lesbians of that age group can meet and mingle, the options are few. Outright, the gay support organization, hosts social activities, but only for queers aged 22 and younger. Groups like Sisterspace and SOLO (Single Older Lesbians Organization) hold potlucks and other social gatherings for members, whose average age is around 35.

"It's hard to find something in the community to meet people at a personal level," DeRienzo said. "Our idea with the poetry night was to have something where we can be real with people, get to know them at a personal level, [and create] an easier environment to get to know people in." Although men are welcome at the open mic (and at Sisters, in general), DeRienzo said she prefers holding it "on female turf. Some of the stuff I read, I don't know if I could read in the Underground. I'd be a little more intimidated."

Portland's other gay bars — Somewhere, the Underground and Blackstone's — are not geared specifically



It's not much, but it's all there is: Sisters on Danforth Street keeps trying to diversify lesbian nightlife. PHOTO: TOM MAHONEY

dance club. "I think Sisters is maxed on what it can do," said Jen, a 28-year-old lesbian who requested her last name not be used. "A bar is a bar. They're not serving coffee and having conversations there."

"Probably for as long as I live in Portland, I will patronize [Sisters]," said Sarah Holmes, 29, the director of programming for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and questioning events at the University of Southern Maine. "But at the same time, I think there's a need for something else in our community that's not about the bar."

"Alcohol and drugs tend to be the way we deal with things — the isolation of being queer in our society, the oppression of being gay We still spend our time in small, confined spaces full of cigarette smoke, that are dark, and everyone around you is drinking. Or there are a handful of people who are sober, and have already dealt with drinking too much in their lives. But they're still there, because that's their community. It's kind of wrong in a lot of ways."

Holmes said Portland needs a queer community center that hosts lectures and other programs in an alcohol-free environment, but acknowledged funding such a space would be difficult.

Meeting lesbians outside specifically gay locales requires forethought and not a little luck. "Sometimes it'll be coffee houses," Holmes said. "There were times when you would go to Java Joe's [now Breaking New Grounds] on a Saturday night, and it would be the queer hangout for the night." Other events have a more predictable cache of lesbians in the audience. "When Darien Brahms played at the Skinny, it was like, 'Oh wow, look at all the people I know here,'" Holmes said.

Some queer women are skeptical Sisters can be more than a weekend

Jen wishes Portland had a place that's a hybrid of Sisters and the Skinny, a nightclub on Congress Street known for hosting bands, plays and other events. "I like that there's a place to go that's safe and supportive, but I feel like there's a real lack of diversity in the people that go to Sisters," Jen said. "I wish we had a place that was hip, that all the hip lesbians went to. They might go to Sisters once in a great while, and that's when you have to know the migratory patterns."

New faces flock to Sisters on the last Saturday night of Gay Pride Week in June, or after concerts by queer performers, such as Melissa Ferrick, who

played the Northeastern GLBTQ Conference last spring at USM, or Melissa Etheridge, who played Merrill Auditorium last summer. But the effort required to search out and make such scenes can be taxing. The same goes for organizing new events or lesbian-friendly spaces. "There's a lot of burnout and a lot of apathy," Holmes said, "so it's just as easy to go to places that are already established, or stay home and watch a movie."

Still, the event is a start. Although alcohol and dim lighting may not be as conducive to poetic revelations as coffee and folk music, the open mic at Sisters was the first time I felt comfortable enough to read something of my own in public.

CHURCH AND STATE

English echoes, American action

Julia Spencer-Fleming has obviously read more than a few English murder mysteries, the kind set in a seemingly peaceful village shocked by a perfectly beastly crime, which has to be solved by a piously plucky vicar and a staunchly resolute inspector from Scotland Yard. So when Spencer-Fleming — who, in spite of her name, lives not in Sussex, but near Saco — set out to write her first mystery, she stuck pretty close to the formula.

Except "In the Bleak Midwinter" takes place in upstate New York (where Spencer-Fleming used to reside) in the town of Millers Kill (not to be too heavy-handed or anything). The vicar is now an ex-Army pilot turned Episcopal priest. And a woman, the inspector is the chief of police. And a man. Also, he's married. And yes, he and the priest have the hots for each other. And yes, the rest of the plot (a newborn baby left on the church steps; the body of a murdered girl, who had recently given birth, found near the river; layers of lies gradually stripped away to reveal the ugly truth at the heart of a supposedly tranquil town) is every bit as predictable as anything that ever afflicted the sleepy hamlet of St. Agatha-on-Brocklebury.



Stiff upper lip: Julia Spencer-Fleming, author of "In the Bleak Midwinter."

What makes the book work, for the most part, is the characters. Clare Fergusson, the priest, and Russ Van Alstyne, the cop, are more than just cardboard stand-ins in a philosophical debate between church and state over the nature of evil. In spite of both characters' soap-opera lives (his wife doesn't understand him, she's haunted by the death of her sister), Spencer-Fleming makes them believable and engaging enough that they can get away with saying stuff like, "I'm not the sort to usually get melodramatic" (yes, you are) or "Small towns have the same evils that big cities do, just in smaller numbers" (no, they don't). Even the portrayals of most of the minor figures in the story ring reasonably true, although less so the younger the person is supposed to be.

The personalities that populate Millers Kill help carry the reader through the first half of the story, during which the only source of tension seems to be the remote possibility someone will be late for prayer meeting. But when the action finally starts, it wipes away the air of cozy drawing rooms at tea time with scenes that would do credit to the best high-tension thriller. No matter that any reader can see Fergusson's brush with death coming 30 pages before it happens, it still chilled my blood (less of a cliché than you might think).

"In the Bleak Midwinter" appears to be the first novel in a series. If Spencer-Fleming can keep developing these characters, while maintaining her skills in writing action sequences, all she'll require is some slightly more original plots to keep me coming back. Maybe, not even that.

Tally ho, I say. The game is afoot.

AL DIAMON

"In the Bleak Midwinter" by Julia Spencer-Fleming is available at local book stores. Spencer-Fleming signs copies of her book on Saturday, March 9 at Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, at 4 p.m. 772-4045.

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short CUTS

DAN SHORT

Bag boys

Even the dumbest and shallowest bands regularly mix genres in their music. But long before eclecticism became something of cliché, a few daring musicians were experimenting with the possibilities posed by the blurring and blending of radically different musical traditions. Many of those artists came from New York's downtown scene, the most notorious being composer-saxophonist John Zorn, who could mix six or seven genres into a 90-second piece.

Continuing in the Zorn tradition is the Four Bags, a band featuring two ex-Mainers — accordionist Tom Aldrich and saxophonist/clarinetist Michael McGinnis — along with guitarist Sean Moran and trombonist Brian Drye.

On the band's self-titled CD, the Bags mix jazz, classical, film scores, country and pop, among other genres, into a style that will seem familiar to fans of guitarist Bill Frisell, in that the Bags rely more on charm and humor than aggression and tension. That can seem too precious at times, particularly on the two Beach Boys covers, "Good Vibrations" and "Here Today." Still, most of the group's music is intelligent and challenging without alienating the listener or being anything less than fun.

The Four Bags play Friday, March 8 at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$8. 772-7600.

Orchid blooms

Ever since the days of the Grateful Dead, jam bands have owed an obvious debt to jazz, as both rely on improvisation. These days, many jam bands include musicians with formal jazz training, and some jazz bands — such as Medeski, Martin and Wood — make a conscious effort to appeal to the jam-band crowd.

Vermont's Viperhouse was among those bands straddling the line between jazz and jam. During its six-year history, Viperhouse, which broke up last year, played in a big-band, groove-jazz style that appealed to jam-band fans.

After the split, baritone saxophonist-composer Michael Chorney and three other ex-Viperhouse members formed the jazz quartet Orchid. The resulting album, "Field Recording," sounds like a reaction against the jam-band/jazz relationship.

For starters, the music is all acoustic, reminiscent of cool jazz and post-bop styles of the '50s. The grooves Viperhouse was famous for are hardly present. Neither is there much in the way of long, expansive soloing. Instead, the emphasis is on Chorney's compositions and ensemble playing.

Nevertheless, the sound is consistently interesting. The uncommon lineup of baritone and tenor saxes, bass and drums highlights Chorney's well-developed compositions and the interplay between Chorney and tenor saxophonist Zach Tonnissen.

Those looking for Viperhouse's grooves will be disappointed, but those in search of solid, tradition-minded jazz will smell something fresh in Orchid.

Orchid plays Friday, March 8 at Starbird Recital Hall, 525 Forest Ave., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$10. 828-1310.

The whole truth

There are few things as frustrating to a music fan as listening to an artist who is obviously talented and whose music has all the right elements, but who just can't seem to get it together. Singer-songwriter Tim Easton is one such artist.

On Easton's latest CD, "The Truth About Us," his gravelly voice is affective and perfectly suited to his roots-based material. His lyrics are intelligent and hard-hitting. He's assembled a talented pool of musicians to back him on the album, including Victoria Williams, ex-Jayhawk Mark Olson and members of Wilco. The arrangements effortlessly blend country and blues with rock and pop.

It should all add up to a great album, but "The Truth About Us" has only occasional flashes of brilliance, such as "Get Some Lonesome," with most of the disc suffering from an air of formality that holds it back. Whether that's to be blamed on the producer, the overreliance on hired help or something in Easton's nature is hard to say.

In the end, for all the frustrations, the music does provide its share of rewards. It just seemed as if there should have been more.

Tim Easton opens for John Hiatt on Wednesday, March 13 at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$25.50-\$50. 775-3331.

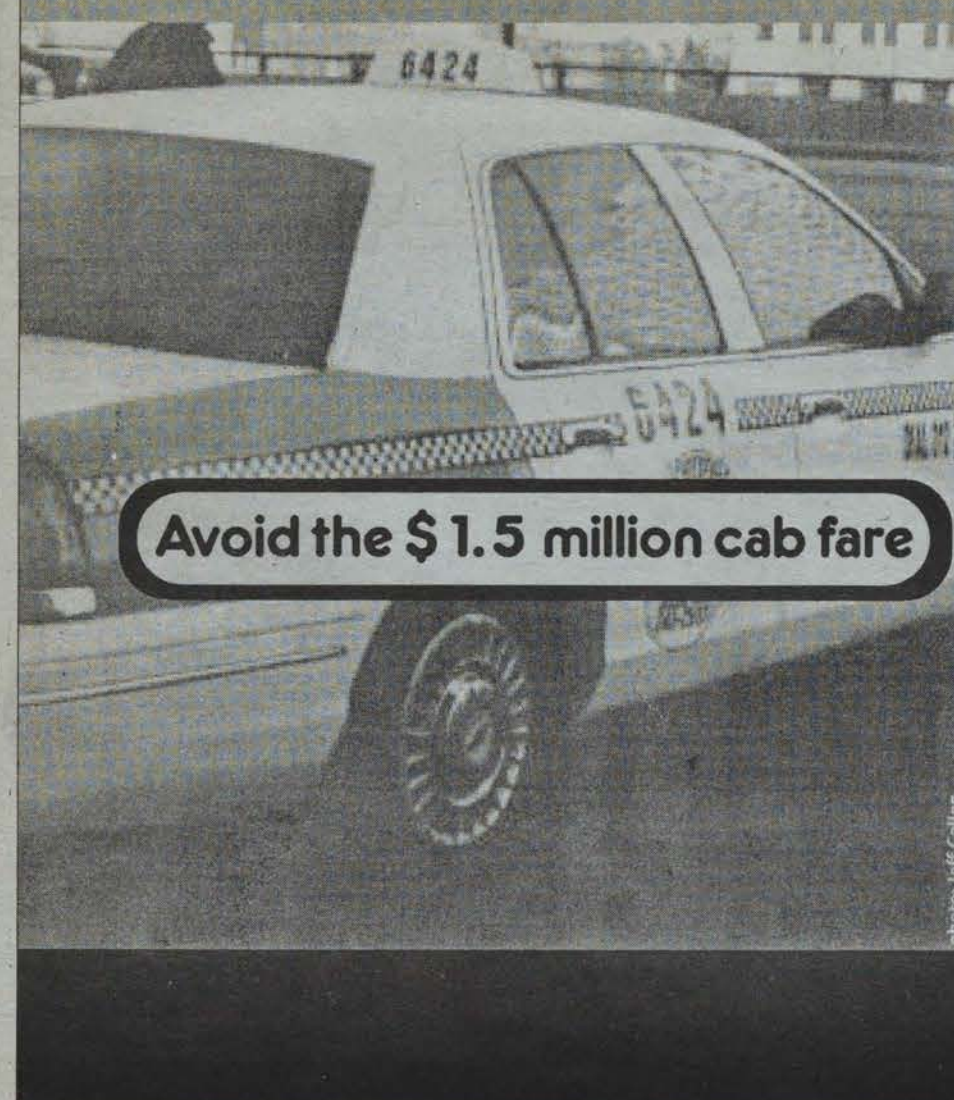


Formal wear: Tim Easton plays at the State Theatre on March 13.

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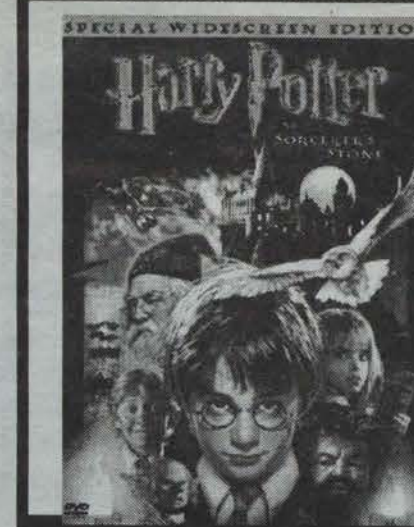
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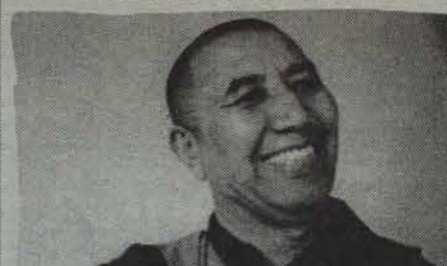
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calendar

Submissions to the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Toni Mahoney, Casco Bay Weekly, 661 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or email listings@casco.org

saturday, march 9

ARCHIVE: ALAN MAGEE MONOTYPES

Maine artist Alan Magee first came into the spotlight in the late '60s, illustrating for various magazines, including *Time* and *Atlantic Monthly*. Though Magee is primarily a realistic painter, his newest exhibit features monotypes — dark, multi-layered pieces often displaying apparition-like forms — produced in the early '90s. Magee said the works reference "the great collage of civilization," whatever that means. Cut through the pretension at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Sunday, May 19. Tix: \$1-\$6. 775-6148.

saturday, march 9-thursday, march 14
THE MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

A theme at this year's Maine Jewish Film Festival is "Crossing Cultures," emphasizing the historical ties between Jews and blacks. It's explored in the film "Back to the Promised Land," in which a Jewish high school teacher takes a class of African-American students to Israel, as well as in



Bewitched: (From left) Kelly Crawford as the Witch puts her spell on Daniel Gaolette as Jack, Rachel Garfield as Cinderella and Stephanie Gallo as Little Red Riding Hood, in "Into the Woods" at Russell Hall beginning March 8.

panel discussions featuring several local religious and community leaders. The controversial "Trembling Before G-d" portrays gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews. "Three Days in April," a German Holocaust film, kicks things off Saturday at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Nearly a dozen films and discussions, including a women filmmaker's forum, take place at the Movies, the Center for Maine History and the Portland Museum of Art. (See Happenings, page 24, for full schedule.) Tix: \$5-\$7; \$34 six-pass; \$65 all-festival pass. 831-7495 or www.mjff.org.

monday, march 11
DIANE ACKERMAN

After writing "A Natural History of Love" and "A Natural History of the Senses," author Diane Ackerman examines a more tangible subject in her latest book, "Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden." The narrative tribute to her backyard hobby is part mythology, natural history, science and poetry. From "spring's sensual eruption" to "winter's hibernation," the cycle of nature is explored. Hear her flowery prose at Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 781-2330 x215.

tuesday, march 12
THE SAW DOCTORS

No one will confuse Galway, Ireland, rockers the Saw Doctors — who blend modern guitar rock with a horn section and organ — with fellow contrymen U2, though singer Leo Moran's crooning can sometimes sound like Bono. Songs on the band's fifth album, "Villains?," are influenced by everything from ska to Motown to Van Morrison, but it's the group's trademark ballads that once again dominate the disc. The Saw Doctors are in at Asylum, 121 Center St., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$15 (21+). 772-8274.

wednesday, march 13
JOHN HIATT

Singer/songwriter John Hiatt is as famous for writing his own folk-rock songs as he is for writing hits for others: Bob Dylan, Iggy Pop, Jewel and Don Henley are just a few of the artists who've relied on the talents of the 25-year industry veteran. With his backup band the Geners, Hiatt is touring to support his newest record, "The Tiki Bar is Open," which continues his long line of haunted melodies and memorable stories. Hiatt — with opener Tim Easton — weaves musical tales at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$23.50-\$30. 775-3331.



quick picks

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

• "Dialogues: Collected Works by Jo Moser and Rebekah Wallace," featuring photographs and collages by the two local artists, shows at 3 Fish Gallery, 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. 773-4773.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8-SUNDAY, MARCH 10

• Students from the University of Southern Maine's theater and music departments team up for "Into the Woods," Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's award-winning retelling of classic fairy tales at USM's Russell Hall, Gorham, at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. Continues through Sunday, March 17. Tix: \$5-\$12. 780-5151.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

• Celebrate the waning days of this lackluster winter at the Portland Flower Show, where opening-night festivities include music and food, plus the regular garden exhibits, educational displays and things that smell nice at the Portland Company Complex, 58 Fore St., Portland, from 6-9 p.m. \$35. Continues through Sunday, March 17. Tix: \$10-\$15. 774-1067 or www.portlandflowershow.com.

sound bites

MTV's resident turntablist DJ Skribble, aided by local favorite DJ Nicotine, kicks off "Fusion," a new weekly dance event, on Thursday, March 7 at Asylum, 121 Center St., Portland (8 p.m./\$15-\$20/21+). 772-8274.

• The Bruce Saunders Quartet, featuring the New York City jazz guitarist, plucks away at Starbird Recital Hall, 525 Forest Ave., Portland, on Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$8-\$12. 775-2733.

• Greek outfit Deptam performs "Rembetika: The Greek Blues" on Saturday, March 9 at the University of Southern Maine's Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham, at 8:30 p.m. Tix: \$5-\$10. 780-5555.



"Wound," a monotype by Alan Magee, shows at the Portland Museum of Art starting March 9.

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• DINNERWARE DESIGN with Maureen Mills • Sat, March 16 • 1-5

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MICHAEL FLATLEY'S

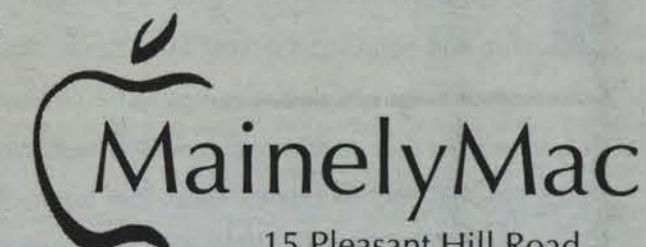
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PERFORMANCE

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

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

THEATER/COMEDY

"The Altos — Just Like the Sopranos, Only Lower" Sun, March 10. The Schoolhouse Arts Center presents a dinner-theater mystery. At the Country Crossroads, Blake Road, Standish, at 7 pm. Tix: \$30. 642-2612.

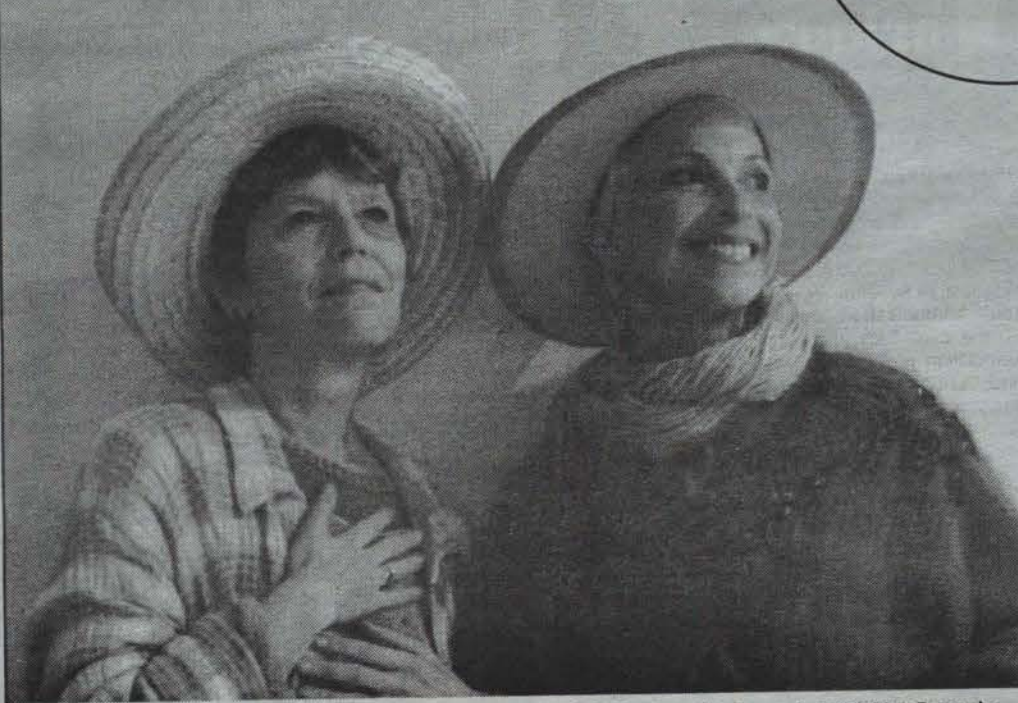
"A Chorus Line" Through Sun, March 10. Auditioning dancers tell their — sniff, sniff — heart-breaking stories in the Broadway classic. At the Lyric Music Theater, 176 Sawyer St., South Portland, Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13-\$15. 799-1421 or 799-6509.

"Charlotte's Web" Through Sun, March 10. On Stage Children's Theatre Company puts on E.B. White's classic kids' tale about "some pig" and a verbose spider. At MainePlay Productions, 28 Preble St., Portland, Sat at 11 am, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$5.771-5611.

Comedy Connection Thurs, March 7: Portland's Funniest Professional contest at 8 pm. Tix: \$6. Fri and Sat, March 8 and March 9: Ken Rogerson, Fri at 8:30 pm, Sat at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. Tix: \$10. Sun, March 10, Comedy Showcase, hosted by Kelly MacFarland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$6. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

In Terrence McNally's Tony-award winning play, **"A Perfect Ganesh,"** two women travel through India, accompanied by Ganesh, the Hindu god of wisdom and good fortune. With their divine, elephant-headed friend in tow, the women's journey becomes not just a physical one, but a metaphorical exploration of their relationship as well. The Portland Stage Company production is directed by Lisa DiFranza, PSC literary manager. Tuskers and travelers crowd the stage on Fri, March 8 at Portland Performing Arts Center, 25 Forest Ave, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Continues through Sun, March 24. Wed-Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 4 pm and 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$15-\$32. 774-0465.

Center stage



Vishnu were here: from left Susanne Marley and Judith Van Buren in **"A Perfect Ganesh"** opening at Portland Stage Company on March 8.

"Deathtrap" Through Sun, March 17. Ira Levin's mystery/comedy centers on a murderous, script-stealing author and his accomplice wife. At MainePlay Productions, 28 Preble St., Portland, Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12. 771-5611.

"Into the Woods" Fri, March 8-Sun, March 10. Old fairy tales are updated and skewed by college students. At the University of Southern Maine's Russell Hall, Gorham, Fri and Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$5-\$10. 780-5151.

Maine+Acts Sat, March 9. Members of the Children Theatre of Maine's group perform improv comedy suitable for kids and adults. At the Children's Museum of Maine, 142 Free St., Portland, at 1 pm. Tix: \$5. 828-1234.

"One for the Road" Sun, March 10-Tues, March 12. Portland Stage Company intern Amy Pacheco directs the Harold Pinter play about a family being questioned by a drunk. At Portland Performing Arts Center, 25 Forest Ave, Portland, Sun at 8:30 pm, Mon and Tues at 7:30 pm. Free. 774-0465.

"A Perfect Ganesh" Through Sun, March 24. See "Center Stage" for full listing.

"The Sea Wall" Thurs, March 7-Sat, March 9. The tale of a widowed French woman living in Indochina features actors and puppets. At Bates College's Gannett Theater, Lewiston, Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$3-\$6. 786-6161.

"Steel Magnolias" Fri, March 8-Sun, March 17. Friends in a small Louisiana town share life stories and the same hairdressers. At the Great Falls Performing Arts Center, Academy Street, Auburn, Thurs-Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$10-\$12. 783-0958.

"Stuart Little" Sat, March 9-Sun, March 24. Yet another one of E.B. White's seemingly endless stream of classic kids' books is brought to the stage — this tale features a mouse with a human family. At the Windham Community Center, 8 School Road, Windham, Sat at 1 pm and 6 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$6-\$8. 893-2098.

LISTINGS

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

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, March 7

"Dr. Seuss Story Hour" Kids can listen to stories, make hats and eat sweets at Northern Sky Toyz, 388 Fore St., at 10:30 am. Free. 828-0911.

Travelers' Club Jason Kendeigh and Susan Kendeigh show slides from their trip to Patagonia at Maine Audubon, 20 Gislard Farm Road, Falmouth, at 7 pm. Free. 781-2330 x215.

"Turandot: Fairy Tale into Opera" Bates College musicologist James Paraklas lectures on the opera at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Free. 871-1700.

Friday, March 8

"2002 Charity Ice Ball" The annual formal event benefits the Maine Cancer Foundation and the Maine Diabetes Foundation and features dancing, food and music by Jim Ciampi at the Pavilion, 188 Middle St., Portland, at 8 pm. Free (donations accepted). 775-5227.

"Multicultural Evening" Dinner and entertainment are provided by members of the Sudanese, Vietnamese, Congolese and Cambodian communities at the University of Southern Maine's Woodbury Campus Center, Portland at 5:30 pm. Tix: \$15. 774-3164.

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

Saturday, March 9

Children's Book Sale Used kids' novels and picture books go on the block at the Falmouth Memorial Library, 5 Lunt Road, Falmouth, from 11 am-3 pm. Free. 781-2351.

"Dharma Talk and Sand Dispersal Ceremony" Tibetan monk and artist Geshe Lobzang Tseten lectures and dismantles his mandala at the University of Southern Maine's Art Gallery, Gorham, at 1 pm. Free. 780-5009.



Geshe Lobzang Tseten, pictured with students, gives a "Dharma Talk and Sand Dispersal Ceremony" at the University of Southern Maine's Art Gallery on March 9.

"Old House Trade Show" Over 40 exhibitors gather to show off products especially for historically oriented homes at Stevens Avenue Armory, 722 Stevens Ave, Portland, from 9 am-5 pm. Tix: \$7-\$10. 774-5561.

Portland Pirates vs. Providence Bruins Ice buccaniers take on skating bears at the Civic Center, Spring and Free streets, Portland, at 2:05 pm. Tix: \$8-\$18. 775-3458.

Southworth Planetarium See Fri, March 8 for full listing. "Just Imagine" at 3 pm. "Seeing the Invisible Universe" at 7 pm, U2 laser show at 8:30 pm. "Three Days in April" The Maine Jewish Film Festival begins with the German film about Jewish concentration camp survivors at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

Sunday, March 10

"Black to the Promised Land" The film focuses on a Jewish teacher who takes black students from New York City to Israel, at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 5:30 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

"Common Ground: The Search for a New Black Jewish Agenda" Civil-rights activist Gerald Talbot, Rabbi Harry Sky and more speak after screening of

the film "From Swastika to Jim Crow," at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, at 3 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

"Old House Trade Show" See Sat, March 9 for full listing. From 10 am-4 pm.

Southworth Planetarium See Fri, March 8 for full listing. "Rick Charette's Mr. Men in the Moon" at 3 pm. "Trembling Before G-d" The movie looks at the lives of gay and lesbians trying to follow the Orthodox Jewish lifestyle at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 5:30 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

"Women Filmmakers Forum" Directors Lisa Lewenz ("A Letter Without Words") and Claudia von Alemann ("Shadows of Memory") discuss their films at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, at noon (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

Monday, March 11

Diane Ackerman The author discusses her newest text, "Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden," at Maine Audubon, 20 Gislard Farm Road, Falmouth, at 7 pm. Free. 781-2330 x215.

"Black to the Promised Land" See Sun, March 10 for full listing. At 7:30 pm.

"The Optimists" A family of Bulgarian Jews is rescued from a concentration camp in a film at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 5:30 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

Tuesday, March 12

The Skinny Poetry Slam Local scribes face off at the Skinny, 625 Congress St., Portland, at 9 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$2+). 871-8983.

"Classrooms Around the World: Comparative Perspectives on Teaching and Learning" Grace Valenzuela leads a discussion on education featuring Simon Allodind, Ina Demers, Ahmed Hassan and more at the University of Southern Maine's Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland, from 7-9 pm. Free. 780-5768.

"Yiddi Mith Fidl" A woman pretends to be a man so she can tour eastern Europe with musicians in a film at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 8 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

Wednesday, March 13

Irish Storytelling Members of the MOOSE storytellers organization spin tales of the Irish at the University of Southern Maine's Woodbury Campus Center, Portland, from 6-9 pm. Tix: \$3. 797-6701.

Portland Flower Show The opening night of the annual exhibit features flora, music, food and an awards presentation at the Portland Community Complex, 58 Fore St., Portland, from 6-9 pm. Tix: \$35. 774-1067.

"Page to Stage" Jungian analyst Sarah Harford gives a Brown Bag Lecture on the play "A Perfect Ganesh" at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, from noon-1 pm. Free. 871-1700.

"Seniors Program" Documentaries "Isa Kremer: The People's Diva" and "Madame Jacques sur la Croisette" screen at the Center for Maine History, 489 Congress St., Portland, at 1:30 pm. (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7 (seniors free). 831-7495.

"Video Flour" and "Caravan 841" The first documentary follows two Israeli comedians trying to break into the business, and the latter concentrates on the life of a young Ethiopian boy, at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 5:30 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

"Waiting for the Messiah" A Jewish twentysomething living in South America tries to change his stagnant life in a film at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland, at 8 pm (part of the Maine Jewish Film Festival). Tix: \$5-\$7. 831-7495.

Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LISTINGS

PERFORMING ARTS

auditions/submissions

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

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

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

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

Directors The Chocolate Church Arts Center in Bath is searching for people to teach acting, music, visual arts and more to children. For more info, call 442-8455 or email chocolatechurch@suscom-maine.net.

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

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

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

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

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

VOLUNTEER

ABBA, A Women's Resource Center 470 Forest Ave, Suite 211, Portland, ABBA, an organization that works with women with unplanned pregnancies, needs volunteers for abstinence education for teens. Requires 26 hours of training to become a one-on-one counselor. Volunteers are also needed for computer work, etc. Call Judy Cushing at 253-5555.

The American Red Cross, 524 Forest Ave, Portland, is open for blood donations Tues-Thurs from noon-7 pm and Fri from 9 am-4 pm. 775-2367, 800-482-0743 or 800-448-4433, or online at www.redcross.org.

Animal Refuge League 449 Stroudwater, Westbrook. Volunteers are needed for general cleaning and animal caregiving. Call 854-9771, ext. 103.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Portland Suite 216B, 175 Lancaster St., Portland. Volunteers age 18 and up are needed to spend time as an adult friend to an at-risk child. Commitment is either weekly or every other week for at least one year. 773-5437.

Caleb Adult Center 18 Forest Ave, Portland, provides computer access and instruction for senior citizens and adults with disabilities. Volunteers are needed for one-on-one tutoring sessions, teaching basic computer skills and helping participants with Internet access and software programs. Call or stop by the center, which is open Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm. 771-0295.

Cancer Community Center 778 Main St., South Portland. The center seeks volunteers to perform support group facilitation, one-on-one support work,

reception and clerical work. Training is provided. Call Dawn at 774-2200.

Caring Unlimited, York County's domestic violence program, seeks hotline volunteers to offer support to callers. Volunteers may work from home evenings or weekends, or from Caring Unlimited's office during the day. For more info, call 490-3227 x111.

Case Management for Youth Inc. 343 Forest Ave, Portland, seeks volunteers for its Mentor Program, which matches kids and youths ages 5-19 one-on-one with adults who will be their role models/friends. Male volunteers are especially needed. Call 842-3609.

Cedars Nursing Care Center 630 Ocean Ave, Portland. Volunteers are needed to visit, assist and escort the center's aging residents throughout the week. Ongoing support and training is provided. Call 772-5456.

Center for Community Dental Health 813 Washington Ave, Portland, needs volunteers to assist elderly patients while they wait for care in their nursing home. Volunteers also needed to assist with the dental exam and give fluoride rinses, and for clerical work in the free dental clinic in Saco (two evenings a month). Call 874-1028.

Children's Museum of Maine 142 Free St., Portland. Volunteers are needed to conduct craft activities for toddlers up to age 3 and for other activities. Volunteer time slots are Mon and Thurs from 9-11 am and Tues from 1-2:30 pm. For more info call Jen at 828-1234 x241.

Community Health Services 901 Washington Ave, Suite 104, Portland. The agency needs volunteers to visit home-bound people, install and maintain Life Line telephone for homebound elderly, help with supplies, assist with the switchboard and help with office duties. Call 775-7231.

Fallbrook Woods 418 Ray St., Portland. This assisted-living facility for the elderly needs volunteers for activities assistants, transportation, one-on-one visitors, community outings, entertainers and pet therapy. 878-0788.

Flying Changes Center for Therapeutic Riding, on Route 201 in Topsham, seeks volunteers. Training is provided for groups, families and individuals interested in caring for the center's 14 horses and assisting with riding lessons. For more info, call Christa at 729-0168.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland Box 10505, Portland. This is part of a nonprofit international organization that builds homes in partnership with lower-income families who apply for no-interest mortgages. Volunteers are needed to select families, plan events, write the newsletter, raise funds and help with office work. 772-2511.

Ingraham 237 Oxford St., Portland. Ingraham holds training sessions for volunteers for its 24-hour crisis intervention hotline. Call Cherylan Camire at 874-1055.

Maine Audubon 20 Gislard Farm Rd, Falmouth. The nonprofit environmental group has several year-round volunteer opportunities. 781-2330.

Mainely Parents Fort Williams Park, Box 231, Cape Elizabeth. The program, which provides support and encouragement for parents, runs a talk line for parents under stress, weekdays from 9 am-4 pm. The program needs group facilitators and child-care volunteers for its parent and children's support groups and parent education classes. Call Maureen Bickford at 767-5506 or 1-800-249-5506.

Maine Puppy Raisers of Guiding Eyes for the Blind RFD 1, Box 1620, Belfast, 04915. Guiding Eyes seeks volunteer puppy-raising homes to raise potential guide dogs. No special skills are needed; puppy raisers will have support when needed. Call Pat, area coordinator, at 338-5520.

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

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

The Pine Tree Society, 149 Fort St., Bath, a statewide group that aids people with disabilities, seeks volunteers for the Kids Project, a program that builds and re-upholsters equipment for kids with special needs. Anyone with carpentry and/or upholstery skills is welcome. For more info, visit www.pinetreesociety.org or call 443-3341.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England 970 Forest Ave, Portland, needs volunteers for its health services, public policy, grassroots activism, marketing and development departments. Contact Lynn at lynn@ppnne.org or 800-854-9762.

The Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, seeks volunteers for an Americorps Program called "Project Goals," which trains the public on Internet browsing and basic computer programs and skills. For

more info call Amy or Shannon at 772-4675.

Portland Trails 1 India St., Portland. Portland Trails needs volunteers to help build a network of multi-use trails in Greater Portland. For more information, call Portland Trails at 775-2411, e-mail, info@trails.org, or check the Web site at www.trails.org.

Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council 181 Brackett St., Portland. Portland West has ongoing needs for volunteer support of its alternative education, after-school learning center, family literacy, affordable housing, neighborhood newspaper and community outreach programs. For more information, call Liz at 775-0105 x27.

Preble Street Resource Center 5 Portland St., Portland. The center provides case management and services to the homeless and people with low incomes. Volunteers are needed to help serve breakfast from 7:30-10 am and sort clothes seven days a week. Call Mollie Mahanna at 775-0026.

Children's Museum of Maine 142 Free St., Portland. From 11 am-noon 874-8784.

Expecting a Baby? Maine Medical Center offers a variety of classes for people expecting a child at Maine Medical Center's Family Birth Center, 22 Bramhall Center, Portland. For a full listing and schedule, call 871-6132.

Free ADD/ADHD Presentation available to community groups and/or individuals who are looking for alternatives to Ritalin. Presented by Parents Against Ritalin. 775-0514.

Free HIV/AIDS Presentations available for community groups through the American Red Cross. Contact Amy Leonard at 874-1192 ex. 104.

Immunization Hotline Callers can receive information about 12 vaccine-preventable diseases through the Centers for Disease Control, from 8 am-11 pm. English: 800-232-2522. En Español: 800-232-0233.

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation holds informal meetings the third Tues of every month at 27 Pearl St., Portland, from noon-1 pm. 761-0133.

The Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program encourages women who cannot afford a mammogram and are over 50 years old to call and learn if they are eligible for financial assistance. 800-350-5180.

Maine Poison Center has information on poisons and drugs. 800-442-6305.

Maine Poison Health Center offers a number of health classes and services. Free blood pressure screenings are offered every Mon of the month from 10 am-noon. For more info, call Susan Amundsen at 828-2497.

Maternity Aids Support Services trains volunteers to help provide one-on-one with people with AIDS, their families, partners and caregivers. If you are affected by HIV/AIDS and would like a buddy, or if you are interested in training to become a buddy, call Deb Stone at 725-4955. Or visit to MASS at PO Box 57, Brunswick, 04011.

Miracle on Wheels has free electric wheelchairs for qualifying senior citizens. For more details, call 800-749-8778 or visit www.durabimedical.com.

Planned Parenthood offers HIV testing, annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control information and supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for STDs and infections, menopause services and more at its health center at 970 Forest Ave, Portland.

Handicapped accessible, confidential and affordable Medicaid, HMO's and most medical insurance welcomed. 797-8881.

Portland Public Health Adult Immunization Vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, adult tetanus, hepatitis B, pneumococcal, rabies, Hepatitis A, meningitis, Lyme disease and chicken pox available, as well as tuberculosis testing, at India Street Public Health Center, 103 India St., Portland. Hours: Tues and Fri 8-10 am, Fri 3-4 pm. Fee. Cost of vaccine plus \$5. 874-8446.

Portland Street Clinic provides free comprehensive health care for adults Mon-Thurs at the India Street Public Health Center, 103 India St., Portland, from 6-9 pm. By appointment only. Free. 874-8982.

Prevention Education Groups for Men Who Have Sex With Men groups meet at The AIDS Project, 615 Congress St. for during non-office hours, 142 High St., 6th Floor Portland. Call Victor Rash at 774-6877.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program offered through USM Lifeline, Tues and Thurs from 11-15 noon. Program includes progressive, nurse-supervised exercise and education, including respiratory hygiene, relaxation techniques and nutrition. Registration is ongoing; medical clearance is required. 780-4648.

Recovery Inc. a group for mental health using professionally developed methods to overcome depression, anxiety, anger, fear and phobia. Meet Sat at Maine Medical Center, at 10 am. Free. 892-9529.

Senior Wheels USA Program has free power wheelchairs for senior citizens ages 65+ who qualify. To see if you qualify, call Leon at 800-246-6010.

Solution Focused Motivational Group designed for people who would like to explore whether they have a problem with alcohol or drugs. Sliding scale available. Sponsored by Catholic Charities Maine. 775-5671.

Visual Arts

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

openings and events

thursday, march 7

Salt Gallery 110 Exchange St., Portland. Opening of "Documenting Intolerance: The Photographic Collection of Samuel Zaitlin," featuring photography by Evgeni Khaldai, Danny Lyon and Ernest Withers, from 5-7 pm. Continues through Mon, May 6. Hours: Mon-Fri 11:30 am-4 pm. 761-0660.

saturday, march 9

Institute of Contemporary Art Maine College of Art, 522 Congress St., Portland. Opening of "Terrain: Sculpture Today," featuring works by Gary Ambrose, Doug Bosch, Tracey Cockrell, Jeff Keller, Julia Shepley and more, from 11 am-5 pm. Continues through Wed, April 24. Hours: Wed-Sun 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-7 pm, 879-5742 x229.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square. Opening of "Archive: Alan Magee Monotypes," works by the local artist, from 10 am-5 pm. Continues through Sun, May 19. Hours: Tues-Wed, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-9 pm. Admission: \$6. \$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 5-12. Free every Fri from 5-9 pm. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

new exhibits

Ferdinand 243 Congress St., Portland. "Drawings by Francesco Santillo" shows through March 30. Hours: Thurs-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 761-2151.

3 Fish Gallery 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland. "Dialogues: Collected Works by Jo Moser and Rebekah Wallace," featuring mixed media, shows through Sat, March 16. Hours: Thurs-Sat 11 am-6 pm and by appointment. 773-4773.

galleries

Aucocisco 615A Congress St., Portland. "Breathe and Depth," new paintings by Meg Payson, shows through Sat, March 30. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm and by appointment. 874-2060.

Bayview Gallery 75 Market St., Portland. New paintings by Suzanne Howes-Stevens, show through Sat, March 30. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 773-3007.

The Clown 123 Middle St., Portland. "Textiles in Living Color," featuring rugs by Susanne Grosejan and hand-woven masks by Susan B. Merrill, is ongoing. Hours: Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 756-7399.

Congress Square Gallery and Mall 589 Congress St., Portland. Works by over 20 other local artists and craftsmen are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm, Sat noon-7 pm. 775-1485 or 828-4240.

C.W. White Gallery 656 Congress St., Portland. "Through the Veil," an installation with sculptural elements by Susan Mills, lighting by Joan Sand and sound by Barbara Truex, shows through Sat, March 30. Hours: Wed-Sat 11 am-6 pm or by appointment. 871-7282.

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

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

June Fitzpatrick Gallery at Maine College of Art 522 Congress St., Portland. "Incubation," mixed-media

works by Jen Blackstone, shows through Sat, March 30. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 879-5742 x283.

Hay Gallery 594 Congress St., Portland. "Decisions and Revisions: Works by Lauren Fensterstock and Aaron T. Stephan," sculptures, shows through Sun, March 31. Hours: Tues-Sun noon-5 pm, Fri noon-7 pm. 773-2513.

ICON Contemporary Art 19 Mason St., Brunswick. New paintings by Martha Groome show through Sat, March 30. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Mainely Frames & Gallery 534 Congress St., Portland. Pen-and-ink cityscapes by William C. Harrison and other work by gallery artists are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 828-0031.

Ocean Street Arts 520 Ocean St., South Portland. A group show featuring local paintings, ceramics, prints and jewelry, is ongoing. Hours: Wed-Sat 11 am-5:30 pm, Sun noon-4 pm. 767-7773.

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

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

Radiant Light Gallery 142 High St., Portland. "Enlightened Realms: Seeing Beyond Time and Place," featuring photography by Chip Forelli, Sandro Santoli, John McCarthy and more, shows through Tues, April 30. Hours: Sat 11 am-6 pm and by appointment, and First Fridays from 5-8 pm. 252-7258.

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

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

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

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

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

Silver Image Resource Gallery 500 Congress St., Portland. "The BayView Series," photography by Donna Lee Rollins, as well as photography by Joe Della Valle, Dennis Stein and others, is ongoing. Hours: by appointment or chance. 767-0711.

Stein Gallery 195 Middle St., Portland. "Rob Levin's Bridges," featuring cast glass and gold leaf bridge forms, shows through Sat, April 27. "From the Forest Floor: Twig Series by Elizabeth Mears," featuring twig bundles and glass books, continues through Fri, March 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 772-9072.

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

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

University of Southern Maine Art Gallery College Avenue, Gorham. "When Horses Have Wings: Tibetan Artists in Exile," featuring works by Sonam Choephel and Lobsang Samten, continues through Sat, March 9. Hours: Tues-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 1 pm-4 pm. 780-5009.

Zero Station 380 Cottage Road, South Portland. "Primary: Color in Contemporary Adornment," featuring fiber art by Jeung-Hwa Park and jewelry by Harriette Estel Berman, Susanne Klemm, J.E. Paterak and more, shows through Sat, April 6. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 767-2788.

museums

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

STRANGE TERRAIN



"Tangle" by Beth Galston, part of "Terrain: Sculpture Today," opening at the Institute of Contemporary Art on March 9.

Modern sculpture gets its due

When most people think of sculpture, images such as Auguste Rodin's "The Thinker" usually come to mind. A rope made from acorn caps, less so.

But that's the idea behind "Terrain: Sculpture Today," an exhibit of modern, unconventional sculpture by 17 New England artists opening at the Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art on March 9.

"The show tries to get viewers beyond traditional sculpture," said Mark Bessire, curator of the ICA. "Sculpture doesn't get shown enough."

Bessire chalks this lack of exhibits up to the often high cost of installing such pieces and the space constraints they pose. Since the nonprofit ICA is essentially a museum, Bessire said it "has a responsibility to show modern sculpture."

Taken individually, the sculptures in "Terrain" are both engaging and enigmatic. The work of Falmouth resident Jeff Kellar "explores the way space affects emotion," he writes in his artist's statement. Kellar's "Vertical Structure #5," made from wood, clay, resin and steel, is a rectangular structure that plays with positive and negative space. At first glance, and from certain angles, the work looks like a plane of color, similar to a Mark Rothko painting. On closer inspection, one can see the spaces the artist has carved into the plane, giving the piece its third dimension.

Doug Bosch's "Apparati," a glass case containing shapes molded from beeswax, looks like a disturbing collection of prosthetic organs and limbs. The flesh-colored creations bulge in some places, taper in others, like the lumps and folds of the human body. The collection creates conflicting impressions — alternately clinically repellent and attractively organic.

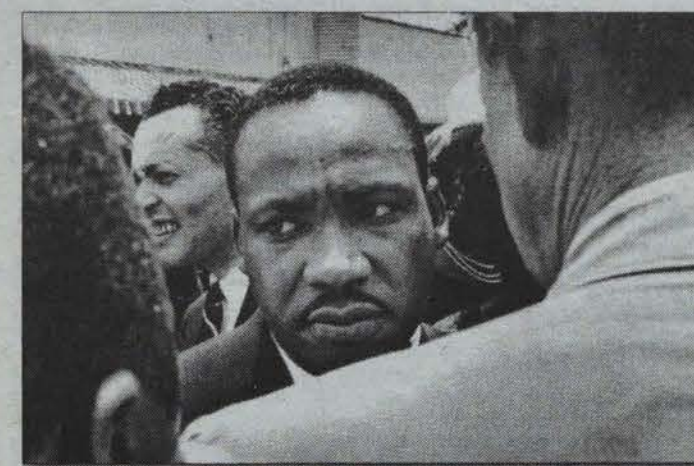
Beth Galston's "Tangle" and "Sycamore Wall, 2000" play on both the strength and fragility of nature. "Tangle" is a long, meandering string made of acorn caps that resembles a strong rope from a distance, but up close, the medium belies that strength. "Sycamore" is a series of translucent, resin blocks, stacked like a brick wall. Sycamore leaves have been partially encased in each block, their brittle stems and edges protruding.

No single theme unites the work in this show — and that's the point. The exhibit's purpose is to "say how open the definition of sculpture is today, and to not define sculpture," Bessire said. Consequently, "Terrain" may be rough going for viewers unfamiliar with modern sculpture, but ultimately, it's worth the trip.

VICTORIA GANNON

"Terrain: Sculpture Today" shows Saturday, March 9-Wednesday, April 24 at the Institute of Contemporary Art, 522 Congress St., Portland. Hours: Wed., Fri.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. A discussion by the artists takes place Thursday, March 14 at 4 p.m., followed by a reception from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. 879-5742 x229.

Visual Arts



"Dr. Martin Luther King is Confronted by Police at Medgar Evers' Funeral," a photo by Ernest C. Withers, is part of the Salt Gallery's new exhibit, "Documenting Intolerance: The Photographic Collection of Samuel Zaitlin," opening March 7.

other venues

Cafe Uffa 190 State St., Portland. Mixed media by Susan Barnes shows through April 14. Hours: Wed-Fri 5:30-10 pm, Sat 8 am-noon and 5:30-10 pm, Sun 9 am-2 pm. 775-3380.

Chocolate Church Arts Center 798 Washington St., Bath. "Second Annual Student Art Exhibit," a group show, shows through Fri, March 22. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-4 pm. 442-8455.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St., Portland. Preview for the "Spring for Life" art auction benefiting The AIDS Project, featuring mixed media, shows through Fri, March 22. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6:30 am-8 pm, Fri 6:30 am-9 pm, Sat 7 am-9 pm, Sun 7 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

Monument Square hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-5:30 pm. 761-2424.

Glickman Family Library University of Southern Maine, Bedford Street and Forest Avenue, Portland. "Exodus and Exile: The Spaces of Diaspora," a year-long exhibit on the Jewish and African migration experiences, Hours: Tues 12:30-4:30 pm, Wed and Thurs 12:30-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm. 780-4850.

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

Local 188 188 State St., Portland. Paintings and

drawings by M show through March 16. Hours: Tues and Wed 5-10:30 pm, Thurs-Sat 11 am-3 pm and 5-10:30 pm. 761-7909.

The Skinny 625 Congress St., Portland. "City of Women: Paintings by Shana Tefft," shows through Sun, March 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 5 pm-1 am, Sat and Sun 9 pm-1 am (21+). 871-8983.

Sophia's 81 Market St., Portland. Abstract works in oil on wood panels and canvas by baker Stephen Lanzalotta are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 8 am-4 pm and by appointment. 878-1869.

Starbucks 594 Congress St., Portland. Works by Adam Earley, Laura Fuller, John Freeman, Patrick J. McGuigan and Kate Winn are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6 am-8 pm, Fri 6 am-10 pm, Sat 7 am-10 pm, Sun 7 am-8 pm. 761-0334.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 149 Main St., Freeport. Oil paintings by Marguerite Robichaux show through Sun, April 28. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm. 865-4519.

Woodbury Campus Center, University of Southern Maine, Portland. "A Strangeness of Beauty: Recent Paintings," works by Margaret Lanzetta, shows through Fri, March 22. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-10 pm, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm. 780-5009.

calls for art

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

Art Rising Online Gallery seeks art, especially jewelry, ceramics, woodwork and fine crafts, for display and sale on its Web site, www.artrising.com. Call David at 603-433-5904 or email david@artrising.com.

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

Hole in the Wall Studioworks, 1544 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond, seeks paintings, sculptures and mixed media reliefs for upcoming shows. Call Joyce at 655-4952.

Ocean Street Arts 520 Ocean St., South Portland, seeks artwork in various media for a new gallery. Deadline: Mon, Feb. 18. E-mail oceanstreetarts@hotmail.com or call Martha at 799-8390.

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

Never fear, Marjorie—you can find all of the articles you've missed in *Casco Bay Weekly's* online archives.

Now, dry that pretty face and go to www.cascobayweekly.com



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Jazz Breakfasts
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March
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17 Gary Wittner
24 Brigitte Emmons
31 Larry Simon Band

April
7 Port City Jazz
14 Bellamy Jazz Band
21 Jaybird Street
28 Bob Johnson Trio

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART
Seven Congress Square
775-6148
www.portlandmuseum.org

LISTINGS

LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25.

SUPPORT

Abused Women's Advocacy Project offers a 24-hour helpline, as well as shelter, crisis counseling and advocacy for women in the Lewiston, Auburn, Norway, Rumford and Farmington areas. 800-559-2927.

Abuse in Intimate Relationships A support group for women who have previously or are presently experiencing abuse in their intimate relationships. Free and confidential. Child care stipend provided. Contact Kim at 767-4952.

Adult Children of Alcoholics A 12-step group meeting, Sat. at 75 State St., Portland, at 5:30 pm. 767-6232. Also at the First Parish Church, 135 Main St., Yarmouth, at 7 pm. 846-5214.

Adult Respite Care South Portland Adult Respite Care (SPARC) provides relief for sufferers of Alzheimer's and other dementias, as well as their caregivers. Programs take place Tues and Thurs from 10 am-2:30 pm at 179 Ridgeland Ave., South Portland. 767-2688.

The AIDS Project offers support groups for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. HIV Infected/Affected Drop-In Support Group meets on Tues at the AIDS Project, 615 Congress St., Portland, from 10:30 am-noon. Call Randy at 774-6877.

Women's Drop-In Support meets the second and fourth Tues at the American Cancer Society, 52 Gilman St., Portland, from 1-2:30 pm. Call Janine at 774-6877 or Cindy at 871-2991. People Living With AIDS meets Thurs at TAP, from 5:30-7 pm. Call Randy at 774-6877. An open lunch for TAP clients and staff is Thurs at TAP, at noon. Call Randy at 774-6877.

Alpha One provides information, support, services and products for people with disabilities. At Alpha One, 127 Main St., South Portland. 800-640-7200.

Bereaved Parents Support Group meets the second Thurs of each month at classroom #3, Maine Medical Center's Dana Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland, at 7 pm. For more info, call Connie at 871-4226.

Birthplace Tours of The Birthplace at Mercy Hospital are offered on a regular basis. At Mercy Hospital, 144 State St., Portland. To register, call 879-3950.

Brain Injury Support Group Survivors, family members and significant others are encouraged to attend. Meets the third Wed of each month at Mercy Hospital.

Neurorehabilitation Services, 26 Portland St., Portland. If interested in attending, call Susan at 761-8402 x252.

Breast Cancer Support Group meets the second Fri of each month at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland, at noon. Bring lunch. 799-3179.

Cancer Support Group meets the fourth Wed of every month at the United Methodist Church, 280 Ocean House Rd., Cape Elizabeth, at 7:30 pm. 799-3179.

Catholic Charities Maine Birthline Services offers abortion alternatives information, emotional support, information and referrals, limited maternity and infant clothing and post-abortion support through Project Rachel. At Catholic Charities Maine, 562 Congress St., Portland. 871-7464. Pregnancy Helpline: 800-227-3002.

The Center For Grieving Children offers peer support groups for kids ages 3-18 and their caregivers who have experienced the death of parent, sibling, relative or close friend which meet Tues-Thurs, as well as Tender Living Care, a program for kids ages 3-18 who have a loved one with a life-threatening illness. There is also a group for young adults, ages 19-30. Evaluation and support are also provided to schools and organizations working with kids and teens. All programs are supported by trained volunteers. At the Center for Grieving Children, 49 York St., Portland. 775-5216.

The Chronic Pain Support Group meets the first and third Thurs of the month at Chancellor Place of Sac, 392 Main St., Saco, from 7-8:30 pm. For more info, call Susan at 284-4655 (evenings) or Shirley at 282-5289.

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CODA) is a support group for women that meets Tues from 6-7 pm at Brighton Medical Center, Brighton Ave., Portland. 772-0445.

Debtors' Anonymous meets every Tues at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland, from 7-8:15 pm. 774-4357.

Diabetes Support Group meets the last Mon of each

month in Scarborough at 7:30 pm. 799-6438.

Divorce Perspectives A discussion group for people in the divorce process meets every Wed. At Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. 774-4357.

Dual Recovery Groups are for people suffering from addiction and emotional problems. Regular leaders and support help achieve recovery and prevent relapse. Groups meet on Wed, at the Dana Center, Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., at 6 pm. Also Fri at 6 pm and Sun at 2 pm at the Bridge, 54 Maple St., Portland. 774-4357.

Flying Solo offers support to people who are single for any reason or who are intimidated by the dating scene. For more info, call Cheryl at 892-7656.

Greater Portland Parkinson Support Group invites all those with Parkinson's, as well as their friends and family, to meet the fourth Sun of each month in the Parish Hall, Falmouth Congregational Church, 267 Falmouth Rd., Falmouth, at 2 pm. 797-8927 or 774-3312.

Guidance in Grieving Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice and the American Cancer Society hold a support group the second Mon of every month at the Methodist Church, Elm Street, South Portland, at 7:15 pm. Call Michael at 780-8624 x133.

H.O.P.E. fosters wellness through attitudinal healing for those facing the challenges of grief and loss, illness, divorce, career changes, codependency and abuse issues. Meets Tues at Maine Medical Center's Dana Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland, from 3-5 pm. 743-9373.

IV League Support Group A discussion group for intravenous drug users past and present, who want recovery. Discussions include personal issues, self-esteem, relapse, family, grief, HIV prevention, risk reduction, support service links, health services and community awareness projects. At the Community Resource Center, 15 Portland St., Portland. Every Wed from 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Michelle or Steve at 756-8257.

The Kids First Center provides practical information and helpful suggestions to assist separating or divorcing parents to focus on the needs of their children. The center offers support groups for children and adolescents and stepparents. 761-2709.

"Look Good... Feel Better," a national public service program for women with cancer who wish to restore their appearance during treatment, offers programs on the last Mon of the month at Mercy Hospital's Oncology Dept, 144 State St., Portland, from 1:30-3:30 pm. For info or to register, call 879-3030.

Maine TransSupport is a community-based outreach program for crossdressers/transsexuals and their families offering support groups, resources and more. For more info, call 774-7029 or 642-6023 or visit <http://members.tripod.com/TransSupport> or mail 62 State St., #21, Portland, ME 04101.

The Mina Bicknell Adoption Resource Center is a volunteer support group for those touched by adoption and/or seeking help concerning a search or reunion. For more info: <http://home.maine.rr.com/mbarc> or contact email: mbarc@maine.rr.com.

National Osteoporosis Foundation of Southern Maine Support Group holds meetings the first Tues of the month at 6 pm at 800 Main St., South Portland. 879-3486.

No Voice Club, a support group for people who have had surgery on their larynx, meets the second Sun of each month at Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland, at 2 pm. 799-3179.

New England Family Institute offers several psychotherapy and support groups, including Women's Self-Esteem and Empowerment, Pre-Marital/Newly Married, Men's, Men's Incest/Sexual Abuse Survival, Teen-agers, Teenage Girls, Social Interaction and Skill Development for Kids, Rape and Sexual Abuse Survival for Women and Women's Spiritual Retreat. Call for times and brochure. 871-1000.

Osteoporosis Support Group meets the first Tues of each month at 6 pm. Call for location. 828-1133.

Overeaters Anonymous offers shared experience, strength and hope in place of diet or exercise programs, scales and magic pills. For more info, call 774-4357.

Partners Resource Group for Persons with Breast Cancer The Breast Health Resource Center at Mercy Hospital offers a safe opportunity to have small group discussions. Call Cathy at 879-3791.

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meets the second Tues of each month at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland, from 6:30-9 pm. For more info, write PFLAG, PO Box 8742, Portland, ME 04104 or call 774-3441.

Prostate Cancer Support Group People affected by prostate cancer are invited to attend meetings the second Tues of every month at Cancer Community Center, 778 Main St., South Portland, at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Obe or Ruth at 829-6100, Susan at 775-1670 or Dick at 767-3565.

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous A 12-step, tradition-oriented fellowship meets daily at various locations. For info, call 774-HELIP.

S.M.A.R.T. Addiction Recovery Meetings A national, nonprofit, self-help, abstinence-based support group that teaches sobriety skills to persons coping with addictions based on the theories of Albert Ellis. At the Dana Center, Maine Medical Center, Portland. Meets Mon from 6-7:30 pm. Free. 871-7431.

Survivors of Suicide, a bereavement support group for family members and close friends of people who have

died by suicide, holds meetings the second and fourth Mon of the month at classroom #1 of the Dana Center, Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland, at 7 pm. For more info, call Connie at 871-4226.

Unexpected Infant Death Support Group, for people bereaved by SIDS or other unexpected infant death, meets the second Tues of the month at classroom #5 of the Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St., Portland, at 7 pm. For more info, call Connie at 871-4226.

YWCA Maine Leap Program A mentoring and networking program by and for women and girls with disabilities and their families. For info, call 874-1150 x3015 (voice) or 874-1128 (TTY).

OUTDOORS

Appalachian Mountain Club Features a variety of trips, workshops and facilities. 799-5312.

Maine Audubon offers a variety of field trips and other activities, including canoe and kayak trips, birding expeditions and more. For more info, visit www.maineaudubon.org or call 781-2330.

Irish Network offers a schedule of events and outdoor activities for Mainers who are blind or visually impaired. Activities include fencing, rock climbing and water skiing. For more info, contact Nancy Bennett at 774-6273.

Maine Outdoor Adventure Club organizes a number of trips and events through the year, including hiking, biking, skiing, walking, kayaking and canoeing trips, barbecues, sports activities and more. For more info, call 828-0918.



Trailblazin': the Maine Outdoor Adventure Club organizes bike trips and more.

Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network People of all skill levels are invited to join the network for paddling. 874-2640.

The Travelers' Club is for people interested in viewing slides and swapping stories of travel. The club meets the first Thurs of every month. At Maine Audubon's Gilead Farm, 118 U.S. Route One, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 pm. Free. 774-6256.

The Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm offers a number of outdoor activities at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, 342 Laudholm Farm Rd., Wells. 646-1555. www.wellsreserve.org.

Women Outdoors is a national nonprofit organization with a Southern Maine chapter that organizes a variety of outdoor activities for women such as backpacking, stargazing, sailing, nature photography, whale watching, rock climbing and more. For more info, visit www.women-outdoors.org or call 676-5777.

KIDS

Books, Etc. 240 Route 1, Falmouth, hosts a free story time for kids ages 2+ every Mon at 10 am. 871-3784.

Brunswick Parks and Recreation After School Drop-In Program The free program offers an open gym and game room activities to Brunswick youths and teens. All activities are supervised by Parks and Recreation staff and high school students. Donations of board games, card games, coloring books, art supplies, etc. are needed. 725-6656.

Burbank Branch Library offers "Toddler Time," songs, games and stories for 1- and 2-year-olds, Wed at 9:30 am. At 377 Stevens Ave., Portland. 774-4229.

Child Care Connections holds public referral hours Mon-Fri from 9 am-4 pm, with information about day-care centers, family child-care homes, nursery schools and camps. 871-7449.

Children's Museum of Maine offers a variety of workshops and special events, including calligraphy, gingerbread-house making and storytelling. All events are free with admission. Pre-registration and additional fees required for some programs. At the Children's Museum of Maine, 142 Free St., Portland. Admission: \$5 (\$3 camera obscura/\$6 both/kids under 1 free). The first Fri of each month is free from 5-8 pm. 828-1234.

The Creative Resource Center, 1103 Forest Ave., Portland, has numerous free workshops for kids. 797-9543.

Dana Center South Portland Public Library offers recorded stories, folk tales and poems, anytime day or night. 767-8162.

Dyer Library has a new program for toddlers entitled

"Stories and Songs," Thurs from 10-10:30 am. The library also offers storytime and crafts for kids ages 3-4 on Tues and Fri at 10 am. At 371 Main St., Saco. 283-3861.

Family Night Greater Portland YMCA holds a night of swim time, movies, games, food and contests every Fri from 6:30-8:45 pm. Cost: \$5 (members free). 874-1111.

Girl Scouts Kennebec Council offers girls ages 5 and up the opportunity to experience the outdoors and give back to their community. For information about the Girl Scouts' outdoor camps and community service programs, call 772-1171 or 800-660-1072.

Portland Public Library offers programs for kids. Mon: "Preschool Storytime" for ages 3-5, at 10:30 am. "Finger Fun for Babies" Wed at 9:30 am and Thurs at 4 pm (under 2). Fri: "Tales for Twos" at 10:30 am. At the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland. 871-1707.

Reiche Branch Portland Public Library offers programs for kids, as well as frequent multilingual storytelling events for immigrant families. "Little ones" read-along Tues at 9:30 am, read-aloud Tues at 3:30 pm, "Who's Afraid of the Dark?" reading Tues at 6:30 pm. Call ahead for dates of other storytelling events. At 166 Brackett St., Portland. Hours: Wed 9 am-6 pm, Thurs noon-8 pm, Fri 9 am-noon. 774-6871.

Riverton Branch Library offers basic Internet training for kids Wed from 3:30-4:30 pm. Toddler time, songs, games and stories for 1- and 2-year-olds, Fri at 9:30 am. Preschool Storytime for ages 3-5, Fri at 10:30 am. At 1600 Forest Ave., Portland. Hours: Wed 9 am-6 pm, Thurs noon-8 pm, Fri 9 am-noon. 797-2915.

Scarborough Public Library offers reading programs with activities and free special events for kids ages 2 and up. Thurs: "Lap-sit" featuring nursery rhymes, finger puppets and more, at 10 am (6-24 months). "Kindertales" at 11 am (ages 3-7). Mon: "Toddler Time" for ages 2-3 at 10 am, ages 3-4 at 11 am. Tues: "Read to Me" for ages 3 1/2-5 at 10:30 am. "Jamarama" is the first Tues of the month at 7 pm (ages 4-6). At SPL, 48 Gorham Rd., Scarborough. For more info, call the Children's Room at 883-4723.

Walker Memorial Library has a story hour for kids of all ages every Tues and Wed, at 11:30 am. The Bookworms, a book discussion group, meets the first Tues of the month at 7 pm. On Sat, Sept 22, the library hosts an arts and crafts event, at 1:30 pm. At Walker Memorial Library, 800 Main St., Westbrook. 854-0630.

Warren Memorial Library offers weekly programs for kids. Tues: "Books and Babies," for babies 6-24 months and their caregivers, at 9:30 am. Tues: "Tales for Tots," for kids ages 2-3 and their caregivers, at 10:30 am. Wed: "Read-aloud Time," for kids ages 3-5, at 10:15 am. At the Warren Memorial Library, 479 Main St., Westbrook. Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs 2-8 pm, Wed 10 am-8 pm, Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-3 pm. 854-5891.

SPORTS

Basketball The YMCA offers basketball at its gymnasium at 70 Forest Ave., Portland. Mon-Fri from 6-8 am, Mon: Wed and Fri from 12:13-30 pm; Tues and Thurs from 4:30-5:50 pm. 874-1111.

Drop-In Sports The YMCA offers drop-in women's volleyball and drop-in basketball for men, women and students at the YMCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Sun from 7-10 pm, Tues and Thurs noon-1:30 pm and 6-8 pm. Cost: \$4 (\$3 members). 874-1130.

Lap Swims The YMCA offers exercise in a pool warmed to 83 degrees. At the YMCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Cost including lockers, showers and sauna: \$7 (\$4 members). 874-1130.

Maine Frotnrunners is a gay and lesbian running club that sponsors a weekly run in Portland around Back Cove, Sat at 9 am. 761-2059.

Maine Table Tennis Club offers open play. Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome; coaching can be arranged. At the Portland Athletic Club, Route 1, Falmouth. Mon from 5-9 pm, Thur from 6-9 pm. Cost: \$5 per person (bills provided). 823-8231.

Martial Arts and Self-Defense classes at South Portland Recreation, 21 Nelson Rd., South Portland, include instruction in karate and aikido. Children ages 5 and older and adults are encouraged to participate. 767-7650.

Open Gym for Teens Evening teen programs. High School age: King Gym, 92 Deering Ave., Portland on Thurs from 6-8 pm. Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St., Portland on Mon and Wed from 5:15-6:45 pm. Middle School age: King Gym, 92 Deering Ave., Portland on Tues from 6-8 pm. Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St., Portland on Tues and Thurs from 5:30-7 pm. Fee: \$0. 874-6793.

Portland Ultimate Frisbee League Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. Call 828-4012 or e-mail to pozzyal@allenbrook.lix.com.

Sports of All Sorts The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Portland offers a variety of activities including swimming, basketball and volleyball, at 277 Cumberland Ave., Portland. 874-1070.

Teen Scene The YMCA offers programs just for middle- and high-school-age students including self-defense classes, step aerobics, yoga, volleyball, street funk aerobics and basketball for girls. Call Lauretta at 874-1130 x3010.

sportland,

J. BARRY MOTHE

A different March madness

As he watched the Maine state championship high school basketball tournaments on public television this February, Todd Brennan, the Portland YMCA's sports and recreation director, was disappointed, but not by the final scores. "I feel so bad when you see a tournament game, and someone makes a mistake, and they look like it's the end of the world," said Brennan. "It's just all business. Kids should be having more fun."

Fun is just what Brennan has in mind as he helps organize the YMCA's Granville R. Lee Undergraduate Basketball Tournament. It's a high school tourney for boys and girls in their freshman, sophomore and junior years that takes place in mid-March. Now in its 60th year, the annual competition draws players from schools in Greater Portland, as well as from as far away as Eliot, Waterville and Boothbay Harbor.

One of the single-elimination tournament's most refreshing rules: No high school coaches or members of their staffs can coach the teams. That stipulation allows the kids more freedom to play on their own, without constant orders and demands from the bench.

"One year a custodian at Deering [High] coached the team," said Rick Hansen, a local basketball official who runs the tourney with Brennan, as well as volunteering to officiate.

"Sometimes you get a father of a player, or a former coach who may be retired, or a senior from the team. One year, we had a father who was a state trooper fill in to coach the team, and he showed up in his uniform with a gun in a holster."



No trash talkin': Tourney namesake Granville R. Lee presents the championship trophy in the mid-1950s.

The tournament is named in honor of Lee, a former director of recreation for the city of Portland, who died in the late 1950s. This year's tourney features 21 boys' teams and 17 girls' teams. Last year's boys' champion, Portland, has not entered this year, though the 2001 girls' champs, Yarmouth, has returned to defend its title.

Besides the coaching rule, the tourney also has a no-foul-out rule. In regular high school basketball, a player must leave the game after a fifth foul. In the Lee tourney, a player can remain in the game, but every foul after five gives the other team two free throws and possession of the ball.

In addition, a team with a lead of 15 points or more is not allowed to use a full-court press. The teams also play 20-minute halves — eight more minutes of playing time than an official high school game. This contributes to the high scores typical of tournament games — final tallies in the high 80s to low 90s are not uncommon.

The tourney is played in the YMCA's second-floor gym — a stark, old cage that's shorter and narrower than an official court. The playing area is bordered by cement walls that loom just a few feet from the out-of-bounds lines. A single scoreboard hangs high in one corner. Noise booms. It's not the Augusta Civic Center, but it has an aura.

"The games tend to be fast and intense because of the smaller space," said Hansen. "I've seen better games in this tourney that I've seen at many varsity games."

If you're planning to take in this year's action, you may have to fight for a seat. The YMCA gym has no bleachers — there's not enough room — but Brennan does set up a long, single row of folding chairs along one side of the court. They're not expecting requests from Jack Nicholson or Spike Lee, but seats will be at a premium. "We try to get in as many people as we can," said Brennan, "which is maybe 75."

"It's a great, great seat," said Hansen. "You're right on the floor."

The Granville R. Lee Undergraduate Basketball Tournament takes place through Monday, March 18 at the YMCA, 70 Forest Ave., Portland. Games are played Monday through Thursday at 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. The girls' finals take place Monday, March 18 at 4 p.m., the boys' finals March 18 at 5:30 p.m. Tix: \$2 (students \$1) per day (benefits the YMCA's scholarship fund), 874-1111.

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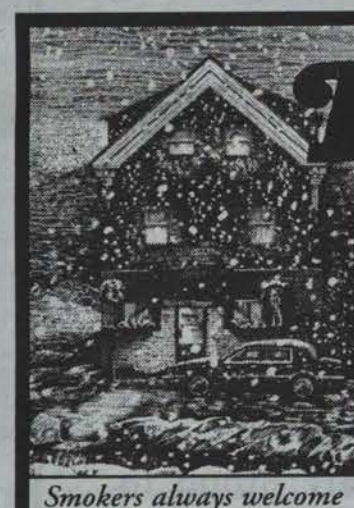
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MOVIES

"We Were Soldiers"

Directed by Randall Wallace. Rated R. At Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Pond Road, South Portland, 879-1511 and Hoyts Falmouth 10, 206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth, 781-5616.



Mel in hell: Gibson stars in "We Were Soldiers."

What is George W. Bush paying these movie guys, anyway? Since Sept. 11, Hollywood has given us "Behind Enemy Lines," "Black Hawk Down," "Hart's War" and ultra-ham Nicholas Cage's soon-to-be-released "Windtalkers." That's a lot of military carnage to digest in a few short months. Ultimately, all this overkill only weakens the impact of each subsequent movie. Still, it's fair to say the inevitable Mel Gibson war film, "We Were Soldiers," falls somewhere in the middle of the ranks.

Like "Black Hawk Down," "We Were Soldiers" is based on a true account of a key American battle, in this case, the first major engagement between American and North Vietnamese forces, a near-massacre in the Ia Drang Valley, aka the "Valley of Death." Based on the book "We Were Soldiers Once — and Young," by Lt. Col. Harold Moore and war journalist Joseph Galloway, the film takes us from basic training through the bloody struggle to the final withdrawal in suitably stirring fashion.

In a lengthy setup, Moore (Gibson) meets and trains his battalion (the 1st Battalion of the 7th Cavalry — same unit as George Custer's).

Moore's sergeant major, Basil Plumley (Sam Elliott), is the consummate military man, stiff, unyielding and distrustful of newfangled weapons like the M16 — he prefers to do battle with only his pistol. Moore's ace chopper pilot, Maj. Bruce "Snakeshit" Crandall, is played by Greg Kinnear, and Madeleine Stowe rounds out the big names as Moore's wife, Julie.

As Moore's character is written and portrayed, he's not only a soldier's soldier — he's a God-fearing family man. One of the film's big faults, in fact, is Moore's flawlessness. I could have done with less praying and one or two chinks in the armor. Moore prays for the souls of not only his own soldiers, but also his enemy's — though he adds with a grin, "One more thing, Lord. Please ignore the heathen prayers of my enemies, and let me blow the little bastards all to hell."

In Vietnam, the mayhem begins immediately, as Moore's men find themselves surrounded and outnumbered by the North Vietnamese. Here, the film is at its best, as Moore and his counterpart anticipate each other brilliantly. Moore's respect for the North Vietnamese army is one of the film's most interesting aspects, and there's a compassion for the enemy forces usually lacking in films of this sort.

Gibson's gruff but fatherly Moore is believable, but it's almost comical watching him caper across the battlefield, bullets glancing off his helmet as he barks orders and whirls to shoot in mid-sentence, while blood and gore spew out of everyone around him. Similarly, while every-one else is ducking, Plumley walks around, miraculously unscathed, blasting people with his pistol.

Plumley gets a dark laugh while wading through bullets when he chides the one civilian unlucky enough to be trapped with Moore's forces, news photographer Galloway (Barry Pepper). As Galloway hugs the ground, Plumley dryly tells him, "You can't take any pictures from down there, son." In one of the plot's most interesting turns, Galloway not only gets some great pictures, he also becomes a soldier by default, picking up a machine gun and fighting for his life. Ultimately, he lived to co-write the book with Moore.

While less gripping and less gory than "Black Hawk Down," "We Were Soldiers" captures the tragedy of battle and the grim lot of the soldiers' wives at home, as they dread getting notice of their husbands' deaths. Missing is any debate about whether we should have been there in the first place, though that was never Moore's purpose in this account of the bravery of fighting men.

LENNY SMITH

NEW RELEASES

ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS Rapper Ice Cube portrays a bounty hunter who uncovers a planned diamond heist while on the trail of a run-away convict. **Maine Mall Cinema** **MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** Various independent features and documentaries are screened at the Movies, the Portland Museum of Art and the Center for Maine History. See Happenings page 24 for full schedule.

THE TIME MACHINE A scientist (Guy Pearce) invents a time machine capable of traveling 800,000 years into the past and future. Also starring Jeremy Irons, the flick is based on the H.G. Wells novel. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

ALSO SHOWING

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

AMELIE Director Jean-Pierre Jeunet ("The City of Lost Children") returns to virtuosic form in the French hit about a Parisian waitress focused on bettering the world. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

BIG FAT LIAR A student (Frankie Muniz) gets revenge on the Hollywood producer (Paul Giamatti) who stole his class paper. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

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

BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF The French hit includes werewolves, Native American mysticism, kickboxing, animation and erotic undertones, all in a period-piece setting. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

CROSSROADS Teen queen Britney Spears' first movie centers on a group of friends driving cross-country to take part in a karaoke competition. **Hoyts Falmouth 10**

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO Director Kevin Reynolds is the man responsible for "Waterworld" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves." Fortunately, he is trying to make cinematic amends, foregoing Kevin Costner and casting Guy Pearce and Jim Caviezel in the classic tale of a wronged man seeking revenge. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

DRAGONFLY A doctor (Kevin Costner) believes his dead wife is trying to communicate with him through his patients. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema**

40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS Josh Hartnett takes a break from serious roles ("Black Hawk Down") to play a sex-crazed youth who takes a vow of abstinence for Lent. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

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

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

IN THE BEDROOM The only son of a Maine couple becomes tragically involved with an older woman. Filmed in Maine, the adaptation, based on an Andre Dubus short story, stars Sissy Spacek and Marisa Tomei. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

JOHN Q. A father (Denzel Washington) holds a hospital hostage until his uninsured kid is guaranteed a heart transplant. Directed by Nick Cassavetes. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

LANTANA Geoffrey Rush and Barbara Hershey star in an Australian murder mystery involving disintegrating marriages. **The Movies**

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

THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED The late Aaliyah plays a 6,000-year-old bloodsucker in the third installment of Anne Rice's "The Vampire Chronicles." **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema**

RET! NEVER LAND The animated film is a Peter Pan sequel. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS An unhappy family of eccentric geniuses and the wacky world they reside in are brought to light in the newest feature by Wes Anderson ("Rushmore"). Starring Gene Hackman, Ben Stiller and Gwyneth Paltrow. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

SUPER TROOPERS Members of the Broken Lizard comedy troupe hit the silver screen in a low-brow effort about state troopers in small-town Vermont. **Maine Mall Cinema**

WE WERE SOLDIERS See review, this page. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

now playing

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

THE TIME MACHINE (PG-13)
12:50, 1:20, 3:20, 4, 7, 7:30, 9:20, 9:50
WE WERE SOLDIERS (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
BIG FAT LIAR (PG)
1:10, 4:10, 6:45
40 DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
RETURN TO NEVER LAND (G)
12:45, 2:40, 4:40, 7:15
JOHN Q. (PG-13)
1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:45
I AM SAM (PG-13)
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
HART'S WAR (R)
9:10
GOSFORD PARK (R)
9

HOYTS FALMOUTH 10

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

THE TIME MACHINE (PG-13)
12:50, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 9:55
40 DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS (R)
1:40, 3:55, 7, 9:30
WE WERE SOLDIERS (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:45
DRAGONFLY (PG-13)
1:10, 3:40, 6:50, 9:20
CROSSROADS (PG-13)
1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50
JOHN Q. (PG-13)
12:50, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15
A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13)
12:35, 3:35, 6:40, 9:40
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (PG-13)
12:40, 4:25, 8:45
RETURN TO NEVER LAND (G)
1, 3, 5, 7:05
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (R)
9:05
BIG FAT LIAR (PG)
1:50, 4:15
IN THE BEDROOM (R)
6:35, 9:35

MAINE MALL CINEMA

Maine Mall Road, So. Portland, 774-1022

DRAGONFLY (PG-13)
1:05, 3:25, 7:05, 9:35
ABOUT THE BENJAMINS (R)
1:30, 3:55, 7:25, 9:40
BLACK HAWK DOWN (R)
12:40, 3:40, 6:50, 9:45
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 6:55, 9:45
THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (R)
12:30, 4:05, 7:40
A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 6:55, 9:45
THE QUEEN OF THE DAMNED (R)
1:25, 4, 7:20, 9:40
SUPER TROOPERS (R)
1:10, 3:30, 7:10, 9:30

THE MOVIES

10 Exchange St., Portland, 772-9600

LANTANA (R)
SHOWS THROUGH FRI., MARCH 8, SHOWS THURS., FRI., 7:15
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SHOWS FRI., MARCH 8-THURS., MARCH 14
SEE HAPPENINGS PAGE 24 FOR FULL SCHEDULE

NICKELODEON CINEMAS 1-6

Temple and Middle Streets, Portland, 772-9751

GOSFORD PARK (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:35
AMELIE (R)
1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45
THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS (R)
1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
IN THE BEDROOM (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:25
A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG-13)
1:15, 4, 7, 9:40
THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (PG-13)
12:30, 6:30
BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF (R)
3:15, 9:10

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CADILLAC DEVILLE 1991 72k, leather, elec. moonroof. Exc. cond. Can be seen at Lincolnville Beach. \$6500. 724-6974.

CADILLAC FLEETWOOD BROUGHAM 1991 Exc. shape. \$3500 OBO. 848-3562.

CAMARO 1980 Z 28, 350, 4 spd, runs perfect, 44k original miles. \$2000 obo. Caleb, 583-4369.

CHEV CAVALIER RS 1995 2D, auto. Loaded. Exc. inside and out. 88,000 miles. \$2500. 848-5620 days.

CHEVY ASTRO VAN 1990 V6, automatic, ac, power windows and door, rear defrost. Cruise. 8 Passenger. 147k. Black with gray interior. \$2200 obo. 314-2855.

CHEVY BLAZER 2000 Gold metallic. Tinted windows. Fully loaded, \$13,500. 737-2235.

DODGE INTREPID SPORT, 1997- Red, 4 door, air, cruise, power windows & locks. \$5995. 846-5593.

OLDS CUTLASS SUPREME SL 1997 4D, loaded, alloys, 39k miles. Super shape. \$7000. 848-5620 days.

PONTIAC GRAND AM, 1995- Green, 4 cyl, 2 door, 5 speed, air, cruise, 1139 Forest Ave, Portland.

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX SE, 1996- White, 6 cyl, 4 door, power windows & locks. \$6595. 846-5593.

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX SE, 2000- Red, rear spoiler, excellent condition. \$11,400. Call Barry 207-846-6419.

DODGE NEON 1998 2D, 5 spd, 21K miles. Custom paint. Must see. \$5,000. 848-5620 days.

DODGE SPIRIT 1989 Silver, 4 dr, mint cond. Owned by older person. 52,000 miles. All maintenance records on hand. \$1850 obo. 923-3399.

FORD ESCORT 1994 2 dr, automatic, a/c, new batteries and brakes. 163 k. Sunroof. Cassette. One owner, runs great. \$2000 obo. 846-5593.

FORD FOCUS ZX3 2000- white, prof. tinted windows, cd/radio, a/c, auto. 22k mi, immaculate, babied, garaged plus 1989 VW Jetta Wolfsburg Edition, great body, engine needs work, fine liner-upper/lower car, a/c, am/fm/cass, sunroof, 4 dr 5 spd. 134k. 2 for 1. Both, \$10,000. 882-4695, leave message.

FORD MUSTANG 1997 red, exc. cond. \$9500. best offer. 767-2046.

FORD TEMPO GL, 1993- Green, 4 cyl, 4 door, cruise. \$1,995. 846-5593.

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FORD WINDSTAR 1998 3.0 L, acc, keyless entry, roof rack, green exterior, gray cloth interior, new tires. 96k. Great condition, reduced to \$7900. Ask for Mark. 825-4484.

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HONDA ACCORD 1993 - 4 dr, 5 spd, 160k, well maintained, exc. cond, must sell. Need AT car. \$3900 firm. 945-5858.

HONDA PASSPORT 1995 82k, 5 SPD, V6, runs excellent, looks even better. Grey. Power windows, roof rack. \$7500 obo. Lv msg. 944-0224.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2001 20k, w/ski rack FWD, asking \$16,700. 797-0546.

JEOP WRANGLER 1997 red, black soft top. 4x4, power steering, tilt wheels, cd. Exc. cond. 97K. I owe \$8,000, will sell for \$7500. 923-3399.

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LANDROVER DISCOVERY SE 7 1996 Black, tan leather. Dual sunroofs, jump seats, 7 passenger. Loaded, new tires, exc. cond. 73K. Priced to sell: \$13,800. 855-3101.

MAZDA MX3 1994 Excellent condition. Automatic. 88k miles. Mag rims. Good on gas. \$3,900/BO. 985-3622.

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MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE RS 1997 5 spd, power windows, locks. Well maintained, exc. cond. 78k. In college, need to sell. \$9000 obo. 874-6984.

MITSUBISHI EXPO LRV 1994 81,000 mi. AC, 5 spd, exc. cond. White. \$4200 or best offer. 772-5326.

OLDS CUTLASS CIERA, 1996- Red, 6 cyl, 4 door, air, power windows & locks. \$4,595. 846-2470.

SAAB WAGON, 1971- Body restored, engine & drive frame, solid, many spare parts. Excellent interior. Must sell. \$7500. 0207833-5116.

SATURN SL I-1 1994, Exc. condition, one owner. 55k miles, a/c, tilt wheel, rear defogger, am/fm cassette. \$4300 firm. Lv msg. 839-2391.

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SUBARU FORESTER 2001 Fully loaded. 21,000 miles. black with gray interior. Very clean, must see. Asking \$19,000. 827-3175.

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VOLKSWAGON JETTA '88 5spd, 144k miles. Good int/ext. PL/PW. Well maintained. Must sell. 1800/BO. 878-1251.

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CHEVROLET 1 ton 350, 1988- automatic, holmes wrecker body, wheel lift and sling. Runs, looks great. Used daily. \$5,000. best offer. 744-0263 days, 336-3739 eves.

CHEVY 4X4 V6, 1992- 4.3 liter 5 spd. 169k w/cap, great truck. books \$4200. will take best offer. New brakes, ball-joints, rotors and more, fresh sticker. Ask for Bryan. 929-5490.

CHEVY BLAZER LS, 1995- black, loaded, excellent condition. 65K. CD, 4 wheel drive. Must sell. \$9000 or best offer. 841-4100.

CHEVY S-10 PICK-UP, 1983- V6, 4 speed, runs good. Great island truck or parts. \$200. 773-7701.

CHEVY S10, 1996- 2WD, 5 speed, 4 cyl, single seat. \$4,895. 846-2470.

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DODGE 1500, 1994- White, 2 WD, V6, Magnum, automatic, bedliner, single seat. \$4,995. 846-2470.

DODGE CARAVAN, 1992- 7 passenger. Very clean, perfect condition. 98k miles. \$1,500. 892-0036.

DODGE CARAVAN, 1996- Silver gray. 6cyl, air, cruise. \$6695. 846-2470.

FORD BRONCO, 1989- V8, automatic, 130k. Runs and looks great. Many new parts. New sticker. Must be seen for \$3000. 744-0263 days. 336-3739 eves.

FORD EXPLORER XLT, 1997 - power, everything, tow pkg., rear a/c, looks and runs great. 68K. Retail \$15,100, will take best offer. Call 787-4123.

FORD F-150 XLT '88 4wd, tow/pkg, capliner. No rust. 1 owner. New sticker. \$3,500/BO. 854-2253.

GMC 1996 TRUCK with extended cab. 2-wheel drive, V-6, standard, cap and trailer hitch. 87K. Black with maroon interior. \$7500/BO. 799-8481.

GMC SLE 4x4 1997 XTRA CAB 3RD DR. 69K miles. Chrome rack, fiber-glass tonneau. \$14,000. 848-5620 days.

MITSUBISHI MONTERO LTD 1999, 4x4, completely loaded, heated seats, CD, sunroof. 63K. Black, warranty \$17,900/BO. 749-9531.

PLYMOUTH VOYAGER, 1995- 3.0L, V6, automatic, P/S, P/B, A/C. 83K miles. Excellent condition. \$4600. Call 727-5123.

S-15 PU 1989 2WD 4 cyl 5 sp 88,000 miles. Red with lots of chrome. \$2500. 848-5620 days.

RV'S
1982 PACE ARROW RV, 31 footer. Fully loaded. Sleeps 6-8. Needs minor work. \$8,500 with bonus of 1990, sickered, Bronco II. 761-4429.

BOATS
16' DAYSAILER WIGAVL TRAILER. Excellent condition. Yellow/white fiberglass. Cuddy cabin sleeps 2. Roomy cockpit. \$2,800/BO. 799-4305. Can be seen at 98 Fowler Rd, Cape Elizabeth.

35' STEAM YACHT FOR SALE "ONE OF A KIND". This boat is for the discerning owner, one that will stand out in any anchorage. Steam combines the silence of sail with the convenience and predictability of power. Beautifully created wooden design. 35' twin-engine steam launch. A must see!! 207-725-5456.

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY - WEEK OF MARCH 7 © 2001
BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): This horoscope is adapted from a manual used to train special forces in all climate, all-terrain survival techniques. It has been researched and tested by experts. Now it is being made available to you—just in time for the last few miles of your crawl across the wasteland. With the help of the subliminal clues embedded in this text, you will be able to turn poison into medicine, take advantage of your so-called weaknesses, and mutate a turgid "no" into a sleek "yes." Now please utter the magic word of power: *revelance*.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): No offense, Taurus, but your metaphorical fantasy muscles have grown a bit flabby. Possible cause: your overconsumption of glossy entertainment concocted by Hollywood hacks. You've got to do something! Looming decisions will require your imagination to be in top shape. I suggest you launch an intensive exercise program, beginning with these calisthenics: 1. Visualize yourself as a superhero. What are your powers? Your costume and name? 2. If you could summon a brilliant ally from history, who would it be and what would you become a beast of burden in the first place—you might even be permanently excused from carrying that extra emotional baggage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The taskmaster planet Saturn has been in your sign since last April. No doubt you've felt the squeeze. But now Saturn's slipping into a smooth, silky arrangement with the warm and fuzzy planet Neptune. You should already be feeling a sense of relief, as if a benefactor had taken on some of the emotional baggage you'd been lugging around. You can expect the divine easement to continue for a few weeks. Gemini. And if you play your wild cards right—that is, if you capitalize on this grace period by paying off the karmic debt that required you to become a beast of burden in the first place—you might even be permanently excused from carrying that extra emotional baggage.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Since ancient times, China has harbored three great religions: Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. The typical Chinese person has traditionally cobbled together a mélange of beliefs gathered from all three. This is quite different from the Western way, which is to be faithful to one religion or another and never mix and match. But out on America's Left Coast where I live, there is a growing tribe that has adopted the Chinese approach. We borrow elements from Buddhism, paganism, Sufism, Cabalism, esoteric Christianity, and Hermetic mysticism to create a personalized spiritual path. Religious historians call this syncretism. I recommend you try it out in the coming months. The astrological omens say it's a perfect time for you to expand your appreciation for God's love of outrageous variety.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're in that muddy gray area that combines breathtaking views of the Twilight Zone with the morally ambiguous ambience of Limbo. As you might guess, this is not the time to go around telling other people how they should change. In fact, the only way to avoid taking a direct hit of slimy karma may be to keep very busy changing yourself. Here's a good way to start: Upgrade the quality of your food, information, self-care, and love. I also suggest that you offer yourself a gift that symbolizes your commitment to continually outgrow your previous successes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you're normal, you average one greasy-foot stain per month, would rather talk about your sex life than how much money you make, throw out 1905 pounds of garbage per year, have 1.3 phobias, will have forgotten, by tomorrow, 80 percent of everything you learned today, have never eaten a bug, are less likely to do the right thing when you're hungry, drunk, stressed, or sleep-deprived, have six million dust mites living in your bed, and still hold most of the beliefs you formed by age 18. Alas, Virgo, the astrological aspects coming to bear on you during the next four weeks will not be overly favorable.

if you carry on in a normal manner. They will, however, be quite good if you act atypical, even a little freaky. I suggest, therefore, that you rebel against the above profile.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In one old fairy tale, a virtuous hero goes to punch an evil witch. But due to her magic spell, the thrust of his fist boomerangs and he smashes himself in the nose. Blood flows from his nostrils. He wipes it with his fingertips and flings a few red drops in the witch's direction. Hallelujah! This sends her fleeing. He's saved. Moral of the story: His wound is his ultimate protection. Apply this lesson to your own life. Libra, as you struggle against your adversary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Man in his present state has as much desire to urinate as he has to make vows to Artemis," says writer Edward Dahlberg. In other words, most modern humans have no relationship with wild female deities, nor would they ever conceive of a reason why that might be fun or sincere or inspiring. But my reading of the current cosmic omens leads me to suggest that you contradict Dahlberg. Scorpio, Artemis is not dead. I swear to you; she is not just a figment of the archaic Greek mind. She is a living archetype of fiercely nurturing female energy. Goddess of the ever-changing moon, strong protectress of the undomesticated soul, she gives sanctuary to all who prize liberated fertility. I dare you to make a vow to her.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "In teaching my students," says Waldorf teacher Meg Gorman, "I try to figure out what questions I can ask that have no right answer. I seek to frame paradoxes, to force the student to develop original thought." If you follow my column, Sagittarius, you know that this is my recipe for becoming a soulful human being. Fondness for mystery and comfort with ambiguity are always sound approaches to life, in my opinion. But they're especially so now. You're in a phase when your sleeping potentials can only be awakened by asking impossible questions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): I have a vision of you dressed in a snappy black leather ensemble, your eyebrows perfectly sculpted from a session with an image consultant, your speech booming charismatically from your diaphragm after a few sessions with a voice teacher. Are you also wearing a silk scarf? Yes. It's terra cotta colored, made in Bali. In my psychic revelation, Capricorn, I see you in your town's hippest eatery, dining on coq au vin, surrounded by a bevy of movers and shakers who are hanging on your every word. "What a sexy catalyst!" is the thought playing in the backs of their minds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): For Buddhists, bodhisattvas are souls that have reached enlightenment but have foresworn nirvana so that they might continue to be reincarnated and work to liberate all sentient beings from suffering. Bodhisattvas don't always have conscious knowledge that they are noble saints, and even those who do sometimes keep it a secret. I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, for two reasons. First, whether or not you are a bodhisattva, the cosmos is now inviting and even pushing you to act like one. Second, this is a perfect moment for you to expand and experiment with the role that generosity plays in your self-expression.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Some people feel polluted when they look at porn; some when they eat Pringles and Twinkies. Myself, I experience a sense of violation after being exposed to celebrity gossip. And yet, if I've learned anything about how to maintain a healthy relationship with purity, it's that a fanatical adherence to it is as dangerous as a compulsive rejection of it. This will be especially true for you Pisceans in the coming weeks. Therefore, my dear Fishes, I exhort you to rebel cagily against any urge you might have to be in total control; I urge you to not remain spotless and lily white. Just to prove I practice what I preach, I promise to read People magazine cover to cover.

Name 10 items from among your personal possessions that you would put in a time capsule to be dug up by your descendants in 500 years. Tell us at www.freewillastrology.com.

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25 YEARS old, outgoing, funny, sexy, smart. #86739

27 SECONDS to go, Patriots kick field goal and advance to playoffs. It's not over till it's over! Looking for soul-filled, intelligent, responsible, compassionate, active, fun-loving Man, 45-65. Petite DWF with oomph, sparkle and brains. #85242

28-YEAR-OLD SNOWBOARDER, very adventurous, Portland based design professional, ISO M for weekend riding at the River, the Loaf, YTHH mountains. If reports of a big dump make you think I'm a powder, grab your board, some good CDs and let's ride. #85070

34-YEAR-OLD, 5', caring, loving, attractive, looking for that special F, 25-45, to share intimate times with. Love dancing, movies, sports and romantic nights at home. Race open. #85293

40-ISHBF enjoys reading, shopping, writing, excellent cook, hiking and long drives in the country. ISO Male, 40-46, 6', for friendship first, n/drugs, financially secure, children ok, no head games, college degree, honest, race unimportant, flexible, moderate drinking. #85286

45-YEAR-OLD WOMAN, blonde/blue, 5'7", good personality, enjoy socializing, watching movies and parades. Looking for an open-minded Male, 45-55, smoker, partygoer but can be responsible and likes kids. For friendship first, to get to know one another by phone. #85319

A VERY attractive SWFF seeks that rare, 35-42, n/s, SWPM who is charming, educated, athletic and handsome. Reveal yourself and discover my capacity to be adventurous, supportive, smart and more. #86041

A YOUNG 51 in spirit and appearance. Intuitive, open-minded, creative, eclectic interests, adventurous, attractive, quiet and unconventional nature seeking new friendship and intimacies, especially Leos and Sagittarians. A lust for life or life is lust? #86867

ADVENTUROUS, ROMANTIC, funny, flirtatious flame, 45, seeks to attract colorful, compelling moth I am 5'4", professional with blonde hair and sea-green eyes. Like to have fun. You be 40-50, tall, intelligent and amusing. #86620

ANIMAL CARETAKER wanted, SWM, 40+, n/s, who works or volunteers in an animal field, shelter, veterinary, animal protection, oceanlife, etc. Let's create a joyful life together, working to preserve quality of life for all species. #85309

ANIMAL LOVER, 44, physically and emotionally healthy, enjoy good conversation, NPR, outdoors, walking, cycling, swimming, yoga. Seeking n/s Man, 37-50, who's open, honest, able to laugh and takes care of himself. Must be very kind to animals and especially love dogs. #85155

ATTRACTIVE, AFFECTIONATE, adventurous, easygoing, fun and friendly SWFF, 40, 5'7", red/green, n/s, fit, outdoorsy type. Enjoy skiing, mountain biking, hiking, music, arts, theatre and travel. Seeking intelligent, mature, compassionate and passionate Man with similar interests, for interesting conversation, friendship, possible LTR. #85193

ATTRACTIVE WF, 30, mother of two-year-old. Blonde/blue, full-figured, smoker, seeking W/M, 30-45, for LTR, who is financially secure and likes camping, movies, home-cooked meals and the occasional happy hour. #85294

BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, passionate, moral, professional, equally beautiful in jeans as little black dress, girl-next-door SF brown hair, baby blue eyes, 37, 5'3", 115 lbs. Seeking educated, humorous, boating, sailing, professionally out doory, boy-next-door kind of Guy, 35-42, #85274

BLONDE, BLUE-EYED, 5'9", who loves the simple things in life. 28-year-old professional who would love to meet someone who enjoys the outdoors, camping, fishing, hiking and boating. Born in Maine, living/working in New Hampshire. #85084

BLUE SKY, winter mountain sunnys, back country ski with dog, not too cold to bicycle. Eco-crunchy, brainy, attractive red-head, 32, seeks n/s friend, playmate, 28-38, sense of humor, similar interests and way-left values, for possible LTR, one of those acronyms. #85273

BOOKISH, OPINIONATED Wiccan, 34, red hair, green eyes, voluptuous, seeks intelligent Man for laughter, passion and conversation. I'm a technical professional who enjoys historical re-enacting, music, spirituality, cats, reading history, sci-fi, adventure, humor and gardening. #86694

BRAINY, BEAUTIFUL, outdoorsy, urban, financially successful, nonmaterialistic, morally sound, passionate SF 35, 5'3", 110 lbs, shoulder-length brown/baby blue seeks educated, boating, camping, skiing kind of Guy (34-42) to share the paradisiacal lifestyle of an unpretentious social calendar and top-notch professional career. #86896

CAREFREE SPIRIT, adventurous, attractive, spontaneous SWF, 50s, blonde/blue, n/s, ISO classy, intelligent, funny, 50s-60s Gentleman. Varied interests in the arts, dining, traveling, skiing, golf, NPR. Ready to grasp life's gifts and treasures. Give me a call. #85020

DONT ANY of you Guys believe in friendship first? Brunswick area DF looking for a secure, nice Guy, 45-65, to explore the possibilities. I'm a morning person, work with kids, sing, tell stories and like to cook. And you? #86875

DWF, 45, 5'4", 180 lbs, n/s, looking for someone to go hiking, walking, beaches, movies, camping and boating with. Seeking n/s Male, 40+, to spend time with. The personality of a Man is what attracts me. #85287

DWF, 47, slim, attractive, mother of one. I smoke, so sue me. You be sexy, smart, sophisticated, funny and kind. I'll be same. Desire someone in late 30s, mid-40s. I like 'em young if you like them olden. #85182

FEMALE, 57, wants to meet Man for quiet times together. Personality is more important than looks to me. Call me. #85261

FEMALE, SELF-SUPPORTING, 50, feeling not a day over 35, enjoys lively life, kids, sincere spiritual practice, creating home, gardening, Love humor, dancing, music. My mom/hombody side wants to find balance with, presently under utilized, Woman-in-the-worldside. #85116

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DWF, 45, 5'4", 180 lbs, n/s, looking for someone to go hiking, walking, beaches, movies, camping and boating with. Seeking n/s Male, 40+, to spend time with. The personality of a Man is what attracts me. #85287

I AM SWF, 73, interested in a nice Gentleman, who likes to go to dances, movies, trips and going out to eat. N/d, n/s. I like country music. Have blue eyes, brownish-gray hair, medium-built. Let's get together. #86833

I WANT a Man who loves to laugh, who speaks his mind, and heart. Has the courage of his convictions. Knows what he wants and cares what I want. Who breaks for squirrels and appreciates the splendor of a wet, muddy dog. #85310

I'M A casual, 49-year-old Female looking for a Man who can be a real Man in private and keep our private moments just between us. #86871

KICK BOXER, 5'5", 150 lbs, reddish-brown hair, enjoy sushi, movies, outdoor activities, looking for exceptional Man, n/s, n/d. I like country music. Have blue eyes, brownish-gray hair, medium-built. Let's get together. #86833

LOOK NO further! SWF, 60-ish, enjoy cooking, walks, oldies music and dances, romantic dinners, quiet nights at home, ISO caring, sensitive SWM, 55+, n/s, n/d, with similar interests. #86817

LOOKING FOR soulmate SWF, 32, warm, attractive, down-to-earth, on path to becoming a teacher, seeks sincere, responsible, plain of nice Guy who is interested in settling down. Interests include movies, hiking, camping, music and good conversation. A quirky sense of humor would be great, too! #86616

LOVER OF life. Ardent advocate of human rights and free will, searching for supportive, understanding partner. I willingly provide emotional substance, warmth, compassion, honesty, stimulating conversation and fun. You be easygoing, with unfailing sense of humor. #85153

PETITE DWF, 27, Cumberland area, looking for SWM, 27-40, to be a friend for now. Maybe go out to eat, take walks, enjoy the outdoors. #85308

PETITE SWF enjoys short trips, long walks, dinner, flowers. Looking for financially secure Man who enjoys theater, classical music, has lots of time to give me. #85270

PRETTY BLONDE, 40s, smoker, slender, green and gold eyes, extremely kind, very empathic, creative, intelligent, friendly and warmhearted, with a touch of class, loves art and writing. Music. Looking for Man who doesn't want to be alone. #86903

SHY, ATTRACTIVE SWF, 19, college student, seeking outgoing, friendly, fun SWM, 18-20, who likes traveling, working out and quiet nights alone. #85081

SKINNY, SAILING are two of my passions, looking for a third. Attractive, lively, young-looking, 45-year-old Lady who loves to laugh. Looking for someone to share good times and passion. #85279

SO, DO you like? Like good books, good movies? Like to laugh, take road trips, toss a frisbee, try new foods? Me, too. I'm new to the area and ready to explore. #86671

SPIRITED PANTHEIST, happiest kayaking coastal inlets or cross-country skiing in the mountains, passionate sense of life, tall, pretty, slim, fit, loves cooking, eclectic music, PBS and the arts. Seeks playful, adventurous, physically and emotionally fit, n/s SWPM, 48-60, best friend, more. #85271

START BY holding my hand. Young 45-year-old SWF, happy, honest, sexy, patient, caring, creative, good conversation. Loves music, spiritual, fun, intelligent, humorous, blonde hair, blue eyes, companionship. #85144

SWF SEEKING S/D/M for fun, adventure and laughter. I like sports, football, hockey. I love the beach and winter time. Looking for someone to keep me warm. #85187

SWF, 33, looking for Male, 24-40. I have blonde hair, blue eyes, 150 lbs, 5'3", looking for friendship and possibly more. #85216

SWF, 35, 5'7", brown/hazel, attractive, no kids, likes skiing, traveling, books and movies. Looking for financially secure WM, 35-40, who shares similar interests, for friendship, possibly more. #85295

SWF, 44 years old, seeking SWM for friendship and dating. Prefer someone who likes movies, museums, coffee, good conversation and playing chess. #85249

SWF, 52, brown hair, green eyes, compassionate, intelligent and fun. #86604

UPBEAT, ECLECTIC, shapely Bohemian, young 50, physically/spiritual attentive, desires easygoing, wholesome, fit, confident Male to share already established healthy lifestyle. Enjoy theater, reading, vigorous walks, movies, friends, family. Teach me to cross-country ski or learn together? 47-58, nonsmoker. #85072

VERY ATTRACTIVE, fit, fun, passionate, outgoing, adventurous and independent. Divorced White mom of two, 33, seeking handsome, fit, educated and financially secure White Male, 28-42. I love exercising, the outdoors, sports, dancing, theater. No head games. Seeking LTR. #85195

WFF SEEKING decent Man, 46-62, with brains and morals. N/s, no kids, prefer Widowed, funny and nice. Moving to Maine when house sells. Me: 46, 5'4", 126 lbs, no kids, ready to move, no baggage. Healthcare worker. #85315

45, 5'10", 175 lbs, fit, light brown hair, honest, responsible, own home, active. Wants easygoing, fit and fun female who wants committed LTR with time to share. Love walking, biking, kayaking, movies, etc. #85063

61 YEARS old, Widowed for three years, like camping, traveling, dining out, movies, long walks on beaches. Looking for petite young Lady, 55-72. Give me a call. #85222

A QUIET leader, Young 37, 6', 205 lbs, blue eyes, no whippers, nonsmoking DWM. Devoted father of two. College-educated. Looking for fun and adventure. I'm more like walking, hiking, reading, boating, music, dancing, dining out, much more. #85194

ACCIDENTAL MUSIC. Sailboats, seeing journeys, tide bubbles, transitions, faceless groovin', wonderful holiday. A Single Maine Man, down-to-earth, seeks non material friend in Portland area, 40 to young 50s, fit, believer in magic. #86550

ACTIVE, FUN-LOVING, young-looking 48, 5'10", 175 lbs, blonde/blue, active build. Seeking petting/slender, n/s partner with interests in most anything outdoors, biking, hiking, kayaking, theater, travel, day trips, exploring the coast with a picnic or eating seafood overlooking the harbor. #86755

ARE YOU warmhearted, sincere, passionate and caring? Same here. 38, 5'11", brown/baby blue, 185 lbs, not ready to give up on love. A lot to offer the right Lady. Smiles, laughter and great conversation guaranteed. Free for the taking. #86755

ATTRACTIVE BUT LONELY SWM, 35, is trying to trust again. Me: 6'2, medium build, brown/blue, athletic, honest, sincere, good sense of humor, enjoys movies, dinner, walks, music, body surfing. Let's make life fun, it's too short. #86948

BE MY Valentine! 38-year-old, shy BM who's never had a Valentine's day date, is looking for someone to share Valentine's Day with. Let's go out, have dinner and I'll bring a dozen roses. Race and looks unimportant. #86699

HOLIDAY SPECIAL! SWM, 53, n/s, n/drugs, light drinker, fit, decent, outgoing, energetic, very communicative, seeks similar Single Lady, any race, for long talks, walks, hugs, kisses, plus many fun activities and a wonderful relationship. #85132

HOPELESS COMMITTED romantic SWM seeks SF, 23-36, she must be slender, committed, talkative, giddy, romantic, witty, friendly, warm, accepting of conflict and differences, forgiving, desires to grow and learn, pretty, enjoys kissing, hugging, cuddling and is passionate. #85251

HURRY! 51-YEAR-OLD DM, 5'9", husky build, brown/hazel, mustache, n/s, n/d, old-fashioned values. Looking for Female, 45-53, small to medium build, for relationship, possible LTR. I would put you on a pedestal. South Portland. #85196

I AM 6'1", 230 lb White Male, blue eyes and blonde hair. I like going on trips to fairs and carnivals, reading and spending time with my friends and family. #85173

I AM looking for a sincere, fun, sensual, literate Woman, middle aged but youthful like me, to enjoy life as it is. Depardieu meets Spacek. #85298

30-YEAR-OLD SWM, sincere, responsible, attractive, nice Guy. Interests include everything from hiking to theater. Looking for LTR. Seek intelligent, attractive, down-to-earth SWF. #85320

36-YEAR-OLD SWM, HANDSOME, intelligent, well-educated, with great sense of humor, 5'10", 165 lbs, brown hair, green eyes, enjoy skiing, golfing, sports, fitness, family, friends. Seeking attractive, intelligent, 27 to 37-year-old, slender SWF, similar interests, good sense of humor. Dating, possible LTR. #85197

39-YEAR-OLD DIVORCED father, homeowner, employed, 5'9", finely tuned body, liver of the life, with a whole lot to offer. Seeks somewhat short, sensual, slightly sarcastic Woman, 20-35, for dating, partying and to enjoy the rewards of life. Cumberland County. #86965

40-YEAR-OLD, 6'2", 160 lb SWM enjoys athletic activities, very outgoing, caring, sensitive. Seeks Female, 28-36, who likes to have fun, outgoing, athletic and sincere. #86965

45, 5'10", 175 lbs, fit, light brown hair, honest, responsible, own home, active. Wants easygoing, fit and fun female who wants committed LTR with time to share. Love walking, biking, kayaking, movies, etc. #85063

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A QUIET leader, Young 37, 6', 205 lbs, blue eyes, no whippers, nonsmoking DWM. Devoted father of two. College-educated. Looking for fun and adventure. I'm more like walking, hiking, reading, boating, music, dancing, dining out, much more. #85194

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ACTIVE, FUN-LOVING, young-looking 48, 5'10", 175 lbs, blonde/blue, active build. Seeking petting/slender, n/s partner with interests in most anything outdoors, biking, hiking, kayaking, theater, travel, day trips, exploring the coast with a picnic or eating seafood overlooking the harbor. #86755

ARE YOU warmhearted, sincere, passionate and caring? Same here. 38, 5'11", brown/baby blue, 185 lbs, not ready to give up on love. A lot to offer the right Lady. Smiles, laughter and great conversation guaranteed. Free for the taking. #86755

ATTRACTIVE BUT LONELY SWM, 35, is trying to trust again. Me: 6'2, medium build, brown/blue, athletic, honest, sincere, good sense of humor, enjoys movies, dinner, walks, music, body surfing. Let's make life fun, it's too short. #86948

BE MY Valentine! 38-year-old, shy BM who's never had a Valentine's day date, is looking for someone to share Valentine's Day with. Let's go out, have dinner and I'll bring a dozen roses. Race and looks unimportant. #86699

HOLIDAY SPECIAL! SWM, 53, n/s, n/drugs, light drinker, fit, decent, outgoing, energetic, very communicative, seeks similar Single Lady, any race, for long talks, walks, hugs, kisses, plus many fun activities and a wonderful relationship. #85132

HOPELESS COMMITTED romantic SWM seeks SF, 23-36, she must be slender, committed, talkative, giddy, romantic, witty, friendly, warm, accepting of conflict and differences, forgiving, desires to grow and learn, pretty, enjoys kissing, hugging, cuddling and is passionate. #85251

HURRY! 51-YEAR-OLD DM, 5'9", husky build, brown/hazel, mustache, n/s, n/d, old-fashioned values. Looking for Female, 45-53, small to medium build, for relationship, possible LTR. I would put you on a pedestal. South Portland. #85196

I AM 6'1", 230 lb White Male, blue eyes and blonde hair. I like going on trips to fairs and carnivals, reading and spending time with my friends and family. #85173

I AM looking for a sincere, fun, sensual, literate Woman, middle aged but youthful like me, to enjoy life as it is. Depardieu meets Spacek. #85298

30-YEAR-OLD SWM, sincere, responsible, attractive, nice Guy. Interests include everything from hiking to theater. Looking for LTR. Seek intelligent, attractive, down-to-earth SWF. #85320

36-YEAR-OLD SWM, HANDSOME, intelligent, well-educated, with great sense of humor, 5'10", 165 lbs, brown hair, green eyes, enjoy skiing, golfing, sports, fitness, family, friends. Seeking attractive, intelligent, 27 to 37-year-old, slender SWF, similar interests, good sense of humor. Dating, possible LTR. #85197

39-YEAR-OLD DIVORCED father, homeowner, employed, 5'9", finely tuned body, liver of the life, with a whole lot to offer. Seeks somewhat short, sensual, slightly sarcastic Woman, 20-35, for dating, partying and to enjoy the rewards of life. Cumberland County. #86965

40-YEAR-OLD, 6'2", 160 lb SWM enjoys athletic activities, very outgoing, caring, sensitive. Seeks Female, 28-36, who likes to have fun, outgoing, athletic and sincere. #86965

45, 5'10", 175 lbs, fit, light brown hair, honest, responsible, own home, active. Wants easygoing, fit and fun female who wants committed LTR with time to share. Love walking, biking, kayaking, movies, etc. #85063

61 YEARS old, Widowed for three years, like camping, traveling, dining out, movies, long walks on beaches. Looking for petite young Lady, 55-72. Give me a call. #85222

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men seeking

30-YEAR-OLD BI-CURIOSITY WM looking for curious Male or Couple for friendship, maybe more. ♀90791

37-YEAR-OLD MARRIED WM seeking Married, healthy, fit, attractive, well-educated, discreet Woman, 40-55, no strings. We will have fun. ♀90835

ABSOLUTELY SEEKING older, attractive Woman for discreet no strings fun with tall, attractive SWM, 31. Please be 40-55, shapely, adventurous and a flare for the naughty. ♀90814

ARE YOU an older Female looking for some excitement, where age is unimportant? This handsome, 40-year-old WM is well-endowed and would like to talk to you. ♀90805

ARE YOU interested in exploring? BIWM, 43, nice-looking, healthy, fit, 5'8", 160 lbs, brown/blue, ISO other for mutual physical enjoyment and easygoing friendship. Absolute discretion a must. Mid-Coast area. ♀90781

ATHLETIC MARRIED WM, 40, 160 lbs, semi-workaholic, playful but not with wife. Searching for Female, 25-40, for discreet mutually satisfying encounters. I'm talented orally. ♀90812

AVERAGE GUY but well-equipped. 45-year-old Married WM seeks a special Lady (Single or Married) for mutual pleasuring. Age unimportant. From backbuns to kinky sex, I'm open to anything. You must be healthy and able to keep a secret. ♀90799

BIG GIRLS turn me on. I love to kiss, cuddle and stay up all night. DWM, 34, 5'7", 200 lbs, clean-cut, healthy and discreet. Seek Woman, 18-35, for adult play. Let's talk. ♀90589

BIM, 50, tall, athletic, personable, would like to meet Couple or select Singles for adult fun. Healthy and discreet, n/s, light drinker, n/drugs. ♀90874

BIWM, 45, who likes cross-dressing, seeks the same for fun times. ♀90466

BIWM, 45, attractive, nice Guy, likes cross-dressing and being a bottom. Looking for nice, slim or sexy top or Cross-dresser. ♀90826

CLASSY LADY who does not like to shave, a natural type Woman, that hates razors, is being sought by this professional SWM, mid-40s, tall and in great shape. Please be healthy and sane. Age and weight unimportant. ♀90865

FROM PASSABLE Cross-dresser to a pre-op with curves. Am back in town to let my hair down, with long legs and shorter skirts. ♀90819

GM SEEKING Gay or BIM for head-reeling erotic encounters. Me: 40, 5'10", 170 lbs, good build, n/s, sane and friendly. You be the same, 35-50. No strings. Discretion a must. ♀90811

GWM LOOKING for small-built GM to have desired fun with at different times. I'm quiet, laid-back, more of in home type person. If you like to play in diapers or it is a turn for you, let's give it a try. ♀90821

GWM LOOKING for another Male, 21-35. You must like being told what to do. If you are looking for a daddy figure, give me a call and let's give it a try. ♀90890

GWM, 37, seeks GWM, 33-40, for sincere friendship. Enjoy cycling, kayaking, hiking and exercise. Quality movies, dining, music, traveling, reading and good conversation! Non-smoker and social drinker. ♀90824

HANDSOME MARRIED M, late 30s, looking for a F who enjoys the oral side of life on occasion. Please be healthy and discreet. ♀90487

HEY, THERE, I'm seeking Cross-dresser, 18-40, for friendship. LTR. I'm a SBM, 41, n/s, n/d, drug-free. I'm going to be employed either in the Ogunkit, Wells or Old Orchard Beach areas for the 2002 season. Will respond to serious replies. Thanks. ♀90875

I AM a young Cross-dresser. Interested in meeting other Cross-dressers. Like to wear pantyhose and short skirts. ♀90828

I WANT Revolution. Seeking freedom, love, life, experience and no submission to authority. Seeking free spirits who want to tear down our current system and rebuild life that is loving and free. Resist, revolt, love and freedom. ♀90877

I'M a 40-year-old Married White Male looking for a Man and Woman to share sexual adventures. I enjoy nudity and want to find people who are comfortable with themselves and open. ♀90888

KICK BACK and enjoy. In search of well-endowed receiver for oral fantasy. ♀90765

KIND, CARING, intelligent, passionate, dominant, straight Single Male, 44. I'm also sincere, discriminating and communicative. Looking to meet an honest, sincere, intelligent and submissive Woman for mutual exploration, to add some joy, excitement, delight and passion to both our lives. ♀90408

LADY WITH gentle hands, wanted to massage handsome Man's bad back. Me: stable, financially secure. There is no catch or strings attached. Do you like to dine or shop? Let's chat, possibly meet. ♀90872

LOOKING for Male, 35-55, for occasional daytime encounters in the Portland area. BIM, 40s. Let's meet soon. ♀90809

MALE LOOKING for discreet uninhibited relationship. Seeking intelligent, healthy, fun, reasonably attractive, enjoyable Female for no strings attached relationship. Healthiness and friendship a must. Enjoy oral sex and is willing to explore other things. ♀90820

MALES, MALES are the best. ISO slim, healthy, sexy Male for friendship and more. Coham, Hollis areas. Discreet. Call. ♀90686

MARRIED WM, Portland area, seeks Female to help me improve my oral skills. Wish to be a master of cunning linguistics. English degree not required. All replies answered. Thanks. ♀90539

MARRIED WM, Portland area. Wife has no interest in sex. Have fantasy to masturbate for a Woman who would find it interesting. Healthy, discreet, easygoing. Open to suggestions. Also enjoy pleasing Woman orally. Thanks. ♀90692

MARRIED WM in search of Females to join myself or my wife and I in a sexual escapade. If interested, please call. ♀90866

MASCULINE, HEALTHY and attractive recently Divorced WPM, 48, mostly submissive, available to comply with and respond to your fetishes and unusual fantasies. M or F. ♀90859

ME SEARCHING. Looking to find GM, age open. I'm 50 years old, 5'10", 215 lbs, discreet, open-minded. You: n/s, not into bar scene, share special moments. ♀90776

ME SHY, nice, hardworking, artistic, muscular WM, 31, 5'8", who is breaking out of his shell. You: fit Female, uninhibited, a bit wild, 22-30. ♀90881

NEW TO Saco...me. GWM, 39, looking for companionship with BI/GM. ♀90603

NICE-LOOKING, MASCULINE Guy, 40, 180 lbs, 6', seeks cute, younger, feminine-acting bottom for uninhibited, healthy, discreet role-playing fun. Domination and foot worship figure to play heavily in the equation. ♀90619

NICE-LOOKING, SUBMISSIVE Guy needs to be humiliated under the dirtiest sweat-soaked feet available. Grind me under your heels. Women and shemales only, please. No Men unless you're cute. ♀90703

SBM, 38, very fine, special, creative, talented, seeking heavyset Woman, race open. W/F most welcome, for spanking, obeying, oral and much more. Must be open, aware and ready for discipline, fun, romantic fun times. Talking and acting naughty a plus. ♀90584

SEEKING BIMALE, Female Couple, 30-45, for friendship and more. You be open-minded, sincere, attractive, good shape. Me: GM, 38, 6', 190 lbs, good-looking, healthy, professional. Looking to explore my curiosity with an adventurous, understanding Couple. Let's talk. ♀90887

SEEKING COUPLE! Attractive, easy-going, very fit straight SWM, 35, interested in meeting attractive, fit, happy Couple, for excellent, sexual adventures. I am very professional and super healthy. You be also. ♀90723

SEEKING HEALTHY, sexy Couple for erotic play. My wife is 5'7", 120 lbs, I love showing her off. If your wife is same or she just wants to watch, looking to play some games. Into voyeurism and exhibitionism. Limits imposed, respected. ♀90885

SEXY, CLASSY, attractive Cross-dresser seeking straight Male, Single or Married, for long-term, part-time, discreet relationship. I am healthy, n/drugs and sane, so you must be, too! I prefer college-educated, attractive, white-collar Men. I have pics. ♀90843

SPARE THE rod, spoil the lover! 43-year-old Male, seeking dominant Male or Female, 30-55, who believes in spanking, padding and strapping. ♀90891

SUBMISSIVE WM, 45, seeking strong-willed WF, 18-50, for over the knee correction. ♀90888

SWM LOOKING for Couples or SF to have adult fun and go rude with. Will answer all ads. Thank you. ♀90777

TEN POUND tongue looking for fun, Lickety split, I'll give you a licking good time, so if you would like a Guy who likes to eat out, then give me a call. ♀90884

VERY DOMINANT, strict Black Male, 40, sensitive, handsome, well-groomed, well-known, for real, creative, desperately seeking plump and heavyset Women as well as others. Also seeking Couples. Closes Black/White/interacial, for fulfillment of fantasy of yours and mine. Adult fun and much more. ♀90857

VERY RESPONSIVE, cooperative, somewhat submissive DWPW, healthy, attractive, 48, 6', 200 lbs, not orally reciprocal. Available to totally healthy, aggressive, very oral Male, preferably older. Your unusual fantasies, voyeurism, from rear spankings, being watched by other W/F all ok. ♀90797

WANTED: DADDY bear. GWM, 32, 6'2", black hair, brown eyes. Seeking other GWM, 40-50, for an honest relationship. Hobbies include: swimming, working out at the gym, outdoor activities. Seeking someone similar for possible relationship and someone to share good times with. ♀90002

WBIM, 5'7", red/blue, ISO W/B, Gay Couple, for threesome encounters. Drug-free and healthy, age unimportant, discreet a must, no heavies. Southern ME, Portland area. ♀90849

YOU ARE in charge. Married Man, 43, tall, lean, flexible work schedule, seeks secure Lady with desire to be in control of occasional erotic daytime encounters. You say what, when, where, I can be there. ♀90892

YOUNG CROSS-DRESSER seeking one who loves sexy outfits, heels, hosiery. Slim, young, discreet. ♀90751

BIF, 5'11", 120 lbs, looking for Bi or GF for one-night stand. No strings attached. I'm very discreet and will answer all replies. ♀90757

I AM 26 years old, 5'7", 130 lbs, green eyes, blonde. I am looking for another Woman to watch and tape my fiance and I and see where that takes us. She must be attractive, fit and a little naughty! ♀90815

I'M a bi-curious, 32-year-old, hot beauty with incredible sex appeal, so I'm told. I am a large-breasted beautiful Woman with a hot Man wanting to help me fulfill my fantasies. Me, he and you? Serious replies only. ♀90871

I'M an erotic, adventurous, sensual and occasionally naughty, 32-year-old Married Bif seeking a fun, uninhibited sexual relationship and friendship with the possibility of husband joining at a later time. Professional, 5'5", 150 lbs, who enjoys reading, exercise, hot tub. ♀90889

women seeking

PETITE DWF, 27, Cumberland area, looking for SWM, 27-40, to be a friend for now. Maybe go out to eat, take walks, enjoy the outdoors. ♀90886

SENSITIVE, SENSUOUS, successful Woman, 41, seeking submissive, sexy playmate, M or F. Write and tell me what you like. ♀90884

SEXY, EROTIC BWM, 27, artist and musician. Seeking Bif, 19-38, for immensely pleasurable encounters with my boyfriend and I. ♀90864

SEXY, WILD, adventurous 27-year-old seeks adventurous Female for my first bisexual experience with possibility of husband joining. We are both very good and desire an uninhibited "friend". Serious inquiries only and all will be responded to. ♀90802

SPANISH EYES, provocative, pre-op Hispanic transsexual, n/s, n/d, enjoys dinners, movies, dancing. Seeks serious inquiries only, for long-term relationship. ♀90463

SWFP, ATTRACTIVE, full-figured, bi-curious, 40s, seeking Bif for long-term friendship, passion and more. Size not important, being open to explore all possibilities and discretion is. If this sounds like what you're looking for in your life, leave a message. ♀90841

WOMAN'S TOUCH. Single Bi-curious Female, early 30s, n/s, looking for n/s Female, 21-40, race open, to share first-time experience with. For friendship, possibly more. No Couples. ♀90774

MAGAZINE GLAMOUR Boy. We too feel sexy, 30-ish, slim, fit, no touch, tease, talk, tea. Ladies and Couples, parties, enjoy a Man in lace. Me: body. You: brain. Have fun! Call! ♀90779

MARRIED WHITE Couple, 40s, fit, attractive, straight, seeking younger WM for threesome. She's 5'7", great body, likes to be admired in lingerie and heels. Live your fantasy. ♀90574

MARRIED WHITE Couple looking for Single, dominant BIM. ♀90855

MARRIED WHITE COUPLE, she: 42, he: 37, seek well-endowed BM for fun times. ♀90876

TRAVELING BUSINESS Woman. Married WF, 22, 5'10", 120 lbs, beautiful hair and eyes, seek what husband can't give me. Attractive, fit Couple or SF, 21-55, for candlelight dinners. Must be discreet. n/y. ♀90845

ADVENTUROUS, ATTRACTIVE White Couple seeks straight Bif for fun and fantasy. He: 5'11", 165 lbs, well-built, well-endowed. She: 5'12, 125 lbs, red-head, very petite. Light drinkers/smokers ok. Let's party and get to know each other and get it on. All calls answered. ♀90868

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