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30 MARCH 2000

Casco Bay Weekly

MARCH 30, 2000 • VOL XII, NO 13
GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION • FREE
www.cascobayweekly.com

SKATING on thin ICE

*Is Portland big enough
to keep the
Pirates?*

*David Tyler's
story starts
on page 8*

INSIDE

GOP RUNS LOSERS • page 5

TEENS IN THE OLD PORT — UNDER ATTACK AGAIN • page 6

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ILLUSTRATION: JOSH McDOUGALL

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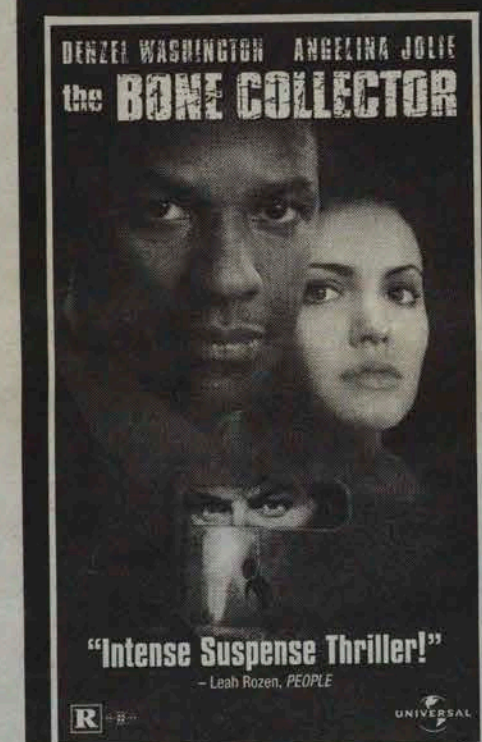
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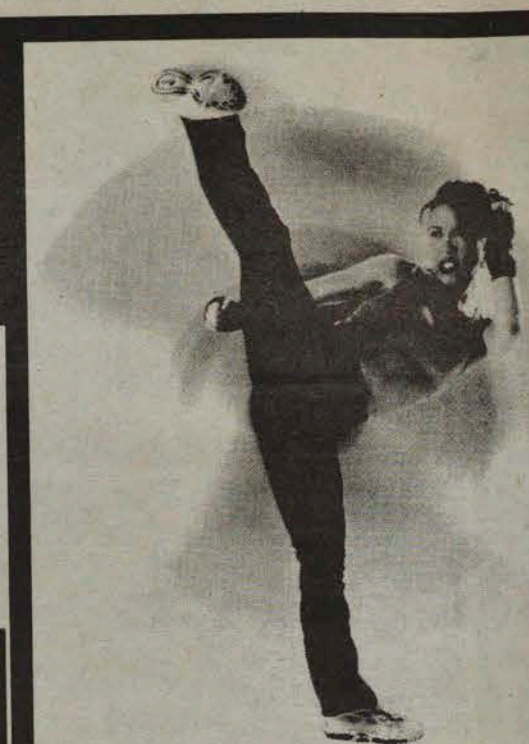
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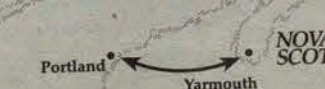
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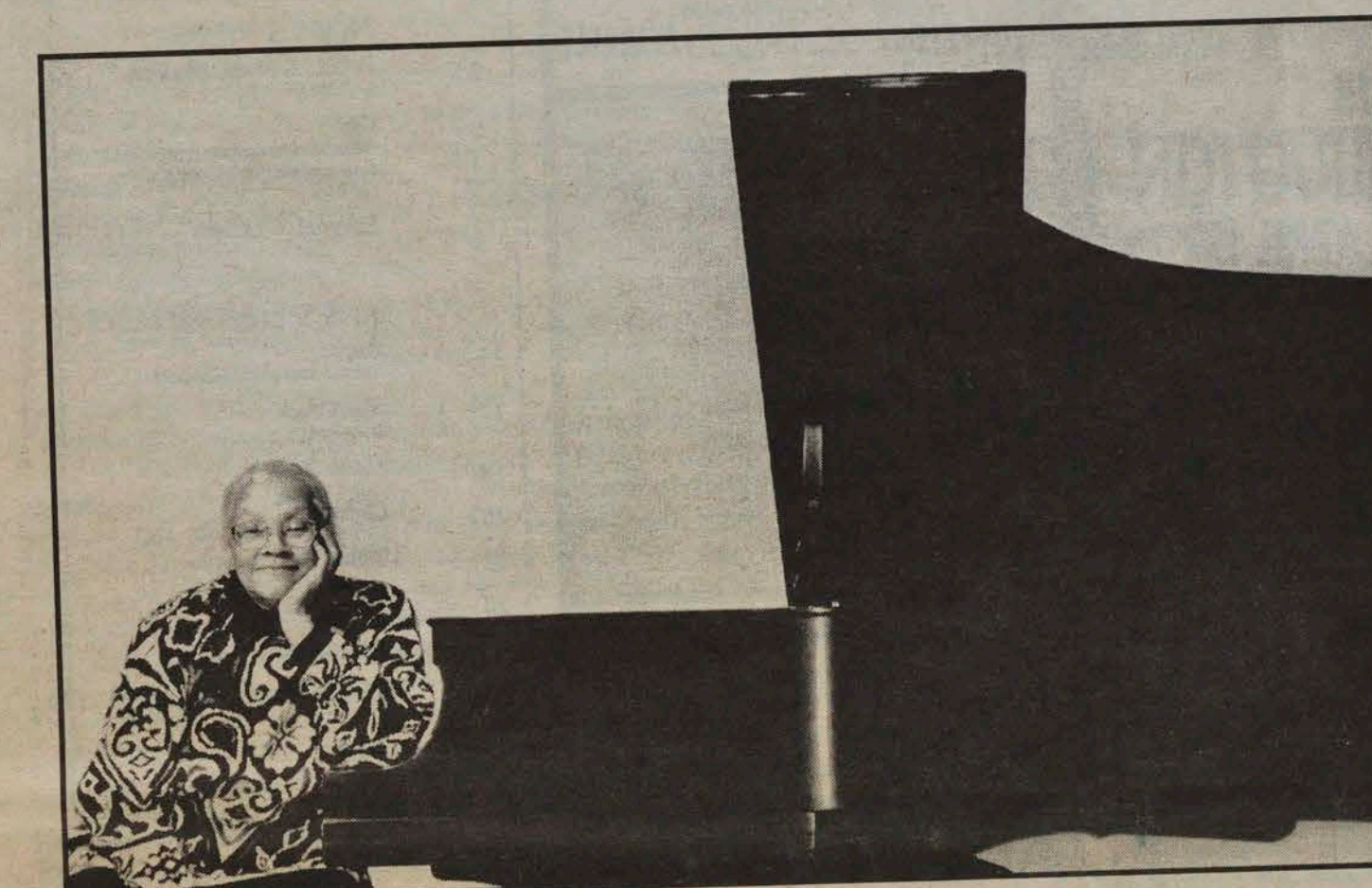
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TALK A CONVERSATION WITH **JACQUELINE GOURDIN**



Jacqueline Gourdin, 64, moved to Portland a year ago from Boston. She teaches piano at the Portland Conservatory of Music and at the Waynflete School and also gives private lessons. She is a chamber music ensemble accompanist and prefers to play with "four hands on the piano."

When I walk by the conservatory there's a big glass window and piano and I was just curious, do you teach in that room?

No, my room is in the back. I would be nervous in the window. I'm a little bit self-conscious. Now the guitar teacher sits there, he loves that room.

How do you get kids to practice?
By not forcing.

What do you learn from your students?
How to teach. You teach what you have to learn. My people teach me and of course my whole life is experience. I started when I was 4 1/2. I didn't have phenomenal teachers at the beginning, but it's all that I have ever done. I don't know anything else.

I can't thank the people of Maine enough. Because I'm an outsider. Maine people have an attitude of hard work and I love that. That turns me on because I work. They're supportive. I didn't receive any of that in Massachusetts. And I lived in Massachusetts my whole life.

When I walk by the conservatory there's a big glass window and piano and I was just curious, do you teach in that room?

No, my room is in the back. I would be nervous in the window. I'm a little bit self-conscious. Now the guitar teacher sits there, he loves that room.

How do you think your students feel about you?
What do you think they say about you?

'Jackie's funny, Mom!' That's because I can laugh and cut the fool with them and make funny jokes. I can do a little dance in the middle of the floor. I don't think their critique of me as a pianist right now is the most important thing. They know that I'm very physical, very emotional, very alive and I laugh a lot, but I don't think they're at the stage yet when they say, 'My God, this lady has such incredible technique.' They just know what strikes them. I think they like me.

I did have one little boy that attacked me. That was cool. I corrected him and he didn't want me to be correct, so he gave me the elbow. His mother was furious. And it was OK, he

"Each child for me is a person that is an individual, and I like them to know that. Because I'm special to that child, I'm an added unit to their life."

doesn't like to be told. Now that tells me something about what's going on with that child.

Are you ever in the situation where a student will come in and you know they haven't practiced?

Oh yes. All the time. Because I don't follow specific guidelines, I usually let the moment bring me to that one sentence, 'I rest my case.' And then I usually say to them, 'Look if you haven't practiced, that's not the end of the world. What is better is if you come in the door and say, 'This much I have done.' And for that I'll give you a big fat kiss, because at least you've done something. Without making them feel bad that they haven't done it.

'That I don't want you to keep this up just because I'm not coming down on you. I want you to understand that it's you that's going to suffer for this. I know how to do it. Do you want to do it or don't you?'

Interview by Elisabeth Gold; photo by John Monroe

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The process

The first thing you need to know about the political process is there's no such thing. Politics is not a process, such as toilet training or seduction. It's best described as a series of random events culminating in extreme unpleasantness. Sort of like evolution or the National Hockey League.

Even so, politicians don't like to think of themselves as aimless bits of protoplasm sloshing around in the intestine of some rude beast slouching toward Augusta to be born. In spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, they prefer to believe they're in control of the situation.

But when things go wrong — and in politics, they almost always do — there's very little individual pols can do. So they whine to any poor sap who'll listen.

In Maine, the current level of the whining from House Republicans has reached such a pitch that dogs have to be restrained to prevent them from running away to attend GOP caucuses. The cause of all this keening and wailing can be traced to the number of candidates the party was able to recruit to run for state representative in November.

Those who insist on believing in the political process contend the more names a party puts on the ballot, the better that party's chances of winning a legislative majority. Since Republicans were able to find candidates for only 126 of the 151 House seats this year (including a candidate whose petition included the signature of at least one dead person, a matter now under investigation by the attorney general), it stands to reason the GOP is screwed.

Except reason has nothing to do with it. Consider 1982, when Republicans left 33 seats in the House unchallenged. They won only 59 races in the November election. But in 1984, candidate recruitment was even worse: 42 seats went begging. Inexplicably, the GOP increased its number of winners to 65. Giddy with success, the party worked hard in 1986 and found somebody to run for all but 11 House seats. Instead of gaining ground, Republicans lost two seats. The next election, the GOP conceded a mere 10 races. It elected just 54 representatives — its worst showing since the Civil War.

It appears the number of candidates has almost nothing to do with the number of winners. If that's so, Republicans' lack of success may result not from a problem with quantity, but quality. Or possibly a shortage of common sense. In areas dominated by liberals, the GOP has traditionally run conservatives. In conservative places, the party has fielded moderates. In towns where most voters seem reasonably sane, Republicans put crazy people on the ballot. And in races in which the GOP has a decent shot at winning, the party standard is all too often carried by folks with the words "Born to Lose" tattooed across their foreheads.

For the better part of three decades, House Republicans have concerned themselves with the process of filling slots on the ballot with warm bodies — or, if necessary, fresh cadavers. So long as that process continues — and an early inspection of the candidates dredged up for 2000 shows no significant change — the GOP will continue to end up as processed meat.

Song has ended, but the melody lingers

With the imminent repeal of the so-called snack tax — the sales tax on doughnuts, pretzels and other munchies — many people believe all the "temporary" tax hikes pushed through during the 1991 state budget crisis will finally have been eliminated.

Not quite.

As Scott Fish, editor of the conservative Web site "As Maine Goes," pointed out in a recent e-mail, the original package of budget-balancing measures developed by Republican Gov. John McKernan and the Democrat-controlled Legislature featured the snack tax, an increase in the sales tax and a surcharge on the corporate income tax — all of which are either gone or going soon. But it also included an increase in the gas tax, a surcharge on the individual income tax and a hike in the tax on meals, lodging and drinks. Those items are still on the books and still generating big bucks (one estimate is more than \$1 billion since '91) for the state's surplus-heavy coffers.



Referendum, anyone?

Otherside

Major news organizations that, as of March 19, have mentioned U.S. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine as a possible Republican vice presidential candidate, thereby prompting Maine media outlets to churn out stories about those stories: ABC, *Boston Herald*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*.

Major news organizations that did stories on the veep selection without mentioning Snowe, thereby inexplicably failing to inspire a single story in the Maine media: *Baltimore Sun*, *Boston Globe*, CBS, CNN, Fox, *Los Angeles Times*, NBC, *New York Times*, NPR, *Washington Post*.

So who cares what big media have to say, anyway? Get your opinion in the mini-media by e-mailing ishmaelia@gwi.net or writing CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Use small words, please.

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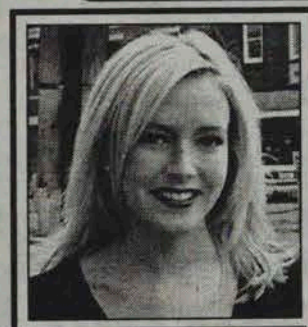


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-INTRODUCES-



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Marty Clark

Marty has been a well known master stylist in the Old Port for years. Marty has advanced training from Toni & Guy along with Vidal Sassoon Academy in London. He was also Mr. Sexy Legs Aruba in 1999.

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GREGORY:
There are times I wish
you could see me.

BOBBY:
I see you, Gregory.



Photo: Leon Konyanovskiy

GREGORY:
See me looking at you.
The love there. I'm not—

BOBBY:
I know.

FLAMING PRODUCTIONS

What the University of Southern Maine really needs to become a first-rate institution of higher education is not more full-time professors or upgraded laboratories or an expanded library. If USM wants to play in the big leagues, it needs what every major college already has — a football team. Because, let's face it, even really stupid people can play football, and it's lots easier to recruit the terminally dim than it is to convince smart people to skip the full scholarship to Harvard and attend school close to home. At least, that's what we figure must be behind USM president Richard (Don't Call Me Dick) Patten's recent decision to send out a survey asking faculty and students if they think starting a team would be a good idea. Of course, USM has no football facilities and no money to build them, but what the hell, some rah-rah alumni types will take care of that. Or maybe the school can shift even more classes to cheap contract instructors to save a few bucks. Because if USM is going to attract quality players, it will need some really easy courses to keep those guys eligible.

The Gulf of Maine Aquarium, the non-existent, \$42 million tourist trap and "research facility" proposed for the Portland waterfront, is on a collision course with the Portland City Council. Councilor Karen Geraghty sent the aquarium's president a letter recently warning him she would oppose locating the aquarium on the U.S. Naval Reserve base next to the city's fish pier. Geraghty said that area should be reserved for expansion of the working waterfront. But the president of the oversized fish tank, Donald Perkins Jr., said he's committed to the Naval Reserve site. Which sets up a showdown. Unless the council approves a zoning change, the aquarium can't be built on the waterfront. Perkins couldn't be reached to find out whether he'd consider starting a college football team if the fish thing doesn't work out.

Cheverus High School in Portland has apologized to victims of sexual abuse at the hands of former track coach **Charles Malia** and is removing Malia's name from the Catholic school's track facility. Meanwhile Portland police say they've been unable to find any recent victims of Malia's, making it unlikely he'll be prosecuted. All the former students who've come forward to accuse Malia of abuse were molested so long ago the statute of limitations on the charges has expired.

Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood has fired Antonio Ridge, the **911 operator** who failed to act on a phone call reporting what turned out to be the brutal rape of a woman in Deering Oaks on March 13. The union representing Ridge, who also works as a part-time dispatcher in Yarmouth, blamed the lack of training for operators for the problem. **CBW**

news- o-rama

CITY

Here we go again

Portland's Old Port merchants engage in their annual angst over teenagers loitering outside their stores



Loitering redux: This time, Old Port merchants want more cops on the street. FILE PHOTO / JOE DUPONT

CONNIE PACILLO

Love the sinner, hate the sin. That's the new party line from Portland's Old Port merchants, who say they're happy to have young people wandering through the area, but they're upset about the bad behavior of some of the teenagers who hang out on the sidewalks in front of their shops. Unlike past years, though, the store owners aren't demanding the city pass unconstitutional anti-loitering ordinances. This time around, they just want city officials to put more police on foot patrol in the Old Port.

John Doyon, the chair of Portland's Downtown District's public safety committee, said teens, the homeless, panhandlers and other undesirables who loiter in the Old Port are a perennial warm weather problem. The most recent altercation between shopkeepers and street people occurred in August 1999 after business owners, along with City Councilor Jack Dawson, failed to get support from other municipal leaders in their quest to draft a tighter anti-loitering ordinance ("More hang-ups over hanging out," 8.5.99).

Doyon said loitering is again becoming an issue. In a March 10 letter to Dawson, chair of the City Council's public safety committee, he noted that his office has already received several complaints dealing with spitting, throwing objects at pedestrians from apartment windows, groups of teens blocking sidewalks, soliciting passersby for sex, taunting shop owners with sexually explicit remarks and drug dealing.

It's that "level of inappropriate behavior," Doyon wrote, "that jeopardize some residents

and tourists willingness to return to our downtown."

Though his letter stopped short of blaming a specific age group, it's clear the large number of young people who hang out in the Old Port on weekends and after school are once again being targeted as bad for business.

According to Doyon, merchants don't want to clamp down on all young people, just those who act rude and disrespectful and intimidate customers. "A large group standing and talking is fine," he said, "but I don't think it's right when someone doesn't feel safe bringing their family down to the Old Port, or when tourists might not choose to return or when women complain they're being harassed."

But in a tough budget year, municipal leaders may be reluctant to spend money on loitering. Dawson said he's willing to listen to the merchants' concerns, but doubts there'll be extra money for more cops. He also said he'd like to hear what teens have to say. "If there is a group like last year's Undesirables, maybe I need to meet with them," Dawson said.

The Undesirables were an informal group of teens who hung out in the Old Port and frequently protested city actions to force them to leave the area.

City Manager Bob Ganley said the Old Port is already getting more cops. During past summers, 10 to 15 officers worked the district every weekend. This year, Ganley said, three officers currently assigned to the city's schools will be assigned that beat.

Ganley said the solution to Old Port problems lies not in more "strong-arm tactics," but

in establishing and maintaining "the boundaries of behavior" by dealing with activities that are already illegal.

Many Old Port merchants aren't convinced more cops in June will make much difference. They say they need more police right away.

Cory Morrissey, who owns Java Joe's on Exchange Street, said it's unfortunate a handful of kids is making it tougher for the majority of young people who hang out in the Old Port. Morrissey, whose coffeehouse caters to an eclectic crowd including many who loiter, said complaining about the disrespectful few is tough. "If I say some of the kids are ruining my business, I'm [considered] a capitalist who thinks only of money, money, money," he said.

Morrissey said business owners and young people have to find a peaceful way to co-exist. He's hired loiterers to work in his shop, but noted that each year the group of teens hanging out experiences considerable turnover. It's often the newcomers who resurrect the old problems. That's why he thinks having a strong police presence in the area is the only way to keep conflicts from recurring.

Ted Ney, president of the Old Port Retailers and Restaurant Association, said contrary to what many believe, the district's business owners don't want to "sanitize" the area of young people. Ney, who owns Gallery 7 on Exchange Street, said teens are the people who keep things fresh and interesting for tourists. "Most of the kids down here are great," he said. "I love to see them come in my store." But Ney said some merchants are afraid to complain publicly about the small contingent of troublemakers who make it difficult to conduct business.

"I'm glad that they've focused on the behavior," City Councilor Jim Cloutier said, "as opposed to getting back to the old contention, which was considerably against youth ... which, frankly, I don't support."

Cloutier, who is a member of the council's public safety committee, said many of the complaints noted in Doyon's letter concern illegal activities, and that police should be notified when offenses occur. While he doesn't support spending money on additional officers, he said he'd work with merchants to find "sound, reasonable solutions so that everybody can co-exist."

Megan Dickinson, a 16-year-old Portland High School student who hangs out in the Old Port, admitted some young people have had run-ins with merchants, but said the majority of kids behave. "It's not a problem," Dickinson said. "They blow a lot of things out of hand because they do have businesses down there, and all their money comes from

that, and I understand that."

Instead of putting more cops on the street, Dickinson said the city should make good on its promise to create a youth advisory committee. She said she would welcome the chance to participate and believes it could be the first step in forging a peace between Old Port merchants and young people.

"[To] have a few of the responsible ones down here on [the committee] that hang out down here a lot and know how things work down here," she said, "that would definitely be mint. That would be dope, because we could at least feel like we had some voice."

Tristan Sleeper, a 16-year-old Deering High School student, said part of what makes the Old Port interesting for shoppers is the diversity of people they see, especially teenagers. While he respects merchants, they also need to respect the vitality that young people bring to the trendy shopping area, he said.

"Last year merchants said we were just a bunch of punks that didn't do anything but cause trouble and make a mess down here," Sleeper said. "That isn't true. Kids are pretty much the life down here, and that's all there is to it."

Sean Parrott-Wolfe, a 16-year-old Portland High student, said merchants and shoppers often assume all young people are bad simply because they look different. "I get a lot of that," said Parrott-Wolfe, who has spiked hair and several piercings, "but I just deal with it."

Dickinson said the answer to conflicts in the Old Port could be simple and cost-effective. "If everybody would just chill out," she said, "we would too."

The City Council's public safety committee will meet April 5 to discuss the merchants' concerns.

PORTLAND ELECTIONS

Hit the snooze button Few candidates on municipal ballot

If you're looking for excitement, steer clear of Portland's May 2 election. The three candidates making bids for the three seats on the City Council are all unopposed. The only candidate running for a seat on the Portland Water District board of trustees is also without a competitor. And one of the three School Committee seats is uncontested.

Assuming the signatures candidates turned in on nominating petitions on March 28 are valid, the only races that might wake voters from their stupor are the three-way fight for the school board seat representing Munjoy Hill, the Old Port and the islands, which is being vacated by committee member Bill Barron and the two-way battle for retiring School Committee chair Sue Clark's at-large seat.

Incumbent City Councilor Karen Geraghty will almost certainly hold onto her seat representing the West End and Parkside. In her first term, Geraghty tried unsuccessfully to overturn the results of last May's election by urging her fellow councilors to count blank ballots. Though residents were initially irate, the fact Geraghty is unopposed indicates either apathy or short attention spans.

Councilor Nick Mavodones is also unop-

posed for an at-large seat. Mavodones is known for his mild-mannered, middle-of-the-road stances on most issues.

Peter O'Donnell, a former Portland mayor and the regional director for the state Bureau of Mental Health, also appears assured of a May win. O'Donnell will replace outgoing Councilor George Campbell for the seat that represents Portland's East End, Old Port and islands. O'Donnell has promised to push for a youth advisory council, and also wants to work on affordable housing issues and making non-profits like Maine Medical Center pay service fees.

As for the School Committee, incumbent member Herb Adams, who represents the West End and Parkside, is unopposed for a second term.

Vying for the committee seat that represents Munjoy Hill, the Old Port and the islands are Otis Thompson of Peaks Island, Ben Meiklejohn of Exchange Street and Robert Griffin of Munjoy South.

Thompson is a retired educator who said he'd like to negotiate a truce between educators and taxpayers during the city's budget process, while simultaneously providing enough funds to provide "optimum programs for our children."

Meiklejohn is a Green Independent Party activist, who works with various youth groups. "I have a lot of experience in lobbying the Legislature for education," he said. Griffin could not be reached for comment.

In the race for the at-large seat, Joseph McAllan of Park Street is taking on Jonathan Radtke of Monument Street. Neither could be reached for comment.

Donald McElhinny, the only water district hopeful, did not return repeated phone calls seeking comment.

CONNIE PACILLO

loose change

CBW staffers can't seem to remember their anniversaries, Social Security numbers or PINs, but they did manage to jot down these figures in hopes they'd work in the nearest ATM.

Number of states that levy a tax on food, according to supporters of repealing Maine's "snack tax": almost none
Actual number of states that tax food: 22

Amount spent per elementary school pupil by municipalities:

Wiscasset (the state's highest spender): \$6,280

Portland (the state's seventh-highest spender): \$5,539

state average: \$4,276

Whitefield (the state's lowest spender): \$3,111

Percentage of education spending paid for by the state:

Wiscasset: 29.1

Portland: 37.4

Whitefield: 64.4

"The age of chivalry is gone," wrote Edmund Burke. "That of sophisters, economists and calculators has succeeded; and the glory of Europe is extinguished for ever." Sophisters may send items for this column to CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Economists can e-mail editor1@maine.com.

SEEDS OF PEACE: Cultivating Non-Violence

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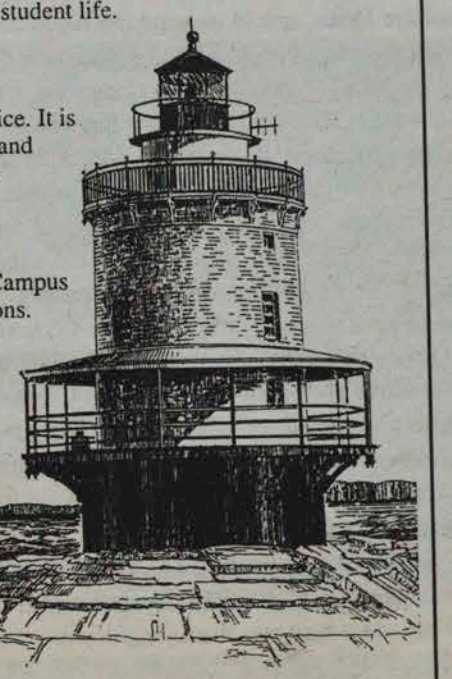
12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Arrival and Registration, Main Lounge, Campus Center
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1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
We welcome you to SMTC with a brief overview of admissions procedures and requirements, financial aid and student life.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
This is the time to visit the technology/departments of your choice. It is a great opportunity to meet faculty and students, ask questions and tour the department.

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
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SKATING on thin ICE

IS PORTLAND BIG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE PIRATES?

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/JOSH McDUGALL

DAVID TYLER

It's intermission time at a Saturday afternoon Portland Pirates game, but that doesn't mean the action on the ice stops. It just gets weird.

For serious fans it's been an entertaining, if sloppily played, American Hockey League (AHL) game between the Pirates and the Kentucky Thoroughblades at the Cumberland County Civic Center. But mere sport isn't enough to attract a crowd to a minor league game these days. The less-than-fanatical fans demand constant entertainment. So onto the ice rides a tiny Italian car from the 1950s, one of its windows rolled down a crack. At a cue from the announcer, people all around the arena stand and pelt the car with hundreds of lightweight, foam-rubber pucks. The ice is soon covered with the bouncing orange and black objects. The pucks are sold before intermission for \$1 each, and any fan who gets one through the car window wins \$250.

This promotion, called Chuck-a-Puck, is just one of many the Pirates' staff has to keep coming up with in order to fill seats with people with only a marginal interest in hockey. Because without those people the Pirates are out of business. Or, more likely, out of Portland.

"We need the entire package to be more than just hockey. It has to be an entertainment experience," said Pirates president Jeff Eisenberg. "We have to expand beyond our core market. We have to have reasons for other people to come."

Getting those casual fans into civic center seats is a major challenge for the team. "This town is not a true sports town," said Steve Crane, the center's general manager. "Portland is a very diverse area, and people have a lot of diverse interests. They have a lot of choices When attendance is good, it's because of the attendance of people who are not everyday hockey-goers."

After its 1998-99 season, the worst ever for the 7-year-old franchise, the Pirates know who their die-hard fans are. The team won only 23 games and lost 50. Not surprisingly, attendance for the 40 home games hit a record low: 171,414, or an average of just 4,300 people per game in an arena that holds 6,746 fans.

That was a long way from the glorious season of 1993-94, the Pirates' first year in Portland.

The team won the Calder Cup, the AHL championship, and fans flocked through the civic center's turnstiles.

This season, the team made a dramatic turnaround — on the ice. The improvement at the ticket window was somewhat less dramatic. The Pirates are in contention to finish with the best record in the league and have already clinched a play-off spot. But attendance is up just 10 percent from last year, and as of March 25, with only two home games left, Portland is 13th in a 19-team league in attendance. Still, there are some encouraging signs: In each of the last 20 home games, an average of about 5,200 fans have shown up.

Nevertheless, the Pirates' future in Portland is in question. The team plays in a small, outdated arena in one of the AHL's smallest markets. Even if it can overcome those handicaps, it's unclear how long the Pirates' principal owners, David, Laurie and Richard Fisher, will continue to back a franchise that has lost money in the six previous seasons.

Welcome to the small time

Portland has had minor league hockey since 1977, when the city's first AHL franchise, the Maine Mariners, won the Calder Cup in its first season. In four of the Mariners' first six seasons, the team drew over 200,000 fans, leading the league in atten-

dance.

In the Pirates' first Calder Cup-winning year, the franchise drew almost 235,000 fans. The team did even better in the following season, 1994-95, setting a franchise attendance record of 258,885, an average of 6,472 fans per game.

The Pirates don't need to return to that level of glory in order to break even, but the team needs to draw a lot better than 4,300 fans a game. That's because the cost of running an AHL franchise is increasing rapidly.

The AHL is the elite of the dozen minor hockey leagues in Canada and the United States that develop young players for the National Hockey League (NHL). About half the AHL teams are owned outright by NHL teams, with the rest owned by independent investors. Parent teams pay for players and coaches, but retain the right to pull them up to the big league at any time, thereby depriving the AHL affiliate of its star attractions. The Pirates, while independently owned, have an affiliation agreement with NHL's Washington Capitals, a deal that's good for the next two seasons.

The management of an AHL team only controls marketing, promotions, ticket sales and what arena the team plays in. But the economics of the American Hockey League are changing. Teams are more expensive to run, with costs having doubled in the last 20 years, according to Ed Anderson, co-owner of the Providence Bruins, a franchise he shifted out of Portland when attendance shriveled. The cost of running an AHL team is now about \$3 million annually, Anderson said.

Over the past five years, the AHL has been expanding into larger markets, sometimes at the expense of smaller cities. Fredericton, New Brunswick, lost its franchise when its parent team, the Montreal Canadiens, moved it to Quebec City in 1999. Other big cities that have picked up AHL franchises are Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Hartford, Conn., and Louisville, Ky. Although teams have also been started in small markets, such as Lowell, Mass., that franchise is second to last in the league in attendance.

By including all of Androskoggin, Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York counties in its fan base, the Portland Pirates estimate the team's market at 546,500 people. Even that generously drawn base means the Pirates have the league's fifth-smallest market, according to figures from the AHL.

"It's a tough business, it's a tough business everywhere," said

Godfrey Wood, former president of the Pirates from 1993 to 1996. After he left the team, Wood worked with the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins organization, helping to locate an AHL team in Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pa.

Ed Anderson moved the Maine Mariners from Portland to Providence because he was losing money and was seeking a bigger market with a bigger arena. There are a million people within a 20-mile radius of Providence, he said, and the Providence Civic Center holds 11,909 fans. "In a nutshell, it was getting more and more difficult to pay our bills, and the cost of operating a franchise in the AHL continued to grow," Anderson said.

"As much as I love the Pirates, and as much as I think AHL hockey is very high-quality hockey, we may have to make the decision can the region support AHL-level hockey given today's economics in the AHL?" said Jerre Bryant, chair of a Cumberland County Civic Center Board of Trustees committee that is looking at the expansion or renovation of the building.

Officials with the Pirates are optimistic, pointing to the long tradition of hockey in Portland and the strong corporate support the team receives. "I don't think there are any questions as to whether or not Portland is large enough or whether Portland is a good enough hockey market because it's all there," said Shawn Simpson, director of hockey operations for the Washington Capitals, the Pirates' NHL affiliate.

Eisenberg said he has never seen the size of the Portland market as a problem. "We have very intense fans and a wonderful cadre of casual fans," he said. More importantly, the Pirates are well known in the region. "We have very high brand recognition in this town," he said.

Hitting bottom

Of course, brand recognition is meaningless if you have a crappy team. The 1998-99 season proved that. It was the lowest point in franchise history.

The instability began in July 1997 when Pirates principal owner Tom Ebright died. In February 1998 the Pirates announced that the team was for sale. Twice in the next few months, the sale of the team was announced. Both times the deals fell through, eroding confidence in the Pirates as a viable business.

In November 1998, a third proposed sale finally went through. Minority owner David Fisher, his wife, Laurie, and his brother, Richard, bought 65 percent of the team, with Kennebunkport businessman Chester E. Homer III picking up another 20 percent. Four other investors, including Eisenberg, bought the remaining 15 percent.

Another problem was that the Capitals shared the Pirates with the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks during that dismal season. "We had two parent teams struggling both on the ice and with injuries," said Simpson. "The instability that created in Portland was really double." Ending that two-team system and going back to a single affiliation with the Capitals has helped the Pirates this year by keeping its lineup more stable. The Capitals

hired a new coach for its minor league affiliate and resigned veteran players like captain Kent Hulst and star goalie Martin Brochu.

The success of this year's team could mean the Pirates could break even, a first for the franchise. "We've always lost money," Eisenberg said. "... We have a chance of breaking even this year. And if we make a nice play-off run, we should actually be in the black."

Don't shed too many tears for the financial losses endured by Pirates' ownership. Despite losing money, AHL owners tend to stick it out, because franchises are good long-term investments. In 1977, Anderson said he purchased the Mariners for \$125,000. Today, an AHL franchise would sell for \$3 million. "There are a limited number of teams and a limited number of markets," Wood said.

In addition to a better team that has generated more fans and more revenue, Eisenberg has reduced the Pirates' budget since he took over as president in August 1998. Compared to the team's first two years, "we are saving in the range of \$500,000 [annually] in hockey costs," he said.

Eisenberg has a solid background in team management. Before becoming Pirates president in August 1998, he worked in ticket sales and information systems for the Philadelphia Phillies from 1981 to 1991, then became vice president of ticket sales for the Milwaukee Brewers. In 1995 he joined the Buffalo Sabres as vice president of sales and marketing, then he became president of the Buffalo Blizzard soccer team.

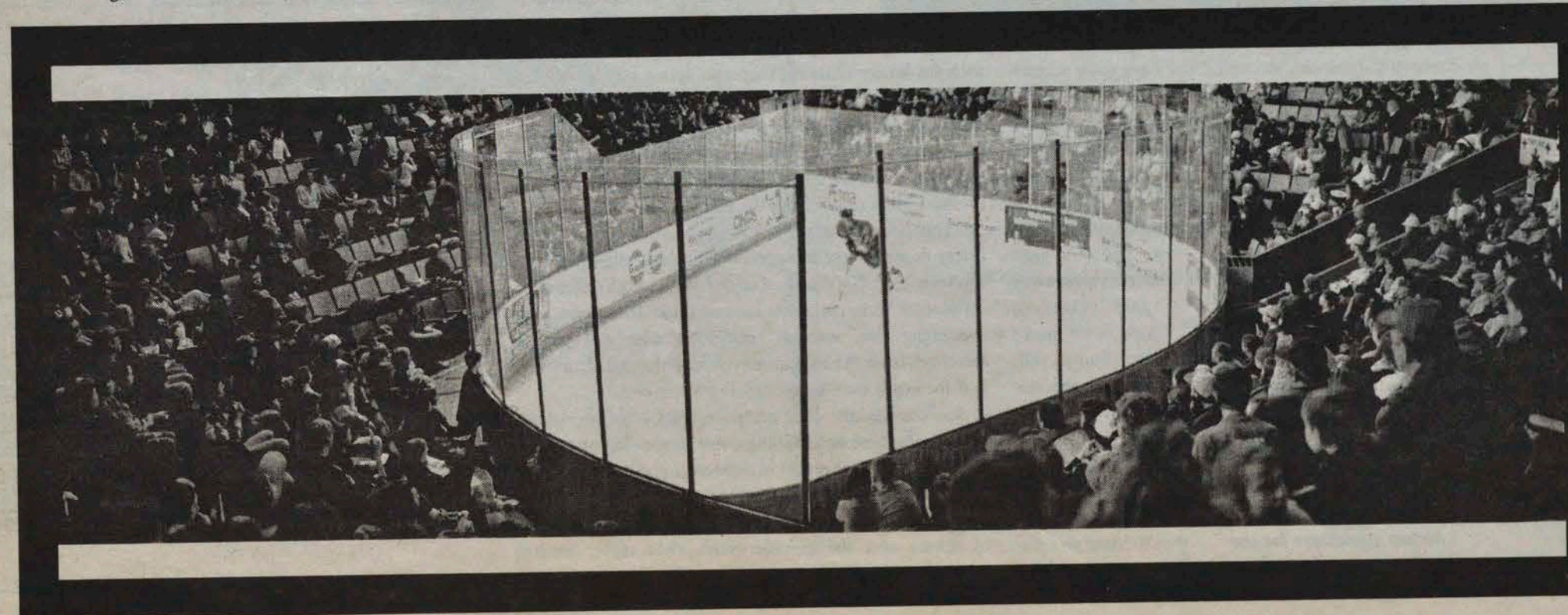
Eisenberg understands that successful marketing is key to the success of any sports franchise these days. "It goes back to the fact that there are only so many hockey fans," Eisenberg said. "The rest are looking for a fun night out."

To help make it a fun night out, Eisenberg and his staff have dreamed up promotions like an appearance by the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and Family Sundays, where a family of four receives tickets, sodas and hot dogs and a game program for a fixed price of \$36 or \$44, depending on the seat.

Sports marketing in southern Maine has been difficult. The landscape is littered with the corpses of failed teams, from baseball's Maine Guides to several minor league basketball franchises to a roller hockey team. Efforts by Anderson to bring pro soccer to the city have gone nowhere.

As Portland has flourished in the last seven years, the Pirates have gained a lot more competition when it comes to entertainment. "The minor leagues have changed so much — they have to go after the entertainment dollar," said Paul Evans, coach of the Portland High School hockey team. Evans played forward for the Mariners from 1977 until 1985. "They are competing with a lot of other things, it's not just a sports thing."

The Pirates are also competing against the NHL's Boston Bruins, since southern Maine fans can make it to the Fleet Center in less than two hours. But the cost of that road trip can work to the Pirates' advantage. "You can pay \$300 just for tickets," said Franklin Walker, a Pirates fan from Yarmouth with

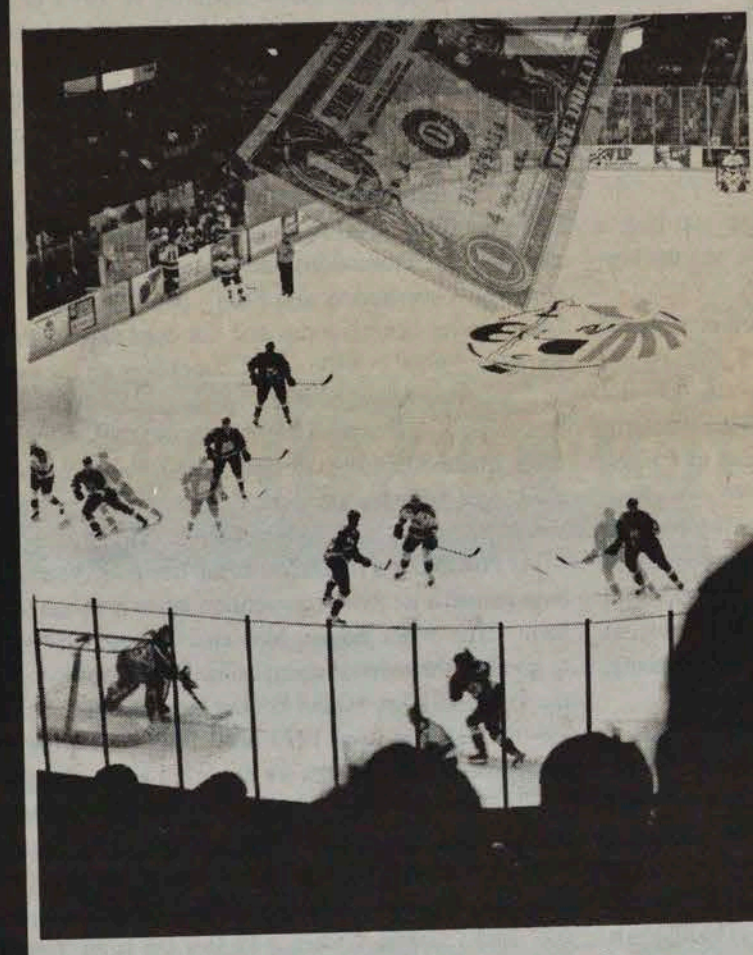


"We have a chance of breaking even this year. And if we make a nice playoff run, we should actually be in the black."

— Jeff Eisenberg, president, Portland Pirates

Eisenberg has stepped up promotions directed at kids. Players and coaches are making more appearances in schools and clubs across Maine. In February, players held two skating clinics at the civic center, spoke at middle schools in Yarmouth and Gorham about the importance of staying healthy, went to the Westbrook Lions Club and made an appearance at the Family Ice Center in Falmouth.

These are labor-intensive promotions, Eisenberg said, but those kinds of events are essential. "We are in the peo-



ple-connection business," he said. "You have to be accessible."

Another of the Pirates' promotions, student achiever night (which Eisenberg brought to the Pirates from Buffalo), is designed to be just look at the AHL that. Twice a year, it's changed. Where do you put [the Cumberland County Civic Center] compared to the rest of them? You'd put it at the bottom four or five buildings in the whole league. It's important to upgrade the facility to make it current with a lot of other franchises in the league. That's not a threat on our end — it's just a reality of business."

"You're starting to look at the AHL designed to be just look at the AHL that. Twice a year, it's changed. Where do you put [the Cumberland County Civic Center] compared to the rest of them? You'd put it at the bottom four or five buildings in the whole league. It's important to upgrade the facility to make it current with a lot of other franchises in the league. That's not a threat on our end — it's just a reality of business."

— Shawn Simpson, director of create fans — hockey operations for the Washington Capitals they'll come and discover the game," Eisenberg said.

Wood said he's been to a couple of games and is impressed with what Eisenberg is doing. "Jeff is very active in the community," Wood said. "He has made some good educational connections with the players — he's developing the younger fans again."

Fixing the civic center

Then there's the problem of the civic center. Fans seem perfectly happy with the building. Even from the highest seats, near the roof, you still feel part of the game, able to hear the players calling to each other and the sound of skates cutting into the ice.

"I do like the building," said Henry Harding of York, who attends four games a season, often with his 10-year-old son and his son's friend. "There are some nights that it's too small, but there's not a bad seat here."

But Pirates management insists the civic center is unable to handle the needs of a modern sports team. There aren't enough restrooms or concession stands. There's no restaurant in the arena. And there's no training room for the players.

Last summer, during debate over a proposed new sports arena in the Bayside neighborhood, David Fisher told the *Portland Press Herald* that he was opposed to renovating or expanding the civic center because of the limitations of the site. "It would break our collective hearts for this town not to have hockey," said Fisher. "I didn't get into this to make a killing, but financially we're not prepared to operate at a loss every year." The implication seemed clear: If the new arena didn't get built, the Pirates' future in Portland would be in jeopardy.

That's not what Pirates officials are saying now. "We have absolutely no plans to move," Eisenberg said. But that doesn't mean the team is happy with the civic center.

Many AHL franchises make their homes in arenas two or three times the size of the 23-year-old civic center. Rupp Arena, the home of the Thoroughblades, has a capacity of 21,000 people. The Hartford Civic Center, where the Hartford Wolf Pack plays, has seats for 15,700. And Portland will soon face competition from Manchester, N.H. That city is helping finance a \$70 million facility that will be home to an AHL franchise in the 2001-2002 season.

But size alone is not the problem. Those large venues offer teams additional ways to make a buck. "We need more revenue opportunities," said Eisenberg. "It's not so much an expanded building."

Eisenberg's wish list for the civic center includes luxury suites for corporate sponsors, another banquet room overlooking the ice in which to hold special events or to use to serve meals to season ticket holders, more room for concession stands, more restrooms and space for a pro shop (the Pirates store is currently located on Free Street across from the civic center).

"This revenue stream would allow us to keep our ticket prices down for the average fan," he said. Right now, the Pirates receive 60 percent of team revenue from ticket sales, 30 percent from corporate sponsors and 10 percent from everything else, such as concession sales and parties. Revenues from the last category would increase significantly if the arena were renovated, Eisenberg said.

In February, the civic center trustees hired an Atlanta engineering company to study either renovating or expanding the arena. That report is expected to be made public in May, according to Jerre Bryant.

The options won't be cheap. In April 1999, in the midst of debate over the Bayside arena, civic center trustees rejected a \$23.4 million expansion plan that would have added 2,000 seats. A \$15.8 million renovation plan to

improve locker rooms and add a sports bar, a food court, meeting rooms and more restrooms was also turned down.

"If everyone had their druthers, we would renovate and expand the civic center," said Bryant of the trustees. "But the logistics of that and, more importantly, the cost of that, may temper our desire somewhat."

Bryant said he would be reluctant to recommend an expensive upgrade simply to accommodate the Pirates. "I'm not going to go out and authorize any significant expenditure of public dollars purely to benefit one business," he said. For example, Bryant said luxury boxes are not on the top of his priority list, unless it makes financial sense for Cumberland County, which owns the civic center, to put them in.

What if, after all the studies and more debate, Cumberland County decides not to renovate or expand the civic center?

"We don't think that way — we think positive," Eisenberg said.

But with the changing economics of the AHL, one wonders if the Pirates will continue to be financially viable playing in the civic center.

Shawn Simpson said the Capitals want to continue the team's relationship with Portland for the next 20 years. But failing to renovate the arena could cause problems.

"We look at Portland as one of the premier cities in the American Hockey League," Simpson said. "Speaking only as an outsider, you'd say, why would they not want one of the premier buildings in the league at the same time? You're starting to look at the AHL and how much it's changed. Where do you put Portland's building compared to the rest of them? You'd put it at the bottom four or five buildings in the whole league. It's important to upgrade the facility to make it current with a lot of other franchises in the league. That's not a threat on our end — it's just a reality of business."

Does Portland need the Pirates?

Threat or not, if the Pirates leave, it might not be the end of hockey in Portland.

"If we don't have a bigger arena, we may end up with a lower-level [team], like in baseball," said Portland City Manager Bob Ganley.

It's not clear what economic impact the Pirates have on Portland. A study conducted in 1993 by the Small Business Institute at the University of Southern Maine found the average Pirates fan spends \$16.59 per game in the Portland area above the cost of the ticket. So in a season when the Pirates draw 200,000 fans (which last happened in the 1997-98 season), about \$3.3 million in spin-off revenue is generated by hockey fans.

Matt Wolf, assistant manager at Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, located near the civic center, said business has been better this year on game nights. He said the team is important to the restaurant's business. "In the off-season, we see a big drop-off," he said.

But some city leaders say the Pirates are more important than just the money the franchise attracts. They say the team is part of Portland's image as a prosperous place to live and work. "Hockey and the Pirates are important to this region," said Portland City Councilor George Campbell, a civic center trustee.

"It's part of the fabric of the community," Wood said. "It just can be a wonderful experience for a whole variety of people. You don't have to be a hockey fanatic to enjoy going to a Pirates game."

"It would be a big loss for Portland," said Walker, the fan from Yarmouth, of the possibility the team might move. But not everyone who goes to games feels as strongly. Bill Soucy, of Lewiston, who came to a recent game with his wife and two young children, shrugged off the possibility. "It would be too bad," Soucy said, "but it's not the end of the world."

David Tyler is CBW's editor. He can be e-mailed at editor1@maine.rr.com.

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COMMENT

SO noted Annual stupidity

It's spring in Portland, which means it must be time for merchants in the Old Port and downtown to begin their annual whining about young people hanging out on the city's sidewalks.

Last summer, these businesspeople tried to get the City Council to pass a draconian anti-loitering law to clear teenagers from the streets, even if they weren't bothering anybody. After all, we couldn't have weird-looking kids scaring away the tourists. That idea went nowhere, after several people, some of them adults, pointed out it was blatantly unconstitutional.

This year, John Doyon, chair of the public safety committee for Portland's Downtown District, said merchants have given up their fight for a tougher anti-loitering ordinance. Instead, they want more cops ("Here we go again," page 6). They say the problem is not teenagers in general, just a few troublemakers who Doyon said have verbally harassed a merchant, thrown objects out of upper-story windows or are selling drugs.

What Doyon is complaining about are activities that are clearly illegal and should be stopped. But have things reached the level of anarchy in the Old Port where more police are needed? City Manager Bob Ganley said that there were 10 to 15 officers assigned to the area each weekend during past summers. Another three officers now patrolling the city's schools will be added to the beat in June, according to Ganley. Do merchants want so many cops the Old Port begins to look like a combat zone?

It's not that merchants haven't learned anything from past failures to crack down on kids. This year, Doyon was careful to target obnoxious behavior and not teens in general, which is a welcome change from the rhetoric of last summer during which some Old Port merchants labeled teens undesirable, purple-haired freaks.

But it's doubtful simply beefing up the police presence in the Old Port will solve the problem. It may move it around. It may make the scene more confrontational. But it won't address the underlying conflicts between store owners and street people.

It would be far more helpful if the Old Port merchants and the city invited teenagers to take part in the process. Businesspeople and bureaucrats need to hear what young people have to say. They could benefit by meeting with the kids they complain about and working out mutually agreeable solutions to this annual problem.

If that had happened last summer, the loitering issue would not have become such a brouhaha. But it's not too late to prevent the issue from arising again next year. Instead of calling for more cops, the Downtown District should start working with teenagers. The long-delayed teen advisory panel that's been discussed but never formed should become a priority. Clearly, a lot of this nonsense could be avoided if young people had a forum for suggesting ways to deal with the problem.

Otherwise, this stupid situation threatens to become one of Portland's annual rites of spring.

DAVID TYLER



Victims of success

Five or six years ago, downtown Portland struggled to regain its former vitality. Empty storefronts lined Congress Street. People spoke of the fear they felt walking alone after its offices closed. Consultants were consulted, hands were wrung and stock was taken. Finally, a plan emerged. The heart of the city was designated Portland's "Arts District." This recognized that downtown's existing strength was its arts organizations and businesses. The Portland Museum of Art, Maine College of Art, Portland Performing Arts Center and some artists' studios were already there. The Children's Museum, Mad Horse Theatre Company, Oak Street Theatre, the Dead Gallery and dozens of similar businesses, organizations and individual artists took the community at its word and flocked downtown, rebuilding it as a vibrant celebration of Maine's cultural riches.

At the time, those of us who had seen similar efforts undertaken elsewhere asked the question "Will there still be a place for artists in the Arts District once it accomplishes the goal of revitalizing the area?" It would appear that the answer, increasingly, is no. This week Oak Street Theatre, and by extension Mad Horse Theatre Company, Flaming Productions, the University of Southern Maine Drama Department and a host of individual theatrical artists, became the latest victims of success in Portland's "Arts District."

Oak Street's soon-to-be ex-landlord leases to a number

of nonprofit tenants, yet must pay property taxes and compete on the basis of a fair market value now exponentially higher than it was a short five years ago. It is difficult to make her the villain. She simply has made a logical business decision: renovate the building to suit the expanding need for downtown office space, rentable at far higher rates than any theater could ever hope to pay absent the support of a dedicated dot com billionaire. Once more, the arts have been a bulldozer for gentrification. We hear the voice of the city loud and clear: "Hey, all you artsy-fartsy types, time to move to Bayside. We need to jump-start development there. The new civic center idea didn't take off, so whaddya say you relocate to an old warehouse on Marginal Way?"

The Old Port was Portland's de facto Arts District in the '70s. It has matured to the point where artistic scrappy start-ups can't even consider opening there. Only those original pioneers who own buildings or have long-term leases can continue to add the spice of art that enhances the Old Port's tourist allure.

As Mad Horse Theatre's artistic director, Andrew Sokoloff, stated during the press conference announcing the closing of Portland's premier intimate theater venue: "We are artists. We will continue to make art." That, apparently, is what the city is counting on. Artists are artists and will continue to make art. In lean times they can jump-start the economy, provide a focus for tourism and populate abandoned real estate. In good times they can be ignored and forced from their homes to accommodate the expansion of business. If there are civic leaders with long memories, civic leaders worthy of the name, let them come forth and address the issue of supporting the arts in the Arts District.

Chris White
Arts Resource Service
Portland

Attack of the dog patrol

I enjoyed reading Margaret Lyons' letter to CBW, "Snobs, not dogs" (3.9.00). I also received a ticket from the dog patrol two weeks ago [with] the same charge, "Dog running at large." I had two dogs, so double the penalty. The dogs were in Western Cemetery when I went out to open the back of the car, in order for them to go straight from the cemetery gate to the car, which they did — alas, without the requisite leashes. So the public can now feel safer having fined me \$150.

I intend to challenge this, though admittedly I suspect that I shall lose. What is perhaps more interesting to me is that I wrote the mayor, the chief of police and Lt. Arthur Shaughnessy [who oversees the canine officers] and not one response from any of them.

For such a small city, I'm rather surprised that not even the courtesy of a reply is offered. This is also rather interesting in that I've been informed that the city has recently been visited by a film group that will soon offer a program on cities that are hospitable to dogs. It sure has me fooled.

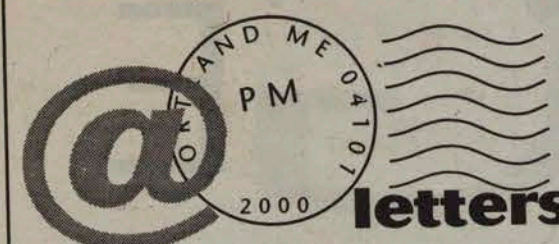
Well, Ms. Lyons, you're not alone and I say keep up the fight.

Rob J. Boudewijn
Portland

Small schools work

Upon reading CBW's March 2 article "Boom on the Hill," we could not agree more with former City Councilor Peter O'Donnell's remarks regarding the closing of Adams Elementary School.

Bill Barron of the School Committee says, "The problem is the numbers," but as parents of a blossoming second-grader at Adams, and [as] longtime, tax-paying Hill



residents, the numbers seem beautiful to us.

Small community schools work thanks in part to favorable teacher-to-student ratios that provide a stimulating, hands-on learning center to young children in their primary years. The children at Adams are very fortunate; they are taught by dedicated teachers and are led by a vivacious principal in a genuine, nurturing environment. They leave school confident, proud and happy. These numbers add up to us.

William and Deborah Jabine
Portland

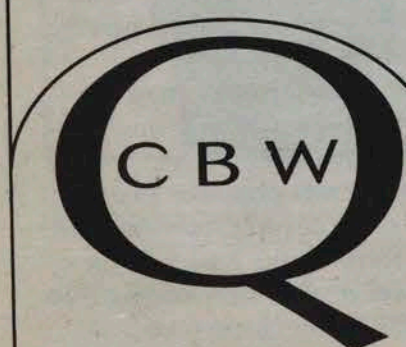
Progressive taxes

[In regards to the following statement made by Al Diamon in "Politics and other mistakes," 3.9.00]: "Maine's income tax is extremely high, particularly for middle-income taxpayers. A couple earning anything over \$33,000 pays the top rate of 8.5 percent. A single person earning as little as \$16,501 a year is being taxed at the same rate as somebody raking in \$100,000."

It is a common misconception, perpetuated by the conservatives, that the top tax rate applies to all income of a single person making over \$16,500 or a family making over \$33,000. This is not true. First, taxes are applied only on "taxable income," after deductions and exemptions are applied. Second, the highest rate applies only to that income OVER \$16,500 or \$33,000. Income below the level set for the highest rates is taxed at a lower rate.

And while it is true that Maine's highest rate is higher than its neighbors', that rate actually hits highest-income taxpayers the most. The latest figures I have seen were that more than 80 percent of income taxes collected in Maine are collected from less than 20 percent of its populace, those with the highest incomes. This is a highly "progressive" state tax system. Whether that is good or bad depends upon one's point of view, or, should I say, level of income.

Larry LaRochelle
Woolwich



Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAMM refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by e-mail at editor1@maine.rr.com or by fax 775-1615.

A mouth full of sugar

The humble folks of the Brian Ború would like to thank all the wild and crazy people of our fair city for electing us "Portland's best pickup bar" ["Best of Portland," 3.9.00]. WOW! I don't really know what to say. I guess we've finally arrived.

It's been said that when you work diligently to achieve lofty, ambitious goals and finally get there the taste is not so sweet. Well, in this case, let me tell you, it's like a mouth full of sugar. I mean, where do we possibly go from here?

It is so supremely satisfying to be recognized for our accomplishment in this field and please don't think we are not eternally grateful for this honor bestowed upon us, but I myself see the Brian Ború as more of a unification center. I mean, hell, we have had more relationships sprouted, babies conceived and marriages performed than any of the other 20+ bars I've worked in across this fine country. In short, we have brought more people together than any place I've known. Of course, on the downside we've split more people up as well, but I guess it's that action/reaction thing. Can't argue with physics.

In any case, thank you all so very much again for your generosity. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you real soon. Obviously, if you have any friends who either want to be picked up or do the picking up, I can safely say now that we own that market. Come in Wednesday night for a two-for-one pickup special for the truly ambitious. Meat market schmear market. It's really not so lonely at the top ... it's actually quite crowded. Cheers to all you lovers.

Laurence A. Kelly
Owner, Brian Ború
Portland

Stop whining

Stop whining and start purchasing. I am disappointed in the citizens of Portland who refuse to shop, and instead whine, about the Portland Public Market. Today, I picked up bread at Borealis, vegetables at Kennedy's and a cookie from Big Sky.

Curiosity later drove me to visit South Portland and Shaw's. There I found prices higher for identical items such as red peppers, asparagus, avocados, bread, cookies and beer. Furthermore, the quality of products at Shaw's was inferior to the Public Market products, and the shopping experience less rewarding.

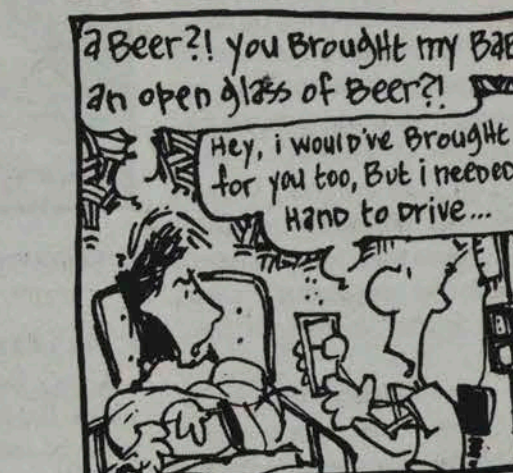
Why aren't we buying from the market? Instead, we visit the mall for clothes, gifts and food. Why not just drive across the bridge and hand our money to the first resident of South Portland we see?

Gary Wagner
Portland

Is it illegal to swim in the fountain at Portland's Lincoln Park? What's the penalty?

A city ordinance written in 1911 stated it is illegal to place any "animal, vegetable, or mineral substance, or anything that shall otherwise corrupt the water therein" in the city's fountains. The penalty is up to \$100 for each offense. The most frequent offenders of this law tend to be children wading in the fountain on a warm summer day, but there's no reason to worry about little Johnny being hauled in. "We're obviously not going to bother little kids," said Charles Lane, the city's assistant corporation council. "Someone would have to become disorderly."

Social order



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

Still burning. With Portland's Oak Street Theatre in its death throes, **Flaming Productions**, one of several companies that held performances there, has found an angel. Phineas Sprague has offered space at his Portland Yacht Services complex on Fore Street as a location for the group's May production of "Love! Valour! Compassion!" "I'm thrilled he was willing to meet with me and try to make this happen," said Flaming Productions co-founder and producer J.D. Merritt. "He's clearly civic-minded and, as far as I'm concerned, a savior at this point."

As for Mad Horse Theatre, another Oak Street refugee, artistic director Andrew Sokoloff said, "We're looking, and nothing has come up that said, 'Pick me, pick me, pick me.'"

On track. It's not just City Hall that's designing a new train station for Portland. Stand-up comedian, professional wrestler and DJ Jeff Michaels (a.k.a. Captain Jeff or the Big Bopper) is opening **the Station**, a nightclub and restaurant inside Spot Shots Billiards on St. John Street. The Station will board passengers Thursday through Saturday nights for dancing to Top 40 hits and hip-hop, although riders will have to meet a strict dress code: no work boots, ripped jeans, hats or, for guys, tank tops. Following a grand opening in April, the club will host comedy, live music, dancing and karaoke seven nights a week, with food until 3 a.m. and dancing until 4 a.m. The pool tables will also be available until that hour. "It's a big playground," Michaels said, "the rec room you always dreamed of."

If you're going to Aucocisco. Local artist and art dealer Andy Verzosa will bring culture back to a space last occupied by the hip-hop clothing store Strictly Culture when he opens a new **gallery**, Aucocisco, at 615A Congress St. in Portland in May. The first show will be an exhibit of watercolors by Alice Harmon Shaw, an artist who worked in and around Portland in the 1930s. Future shows will feature work by such established local artists as painters Michael Waterman and Abby Shahn and photographer Rose Marasco. "These artists have a complete body of work. They've been painting or doing photography for decades," Verzosa said.

Closing the office. **The Office Pub**, a watering hole on Congress Street in the time and temperature building, will close at the end of March, after nearly 25 years in business. "The smoking ban's had some effect on us, no doubt about it," said bar manager Michael Kimball, though he also attributed the pub's demise to the loss of other businesses in the building, such as Casco Bay College and brokerage firm Smith Barney. The Portland Public Market hasn't helped much either. "There's been no good influence from the Public Market," Kimball said, but he added, "They may have helped our lunches, because they're so expensive over there." Kimball hopes regulars past and present will show up for a farewell bash on March 31. "There are still some tabs we have to collect on," he said.

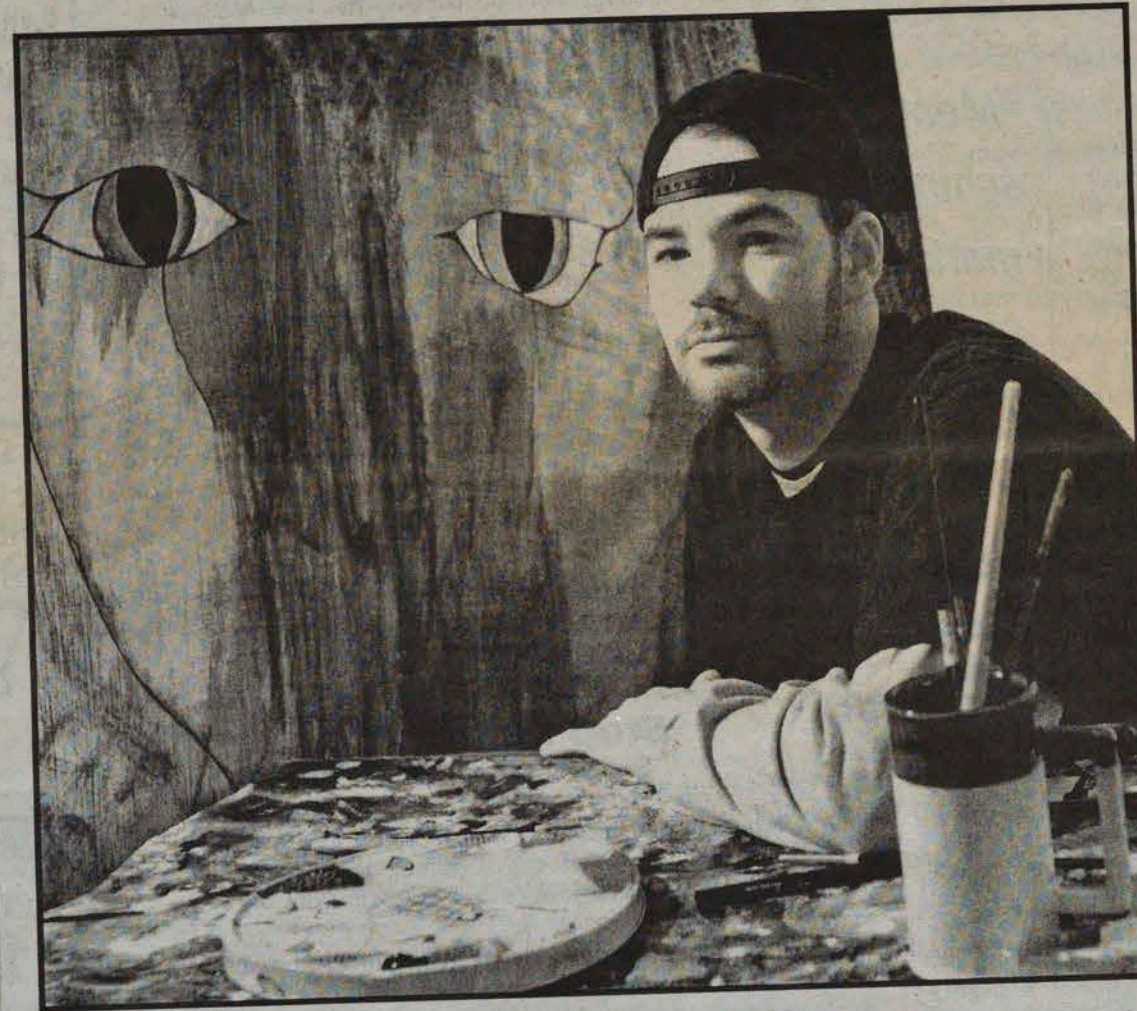
CBW

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

Casey at the palette

A teenage artist works to build a career



Casey Fontaine says he doesn't know much about painting. As if. PHOTO / STEPHEN DEMETRIOU

ELISABETH GOLD

Casey Fontaine is an artist of few words. But he doesn't need the gift of gab when he has his paintings to communicate for him. Bright, fluid and imaginative, his work is brimming with possibilities of a future in art. But ask Fontaine to talk about his painting ability, and he shrugs and says, "I just paint."

At 19, Fontaine is a regular kid. Born and raised in Portland, he grew up playing Little League baseball and is now an eager-to-graduate senior, dividing his school time between Deering High School and the Portland Arts & Technology High School. He'd seem all too typical, except that three years ago, he picked up a paintbrush.

What started as doodling from boredom in class has turned into an art exhibit

at Portland Parks and Recreation. After being approached by Brenda McGovern, the parks department's executive secretary, at an Old Port art festival last summer, Dottie Fontaine, Casey's mother and agent, agreed to a solo exhibit of his paintings.

Dottie Fontaine has played an active role in her son's art career. She organizes his artwork, decides what paintings he'll exhibit and keeps track of the money coming in from sales. Most important, though, she supports his work unconditionally.

"I love his artwork, of course," she said. "[His father and I] just kind of keep him supplied with things and encourage him all the time: 'Go paint, go paint.'"

Part of that encouragement includes exhibiting Fontaine's work in the

Fontaine household. Paintings are hung in the home in solid wood frames that accentuate the images of nature Fontaine has created from imagination and memory. Scenes of running rivers and streams, vibrant skies and deep forests cover the walls. A compelling azure blue is repeated in a series of paintings illustrating water, perhaps inspired by Capisic Pond, a favorite place of Fontaine's when he was younger.

Fontaine usually paints five times a week. He uses his mornings at Arts & Technology for studio time and finds he can express himself better in a class with little structure. "I don't like structure. I like the freedom to do what I want. I like a teacher to guide me, one-on-one time, and maybe help me out if I ask him or her a question," he said.

According to Fontaine, his painting came to fruition through working with Charles Wright, his former art teacher. "He's my favorite teacher I ever had," said Fontaine. "He'd let us talk, whatever, just as long as we were sitting there working,

because that's when we learn all our stuff, when we're goofing around. He taught me a few basic things about the color and just let me go on my own. I really developed my own style, I think. I mean, I don't know much about painting really, I just do it."

Actually, Fontaine must know something. He's a veteran of an intense two-year program under Wright called Communication Design. For five days each week, he devoted two and half hours to learning the basics of form, color and design, then was encouraged to proceed with his own ideas.

Wright couldn't say enough about Fontaine. "He's one of those exceptional young men who has magic in his art. He has a wonderful maturity in how he works with paint. I was privileged to

have him as a student," Wright said. Like a lot of creative people, Fontaine can sometimes be his own worst critic. Ask what he thinks of his paintings and he'll tell you there is always something to change, there are always mistakes. "I tear them apart. I'd tell you everything that is wrong and why I don't like it," he said. "Every one of them, I can tell you something I don't like about it. Sometimes it's better off left alone."

Using mostly acrylic paints, Fontaine has produced dozens of unfinished paintings. A self-proclaimed procrastinator, he usually has four or five painting in the works at a time. "[I'll] start one and throw it, start another one and throw it, then I'll go back to them and if I mess up on them, I never throw them away. I make them into something else," he said.

Fontaine wants to learn more about technique, and how to add more detail and focus to his work. He hopes to go to college, take art classes and eventually get a studio and teach for a living. As a teacher, Fontaine "would have certain requirements, but would let [students] work on a lot of free projects — they can just go off on it and make their own. Have fun with it. Use their mind."

As for inspiration, all Fontaine seems to need is a paintbrush and a blank page. "I think it's all there in the paper. Once I start going on something, I'll use the space that isn't completed and I'll look at different spots in it and stuff," he said. "I have a technique, but you're not supposed to give that out."

Casey Fontaine's work shows through Fri., April 28, at Portland Parks and Recreation, 17 Arbor St., Portland. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 756-8388.

FEMINIST, BUT FUNNY

Clinton's one night stand-up

It's just a false rumor that comedian Kate Clinton is the love child of a randy two-minute rendezvous between Bill Clinton and rabid right-wing radio personality Laura Schlessinger. But there's plenty of truth to reports the feminist funny lady is one of the best political stand-up comics on the circuit today.

The New York-based Clinton massaged her comedic funny bone while teaching high school English, by testing most of her material on a captive audience. Since taking to the stage in 1981, she's become an acute observer of world politics, and her sharp wit cuts a wide swath across that landscape. She's not afraid to take on the fashion faux pas of international icons like the pope, nor does U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno's bad hairstyle go unnoticed. Getting to the truth behind the painstakingly created facades of both liberals and conservatives is what makes people laugh, Clinton said.

Her knack for free association means no two of her shows are alike. What keeps her material fresh, she said, is an endless supply of political people making mistakes. Clinton said the kiss of death for her would be "someone asking, 'Are you going to do that show you've been doing for the last 14 years?'"

Much of Clinton's early support came from lesbians and gay men, but while getting jobs as an out lesbian hasn't always been easy, issues about her sexuality have lately taken a backseat to comments from some promoters who claim she's "too old" or that she's not "gay enough." Do stupid

remarks like that ruffle the 49-year-old Clinton? "No," she laughed, "it only makes me want to get even."

With Clinton's comedic chutzpah, there's no doubt that, by the end of the evening, she won't just be even. She'll be ahead. And so will her audience.

CONNIE PACILLO

Kate Clinton plays the Eastland Hotel, 157 High St., Portland, on Sat., April 1, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$17 in advance at Port Tix (842-0800) or at Drop Me a Line (773-5547) or \$20 at the door.

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
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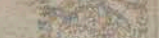
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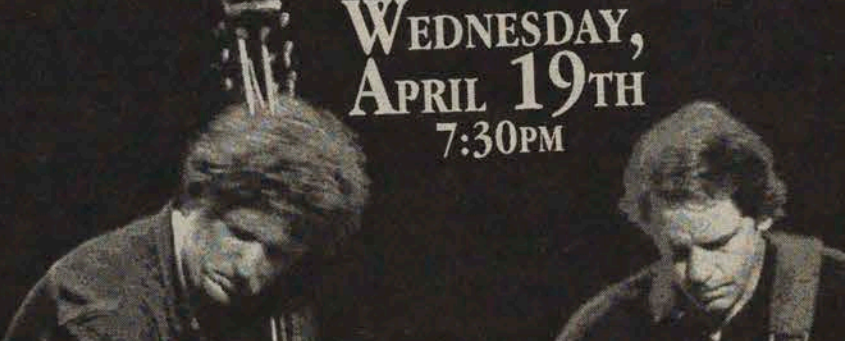
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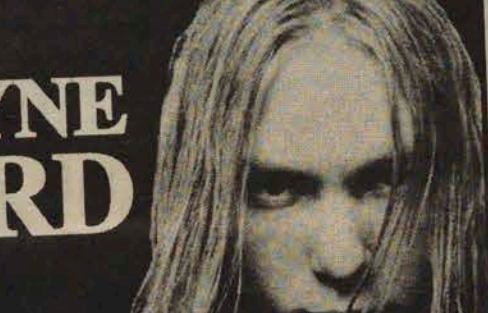


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FROM
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ENTERTAINMENT

short CUTS

DAN SHORT

Brazilian rhapsody

To a neophyte, listening to world music can be a daunting prospect. If the unfamiliar musical sounds and forms aren't bewildering enough, there's the matter of language. However, there are times when something is so powerful, it's not necessary to fully understand every nuance to be in awe. Such is the case with Brazilian singer Virginia Rodrigues. Throughout her second album, "Nos," Rodrigues' deep, beautiful voice overwhelms the listener. With operatic beauty and grace, she commands attention.



Of course, there's more to her music than her spellbinding singing. Along with collaborators Celso Fonseca and Brazilian legend Caetano Veloso, Rodrigues creates songs that meld standard Brazilian sounds with Western pop appeal. Not only are there traditional Brazilian instruments, but also horn and string sections and choral backing. Although the modern arrangements and the album's pristine production values may seem inauthentic to some, the depth and strength of the music transcend any such issue.

Lyrical, the album's 14 songs deal with African-Brazilian spirituality, legends, politics, as well as more universal love songs. Unfortunately, even though the lyrics are translated, the names of many people and places remain unexplained, so unless a listener has a background in Brazilian lore and politics, much is indecipherable. (One hopes that in concert some sort of explanation will be provided.) Still, Rodrigues' voice makes the emotional points — if not the intellectual ones — crystal clear. With pipes like hers, it doesn't take a Ph.D. to enjoy the music.

Virginia Rodrigues plays the State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, on Sun. April 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$19 advance/\$21 door. 761-0591.

War dance

Portland-area guitarist Steve MacLean is a guitarist who makes instrumental music that fits in the Western tradition, albeit the more obscure parts of that tradition. As local music fans may recall, MacLean was the guitarist with Mercury (a.k.a. MRC), one of this region's most original bands. After its breakup, he formed the Steve MacLean Ensemble with former Mercury members Tim Inman on keyboards and Dave Fields on drums, along with bassist Jim McGirr. (Agnes Charlesworth just recently replaced Inman.) On the band's first album, "Radical Circuit," MacLean explored his 20th-century classical background with the use of "external system" composing. The group might have looked like a rock band, but its music was far too cerebral, complicated, and challenging to be considered rock.

With the new album "The Opposite of War," MacLean takes a more traditional approach to songwriting. Ironically, this makes the songs less predictable. Whereas before, his pieces unfolded to preset patterns, now they are free to go where he chooses. The opening song, "Windows Part 2," shifts in tempo, mood and melody several times in its course. Though MacLean still loves choppy, angular melodies, the rhythms are looser. At times, "The Opposite of War" seems like a mating of middle-period King Crimson and an R&B band. At other times, it's like a tightly structured jazz-fusion band without the improvisation. But always, "The Opposite of War" remains fascinating.

The Steve MacLean Ensemble plays with Chris Cutler at the Oak Street Theatre, 9 Oak St., Portland, on Tues., April 11 at 8 p.m. Tix: \$10. 775-5103.

McCarthyite tactics

The Steve MacLean Ensemble and the McCarthys share the same bassist, Jim McGirr, but that's all they have in common. The McCarthys are a country-rock group based in Falmouth who've just released their self-titled debut CD. (No one in the group is actually named McCarthy.) All four members contributed songs and vocals, which makes for a fairly diverse collection. Tunes range over topics such as the death penalty to father-son relationships to (of course) love gone bad, in styles ranging from honky-tonk to Bakersfield-styled country to '70s-fashioned country rock. All of it is well done, with the songs "Quaker Gun," "Don't Come Crying Back to Me" and "Someday You'll Understand" real standouts. The McCarthys are strongly recommended for any fan of rock rock.

The McCarthys' self-titled CD is available at local music stores.



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Sanford • Waterville • Portsmouth & Salem, NH



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BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY

BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY

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YEEEAH BABY

BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY

"Yeeeah Baby"
featuring
"Its Hard"
available at
Bull Moose on
Tuesday, April 4

BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY

BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY

BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY

BIG PUN
YEEEAH BABY


**Grab Big Punisher's latest CD, Yeeeah Baby for the
guaranteed lowest price in the state at:**

Bull Moose Music

Portland • 151 Middle Street • 780-6424
Bangor • Brunswick • Lewiston • N. Windham
Sanford • Waterville • Portsmouth & Salem, NH



USM Student Activities presents:



THE MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
ANGRY SALAD
PLUS
SHUFFLIN' TREMBLE AND CHUBBY

Friday April 14th, 2000 @ 7:30PM
Costello Sports Complex
Field House
University of Southern Maine
Gorham Campus
—FMI (207) 780-5155—

ADVANCE TICKETS:
\$20.00 (UMAINE SYSTEM STUDENTS +10 LIMIT 4)
\$25.00 (All Day of Show Sales At the Door Only)
\$23.00 (GENERAL PUBLIC)
Tickets Available At USM Bookstores
(Gorham, Portland)
Cash Orders / Credit Cards Accepted
Available at all TicketMaster Locations
Credit Card Orders Call (207) 775-3331
Tickets Also Available at Stone Coast Brewing Co. Box Office
without Service Charge. Service Charge May Apply to Tickets
Purchased by Phone and at all Other TicketMaster Locations
CO-SPONSORED BY: GORHAM EVENTS BOARD AND SIGMA NU

ZOOZ
31 FOREST AVE
PORTLAND
773-2187

THE INQUISITION
GOTHIC INDUSTRIAL
DANCE

LIVE MUSIC
THIS WEEK 3/30
MYSTIC VIBES
4/6-SHAWN BAINDON
AND FRANKLIN MINT
4/13-AUTHOR
UNKNOWN

FRIDAY NIGHTS
4/7-4/13
4/14-4/20
4/21-4/27
4/28-5/4

FNX
LEFTOVER LOUNGE
10-11 PM
11-12 PM
12-1 AM

Decades of Dance
with
DJ K-1

SATURDAY NIGHTS
4/29-5/5
5/6-5/12
5/13-5/19
5/20-5/26
5/27-6/2

MUSIC

Prime cut



Black Beetle plays the Skinny on Sat, April 1.

Not to be confused with former Beatles sideman Billy Preston, **Black Beetle** is an "underground supergroup" made up of former members of the late-and-sorely-missed Jeff Buckley's band, the Dambuilders and Those Bastard Souls. Fronted by chanteuse/guitarist/violinist Joan Wasser, the band crafts catchy, often atmospheric rock songs and plays them with finesse. They'll be joined by local country-rock sensation the **Coming Grass** and **Long Distance Runner** on Sat, April 1 at the Skinny, 625 Congress St, Portland, at 9 pm. Tix: \$5 (21+). 871-8983.

thursday 30

The Better End
DJ Jon 9 pm/no cover/21+
The Big Easy
Arto West and the L.A. Bluesmen
9:30 pm/\$3/21+
Breakfast Blues Lounge
Karaoke with DJ Bob Wilson 9
pm/no cover/21+
Chappies
Brad Harris 5 pm/no
cover/21+
Commercial Street Pub
Jeff Aumiller folk rock/9 pm/no
cover/21+
First Parish Unitarian Universalist
Church
Ray Cornis organ works by Bach,
Mozart and Weber 12:15 pm/free
Free Street Taverna
Call ahead 110 pm/no cover/21+
Old Port Tavern
Open mic with Livin' Large 110
pm/no cover/21+
O'Rourke's Landing
Open mic with Dave Dodge 9
pm/no cover/21+
Riverside Sports Pub
Jenny Woodman rock/9
pm/\$5/21+
Sisters
Line dancing with Neil 7 pm/no
cover/21+
Techno Dance Night 9 pm/no
cover/21+
The Skinny
Maggie Pierce and E.J. folk rock/9
pm/\$5/21+
The Station
Karaoke with Larry 9 pm-1 am/no
cover/21+
Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry 9 pm-1 am/no
cover/21+
The Underdog
DJ Ken 9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+
Watts Hall, Main St, Thornton
"The United Groove Festival" fea-
turing Luggie Wog, the Math Team
Kids, the Snot Rockets, the Tans,
Living Miss Daisy, DJ Mark and DJ
Soma 15:30 pm/\$4/\$5-8/24+
Zachery's
Prizm 9:15 pm/no cover/21+
Zootz
Decades of Dance 70s, '80s,
'90s dance music/9 pm-3 am/\$1
before 11 pm, \$4 after 11
pm/21+, all ages after 1 am
DJ Moshe hip-hop/midnight-3 am

friday 31

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monday 3

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tuesday 4

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DJ Jon 9 pm/no cover/21+
The Big Easy
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wednesday 5

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DJ Jon 9 pm/no cover/21+
The Big Easy
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thursday 6

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friday 7

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saturday 8

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sunday 9

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9:30 pm/\$3/21+
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HEY SO YOU THINK READERS OF CBW

*WE HAVE THE BEST DJ
*WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST BARTENDERS
*WE HAVE ONE OF THE BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BARS

IN PORTLAND THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTE AND THANKS FOR INCLUDING SISTERS AS A PART OF YOUR GOOD TIME IN A GREAT CITY.

HAPPY HOUR

Just Got Happier!

Michelob Light Pints for 75¢
& Pitchers for only \$3
4-9pm/S-S

WIN
Wildcat Mountain Ski Passes at Captain Morgan's Ski Party! Th & Fri, Apr 6 & 7
April 23
Easter Sunday
• Easter Egg Hunt
& Bonnet Contest

Maine's Oldest, Biggest and Most Popular GAY BAR
And Yes, Our Doors Swing Both Ways • 21+

UNDERGROUND
2 SPIND STREET PORTLAND, MAINE 207 773 3015

Mon., Sun. the bar's open 'til 1am

THE Skinny

Upcoming
Americal Steel 4.5
Say Zuzu 4.6
Rotators to Rust 4.8
Peepshow & Helicopter Helicopter 4.15
Little Red Rocket 4.16

RUSTIC OVERTONES
2 shows Thursday, Apr. 13
all ages - 6pm - \$10
21+ - 10pm - \$10
Ticket go on sale Sat. Apr. 1


Thursday Mar. 30
MAGGI, PIERCE AND EJ 9pm - \$3 - 21+

Friday Mar. 31
THE BLACK HALOS & THE GIMMICKS 9pm - \$5 - 21+

Saturday Apr. 1
BLACK BEETLE (feat. ex-Jeff Buckley Band & Dambuilders), THE COMING GRASS, & LONG DISTANCE RUNNER 9pm - \$5 - 21+

Sunday Apr. 2
CAT POWER 7pm - \$7 - 21+

You can buy your tix ON-LINE at
www.theskinny.space.com
OR at Bullmoose Music



625 congress street, portland, me 04101 (207)871-8983 www.theskinny.space.com

The Underdog
DJ Mike 9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+
The University of Southern Maine
Campus Center, Bedford St,
Portland
Cokepit, 669, Ransom and
Comdor metal/6:30 pm/\$5, ben-
efits WMFC's Blunt project/7:30-
9:30
Watts Hall, Main St, Thornton
"The United Groove Festival" fea-
turing Luggie Wog, the Math Team
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the next BIG things
Parliament/Funkadelic
Stone Coast Brewing
Company, 4/6
Elton John
Civic Center, 4/7
Mighty Mighty
Bosstones
University of Southern
Maine, Gorham, 4/14
Bob Weir/
Rob Wasserman
State Theatre, 4/19
Indigo Girls
Colby College, 4/21
Barry Manilow
Civic Center, 4/21

Dick Dale
Asylum, 4/26
Warrant
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 4/29
The Reverend
Horton Heat
Stone Coast Brewing
Company, 5/10
Mickey Hart Band
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 5/12
10,000 Maniacs
Stone Coast Brewing
Company, 5/12
Roomful of Blues
Stone Coast Brewing
Company, 5/13
Red Hot Chili
Peppers/Foo Fighters
Civic Center, 5/14

Little Richard
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 7/1
Weird Al Yankovic
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 7/6
K.C. and the
Sunshine Band
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 8/2
George Thorogood
and the Destroyers
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 8/5
The Beach Boys
Hampton Beach Casino
Ballroom, 8/23
Dave Brubeck
Merrill Auditorium, 9/1

Silver House Tavern
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover/21+
Sisters
Karaoke with Jackie 8 pm/no
cover/21+
Vall's Steak House
Ira Stockwell piano bar/5:30-9
pm/no cover
Zachery's
DJ Fred Pappalardo 9:15 pm/no
cover/21+

O'Rourke's Landing
Karaoke with Mark Mark 9:30
pm/no cover/21+
The Pavilion
Ladies night with DJ Shane
Staples Top 40 dance hits/9
pm/\$3/drafts free/21+
The Rib Room, 157 High St,
Portland
Matt Wilson and his quartet
jazz/8:30 pm/\$10-\$15, \$8 stu-
dents and seniors/8:42-0800

Free Street Taverna
Open jam with the Jerks of Grass
bluegrass/10 pm/no cover/21+
Gitty McDuff's
Jenny Jumpsuit 8 pm/no
cover/21+
Old Port Tavern
Richard Slotkin works by
Gershwin, Copeland and other
American composers performed
on clarinet/8 pm/\$15, \$12 stu-
dents and seniors
Portland Museum of Art
Port City Jazz 11:30 am noon/56
\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids
6-12
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover/21+
Sisters
Club 45 with John Saule top
40/5 pm/no cover/21+
The Skinny
Cat Power 7 pm/\$7/21+
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Jeff Aumiller folk rock/9 pm/no
cover/21+
The Underdog
Karaoke with Bob Wilson 9 pm-1
am/no cover/21+

Brian Bori
The Hollenist Men folk-time coun-
try/9 pm/no cover/21+
Free Street Taverna
Call ahead 110 pm/no cover/21+
Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Don Corman 110
pm/no cover/21+
Olin Arts Center
Greg Norton, Carey Sargent and
Chris Hoover computer music/8
pm/free
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Eggbot's Tent Revival Crusade 9
pm/no cover/21+
Zachery's
DJ Fred Pappalardo 9:15 pm/no
cover/21+
Zootz
The Inquisition with DJ Gimp and
DJ Dark Orphan gothic industrial
dance and fetish night/10 pm-1
am/\$3/21+

Sea Dog
Lee Sykes 6 pm/no cover
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover/21+
Sisters
DJ Richard dance music/9 pm/no
cover/21+
The Skinny
The Black Halos and the Gimmicks
punk rock/7 pm/\$5
Somewhere
Mary Murphy piano/9 pm/no
cover/21+
The Station
Top 40 dance hits 8 pm-1 am/no
cover before 10pm, \$3 after/21+
Hip-hop dancing 11-4am/\$5/18+
Stone Coast Brewing Company
Leaf Jumpers 10 pm/\$2/21+
The Underdog
DJ Ken 9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+
Watts Hall, Main St, Thornton
"The United Groove Festival" fea-
turing Luggie Wog, the Math Team
Kids, the Snot Rockets, the Tans,
Living Miss Daisy, DJ Mark and DJ
Soma 15:30 pm/\$4/\$5-8/24+
Zachery's
Prizm 9:15 pm/no cover/21+
Zootz
WHXX Leftover Lounge '80s alter-
native dance/9:30 pm/\$1 before
11 pm, \$4 after

Geno's
Rob Sylvain with guests
Americana/9:30 pm/cover
T.B.A./21+
Hanson Bros. Seafood Cafe
BeBop Jazz Ensemble 5-7 pm/no
cover
The Industry
College Night DJ Jeremy spins
Top 40 dance hits/10 pm-3
am/21+, \$3/18+, \$5
Old Port Tavern
Pettin' Zoo funk rock/10 pm/no
cover/21+
One Eyed Jack 9:30 pm/\$3/21+
Brian Bori
Rakish Paddy traditional Irish/9
pm/no cover
Commercial Street Pub
Acoustic blues with Keith 9
pm/no cover/21+
Saco Coffeehouse
Nat Hussey and friends with
Laurel Abbott folk/8 pm/\$5
Cortell Concert Hall
The Suzuki Violin Studio's 6th
annual recital 2 pm/free

The listings above are for live entertainment and dancing. Bars and clubs may be open on additional nights. Submissions for this section should be received the Friday prior to publication, including dates, times, cost and type of music. Send listings to Chris Busby, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail listings@maine1.com.

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SUN, APR 2 8PM \$8
SHANNON CURFMAN

MON, APR 3 NO COVER
MONDAY NIGHT EGGBOT

TUE, APR 4 10PM
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THU, APR 6 10PM
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calendar

**thursday, march 30-
wednesday, april 5**

MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

The arts scene in Portland took a drubbing recently with the announcement of the imminent closure of Oak Street Theatre, but this week the arts battle back with the third annual Maine Jewish Film Festival. This year's highlights include "The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg," a documentary on America's first Jewish major-leaguer; "Kadosh," a film examining the lives of two sisters sequestered in an Orthodox community in Jerusalem; and "Photographer," a documentary on the Lodz ghetto told through a Nazi accountant's slides. Several directors, actors and subjects of the films will appear in person. See the Stars of David of the silver screen at the Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland. For a full schedule, call 767-7370.

thursday, march 30

"OFF THE MAP"

At the end of this theater season — if not sooner — Oak Street Theatre will be off the map. Sad irony, thus, that the first production there since the announcement of its closure will be Mad Horse Theatre Company's production of Joan Ackerman's play "Off the Map." The tale of greedy landlords who squeeze the arts out of town. No, wait, actually the play is about the events that lead an adolescent girl in a remote part of New Mexico to come to terms with her parents and discover love. Before it's too late, head to the first preview performance at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$10. Opening night is Sat., April 1. Continues through Sat., April 22. 775-5103.

friday and saturday, march 31 and april 1

"CAMELOT"

If there's one person who can come to the rescue of Portland's arts scene, it's Libra Foundation moneyman Owen Wells. And if he won't do it, we'll have to settle for King Arthur. Luckily, he's on his way, scheduled to arrive with the national Broadway touring company of "Camelot." The hit musical tells tales of Arthur, Guenevere, Lancelot, Merlin, Mordred and the Knights of the Round Table through drama and songs such as "I Wonder What the King Is Doing Tonight?" "What Do the Simple Folk Do?" "The Lusty Month of May" and the title song. Be chivalrous at Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland. Fri. at 8 p.m., Sat. at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tix: \$32-\$47. 842-0800.

friday, march 31

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

If the whims of heartless capitalists have finally got you fired up enough to take matters into your own hands, join a coalition of Maine organizations celebrating the birthday of union activist Cesar Chavez and raise a little hell. Cesar Chavez Day kicks off with the "Rally for a Liveable Wage for All Maine Workers" at the Capitol Building, Augusta, from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. This will be followed by screenings of the documentary "The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers Movement" at Portland City Hall, 389 Congress St., at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. After the first screening, a ceremony commemorating Chavez's 1974 visit to Maine will take place in Lincoln Park, Portland, at 6 p.m. A typical Mexican-American farmworker's meal of beans and rice, followed by an evening of Latin music and dancing, will close out the day at the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church, 17 Chestnut St., Portland, at 7 p.m. Fight the power! 753-1922 or 722-7249.

saturday, april 1

RICHARD THOMPSON

The Oak Street Theatre is closing and look what happened: British folk-rock legend Richard Thompson stifled Portland to do a show in Portsmouth, where the landlords care about the arts! Well, actually, Thompson was at the State Street Church a few months ago, but still! Anyway, if you want to see one of the most respected — if not acclaimed — singer-songwriters of our time, make the trek down to Portsmouth's arts district and catch Thompson on tour with fellow folkie Martin Sexton. Be bitter at the Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, N.H., at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$19.50-\$21.50. 772-8416 or 603-436-2400.

Sarah Lord as Bo in Mad Horse Theatre's production of "Off the Map," beginning Thurs., March 30 at Oak Street Theatre.

"Untitled," etching and hand coloring on wove paper by Mark Wethli, part of "Lasting Impressions: Contemporary Prints from the Bruce Brown Collection," showing beginning Wed., April 5 at the Portland Museum of Art.

Submissions to the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Chris Busby, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or e-mail listings@maine.rr.com.

sound bites

•Lift your spirit with some contemporary Christian pop when Avalon and Anointed share the stage with singer-songwriter Nichole Nordeman on Sat., April 1 at the Civic Center, Portland (7 p.m./\$18-\$20). 775-3458.

•Blunt your senses with some heavy metal when Colepitz, 6gig, Ransom and Corridor play a benefit for WMPG's youth radio project, Blunt, on Sat., April 1 at USM's Campus Center, Bedford Street, Portland (6:30 p.m./\$5). 780-4025.

•The Portland Symphony Chamber Orchestra kicks out the jams one last time this season with its final Mozart & More concert, "Games and Infatuations," featuring works by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and the Wolf himself, on Sun., April 2 at Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland (6:30 p.m./\$17-\$27). 842-0800.

•Young jazz drummer Matt Wilson and his quartet (which includes a bassist and two cats on reeds) blow, pound and pluck on Wed., April 5 at the Eastland Hotel's Rib Room, 157 High St., Portland (8:30 p.m./\$10-\$15, \$8 students and seniors). 842-0800.

The Matt Wilson Quartet gets jazzed up at the Eastland Hotel's Rib Room on Wed., April 5.

quick picks

SAT., APRIL 1

•Scoop the poop on the Eastern Prom during "April Stools Day," a community event at which volunteer shit-pickers can win prizes from local pet stores for bagging the most caca. Register at Fetch, 102 Congress St., Portland, at 9 a.m. Refreshments, gloves and bags provided. 773-5450 or 774-2822.

SUN., APRIL 2

•See Spot sue when Steven M. Wise, author of "Rattling the Cage: Towards Legal Rights for Animals," gives a lecture at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, at 2 p.m. Free. 781-7170.

MON., APRIL 3

•Dig the life and death of Muslim mystic al-Hallaj when retired University of Southern Maine professor of theatre Albert Duclos and cast perform a dramatic reading of "The Death of al-Hallaj" at Luther Bonney Auditorium, USM's Portland campus, Bedford St., at 7:30 p.m. Free. 780-4258.

WED., APRIL 5

•Dig prints by Chuck Close, Anne Harris, Robert Rauschenberg, David Hockney and many others when "Lasting Impressions: Contemporary Prints from the Bruce Brown Collection" begins showing at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors/\$1 kids 6-12). 775-6148.

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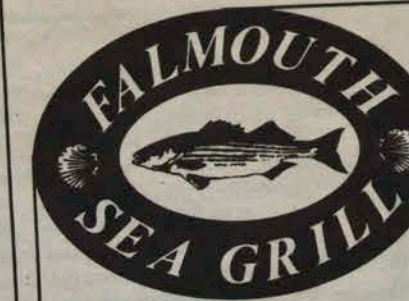
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VISUAL arts

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

OPENING

Aucosco 142 High St, Suite 403, Portland. New paintings by Michael Waterman are ongoing. Hours: by appointment. 771-9865.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art Brunswick. "Artistic License: Visions of Literature," prints and illustrated books by William Blake, Eugene Delacroix, Henri Matisse, Leonard Baskin and others, shows Thurs, April 6-Sun, June 4. "Terry Winters: Prints" shows Fri, April 7-Sun, June 4. "Undone Motherhood" an exhibition exploring the condition through art, shows through Sun, April 16. Portraiture, European art, and artifacts of the ancient Mediterranean and Asian art are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Free. 725-3275.

The Clow 123 Middle St, Portland. Opening reception for abstract oil paintings by Peter Taylor and textual paintings by Caren Canier, Thurs, April 6 from 6-8 pm. Shows Mon, April 3-Sun, April 30. "Nature's Narratives," paintings by Theophilus Groell and woodcut engravings by Sri Beckman, shows through Thurs, March 30. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 756-7399.

Coffee by Design 620 Congress St, Portland. "Sea Maine," photographs by Eugene Cole, show through Fri, May 5. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7 am-8 pm, Fri 6:30 am-9 pm, Sat 7 am-6 pm, Sun 7 am-6 pm. 772-5533.

Davidson & Daughters 148 High St, Portland. Opening reception for "New Paintings" by Dudley Zopp created by Nancy Davidson and "Narrative Fantasies," paintings by Brenda Atwood Pinardi, created by Hole in the Wall Studioworks in the main gallery, "Portland Scenes ... and More," work by Lucy Barber, in the underground salon, and pillows by Ann Fridinger, sculptures by Carson Bass and monographs by Charlotte Fullan in the adjacent Studio 208 space, Sat, April 8 from 5-8 pm. Shows Thurs, April 4-Sat, April 29. "Prints, Prints, Prints," prints by Will Barnett, Susan Amos, Anne Garland and Frances MacQuarrie, shows through Sat, April 1. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 780-0766.

Fetch 102 Congress St, Portland. Opening reception for poster-size blown-up photographs of Mabel by Shoshanna White, Sat, April 1 from 6-8 pm. Ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat 9 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-6 pm. 773-5450.

June Fitzpatrick Alternative Space 652 Congress St, Portland. Opening reception for "Witness," an installation by Mia Wood, Fri, April 7 from 5-7 pm. Shows through Sat, April 29. Hours: Wed-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

Fore Street Gallery 366 Fore St, Portland. Opening reception for "Impressions of the New Biology," paintings by Tom Macias, Fri, March 31 from 5-7 pm. Shows through Sun, April 30. Group show of photographs by Nancy and Matthew Sleeth and Rodney Paulson and paintings by John Rickford, K. Dana Nelson, Marcia Baker, Sylvia Dyer, Richard Rollow, Phil Paratore, Paul Bonneau, K. Semmes, June Griffin and Joe Muir are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 874-8084.

The Gallery at 108 High Street 108 High Street, Portland. Opening reception for "Internal Ocean," photographs by Jean Twomey, Fri, April 7 from 5-7 pm. Shows Thurs, April 6-Sat, April 29. "Printed Matter: An Invitational Show of Books and Prints," works by 16 gallery artists, shows through Sat, April 1. Hours: Thurs, Fri and Sat noon-5 pm. 761-0076.

Hall Gallery The University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College, 51 Westminster St, Lewiston. "In the Shadow of Intolerance: Photographs by Ernest C. Withers, Danny Lyon, E.O. Goldbeck and Jeremy Kalkstein," 22 photographs on human rights and the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, shows through Sat, May 20. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-6 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-3 pm. 753-6500.

Hole in the Wall Studioworks 302 Raymond, Portland. Mixed-media drawings by Brenda Atwood Pinardi, easelistic oils by Debra Calley and work by other gallery artists shows Wed, April 1-Sun, April 30. Hours: Tues-Sun 9:30 am-5 pm. 655-4952.

Jameson Frame & Gallery 305 Commercial St, Portland. Opening reception for the 11th annual 10 x 10 art exhibition and sale, work by Christopher Ayres, Bill Cursinger, Rebecca Goodale, Lindsay Hancock,

Brita Holmquist, Kate Mahoney, Natasha Meyers, Robert Shetterly, Alice Spencer and Sharon Townshend, Fri, March 31 from 5-8 pm. Additional works show Sat, April 1 from 10 am-3 pm. 772-5522.

The Museum of African Tribal Art 122 Spring St, Portland. "Symbols of Power and Authority," museum pieces used by traditional African rulers and leaders, is ongoing beginning Sat, April 1. A collection of African tribal masks and artifacts representing over 1,000 years of Central and West African history is also ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 10:30 am-5 pm. 871-7188.

Robert Nason Studio/Gallery 150 High St, Portland. Opening reception for the ongoing retrospective of Nason's work, Wed, April 8 from 5-8 pm. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 775-7543.

O'Farrell Gallery 58 Maine St, Brunswick. Opening reception for "William Morris: New Paintings & Collages" in the main gallery and "Margaret Libby: Animal Paintings & Pastels" and "Quint Rose: Paper Inspired in Burma" in the new downstairs gallery, Thurs, April 13 from 5-7 pm. Shows Thurs, April 11-Thurs, May 11. "From Nature by Heart," works by landscape painter Chuck Thompson, shows through Sat, April 8. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. 729-8228.

Osher Map Library 314 Forest Ave, Portland. Opening reception for "Charting Neptune's Realm: From Classical Mythology to Satellite Imagery," an exhibit of sea charts from the 16th century to the present, and a lecture, "A Sailor's View of Neptune's Realm," by guest curator Donald Johnson, Tues, April 11 at 6 pm. Shows through Thurs, Jan 11. Hours: Tues 12:30-4:30 pm, Wed 6-8 pm, Thurs 12:30-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm. 780-4850.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress St. "Lasting Impressions: Contemporary Prints from the Bruce Brown Collection" shows Wed, April 5-Sun, June 4. Opening reception for "A Matter of Perception: Annual Joint Exhibition by Artists with Disabilities," Fri, April 7 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Shows through Wed, May 3. Hours: Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm. Thurs and Fri 10 am-9 pm. Admission: \$6.55 students and seniors/\$1 kids 6-12. Free every Fri from 5-9 pm. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

Portland Public Library 5 Monument Square, Portland. Opening reception for "Tus Saloons & Fun Village," black and white photographs by Madeline de Senety, Thurs, April 6 from 5-7 pm. Shows Tues, April 4-Fri, April 28. "Monticello: Images From Tuscany," black and white photographs by Jack Montgomery, shows through Thurs, March 30. Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9 am-6 pm, Tues and Thurs noon-6 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm. 871-1700.

Thomas Memorial Library 6 Scott Dyer Rd, Cape Elizabeth. Eichings, linocuts and monotypes by Kit Pike show Sat, April 1-Sat, April 29. Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9 am-5 pm, Tues and Thurs 9 am-8:30 pm. 799-1720 or 799-0648.

3 Fish Gallery 377 Cumberland Ave, Portland. Opening reception for paintings by Michael Zarate, Thurs, March 30 at 7:30 pm. Shows through Fri, April 28. Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri noon-5 pm, Sat 11:30 am-2:30 pm. 773-4337.

The University of Southern Maine Art Gallery USM's Gorham campus, Senior BFA shows, work by graduating fine art students, shows through Sat, April 1. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-4 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 780-5009.

GALLERIES

A gallery Rte. 123, Harpswell. A series of "Sea Muse" masks decorated with sea debris, sculpted lotus blossoms and dancing figures is ongoing. Hours: Fri-Mon 10 am-5 pm. 833-7864.

Androscoggin Artists Gallery 49 Lisbon St, Lewiston. "Bridging Lewiston-Auburn," paintings and drawings by Ruthanne Harrison, shows through Thurs, April 27. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. 782-7228.

ArtWorks 522 Congress St, Portland. An exhibit of jewelry, photography, sculpture, handmade books and pottery by Maine College of Art alumni and students and members of the Maine Crafts Association is ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5:30 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm. 879-5743 or 879-5743.

Atrium Gallery The University of Southern Maine's Lewiston Auburn College, 51 Westminster St, Lewiston. U/A Arts' 11th annual Art Exhibition and Auction preview shows through Fri, May 5. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-3 pm. 753-6500.

The Chocolate Church Arts Center 804 Washington St, Bath. "Fusion: Form & Function," practical objects with an artistic bent by various craftspeople, shows through Sat, April 15. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-4 pm. 442-8455.

Edmonds Curran Gallery Route 302 and Elmwood Ave, Westbrook. Surreal oil paintings by Malcolm Christhill and work by Rachael Eastman, Tom Edmonds, Gary Mullin and Andrew Curran show through Sat, April 8. Hours: Thurs and Fri noon-7 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm or by appointment. 878-4499.

Fishbow Gallery Visual Arts Center, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. "Gumption Junction," paintings by Robert Colburn, Matthew Meyer and Nathaniel Meyer, shows through Thurs, March 30. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm. 725-3000.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St, Portland. New work by Alison

Hidreth shows through Sat, April 15. Hours: Wed-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

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

Gallery at Wigwag Cove Studios 31 Wigwag Cove Lane, Harpswell. "Ritual Spaces: Food for Thought," collaborative sculptures by gallery artists, shows through Sun, April 2. Paintings, jewelry, sculpture, paper and books by gallery artists are ongoing. Hours: Fri and Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm and by appointment. 833-6081.

Greenhut Gallery 146 Middle St, Portland. "Maine Alzheimer's Cookbook," by Mary Bourke, and "Sculpture Show," curated by June Lacombe, show through Fri, April 21. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

Hay Gallery 54 Congress St, Portland. "Of Water and Light," landscape paintings by Julie Freund and Stan Moeller, shows through Sun, April 16. Hours: Sun-Thurs noon-5 pm, Wed, Thurs and Sat 10 am-7 pm, Fri 10 am-9 pm. 773-2513.

ICON Contemporary Art 19 Mason St, Brunswick. Oil paintings and black-and-white photographs by Claire Seidl show through Sat, April 15. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm and by appointment. 725-8157.

Institute of Contemporary Art 522 Congress St, Portland. "Beyond Decorum: The Photography of Iké Udé" shows through Thurs, April 13. Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri-Sun 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 879-5742.

Local 188 188 State St, Portland. "Dublin: A Work in Progress," photographs by Colin Malakie, shows through Sun, April 30. Hours: Tues and Wed 4 pm-close, Thurs-Sat 11 am-close, Sun 9 am-2 pm. 761-7909.

Maine Frames & Gallery 534 Congress St, Portland. Pen and ink drawings 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.

Maine Photo Co-op 100 Oak St, Portland. "Photographic Approach to Meditation," black-and-white photographs by Yong Ho Choi, shows through Sun, April 30. Hours: Tues-Thurs 11:30 am-9 pm, Fri 11:30 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 774-1900.

Montgomery Memorial Gallery at MECA 522 Congress St, Portland. Work by Claude Montgomery is ongoing. Hours: Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat 11 am-4 pm, Thurs 11 am-8 pm. 775-5098.

Motorfinger Gallery 625 Congress St, Portland. Paintings, photographs and mixed media by Colleen Kinsella, Kelly Nesbitt, Mike Zarate, Alesia Norling and Sarah Jane Lomba show through Thurs, April 6. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-4 pm, Sun noon-4 pm. 871-8983.

Radiant Light Gallery 142 High St, Suite 315, Portland. "Mette a Nu:

DREAM WEAVER



"The Wishing Star" by Brenda Atwood Pinardi, part of "Narrative Fantasies" at Davidson & Daughters.

Layers of fantasy

Brenda Atwood Pinardi deals with the big issues — temptation, betrayal, survival, mortality. Using a style she describes as "somewhere between surrealism and expressionism," Pinardi weaves allegorical, dreamy tales in paintings and monotypes.

A professor of drawing and painting at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell as well as director of its university gallery, Pinardi has previously exhibited her work at Hole in the Wall Studioworks in Raymond (as well as all over New England). Though Pinardi lives in Boston, she's spent time in Islesboro over the years and considers its location a continuing influence in her pieces. "The ocean is extremely important to me," she said.

That powerful symbol is just one that recurs in her work. Fish, such as the one held resolutely in the arms of a woman in "The Fish Wife," also turn up. And curtains make frequent appearances, swept back at the sides of compositions as if to reveal stages on which parables will be played out.

Sometimes disturbing, fraught with symbolism, Pinardi's passionate pieces hint darkly at dramatic stories about to unfold. The languid, sleeping face of the supine woman in "The Wishing Star" is like that of one of Balthus' avid adolescents; the female in "The Fireproof Woman," positioned solidly in the foreground of the canvas, serenely evades the chaotic flames and demonic creatures right behind her.

For Pinardi, who pitches her pieces in a key somewhere "between the quietness of Magritte and the scream of Frida Kahlo," the creative process is a matter of exploration, an "existential questioning." In pursuing that quest, she produces work packed with metaphors, references to Greek myths, even stories from her own past.

It's a rich accumulation that gives viewers something to ponder after they've left the gallery. Said Pinardi, "I layer the fantasies."

PAT SIMS

"Narrative Fantasies" begins Tues., April 4 with an opening reception on Sat., April 8 from 5-8 p.m. at Davidson & Daughters, 148 High St., Portland, and runs through Sat., April 29. Hours: Tues-Sat. 12-5 p.m. 780-0766.

VISUAL arts

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OTHER VENUES

Ablanap Library University of New England's Westbrook College campus, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland. "Women Make History," a book and information exhibit, shows through Fri, April 14. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-9 pm, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat 11 am-7 pm, Sun 1-9 pm. 797-14323.

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

Cafe Ulla 190 State St, Portland. Work by collage artist/painter Dorette Marie Amell and watercolorist Holly Brooks shows through Tues, April 11. Hours: Wed-Fri 7-11 am and 5:30-10 pm, Sat 8 am-noon and 5:30-10 pm, Sun 9 am-2 pm. 775-3380.

Dyer Library 371 Main St, Saco. Pastel Painters of Maine's first members' show, featuring work by 14 artists, shows through Thurs, March 30. Hours: Tues and Thurs 10 am-8 pm, Wed and Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-noon. 283-3861.

Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd. "Artists' Books by Island Friends," books by Allison Brown, Barrett Brewster, Betty Shepard, Yolanda de Leive, Sarah Harvey, Erika Soule and Martha Hall, shows through Tues, April 18. "Art for Our Children," illustrations from children's books by Holly Meade, Tom Cooke and Kevin Hawkes, shows through Sun, April 30. Hours: Tues and Thurs 9:30 am-8 pm, Wed, Fri and Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. 781-2351.

Fifth Maine Regiment Community Center 45 Seashore Ave, Peaks Island. "The Coney Island of Maine: Peaks Island, 1880-1920," a look back at Peaks Island's history as a summer resort, is ongoing. Hours: daily 11 am-4 pm. 766-5514.

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St, Portland. "Drunk in My Overcoat," paintings and prints by Lisa Poley, shows through Fri, March 31. Hours: daily 11:30 am-1 am. 774-1114.

Gallery Music 21 Forest Ave, Portland. Exhibition and silent auction of abstract gestural expressionist paintings by Reg Osborn and an exhibition of impressionist landscapes and collages by Mary Laverdiere show through Sat, April 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm. 775-1304.

Maine College of Art 522 Congress St, Portland. The Maine College of Art Annual Merit Scholarship Competition Exhibition shows through Mon, April 3. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-8 pm, Sat and Sun 9 am-4 pm. 879-5742-4225.

Maine Potters Market 376 Fore St, Portland. New work by Laurie Adams, Peter Jones, Neal Loken, Peggy Anne Mack and Peter and Susan McDougall is ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 774-1633.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 149 Main St, Freeport. Photographs by Paul Rochefort show through Sun, April 23. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm. 865-4519.

Muskie School of Public Service University of Southern Maine's Portland campus, Falmouth St. "2600 Hours of Community Service," photographs by George Hamilton, is ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm. 780-4000.

Portland Parks and Recreation 17 Arbor St. Paintings by Casey Fontaine show through Fri, April 28. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm. 756-8388.

Starbucks 594 Congress St, Portland. Selections from the Hay Gallery by Duane Patrio, Laura Fuller, Sara Gray, Michael Libby, Janice Lynch, Gary Robinson, Jane Page Conway and Shoshanna White are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6 am-8 pm, Fri 6 am-10 pm, Sat 7 am-10 pm, Sun 7 am-6 pm. 761-0334.

MUSEUMS

Bates College Museum of Art Lewiston. Highlights from the permanent collection are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Free. 786-6158.

Colby Museum Colby College campus, Waterville. "Illuminated Words: The Artist's Book of Christopher Gaudy," collages inspired by medieval manuscript illumination, shows through Sun, April 2. "Counting," paintings by Gal Spain, shows through Sun, April 9. The Joan Whitney Payson Collection shows through Sun, June 18. Hours: daily 10 am-4:30 pm. 872-3228.

Pellejor Museum 159 Park Row, Brunswick. "Currents of Change: Understanding the Androscoggin," historical exhibit of photographs, maps, objects and installations, shows through Wed, Jan 31, 2001. Hours: Tues, Wed and Fri 9 am-5 pm, Thurs 9 am-8 pm, Sat 9 am-4 pm. 729-6606.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress St. Hours: Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-9 pm. Admission: \$6.55 students and seniors/\$1 kids 6-12. Free every Fri from 5-9 pm. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

"Hamilton Easter Field Foundation Collection," paintings and works on paper by Field, Peggy Bacon, Stuart Davis, Marsden Hartley, Yasuo Kuniyoshi and others, shows through Sun, May 7.

"Images of Women: Reprieve," 12 photographs from the 1977 exhibition "Images of Women," shows through Sun, May 28.

"Recollected Images: Chansonette Stanley Emmons at the Portland Museum of Art," photographs by Emmons, shows through Sun, May 21.

"Sa Schloff: Portrait Gallery," an installation incorporating portrait photography and objects, shows through Sun, May 28.

"Youth Art Month exhibition," works by Maine grade school students, shows through Sun, April 2.

Umbrella Cover Museum 105 Brackett Ave, Peaks Island. Exhibit of over 150 umbrella sleeves from 12 countries including "People and Their

Covers" and "New Umbrella Cover Fashions" shows by appointment. Guided tours by director/curator Nancy Hoffman available. Admission: \$2 and foreign currency. 766-4496.

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CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

"Academy of Carlo Pittore" The accomplished artist hosts drawing sessions with models on Tues and Wed from 6:30-9:30 pm and Wed and Thurs from 10 am-1 pm. Models are also sought. 666-8453.

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

The Clay Cafe has projects for all ages. At the Clay Cafe, 26 Free St, Portland. 775-3004.

Clay Classes If you are interested in skillful yet casual clay classes, call Allison Arnold at Local 188, 188 State St, Portland. All hand-building. Any age over 7 welcome. 761-7909.

Creative Resource Center offers free programs for kids of all ages. At the Creative Resource Center, 1103 Forest Ave, Portland. Enrollment is limited. 797-8543.

"Figure Drawing from the Model" is offered by the Ogunquit Arts Collaborative Tues from 5:30-8:30 pm. At Ogunquit Arts Collaborative, Bourne Lane, Ogunquit. Cost: \$5. 646-8400.

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

Maine Photo Co-op "Black & White Printing Workshop" begins Sat, April 1 from 9 am-1 pm. Cost: \$50. "Color Workshop" begins Sun, April 2 from 9 am-1 pm. Cost: \$50. Pinhole camera tutorials are also available. At the Maine Photo Co-op, 100 Oak St, Portland. For more info, call 774-1900.

Portland Pottery offers a variety of pottery classes for adults and kids including classes in silver, ceramics, moldmaking and metal. At Portland Pottery, 118 Washington Ave, Portland. 772-4334.

Sawyer Street Studios has pottery classes for adults and kids. At Sawyer Street Studios, 131 Sawyer St, South Portland. 767-4394.

Bonnie Spiegel offers classes in painting and drawing for adults at her Portland studio on Mon and Wed evenings. Morning classes also being formed. For more info, call 774-4160.

"Young Art Art" Judy Faust offers unusual art classes for kids, including "An After School," "Bugs n' Butterflies" and "Preschool Art." 781-5255 or 781-1138.

INTERNSHIPS & FUNDING

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

The **Maine Humanities Council** has grant money available to nonprofits interested in creating projects exploring their community's history. Quarterly deadlines: Wed, May 10; Thurs, Aug 10; and Fri, Nov 10. For more info, call 773-5075 or e-mail info@mainehumanities.org.

Percent for Art The Art Selection Committee for Department of Public Safety — Maine State Police — in Houlton is holding a competition for professional artists residing in Maine to design, execute and install artwork for a new police barracks. For a prospectus, send a SASE to Vela Peltier, Maine State Police, P.O. Box 340, Houlton, Maine 04730-0340. Deadline: Fri, April 7.

The **Portland Arts and Cultural Alliance** and the **Maine Community Foundation** request proposals for the Arts for Youth program, collaborative arts programs for Portland youth ages 10-14. Grants up to \$5,000 available. Deadline: Fri, March 31. For an application or more info, call the NCF at 761-2440 or visit www.mainearts.org or call PACA at 772-0150 or e-mail pac@mainearts.com.

EVENTS & LECTURES

Architect 2000 A lecture series featuring world-renowned architects and designers. Thurs, April 6: Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, architects, give a lecture entitled "Work Life." At the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, at 6 pm. Tix: \$5. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

Meghan Boody Thurs, April 6. The New York-based digital imaging artist speaks as part of the Maine College of Art's Visiting Lecturer Series. At MECA's Baxter Imaging Center, 619 Congress St, Portland, at 6 pm. Free. 775-5098.

The Central Maine Friends of Photography holds meetings the first Tues and third Wed of each month. At the Creative Photographic Arts Center, Bates Mill Enterprise Arts Center, fourth floor, 59 Canal St, Lewiston, from 7-9 pm. 782-1369.

"Conscious Living/Conscious Dying" Thurs and Fri, March 30 and 31. Screenings of the film about the lives and deaths of back-to-the-landers/authors Helen and Scott Nearing, by Polly Benneil and Andrea Sarris. Thurs, March 30: At Ludcke Auditorium, the University of New England's Westbrook College campus, 716 Stevens Ave, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 761-5616. Fri, March 31: At the Allford Center for Health Services, UNE's Biddeford campus, at 7 pm. Free. 773-3273.

"First Monday" Informal discussions of MECA students and community artists for art-related gatherings the first Monday of every month. At the Institute for Contemporary Art, MECA Building, 522 Congress St, Portland, at 5 pm. For more info, call Alison at 761-1902.

Aviva Rahmani Tues, April 4. The eco-artist currently working on Ghost Nets, a conceptually based project involving the restoration of a salt marsh in Vinalhaven, Maine, gives a lecture. At Robie Andrews Hall, USM's Gorham campus, at 4 pm. Free. 780-5009.

Warren Seelig Thurs, March 30. The three-dimensional textile construction artist gives a slide lecture on his work. At the MECA's Baxter Imaging Center, 619 Congress St, Portland, at 6 pm. Free. 879-5742-4252.

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VIRGINIA RODRIGUES
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PERFORMANCE

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

DANCE

"Dance Into Spring" Sat, April 8. The Gorham Community Ballet and the Competition Dance Teams of the Dance Studio of Maine perform scenes from "The King and I," "West Side Story," "Dance of the Hours," and more to benefit the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. At South Portland High School, 637 Highland Ave., at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$5. Kids 12 and under: \$3.49. **"Dance Celebration 2000"** Fri, April 7. Thornton Academy hosts performances by Thornton Academy Dance Company, Perennial Effects Dance Collective, Barakat Middle Eastern Dance Ensemble, Lisa Hicks and Dancers, J. Maitre Farmington Dancers, Upbeat Feet Company, Motion Collective, Carl Rudman and Heleena Melrose. At Thornton Academy, 438 Main St., Saco, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$5. Kids 12 and under: \$3.49. **"Mama Mia"** Fri, March 31. L.A. Arts presents a performance by the internationally renowned modern dance company. At Lewiston Middle School, 75 Central Ave., at 8 pm. Tickets: \$20. Kids 12 and under: \$10. **"The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique"** Fri, April 7. The company of 20 dancers performs pieces melding modern choreography and old traditions in vibrant costumes, accompanied by African musical instruments and incorporating storytelling and song. At Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tickets: \$22.50. A portion of the proceeds benefits Doctors Without Borders, a nonprofit group helping victims of Mozambique's floods. **"Joshi Raghuvaran"** Fri, March 31. The Indian classical dancer performs in the "bhavata natyam" dance style, followed by a Dance Friday "Bhangra" dance party incorporating music made with traditional and modern instruments. At the Center for Cultural Exchange, 1 Longfellow Square, Portland, at 8 pm. Tickets: \$10. Kids 12 and under: \$5. **"The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique"** Fri, April 7. The company of 20 dancers performs pieces melding modern choreography and old traditions in vibrant costumes, accompanied by African musical instruments and incorporating storytelling and song. At Merrill Auditorium, 20 Myrtle St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tickets: \$22.50. A portion of the proceeds benefits Doctors Without Borders, a nonprofit group helping victims of Mozambique's floods. **"Joshi Raghuvaran"** Fri, March 31. The Indian classical dancer performs in the "bhavata natyam" dance style, followed by a Dance Friday "Bhangra" dance party incorporating music made with traditional and modern instruments. At the Center for Cultural Exchange, 1 Longfellow Square, Portland, at 8 pm. Tickets: \$10. Kids 12 and under: \$5.

THEATER

"Antigone" Thurs-Sat, March 30-April 1. The Freeport Community Players perform Jean Anouilh's adaptation of Sophocles' 2,400-year-old drama exploring issues of personal freedom and authoritarianism. At Freeport High School, Holbrook St., at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$8. Kids 12 and under: \$5.



Cast members of *A Company of Girls*, whose collaboration with Time Out For Moms, "Sticky Like a Frog," will be performed Sat and Sun, April 1 and 2, at the Children's Theatre of Maine.

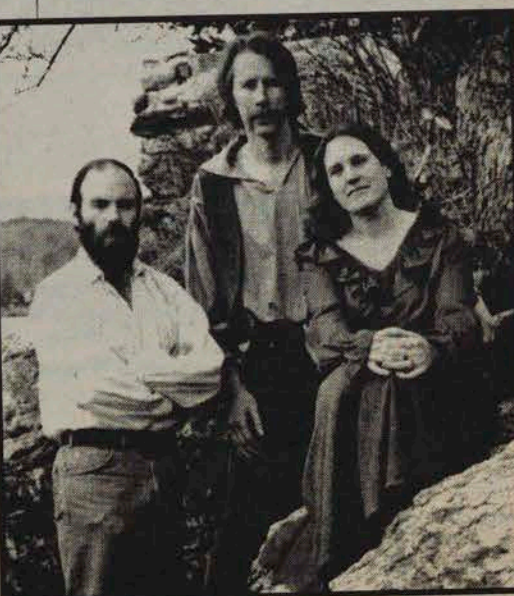
There's more to growing old as a woman than reruns of "The Golden Girls." A Company of Girls (a program of the East End Children's Workshop) and Time Out For Moms (a program of the Acom School for the Performing Arts) have collaborated to present **"Sticky Like a Frog,"** a work exploring women's lives as they pass from girlhood to Golden Girlhood. Based on the experiences of the performers and elders from the Viking/Crescent House residence in Cape Elizabeth, the play incorporates spoken word, movement and song to tell its stories. Get stuck on Sat and Sun, April 1 and 2, at the Children's Theatre of Maine, 317 Marginal Way, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$5. \$74-2107.

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: casco@cascoweekly.com.

PERFORMING ARTS

Auditions/submissions
Actors and actresses Sat, April 8. Shenanigans Productions holds auditions for its upcoming production, "Baby's First Wedding," to be performed at Jonathan's Restaurant in Ogunquit this summer. Shenanigans seeks seven women ages 18 to 40 and five men ages early 20s to 40. At Jonathan's Restaurant, 525 Forest Ave., Portland, at 10 am and at Jonathan's Restaurant, 2 Bourne Lane, Ogunquit, at 12:30 pm. Free. 639-6577.
Actors and actresses The Theater at Monmouth seeks actors who can sing and act for its spring production of the children's play "Hens-Sat." The six-week contact tour runs Sat, April 29-Fri, June 2, 2000. Pay: \$125/week. For an audition appointment, call 933-2952.
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Castlebay gets medieval on your ass during "The Fool Rules" benefit at Cole-Haas's Yarmouth headquarters on Sat, April 1.

Instrumentalists The Casco Bay Concert Band, an adult community band, has openings in the trumpet, percussion, flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and string bass sections. For more info, call Dr. Peter Martin at 780-5267.
Performers and artists The Women's Coalition seeks women interested in poetry, painting, art, crafts, music and creative movement. Meetings are Tuesdays at the University of Southern Maine's Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland, at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Kristen at 780-4996.
Singers The Royal River Chorus of Sweet Adelines International auditions female singers interested in joining the New England barbershop harmony group on Thursdays at Harrison Middle School, McCarthy St., Yarmouth, from 7-10 pm. 646-4331.
Singers Renaissance Voices, a small, Portland-based cappella group, needs a few good voices. To audition, call 781-2965.
Singers The Casco Bay Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, a women's barbershop quartet, seeks individuals who can read music and stay on tune. For an audition, call 799-1924.

Writers, actors and radio technicians interested in getting involved in a radio theater project can write Radio Theatre, P.O. Box 4052, Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail: james.barnes@maine.edu.

classes/workshops

"Page to Stage" Tues, April 4. Portland Stage Company and the Portland Public Library collaborate to host a discussion of the social, cultural and historic significance of PSC's upcoming production, "Blues for an Alabama Sky." At the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, from 7-9 pm. Free. To register, call 774-1043.

"Writers' Jam Sessions" Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance provides space for writers to critique each other's work and share tips on publication, meeting agents and so on. Fiction sessions are Tues, April 4 and 18, from 1-3 pm. Poetry sessions are Thurs, April 6 and 20, from 1-3 pm. Creative nonfiction sessions are Tues, April 11 and 25, from 1-3 pm. Screenwriting and publishing sessions are Thurs, April 14 and 28, from 1-3 pm. At Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 12 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Free. 729-6333.

HAPPENINGS

"Evening in Paris" Thurs, March 30. Fundraising dinner and auction benefiting Mercy Hospital's McKelvey Residence. At the Elks Lodge, 1945 Congress St., Portland, from 6-9 pm. Tickets: \$15. Kids 12 and under: \$7.99-3486.

"From the Archives to the Silver Screen: Presenting Women's History" Thurs, March 30. Lecture by Laurie Kahn-Leavitt, producer and creator of the documentary "A Woman's Tale." At the Center for Maine History, 489 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Free. 679-0427.

Cesar Chavez Day Fri, March 31. Events celebrating the union activist's birthday include a "Rally for a Livable Wage for All Maine Workers," at the Capitol Building, Augusta, from 1-2 pm; screenings of the documentary "The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the United Farmworkers Movement," at Portland City Hall, 389 Congress St., at 4 pm and 7:30 pm; a ceremony commemorating Chavez's 1974 visit to Maine at Lincoln Park, Portland, at 6 pm; and a home and ice cream social followed by an evening of Latin music and dancing at the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church, 17 Chestnut St., Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 753-1922 or 722-7248.

Portland Pirates Fri, March 31. Against the St. John's Maple Leafs, at 7:35 pm. Sun, April 2. Against the Saint John Flames, at 3:05 pm. At the Civic Center, Portland. Tickets: \$10-\$14. Kids 12 and under: \$5-3458.

Professional Wrestling Fri, March 31. Superstars of the NWA New England wrestling league - including Jimmy Superfly, Snake, "Mr. USA" Tony Atlas and Robbie Ellis - beat the hell out of each other to benefit the South Portland Police Patrolmen's Association. At Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Rd., South Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$10. Kids 12 and under: \$5-7876.

"A Ship in the Forest" Fri, March 31. Dr. William Leavenworth presents a historical look at the impact of shipbuilding on Maine's forests. At Maine Maritime Museum, 243 Washington St., Bath, at 7 pm. Tickets: \$7.50. For a reservation, call 443-1316x0.

"April Showers" Sat, April 1. Ship pickup along Portland's Eastern Front during which participants can win prizes for finding fake burials and/or picking up the most don-don-dos. Register at Fitch, 102 Congress St., Portland, at 9 am. Refreshments and materials provided. For more info, call Kathy at 773-5450 or Diane at 774-2822.

"Chocolate Lovers' Night and Silent Auction" Sat, April 1. The Scarborough Track and Field Program hosts an event to benefit its track programs. At Scarborough High School, 20 Goshen Rd., at 7 pm. Free. 839-6577.

Contraband Sat, April 1. Family-style gathering with music by the Sea Slugs and caller Reggie Odom. At Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Rd., Bar Mills, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$4. Kids 12 and under: \$10. Family: \$29-6472.

"The Fool Rules" Sat, April 1. Medieval celebration associated with the Yarmouth Oam Festival, featuring costumed pomp and circumstance, music by Castlebay and comedian Randy Jenkins as the fool. At Cole-Haas, Route 1, Yarmouth, at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$50. Benefits the upcoming walk to the Oam Festival by members of the Medieval Festival of Cotnam, Italy. 846-5984.

teenage liberation COOKBOOK

Take me home EVA WRITT

Adoption is one of the most amazing human concepts. We feel the need to take in wounded strays, to feed the deer in our backyard, to swerve when a squirrel dashes across the freeway. If puppies looked like warthogs, we wouldn't spend \$900 for a purebred, and if abandoned babies weren't cherubic and personable, we wouldn't feel the need to give them our companionship and guidance. But since we do, we spend years and thousands of dollars to get our very own stray.

Then there's always abortion. Although I thoroughly believe women should have their choices, it is fast becoming an easy means of birth control. I know a girl who's had four abortions in the last three years, and as much as I love her, I tell her her choices have been irrational. If you don't want a baby, there are things you can do before you have a problem.

Sometimes you run into a young girl who has different morals, though. She's five months pregnant, wearing a huge Tommy Hilfiger sweater to hide her bulge from her parents and insisting on giving birth and raising her child. This girl will probably wind up on the "Maury Povich Show" in eight months to find out who the father is. She'll end up on welfare, working part-time at a fast-food franchise and never having a profession or making anything of herself. (Which is unfair, but generally true.)

So what happens when you screw up, but still don't want the child? Well, genius, ditch it if you don't have a moral bone in your body or (more favorably) get in touch with an adoption agency or hospital service. With all the unwanted babies in the world, you'd be surprised how hard it is to adopt a Caucasian newborn. Couples with reproductive disorders can find a young girl who's pregnant, give her a home, feed her, find her a job and wait for the day. They then adopt the baby, send the mother off into the world with good intentions and write it off on their taxes. We hear stories about sisters, cousins, friends, even grandmothers offering their bodies as surrogate wombs. I find myself thinking, though, that the hardest position in an adoption has to be that of the birth mother.

A few months ago, I mentioned that I planned to focus on the subject of adopted teenagers in a column. All the responses I got were from 30-something women who had put a child up for grabs. They all told me how hard it was to get over their decisions and how guilty they feel for what they did. Another thing: All of them had either written to or otherwise gotten in touch with the new parents of their baby.

This almost makes me mad. You didn't want the baby, you didn't want to have an abortion, didn't want to use protection, so now, umpteens years later, you're in a mad tizzy to get back into contact with the kid you didn't want to have anyway. Confusion, be my muse.

Adoption is a drawn-out and difficult process, and the people who open their hearts to unwanted children are commendable. They are generous and open-minded people who really deserve to be parents, and when they take kids in, they are the real parents. It is utterly unfair for biological parents to come back later and impose upon their happiness. Even if they have the hardest role in an adoption, it was the biological parents' choice in the first place, and if they are going to discard their baby, they don't deserve to meet him or her in 20 years. There should be some sort of law that says they cannot be part of their children's lives and aren't allowed to get in touch. I know, it will completely take away from sitcom plots and talk show topics, but it will save a lot of heartbreak.

The parents of a pregnant teenager do not have the power over her body to decide what she does with it. If she was stupid enough to get pregnant, then it is her choice whether she wants to abort it, raise it or reject it. Girls whose religiously zealous parents make the decision for them are the biological mothers who later go on talk shows to meet their grown-up babies. If the decision could have been the birth mother's, then her pain would be obsolete, because she would not be allowed to have second thoughts 10 years later.

Religion should not play a part in the right and wrong of abortion, childbirth and adoption. The main concern of many religious groups seems to be raising an army for the Lord. These days, we do not live on farms; we do not have fields to harvest and animals to tend. With all the children living in foster care, in unwanted situations and in juvenile residences, good God-fearing people should open their arms to adoption.

So, some people have the audacity to bring an unwanted child into the world and not offer it to a better family. These kids will be discovered by Child Protective Services and spend their teenage years passing from one foster home to another. We do not have to let this happen. Kids can have a good life through adoption. Unintentional mothers can live a good life through abortion and ignorant girls can avoid the dreadful choice through safe sex and even abstinence (imagine that).

Eva Writh would like to thank all the nice ladies who offered their stories and opinions for this column. She does not mean any offense to them for their decisions or actions.

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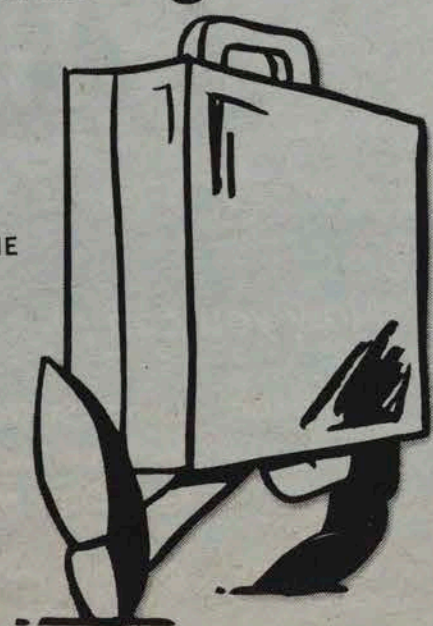
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sportland

J. BARRY MOTHES

First steps

I've always hated running. Or maybe I should say I've always lacked the willpower to stay with it long enough to get to a point where I might actually tell someone that I run and feel like I enjoy it.

My explanation for my lack of running has always been that I was the kind of person who got my running and exercise playing games. In high school it was varsity-level soccer and hockey, in college it was whatever pickup games I played — three-on-three basketball, ultimate Frisbee, street hockey. But I never thought about running just for running's sake or for conditioning. I liked to get my running without having to pay attention to it.

But things have changed. Other than once-a-week men's hockey league games in the winter and being on the ice for an hour a day as a high school hockey coach, I've realized I don't play outside much anymore. In fact, now in my mid-30s, I don't play outside at all. I've been finding myself winded too easily. So I'm trying to run.

I've tried running before, and jogging before that. There were a couple of short-lived bursts in college. When I was a year out of college, and working at a daily newspaper in Lewiston, I shared an apartment with a co-worker who had been a cross-country star at Bates. He had lots of sneakers around the apartment and I adopted a neglected pair of New Balance running shoes, thinking it might get me going. It didn't. A few years ago I bought roller blades, thinking they could replace running. That didn't pan out either.

This latest stab at running started in late February. While strolling down Congress Street one morning, I dropped in to Olympia Sports and gravitated to the wall lined with sneakers — basketball, cross-trainers, running shoes. I had a hard time finding a pair I could deal with — the colors and designs seemed so strange, so bold in comparison with my level of exercise. But I felt a pull. "Looking for running shoes?" a friendly young clerk asked.

"Ah ... yes," I said, uncertain whether I really wanted a pair at all. He shuffled back to the stockroom to track down a couple of styles I'd asked for. I felt like I had to try them on. After months of wearing mostly ankle-high leather boots, the new running shoes felt ridiculously light and snug.

I left the store without new sneakers, but after browsing at a couple of other stores I returned and settled on a \$60 pair of Asics. They had felt the best. I also liked the fact that they didn't look like foam blobs. "One of the best models out there," the clerk reassured me.

My new running shoes sat in my closet (not far from the roller blades) until March 16, when I broke them out and decided, as the daylight was dropping, that I was going for a run. I've often imagined a run around the perimeter of the peninsula, a route that would take me east on Commercial Street up to Fore Street and across the Eastern Prom, down a side street to Marginal Way, across Deering Oaks to Park Avenue and over St. John Street to the Danforth Street hill and back up to the West End. I realized that would be about an eight-mile run. So I decided on a shorter route: Pine Street to the Western Prom, back on Danforth Street toward downtown, down Brackett to Commercial, then west along Commercial and up Danforth Hill to Vaughan and back toward Pine Street and home.

My first time out I hit the wall on Commercial Street, somewhere between the old Star match factory and Bennie's Fish and Chips, about the 1.3-mile mark. With nighttime commuter traffic zooming home beside me, I struggled to find a comfortable breathing pattern. My legs were OK, but the lungs were being tested. A cramp slashed my right side. I told myself I couldn't stop. I settled into a three-count rhythm that ended on a grunting exhale and made it to the traffic circle at the bottom of the hill. I felt better as I passed idling cars stuck in traffic.

I decided to tackle the hill that climbs from the circle to the intersection of Vaughan and Danforth streets. It's not very long, a couple tenths of a mile, but it's relatively steep. Halfway up it got tough. I pushed myself to at least reach the top sign at the top of the hill. After a quick break at the sign, I ran two more blocks up Vaughan and walked the rest of the way home.

For the next two days my thighs and calves ached as I went up and down stairs, stepped into the shower, sat down, stood up. But when I hit the streets two days later for my second run, the aches seemed to disappear. This time there was no struggling on Commercial Street, and when I reached the top of Danforth Hill, I kept on going up Vaughan all the way home. Earlier in the day I'd clocked my route in my car and found it was exactly three miles. I was starting to feel a sliver of accomplishment. Maybe this was the time. **CBW**



Hitting the wall: Barry Mothes takes to the streets of Portland.

MOVIES

VIDEO review

"Best Laid Plans," directed by Mike Barker. Rated R. Originally released in 1999. Released on video Feb. 21.

The tagline for this movie is "relationships can be murder," a double entendre that neatly sizes up the overriding film noir atmosphere of this nicely done, compact thriller. Compared to most movies of this ilk, which are so overtly manipulative they're painful to watch, "Best Laid Plans" stands out as one of the genuine articles, with many fresh twists.

Nick (Alessandro Nivola) is a working-class hero with a master's in history who yearns to escape his bleak surroundings. Through a series of mishaps involving a dead cat, a flat tire and a wake, he becomes involved with a sultry young woman named Melissa (Reese Witherspoon). Just when it seems Nick's dream of escaping his tawdry environs may become a reality, the rug is pulled out from under him. In desperation, he agrees to the kind of scheme that reeks of bad news. In return for being a driver in a drug scam, he is promised big bucks. Naturally, the drug lord who owns the stash finds out and pretty soon Nick has to come up with \$15,000 or pay with his life.

What follows is a complex web of events that constantly inverts Nick's intentions right up to the surprise ending (and, unlike most of these flicks, it really is a surprise). To get some quick cash, Nick and Melissa invent a plot to trick Nick's annoying college buddy Bryce (Josh Brolin) by stealing valuable historic currency from the posh house where Bryce is caretaker. What they don't count on is Bryce's hysterical reaction, the drug lord's impatience and a level of greed to match Nick's own.

What is most difficult to maintain in films of this genre is credibility. But somehow, through strong acting, clever writing, inventive editing and careful direction, the viewer becomes enmeshed, despite the unraveling chaos. Although Witherspoon seems a tad immature to handle the complexity of her character, she is strongly supported by Nivola

and Brolin's synchronized portrayals.

However, the real power of this film lies in its stylish direction. Mike Barker, a relatively new English director whose previous credits include only a smattering of minor films and TV movies, has created a sensuous, troubled landscape filled with dark, rich images of neon-lit wasteland cafés and recycled junk. This is contrasted with the perverse luxury of the house where Bryce is staying — an oasis of tranquility marred by a closet filled with pornography and an S&M playroom. Like most of the characters in the movie, who are not what they seem to be, these moody, slippery images are not to be taken at face value.

This movie is also a lot smarter than the average thriller, thanks to 26-year-old Ted Griffin's brainy screenplay. At its heart is a clever morality tale centering around money, greed and value. As Nick's pursuit of cash grows more desperate, his



own moral value becomes increasingly diminished, until his life, and that of his girlfriend, is reduced to a cash amount. Nick's job at a recycling plant is especially ironic, as it becomes clear that what is actually at stake is what he can salvage from his relationship with Melissa along with what's left of his own self-worth.

The slow spiral of moral decay in this movie is like Nick's careless cigarette butt, igniting a smoldering fire that burns out of control. Despite the slightly mawkish ending, "Best Laid Plans" is extremely entertaining and marks Barker as a director worth watching.

ANNIE SEIKONIA

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THE MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

10 Exchange St., Portland. 772-9600.

CHANTS OF SANDS AND STARS An Israeli film depicting Jewish biblical pieces from around the world. Sun., April 2, 8 p.m.
GOOSEWEEN A small boy sends an e-mail message to God. Part of short film mesley. Tues., April 4, 6 p.m.
THE GRAPPE A German thriller set in New York City and Germany that explores the complex relationship between today's Jews and Germans. Sat., April 1, 8 p.m. and Sun., April 2, 1 p.m.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. NAGASAWA An Israeli movie about the country's 50th birthday, the defeat of the Arabs and Mizrahi's own struggle to build a house. Wed., April 5, 6 p.m.
JAWS AND BLOODSHED An American documentary looking at how these two cultures enrich each other. Mon., April 3, 8 p.m.
KADOSH An Israeli movie about the confined lives of two sisters within an Orthodox community in Jerusalem. Wed., April 5, 8 p.m.
KALINKA MAYA An Israeli movie about two young men from Tel Aviv looking to fall in love with two Russian women. Part of short film mesley. Tues., April 4, 6 p.m.
KARLSBELL A German documentary about Kurt Gertsen, a Jewish-German actor, director and cabaret star in Berlin in the 1930s who was killed at Auschwitz. Wed., April 5, 1 p.m.
THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANU GREENBERG An American documentary that chronicles the life of America's first Jewish baseball star. Thurs., March 30, 8 p.m. and Mon., April 3, 8 p.m.
MAN IS A WOMAN A French comedy about shifting sexual and religious identities. Tues., April 4, 8 p.m.

OCEAN AVENUE An American movie about a woman who sets out to search for her vanished daughter. Part of Women's Film Festival. Thurs., April 2, 10:30 a.m.

THE PERSONALS: IMPROVATIONS ON ROMANCE In the Golden Years a look at a group of elderly Jews in New York as they rehearse a play about the joys and sorrows of their lives. Part of Women's Film Festival. Thurs., April 2, 10:30 a.m. and Wed., April 3, 1 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHER A Polish/German documentary about the Lodz ghetto, telling the story of the Jews in the ghetto through the slides of a Nazi accountant. Thurs., March 30, 6 p.m.

THE PORT OF LAST RESORT An Australian/American movie about Jewish refugees who found refuge from the Holocaust in Shanghai. Sunday, April 2, 4 p.m.

SALIENCE A British film about the world of a child survivor. Part of Women's Film Festival. Thurs., April 2, 10:30 a.m.

THE TURKEY A turkey needs to be plucked, but Ahmed is reluctant. Part of short film mesley. Tues., April 4, 6 p.m.

VILLAGE OF IDIOTS A Canadian animated film of a Sholem Aleichem story in which a man discovers a village identical to his own. Part of short film mesley. Tues., April 4, 6 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE WALL An Israeli film looking at the rise of feminism in Israel as reflected in a group of Jewish women to play at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Part of Women's Film Festival. Thurs., April 2, 10:30 a.m.

YANAI'S FRIENDS An Israeli movie about a young, pregnant Russian immigrant in Israel who falls in love during the Gulf War. Sun., April 2, 8 p.m.

now playing

NEW THIS WEEK

HIGH FIDELITY John Cusack stars with his sister, Lisa Bonet and Lily Taylor in this screen adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel about a horny record store owner. Maine Mall Cinema.
PRICE OF GLORY Jimmy Smits stars as a dad determined to have a son who gets rich and famous beating the tar out of other people in the boxing ring. Maine Mall Cinema.
THE ROAD TO EL DORADO Greedy, bloodthirsty Spanish explorers of the 16th-century plunder the New World in this lavishly animated romp from DreamWorks. Maine Mall Cinema. Hoyts Falmouth 10.
THE SKULLS Joshua Jackson plays an Ivy League who's lousy into an elite secret society. Leads to deadly, cerebral and great political and business connections. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

ALSO SHOWING

AMERICAN BEAUTY Kevin Spacey stars as a down-weirdy spiraling indie writer who's rejuvenated by the attentions of his adolescent daughter's friend, creating division between himself and his status-obsessed wife (Annette Bening). Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.
ANGELA'S ASHES Moviegoers are sure to find humor in this uplifting tale of a poverty-stricken, starving young Irish lad trying to keep his family afloat. Keystone Theatre Cafe.
THE BEACH Leonardo DiCaprio stars in this soloistic "film" that centers on a "gap" suffering from "wanderlust" who finds a "secret" island. Nickelodeon Cinema 1-6.
BEING JOHN MALKOVICH Music video wunderkind Spike Jonze ("Savage") directed this warped tale of a down-on-his-luck puppeteer (John Cusack) who discovers a portal behind the filing cabinet at his office that leads inside the brain of actor John Malkovich (John Malkovich). Keystone Theatre Cafe, Nickelodeon Cinema 1-6.

THE CIDER HOUSE RULES Dr. Larch (Michael Caine) governs over a rural orphanage in 1930s Maine, helping mothers deliver their babies and rearing the unwanted kids. But the good physician's heart is broken when his favorite charge, Homer (Foley Maguire) leaves with a veiling couple (Paul Rudd and Charlize Theron). Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10.
THE EMPEROR AND THE ASSASSIN In this film by director Chen Kaige, an emperor's plans to expand his empire are foiled by his lover and the usual complications associated with imperiousness. The Movies.

ERIN BROOKOVICH Julia Roberts stars as a lawyer's assistant who's persistent efforts and cunning good looks help bring down a powerful utility suspected of poisoning local wells. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.
THE GREEN MILE Tom Hanks plays a prison guard whose life is changed by a possibly divine inmate in this big-screen adaptation of the Stephen King novel. Keystone Theatre Cafe.
HERE ON EARTH Director Brian De Palma delivers a romantic drama about mistakes, pain and bad decisions. Starring Leelee Sobieski ("Eyes Wide Shut"). Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

HOLY SMOKES! In this film by Jane Campion, "The Pines" parents "rescue" their wayward daughter from an Indian cult, only to have her turn the tables on the counselor they hire to deprogram her. Starring Kate Winslet and Harvey Keitel. The Movies.

MISSION TO MARS Alternate title: "Return to Gilligan's Island." Brian De Palma directed this laughable sci-fi epic about a group of astronauts who land on the empty red planet in search of an alien. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.
MY DOG SKIP He could wear your heart by telling about Skip, a Jack Russell terrier who helps bring a goody and withdrawn eight-year-old boy out of his shell, but we'd rather giggle over the last of this movie's characters named "Big Boy," "Ski" and "Dink." Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema.

THE NINTH GATE Alternate title: "Rosemary's Baby." Edward Scissorhands? In this tale of fire and terrorism by director Roman Polanski, a rare book dealer leads to find a text that could — quite literally — cause all hell to break loose. Hoyts Clark's Pond, REINDEER GAMES. It's not the life and Elton Rick. Unfortunately, it is yet another Ben Affleck movie. In this thriller by John Frankenheimer ("Ransom"), Affleck plays an ex-con who's mistaken for a groom perpetrating a beautiful woman (Chloe Thorne). Keystone Theatre Cafe.
ROMEO MUST DIE While it's really Gary Sinise and Tim Robbins who must die for their performance in the well-reviewed "Mission to Mars," we'll spare their lives in honor of Chinese martial arts maestro Jet Li ("Lethal Weapon IV"). "The Black Mask," the frenetic action hero of "Romance." As an ex-con wrongly imprisoned in a Hong Kong jail, Li escapes to America, where his family is waging a gang war for control of the Oakland waterfront. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.

THE SIXTH SENSE Let's see here: a young lad discovers he has the ability to see ghosts, and turns to Bruce Willis for help. Right. Your sixth sense should be telling you something, too. Nickelodeon Cinema 1-6.
STUART LITTLE Vornie are at the heart of this tale about a human family and their trouble-making mouse. When the little rodent turns up with an infectious case of deadly lymph disease, all sorts of horrors ensue. Beware! Nickelodeon Cinema 1-6.
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY Ah, yes, just the kind of talent that'll get you places. Matt Damon stars as the title character, a poor American who's tried to go to Italy and bring back a rich man's son. Instead, Ripley ends up murdering the golden boy and assuming his identity. Keystone Theatre Cafe, Nickelodeon Cinema 1-6.

THE TIGER MOVIE He jumps! He talks funny! He intrudes on others' personal space! In this animated film, the most conscious of the Winnie the Pooh characters gets his own big-screen tribute. With any luck, the bouncing tiger ends up as a trophy on Christopher Robin's bedroom wall. Maine Mall Cinema.
WHATEVER IT TAKES While you should certainly do whatever it takes to avoid the sci-fi-for-dummies flick "Mission to Mars," you're free to take your chances in this update of "Crash de Regence." The movie centers around Ryan, an oddball student in love with the hottest girl in high school. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10.
WONDER BOYS Let's hope the skill of director Curtis Hanson ("L.A. Confidential") hits this Michael Douglas vehicle above the sap and sentimentality of its previous. Douglas stars as a writing professor who has been fired in a novel in years, though not for a lack of material. After getting a college knocked out by Frances McDormand, he spends three bizarre days in Pittsburgh with a suicidal student. "Foley Maguire." Keystone Theatre Cafe.

times starting Friday

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, Mar. 31-April 6. Except where indicated. Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

HOYTS CLARK'S POND

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

AMERICAN BEAUTY
1, 3:40, 6:30, 9:10
SKULLS (PG-13)
12:40, 3:20, 7, 9:40
HERE ON EARTH (PG-13)
1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
WHATEVER IT TAKES (PG-13)
1:30, 4:30, 8:45, 9:20
ROMEO MUST DIE (R)
12:45, 3:50, 7:30, 10
ERIN BROOKOVICH (R)
12:30, 1:10, 3:30, 4:10, 6:50, 7:20, 9:45, 10:10
MISSION TO MARS (PG)
12:50, 4, 6:40, 9:30

HOYTS FALMOUTH 10

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

AMERICAN BEAUTY
1:20, 3:55, 6:30, 9:25
CIDER HOUSE RULES
12:35, 3:30, 6:40, 9:30
ERIN BROOKOVICH
1:10, 4:10, 6:45, 7:10, 9:35, 9:55
MY DOG SKIP
1:40, 4:15
HERE ON EARTH (PG-13)
1:15, 3:50, 6:55, 9:20
ROAD TO EL DORADO
12:30, 2:35, 4:50, 7, 9:10
SKULLS (PG-13)
1:30, 4, 7:20, 10
WHATEVER IT TAKES (PG-13)
12:40, 3:20, 6:50, 9:40
ROMEO MUST DIE (R)
1:30, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50
MISSION TO MARS (PG)
12:50, 3:25, 6:35, 9:15

KEYSTONE THEATRE CAFE

504 Congress St., Portland. 771-5500

ANGELA'S ASHES (R)
8:45-SAT-SUN. MAT. 12:45
REINDEER GAMES (R)
9:35-SAT-SUN. MAT. 3:45
THE GREEN MILE (R)
8:30-SAT-SUN. MAT. 2:15
TORSY TURVEY
6:15-SAT-SUN. MAT. 2:45
WHOLE NINE YARDS
9:30-SAT-SUN. MAT. 12:30
WONDER BOYS (R)
6

MAINE MALL CINEMA

Maine Mall Road, So. Portland. 774-1022

BOYS DON'T CRY
1:30, 4:05, 7:20, 9:50
HIGH FIDELITY
1:15, 4, 7:15, 9:45
MY DOG SKIP (PG)
1:30, 4, 7:05, 9:20
PRICE OF GLORY
1:25, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45
ROAD TO EL DORADO
12:50, 1:10, 2:55, 3:10, 5, 5:20, 7, 7:30, 9, 9:30
THE CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG-13)
1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:40

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BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R)
4:10, 7:10, 9:40-SAT-SUN. MAT. 1:40
THE INSIDER
4:30, 6:50-SAT-SUN. MAT. 1:10
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
3:50, 6:45, 9:30-SAT-SUN. MAT. 1
THE HURDISANE (R)
4:20, 7:45-SAT-SUN. MAT. 1:20
THE SIXTH SENSE (PG-13)
4, 7:20, 9:45-SAT-SUN. MAT. 1:30
STUART LITTLE (PG)
4:45-SAT-SUN. MAT. 12:45, 2:45
THE BEACH (R)
7, 9:35

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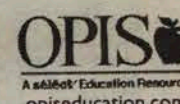
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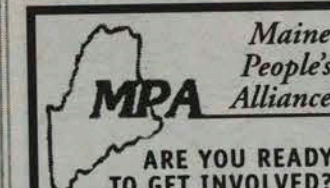
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): Tuning my psychic vision into your imminent future, I see you lying on a floor surrounded by wine-stained poetry books, crumpled Matisse prints, abandoned underwear, and half-eaten bowls of fruit. You're staring up at the ceiling with a mad gaze, muttering gibberish and waving your hands as if swatting away demons. APRIL FOOL! I do in fact see you sprawled on a floor, but you're brimming with sweet songs, not nonsense, and that look in your eye is billowing joy, not disoriented frustration. What I think my vision means is that you'll be driven deliciously delicious by a lush romantic mystery.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In a puppet show I saw recently, a cook was about to throw a live lobster into a pot of boiling water when he was interrupted by the arrival of five lobsters dressed like Robin Hood and his Merry Men. They seized their compatriot before the evil deed could be done, carrying him away to safety. I offer you this stirring tale, Taurus, in hopes it will rouse you to rescue your own inner lobster from a comparable fate. APRIL FOOL! You don't have an inner lobster, silly. You do have an inner "righteous outlaw," however - you know, an honorable rebel, a troublemaker who fights for truth and justice - and that character needs to spring into action "now."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It'll be a good week to make counterfeit money, arrange to have psychedelic drugs sent to you in the mail, and earnestly plan the overthrow of the government. APRIL FOOL! You do have a lot of karmic credit right now, and the gods are indeed willing to give you lots of slack-but not THAT much. I suggest you use your luck to attract sweet treats and playful jaunts, not foolish risks and insane adventures. If you simply can't suppress your urge to commit extreme acts, choose some that won't land you in jail. How about trying to love thy neighbor as thyself, for instance?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Magically slipping past security guards, the Anti-Christ will ride a two-headed wolf into the offices of the "New York Times" this week. Demanding that editors publish a front-page apology for their pathological obsession with bad news, this Minion of Satan (he'll be wearing a blue satin jumpsuit) will threaten to release a genetically engineered disease that causes its victims to paint their shoes red and dance 16 hours a day. Will you let this happen, Cancerian? I hope not. Drop what you're doing and head for the trouble spot! Promise me you'll intercept the nefarious One before he can work his mischief. APRIL FOOL! You are indeed the champion problem-solver and crisis-cruncher of the zodiac these days, but you'll get best results if you work closer to home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Picture yourself gobbling ripe organic strawberries that have been genetically modified and irradiated. Imagine you're chain-smoking Marlboros as you pedal your exercise bicycle, or wandering through a garbage dump while listening to gorgeous music on a Walkman. These meditation exercises will get you in the mood to navigate through the conflicts ahead. APRIL FOOL! While you will encounter incongruity this week, it's more likely to come in the form of sweet paradoxes than intolerable contradictions. Imagine feeling nostalgic for the future. Envision yourself leaving a homey sanctuary for an exotic playground. Picture the poignant thrill of losing your religion as you find your true God.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): To help you alone for your relentless self-disparagement, I decree that every Virgo MUST purchase and wear a button that says "Worship Me!" To drive home the point that the cosmic powers I speak for will no longer tolerate your refusal to own your full authority, I demand that the next time precipitation begins to fall on your parade, you MUST shake your fist toward the heavens and bellow, "The rain can kiss my ass!" APRIL FOOL! I'm not so arrogant to think I have the right to order you around, Virgo. I do politely request, however, that you follow the advice I offered above.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): As a kid, I suspected I had magical powers that worked in reverse. The trick was to pray that I wanted the opposite of what I really wanted. So for instance while I listened to radio broadcasts of Detroit Tiger baseball games, I would pretend to jinx my favorite player, Al Kaline, with hexes. "Miss the ball, Al," I chanted. "Make an out. Do your worst, Al." It was uncanny how often he did well whenever I tried this. I bring this up, Libra, because I believe you now have the same power. APRIL FOOL! I'm just messing with you, beautiful, hoping that I will shock you into realizing how superstitious you've been about asking for what you desire most.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): To encourage your efforts to get ahead on the job, I offer these tips from expert Kazuo Susuki. 1) Always arrive 15 minutes early. 2) Before you leave at the end of the day, ask your superiors if there's any task you can help them with. 3) In your leisure time, eagerly devour books related to your job. 4) Frequently imagine kissing your boss's butt sweetly. APRIL FOOL! Tip 4 is mine, not Susuki's. It's my sarcastic way of suggesting that you blow off his smarmy advice entirely. This is prime time to launch job improvement strategies. It's true, but you're more likely to succeed if you're bawlsy, not wimpy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An angel will soon appear to you in a dream and reveal that God has chosen you to conceive a child who will become the world savior. Unfortunately, you will laugh in the angel's face and spew, "Go infect some other sucker with your megalomaniac hallucinations, bub-I've got more realistic fantasies to spawn." APRIL FOOL! While the dream I described is approximately true, your negative response to the deluded angel will not be unfortunate at all. In fact, it'll be wise. You are abundantly fertile now, and you should be very practical in deciding what visionary goal will receive your creative juice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There's really no difference, as far as I can tell, between the nirvana the Buddhists idolize and the supremely empty-headed serenity attained after four hours of watching TV on a comfy couch. Both states yield a suspension of desires and the disappearance of a sense of self. I don't care which one you seek this week, Capricorn. Either's fine. APRIL FOOL! It's true that relaxation should be your priority, but you should pursue it with all your might and ingenuity, and in a way that heightens your alertness and vividly reminds you of how unique you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Squeeze into an ill-fitting niche that divides you against yourself, Aquarius. Make nasty comments about yourself behind your back. Fret and sweat over trivial worries that won't matter at all a month from now. APRIL FOOL! It's true that if you continue in the direction you're headed, you will commit the sins I named. But now that you know what to guard against, I expect you'll take a proactive detour. As a result, maybe you'll hold regular committee meetings in which your left brain and right brain work together to arrive at shared goals despite their sometimes divergent agendas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You tell too many half-truths. Money will always be a big problem for you. Your furniture is ugly. Collecting psychological crutches is your hobby. You make God sick. APRIL FOOL! I was just testing you. Pisces-trying to see if you've finally built up your sense of self strong enough not to be shaken every time some thoughtless jerk flings a negative vibe your way. Here's the "real" truth: Your emotional intelligence gives you greater access to deep truths than any other sign. You've never been in a better position to get richer quicker than you are this year. God adores you, and is now trying to trick you into accepting gifts you've always ignored.

God is dead. God is a drug for people who aren't too smart. God is an illusion sold to dupes by money-hungry religions. APRIL FOOL! In fact, anyone who says he knows what God is, doesn't. To confess what you don't know about God, go to www.freewillastrology.com.

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ROOMMATES
GWM 34, N/S looking for similar to go apartment hunting in the Portland area. Call 892-7453, leave message.
GWM LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE to share 2/BRD. apartment in South Portland, \$330/mo. heat included, other utilities extra. Outdoor swimming pool, parking. I am a smoker. Call 774-5485 Eric.

NADAR FOR PRESIDENT. Politically progressive, professional musician non-drinking, n/drugs, seeks progressive roommate, no dogs, 4/1/00 for West End apartment. Off-street parking. \$350/mo. plus security deposit, 1/2 utilities. 874-2385.

NEED A ROOMMATE AT YOUR PLACE/WANT to look for an apartment together in Portland? Susan 772-8281.
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ROOMMATES
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SEEKING MALE ROOMMATE for large 3BR apartment near Deering Oaks. Available May. \$217/mo. plus 1/3 utilities. 780-0881.
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23-YEAR-OLD WM ISO older, chubby
Male for first time encounter. #90806

31-YEAR-OLD BIM, attractive, mascu-
line, well-endowed and single. Seeking
other attractive and masculine, BI or
straight Guy for some discreet fun. Let's
talk. #90024

37-YEAR-OLD SWM, attractive,
brown/blue, 6'1", 195 lbs, enjoys mas-
sage, camping, fishing, laughing, walks
on the beach and dogs. Looking for
Female, BI okay, for hot summer fun and
possible LTR. #90027

40-YEAR-OLD SWM, 6'2", 220 lbs,
brown/hazel, kindhearted, honest, hard-
working, enjoys family, movies, friends,
riding my Harley, not into bar scene.
Looking for SWF, 5'2"-5'7", petite to
medium build, 32-38, cute, sexy, with a
imagination in the bedroom, kind-
hearted, honest, not a lot to ask for the
rest of my life. #90007

5'10", DARK, fit BIMW, 27, wants dis-
creet, aggressive BIF, 25-33, WPTH, for
exhibitionism, voyeurism, hedonistic
exploration. Be intelligent, artistic, intro-
spective and communicative. #90877

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

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

ATTRACTIVE MIDDLE-AGED WM
seeks the company of a pretty, petite,
young Lady, Single or Married, who's a
true exhibitionist at heart and eager to
share that youthful beauty without any
further commitment. Discreet meetings
for totally safe fun and personally val-
idating times. Be truly appreciated for
the beauty you are. Let's talk! #90872

ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE, sensual,
educated WM, late 40s, healthy, per-
sonable, safe, seeking short or long-
term relationship with well-groomed,
healthy, relaxed, discreet, uninhibited,
A/B/W Woman, preferably Married,
very young, very tiny, petite but none of
those a must. #90016

LET'S HAVE fun together. Attractive,
intelligent, funny, healthy WM, 25, 5'10",
160 lbs, blonde/blue, healthy. I am very
oral and straight. Seeking short-term
relationship with discreet Females or
Couples. Seeking uninhibited erotic
adventures. Very open-minded. Any
age. #90025

BI-CURIOUS WM, 23, 6'2", 175 lbs,
seeking older BIMW, 30-75. #90812

BIM, 40s, discreet and healthy. Seeks
Male, 30-50, for indoor daytime activi-
ties. Portland area. #90011

BIMW ISO BI, Married or straight Men
around the Lake Region. We're out here.
Must be healthy, rugged, very discreet,
hairy, equipped a plus. We don't want
our spouses or lovers to know, do we?
Must act very cool about this. I'm 39
years old, 6'1", 200 lbs, blonde/blue,
very equipped. #90216

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

BIMW, 47, 6'1", 180 lbs, attractive,
intelligent, very smooth, avid nudist,
masculine professional, secure, inexpe-
rienced. If you are a fit Man, 40-60,
interested in a monogamous relation-
ship with romance and seduction,
please call. #90031

DOMINANT WOMAN wanted. Married
WM, 40, very healthy, obedient, seeks
true F for pleasure. No strings. #90018

DWM, 59, n/d, n/s, sincere, caring,
honest, likes the outdoors, photography,
country rides, fairs. Looking for a loving,
caring, romantic Woman. LTR. Must be
sincere and honest. #90032

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

GWM, HOT, handsome, well-endowed,
haiky, 6', 180 lbs, 38-year-old profes-
sional, avid Alpine plus cross-country
skier looking for same to turn up the
trails. Only experts and real Men,
please! #90881

HANDSOME, MARRIED, creative Man
seeking passionate, open-minded
Woman for long-term friendship and
sensual times. #90858

HANDYMAN, 36-year-old WM, 6',
160 lbs, strawberry-blond hair, south-
ern transplant, seeks Female, any age,
race or size, for discreet rendezvous.
#90021

IN SEARCH of that lovely and large
Lady that knows what she needs. Please
be 35+, 5'6"+ and very clean and dis-
creet. This mid-40s WM has many
unique talents to offer. #90005

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

LADIES, I'm a 45-year-old SWM, 165
lbs, 5'9", brown/brown, I heard there's a
35- to 40-ish, discreet SBWF, petite to
medium built, who likes the woods,
camping, fishing, gardening, maybe
shooting pool or just cuddling up at the
old homestead with a good x-rated
movie. If you know her, please tell her to
call. #90013

LET'S HAVE fun together. Attractive,
intelligent, funny, healthy WM, 25, 5'10",
160 lbs, blonde/blue, healthy. I am very
oral and straight. Seeking short-term
relationship with discreet Females or
Couples. Seeking uninhibited erotic
adventures. Very open-minded. Any
age. #90025

LONG-TERM FRIENDSHIP wanted by
44-year-old Guy, 5'11", 190 lbs, dark
hair and eyes, mustache, masculine.
Looking to connect up with rugged,
muscular Guy, BI okay, hairy, and blue-
collar Guy a plus. Ready to please.
#90029

LOOKING FOR F or Couple for daytime
adult fun. I'm 32, 190 lbs, 6', athletic
build. Can travel. Discretion is assured
and expected. Fantasies will be fulfilled.
#90023

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

MARRIED WM, 44. Seeking
Single/Married F, 40-55, full-figured, in
need of special attention. Partners inter-
est non-existent. Discreet meetings and
satisfaction guaranteed. Clean, safe, you
be too, will pamper you. All responses
will be answered. #90844

MARRIED WM seeks Female to help
me improve my oral skills. Wish to be a
master of cunning linguistics. English
degree not required. Open to your
comments, suggestions, all replies
answered. #90878

MARRIED WM, 42, brown/blue, 5'10",
200 lbs, professional. Seeking WF, 21-
40, BI, lonely housewives, wanting or
needing to be completely satisfied with
good, safe sex. I love oral and straight.
Fit, in good shape, healthy and drug-
free, you be too. #90006

MATURE WOMAN wanted, 40-52, by
vital, attractive, sensitive Male, 34. Must
be n/s and fit. Busty a plus. #90000

ORAL DESIRES. Handsome, separated
Male, 38, looking for hot times on occa-
sion, with a S/Married Woman and pos-
sibly the right Couple? Please be dis-
creet. Call me soon, you'll be glad!
#90744

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

RUGGED-BUILT, SILVER-HAIRED, 49,
6', central Maine Man is looking for Guy
who likes to have it and knows how to
have. Seeking BSM. #90860

SBPM ISO beautiful WM, 21-25, for first
time encounter. Me: 5'11", educated,
talented, good-humored. You be open to
discreet relationship and lots of fun.
#90869

SEEKING COUPLE! Attractive, athletic,
professional, straight SWM, 34, seeks
attractive, fit, straight, happy Couple or
Female, 20-40, for fun and adventure.
I'm ultra healthy, you be too. Discretion
assured. #90009

SEEKING TV or TS for monogamous
relationship. Straight SWM, 5'9", 34,
attractive, nice-built, easygoing. ISO
Male who dresses and acts like a
Female, 30+, looks and race unimpor-
tant, it is what's inside. Portland area.
#90866

SOMETHING DIFFERENT. You: bi-cur-
ious, slim, sexy M. Me: slim GWM, 48.
Try it. Portland area. Discreet. Call.
#90686

SWM, 30, 6'2", 160 lbs, brown/blue,
seeks Couple with WF for discreet rela-
tionship. #90867

SWM, 30, 6'1", 205 lbs, attractive,
easygoing, great sense of humor, great
body. Looking for Couple interested in a
third person for fun times. Looks unim-
portant, just personality. #90017

SWM, 36, 5'10", 145 lbs, brown/green,
seeking clean, discreet, drug-free,
healthy, sexually aggressive SWF, 25-
40, for an erotic adventure. #90800

SWPM, 29, 6', 205 lbs, attractive, hon-
est, very clean and healthy, n/s, n/d.
Seeks pretty and petite Single or
Married Woman, 18-45, for discreet
meetings, no strings. Just call and tell
me what you would like. #90008

TALL THIN, Midcoast Male seeks Male,
for first time. BI experience. I'm 6'1",
155 lbs, attractive, mid-40s. You be slim,
easygoing, attractive and under 45.
#90821

TALL, DARK and handsome. Clean, dis-
creet. Married WPM seeks similar
Married WF to share spontaneous calls,
playful conversation, funny emails,
quiet walks, laughter and understand-
ing leading to lasting friendship and
intimacy. Reassuring voice, warm hugs
and breathtaking kisses guaranteed.
#90784

WANTED: MR. Right. Topsham area.
Outgoing GWM, 30, healthy, n/s, enjoys
music, candlelight. Looking for LTR. Life
is too short. Let's enjoy ourselves
together. #90092

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

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

WELL-BUILT, TALL, athletic, straight
SWM, late 20s, seeks Female or
Couple for erotic adventures. Very
open-minded. Loves to please. Let's
have fun. #90003

WM, 29, 6', 210 lbs. I'm seeking anoth-
er WM or BIMW, 18-40, for a discreet
relationship. #90020

WM, 40, healthy, handsome, with a hot
body, seeks attractive, fit WF, for occa-
sional get-togethers. Passionate and
ready to please. #90853

WORKSHOP BLACK master. SBM, 39,
very special, open, creative Ladies Man,
spoiled and most of all very handsome.
Seeking big, beautiful Woman WF, 30+,
who want to experience fantasies of
reality of a BM, sexy pleasures and
more. #90822

YOUNG MAN with lots of ideas, seeks
older Woman with lots of time for adult
fun. 33, 5'7", 190 lbs, rugged, dark hair.
You are 35-50, enjoys kissing, caress-
ing and being ravished. No strings.
Please call. Short, tall, large or small.
#90028

women seeking

ITALIAN BIF who's independent, loves
arts, music, nature, laughter and chil-
dren. Seeks an attractive BIGF, 30-45,
with a few similarities and can live life to
its fullest. N/s a must, light drinker a
fine. #90847

women seeking

MARRIED WOMAN seeking BIF or
Couple. I am 32, 5'4", 125 lbs, with
auburn hair, sexy and fun. Seeking
someone who knows how to have a
good time. Likes dining, dancing and
movies. My husband can watch or play.
Sensitive and secure souls please.
#90527

OUTGOING, HARDWORKING DWF, 37,
two teenagers, likes outdoor activities,
dancing, must music. Looking to have
fun and enjoy life and casual dating with
an honest and sincere SM, 35-45,
smoker. #90826

SEXY, STRONG WPF, 29, looking for
bad buddy who's a sexy, fit, hairy
WM, 21-35. I have a hard body, pretty
face, sweet spirit, no baggage. You be
same. Discreet and healthy a must.
#90030

UNBELIEVABLE, EXTRAORDINARILY
attractive, pre-op Hispanic Female, very
intelligent, 41, n/s, n/d, likes movies,
dinners, garage sales, bowling, etc.
Seeks serious inquiries only. For LTR.
Must be open-minded. #90463

couples seeking

ATTRACTIVE WHITE Couple. He's 27.
She's 18. Looking for BIF, no Couples,
trying for adventurous times. Willing to
try anything once. Someone between the
ages of 18-35. Will respond to all.
#90651

ATTRACTIVE WHITE Couple. He's 39
and handsome and she's a 37-year-old,
feminine BIF. Seeking Couples or BIF for
fun, erotic times. Please no SM. Healthy
and drug-free. Discretion is a must.
#90026

COUPLE SEEKING another Couple, 35-
45. First time out together let's go out
dancing and see what happens down
the road. #90014

FRIENDLY COUPLE, mid-20s, seeks
same for adult fun. Must be discreet,
healthy and drug-free. Good personality
more important than good looks.
#90019

MARRIED COUPLE seeking Black or
White Male for threesome fun. Love to
play. Do you want to join? #90855

MARRIED COUPLE! He's 35, she's 32,
seeks bi-curious SWF, nonsmoker, no
drugs, for a discreet interlude. We're
clean, you be clean too. #90876

MARRIED COUPLE wants WM, late 20s
to early 30s, under 170 lbs, under 5'10",
for a threesome. Must be neat and
healthy. She is 5'7", 135 lbs, nice body.
He is 5'9", 160 lbs. Both very healthy.
#90015

MARRIED WHITE Couple seeks same.
She: 36, 5'2", 135 lbs and bi-curious.
He: 39, 6'2", 240 lbs. Seeks down-to-
earth Couple to develop a friendship
that will lead to some erotic fun. No
one-nighters, please! Can travel.
#90850

MARRIED WP Couple, 40s, seeking to
meet other Couple, 30s-40s, who's
open-minded and affectionate, for last-
ing friendship. Light smokers, non-
drinkers okay. #90022

couples seeking

PASSIONATE COUPLE wanted. Are you
a harmonious Couple seeking an erotic
experience? Stable, professional
Married White Couple looking for plea-
surable times, laughter and loving.
Physical perfection not required.
Sensitive and secure souls please.
#90785

SW COUPLE seeks F or Couple, BI or
straight, smoker/drinker okay, no Single
Men. We like hot tubs. We are both bi-
curious and open to new fun, 41 and
53. #90814

SW COUPLE, 40s, seeking tall, attrac-
tive, young Men looking for uninhibited
fun. Healthy, discreet and open-minded
a must. Come learn how to satisfy a
passionate Woman. Fantasy fulfillment
expected and granted. #90001

SWING COUPLES, Females, select
Males, sought to establish swinging
house parties in Portland area. Goal is
to passionately put together complete
hedonism in an executive home that
offers comfort, discretion and class.
New and experience welcome.
#90451

SWM seeks White Couple or SWF for
uninhibited fun times. Into all kink, from
mild to wild. She can be dominant or
submissive. He must be submissive.
We'll explore all fetishes fantasies and
role play. Discretion assured and
respected. #90766

WANTED! GAY WM Couple seeks third
party for occasional, discreet encoun-
ters. You must be 21-31, slender build
with boyish good looks. Friendship pos-
sible. Not into drugs. #9



A Zen rabbi

Jews and Buddhism
Monday, April 3, 8 p.m.



a gay clarinetist
gets married

Man Is A Woman
Tuesday, April 4, 8 p.m.



and a
baseball legend

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg
Thursday, March 30, 8 p.m. &
Monday, April 3, 6 p.m.

(also Shanghai Jews, love with gas masks, Sephardic chants,
dark secrets, growing old, e-mailing God, and plucking a turkey)

at **The Maine Jewish Film Festival**
March 30 to April 5 at The Movies

For tickets, schedule and info, call 767-7370
www.mjff.org
or go to The Movies, 10 Exchange Street, Portland


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NO JELLO!

The 16th Annual MΛΛGΛPΛA (Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance)
Awards Banquet & Dance • April 8, 2000 • will feature seated dinner service
& three scintillating entrees • Roasted Pork Loin with Apple Sage Stuffing &
sweet Caramelized Onion Au Jus, Sauteed Chicken Breast with Raspberry
Cream Seasoned Cheese, and Asparagus & Mascapone Cheese Ravioli •
No Jello!

We also have a new location • Holiday Inn By-The-Bay, Portland

Tickets must be reserved by April 4th and are \$25 for MLGPA members,
\$30 for non-members.

Social hour begins at 6 PM • Dinner at 7 PM • Awards Ceremony at 8 PM •
Dancing (with the same DJ as our Halloween Ball)
begins at 9 PM and continues to midnight.

If you loved our Halloween Party, don't miss this dress-up dinner dance hon-
oring people who have contributed to the fight for equal rights in Maine. Call
207.442.9513 by April 4th to choose your entree and reserve your place at
the MLGPA Annual Awards Banquet and Dance hosted by the Maine
Diversity Alliance. And, bring your checkbook -- we've got a great raffle of
prizes to raise money for our Scholarship Fund.

NEW LOCATION