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Casco Bay Weekly

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5 APRIL 2001

mini schools,

MAXI debate

PHOTOS / MATTHEW ROBBINS



Portland's three smallest elementary schools may be on the budget-cutting block, but that might not be as bad as many parents fear. Because when it comes to education, small isn't necessarily beautiful.

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TALK

A CONVERSATION WITH

RUTH MURPHY



"Probably about half the women that I've spoken to have said that when they were young they wanted to play, but their parents wouldn't let them."

Ruth Murphy, 32, is putting together a women's, 18-and-over, tackle football team to join the Women's National Football League (WNFL). She lives in Naples and is a substitute teacher at Lake Region Middle School. An informational meeting will be held Thursday, April 12, at the Family Fitness Center, Route 302, North Windham, from 8-9:30 p.m.

What would you call your team?

A couple names I was thinking of were the Maine Blazers or the Maine Coon Cats and maybe the Black Bears, but I figure the college has already got that. And I thought the Maine Chickadees might be good, but it's kind of feminine for a football team. It doesn't sound very tough.

Are enough women in Maine interested in playing football to form a team?

I've gotten responses from about 20 women so far. And you know, as far as getting the word out there, it hasn't been

really extensive yet. I think for what's been out there, we've done pretty good. Someone has contacted me who is interested in being an owner He's in the negotiation stage in deciding if he wants to do it, because it's expensive. You're looking at the field, sponsors, cost of advertising and equipment and other stuff.

Do you have any equipment yet?

No, we want [to] do some fund-raising and try to get some equipment. I don't want anyone to not be able to play just because they can't afford it. I mean helmets, even used, are like \$60 or \$70.

Do you know many women who know how to play?

Well, I recently went down to Connecticut and Massachusetts for the tryouts for the [WNFL] teams Most of the women there had not played before From the two tryouts, as far as being in shape, there's a wide range of women —

some women you could tell went to the gym every day, some women who didn't look athletic at all.

What got you interested in doing this?

I've always played sports, and I always wanted to play football With the younger women, it was more common for women to play on the high school teams. When I went to school, they let women onto the soccer team, but it was unheard of for women to play on the football team.

Is your daughter interested in football?

No, but my son played last year. He's really into it, so he thinks it's cool. When I went to the tryouts, I said to my kids, 'If I made the team, would you be proud or embarrassed to tell your friends?' My son said, 'I think it'd be cool,' and my daughter said, 'I don't know. I'd have to think about that one.'

Interview by Bill Siever; photo by Luc Demers

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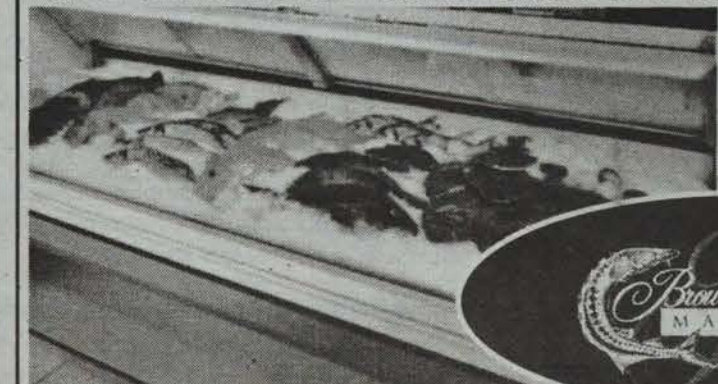
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Sickness and diseases

Earnest people give me a pain. I've discussed this problem with doctors, but they insist there's nothing they can prescribe. Earnest people, they assured me, give everybody a pain.

That's probably why we have a health-care crisis. In a vain effort to escape earnestness, people are getting cynicism transplants, covering themselves in acupuncture needles until they're mistaken for hedgehogs and ingesting stuff with words like "wort" in the name. No doubt, studies are already under way at major universities showing we could save billions in medical costs if we were all just a little less fervent and sincere.

I mention this because I am currently recuperating from a conversation with an extremely earnest person: Dr. Duncan Wright, a Portland psychiatrist and coordinator of the Southern Maine Labor Party, which seems to be some sort of support group for the chronically earnest.

The Labor Party is preparing a petition drive, in hopes of putting a referendum question on Portland's November ballot, asking voters if they favor a statewide, universal health-care system paid for with tax dollars.

Even if the electorate approves it, this municipal referendum would have no legal impact, because only the Legislature could enact such a program. But Wright said the vote "helps create an atmosphere that makes it more possible to bring about statewide legislation."

As for the complicated and expensive problems associated with implementing such a system, Wright brushes those matters aside.

"The fundamental question is a moral one: Is [health care] a right or isn't it a right?" he said. "Once you decide it's a moral decision, things get much more simple."

The pain was almost unbearable. I reached for my primary care provider of choice: Maker's Mark, M.D.

While I admit the idea of the government paying my liquor tab (and that better be included in the referendum if they want my vote) has a certain appeal, there are lots of questions to be answered before Maine embraces single-payer health insurance. Wright did not seem to be the guy with the answers ("I don't think we've really decided what to do if we win"), so I turned to a brochure he sent me from the national Labor Party. There I learned the new system would be funded by taxing rich people and employers. Everybody else gets all the free colonoscopies they want.

"Workers will enjoy a lifetime of quality health care," the brochure said, "while paying less than they do now."

Too good to be true? You bet your pancreas. Last year, the governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care studied the idea of a single-payer system for Maine and concluded it wouldn't work. Not enough rich people. Not enough employers. In short, not enough money.

The commission also found that of the \$4.7 billion Mainers spend annually on health care, more than \$1 billion is wasted through inefficiencies. Recouping that cash could significantly lower costs, but it's hard to imagine the state Department of Human Services (motto: We have no clue how often we have no clue) managing such a complicated feat. The department is responsible for a big chunk of that wasted billion bucks, squandering it through poor administration of Medicaid and other government-run programs.

In effect, a single-payer system amounts to rewarding the department, a bureaucracy that's doing — let's be kind — an unbelievably lousy job dealing with part of the problem, by making it responsible for the whole health-care mess.

There are, however, other possibilities for improving access to doctors and drugs besides those permitted under the laws of the People's Republic of Earnestness. Some of them even seem to be effective and affordable, even if they are run by DHS.

In 1995, about 16 percent of Maine's children lacked health insurance. By 1999, that figure had dropped to less than 6 percent, thanks to the expansion of a state subsidy program. In fact, if every kid currently eligible for free health care signed up, only about 3 percent of people under 18 would lack insurance. With a slight increase in funding, that 3 percent could be covered, too.

If all kids had insurance, they could afford preventive care, and they'd grow up to be healthier adults. That would reduce costs, making the health-care system more affordable. More adults would then be able to buy their own insurance, further decreasing the burden on taxpayers. Eventually, almost everybody would have better care at lower cost.

It could work. I know it could. What's the matter with you people that you don't make it happen? It's enough to make me ...

Earnest?
Medic!

In the interest of full disclosure, my wife is a lawyer who represents the Department of Human Services in matters unrelated to health care. There, I feel better. If you've got something to get off your chest, e-mail ishmaelia@twi.net. Or write CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 with your symptoms.

politics & other mistakes



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Portrait of the bluestocking in her brown study

I kind of thought when my first book came out, it would be more, I don't know, *something*. But my first book *has* just come out, and I can tell you it is (to quote the Roches) a Big Nothing.

The book in question is not the collected "Outta My Way" I claimed I was working on a couple columns ago. (If you believed that, let me invite you to be the first person to purchase my book of essays, "Joni Mitchell Wrecked My Life," which I have also been "working on" since about 1994 and which amounts to not much more than a snappy title.)

The book is a travel guide to New England, which was put out by a big publishing house for a big travel book company. I would tell you who, but I'm afraid that somewhere in the tangled legalese of my contract — which I did read, sort of — there's probably a zip-lip clause, the violation of which will cause large boils to erupt all over my body, which is kind of like how working on the book felt. But never mind that.

There are a couple other things I expected about the publication of my first book, not the least of which was knowing it was coming out. See, I wrote my section about Maine two years ago. I proofed galley in August of 1999. In December of that same year, I received an e-mail, asking for approval of my bio, "as a final step before we go to press." That was the last I heard from them — until I received my advance copy a couple weeks ago, with no other explanation than a business card tucked in it from some muck-a-muck at the travel publication, which read, "They live."

That brings me to another thing. I thought there would be at least a soupçon of fanfare for this milestone in my career. "They live" is not in the least bit fanfarish. It doesn't have the slightest hint of "good job," "well done" or "thank you, genius," which us insecure-writer-types need to hear many time a day — even if we must say it to ourselves. "They live" sounds like the discovery of slime bubbling in the bottom of a forgotten petri dish.

Included on my list of Big Nothings was my byline, which took several sweeps through the book to locate. I finally found it, crammed on a page, along with the copyright, special sales information and nutritional content. There was no bio, and the contributors' names were listed, not according to who did the best job or the most writing, but alphabetically. This wouldn't have bothered me so much if I hadn't figured out that I had done the most writing. (The Maine section is 182 pages long. New Hampshire is 111, and Vermont is 135.) It didn't seem right that my name got lumped in with the writer who only did the restaurant listings for Vermont or with the person who wrote the lodging and attractions listings for Maine, which I did not write, owing to circumstances (is that bump on my arm growing?) I don't feel at liberty to discuss here. If all that wasn't enough, the size of type on my/our bylines was akin to the print on my contract, which is about as large as the instructions on a bottle of Barbie aspirin.

Probably the biggest letdown was the utter lack of regaling. When I received the book, I scanned my copy, which — restaurant listings aside — seemed mostly intact. (And, if I must say so myself, a pretty zippy read.) I next, of course, called my mom, who was not home. My husband was traveling, and I couldn't reach him. So, I slipped the book under my arm and wandered around the halls of my office building, hoping someone would say, "Hey, what's that book under your arm?" but no one did.

Finally, feeling I should do something celebratory, I arranged to meet some friends after work. Once there, they passed the book around as though it were, well, something scraped off the bottom of a petri dish. One person took the time to locate various typos and grammar errors, and then the focus of conversation quickly shifted off the book and onto matters that did not center on me, which put me in a big sulk. At least there was beer on hand.

Still, I guess I'm happy to see my efforts finally come to light, despite the fact some of the information (Portland's "brand-new public market" and the "currently being renovated" Munjoy Hill Observatory) has a bit of mold on it or that whoever organized the restaurant listings was clearly numerically challenged. (Back Bay Grill, for example, is listed under moderately priced restaurants, while Katahdin is under expensive.)

Yet, when all's said and done, this really isn't my book at all. This is a big company's book that happens to have my words in it. Besides, when my *real* first book comes out, I'm going for the whole shooting match: press conferences and book signings and readings and tours and interviews and movie deals and fanfare and regaling — that is, if I ever get off my butt and put some time into these "real" books.

The sum total of which these days adds up to a Big Nothing.

Despite being nationally published, Elizabeth Peavey continues to wallow in obscurity.

outta my way



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David Brooks Stone, Ryan 1968, seven-ton carved granite sphere print, Inland Northwest, Call View, 2000, not on board. Sue Arnold, Nantuxum, 1999, mixed media. Photos by Sarah Conant.

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Be prepared to be amazed. Or, possibly, bored to death. The new **U.S. Census for Maine** was released on March 29, revealing ... er, well, nothing much. Portland is still the largest city in the state (when) with a population of 64,209, a decline of 109 people since 1990. If that's true, why is it so hard to find a decent apartment in this town?

Portland is now 93 percent white (down from about 96 percent white in 1990), but has some areas — such as the neighborhoods around India Street and East Bayside — that are almost like a normal American city, being only 71 percent white. And representatives of the Hispanic community say Latinos were vastly undercounted by the census. John Connors of the League of United Latin American Citizens said there are at least 14,000 Hispanics in Maine, but the official number was just 9,360 (which could explain the housing shortage).

Be prepared to be heavily taxed. On April 2, Portland's acting city manager, Joe Gray, released his budget for next fiscal year, calling for a **5.5 percent increase** in Hispanics. No, wait, that's property taxes. Gray also slashed beds and nursing staff at the city-owned Barron Center nursing home, cut park rangers, eliminated the heavy-item pick-up program and called for an end to funding transportation for students who attend private schools. Meanwhile, school officials learned the city will receive a smaller cut in state education aid than originally expected, but most of the extra cash will go to cover debt payments that were somehow left out of the education budget submitted in March. The reason for that screwup? We're awaiting census figures on whether stupidity, incompetence or sadistic manipulation of bookkeeping are on the increase.

Be prepared to be involved in the planning process. On April 2, the Portland City Council unanimously approved allowing citizens to speak at Planning Board workshops, giving neighbors advance warning of proposed developments in their area and forming boards to review major residential and commercial projects. Those same changes are part of a referendum scheduled for a public vote on May 1, but that proposal also contains a moratorium on most development retroactive to last October. It was that moratorium councilors wanted to defeat by passing the more acceptable parts of the citizen initiative. But the citizens who did the initiating were not pleased, calling the changes an "attempt at appeasement." That may have something to do with the fact, those citizens, who call themselves the Campaign for a Comprehensive Plan, are most interested in stopping a big housing project on Munjoy Hill, something only the referendum will do.

— compiled by Al Diamon from news reports, interviews and a careful door-to-door count of everyone in Portland.

CITY

Out with the old, and in with ... ? Portland faces a shortage of experienced teachers



ALLEN DAMMANN

You can blame Portland's impending loss of one-third of its teachers on a wrinkle in the city's public school system. In fact, you can blame it on a lot of wrinkles. And crow's feet. And gray hair.

Over the next five years, as baby boomers tumble over the retirement line, a potential 30 percent of Portland's educators and administrators could choose to clean out their desks and start cashing retirement checks. If that happens, it would be a double whammy for the city's schools. Besides leaving a huge dent in the teaching workforce, the mass retirement would also mean a profound loss of experience in front of the blackboard — leaving many students to learn from fresh-faced teachers who possess little of the skill and confidence needed for fruitful educating. Compounding the problem is the fact some core academic areas, like math and science, are already facing a drought of personnel.

"They're going to be very hard pressed to find qualified applicants to teach," said Steven Morgenstein, a teacher of computer science at King Middle School, "and I think the quality of education is going to suffer." At age 50, Morgenstein plans to stick it out in the classroom for another 10 years. But he's less than optimistic about the commitment of his future successors.

"When people like me went into teaching, it was more of a calling," he said. "I don't know

if people think like that anymore."

The data is enough to give even the bravest statistics teacher the willies. In Maine during the 1999-2000 academic year, according to the state Department of Education, 27 percent of all teachers were 50-59 years old. Another 2 percent were 60 or older. If only half of those individuals retire over the next five years, that's a loss of 2,275 educators, or an average of 455 veteran teachers a year. In 1999, by comparison, just 321 instructors turned in their chalk.

"It's a scary challenge," said Portland School Committee member Herb Adams.

The situation is actually slightly worse in Cumberland County, where 34 percent of teachers are at or nearing retirement age.

"It's a concern," said Mary Jo O'Connor, Portland superintendent of schools. "It's a conversation that's happening not only in Portland but in surrounding districts, as well. I meet with other superintendents and university people and we talk about, 'How can we recruit, and how do we retain and support new teachers?'"

Portland School Committee member Otis Thompson, himself a retired teacher, said the city faces a crisis.

"The potential is extreme," Thompson said. "Part of the concern is that the replacements for the teachers are not there. The universities are not putting out enough teachers to fill the void."

Over the course of the 1998-1999 year, 1,603 teachers in Maine left their positions. Of those, 582 took jobs at different schools within the state. But 321 retired, 101 went to work in schools out of state, 153 found jobs outside of the public education system and 445 left for personal or unknown reasons. That created 1,021 job openings.

In 1999, only 1,018 education majors graduated from the state's colleges and universities, but approximately 300 of them were certified as elementary school teachers. Ironically, that's the one area in the state that's not threatened with a shortage of instructors. Maine actually exports many of its elementary teachers to other states.

To get some idea of how much the gap is going to widen between exiting teachers and entering ones, transplant those 1998-1999 figures to the year 2003. If 455 instructors retire, while the number of people who left in 1999 for other reasons stays the same, 1,155 slots would have to be filled — almost 150 more positions than the number of graduates available.

"Maine is facing a shortage demographically," said Jean Gulliver, a member of the state Board of Education as well as one of the authors of a new state report on retaining and recruiting teachers. "Because of the strength of the economy, people have not been choosing to go into teaching. We have growing retirement and a dwindling pool."

Besides having to replenish its graying workforce, Portland schools must also stock up on teachers in areas already depleted. According to a survey conducted by the Maine Educational Policy Research Institute in 1999, principals of southern Maine schools reported personnel deficits in math, science, special education and foreign languages.

Exacerbating that local problem is a national problem. Portland can't simply import teachers to fill holes, because the shortage of experienced educators is happening everywhere. In fact, other states are likely to be recruiting in Maine, where the median age of teachers is around 40 years — younger than most places in the northeast.

Competing states aren't the only thing luring teachers from the classroom.

"We're headed toward higher percentages of retirement among administrators than we are with teachers," said Judy Lucarelli, deputy commissioner for the Department of Education. "Our administrators are selected from our teachers, so filling administrative vacancies is going to cause shortages in the

teachers. It could be this incredible spiral."

To combat that, Portland is studying new methods of recruiting teachers. A year ago, the city was awarded a three-year grant by Washington State University to explore ways to attract and retain teachers. In addition, the University of Southern Maine hosts an Extended Teacher Education Program. The course allows professionals looking for a career change to get teacher certified in one year, while receiving credits toward a master's degree.

"One thing that's good about Portland is that we have the association with USM," said Michael McCarthy, principal of King Middle School. "We have a pool we're helping to develop to come into our schools, and particularly the Portland schools. We're pretty well set up for professional development to bring even inexperienced teachers along."

A state task force has also assembled ideas for solving Maine's teacher crisis. Among the suggestions is raising the minimum starting salary for teachers from \$15,500 to something more competitive.

"I wouldn't say the situation is grave," said Gulliver. "We hope by addressing these problems now we'll be able to mitigate it to some degree."

Not everyone is concerned with the impending loss of experienced educators. O'Connor, Portland's superintendent, said older teachers are sometimes resistant to change.

"Ongoing staff development is sometimes hard for veteran teachers," said O'Connor. "Sometimes that's hard for our veteran teachers to get their hands around."

But Alison Merrill, a senior at Portland High School, regrets the loss of seasoned instructors.

"I think in some aspects new is good, but it depends on the teacher," Merrill said. "The older teachers have way more experience, they know how to deal with the kids. Educationally speaking, the older they are the wiser they are."

PETER O'DONNELL

Councilor gets fed up He threatens to stop attending meetings of a committee he co-chairs

Portland City Councilor Peter O'Donnell said he plans to stop attending meetings of the waterfront master planning committee he co-chairs until the City Council holds a public workshop to discuss whether a new facility for the *Scotia Prince* ferry should be located on property at the east end of the waterfront.

A workshop has been scheduled for April 9, ostensibly to give O'Donnell's committee and a facilities committee studying the site opportunities to update the council on their work. O'Donnell plans to bring the issue up at that workshop, which will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 6 p.m.

"The consultants, city staff and the council have not been listening to their neighbors or to me about concerns around putting such a major impact of the *Scotia Prince* and other grand designs in that neighborhood," O'Donnell said. "Until we

have a workshop to look at the whole waterfront and look at where the *Scotia Prince* should go, I'm not going to another meeting."

That decision, O'Donnell said, was made "not to grandstand," but because "I'm so frustrated."

O'Donnell said he's heard strong reservations about the *Prince's* proposed new home expressed by his constituents on Munjoy Hill (the neighborhood will be affected at its base by the developments), on the islands of Casco Bay (whose ferry facilities would also be affected by the project) and from other Portland residents, both through public forums and by less formal means.

Nevertheless, the only plans his committee has considered call for locating the *Prince* on the east end property currently occupied by Bath Iron Works.

Unless public concern over parking, congestion and other issues related to the project are taken into account, O'Donnell believes the process is bound to end badly.

"Here we are whistling away on our merry way," he said, "heading for what I believe will be a train wreck."

Phineas Sprague Jr., a member of the master planning committee and owner of Portland Yacht Services, is like O'Donnell, interested in looking at alternative sites for the *Prince*, but said he is "really disappointed" by O'Donnell's threat. "It appears confrontational, and no one's going to win this way," he said.

Sprague does, however, share O'Donnell's concern about the planning process. "I get very concerned when I feel people are not open to examining other

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

loose change

CBW's staff stalked these statistics.

Number of steps:

- up to the Portland Museum of Art: 3
- up to the Children's Museum of Maine: 3
- to the Cumberland County Civic Center: down to Free Street entrance: 19
- up to Spring Street entrance: east end: 10 west end: 15
- up to Portland City Hall: main entrance: 17 side entrances: 12
- up to the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church: 11
- up to the Portland Public Library: 0 (tramp)
- up to Whit's End: 1

Bertrand Russell wrote, "Pure mathematics consists entirely of assertions to the effect that, if such and such a proposition is true of anything, then such and such another proposition is true of that thing. It is essential not to discuss whether the first proposition is really true, and not to mention what the anything is, of which it is supposed to be true. Both these points would belong to applied mathematics." If you apply an math to a problem, send the results to: editor@maine.cc.com or CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



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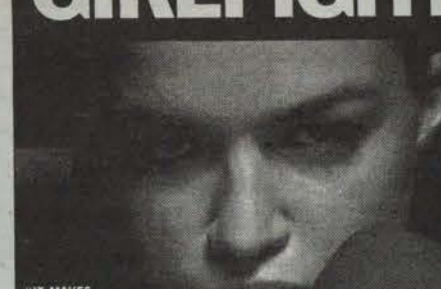
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CITY

Pot it's not

A state representative tries to legalize marijuana's productive cousin, the hemp plant

BY GREG WILLIAMS

High times may be ahead for Maine's farmers if state Rep. Tom Bull of Freeport can muster enough support for his bill calling for the legalization of hemp for agricultural purposes. Bull believes allowing farmers to grow hemp could boost the state's economically depressed rural areas, while protecting the environment from excessive deforestation and pesticide use.

"I think it's a bit ridiculous that we are not allowing Maine farmers to grow what could be a significant cash crop," he said.

Despite his enthusiasm for hemp, Bull is "not too terribly optimistic" the bill will pass. It has already triggered public opposition from the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) and the Maine Chiefs of Police Association.

Roy McKinney, director of the MDEA, said the state Department of Public Safety opposes the bill because cultivating hemp is illegal under federal law.

But Bull believes Maine and other states must challenge that law. "Sometimes the federal government needs to be led," he said, "not followed."

Some states have already approved bills similar to Bull's, but have not acted on them because of opposition from the feds. Bull said an alternative to the bill, if it fails, could be to seek a resolution asking Congress to legalize hemp outright, as has been done by several other states, or to propose a joint research project between the University of Maine and the Department of Agriculture.

Versatile and quick-growing, hemp is seen by proponents as a wonder crop, from which all sorts of products — paper, clothing, rope, sails, fishermen's nets, art canvas, paints and varnishes, lighting oil, gasoline, medicine, foods and building materials — can be made without negative environmental impacts. Twenty-nine countries currently allow farmers to grow hemp, including Canada, England, Germany, Belgium and China.

Ben Meiklejohn, chair of the Green Independent Party of Maine, said education is needed to convince people hemp is "a plant, not a drug." Though hemp and marijuana are



Hempster: State Rep. Tom Bull of Freeport is sponsoring a bill to allow farmers to grow hemp.

two varieties of the same plant, *Cannabis sativa*, hemp contains almost no tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the chemical that makes people high. Currently, hemp and marijuana are lumped together under the 1972 federal Controlled Substances Act as illegal substances, although it remains legal to possess products made from processed hemp.

Meiklejohn said anyone who is "pro-farmer" should support the legalization of hemp.

John Katula, a farmer from Litchfield who testified at a recent legislative hearing on the bill, said he thinks hemp could be a \$400-an-acre crop for Maine farmers. By comparison, potatoes, the state's current biggest money-maker, yield about \$100 per acre. With the right processing equipment, Katula said, the hemp figure could jump to \$1,000 an acre.

Katula said hemp is hearty enough for Maine and grows well among other crops. Its ability to revitalize the soil by using its deep roots to draw up nutrients, he said, makes hemp even more desirable. Katula recently helped a friend in Manitoba, Canada, harvest his crop in the middle of a snowstorm. In Canada, officials require farmers to obtain a license to grow hemp, and the government does routine inspections to make sure they are not also growing marijuana.

Katula said he has spoken to more than 200 farmers, the majority of whom were

"very interested" in growing their own crop. "It's just education," he said. "I think once they're educated, they'll want to do it."

McKinney suspects legalizing hemp would create an enforcement nightmare for his officers, saying they'd have a difficult time differentiating between hemp and marijuana. He said he has seen *Cannabis* plants of all shapes and sizes and without a lab in which to test them, there is no way of determining the THC level.

Meiklejohn believes the real obstacle to legalizing hemp is overcoming the influence of petrochemical, steel and paper industries — all of which make products that compete with hemp — have on elected officials.

Bull, apparently immune to such influence, said the more research he does on hemp, the more frustrated he becomes about its legal status. He said he has learned that while trees take decades to mature, hemp reaches production stage in 100 days. Over a 20-year span, one acre of hemp produces the same amount of fiber as four acres of trees. Bull said Maine could not only produce raw hemp, but its paper industry could join in the manufacture of hemp products.

Jeff Toorish, president of the Maine Pulp and Paper Association, said it would be "extremely unlikely" for the industry to make paper from hemp, because existing mills are designed to do so from timber. "It sounds good to stop using trees and start using hemp," he said, "but it is not practical."

Paul Paydos, vice president of technical services for Guilford of Maine, a manufacturer of office-cubicle fabric, said Guilford and its parent company, Interface Fabrics Group, have been experimenting with hemp for the past five years. Paydos said because hemp has been illegal for nearly 70 years, the technology and infrastructure for processing it into quality fabric does not exist. "There is certainly a future for it," he said, "but there is still a ways to go."

Even so, Paydos said he supports Bull's legislation on the grounds that there are many other beneficial uses of hemp. "There is no reason for this stuff to be illegal," Paydos said. "It's crazy to lump it with [marijuana]."

Peter O'Donnell CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ideas," he said. "Why be afraid of Peter's suggestion [to hold a workshop]? You might come up with a better idea. I'm not afraid of the ferry being at BIW if that's the best idea."

"I'm sympathetic to Peter's frustration, and a lot of people on the committee are," said John Carroll, another member of the panel. Carroll said that frustration arose "largely out of the narrowness, the small box that our committee is in."

"I don't think we're at the point where

the city should be deciding whether or not it should move the *Scotia Prince*," Carroll continued. "We don't know enough to say we should or shouldn't move it, but we aren't asking the questions."

Mayor Cheryl Leeman, the councilor charged with scheduling workshops, said any delay in scheduling a workshop on waterfront issues was the result of the council's heavy schedule, not a reluctance on her part to have such a discussion. Referring to the question of the *Prince's* new home,

Leeman said, "I'm sure in presenting the council with an update [at the workshop], the types of issues that have surfaced will be brought to the attention of the council."

She noted, however, "We make no decisions" at such meetings, and regardless of what the master planning committee eventually recommends, members are free to submit a minority report for the council's consideration.

CHRIS BUSBY

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photos: Jeff Cullen

mini schools, MAXI debate

Portland's three smallest elementary schools may be on the budget-cutting block, but that might not be as bad as many parents fear. Because when it comes to education, small isn't necessarily beautiful.

DAVID TYLER

Ask anybody — small schools are better. Advocates for neighborhood schools can produce volumes of research showing little neighborhood schools produce students with higher grades. It's a fact. It's solid proof. It's an article of faith in the fight to preserve Portland's smallest elementary schools in the face of declining enrollment and tight budgets.

"Our teachers are extremely in tune to the needs of our students," said Tina Mikkelsen, head of the Parent Teacher Organization at Clifford School. Clifford school has just 215 students, from kindergarten through fifth grade, and 13 teachers.

At Baxter School (155 students, in kindergarten through fifth grade, and eight teachers), all the teachers and staff "know each child individually so ... [there is] the sense of security, the safety, that they know each child," said Andrea Realia, president of the Parent Teacher Organization at Baxter. "You get into those bigger schools and you're not going to have that. There's no identity with these children, then. It's not names, it's numbers."

"It's an extended family for them," said Debby Nielsen, president of the Adams School (seven teachers for 96 students in kindergarten through third grade) Parent Teacher Association. "I know when my kids go there, it's very comfortable. It's like a second home for them."

Parents routinely stress the issues of quality of education and quality of life in arguing that these tiny schools should be kept open, even though it will require millions of dollars in renovations to do so.

The oldest of the three schools, Clifford, built in 1907, needs a new roof, new windows and new heating and electrical systems, according to a report by the city's elementary school task force, which met for over a year to study conditions in the city's elementary schools and issued its report last fall. The school's plaster walls and ceilings contain asbestos, and cracks in the walls and ceilings need to be repaired. Clifford also has an unsafe gym, a cafeteria that also serves as the art room and no music room.

Adams has no art room and limited gym space. Both Adams and Baxter schools have blocked-up windows that leak. The two schools also have inadequate ventilation and need new heating and electrical systems.

None of the three schools is fully accessible to people with physical handicaps (although Baxter does have handicapped access at the front door). All have indoor air quality problems, and all have libraries that do not meet state standards.

It will not be cheap to fix or replace these schools. A full renovation of Adams — including additions for the library, art room and gym — would cost

cost of \$77 million. "It's too much money," said Mayor Cheryl Leeman. "It's way, way out of the bounds of what taxpayers in Portland can afford." With declining enrollments citywide (in the 1995-96 school year there were 4,300 students in the elementary schools, but by 2004-2005, that number will drop to about 3,000), it

makes sense to shutter some buildings. And even educationally, it may not make sense to spend the money.

Portland Superintendent of Schools Mary Jo O'Connor supports the school department's goal of keeping all the schools open.

But O'Connor does not believe tiny schools are necessarily the best way to go.

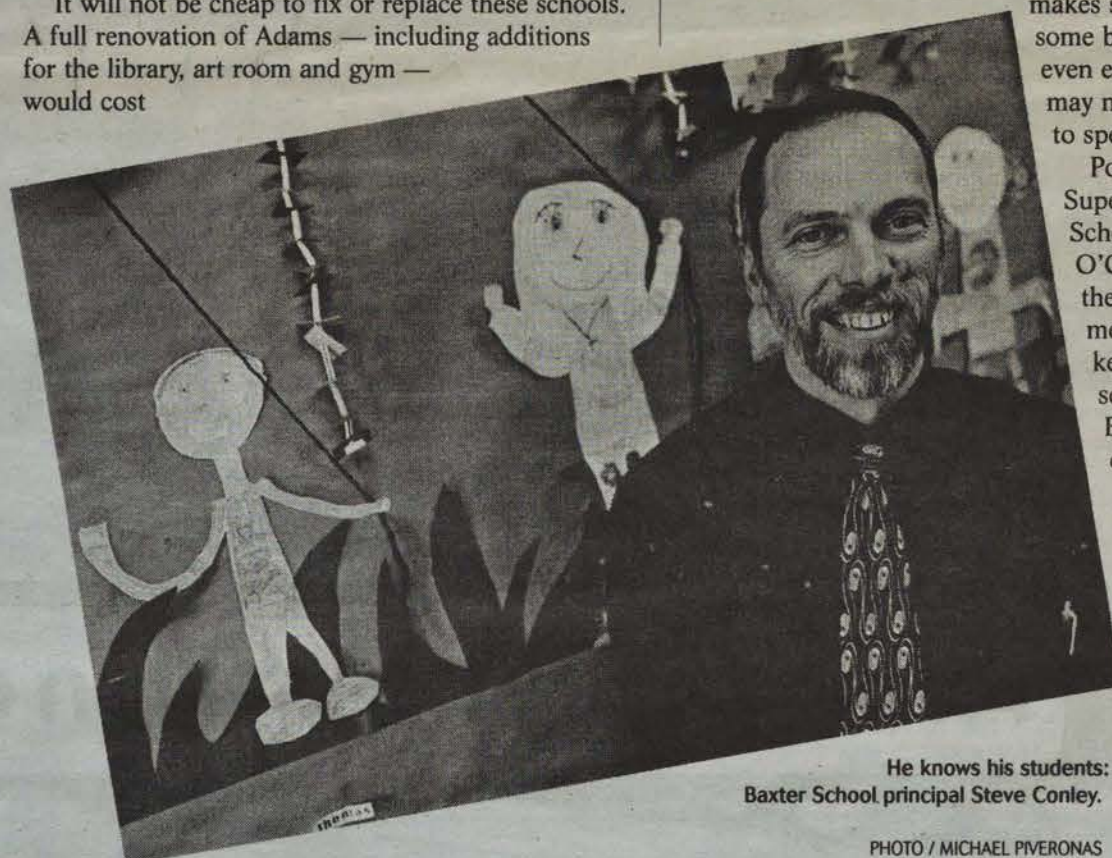
"From an educational standpoint, does it make the most sense to have a small school with just over 100 students?"

she said. "My professional opinion is, no, it does not — the reason being, these students don't have access to anyone else other than their small neighborhood. So, from an educational standpoint, I am not a supporter of tiny schools, although I do honor and respect the parents' love for them."

Is smaller better?

As much as parents love small schools, there may be a limit to the value of smallness.

According to Michael Klonsky, director of the



He knows his students: Baxter School principal Steve Conley.

PHOTO / MICHAEL PIVERONAS

Small Schools Workshop at the University of Illinois in Chicago, the benefits of small schools — higher test scores, better-adjusted kids — show up whenever student enrollment is below 350. But Klonsky said making schools much smaller than that doesn't produce any significant improvement. "When you get down under 350, there's no research showing an effect," he said. "Like at 200 or 150 [students], the effects are all pretty much the same."

Carol Dayn, principal of Adams School, believes her students benefit from the extra attention Adams' size allows teachers to give their students. Dayn said research shows students identify more with small schools, which makes them more committed to work hard. She said this research also demonstrates that small schools "are especially beneficial for low-income, disadvantaged kids."

The students at Adams school come from some of the poorest families in Portland. About 84 percent of these students receive federal money for subsidized breakfasts and lunches, and additional federal money for school programs. Dayn believes the intimate environment at Adams, while no substitute for the structure they may be lacking at home, can bolster their sense of belonging. Kids without a solid home life "really benefit from the schooling and tend to do better and stay in longer," she said. "For these kids, this kind of community is really very important."

Dayn said Adams' size also encourages parents — who may be wary of public schools based on their own bad experiences in them — to get more involved in their children's education. "We do a lot of things to get parents in," Dayn said, "and in a small school, it's just less intimidating."

Principals at Portland's larger elementary schools said it's possible to provide personalized education even in a bigger facility.

Kenneth Kunin, principal of Reiche Elementary School (540 students, 34 teachers), said he wouldn't mind if his school were a little smaller, "but we have a responsibility to make it feel personal for each child and each family."

Decreasing class size isn't the only way to make education more personal. Myrt Collins, the principal of Jack Elementary School (now 235 students and 14 teachers, although over 100 students from the English as Second Language program will be moved to the school this September) said she receives grant money that lets her assign a family support worker to every student in the school.

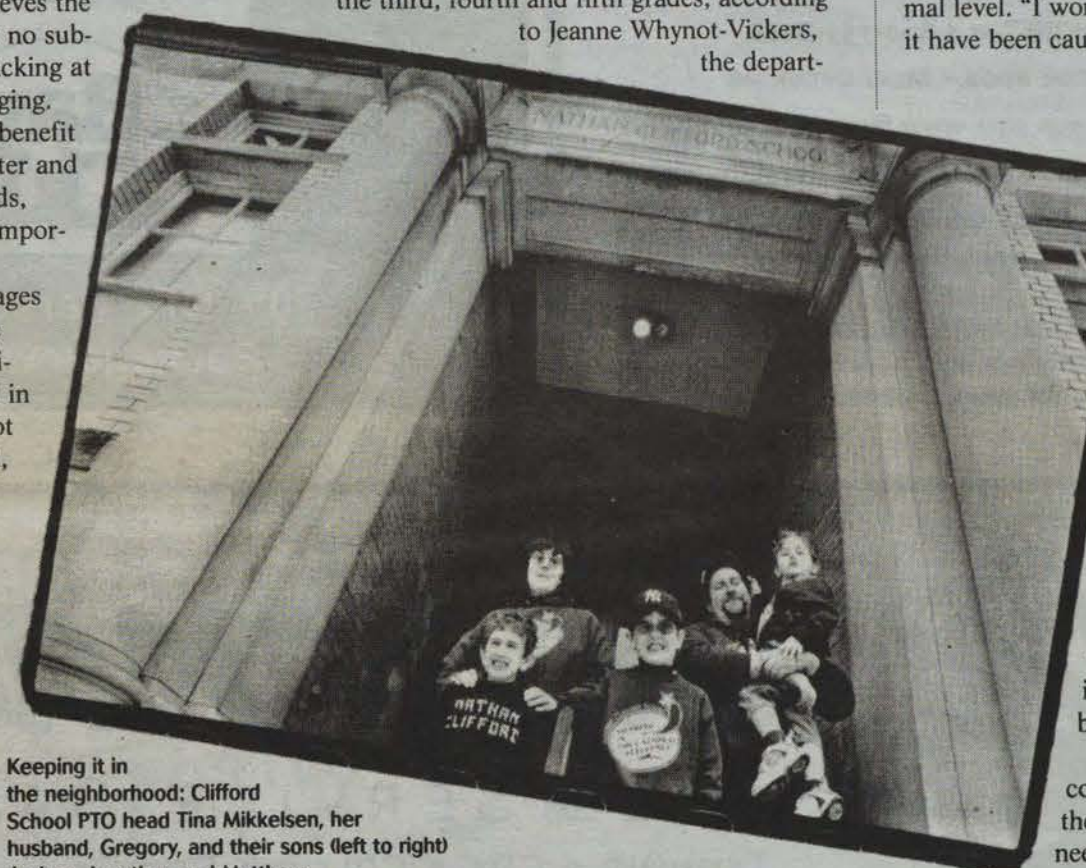
While Collins opposes the closing of nearby

Adams School, she also believes a small-school atmosphere can be created in schools of up to 350 kids. She said the average class size at Jack is just 18 students.

"I think statistically, if you look at the research, it basically says that's the ideal size for elementary schools," she said. Providing a solid, personalized education to over 300 kids "depends on how you structure that [size] and structure it with the families."

School Committee member Jeffrey Peters supports keeping small schools open, but pointed out that there are definite advantages for students in larger schools. Such schools not only offer more educational programs, Peters said, but they also provide more diversity, "because you see more kids and there's more different points of view than in a smaller school."

It's school department policy that class sizes in all the city's elementary schools stay in the range of 16-20 students for kindergarten to 18-25 students for the third, fourth and fifth grades, according to Jeanne Whynt-Vickers, the depart-



Keeping it in the neighborhood: Clifford School PTO head Tina Mikkelsen, her husband, Gregory, and their sons (left to right) Joshua, Jonathan and Matthew.

PHOTO / MATTHEW ROBBINS

ment's director of elementary education. "In the smaller schools, we are sometimes in the lower part of that range," she said, because of logistical reasons. This year, the city has a \$340,000 federal grant targeted for hiring more teachers in order to keep class sizes small; that grant goes up to \$434,000 for next year, if it's approved.

Nevertheless, parents at smaller schools question whether teachers and administrators in larger schools can make sure every child gets the kind of personalized attention they need.

In his second year as principal at Baxter, Steve Conley said he knows the names of 90 percent of the parents. "This is a very personal education. I could tell you every student's name in the building," he said. "I could tell you what book level they're reading at. I could tell you what experiences they're having. Would that be possible in a school of 600?" It's worth noting, however, that Conley is not a small school purist — he said his definition of a small school extends up to 280 students.

"From an educational standpoint, does it make the most sense to have a small school with just over 100 students?"

My professional opinion is, no, it does not — the reason being, these students don't have access to anyone else other than their small neighborhood."

— Mary Jo O'Connor, Portland's superintendent of schools

According to parents, when each child is known in school on a personal basis, it pays off if a student needs help. When Tina Mikkelsen's oldest son, Jonathan, was in first grade at Clifford, his teacher discovered he had a reading problem. He quickly got help, and now, in third grade, he's reading at a normal level. "I wonder, in a much bigger school, would it have been caught right off?" said Mikkelsen.

Special services

While there's no substitute for the personal attention students get in small schools, there's also no substitute for the specialized services they don't get.

At Adams, the art teacher comes just one-and-one-half days a week and the music teacher one day a week. At Baxter, the art teacher is there two days a week and the music teacher gets one-and-one-half days. At Adams and Baxter, there's no full-time nurse. And staff trained to work with students with special needs come to visit the three schools, but such specialized educators are not permanently based there.

It's factors like those that O'Connor considers when assessing the value of the city's smaller schools. "Our students need to have access to a full-time music teacher or art teacher, social worker and guidance counselor, as opposed to someone who is there one or two days a

week," she said. "We really need to be looking at equity for all students. And that means equity in programming, equity in resources and equity in space. Right now, there is not equity, based on how big you are and where you are."

But equity is more important to some than others. "If it comes between getting a nice music room or keeping the school open, then we'd rather keep it the way it is," Dayn, Adams principal, said.

Not the first time

School officials are not planning a massive consolidation of elementary schools. Under the proposal, developed by the elementary task force, if Adams School is closed, Jack, which is a few blocks away on Munjoy Hill, would be enlarged. If Baxter closed, students would go to Presumpscot Elementary School. A shuttered Clifford School would send its students to Jack and Reiche.

For many students and parents, such a scenario would not dramatically affect their sense of being

"If it comes between getting a nice music room or keeping the school open, then we'd rather keep it the way it is."

—Carol Dayn, principal, Adams Elementary School



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— Steve Conley, principal,
Baxter Elementary School

part of a "neighborhood" school. Mikkelsen's kids, for example, already take a 10-minute bus ride from their home on Caleb Street (off Brighton Avenue in Portland's Rosemont neighborhood) to Clifford, which is near the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus.

School Committee member Jim Banks, a member of the elementary task force, said any displaced students would be integrated into the new schools, which would then become their neighborhood schools. Banks is also co-chair of a committee looking at how to fund the elementary schools projects.

Banks points out that Portland has been closing or consolidating schools for decades, and as the old schools closed, the new schools have gained the loyalty of neighborhood residents. In fact, the city has closed over 40 schools in the 20th century, according to School Committee member Herb Adams.

Roosevelt and Reed schools were closed when Riverton Elementary School was built (in 1976). Banks said, and three small schools in the West End were shut down when Reiche opened its doors (in 1973).

"I'm sure those small neighborhoods that surround those schools were concerned at that time as to what was in their future," Banks said. "In Riverton and Reiche we now have two wonderful schools that are referred to as models throughout the city. So if one stops to think, maybe it's a different kind of neighborhood, but one that might be a little more encompassing."

Banks isn't just spouting theory. He's had to deal with the problem firsthand. He was president of the Peary Elementary School parent-teacher group when that school was shuttered in 1976 and his children were transferred to Lyseth Elementary School. "We were totally upset to think that we were going to lose our small, neighborhood school," Banks said. "That's why I understand these parents. I've been through it. This is a difficult situation, and I can empathize with them to the core."

What next?

Even if Adams, Baxter or Clifford closes, it's unlikely to be any time soon. School officials say the current plan to upgrade the elementary schools could take up to 10 years. Thus, all students now attending those schools would be long gone by the time any serious changes occurred.

One reason the process will take so long is because the city will have to seek state funding. Right now, school officials are working on state-funding applications, due in July, to renovate or replace all 14 school facilities. The state Department of Education reviews the applications, visits the schools and then ranks every project in the state. But that ranking won't be made public until March 2002.

There are likely to be as many as 100 projects seeking money from a fund that will contain between \$150 million and \$175 million. Even if Portland receives a share of those dollars, the state would likely pay the percentage based on the current school aid formula, which right now is 17 percent, according to City Councilor Jim Cloutier, who co-chairs the funding committee. If the city pays more than a half-percent of its total assessed value per year in borrowing costs for school projects approved by the state, at that point, the state pays the entire cost of the project, Cloutier said. But the city would probably need to be working on projects that cost a total of \$25-\$30 million to hit the full funding level, Cloutier said, and that would mean six or seven schools would have to get state approval.

So Portland could get state funding to renovate three or four schools in this budget cycle, but no money to fix the other schools, according to Cloutier. At that point, the city will have to look at the schools the state decided did not qualify for funding and decide how much of the renovation costs taxpayers can

afford to cover.

"Is this current [\$77 million] package too much for the taxpayers?" said Jill Dusen, chair of the School Committee. "I think it is a hard pill to swallow. I recognize that. But I think over the long run we have to do something. It's more important that we figure out what to do and get to it than to spend 10 years discussing it."

Talk like that makes parents like Mikkelsen nervous. Even though she's been assured this will be a long process, Mikkelsen has asked the presidents of the Adams and Clifford parent-teacher groups to meet and plan strategy in case a proposal to close any of the three schools surfaces. She and her husband, Gregory, see maintaining small schools as fundamental to their lives in the city.

"Without a doubt, this is why I live in Portland," said Gregory Mikkelsen, himself a Clifford School alumnus. "I moved into the city because I knew I had a small community school for my children and I thought they would get a better education."

"The school itself is the hub of this part of the community," said Conley, Baxter's principal, of the school's East Deering neighborhood. "It's a shared, common identity."

But as Portland's history of school closings shows, identities change, and what is common and shared changes with them. The neighborhoods around Clifford, Baxter and Adams schools will likely have some serious adjustments to make in the next few years.

David Tyler can be reached at
editor1@maine.rr.com.

PORTLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

School	Students	Teachers	MEA Reading*	Writing*	Math*	Science*
Adams	96	7 1/2	541	532	530	526
Baxter	155	8	549	535	536	531
Clifford	215	13	539	534	531	526
Hall	453	28	534	528	525	522
Jack	235	14	545	537	534	530
Longfellow	341	18 1/2	547	541	540	531
Lyseth	624	30 1/2	546	538	534	525
Peaks Island	49	4	537	531	526	521
Presumpscot	244	12 1/2	534	529	531	525
Reiche	542	34	538	532	533	527
Riverton	491	24 1/2	541	534	533	527
Average			541	534	533	527

*Maine Educational Assessment scores from 1999-2000 school year given by the state Department of Education to fourth-grade students. The test is on a 501-580 scale: 501-520, does not meet the standards; 521-540, partially meets the standards; 541-560, meets the standards; 561-580, exceeds the standards. No scores for Adams because school has no fourth grade.

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COMMENT

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noted**

The war on a crop

In a state where farmers are struggling, you'd think Maine's leaders would jump at the chance to introduce a lucrative new crop — a crop that might earn farmers \$400 an acre or more annually.

There's just one problem: That crop is hemp, which is banned by federal law.

But state Rep. Tom Bull of Freeport wants to challenge that federal ban. He's filed a bill in the

worldwide market. Hemp is now used to make clothing, paper, rope, sails, paints and varnishes, oils for cosmetics and building materials.

The federal ban, like many drug-war policies, is ridiculous. It's perfectly fine to market and sell products made out of hemp in this country, but the thought of farmers growing hemp makes law-enforcement types twitch. Although hemp is a variety of the same plant that produces pot, hemp contains practically no tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the chemical that makes people high.

Despite hemp's harmlessness, Bull's proposal has already drawn fire from the state Department of Public Safety and the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. Law enforcement officials say it's difficult to differentiate between hemp and marijuana. But if the plants are that similar, why is hemp a legal crop in 29 countries, including Canada, England and Germany?

The federal government's knee-jerk opposition to anything associated with pot is absurd. Maine is in the midst of fighting a battle to get medical marijuana distributed to sick people, but the state's efforts are hampered by federal opposition, even though voters overwhelmingly approved of this use. Only through the efforts of advocates of medical marijuana across the country has the case finally gotten in front of the U.S. Supreme Court, which has the power to change that policy (although we're not betting on it).

The same tactic might work with hemp. Efforts to legalize the growing of hemp for agricultural purposes have been attempted in New Hampshire, Vermont, California, Colorado and Oregon. So even though Bull's proposal may seem futile, it will bring more attention to the advantages of the crop. And someday, Maine farmers might get the chance to cash in on hemp — without being arrested.

Goodbye

After one-and-a-half years as editor of *CBW*, I am stepping down. It was a difficult decision, because this has been one of the most exhilarating jobs I've ever had, but I want to concentrate on my own writing. The witty and capable Chris Busby, now one of *CBW*'s reporters, will become the new editor on April 23. I'll miss everybody at *CBW* — it has the most talented group of people I've ever worked with, in all departments. And I will continue to enjoy the provocative, extraordinary journalism in this paper — but this time, as a reader.

DAVID TYLER



This is pot. Hemp is the other stuff

Legislature calling for the legalization of hemp for agricultural purposes, beginning in July 2002 (See "Pot it's not," page 10).

There's little chance this bill will pass, but it should.

According to John Katula, a Litchfield farmer, the biggest cash crop right now is potatoes, at \$100 an acre. Katula thinks he could make four times that growing hemp, and with specialized equipment, as much as \$1,000 an acre. And it's a quick-growing crop, ready to harvest in 100 days. According to Bull, one acre of hemp would produce the same amount of fiber as four acres of trees over a 20-year period.

By continuing the ban on growing hemp, the federal government is keeping farmers out of a huge, new,

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YEP, CITY COUNCIL HOODWINNED US WORSE THAN NAGA! ELEVATED RAILS, A MODERN TRAIN STATION ON MARGINAL WAY, CONNECTION WITH OTHER SCAMTRACK ROUTES, HEH, HEH, WHAT A PILE OF HORSESHIT. NOW THIS THING SITS HERE WITH THE REST OF THESE RELICS FOR TOURISTS TO GAWK AT.



FOOLS GAVE UP ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFTER THAT SCAMTRACK THING. NOW EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN PRIVATE HELICOPTER LIKE IN BRAZIL. WHAT A WASTE OF EFFORT IT ALL WAS.



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Try listening

Allen Dammann's assertion that we should expect "flying gobs of green goop," to emanate from Maine Public Radio's "demonic" transmitters is ridiculous and extreme.

MPR has been taking it on the chin lately, and your agreement with the *Portland Press Herald* on this issue confirms your poor assessment of recent programming changes and reveals the fact that, most likely, you rarely, if ever, listen to MPR.

MPR took a huge chance with "Talk of the Nation." MPR replaced an hour or more of afternoon music with this decidedly leftist-leaning talk show, scheduled in the same time slot as everybody's favorite "big fat idiot," Rush Limbaugh. This is probably the most drastic of MPR's attempts to respond to lackluster afternoon listenership, and you critics haven't even mentioned it, and the program remains in place.

What you refer to as "hysterical backlash prompted by the changes" only strengthens the argument that MPR listeners are a loyal lot, and perhaps the initial changes were too radical for the representative MPR listener to digest.

While MPR certainly has some catching up to do, any regular radio customer in Maine knows that MPR offers the widest variety of programming available, and it is (virtually) commercial free. The fact that MPR had the balls to make those changes in the first place, and then respond to a "bombardment" of correspondence, proves that they are indeed responding to their existing listeners, while trying to affect positive change. So instead of wasting your Nintendo-length attention span criticizing, why don't you try actually listening to what the airwaves have to offer, compare, and then base your opinions on fact rather than speculation?

Are you listening?

Alan Bernardo
Westbrook

Douse the fire

I would like to suggest that from time to time you take more than one moment to write your bulletins ("News-o-rama," 3.29.00). I take issue with your whining that you don't like the idea of having something like Maine's historic railroad bridges sprouting along Marginal Way. Perhaps you could constructively suggest that the state Department of Transportation should investigate current construction technology and be certain that they minimize visual impact of any new viaducts that may be required for the reinstatement of rail service in Portland.

Perhaps you could weigh the impact of three street-level crossings on major arterial streets against the addition of three low-profile modern structures adjacent to the existing highway overpasses. No, it's much more fun to yell fire so you can get letters to the editor for your next issue, isn't it? That's OK — there are some of us out here willing to find a bucket of cold water and douse the fire instead of acting helpless and hysterical. It's particularly fun when the fire is all in your head.

George Lavigne
Portland

Horrible welcome

We have been coming to Peaks Island for 34 years, and we have just made one the most important decisions of our life, Last

June we decided to retire to Peaks Island. We bought some land, and we have started to build. This has been a lifelong dream. One of the reasons we like Peaks Island so much is all the great people we have met over the years. We have not found any other place with such a feeling of community.

Now, the reason for this letter. A very troubling thing happened last weekend. A family from out of state moved into their newly finished home. They were so excited to be on Peaks, which they love, and to be in their new home. While they were shopping at Hannigan's Market, spending some out-of-state cash to stock the new home, someone left a note on their car: "Go back to —" (we will not say where this location is, as to not embarrass them).

They were so hurt and devastated. What a great welcome to Peaks. I hope this was an isolated act of a very small and apparently jealous person.

Let us all take a moment to think about how you would feel if it happen to us. Remember, most of us are from somewhere else.

Joan and Bernie Smith
Peaks Island

Missed the boat

I am writing in response to a comic that was published in the March 15 issue of *CBW*. In this issue, there was an apology from *CBW* to its readers for the now infamous "Chef Al's Fowl," and next to this was a comic by "The Great Pandolfini," saying, at least in my interpretation, that those who had reacted to "Chef Al's Fowl" needed to wake up and realize that people do not actually get hurt in cartoons. This is correct, people do not actually get hurt in cartoons, but in life, people do get hurt.

Exposure to violence against any group, when presented as humor, helps to make that violence acceptable. For many years, women have been portrayed as mindless objects that can be used and abused, and enjoy it. Whether this portrayal takes places in movies, video games or cartoons, it perpetuates the already huge problem of violence against women in our society.

While cartoons may not physically harm people, they help to further stereotypes placed on groups. I'm quite sure that if you were to ask any person of color or a native person about their portrayals in older movies (as well as the most recent ones), they would say that the representations of them as stupid, violent and glib were not only offensive and wrong, but that they also helped to push equality movements backward.

Media portrayals can and do hurt people. While the apology from *CBW* was appreciated, by publishing this cartoon next to it, I'm afraid you missed the boat again. I hope in the future you are able to remember the influence that media has over people and then proceed to use that influence wisely, not as a tool to help incorrect and dangerous stereotypes continue.

Carol Colpitts
Portland

Disappointed

As an agency that provides support and advocacy for survivors of sexual violence, a majority of whom are women, we are disappointed that *Casco Bay Weekly* has twice chosen to print the comic strip "Chef Al's Fowl."

The comic, depicting the dehumanization and sexualized butchery of a woman, has no recognizable place or value in a presumably progressive-thinking, local news magazine. Either *CBW* doesn't understand that violent misogynist imagery is offensive, hurtful and terrifying to many of its readers, or it simply doesn't care. Both possibilities are troubling.

Violence against women has always been a serious matter to those impacted most directly by the issue: the survivors and people who care about them. Other voices, including those in law enforcement, health care, state and local government and the media, have joined a community-wide discourse about and effort against such violence. We encourage *CBW* to consider if it wants to be regarded as part of the problem or part of the solution.

Susan Hall Dreher, Kayce Hunton, Margo Batsie, Pete Hodgkin, Marcia Hilton-Kingdon, Mary Bonsant
Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine Brunswick

Cheap images

After Al Diamon's comment that town-meeting government is not bad compared to fascist dictatorships (Politics and Other Mistakes, "The company you keep," 3.29.01), I feel like I should be writing this in my high school German: "Lieber Herr," um, "Redakteur"...

The feeling of foreignness in my own land is what I told myself I'd learned by being in Kenya as a Peace Corps volunteer. But sometimes the strangeness and downright wrongness gets so pervasive that you lose the sense of outrage and instead try to rationalize things away ("Am I weird or is this out of place?"). We often opt (and this is a "we" thing, a group-bonding cop-out) for a pretty picture instead of the real deal.

Chef Al's treatment of his commodity touched a lot of nerves, as *CBW*'s March 29 letters show. I stopped by the *CBW* office to see the offending cartoon: women dancing naked on a Las Vegas stage, a woman in Chef Al's stewpot, a woman lying on Chef Al's cutting board ("ooh, this feels so good"). The cartoon suggests that women are making themselves a commodity for men's use. Evidence? Aly McBeal? The "Valley Girl" accent with its forced, baby-girl tone, its "I'm a little princess" preciousness, its rising inflections that turn every statement into a question?

The self-standardization, the cultural definition, of these trends need not result in women consenting to be a commodity. The forging of an argot, a common jargon, is part of a group's making itself a group (among other groups) and giving its members more power. Look at African-American gangster fashion statements and jargon.

It's a "look," that's all, but if you put on the look and figure your work is done, that's where you've turned yourself into a commodity. It's like a law student who figures that footnotes and a confident tone of voice are all there is to a legal argument, as opposed to facts, logic, moral force, relevancy, clarity, etc.

Chef Al's warning (I take it as such, not knowing him or his work) is that some women are making the mistake of selling themselves short. I sat in on a women's studies class where the topic was the American woman and firearms. I expected a talk about equalizers. The discussion leader mentioned guns as, I think, a symbol of masculine technical arrogance, and suggested that feminine survival skills had instead traditionally included, among other things, basketweaving and (more recently) bra selection: things that required art and talent, but not of a masculine (violent?) sort.

A woman sitting next to me asked about women acquiring technological skills such as medical X-ray applications. Her obvious intent was parity with male technological, economic and political power through direct competition. If the Aly McBeal, Valley-girl jargon and image, etc., are used to avoid direct competition with men, there is something very malevolent there. Just as with lawyers, when someone puts on the look and talks the talk, but refuses to get down and work with other people as peers, the result is not justice ("separate but equal" is inherently unequal, said the Supreme Court) but futility: missed opportunities to work together in the common spirit which gets behind images to reality.

If the look is just a look, feel free. That's what we're talking about here. Images are cheap. Al Diamon, take a bow.

Chris Rushlau
Portland

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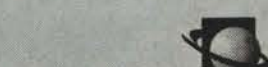
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Misogynist crap

As an advertiser in *CBW* for the last year, I must express my outrage at your printing of the "Chef Al's Fowl" cartoon depicting the torture of a woman. This is in the worst possible taste, right up there with depicting the lynching of an African American or gassing a Jew. It is not at all OK to print this kind of garbage and hide behind the First Amendment. This is not about your right to publish it, but, rather, condemning your judgment in doing so. Do prevailing community standards include this kind of misogynist crap? There are enough assaults on the dignity of women in popular music, violent films and pornography. There is no excuse for it showing up in a community newspaper!

Judith H. Frost, LCSW
Raymond

Advocating torture

I am writing in regard to your cartoons, "Chef Al's Fowl." I am appalled at the level of misogyny and insensitivity shown by you. Violence against women is a terrifying reality in our world, and images such as yours perpetuate the myth that women enjoy this violence, that violence is an acceptable way to handle relations with women and that women enjoy being treated as an object to be mistreated and consumed. Your depiction of the mutilation and torture of a woman reinforces the notion that men can use women's bodies in whatever way pleases them, even if that means women are harmed, mutilated or even killed. You are advocating, intentionally or not, the murder and torture of women.

Before I read *Casco Bay Weekly* again, I must see a full retraction of this "joke," an apology and assurance that *CBW* will not run items advocating violence toward any group of people. In addition, I will not support any *CBW* advertisers, and I will let them know why, until that retraction and apology happens. I will urge advertisers to reconsider their patronage of your publication until that time.

Karen Wyman
Portland

Self-righteous complaints

Blah, blah, blah. There's so much wrong with the world and I have so much time to

stop and throw a tantrum about a stupid comic strip. Or at least it seems that everyone else in the city does. I'm personally sick of reading the self-righteous letters in *CBW* about how disappointed and horrified people are at this little outburst of dark humor, and I'm sure that I'm not alone.

First of all, I'm a woman and, ironically, I still see the humor in this piece. No, I'm not offended, although it does seem a little unnecessary to print such a gratuitously morbid piece. But so what? The artist felt the need to voice something in the piece, and that's what he did. I'm sure that he doesn't cook women on a regular basis.

Art is art. Whether in the form of a comic strip or a bad piece of modern art, people have the choice to create and display what they wish. We live in an Arts District, and some art does contain shock value. Get used to it. Thirdly, this publication is free. If one does not like it, one need not read it.

My last point seems almost clichéd, but it seems that it must be said for all of those who have not been paying attention (ready kids, all together now): America is a free country. One who feels the need to

"I found 'Chef Al's Fowl' refreshing and dark, possibly even shocking, but sometimes shock value is needed to scare those self-righteous prudes back into reality."

voice anything (including gore, obscenity, or plain old dark humor) should feel free to do so.

It is the high and mighty prudes who have a problem with the comic; those who find misogynist messages in every headline, obscenities in every Disney movie and pale at the thought at the "F" word. To those people I say: Fuck fuck fuck.

I found "Chef Al's Fowl" refreshing and dark, possibly even shocking, but sometimes shock value is needed to scare those self-righteous prudes back into reality. To the strip I say, bravo. To *CBW* I give a standing ovation. Printing controversial material shows that the editors and writers have balls. And the comic beside the public apology gave the prudent and the shocked a kick in the ass.

Jen Cabaniss
Portland

Clean up

I understand the state is considering passing a bill stating that all cigarette filters could be redeemed for a 5-cent refund. This is a good idea!

It would be a good bill that would help clean up the environment. People would benefit in several areas, including eliminating litter and providing some income for the economically challenged.

I believe the state should start a temporary program in order to clean up littered cigarettes. A one-year refund program would work. By redeeming all filters there would be an immediate response by the community. I would gladly help, and I do believe I'm not alone.

Colette Landry
Portland

congress street MINUTES

ANNIE SEIKONIA

A Sudanese oasis

I remember the first time I went to an East African restaurant, years ago. I was driving around Boston with my friend Rod, and we decided to have lunch. We parked and were strolling around trying to decide between a plethora of Indian restaurants, when we spotted an African one. Intrigued, we decided to try it. It was around 2 p.m., late for lunch, and we were the only customers. We ordered and sat chatting amiably. When the food arrived — well-cooked vegetables and stew with thin, round, pancake-like bread — we looked at each other and had the same thought simultaneously: "No silverware!"



ILLUSTRATION/JEFFREY CLIFFORD

There was no silverware on any of the tables, and the food was mushy. I burst out laughing. Rod speculated that perhaps this was an African version of "Candid Camera," and that somewhere, some very amused Africans were laughing their heads off at the bewildered Americans.

As it turns out, eating with your hands, using the bread to scoop up the food, is an African tradition. And now Portlanders can experience the bliss of African food at the new Ezo African Restaurant (formerly Milliner's), between the Oak Leaf Inn and Marcy's, on Oak Street. Since it opened Feb. 19, word has spread quickly that Ezo has great, inexpensive food. My friend Spence and I decided to check it out one Friday night.

African print curtains and tablecloths adorn the bright, pleasant room, as the rhythms of African music pulse softly in the background. The walls are sparsely decorated with traditional African art. I ordered the vegetable plate with lentils and rice, and Spence ordered moto-moto — chicken with bread, lentils, rice and vegetables. The food arrived swiftly, and though Ezo does have silverware at each table, this time I knew the routine.

African bread fascinates me — it's thin and resembles coral. Spence speculated that perhaps it had been fermented. We both thought the food delicious. Mine was pleasantly spicy, while Spence described his chicken as "succulent."

There is something truly innovative and deeply satisfying about eating with your hands, a technique that seems somewhat naughty and childish. Spence observed that this way of eating allows one to enjoy the consistency of the food. "You can taste it with your hands," he said, though he also admitted that eating rice with hands presents a challenge.

The colors of the food — orange, green, red — match the décor and summon the presence of an eternal summer — a pleasant retreat on a chilly spring night in Maine. Soothing, damp, hot cloths are provided to wipe your fingers, though I had the impulse to drape mine over my work-wearied eyes.

Owner Florence Oebele came to Portland from Sudan over two years ago. She runs the restaurant with assistance from her seven sons, and is also a caseworker with Catholic Charities Maine. The restaurant is named for her husband's village, a place of about 6,000 inhabitants in southern Sudan, a region that has suffered heavily from famine, sleeping sickness and civil war. Trained as a nutritionist, Florence also worked for the United Nations for 15 years. She learned how to cook from her mother, and has taught cooking in schools as well.

The restaurant's menu reflects its philosophy: "We believe food unites us and binds us as sisters and brothers Today we welcome you to our family table as together we break bread and hope for peace across our world." I certainly felt peaceful basking in the pleasant atmosphere, communing with my tactile lentils and spinach.

Florence attributes the popularity of Ezo to its unique status. "Portland is becoming more diverse, and we have lots of ethnic restaurants, but nothing from Africa," she said. "It is good to have one in the name of Africa." In addition to the restaurant, Florence also hopes to open a small African market with foods, spices and other goods.

As for why she picked Portland to relocate, she said, "Portland is a good environment. The people are friendly. We haven't experienced any harassment. We feel it is a safe place. We hear about a lot of violence in other states, but I haven't experienced any of that here, yet." *CBW*

portland PROWLER

CHRIS BUSBY

"And here comes Gordie ..."

The following is a chronological account of my first Portland Pirates game; that is, as a fan. Accompanying me was Josh Walton, a graphic designer, late of *CBW*. It was also Josh's first Pirates game, but though he was a mere fan like me, I dare say he was the only guy in the Cumberland County Civic Center that Sunday afternoon who'd won a face-off against Gordie Howe.

All times are approximate (like you care).

4:00 p.m.: Waiting in the ticket line, Josh and I are approached by a friendly old man, possibly an angel. "You guys want a couple freebies?" he asks, producing two tickets. He assures us they are good seats and, cash-strapped, we believe him.

4:02 p.m.: The woman at the beer stand warns me against attempting to carry two beers into the stands lest an usher force me to pour one out. Thus, Josh must carry his own flimsy cup, in addition to a plastic platter of nachos (compartment of hot, orange glue-cheese; another of salsa; perhaps two dozen precious, whole nacho chips; \$5) through the crowd of darting kids.

4:05 p.m.: Josh and I stand on the entrance landing of our section as "Oh Canada" is sung and a spotlight shines on a Canadian flag in the rafters. We are in the way, but to ascend the stairs now would be impolite to the Saint John Flames, visitors from the franchise based in Saint John, which, apparently, is in Canada.

4:07 p.m.: They are good seats; high up; right below the rink DJ booth, but at center ice and free as the wind.

01:01, period 1: The game starts and is immediately exciting. I vow to buy season tickets next year. Josh expresses desire to do same.

03:42: Josh tells me he grew up in Glastonbury, Conn., three houses down and across the street from hockey legend/former Hartford Whaler Gordie Howe. When Josh was a kid, he'd play hockey on J.B. Williams Pond every day after school, and once a week, Gordie, retired five years at the time, would be there with his kids. "He was totally cool," Josh says. "He wasn't any superstar or anything. He was just, like, 'Hey, guys. What's up?' and 'Do you wanna play a pick-up game?'"

04:10: Big fight erupts on our side of the ice. Blows to the face are struck, and players from each team are forced to sit in Plexiglas booths with men in suits who are the only ones allowed to open the doors and won't talk to them.

06:33: The glue-cheese is nearly exhausted; the salsa surprisingly spicy.

10:21: Josh describes Howe as being "like a father figure" on the ice, teaching kids moves by example — that is, often by burning them on same. "You'd have the puck, and he could fake you out of your own puck He'd have the puck goin' another way before you even knew what happened."

First intermission: Another beer, an all-beef Jordan's hot, small popcorn (\$7.50).

8:01, period 2: Pirate Brad Church scores, sparks erupt from a tube on the back of the net, jaunty music plays and the half-capacity, but liberally dispersed, crowd claps and hoots, I among them.

8:50: "What was it like to play against Howe?"

"It'd be me and another kid, and it would be us two on a breakaway and here comes Gordie playin' defense, and it's like, what are you gonna do? He'd just quickly stick his stick right into that hole in your skate, and you'd trip up."

"That's cheating."

9:39: Goal, Pirates, J.F. Fortin, more sparks. The Flames' goalie's name is Szupér. "Szuper man!" He must be tired, oh so tired, of that.

10:29: Goal, Saint John. Rick Mrozik gets a cheap one through a hole in Pirate tender Corey Hirsch's pads from center ice. Silence. The announcer delivers the humiliating news that the goal was both shorthanded and unassisted, though the *Press Herald* box score the next day will credit the assist to someone known as "Tkaczuk."

Second intermission: Another beer. The hots are sold out. I buy a small nachos (perhaps a dozen whole chips, no salsa, \$3).

3:50, period 3: Josh says he faced-off against Howe several times and won a few times, though, "I know he let me get a few of 'em, just so I wouldn't be totally discouraged."

6:56: "Mister Big Stuff, who do you think you are?" A cutting selection by the rink DJ played before a face-off.

8:08: "Rock Me Amadeus" — that one must be for our boys.

16:01: "Did you ever check Gordie?"

"Oh sure, definitely, oh yeah. With no effect. Kind of like hittin' a brick wall."

19:59: Pirate Matt Pettinger scores a last-second goal on an empty net. Pirates win, 3-1. I decide I won't buy season tickets, but will definitely be back next year. *CBW*



Ice, ice, Gordie: Howe in his declining years.

Capitalism vs. the arts II: Just when you thought it was safe to go back into Portland's Arts District, another key arts-related business may be facing extinction. Associated Theatre Management, the Waltham, Mass.-based company that owns the Congress Street building currently occupied by the *Skinny*, recently put the property on the market. *Skinny* owners John and Mellow Lomba — who, in the year they've run the nightclub, have turned the former porn theater into one of the city's preeminent venues for music, theater and visual art — said they've always intended to buy the building and are exploring every option to do so. The Lombas hold the right to match any offer and acquire the property themselves. A spokeswoman for their landlord refused to disclose the asking price, but said several interested parties have called.

Dogs vs. the dead II: After searching for weeks to find an appropriate location for dogs to run off-leash in Portland, the committee assigned to the task has zeroed in on a spot on the Eastern Promenade adjacent to and behind the tennis courts. The Off Leash Area (OLA) committee will have to jump through several hoops to establish a dog-run there by June 1, the date the City Council has set to ban dogs from Western Cemetery — a decision made, in part, due to concerns the canines were relieving themselves on graves. Among the administrative and political hurdles OLA must leap, however, will be those posed by the presence of the graves of 21 soldiers killed in the War of 1812 — graves memorialized inside the proposed site. OLA members will be meeting with the Maine Historical Society and other interested parties in mid-April to address potential concerns. Meanwhile, the largely unpopular dog-run site proposed on Valley Street is still being evaluated by the committee as an option for West Enders who can't drive to Eastern Prom.

Soleywatch. He may have moved to Manhattan, but Old Port mega-landlord Joe Soley still loves Portland. We know that seems incredible, given Soley's long history of trashing local buildings, city ordinances, tenants' rights and good taste in hair coloring. But in the April issue of *Travel + Leisure* magazine, Soley sends a little love letter to his former stomping ground.

In a section in which *T+L* asked readers what their favorite shops in the world were, there's a letter from "J. L. Soley" of the Big Apple. Soley reveals his top spot to shop is Emerson Books, Maps & Prints on Exchange Street. "It's in the historic Old Port," he writes, "a restored harbor lined with restaurants, art-house cinemas, jewelers and coffeehouses."

Soley somehow neglects to mention the name of Emerson Books' landlord: a guy named J. L. Soley of New York City.

— items by Chris Busby and Al Diamon

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

Takin' it to the 'burbs

Immigrant students from Portland share their stories with their white-bread counterparts in Yarmouth



Lunch and terror: Students from King Middle School in Portland and Harrison Middle School in Yarmouth celebrate the conclusion of their joint project by heading for a meal at an African restaurant in Portland. PHOTO / JOHN MONROE

ALLEN DAMMANN

Like all veterans of war, Lars Okot has stories to tell. Stories of bloodshed and destruction, of terrifying games of hide-and-seek, of never knowing what new travesty lay ahead. In a mournful and angry poem called "A time we saw a day pass by," Okot conjures up those specters of modern brutality: "How black and bloody it was/The day the sun never shone/The day the men crossed the river of death/They painted their faces to hide their fears, letting out no tears."

The poem concludes, "Death was the only way out for some/This was a war."

His memories are the stuff to make a grown man shiver. But Okot himself is not a man. A native of Sudan and a member of the Acholi people, he and his family fled his home country's civil war in 1995 to come to the U.S., where the lanky 14-year-old is a student at King Middle School in Portland. His stories, like those of his classmates from Kosovo, Cambodia, Rwanda and Somalia, might have remained untold if not for a group of kids at Yarmouth's Frank Harrison Middle

School. In January, eighth-graders from both places teamed up to work on a project for Harrison's annual civil rights museum, a one-night exhibition that explores topics from the discrimination against the Irish in the 1840s to Japanese-American internment camps during World War II.

"The thought occurred to me," said Michael Langella, an eighth-grade teacher of math, social studies and U.S. history at Harrison, "that while our students are investigating civil rights issues, they might be able to learn more about some individuals who live in the states, who experienced first hand some kind of abuse."

Langella contacted Emily Tuttle, Okot's English for Speakers of Other Languages teacher at King Middle School. Students at the two schools began e-mailing each other, followed a couple of weeks later by a lunch meeting.

"I got a van and hauled the kids up to Frank Harrison," said Tuttle. "At first, it was a little strained. No one knew what to do or to say. Then they all started talking. There were contrasts — academically,

economically, worldly — and they were eating pizza and talking about regular middle-school stuff."

There was another contrast, too.

"You know, we're predominantly middle-class, white kids," said 13-year-old Chris Drouin, a student at Harrison. "The average-American-family kind of thing. But you have to be aware the world isn't like that. It's hardly like that."

For their part in the civil rights museum, Tuttle's students were asked to create a display featuring poetry, prose and photographs. The idea was to give personal insight into things many Americans wistfully assume have always existed and always will exist — things such as security, liberty, faith in the government.

"No one actually cares, and no one actually knows these things are going on," said Okot. "Like slavery and stuff is still going on in the world."

The King students' final product was an intimate collage of tales and images that, taken together, told the story of children simultaneously trying to grapple with tragedies of the past while working to assimilate themselves into a new culture. In her piece, "Kosova," 14-year-old Reze Zejnullahi recounts the harrowing days of waiting for Serb militants to either leave — or to find and capture her family.

"Days passed and I was getting scared," wrote Zejnullahi, "a lot scarier than I ever thought I could be. The days were so boring, we could not go out even to buy food to eat so we had to eat what was in the house. But my parents were thinking what would happen next when we eat all the food what are we going to do?"

Such fear continues to haunt Claudine Kaitare, 15, who left Rwanda with her family in 1996 to escape the wholesale slaughter of her people, the Tutsis.

"The year of 1994 was the worst year that I have ever lived," wrote Kaitare in her story, "Rwanda." "I was in a war not knowing why. In the middle of nowhere ... these people who were Hutus killing Tutsis. I was very scared, scared they might kill my family and scared that I would not make it to the next day."

When these stories finally went on dis-

play on Feb. 15, the reactions were — not surprisingly — intense. One viewer burst into tears after reading some of the pieces.

"We have received feedback from parents of students who attend Yarmouth who were very touched," said Langella. "People from different places in the world have to overcome great odds and adversity. It's a good lesson for kids in the U.S. to know."

But just as some folks were moved by the tales, others were taken aback by the violence that's so alien to suburban America.

"When they first saw it, they were like, 'Oh, when was this?'," said Okot. "Like they think this was way back then."

"Some people didn't like the way we did it and stuff," added 14-year-old Sambo Tek, a second-generation Khmer born in San Francisco and raised in Portland. "They didn't really like the part when somebody tried to

take over some land and were killing each other and stuff like that."

In the process of writing a poem called "Cambodia," Tek was forced to address one of his own issues: The confusion of someone who feels he's neither part of the world where his family is from nor the one where he lives. His piece is a string of questions aimed at finding his own identity.

"What is Cambodia like?" Tek wrote. "What is it like to be there?"

He ended the poem, "How does it feel to be Cambodian?"

Though the project is over, Tuttle and Langella hope to find more assignments for their students to collaborate on in the future, possibly this spring. Meanwhile, the kids have already taken their own initiative, tentatively discussing plans to work together on a different form of storytelling.

"They're hoping to make a music video," Tuttle said. "We've got a couple of rappers, and they thought it might be neat to teach these kids from Yarmouth how to rap."

LA VIDA NUEVA

The Rustic Overtones' new CD finally arrives

Nearly three years after the band's last release, the Rustic Overtones are set to unveil what may be the most anticipated local album ever, "Viva Nueva." In the interim, the R.O.'s well-publicized deal with Arista fell through, and the group subsequently found a home on a smaller label, Tommy Boy, which will release "Viva Nueva" on June 5. The question is: After all that time in major-label limbo, are the Overtones still good enough to make it to the big time?



Live! la vida Ricky Martin? The Rustic Overtones shoot for the big time.

guest artist David Bowie). Additionally, the re-recordings of "Hardest Way Possible" and "Check" — both from the preceding album, "Rooms by the Hour" — don't add anything substantial to the originals.

Fortunately, the Overtones' exuberant personality and musical strengths are still intact. Most of the songs on "Viva Nueva" are energized by the brash enthusiasm that made the band so popular here in Portland. And Visconti's production still highlights the Overtones' instrumental skills and tight arrangements. The album is nearly always entertaining. Songs like "C'Mon" (the first official single), "Love Underground," "Crash Landing" and "Boys and Girls" are both powerful and fun.

While "Viva Nueva" doesn't definitively answer the question as to whether the Rustic Overtones will make it big, it does show that they should.

DAN SHORT

The Rustic Overtones, with Jeremiah Freed and Chindrive, play on Friday, April 20 at the Falls, 11 Riverside Ave., Sanford, at 9 p.m. Tix: \$10-\$12 (21+). 324-5430.

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"Minor League" by Jessica Gandolf, part of the Portland Museum of Art Biennial exhibition, beginning Thurs., April 5.

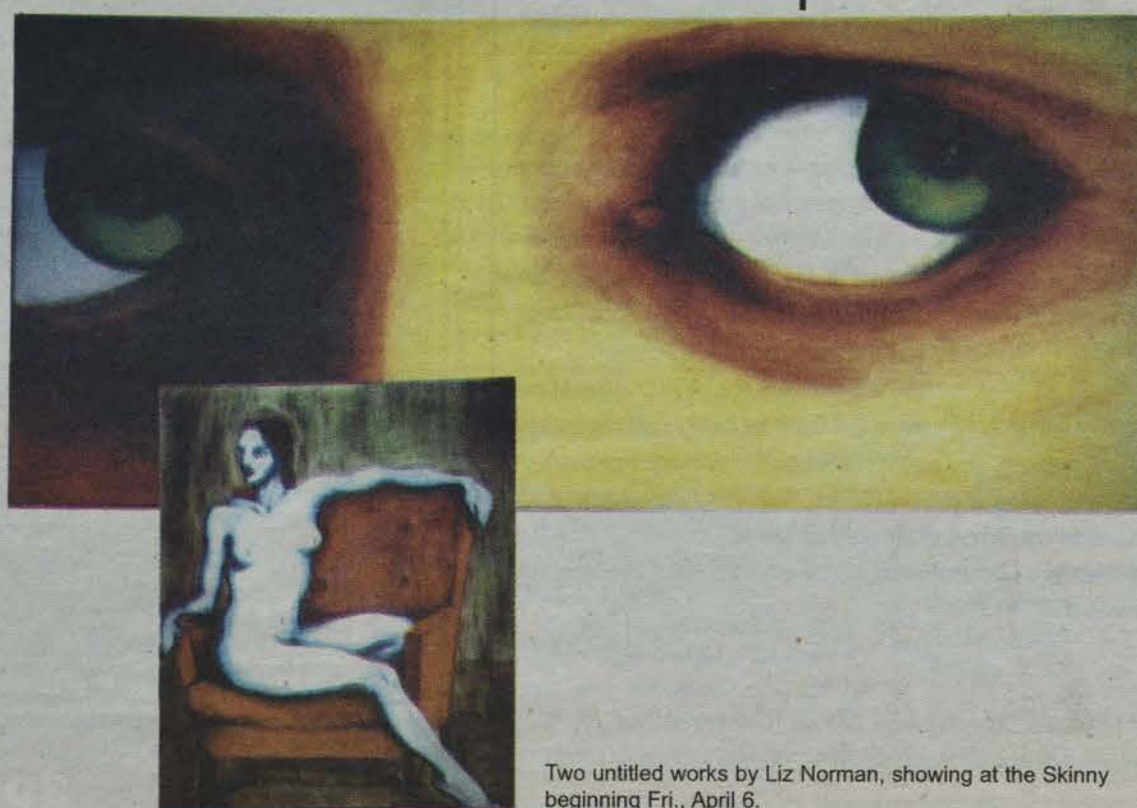
— Thursday, April 5

— PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART BIENNIAL

If you didn't get the satisfaction of being one of the 58 contemporary artists whose work was chosen to be featured in the "2001 Portland Museum of Art Biennial" exhibition, at least give yourself the satisfaction of attending the show and scoffing at the weakness of those artists' art compared to your own. Then go down the block to the Free Street Taverna, drown your pitiful sorrows in draft beer and continue scoffing to anyone who'll listen. Melonie Bennett, John Bisbee, Paul D'Amato, Anne Harris, Paul Plante, Sa Schloff and Tanja Alexia Hollander are among the lucky ones who made the grade this year. Be bitter at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland. Shows through Sunday, June 3. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students & seniors/\$1 youth); free Fridays from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. 775-6148.

— THE TUBES

Frustrated, bitter people can take a lesson from the Tubes. Most bands would have dissolved into alcoholism, day jobs and "Behind the Music" mewing if, as is the Tubes' case, a handful of hits in the '80s never resulted in double-digit record sales again. But the Tubes haven't flushed it all down the crapper yet. The quirky rock band continues to record and tour on the strength of such songs as "Talk to Ya Later," "She's a Beauty" and "White Punks on Dope." The group will be joined by local pop rockers the Troubles, Portland's own shining example of perseverance in the face of indifference. Get tubular at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$18. 775-3331.



Two untitled works by Liz Norman, showing at the Skinny beginning Fri., April 6.

— Thursday, April 5

SUBMISSIONS TO THE CALENDAR MUST BE RECEIVED in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to **Bill Siever, Casco Bay Weekly**, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or e-mail listings@maine.cc.com.

CALENDAR

QUICK PICKS

— Saturday, April 7

• If you think you're paranoid now, wait 'til you attend the 12th annual Maine Conference of Investigating Crimes Committed by the F.B.I., an event featuring workshops and discussions on topics like "Carnivore: the F.B.I. Software Program That Opens Your E-Mail Without Your Permission," at Bates College's Keck Hall, Lewiston, from 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Free. 293-3479.

— Tuesday, April 10

• It's no-holds-barred action when state Sen. Anne "The Lawmaker" Rand and Mark "The Activist" Swann of the Preble Street Resource Center debate the merits of the May 1 Portland development referendum at Reiche School, 166 Brackett St., Portland, from 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Free. 775-0105 x27.

— Wednesday, April 11

• Before carbon dioxide emissions wreak havoc with the planet's climate, melt the glaciers and flood our fair state, hear Bill McKibben, author of "The End of Nature," give a lecture titled "The Environment as the 'Moral' Challenge of Our Time" at Bowdoin College's Kresge Auditorium, Brunswick, at 7:30 p.m. Free. 725-3375.

— Friday, April 6

— FIRST FRIDAY ARTWALK

Biennial, bismennial. Plenty of great artists don't need no stinkin' panel of curators to get their work seen and respected in Portland. During this month's First Friday Artwalk, you can catch Donald Talbot's performance piece, "Staying Between the Lines," and his multi-media installation, "Tomb of the Warrior Housewives," at Elements Gallery, 190 Danforth St., from 5 p.m.-8 p.m.; the opening reception for "Naked and Smiling," a show of Michael Branca's vibrant, humorous paintings at Filament Gallery's new location, 181 Congress St., from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.; the opening party for abstract paintings by Elizabeth Cashin McMillen (whoops, she's in the Biennial — sorry) at June Fitzpatrick Gallery, 112 High St., from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.; the opening bash for multi-media works by Judith Allen, photographs by Amy Ray and acrylics by Heidi Stubbs at Hay Gallery, 594 Congress St., from 5 p.m.-8 p.m.; and the opening soiree for the big, beautiful portraits and studies of Liz Norman at the Skinny, 625 Congress St., from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Plenty of other Portland galleries will be open past their usual hours for the Artwalk as well. For more info, call Jill at 775-0418, Renata at 775-6148 x224 or Mellow Lomba at 871-8983.

— TARGET STARS ON ICE

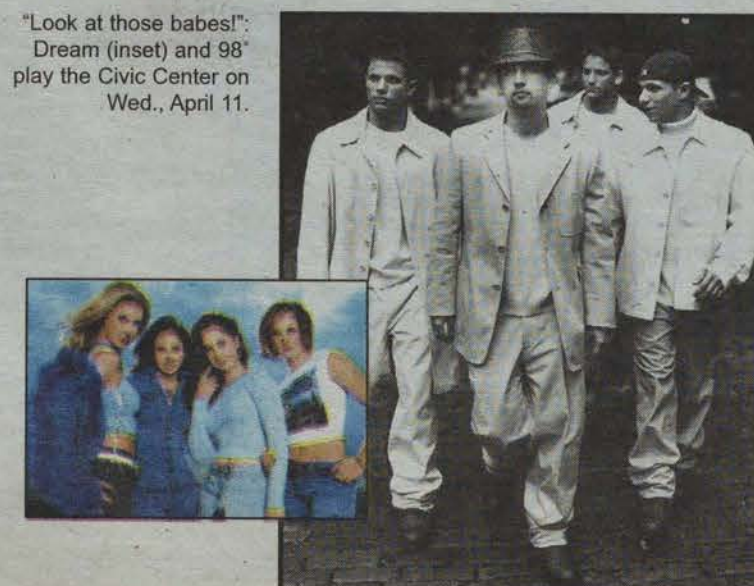
Do you envy Olympic figure skaters who have to primp themselves up and skate around in circles wearing skimpy outfits while lecherous fans ogle their toned tushes so a department store chain can sell more unnecessary household gadgets? If so, you can revel in envy at Target Stars on Ice, a figure skating extravaganza featuring the shapely poopers of Scott Hamilton, Kristi Yamaguchi, Kurt Browning, Tara Lipinski and others at the Civic Center, Portland, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$42-\$58 (sold out). 775-3331.

— Wednesday, April 11

— 98

Not to be confused with any of the other superficial boy bands who've come and gone faster than you can say "in the sink," 98" on the Block — I mean, the Backstreet Degrees, or, er, whatever — that pop group with the dancers/models who sing that song that goes something like "I'll love you eternally" or "Girl, you've got it bad" or something, stands out above the rest. The group will be joined by the Baha Men — you know, the ones that did that song about letting the dogs out — Dream (have you seen the video yet?) and Debalah Morgan at the Civic Center, Portland, at 7 p.m. Tix: \$22.50-\$28.50. 775-3331.

"Look at those babes!" Dream (inset) and 98" play the Civic Center on Wed., April 11.



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MUSIC

Having performed for the former first family during a presidential visit to Ireland, **Altan** is well versed at getting goofy-looking honkies to dance. Headed by singer/fiddler Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh (try saying that three times fast), the traditional Irish band busts out the reels and jigs in a way that should quickly get everyone dancing like whiskey-soaked leprechauns. Get jiggy wit' it on Fri, April 6 at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$19.50-\$25.50, 775-3331.



It's St. Patrick's Day redux when Altan hits the State Theatre on Fri, April 6.

thursday 5

The Alehouse
Downtown Sound jazz 9:30 pm/cover
T.B.A./21+

The Big Easy
Broken Men blues 9:30 pm/\$3/21+

Bramhall Pub
Jerk of Grass bluesgrass 10 pm/\$2/21+

Brian Bori
Stream reggae 9:30 pm/no cover/21+

Clay by the Bay
Acoustic night with Haskon 7-10 pm/\$5, \$3 students

Commercial Street Pub
Jeff Aumiller: sea shanties and folk 9 pm/no cover/21+

The Dirty Bird
DJ Junior 9 pm/no cover/21+

Free Street Taverna
Cruelworthy: modern rock 9:30 pm/no cover/21+

Granny's Burrito
Open mic with Karl and Scottie 8:30 pm/no cover

The Igarna
The best of the '70s, '80s and '90s dance music 9 pm/no cover/21+

Jack Magee's Pub
The Aloha Steamband 9:30 pm/no cover

Merrill Auditorium
USA's Youth Ensemble: identical music performed by 160 students 7:30 pm/\$5, \$3 students and seniors

Old Port Tavern
Kate's Dream 11:00 pm/no cover/21+

Pub 21
DJ Mike C 8 pm/no cover/21+

Sisters
Country line dancing 8:30 pm/no cover/21+

The Skippy
The Black Halos, the Marvels and the Underdog 9 pm/\$5/21+

Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry 8 pm-1 am/no cover/21+

friday 6

The Alehouse
Bottle Rock Kings 9:30 pm/cover
T.B.A./21+

The Big Easy
The Zen Dogs 6-8 pm/no cover/21+

Johnny Rave's Revue
9:30 pm/\$5/21+

Bowdoin College Chapel Brunswick
The Rega Ensemble: North Indian vocal music 7:30 pm/\$10, \$8 seniors/7:25-3:30

Breakaway Blues Lounge
Jonny Woodman 9:30 pm/\$3/21+

Brian Bori
Rakish Paddy: traditional Irish 9 pm/no cover

Bridgeway Restaurant
Bobby Lane jazz 9 pm/no cover

C.J. Thinsy's
DJ Long Island Larry 8 pm/no cover/21+

Free Street Taverna
Matt Newburg and the Calabots Brothers 8:30 pm/\$3/21+

Sisters
Open mic with Karl and Scottie 8:30 pm/no cover/21+

The Skippy
The Black Halos, the Marvels and the Underdog 9 pm/\$5/21+

Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry 8 pm-1 am/no cover/21+

saturday 7

The Alehouse
707 and the Bang Spiders: pop rock 9:30 pm/cover T.B.A./21+

The Big Easy
Jeff Pichell and Texas Road 8:30 pm/\$5/21+

Bramhall Pub
Cory with Billy 8:30 pm/\$4/21+

The Muddy March Ramblers
Bluesgrass 10 pm/cover T.B.A./21+

The Igarna
The best of the '70s, '80s and '90s dance music 9 pm/no cover/21+

The Industry
DJ Jeremy 11:00 pm-3 am/\$10 for 18+, \$3 for 21+

Old Port Tavern
24/7 11:00 pm/no cover/21+

Old Arts Center
Bates Concert Choir and Orchestra
Carl O'Flynn's "Carmine Burano" and works by Bates senior Gregory Norton 8:30 pm/free

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

Sisters
Top 40 dance with DJ Jan 9 pm/no cover/21+

The Skippy
Propaganda: thru the wires and the Crowing 8 pm/\$5/21+

Somewhere
Charlie Brown: pop/noir mid-nite/no cover/21+

State Theatre
Altan: traditional Celtic 8 pm/\$19.50-\$22.50

The Station
"Electric Avenue" with Larry Lane, L.B., Just J., Kitting and Jack M.F. 8:45-10:15 pm/\$5 until 1 am, \$8 after 1 am/21+ until 1 am, 18+ after 1 am

The Underground
DJ Dave 8 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+

Yarmouth Unitarian Church Main Street
Full Circle: women's vocal group 7:30 pm/\$5 donation/8:25-2:30

sunday 8

The Alehouse
DJ Nicole 8:30 pm/cover T.B.A./21+

The Big Easy
Stream reggae 9:30 pm/\$3/21+

Brian Bori
An Irish traditional Irish 9 pm/no cover

Branswick High School Maquett Road
Daphne Sing: Quartet's 8th concert in the Beethoven Cycle 10 pm/\$15, \$10 seniors, under 22 free/\$29-45.50

Commercial Street Pub
Keith Hamilton blues rock 9 pm/no cover/21+

Conthel Concert Hall
LSM Very Ensemble with Jara Goodrich 7:30 pm/free

David's Restaurant
Mark Kleinhart Trio jazz 9 pm/no cover

DMW's Floating Restaurant
Fair Winds Trio: pop, folk and Irish 7-10 pm/no cover/21+

The Flathead Company
The Peers: alternative country 4-8 pm/no cover

Free Street Taverna
Doug Bengtson 8-9:30 pm/no cover/21+

Gritty McDuff's
Jason Spooner 8 pm/no cover/21+

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Michael C 8:30 pm/no cover/21+

Old Arts Center
Bates Concert Choir and Orchestra
Carl O'Flynn's "Carmine Burano" and works by Bates senior Gregory Norton 8:30 pm/free

Portland Public Market
The Sean Mencher Combo: swing jazz/noon-2 pm/free

Pub 21
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover/21+

The Root
Open Muzgrass: jam session: long-legged, stringed instruments only 7-6 pm/\$3

The Station
Karaoke with Don Coman 9 pm/no cover/21+

Three Dollar Dewey's
Katie Webber 4-8 pm/no cover/21+

Uncle Billy's Bar-a-que Restaurant
West Coast Slim and friends: traditional folk 8:30 pm/no cover

The Underground
Karaoke with Dany 8 pm-1 am/no cover/21+

DJ Dave 8 pm-1 am/cover T.B.A./21+

monday 9

The Big Easy
Inside Straight jazz/funk 9:30 pm/\$3/21+

Brian Bori
Haskon: Men: old time country 9 pm/no cover/21+

Sisters
Top 40 dance music with DJ Richard 9 pm/\$3/21+

The Skippy
Helicopter Helicopter CD release party, with the Low Budgets, Ms. Pigeon and Pleaseasaur: pop rock 9 pm/\$5/21+

Somewhere
DJ Larry 8 pm/no cover/21+

State Street Church
Daphne Sing: Quartet's 8th concert in the Beethoven Cycle 10 pm/\$15, \$10 seniors, under 22 free/\$29-45.50

The Station
"Hip-hop Nation at the Station" with DJ's Novellus, Baby J. Moore, Fresh Bread, Gemini, A Frame, G-Mark and others 9 pm-3 am/\$5, 21+ until 1 am/\$8, 18+ after 1 am

The Underground
DJ Dan 8 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+

tuesday 10

The Alehouse
Acoustic open mic night 9:30 pm/no cover/21+

The Big Easy
Sk-Chunk: rock 9:30 pm/\$3/21+

Bridgeway Restaurant
The Doane Brothers: jazz 7 pm/\$30

Commercial Street Pub
Acoustic open mic with Keith Bore 9 pm/no cover/21+

Granny's Burrito
Los Federales 8 pm/no cover

The Igarna
The best of the '70s, '80s and '90s dance music 9 pm/no cover/21+

Merrill Auditorium
Planned Bridge: Engender and the Portland Symphony Orchestra (Chalkovsky, Prokofiev and Beethoven) 7:30 pm/\$23-\$51, \$11.50-\$23.50 donation

The Music Hall 88 Chestnut St, Portsmouth, N.H.
Dark Star Orchestra: re-creation of a Grateful Dead concert 7 pm/\$17.50-\$35-436-2400

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Don Coman 9:30 pm/no cover/21+

Pub 21
Karaoke 9 pm/no cover/21+

Sisters
Open mic night with Steve Kessler 9:30 pm/no cover

Somewhere
Karaoke with Jeff Rockwell 8 pm-1 am/no cover/21+

South Portland High School 637 Highland Ave.
LSM Jazz Ensemble with SPMS Jazz Ensemble 7 pm/no cover/780-5555

The Station
Open blues and jazz jam session with Mark "Cutter" Miller 8 pm/no cover/21+

Three Dollar Dewey's
Paul Melly 8-10 pm/no cover/21+

Uncle Billy's Bar-a-que Restaurant
West Coast Slim and friends: traditional folk 8:30 pm/no cover

wednesday 11

The Alehouse
Petting Zoo: band with horns 9 pm/cover T.B.A./21+

Bridgeway Restaurant
The Schaff Brothers: acoustic pop rock 8 pm/\$5/21+

Chick Center
96, Baha Men, Dream and Debrah Morgan 7 pm/no cover

C.J. Thinsy's
Karaoke with Jeff Rockwell 8 pm/no cover/21+

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

Download Restaurant
Port City: jazz 8 pm/no cover

Free Street Taverna
Egbert: pop 9 pm/no cover/21+

live radio broadcasts

WMPG 90.9 FM and 104.1 FM
"Lil' Fik" 9:50 am: the Schaff Brothers: acoustic pop rock; 9:50-10 am: Gordon Bick: singer/guitarist; 10-11 am: Just Caswell
"Local Moves" 7:30 pm: Kate's Dream

State Theatre
609 Congress St Portland ME

TONIGHT!!
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APRIL 5th
18+ 8:00PM
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other State Theatre productions

April 13
the haunting of the State Theatre
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April 24
Shoe Suede Blues
feat. **Peter York of the Monkees**

May 3 Tim Reynolds Acoustic
May 26 George Thorogood
July 27 Bruce Hornsby

Tickets are available at the State Theatre Box Office (Tue-Sat, Noon-6PM), all TICKETMASTER outlets, or call 207/775-3331.

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 Bill Siever, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or e-mail: listings@maine.net.

THE Skinny

Thu 4.5 The Black Halos (Sub Pop) w/ The Marvels & The Unband - 21+/9pm/\$6

Fri 4.6 Peepshow, Thrutheaters, & The Craving - 21+/9pm/\$5

Saturday 4.7 Helicopter Helicopter, The Low Budgets (Members Of Dead Milkmen), Ms. Pigeon, & Pleaseasaur - 21+/9pm/\$5

Thu 4.12 Say Zuzu - 21+/9pm/\$4

Fri 4.13 Hank Decken, Crushworthy, & Kate's Dream - 21+/9pm

Sat 4.14 Breez Evahflowin', Massholes, J.D. Walker, Life Like, Dynamo, & DJ Boondocks - All Ages/5pm/\$10 (Later) Maggi, Pierce & EJ - 21+/10pm/\$5

live radio broadcasts

WMPG 90.9 FM and 104.1 FM
"Lil' Fik" 9:50 am: the Schaff Brothers: acoustic pop rock; 9:50-10 am: Gordon Bick: singer/guitarist; 10-11 am: Just Caswell
"Local Moves" 7:30 pm: Kate's Dream

Get your fix on-line at theskinny.com or by phone 207.871.8983 or at Bull Moose Music

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ShowTunes
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Trivia & Prizes

THURSDAYS
DJ Dave 9-11

FRIDAYS
DJ Dave 9-11:30-\$3

SATURDAYS
DJ Dan 9-11:30-\$3

SUNDAYS
DJ Dave 9-11

HAPPY HOUR • Wed-Sun, 4-8pm
\$2.50 well drinks • \$2 pints

HOME Sea Dogs GAMES
FIREWORKS on APRIL 6!
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April 6 6pm
April 7 8 1pm
vs. Trenton Thunder
April 9-11 6pm
ticket office 879-9500
www.portlandseadogs.com

Dining GUIDE

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SEBAGO BREWING CO., Restaurant • Brewpub • "Where the Food is as Great as the Beer" We offer the freshest daily seafood, perfectly grilled steaks and the best deli sandwiches and salads! Come relax in our friendly lounge or have a private dinner in our dining room. Open late every day of the week. 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. Visit us at both of our locations: 164 Middle St. in the Old Port or at the Maine Mall in South Portland. Portland 207-775-BEER • South Portland 207-879-ALES • www.sebagobrewing.com.
ROSIES, Voted #1 Old Port Tavern & Best spot in the Old Port with reviews from Boston, North to prove it - Great homemade soups & chowders & specials. Smokers welcome. Open 7 days per week 11am-1am. 330 Fore Street, Portland. 772-5656.
RUSKIS, Listed by Downeast Magazine as the Place to Go in Portland - Has won #1 Tavern in Portland, #1 Breakfast Spot & others for years - Happy Hour both AM & PM. Full menu all day & night. Smokers welcome. Open Monday-Sat 7am-1am. Sundays 9am-1am. 212 Danforth Street, Portland. 774-7604.

CAFE
BINTLIFF'S AMERICAN CAFE. Serving Brunch Daily 7am-2pm! Featuring... custom omelets, tortillas, specialty benedicts, homemade granola and other American Fusion Cuisine. Select dinner menu served Tues-Sat 5:30pm-9pm. Homemade desserts, extensive wine list and full bar, all complemented by warm, comfortable Greek Revival surroundings. 98 Portland St (across from the Post Office) 774-0005.
FRIENDSHIP CAFE. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in a friendly, casual atmosphere. For brunch, over-stuffed omelets, fresh quiche, pancakes and more served all day. Lunch includes a wide variety of soups and sandwiches. Daily lunch and brunch specials also available. Specialty coffee drinks. Rated **** in Go magazine. Open Mon-Sat, 7am-2pm, Sun 7:30-2pm. 703 Congress St. in Portland. 871-5005.
VICTORY CAFE & BAKERY offers a fusion of traditional dishes with an eclectic menu of specials made fresh daily from the finest ingredients. Enjoy breakfast, lunch, traditional afternoon tea, and tapas in a friendly, relaxing, white linen setting and refined atmosphere overlooking Monument Square. Eggs Benedict, fresh quiche, Belgian waffles, and cafe made stews, panini, soups, desserts, and more are served daily. Our coffee is the freshest cup in Portland - it is roasted in the cafe for you. Hrs. 7-7 Mon-Fri, Sat & Sun 8-3. 772-7299.

CHINESE
ORIENTAL TABLE. Szechuan, Hunan & Cantonese. We will prepare any of our dishes to your liking. We are happy to accommodate your special request; please let us know your

preferences. We serve many vegetarian and heart-healthy choices. Hrs: Mon-Thur 11:30am-8pm, Fri & Sat 11:30am-9pm, Sunday closed. 106 Exchange St (top of the Old Port) Portland, Tel: 775-3388, Fax: 772-3388. FOOD: ****1/2, SERVICE: ****, VALUE FOR THE \$: **** from Portland Press Herald-Gazette Cheats, Nov., 2000.

ECCLECTIC
BLACK TIE continues to serve a casual yet intimate lunch Monday through Friday in the Old Port. The take out cafe on Middle St. offers lunch and dinner, wines, desserts, hostess gifts and more. They now proudly offer dinner, lunch and brunch, as well as a take home bistro at one of the newest locations on Route One in Yarmouth, ME. Try one or all of their locations soon, serving fine fare prepared by Maine's largest catering establishment. Black Tie Cafe - Portland 761-6665; Black Tie To Go - Portland 756-6230; Black Tie Cafe - Yarmouth 846-8022.
BROWNE TRADING MARKET. Come to us for all your day to day dining needs! We have an extensive selection of imported and domestic cheeses, including goat and sheep's milk varieties as well as the finest domestic and imported seafood, cut to order, and exquisite caviars. Portland's most extensive wine collection for the thinker, drinker, and collector. located on Merrill's Wharf, 262 Commercial St. Portland 775-7560. Open Mon-Sat 10am-6:30pm.

ITALIAN
BELLA CUCINA. Alberta's The Good Egg Cafe, Bella Bella, Zephyr Grill and now Bella Cucina. This one serves "country-Italian" whatever that means. Here it means salmon polpettone on shellfish risotto, roasted gnocchi with shrimp salad, wood roasted veal chops stuffed with rabbit sausage. Longfellow Square - open every night @ 5pm - free parking behind Joe's Smoke Shop. 100 selection wine list that changes daily, reservations accepted. 653 Congress St., Portland. 828-4033.

JAPANESE
SAPPORO. Best sushi in town. Chicken & Beef teriyaki. Shrimp tempura. Sukiyaki. Vegetarian entrees & sushi. Popular weekly lunchbox. Beautiful new contemporary Japanese dining room and private banquet room available. Dine-in or take-out. Free parking available. Tel: 772-1233, Fax 871-9275. 230 Commercial St. (Union Wharf) Portland.
BENKAY. Sushi Bar & Japanese Restaurant. Known for premier quality sushi, traditional and fancy maki rolls, tempura, teriyaki, sukiyaki, shabu-shabu. Elegant dining for the discriminating sushi lover. Delightful vegetarian and cooked selections. Serving lunch and dinner; Rock 'N Roll Sushi Thurs-Sat until 1am. 2 India Street, Portland (India at Commercial) 773-5555.

MEXICAN
AMIGOS. Maine's first Mexican restaurant. Celebrating 25 years in the Old Port. Full Bar - Happy Hour 4-8. Microbrew specials. House specialty. Beef, chicken Habanero dinner (not for the faint of heart) Hours: Dinner Tu-Th 5-9, Fri & Sat 5-10. Take out available. 9 Dana St., Portland. 772-0772.
GRANNY'S BURRITOS. All of your Mexican favorites featuring Portland's Best Burritos. Everything prepared w/fresh ingredients & made daily on premises. Start w/ nachos or quesadillas, then try one of our burritos (chicken mango, sweet potato, vegan, beef, etc) or create your own! Beer & wine, music upstairs in Granny's Attic. M-Th 11-10pm, F 11-12, Sat 12-12, Sun 12-9. 420 Fore St. 761-0751.
MESA VERDE. Authentic Mexican Restaurant and Juice Bar. Homemade, healthy & prepared naturally. Happy Hour Tues-

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PEPPERCLUB. 78 Middle St., Portland. 772-0531, FAX 879-9597. Credit Cards • Free Parking • open 7 nights • chef owned. Changing menu serving world cuisine. Homemade bread and soups. Fresh seafood, organic meat, chicken, vegetarian/vegan - entrees from \$7.95-\$13.95. 18 wines by the glass, organic wine and beer selections. CBD organic coffee, handmade desserts.
STONE COAST BREWING COMPANY. Full service restaurant, great for a quick lunch or a night on the town. From fresh lobster & steak to a range of vegetarian items, and fresh soups made everyday. Stone Coast has something for everyone. Open everyday 11:30am serving till 10:00pm Sun-Thur. 11:00 Fri & Sat. Plenty of free parking. 14 York St., Gorham Corner, Portland. 773-BEER.

Fri 2p-6p. Enjoy Chiles Rellenos, Homemade Tamales, enchiladas, fresh juices, smoothies, fresh fruit margaritas. Casual atmosphere. Serving lunch & dinner. \$2 Draft Beer selection. New wines. Take-out available. 618 Congress Street (across from the State Theatre) 774-6089.

MIDDLE EASTERN
CAFE ASALAM. A Middle Eastern Cafe offering vegetarian and non-vegetarian cuisine. Choose from entrees, plates and roll-ups such as lamb or goat stew, sambousk, falafel, tabouli, humos, baba ganoush, and vine leaves. Weekly specials: meat kabobs, vegetable grape leaves. Call for our daily specials, 775-6666. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 0930 a.m.-8:00p.m., 26 Forest Avenue (near Congress St.).

SEAFOOD
FALMOUTH SEA GRILL. Relax and enjoy fabulous wood grilled seafood and steak in a comfortable, classy atmosphere. Smoked Ducktrap salmon with warm croutons & mustard sauce or Portuguese style fisherman's stew with corn meal crust haddock, mussels, clams and chorizo in a saffron tomato broth. Breath taking views, cozy fireplace. Extensive wine list. Open 7 days a week. 11:30-9:00 Sun-Thurs. Fri & Sat. 11:30-9:30. Reservations recommended. 215 Fore-side Rd., Falmouth at Handy Boat. 781-5658.
J'S OYSTER. Enjoy white linen quality dining in a relaxed atmosphere with a lovely view overlooking Portland's working harbor. Savor our specialty shellfish and pasta dishes and much, much more. MC/ Visa/ Discover accepted. Parking in adjacent lot. 5 Portland Pier, Portland. 772-4828.

THAI
SIAM CITY CAFE is a new fine dining restaurant located in the old port. Most of the menu items are original family recipes and not found at the other Thai restaurants in Portland. Chef Yordprom's vision is to introduce a new style of cooking and redefine Thai cuisine in the Portland market. 339 Fore St., 773-8389.

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THINK FOR YOURSELF

Casco Bay
Weekly

Visual Arts

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

openings and events

Thurs, April 5

Aucosco 615 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Condensed Landscapes," paintings by Thomas Paquette, from 8-10 pm. Continues through Sun, April 29. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm and by appointment. www.aucosco.com, 874-2060.

Bowdoin College Museum of Art Brunswick. Opening reception for "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African-American Photography, the First One Hundred Years, 1842-1942," from 8-10 pm, preceded by a lecture by curator Deborah Willis entitled "Reflecting Memories," at Bowdoin's Kresge Auditorium, at 7:30 pm. Continues through Sun, June 3. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

The Crown 123 Middle St., Portland. Opening reception for "Time Capsules," color photographs by Stuart Nudelman, and "Journey," multi-media works by Rosalind Fedeli, from 6-8 pm. Works lasting from 5-8 pm. Continues through Sun, April 29. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 786-7399.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery at Maine College of Art 522 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for paintings and prints by Tom Hall and Eileen Gillespie, from 5-7 pm. Continues through Sat, April 28. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 879-5742 x283.

Maine Artists Space/Danforth 20-36 Danforth St., Portland. Opening reception for sculpture by University of Southern Maine seniors Sarah Byrnes and Jessica Peters, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Continues Wed-Sun, April 4-8. Hours: Wed-Fri noon-5:30, Sat and Sun 11 am-5:30 pm; open late for First Friday Artwalks. 775-6245.

Fri, April 6

Elements Gallery 190 Danforth St., Portland. Donald Talbot presents a performance piece entitled "Slaying Between the Lines," featuring "Mememe," a Franco-American grandmother in a '50s kitchen, from 5-8 pm; part of Talbot's multi-media installation "Tomb of the Warrior Housewives," showing through Sat, April 7. Hours: Thurs 5-8 pm, Fri and Sat 10 am-6 pm. 761-2190.

Filmart Gallery 181 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Naked and Smiling," paintings by Michael Branca, from 6-8 pm. Continues through Fri, May 18. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 775-0418.

First Friday Artwalk A multitude of galleries in Portland stay open late on the first Friday of the month. Stop by any participating gallery for a map, or call Jill at 775-0418. Rensla at 775-6148 x224 or Mellow Lomax at 871-8993.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St., Portland. Opening reception for new abstract paintings by Elizabeth Cashing McMillen, from 5-7 pm. Continues through Sat, April 28. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

Hay Gallery 594 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for multi-media works by Judith Allen, photographs by Amy Ray and acrylics by Heidi Stubbs, from 5-8 pm. Continues through Sat, May 5. Hours: Tues-Thurs, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Fri 10 am-9 pm. 773-253.

Institute of Contemporary Art at the Maine College of Art 522 Congress St., Portland. Unveiling of MECA student Kitty Hudson's new label design for Geary's Summer Ale, from 5:30-6 pm. Free. Elaine Bestlo presents a performance piece entitled "Dinner Party," from 6-8 pm. Free. "Domestic Culture: The Home in Visual Culture," an exhibit by several artists exploring the home as an art medium, shows through Wed, May 2. Hours: Wed, Fri-Sun, 11 am-5 pm; Thurs 11 am-7 pm. 775-5098.

Jameson Gallery & Frame 305 Commercial St., Portland. First day of the two-day "10 x 10" show and sale, featuring 10 works by 10 artists, all 10 inches by 10 inches, from 5-8 pm. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 772-5522.

Maine Potters Market 376 Fore St., Portland. Opening reception for work by new members Tom Huber and Katie Winn, from 5-8 pm. Shows now through Fri, April 20. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 774-1633.

The Skinny 625 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for paintings by Liz Norman, from 5-8 pm. Continues through, Mon, April 30. Hours: Mon-Fri 5 pm-1 am, Sat and Sun 7 pm-1 am. (214) 871-8983.

Sat, April 7

Eastland Gallery 157 High St., Portland. Opening reception for paintings by Sheryl White, from 5-8 pm; White's work and paintings by Rush Brown show Fri, April 6-Sun, April 29. Contemporary art jewelry by Robert Dancik, Peggy Johnson, Martha Arvett, Jocelyn Pollard and Jennifer Nielsen are ongoing. Paintings by Bonnie Spiegel show on an ongoing basis in the hotel lobby. Hours: noon-5 pm daily and by appointment. 775-2227.

Jameson Gallery & Frame 305 Commercial St., Portland. Second day of the two-day "10 x 10" show and sale, from 10 am-1 pm. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 772-5522.

MECAFest 2001 Open House 522 Congress St., Portland. Maine College of Art hosts a variety of events from 11 am-3 pm, including "Young Arts Dinner P.A.R.T.Y.," free art workshops, campus tours and more, to be followed by the annual BFA Merit Scholarship Exhibition award reception, from 3-5 pm. 639-4808 x226.

Portland Harbor Museum at Spring Point Fort Road, South Portland. Season opening for the exhibit, "They Came by Sea: Portland Harbor, a Tourist Destination," from 10 am-4:30 pm. Shows through Mon, Dec 31. April and May hours: Sat and Sun, 10 am-4:30 pm. 799-6337.

Sun, April 8

Café Uffa! 190 State St., Portland. Opening reception for computer-altered photography by Grace Hopkins-Lisle, from 5-7 pm. Continues through Mon, June 4. Hours: Wed-Sat 5:30-10 pm, Sat 8 am-noon, Sun 9 am-2 pm. 775-3380.

Moulton Union Bowdoin College campus, Brunswick. Opening reception for watercolors of unique Maine architecture and coastal scenery by Bev Bevilacqua, from 2-5 pm. Continues through Mon, April 30. Hours: 8 am-8 pm. 725-3902 or 798-5820.

Toby Rosenberg Gallery 293 Read St., Portland. Opening reception for "Into the Garden," oil paintings by Janice Appel and watercolors by Judy Jaskawsky, from 1-5 pm. Continues through Sun, May 6. Pottery, contemporary American crafts, sculpture and Judaica by various artists are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri noon-6 pm, Sat and Sun by chance or by appointment. 878-4590.

Wed, April 11

Central Square Studios 463 Stevens Ave., Portland. Artist's reception for an exhibit of new pastels by Bobbi Cope, from 6-8 pm. Shows now through Mon, April 30. Chenille scarves, paintings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, hats and more are ongoing. Hours: Wed-Fri noon-5 pm and by appointment. 780-1345.

new exhibits

Bagel Works 15 Temple St., Portland. Drawings by South Portland artist Zoo Cain show through Mon, April 30. Hours: Mon-Sat 6:30 am-5 pm, Sun 6:30 am-4 pm. 879-2425.

Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth. Watercolors and oil paintings by the late Monhegan modernist Ted Davis show through Mon, April 30. Hours: Tues and Thurs 9:30 am-8 pm, Wed, Fri and Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. 781-2351.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square. "2001 Portland Museum of Art Biennial," works by 58 contemporary artists, shows Thurs, April 5-Sun, June 3. "Open House," a series of works by several photographers inspired by the McLellan-Sweat House and L.D.M. Sweat Memorial Galleries, shows Sat, April 7-Sun, June 3. Hours: Mon-Wed, Sat and 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.

The Stein Gallery 195 Middle St., Portland. "Large Decorative Pieces by Gallery Artists" shows Thurs, April 5-Sat, May 26. "Oriental Influence in American Contemporary Glass," works by studio glass artists Michael Sosin, Bernard Katz and Lewis Woodruff, shows through Sat, April 7. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-6 pm. 772-9072.

galleries

Bayview Gallery 75 Market St., Portland. Contemporary impressionistic and realistic paintings by various artists are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-6 pm and by appointment. 773-3007.

Chocolate Church Arts Center 804 Washington St., Bath. Works by Jennifer O'Toole, Phyllis Harper Loney and Gerry Galuzza show through Fri, April 20. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-4 pm. 442-8455.

Forty Five Degrees Artisans Gallery 169 Port Rd., Suite 14, Kennebunk. Oil paintings, prints and furniture by Rusty Theriault show through Sat, April 7. Hours: Tues-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-3 pm. 967-4505.

Hole in the Wall Studios 1544 Route 302, Raymond. An exhibit of jewelry, pottery, glass, functional metal sculpture and paintings by various artists shows through Mon, April 30. Hours: Thurs-Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sun 10 am-5 pm. 655-4952.

ICON Contemporary Art 19 Mason St., Brunswick. A group show of paintings, drawings and sculpture by Katherine Bradford, Riley Brewster, Tom Chapin, Leonard Craig, Martha Groome, Duncan Hewitt, Jeff Kellar, Frederick Lynch, Honour Mack, Garry Mitchell, Johnnie Ross, Andrea Sitzer and Mark Weithill is ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Local 188 188 State St., Portland. An exhibit of works by Spindloworks, a cooperative of artists with developmental disabilities, shows through Sat, May 5. Hours: Tues and Wed 4-10 pm, Thurs-Sat 11 am-10 pm, Sun 9 am-2 pm. 761-7909.

Maine Art Gallery Route 9, Kennebunkport. Paintings and prints by New England artists are ongoing. Hours: Sun, Mon, Tues 10 am-5 pm; Fri and Sat 10 am-6 pm. 967-2803.

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

Mast Cove Galleries Mast Cove Lane and Main Street, Kennebunkport. Works by several members of the Art Guild of the Kennebec are ongoing. Call for hours. 967-3453.

The New O'Farrell Gallery 58 Maine St., Brunswick. Paintings by Father Paul Plante are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 729-8228.

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

COLOR PHOTOS



Addison Scurlock's photo, "Male Student Surrounded by Framed Photographs in Dormitory Room," is part of "Reflections in Black," opening at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art on April 5.

Black in the dark (room)

One photo shows an unnamed African-American World War I veteran, sitting slumped, his glory days apparently passed. Underneath is a photo of an African-American newlywed couple at a train station, about 1930. These figures are streamlined and sleek, indicators of the emerging African-American middle class. By suggesting the past, as well as the future, these photos, both taken by Forest Elise Harston, represent the historical and social span of the exhibit, "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African-American Photography, the First One Hundred Years, 1842-1942," that opens at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

The show contains the images of over 60 photographers, all African American, taken between 1842 and 1942. It includes early formal portraits taken in studios using the most primitive forms of photography, which required the sitters to pose for long periods, as well as an action shot of a couple swinging dancing at a ballroom in the 1940s. Taken by Robert H. MacNeil, it captures their spontaneous expressions as they momentarily lean toward the photographer.

In between these extremes, the show documents the diverse roles and communities of African Americans. Various photographers capture the emergence of Harlem in the 1920s: its nightlife and flashiness, the children playing marbles in an alley and the men playing checkers in front of a store.

Also evident is the evolution of photographers' individual styles, from James Van der Zee's highly stylized Harlem street scenes to Gordon Parks' photos taken for the federal Farm Security Administration. A series of his photos unassumingly and respectfully document Ella Watson and her three grandchildren in her small apartment.

Peppered throughout the show are images of social activism, such as a 1940s MacNeil photo documenting a White House protest by the National Association for Colored Women of a lynching in Georgia.

In a predominately white state, displayed at a historically white institution, these photos are enduring — and ironic — reminders of the transient expressions and events that make up an unfamiliar history for most Mainers.

VICTORIA GANNON

"Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African-American Photography, the First One Hundred Years, 1842-1942," opens at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Brunswick, on Thursday, April 5, with a reception from 8-10 pm, preceded by a lecture by curator Deborah Willis entitled "Reflecting Memories," at Bowdoin's Kresge Auditorium, at 7:30 pm. Continues through Sun, June 3. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

Visual Arts

Pastory Gallery 97 Exchange St., Portland. Impressionistic "lightgraphs" by Ramona du Hou are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-2 pm. 874-0412.

Radiant Light Gallery 142 High St., Portland. "Five From Maine: Three Generations of Fine Art Photographers," works by George Daniell, Donna Lee Rollins, Richard Rothlisberger, Peter Hollingsworth and Thom Adams, is ongoing. Hours: Sat 11 am-6 pm and by appointment. 252-7258.

Richard G. Sandifer Gallery and Photo Studio 151 Newbury St., Portland. Color landscapes from around the world and black-and-white portraits are ongoing. Hours: by appointment. 761-3916.

Silver Image Resource Gallery 500 Congress St., Portland. Photographs and prints by Donna Lee Rollins, Joe Della Valle, Jennifer McDermott and others are ongoing. Hours: by appointment. 767-0711.

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

Three Fish Gallery 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland. "Soul United, Suffete Unite," an exhibit of watercolors, ink, collage and oil-on-glass works by eight Romanian art students and Portland resident Kimberly Curry, shows through Sat, April 14. Hours: Sat noon-6 pm, Sun 2-5 pm, by appointment and during the First Friday Artwalk on Fri, April 6 from 6-9 pm. 773-4773.

University of New England Art Gallery Westbrook College Campus, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland. "From the Library of the Soul," works by Manene Ekola Gerbenek based on the contents of libraries around the world, shows through Sat, April 28. Hours: Wed, Fri, Sat 1-4 pm; Thurs 1-7 pm. 797-7261 x4375.

University of Southern Maine Art Gallery Woodbury Campus Center, Portland. "Sharing Visions," the annual exhibition by the Maine Art Educators Association, shows through Thurs, April 12. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-10 pm, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm. 780-5009.

The University of Southern Maine Art Gallery Gorham campus. "Virtual Shooter," a multi-media exhibit by Kathleen Ruiz satirizing "first person shooter" games, shows through Sat, May 5. Hours: Tues-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 11 am-4 pm. 780-5009.

The University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College's Atrium Gallery 51 Westminster St., Lewiston. "L/A Arts 12th Annual Art Exhibition," featuring works by over 60 Maine artists, shows through Sat, May 5. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-3 pm. 800-639-2919.

Hugh Verrier Studio 13-15 Boynton St., Portland. Sculpture and paintings by Hugh Verrier are ongoing. Call for hours. 773-9814.

C.W. White Gallery 656 Congress St., Portland. A rotating exhibition of mixed media, primarily abstract paintings by Casa Bacot, Tom Fertig, Roy Lerner, Marjorie Minkin, Jerald Webster and Pamela Wilson are ongoing. Hours: Wed-Sat 11 am-6 pm. 871-7282.

museums

Bates College Museum of Art Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. The annual Senior Exhibition and a brief history of printmaking curated by Bates senior Jaane DeSimone show Fri, April 13-Sun, June 3. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Free. 786-6158.

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

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

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

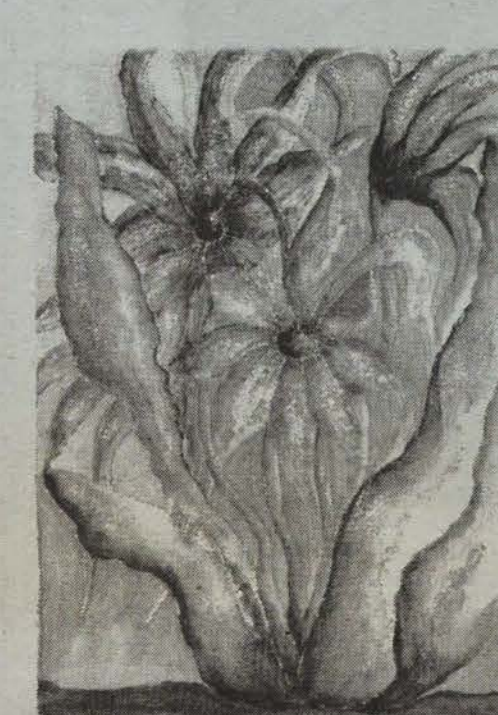
* "Human Rights," an exhibit of photographs by several artists curated by government professor Jonathan Weiler, shows through Sun, April 15.

* "Reflections in Black: Smithsonian African-American Photography, the First One Hundred Years, 1842-1942," shows through Sun, June 3.

Center for Maine History 489 Congress St., Portland. "The Mirror of Maine: Four Centuries of Great Books," a collection of first edition books that feature prominently in Maine's history, shows through Sat, June 30. Hours: noon-5 pm daily. Admission: \$6 (55 students and seniors, \$2 ages 6-17). 774-1822.

Maine Maritime Museum 243 Washington St., Bath. "Working the Coast," paintings depicting Maine's working coast by Helen St. Clair, R. Valentine Gray, Stephen Enier, Edith A. Sternfeld and Paul Rickert, are ongoing. Hours: 9:30 am-5 pm daily. Admission: \$8.75 (\$6 under 17, kids under 6 free). 443-3116.

The Museum of African Tribal Art 122 Spring St., Portland. An exhibit of ceremonial beaded baskets, ornaments, regalia, costumes and fabrics; and "The Spirit of the Igbo Masks," Igbo masks, and other objects representing over 1,000 years of sub-Saharan history, are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Sat 12:30-5 pm. Free. 871-7188.



"Wizards," a watercolor by Jan Baslawsky, is among the works showing at the Toby Rosenberg Gallery starting on Sun, April 8.

Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum Hubbard Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. "Northern Cinema: Early Film of the Far North," an exhibit of photographs, posters and programs documenting early 20th century explorers, shows through Fri, July 15. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3416.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square, Portland. 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.

* "America Entertained: Jazz to Jitterbug, Harlem to Hollywood," paintings, drawings, sculptures and prints by celebrating jazz, shows Sat, April 14-Sun, June 24.

* "Local Color: Six Contemporary Photographers," works by Paul D'Amato, Tanja Alexia Holland, Jocelyn Lee, Rose Marasco, Melville McLean and Scott Peterman, shows through Tues, May 13.

* "New Acquisitions 2000" shows through Sun, April 8.

* "Open House," a series of works by several photographers inspired by the McLellan-Sweat House and L.D.M. Sweat Memorial Galleries, shows Sat, April 7-Sun, June 3.

* "2001 Portland Museum of Art Biennial," works by 58 contemporary artists, shows Thurs, April 5-Sun, June 3.

Umbrella Cover Museum 62-8 Island Ave., Peaks Island. An exhibit of artist-designed umbrella covers as well as over 150 umbrella sleeves from 12 countries including "People and Their Covers" and "New Umbrella Cover Fashions" show by appointment. Guided tours by director/curator Nancy J. Hoffman available. Admission: \$2 and/or foreign currency. 766-4496.

other venues

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

Bangor Theological Seminary 159 State St., Portland. Paintings by John G. Burke are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-noon and 1-4 pm. 874-2214.

Barbara's Kitchen and Café 388 Cottage Rd., South Portland. Photographs by Rick Hoffman are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Wed 7 am-2 pm, Thurs and Fri 7 am-2 pm and 5-9 pm, Sat 8 am-2 pm and 5-9 pm, Sun 8 am-2 pm. 767-6133.

Books, Etc. 38 Exchange St., Portland. Paintings by Katherine Winn are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-9 pm, Sun 10 am-6 pm. 774-0626.

Center for Cultural Exchange 1 Longfellow Square, Portland. "Dublin: A Work in Progress," black and white photographs of Dublin by Colin Malaise, shows through Sat, April 21. Hours: Tues-Fri 8:30 am-3 pm, Sat 10 am-3 pm and during all performances at the center. 761-0591.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St., 67 India St. and Monument Square, Portland. The AIDS Project's 15th annual Spring for Life auction preview exhibit shows through Thurs, May 3; the auction is Sat, May 5.

Congress Street hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 am-9 pm, Sat 7 am-8 pm, Sun 7 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

India Street hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 am-6:00 pm, Sat 6:30 am-6 pm, Sun 8 am-2 pm. 879-2233.

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

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St., Portland. Paintings by Amanda Lacourse show through Mon, April 30. Hours: 11 am-1 am daily. (214) 774-1114.

Glickman Family Library Bedford Street and Forest Avenue, Portland. "Road Maps: The American Way," a cartographic exhibit, shows through Thurs, Dec 20. "If He Hears, Let Him Go: Dismantling Black Caricature," photographs and other objects from the African American Archives of Maine, show on the 4th floor through Mon, April 30. Hours: Tues 12:30-4:30 pm, Wed and Thurs 12:30-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm. 780-4850.

Katahdin Restaurant 106 High St., Portland. Paintings by Gina Adams, and photographs and paintings by Rachel Bingham are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Thurs 5-10 pm, Fri and Sat 5-11 pm. 774-7400.

Merrill Memorial Library 215 Main St., Yarmouth. "Quiet Places," paintings by Julia Nichols, shows through Thurs, April 12. Hours: Mon, Fri, Sat 10 am-5 pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 am-8 pm. 846-4763.

Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 149 Main St., Freeport. Oil paintings by Charles Thompson show through Sun, April 29. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm. 865-4519.

Parkview Hospital 329 Maine St., Brunswick. Works by several members of the Homecoming Art Association show in the downstairs lobby through Mon, April 30, during hospital hours. 725-9738.

Patricio's 579 Congress St., Portland. Selections from the Hay Gallery by Marcia Carver, Sara Gray, Jeremy Greene, Connie Hayes, Jack Montgomery and Frank Valliere are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-2 pm. 775-7827.

Pejepscot Historical Society 159 Park Row, Brunswick. "Sew What? Making Sense of Making Things," an exhibit of textile creations both historical and modern by artisans from Brunswick, Harswell and Topsham, shows through Jan. 2002. Hours: Tues, Wed and Fri 9 am-5 pm; Thurs 9 am-8 pm, Sat 9 am-4 pm. 729-6606.

Portland Coffee Roasting Company 111 Commercial St., Portland. Paintings by fisherman Shawn Rich are ongoing. Hours: 6:30 am-5:30 pm daily. 761-9525.

Portland Parks and Recreation 17 Arbor St., Portland. "Discovering the Mask," works by artists from the Shalom House community, shows through Fri, April 20. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm, call ahead as exhibit is not open to the public on occasion. 874-8793.

Robinson Free Meetinghouse 210 Robinson Rd., Georgetown. Photographs by Abbie Sewall and oil paintings by Ted Davis show through Sat, May 12. Hours: Thurs-Sat 5:30-9 pm. 371-2186.

Starbucks 594 Congress St., Portland. Paintings by Adam Earley, mirrors by John Freeman, mixed media by Patrick J. McGuigan and glass by Laura Fuller are ongoing. Proceeds benefit various charities. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6 am-8 pm, Fri 6 am-10 pm, Sat 7 am-10 pm, Sun 7 am-6 pm. 761-0334.

Starbucks 176 Middle St., Portland. Selections by Hay Gallery artists are ongoing. Proceeds benefit various charities. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6 am-8 pm, Fri 6 am-11 pm, Sat 7 am-11 pm, Sun 7 am-8 pm. 761-2787.

The University of New England Libraries Abnailap Library, Portland campus, 716 Stevens Ave.; and Ketchum Library, Biddeford campus, 11 Hills Beach Rd. "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision," an exhibit of photographs, quotations and books celebrating Women's History Month, shows at both libraries through Mon, April 30. Hours for both libraries: Mon-Thurs 8 am-midnight, Fri 8 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-9 pm, Sun 10 am-midnight. Abnailap Library: 797-7261 x4323. Ketchum Library: 283-0770 x2487.

calls for art/artists

Café Uffa seeks submissions from visual artists working in

all media for ongoing exhibits. Send slides with a SASE to Café Uffa, 190 State St., Portland 04101 or call 775-3380. **Front Room Gallery** seeks slides/photos of work for upcoming exhibitions. Send to: Front Room Gallery, 378 Cottage Rd., South Portland, ME 04106. 767-9070. **Hole in the Wall Studios** seeks sculptors for an outdoor show this summer. For more info, call Joyce at 655-4952.

The International Library of Photography seeks entries for the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Beginners are especially encouraged to enter. Send one color or black-and-white, 8" x 10" or smaller photograph from only one of the following categories: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture or Other to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 1

LISTINGS

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

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, April 5

Cooking Class The Portland Public Market holds cooking sessions with area chefs. This week: Tapas of Spain, with Debby Gaspari. At the PPM, 25 Preble St., Portland, from 5:30-7 pm. Tix: \$15. 228-2000.

"An Evening in the Caribbean" Dinner and Auction Mercy Hospital sponsors an event to benefit the women and children of the hospital's McAllea Residence. At the Italian Heritage Center, 40 Woodland Ave., Portland. Silent and live auctions at 6 pm, Caribbean buffet at 7 pm. Tix: \$25. 879-3086.

"Islands of the Gulf of Maine" Lecture Series The Maine Maritime Museum presents the first in a series of lectures on various aspects of island life. This week: Philip Conkling talks about his observations on "How Global Climate Changes are Affecting Maine Islands." At the MMM, 243 Washington St., Bath, at 7 pm. Tix: \$7.50. 443-3116 x0.

Jewish Film Festival's Final Day The week-long film festival concludes with "One Day in September," a film about the assassination of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, at 6 pm, and "Left Luggage," a film about a daughter of Holocaust survivors who learns about the Orthodox lifestyle, at 8 pm. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., Portland. Tix: \$6. 879-5776.

Traveler's Club Members Margaret MacLeod and Keel Kemper show slides of their four-month exploration of Thailand and Laos. At the Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm, 118 Route 1, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 pm. Free. 774-6256.

The Writing Process Explained Medical-thriller writer Tess Gerritsen of Camden gives a talk entitled "It's Harder Than It Looks: How I Forged Ahead, Through the Thick and Thin, from the Concept to THE END." At the University of New England's Aplanalp Library, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 797-7261 x4375.

Friday, April 6

Cultural Heritage Show 80 students from Portland High School celebrate their diverse cultural backgrounds with two nights of skits, dances and fashion demonstrations. At PHS, 284 Cumberland Ave., from 6:30-9 pm. Tix: \$3 (\$2 kids and students). 874-8250.

"Full Frontal Exposure: Visibility, Anxiety, Solidarity and Pride" The Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine celebrates the donation of the Michael Rossetti Papers, the was founder of the Portland Lesbian and Gay Pride festival to the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the University of Southern Maine Library. At Woodbury Student Center, USM's Portland campus; reception from 6-7 p.m., followed by a presentation by Rossetti and a panel discussion on gay-lesbian issues from 7-8:30 pm. Free. 780-4269.

"How to Listen to Indian Music" Singer Warren Senders of the Raga Ensemble, performers of North Indian khyal vocal music, gives a music appreciation workshop in advance of a concert later that night. At Bowdoin College's Gibson Hall, Brunswick, at 4 pm. Free. The concert is at the Bowdoin College Chapel at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 seniors). 725-3375.

The National Geographic Society Geography Bee finals take place at Bailey Hall on the University of Southern Maine's Gorham campus, at 7 pm. Free. 839-2762.

"Helen Nearing: Conscious Living/Conscious Dying" The University of Southern Maine's Center for the Study of Lives presents a screening of the documentary on the organic gardening guru, presented by the film's producers, Polly Bennell and Andrea Sarris. At USM's Luther Bonney Hall, Falmouth Street, Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$5 donation. 773-3273 or 775-3231.

"New Voices: Writers Becoming Authors" Longfellow Books presents a new poetry and prose reading series, to take place on the last Friday of the month. This month's featured reader is C. S. Thompson. At Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 772-4055.

Portland Boxing Club The club's boxers take on the team from Holyoke, Mass., in 12 bouts. Features New England Heavyweight Champion Anthony Reed and newcomer Liz Ledy. At the Portland Boxing Club, 33 Allen Ave., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$10. 761-0975.

Portland Sea Dogs Season Opener Portland's professional baseball team opens the season with a battle against Binghamton, on a hopefully snow-free field. At Hadlock Field, 271 Park Ave., Portland, at 6 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$3 kids and seniors). 879-9500.

Saturday, April 7

Conference on Investigating Crimes Committed by the FBI Bates College hosts the 12th annual event, which features workshops and classes such as "Who is Protecting Us from the Police?" by former Los Angeles Police narcotics detective Mike Ruppert and "The FBI

Portland Sea Dogs See Fri, April 6 for full listing. At 1 pm. **Southworth Planetarium** See Fri, April 6 for full listing. "Stars of Spring" at 3 pm.

Monday, April 9

"Defining the Borders: Fences in New England" The Yarmouth Historical Society presents landscape designer and historic property consultant Anne Massry, who talks about the stone walls, hedges and fences that define New England's landscape. At the Merrill Memorial Library, 215 Main St., Yarmouth, at 7:30 pm. Free; donations accepted. 846-6259.

Environmental Toxins First and Lecture The Dianetics Center tests people to determine how drugs and toxins affect their energy and intelligence levels. At the Dianetics Center, 2 Lincoln St., Brunswick, from 6-7 pm. Free. 729-1826.

Mirror of Maine Book Discussion Series The Maine



Warren Senders of the Raga Ensemble gives a workshop on "How to Listen to Indian Music," followed by a concert, at Bowdoin College on Fri, April 6.

Vision for Afro-Americans: Separate and Unequal by Black Panther Daruba Ben Wahid. At Kack Hall, Bates College, Lewiston, from 8 am-10 pm. Tix: \$30 (includes lunch). 293-3479.

Cultural Heritage Show See Fri, April 6 for full listing.

Early Arctic Film Festival Bowdoin College hosts "Northern Lights, Camera, Action! A Festival of Early Arctic Film," featuring several films that have never been seen by the public. At Bowdoin's Smith Auditorium, Brunswick, from 9 am-5 pm. Free. 725-3062.

Lenten Disarmament Vigil The Powderhouse Support Group and other peace activists gather to protest armament production. At Bath Iron Works, Bath, at noon. 338-4776.

Portland Sea Dogs See Fri, April 6 for full listing. At 1 pm. **Southworth Planetarium** See Fri, April 6 for full listing. "Rusty Rocket's Last Blast" at 3 pm, "In Search of New Worlds" at 7 pm, U2 laser light show at 8:30 pm.

Special Olympics Benefit Supper The American Legion's Gray Unit hosts a dinner of beans, hot dogs, breads, desserts and more to benefit the Special Olympics. At the American Legion, 15 Lewiston Rd., Gray, from 5-6 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$2 kids). 428-3737.

Wildlife Conference Maine Audubon holds its annual conference, featuring biologists from across New England presenting updates of their field studies. At Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm, 118 Route 1, Falmouth, from 10 am-4 pm. Tix: \$20 (\$10 students); includes lunch. 781-2330 x237.

Sunday, April 8

Bath Antiques Show 55 dealers converge to peddle their wares at the last Bath Antiques Show of the season. At Bath Middle School, 6 Old Brunswick Rd., from 10 am-3 pm. Tix: \$3. 443-8963.

Bluegrass Jam Session The Bluegrass Music Association of Maine holds a jam session open to all players of unplugged, stringed instruments and their listeners. At the Roost Function Hall, 89 Chicopee Rd., Buxton, from 1-6 pm. Tix: \$3. 879-9492 or 854-5520.

"The Great Pizza Challenge" The Sexual Assault Support Center of Midcoast Maine sponsors a pizza contest involving seven area pizzerias to raise funds for its programs. At the Atrium Travelodge Motel, Cooks Corner, Brunswick, from 11 am-2 pm. Tix: \$5-\$6 (kids under 5 free). 729-5658.

Portland Pirates The ice hockey team attempts to stake its claim in the playoffs. Against Lowell, at 4:05 pm. At the Civic Center, Portland. Tix: \$10-\$14 (kids and seniors \$7-\$10). 775-3458.

Historical Society hosts a discussion of "The Weir" by Ruth Moore. At the MHS, 489 Congress St., Portland, at noon. Free. 774-1822.

Tuesday, April 10

Cooking Class See Thurs, April 5 for full listing. "Easter Breads from Around the World," with Debby Gaspari. **CPR Class** Mercy Upbeat! sponsors a course for non-medical professionals on how to prevent and treat heart attacks; CPR for adults, infants and children; how to perform the Heimlich maneuver and more. This class meets the specifications for certification with the American Heart Association. At Mercy Hospital, level B1, 144 State St., Portland, from 6-9 pm. Tix: \$25. 879-3536.

Neighborhood Issues Forum Portland West hosts a debate between two opponents involved in the citizen's initiative on housing and development: state Sen. Anne Rand and activist Mark Swann, executive director of the Preble Street Resource Center. At the Reich School, 166 Brackett St., Portland, from 7-8 pm. Free. 775-0105.

Poet Michael S. Harper Bowdoin College hosts a reading by the award-winning poet, co-editor of "The Vintage Book of African American Poetry 1750-2000" among other works. At Bowdoin's Thorne Hall, Brunswick, at 8 pm. Free. 725-3552.

Poetry Open Mic Portland poet Jay Davis leads a poetry session open to all. At the Free Street Tavern, 128 Free St., Portland, at 8:30 pm. Free. 121-1174.

Meditation Classes on Pema Chödrön's Teachings The Shambhala Meditation Center hosts a six-week class delving into the teachings of the American Buddhist nun and author. All levels are welcome. At the Shambhala Meditation Center, 98 Maine St., Brunswick, from 7-9 pm. Tix: \$30. 737-4621.

Wednesday, April 11

Brown Bag Lecture The Portland Public Library hosts a talk by first-time novelist and Maine native Heidi Julavits, author of "The Mineral Palace." At the PPL, 5 Monument Square, at noon. Free. 871-1700.

Cholesterol/Blood Pressure Screening The University of Southern Maine Lifeline Center holds cholesterol screenings (both good and bad) and blood pressure. At USM's Sullivan Gymnasium, Falmouth Street, Portland, from 7 am-2 pm and 4 pm-7 pm. Tix: \$15 (\$10 seniors 60+; \$5 students). 780-4170.

Cooking Club The Portland Public Market's Cooking Club holds a series of cooking classes with market ven-

dors and guest chefs. This week: "Soufflés — Savory Cheddar Olive and Double Chocolate." At the PPM, 25 Preble St., Portland, from 5:30-7 pm. Tix: \$10. 228-2000.

Environmentalist Bill McKibben The best-selling author of "The End of Nature," who has been compared to Rachel Carson, gives a lecture entitled "The Environment as the 'Moral' Challenge of Our Time." At Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Free. 725-3375.

"Franklin Delano Roosevelt" Author H. Draper Hunt, a retired professor at the University of Southern Maine and expert on the Roosevelts, gives a talk. At the Scarborough Public Library, 48 Gorham Rd., at 7 pm. Free. 883-4723.

"Politics and Policymaking in the New Bush Administration" Bowdoin College's government department sponsors a lecture by Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institute, a think-tank in Washington, DC. At Bowdoin's Thorne Hall, Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Free. 725-3295.

Thursday, April 12

Maine Women's Football Association Informational Meeting Ruth Murphy of the MWFA hosts an informational meeting for women ages 18+ interested in playing tackle football. At the Family Fitness Center, Route 302, North Windham, from 8-9:30 pm. Free. 693-4128.

Technology of the Sun Publication Party Casco Bay Books hosts a gala for the publication of the local fiction magazine's premiere issue, featuring readings by Stephen Ellis, Frank Montross, Eleanor Brown Steele, Jim Donnelly, Anne Seikonia and Dan Kaplan, as well as musical performances. At Casco Bay Books, 151 Middle St., Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 541-3842.

Ongoing

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

Food Not Bombs The group distributes free food to the masses on Monument Square, Portland, every Sun from 2-4:30 pm. 774-2801.

Ice Skating The University of Southern Maine Ice Arena, on the Gorham campus, has public skating Mon-Fri 11:20 am-12:30 pm and Sun 2:15-3:45 pm. Rentals are available. Call ahead to confirm as the arena occasionally closes to the public. Tix: \$4 (\$2 students, under 6 free). 780-5991.

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

For Kids

The Children's Museum of Maine offers "Toddler Time" every Thurs from 9-11 am and "Big Messy Art" every Wed from 2:30 pm. At CMM, 142 Free St., Portland, from 1-2 pm. Tix: \$5 (infants free). 828-1234.

The Creative Resource Center has several workshops for kids. Thurs, April 5: "Mylar Mirrors," from 4:30-5 pm, all ages. Tues, April 10: "Creative Clay," from 4:30-5 pm, all ages. Wed, April 11: "Sun Catchers" from 2-2:30 pm, ages 3-6. All tix are a \$1 donation. At the CRC, 1103 Forest Ave., Portland. 797-9543.

PERFORMING ARTS

auditions/submissions

Actors The Acorn School for the Performing Arts sponsors free acting classes with Michael Levine: introductory acting classes on Thurs, April 12 and Tues, April 17 at 7 pm; improv jam on Fri, April 27 at 7 pm. At the Acorn School Studio, 498 Congress St., Portland. 761-0617.

Actors The Children's Theatre of Maine holds auditions for high schoolers for the eight-week Maine Summer Dramatic Institute, which culminates in a performance of a Shakespearean play in Deering Oaks Park in August. Sat, April 7 and 28, at the University of New England's Portland campus, 716 Stevens Ave., from 2-4 pm. For more info, call 878-2774.

Actors Local filmmakers seek 11 non-union actors (two women 15-18, two women 20s, one woman 40s, one man 17-19, two men 20s, two men 30s and one man 40s) to perform in "The Deal," a 20-minute film based on a short story by Tanya Whitton. Send letter or resume to Louis Frederick, PO Box 40, Portland, ME 04112, or call 874-0285.

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

Actors and TV Crew The producers of the local TV show "Strange America" seek actors, actresses and behind the scenes' crew for future tapings near the Bangor area and other locations in Maine. Send a headshot, photo and/or resume to: EDGE Productions,

LISTINGS

PO Box 101, Winn, ME 04495 or e-mail lucask@edge-pictures.com. 827-1164.

Actors and Tap Dancers Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Standish, holds auditions for "Crazy For You," with several dancing and non-dancing roles for actors and actresses of various ages (18+), on Sat, April 14 at 9 am. 642-3743.

Actors Shenanigans Productions holds auditions for replacements (men 20s through 40s, women 18 through 40s) for "Betsy's Irish Wedding" on Sat, April 28 at the University of Southern Maine's Sullivan Gymnasium, Falmouth Street, Portland, at 3:30 pm. 651-0901.

Actors Sunrise Studios, 24 Pearl St., Biddeford, hosts "A Drama Experience" every Monday at 7 pm, featuring cold readings, improv and script sharing. Call Rahal at 934-5271.

Alpha-Omega Productions is seeking enthusiastic, creative individuals to assist with all areas of film production. Screenplay and treatment writers needed immediately. For more info, call Moe at 857-5146.

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

Dancers The Dance Company seeks dancers ages 7 and up for upcoming performances. There are no auditions; the company meets every Wed at the Saco Recreation Center, Common Street, Saco. For more info, call 284-1449.

Dancers Esduardo Mariscal is looking for dancers, actors and athletes who are in good shape. No experience required. For performances in the spring. Call 871-9056.

Dancers Sara Whale offers intermediate ballet classes on Sat, April 7, 14 and 21. Cost: \$10. At 25 Forest Ave., Portland, from noon-1:30 pm. 775-2084.

Filmmakers and Musicians A Maine-based Web site seeks original works and productions. Visit www.mainestatesnu.com to learn how to post works on the Internet, or call 228-4867.

Musicians Jim Beam Bourbon sponsors a grant program called BEAM (Benefiting Emerging Musicians in Music) totaling over \$100,000. Applications are available at: The BEAM Advisory Board, PO Box 5349, New York, NY 10150, or by visiting www.jimbeam.com. Deadline is June 30, 2001. 952-346-6343.

Poets The International Library of Poets has over \$58,000 in prizes to award to winning poets of its International Open Poetry Contest. Send one poem, on any subject and in any style (20 lines or less), to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19910, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117, or online at www.poetry.com. Deadline is Mon, April 30, 410-356-2000 x121.

Portland's Downtown District seeks performing artists for the Old Port Festival, Victorian Holiday and other events. Send press kits to PDD, 400 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. 772-6828.

Red Rocking Chair reading and performance series seeks writers, dancers, musicians and performers for ongoing productions. Send audio or visual recording with SASE to: Speakeasy Productions, PO Box 367, Portland, ME 04112, or e-mail whitton@me.net.

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

Singers The Choir for Hire, a multi-denominational, community gospel choir, seeks new members. It meets the first and third Mon of the month at Central Square Baptist Church, Stevens Avenue, Portland, from 6:30-8:30 pm. 985-3319.

Singers The Oratorio Choral seeks low basses and sopranos. For more info, call Mike Delang at 761-9695 or Tyler Wing at 253-5593.

Singers The Swedenborgian church choir needs sopranos and altos to sing its varied repertoire. Must be able to sing, rehearse on Thurs from 5:30-7 pm and attend Portland church two Sundays a month. Music reading not required. Call Eli at 774-1203.

Storytelling Open Mic Adults sign up for 10-minute slots for an open mic. Wednesdays at Java Joe's, 13 Exchange St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. 879-1858.

"Who Knows the Band," a Hollywood, Calif. television show, is casting people who have met or have interesting stories about MTV music celebrities. For more info, visit www.whoknowstheband.com or call (310) 246-3985.

THEATER • COMEDY

PERFORMANCE

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

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

Comedy Connection Thurs, April 5: First place semifinals for the eighth annual "Portland's Funniest Professionals" contest, hosted by Lenny Clarke of "The Job," at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$8. Fri and Sat, April 6 and 7: Lenny Clarke, at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. Tix: \$10. Sun, April 8: George Hamm's Comedy Showcase, at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$6. Also see "Maine-Acts" listing below. At the Comedy Connection, 16 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

"The Heiress" Through Sat, April 14. The Portland Players presents Ruth and Augustus Goetz' stage adaptation of Henry James' "Washington Square," about parental disapproval and frowned-upon love in 19th-century New York. At the Portland Players, 420 Cottage Rd., South Portland. Fri at 8 pm, Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$15 (\$13 students and seniors) (community company). 797-7337.

"The Hobbit" Through Sat, April 14. The Schoolhouse Arts Center presents a stage version of the J.R.R. Tolkien classic about a mild-mannered hobbit who gets swept into the adventure of his life by a gaggle of dwarfs and a wise wizard. At the SAC, Route 114, Standish. Fri and Sat, April 6 and 7 at 7:30 pm, Sun, April 8 at 2 pm. Thurs and Fri, April 12 and 13 at 7:30 pm, Sat, April 14 at 2 pm. Tix: \$12 (\$10 students and seniors, \$8 under 12) (community company). 642-3743.

DANCE

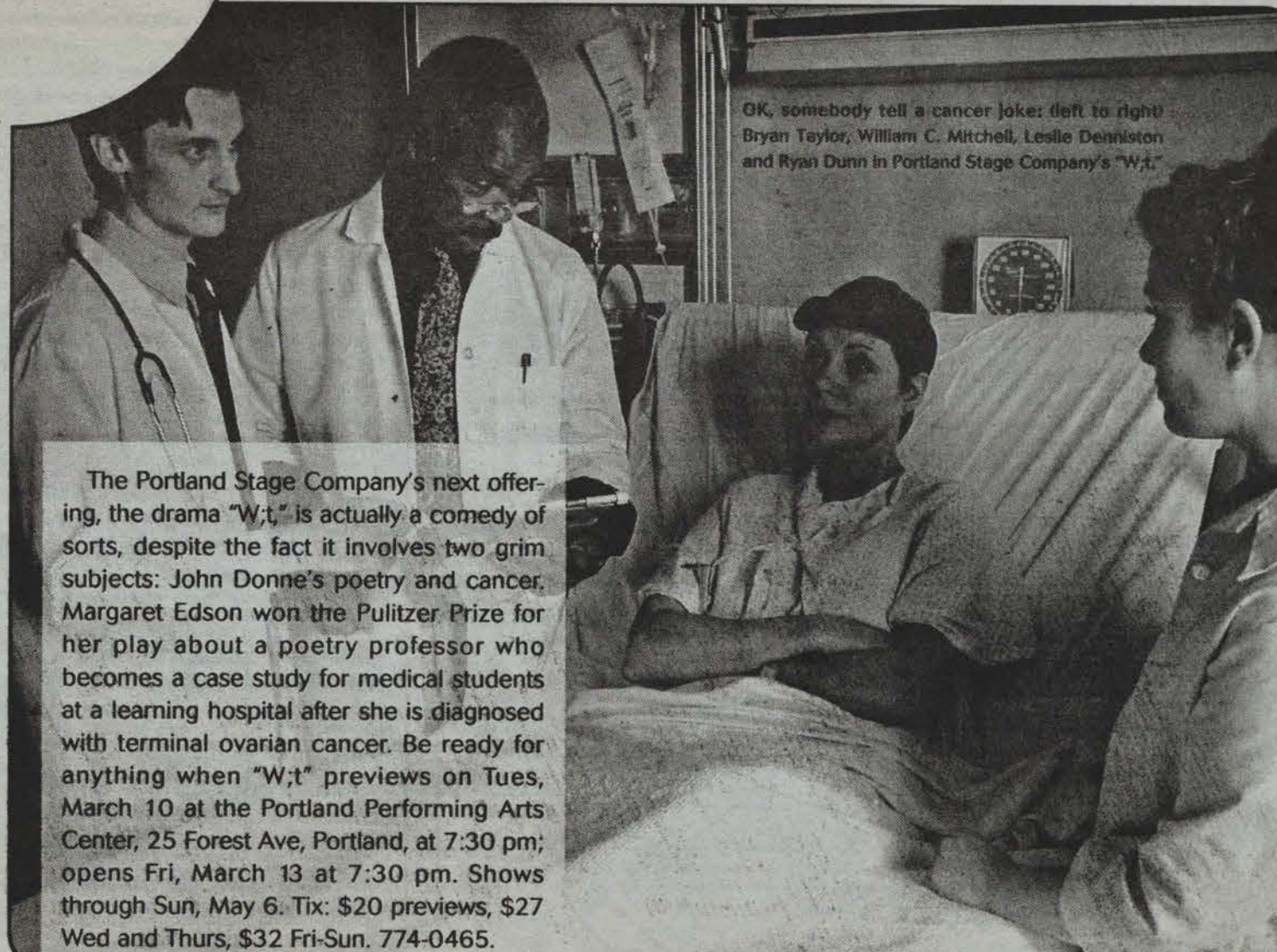
Gamelan Galak Tika Sun, April 8. The 30-member orchestra and dance troupe performs the unique sights and sounds of Balinese gamelan. At Colby College's Lorimer Chapel, Waterville, at 3 pm. Free. 872-3236.

"The Jungle Book" Through Sat, April 14. The Children's Theatre of Maine, in collaboration with the

Ballet School, in Topsham, presents an adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's story of the little boy who was raised by wolves, told through movement and music. At the CTM, 317 Marginal Way, Portland. Fri at 11 am, Sat and Sun at 11 am and 2 pm. Tix: \$7 (\$5 kids). 828-0617.

"James and the Giant Peach" Through Sun, April 8. The Johnson Hall Community Theater for Children presents Roald Dahl's imaginative story of a young boy's adventures inside a magic peach. At the Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center, 280 Water St., Gardiner. Sat at 7 pm, Sun at 2 pm and 7 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$4 kids). 582-7144.

Center stage



The Portland Stage Company's next offering, the drama "W;t" is actually a comedy of sorts, despite the fact it involves two grim subjects: John Donne's poetry and cancer. Margaret Edson won the Pulitzer Prize for her play about a poetry professor who becomes a case study for medical students at a learning hospital after she is diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Be ready for anything when "W;t" previews on Tues, March 10 at the Portland Performing Arts Center, 25 Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 pm; opens Fri, March 13 at 7:30 pm. Shows through Sun, May 6. Tix: \$20 previews, \$27 Wed and Thurs, \$32 Fri-Sun. 774-0465.

"Macbeth" Through Sun, April 8. The Theater Project presents Shakespeare's gory tale of treachery, greed and violence set in medieval Scotland. At the Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. Thurs at 7:30 pm, Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12. All Thurs and Sun performances are "pay-what-you-can." (professional non-Equity company) 729-0866.

Maine-Acts Sat, April 7. The Children's Theatre of Maine's improv comedy troupe performs. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom Wharf, Portland, at 11 am. Tix: \$5. 878-2774.

"On Golden Pond" Fri, April 6-Sun, April 29. MainePlay Productions, temporarily at a new home, presents Ernest Thompson's tale of love and looming mortality at an elderly couple's summer home on Maine's Golden Pond. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12 (professional non-Equity company). 771-5611.

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" Fri-Sun, April 6-8. The Robinson Players present Steve Martin's play about Pablo Picasso's and a young Albert Einstein's chance rendezvous in early 20th-century Paris. At Bates College's Gannett Theater, Lewiston. Fri and Sat, at 7:30 pm, Sun at 3:30 pm. Free. 786-6161.

Sam Shepard Scene Night Fri, April 6-Sun, April 8. The Acorn School of Performing Arts presents an evening of short scenes from Shepard's plays performed by Michael Levine's Shepard Scene Class. At the Acorn Studio, 496 Congress St. third floor, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 761-0617.

"Somewhere in Between" Thurs, April 5-Sun, April 8. The University of Southern Maine's Student Performing Artists present a comedy about life, directed by Matthew Curtis. At Russell Hall on USM's Gorham campus. Thurs-Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$5. 780-5151.

"W;t" Tues, April 10-Sun, May 6. Portland Stage Company presents a tragicomedy about a grim subject: poetry professor Vivian Bearing's terminal ovarian cancer and her subsequent stay at a learning hospital for medical students. At the Portland Performing Arts Center, 25 Forest Ave., Portland. Previews Tues-Thurs, April 10-12 at 7:30 pm, Tix: \$20. Wed at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Thurs and Fri at 7:30 pm, Sat at 4 pm and 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$27 Wed and Thurs, \$32 Fri-Sun. (professional Equity company) 774-0465.

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Paws & Claws HELP!

Our next pet page, Paws & Claws, will be in the April 19 issue.

If you would like to help the pets at the Animal Refuge League please send a check payable to the Animal Refuge League, c/o Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101. Your name will be featured with the pet you are supporting in the next Paws & Claws page!

Thanks!

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HELL yeah!

JOE S. HARRINGTON

Halo'd be thy name

The Black Halos worship at the altar of the depraved and demonic Dead Boys, and the band's new album, "The Violent Years" carries on the legacy of those anthemic punk rockers with finesse and conviction. The Black Halos are not retro, but rather the latest in a long line of roadworthy warriors upholding the punk tradition. The group rolls into Portland, fresh from a string of dates in its native Canada and primed to share traditional punk wisdom with the crowd.

It may not look like "wisdom," though, when lead singer Billy Hopeless falls off the stage — which he's wont to do if he's had enough of his beloved whiskey. Let the festivities begin.

Or perhaps they already have. When Hopeless calls me on a cell phone from a place he describes as "somewhere on the road in Vancouver," he has a hard time remembering details from the previous night's gig. This isn't surprising considering a song like "Capt. Moody," in which Hopeless confesses: "Drinkin' all the time/Never knowin' if I'm sick or I'm feeling fine."

According to Hopeless, "We never know what to expect. Our music is straight-up rock 'n' roll without any boundaries. Because of that, we don't know half the time what's going on."

Hopeless, who sounds like he slept with a copy of Stiv Bators' classic "Disconnected" LP playing in his ears as a youth, claims that as a singer and frontman, he is a "modern piece of modern art." If so, he's an ever-changing human canvas, thanks to fans who put cigarette butts on him and the like. As he says, "Missing teeth? It happens."

Anybody can talk shit, but when, like the Halos, you can back it up with the rock 'n' roll, that's when it counts. "The Violent Years" is like a reaffirmation of rock's true ethos. That ethos still sounds good because all the trappings of society that have always made rock such a necessary force of resistance are still in place and worse than ever.

Sometimes such damnable trappings stem, insidiously, from within the resistance itself, which is the whole point of "Underground," a song on the new album that laments, "the underground ain't underground no more." Hopeless said he wrote the song about a chain of clothing stores in Canada that shamelessly promoted "punk" fashion 25 years after the fact.

"When I was growing up, being a punk really meant something," he said. "Now it's become a fashion show. Yuppies are walking around with Johnny Thunders T-shirts, not even knowing who the fuck he was. It just repulsed me at some point. I was walking around shaking my head. Maybe I oughta become a country singer."

Comparing the inauthentic rips in the clothing being sported by fashion models to his own war-torn garb, Hopeless said, "I didn't get these tears in my jeans from buying some prepackaged fashion statement. I got 'em from crawling over a barbed-wire fence to try to steal another bottle of booze."

Shattered expectations are a big part of what "The Violent Years" is about. In "Lost in the '90s," another anthemic rocker, Hopeless sings, "I never wanted it to end like this." Then there's "Sell Out Love," which is self-explanatory, and, perhaps best of all, "Last of the One Percenters." That song takes the old biker credo, claiming only 1 percent of the populace can uphold the rock 'n' roll life, to new lengths. "It's one percent of you that I represent," Hopeless sings.

"That song is about fighting for what you believe in," he said.

Considering the Black Halos' stance as legitimate punk-rock purveyors, it's appropriate the band has been asked to take part in a documentary currently being filmed about the contemporary punk scene. Entitled "A Fistful of Rock 'n' Roll," and featuring such malevolent minstrels as the Hellacopters, Electric Frankenstein and the Murder City Devils, the film promises to be an updated version of the "Decline of Western Civilization" documentary series on the punk and metal scenes of the '80s.

"Rock 'n' roll is eternal," Hopeless said. "It's been going since the '50s. This film is a vindication of that fact." Then, being the punk that he is, he added, "What it really represents is the state of destruction of rock 'n' roll."

The Black Halos play with the Marvels and the Unband on Thursday, April 5 at the Skinny, 625 Congress St., Portland, at 9 p.m. Tix: \$5. 871-8983.



No designer labels: The Black Halos play the Skinny on April 5.

MOVIES

"Spy Kids"

Directed by Robert Rodriguez. Rated PG. At Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Pond Rd., South Portland. 879-1511. And at Hoyts Falmouth 10, 206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. 781-5616.

review



When we're done here, we'll go beat the crap out of Austin Powers: Carla Gugino and Antonio Banderas (back) with Daryl Sabara and Alexa Vega in "Spy Kids."

Electroshock gumballs, infrared bubblegum and a kid-sized sub with a talking toilet. Just a sample of the high-tech gadgetry on hand in "Spy Kids," a frenetic James-Bond-meets-Pee-Wee-Herman adventure for the pint-sized superspy in your life. This is definitely one of the best kids' films in ages.

At first glance, "Spy Kids" seems an unlikely offering from Robert Rodriguez, who wrote, directed, produced and edited the film. Rodriguez is best known for his no-budget, Tex-Mex, shoot-'em-up, breakthrough film "El Mariachi," its remake/sequel, "Desperado," and the horror films "From Dusk Till Dawn" and "The Faculty." But he has three kids of his own, a childlike imagination and the pacing and sensibility of a Tex Avery cartoon. Squeamish parents will appreciate that the film's sense of adventure is maintained with virtually no violence. There are clear messages about being true to one's self and the value of family, and an excellent, largely Hispanic cast as positive role models. Meanwhile, kids will be agog at the imaginative story and visuals, and adults can enjoy plenty of in-jokes and the movie's dazzling visual style.

The premise is fairly simple. Two superspies from different countries fall in love, get married and retire to become consultants and raise a family. Obviously, this movie pleased the kid in me. The real test, though, is pleasing the younger audience. At the screening I attended, the crowd applauded spontaneously as the credits rolled. I heard kids talking about seeing it again and singing the title song as they exited the theater. If that doesn't indicate a successful kids' film, what does?

LENNY SMITH

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NEW RELEASES

ALONG CAME A SPIDER A prequel to "Kiss the Girls," "Spider" finds Morgan Freeman reprising his role of D.C. cop Alex Cross. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

BLOW A petty marijuana dealer successfully establishes his own cocaine empire, much to the dismay of his prudish father. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY A 32-year-old woman decides to start keeping a diary, which quickly becomes a sardonic critique of the world around her. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

THE HOUSE OF MIRTH Lily Bart's not having the best of luck. A turn-of-the-20th-century socialite with waning clout, her finances — and reputation — are thrown into ruin following the betrayal of a friend. **The Movies**

IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE A couple living next door to one another in 1962 Hong Kong discover their spouses are having an affair. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

JUST VISITING An evil, 12th-century wizard transports a French nobleman and his servant to modern-day Chicago. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

POKEMON 3: THE MOVIE The third installment finds the rebel forces trying to destroy a new Death Star before the space station becomes operational. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

ALSO SHOWING

BILLY ELLIOT Living in northern England in the mid-1980s, 11-year-old Billy occupies himself with ballet classes while his father and brother struggle to get through a strike at the coal mine. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

THE BROTHERS When a notorious loverboy decides to get married, his commitment-challenged friends are forced to reevaluate themselves and their relationships. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

CAST AWAY Tom Hanks cast away a few pounds and his shaving kit to play a Federal Express employee who gets stranded on a tropical island after a mid-ocean plane crash. Alone with little help of surviving, Hank's character begins an inward journey through the spiritual pathways of the soul — or some such nonsense. **Keystone Theatre Cafe**

CHOCOLAT Swede Lasse Hallstrom, known for warm but idiosyncratic comedies like "My Life as a Dog," directed this story of a woman Juliette Binoche and her daughter who open a chocolate shop in a small town where folks are suspicious of any enterprise that has Sunday hours. Also with Johnny Depp. **Hoyts Falmouth 10**

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON In dynastic China, a 400-year-old sword called "Green Destiny" is entrusted to a female warrior, Yu Shu Lien (Michelle Yeoh), by her long-time fighting partner and legendary martial-arts juggernaut, Li Mu Bai (the fantastic Chow Yun Fat). Directed by Ang Lee. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

THE EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE A young emperor cares only about himself. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

ENEMY AT THE GATES During the Nazi siege of Stalingrad, a young Russian sharpshooter is made a hero by the Soviet propaganda machine. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

EXIT WOUNDS A burnt-out policeman (Steven Seagal) gets assigned to a precinct in backyard Long Island and discovers he's in the thick of a corrupt cop ring. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

FINDING FORRESTER Gus Van Sant ("My Own Private Idaho") directed this inspirational tale about an aging, reclusive novelist (Sean Connery) who strikes up a relationship with a literary basket-

HOW playing

ball player (Robert Brown). **Keystone Theatre Cafe**

HANNIBAL In this much anticipated sequel to "Silence of the Lambs," Anthony Hopkins reprises his role as the cannibal with an acute off-balance. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

HEARTBREAKERS A mother and daughter make money the American way. They can people out of it. The mom marries an old man, the daughter seduces him and the two share the spoils from the divorce settlement. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

THE MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL See "Happenings" on page 32 for a complete list of titles, descriptions, times and locations. **The Movies, Center for Cultural Exchange, Portland Museum of Art, Center for Maine History**

THE MEXICAN A mobster (Brad Pitt) heads to Mexico in search of a legendary antique pistol, only to have his girlfriend (Julia Roberts) kidnapped in his absence. **Maine Mall Cinema**

O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? In this adaptation of "The Odyssey," set in Depression-era Mississippi, George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson star as escaped convicts trying to retrieve a hidden treasure. Directed by Joel Coen. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

POLLOCK Ed Harris portrays the last 15 years in the life of America's most famous (alcoholic) abstract artist. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

QUILLS Adapting a stage play by Doug Wright, director Philip Kaufman takes on the weighty, — and unpleasant — challenge of lifting up the Marquis de Sade's grimy precept and rooting around inside the head of the inflammatory 18th-century French writer. With Geoffrey Rush. **Keystone Theatre Cafe**

SEE SPOT RUN One dog. One David Arquette. One dumb movie. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

SNATCH A twist of circumstances brings two unlikely characters together in this film directed by Guy Ritchie ("Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels"). An Irish boxer (Brad Pitt) bent on defying his mob boss' order to throw his fights, and a jewel thief (Benicio Del Toro) who loses all of his money betting on the fortnight pugilist. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

SOMEONE LIKE YOU A woman (Ashley Judd) is given a column at a men's magazine in which she interprets male/female behavior by observing wild animals. Wow, women really are from Venus. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

SPY KIDS Robert Rodriguez ("The Faculty") directed this story of two kids who must rescue their spy-team parents from the evil Fegan Floop. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

TOMCATS A starving artist in need of some quick cash bets he can get his friend married in 30 days. Things go awry when he discovers he's falling in love with his buddy's sudden fiancée. Wow, men really are from Mars. **Maine Mall Cinema**

TRAFFIC Director Steven Soderbergh's latest is a coiled tale of drugs and the people who — one way or another — dabble in them. There's the border cop (Benicio Del Toro) who attempts to oust his crooked boss. There's the beautiful and pregnant wife (Catherine Zeta-Jones) with a narcotics kingpin for a husband. And there's the head of the National Drug Task Force (Michael Douglas) caught between carrying out his duties and trying to save his strung-out daughter. **Maine Mall Cinema, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME Now adults, two siblings are reunited when the brother — a drifter and troublemaker, but a charmer all the same — shows up at the home of his more stable sister. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

times starting friday

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRI, APRIL 6 THROUGH THURS, APRIL 12, 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

JUST VISITING (PG-13)
12:35, 2:50, 5, 7, 9:10

POKEMON 3: THE MOVIE (G)
12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:05

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (R)
SAT, APRIL 7 ONLY 9:50

SPY KIDS (PG)
12:10, 1:20, 2:30, 4:10, 4:40, 6:40, 7:20, 9, 9:40

THE BROTHERS (R)
9:45

ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
12:20, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

HEARTBREAKERS (PG-13)
1, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

SEE SPOT RUN (PG)
12:50, 4

HANNIBAL (R)
6:30, 9:20

CHOCOLAT (PG-13)
1:10, 3:40, 7:10, 9:50

NO 9:50 SHOWING ON SAT, APRIL 7

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

BLOW (R)
12:50, 3:45, 7, 9:55

ALONG CAME A SPIDER (R)
12:40, 3:20, 7:20, 10

JUST VISITING (PG-13)
12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:20

POKEMON 3: THE MOVIE (G)
12, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY (R)
SAT, APRIL 7 ONLY 9:10

SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG-13)
1:05, 4, 7:15, 9:40

SPY KIDS (PG)
12:10, 1:20, 2:30, 4:10, 6:55, 9:15

HEARTBREAKERS (PG-13)
1, 3:50, 7:05, 9:50

EXIT WOUNDS (R)
1:20

ENEMY AT THE GATES (R)
12:20, 3:30, 6:40, 9:35

CHOCOLAT (PG-13)
1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:10

NO 9:10 SHOWING ON SAT, APRIL 7

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON (PG-13)
7, 9:30 SAT, SUN, MAT, 3:45

FINDING FORRESTER (PG-13)
6:50 SAT, SUN, MAT, 3:15

CAST AWAY (PG-13)
6:30, 9:15 SAT, SUN, MAT, 3:30

QUILLS (R)
9

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

ALONG CAME A SPIDER (R)
1:05, 1:30, 3:30, 4:10, 7:05, 7:25, 9:30, 9:45

BLOW (R)
1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50

SOMEONE LIKE YOU (PG-13)
1:30, 4:05, 7:15, 9:40

TOMCATS (R)
1:25, 3:45, 7:05, 9:30

THE MEXICAN (R)
4, 9:40

EXIT WOUNDS (R)
1, 7

TRAFFIC (R)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

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

THE MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL
WED, APRIL 4-THURS, APRIL 5

SEE "HAPPENINGS" ON P. 32 FOR TITLES AND TIMES

THE HOUSE OF MIRTH (R)
SHOWS FRI, APRIL 6-THURS, APRIL 19

FRI-THURS, 5, 8 SAT, SUN, MAT, 2

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

IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE (R)
5:15, 7:30, 9:45 SAT, SUN, MAT, 12:45, 3

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME (R)
4:10, 7:10, 9:40 SAT, SUN, MAT, 1:20

LISTINGS

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

VOLUNTEER

New

Animal Refuge League
449 Stoudwater, Westbrook
An orientation session for volunteers interested in fostering orphaned kittens will be held on Thurs. April 5 and Wed. April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Preregistration is required, call 854-9771, ext. 103. Volunteers are also needed for general cleaning and animal caregiving.
People's Regional Opportunity Program
510 Cumberland Ave., Portland
Low-income people and their advocates who live in Portland, South Portland or Cape Elizabeth are invited to seek nomination to the Board of Trustees of PROPP for a three-year term starting July 1. Nominations will be accepted until Sat., April 21. Call 874-1140, ext. 555 for a candidate registration form.

Ongoing

ABBA, A Women's Resource Center
470 Forest Ave., Suite 211, Portland
This organization works with women with unplanned pregnancies. If a woman chooses to parent, ABBA will help with clothes and supplies. ABBA needs volunteers for abstinence education for teens, which requires 26 hours of training to become a one-on-one counselor. Volunteers are also needed for computer work, etc. Call Judy Cushing at 253-5555.

American Red Cross

524 Forest Ave., Portland
Volunteers are needed for the following positions: educators/instructors for health and safety courses such as CPR, First Aid, babysitting; and for emergency services in community setting to educate community leaders of different cultures about American Red Cross services. Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) volunteers needed evenings and weekends to respond to calls from families in crises needing to contact a family member who is on active duty with the military. Training is provided. Call Diann Carroll at 874-1192 ext. 108. Volunteers are needed in the regional blood center as registrars, escorts, canteen supervisors, community blood drive organizers and schedulers; at-home tele-recruiters also needed. Contact Blood Center coordinator Renée Tardiff at 775-2367.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Portland

Suite 210B, 175 Lancaster St., Portland
Big Brothers/Big Sisters seeks volunteers age 18 and up to spend time as an adult friend to an at-risk child. Commitment is either weekly or every other week for at least one year. 773-5437.
Birthingline, Catholic Charities Maine
562 Congress St., Portland
Birthingline provides alternatives to abortion. A crisis pregnancy service for women and young families dealing with unplanned pregnancies, the program provides emotional support and helps families to locate community resources. Volunteers primarily needed to staff clothing closets, do publicity and staff the crisis pregnancy support Helpline. Birthingline supports Project Rachel, in which volunteers provide post-abortion counseling. All services are free and confidential, and no church affiliation is required for volunteers or families. Call Annette Rioux at 871-7464 or 1-800-CARE-002.

Caleb Adult Center

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

Cancer Community Center

778 Main St., South Portland
The center seeks volunteers to perform support group facilitation, one-on-one support work, reception and clerical work. Training is provided. Call Dawn at 774-2200.

Cedars Nursing Care Center

630 Ocean Ave., Portland
Volunteers are needed to visit, assist and escort the center's aging residents throughout the week. Ongoing support and training is provided. Call 772-5456.
Center for Community Dental Health
813 Washington Ave., Portland
The center needs volunteers to assist elderly patients while they wait for care in their nursing home. Volunteers also needed to assist with the dental exam and give fluoride rinses, and for clerical work in the free dental clinic in Saco two evenings a month. Call 874-1028.

Community Health Services

901 Washington Ave., Suite 104, Portland
The agency needs volunteers to visit homebound people, installation and maintenance of Life Line telephone for homebound elderly, help with supplies, assist with the switchboard and help with office duties. Call 775-7231.

Fallbrook Woods

418 Bay St., Portland
Fallbrook Woods, an assisted living facility for the elderly, needs volunteers for activities assistants, bingo assistants, transportation, one-on-one visitors, community outings, entertainers and pet therapy. 878-0788.
Flying Chances Center for Therapeutic Riding
Rt 201, Topsham
Flying Chances seeks volunteers to work with special-needs riders, care for horses and maintain the facility during spring session, April-June. Training provided. Call Christa Clarkson, 729-0168.

Foster Grandparent Program

Harbor Terrace, 284 Danforth St., Portland
The People's Regional Opportunity Program needs foster grandparents in Cumberland County. Typical assignments include helping children with their homework, reading with toddlers in a child development center or supporting families by visiting them in their homes. Foster grandparents who are income-eligible can earn tax-free income while working 20 hours a week. 773-0202.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland

Box 10505, Portland
This is part of a nonprofit international organization that builds homes in partnership with lower-income families who apply for no-interest mortgages. Volunteers are needed to select families, plan events, write the newsletter, raise funds and help with office work and construction. 772-2151.

HAVEN Volunteer Opportunities

Portland
The HAVEN Collaborative includes the AIDS Lodging House, Peabody House, and The AIDS Project. These agencies are united in their effort to provide services and support to people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are

needed for several positions. Administrative assistant: Assist staff with administrative procedure including phone coverage, filing, photocopying and assisting with large mailings; Client care volunteers: Paired with clients to fulfill individual client needs including running errands, satisfying social needs and participating in community leisure activities. Volunteers in this category are also offered the opportunity to plan and execute social activities in addition to offering bereavement assistance when necessary. Homemakers: Includes meal preparation and clean up, grocery shopping, cleaning apartments before and after client moves. Housing Maintenance: Assist staff in maintaining housing structures. Duties change seasonally. Minor repairs and garden maintenance are included under this category. Maine AIDS Hotline: Answer questions about AIDS/HIV, safer sex issues and prevention, make appointments with counseling and testing. Movers: Transport client's possessions from one residence to another. Transportation: Volunteers are needed for a variety of transportation requests including rides to medical appointments and other support services in the Portland area. Various: There are volunteer needs that do not readily fit into these categories or they are not pressing on such a consistent basis. An example of this would include individuals needed to represent The AIDS Project at community functions or to assist Peabody House with development events. Those interested in volunteering with any of the HAVEN agencies should contact 774-6877.

AIDS Lodging House
142 High St., Suite 623, Portland
See HAVEN for volunteer opportunities.
The AIDS Project (TAP)
Box 5305, 615 Congress St., 6th Floor, Portland
See HAVEN for volunteer opportunities.
Peabody House
14 Orchard St., Portland
See HAVEN for volunteer opportunities.

Ingraham

237 Oxford St., Portland
Ingraham needs volunteers for its 24-hour crisis intervention hotline. All volunteers get training and assistance. Training sessions are 40 hours over six weeks. Volunteers for administrative positions are also available. Call Cheryl Camire at 874-1055.

La Leche League of Greater Portland

71 Pleasant Ave., Portland
La Leche League brings mothers together with other mothers who wish to breast-feed their babies. Provides information and support for breast-feeding mothers via monthly meetings, telephone or Internet (www.la-leche-league.org). Call Amy at 883-1963 or Ashley at 773-6985. E-mail: lallm@maine.net.

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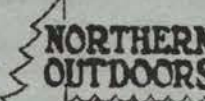
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by TOM TOMORROW

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20-YEAR-OLD IN great physical
shape, with stamina. Healthy, dis-
creet and handsome. Looking for
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Married or just lonely Woman for
wild get-togethers only, must be
very discreet, I'm very healthy,
good-looking and fun to be with.
No whatever your pleasure is, there
are no strings attached. #9058633-YEAR-OLD CROSS-DRESSER.
Slim, healthy Cross-dresser looking
for other CD or T/VTS for discreet
get-togethers. #9044933-YEAR-OLD M, Married, good-
looking, seeking S or Married F for
discreet erotic fun, age unimpor-
tant. #9049142-YEAR-OLD, HOT, cute, sexy,
attractive, very tall transgender
(Male to Female), new to Maine,
seeking Male with great personal-
ity for friendship first. #90535ATTRACTIVE SWM, 5'10", 165
lbs, great shape, healthy, seeking
slim/petite, S/Married, attractive F
for fun, discreet, mutual, "fantas-
magical" pleasures. #90566BI-CURIOSUS WM, 28, 5'11", 200
lbs, seeking White Couple, Bi or bi-
curious M for discreet fun times.
#90043BI-CURIOSUS WM, 44, seeks first
time encounter with another Male
and also a Cross-dresser. #90553BI-CURIOSUS WM, mid-40s, seeks
first time encounter with another
Male, mid-30s to 50. #90564BIG GIRLS turn me on. I love to
kiss, cuddle and stay up all night.
DWM, 34, 5'7", 200 lbs, clean-cut,
healthy and discreet. Seeking Wom-
an, 18-35, for adult play. Let's talk.
#90589BIWM, 45, who likes cross-dress-
ing, seeks the same for fun times.
#90466BIWM, 43, 5'8", 165 lbs,
brown/blue, nice-looking, mature,
intelligent, healthy, ISO mutual
physical enjoyment. Discretion, pri-
vacy a must. Mid-coast area.
#90438BOSTON MAN, attractive, 36,
seeks kinky Female companion-
ship while in Portland. All fantasies
and fetishes welcomed. Healthy
and discreet. #90480DOMESTICALLY ATTACHED Male
looking for domestically attached
Female with an active imagination
for adult fun and games. WPTH,
please. Discretion expected and
assured. Safe sex only. #90595FROM PASSABLE Cross-dresser to
a pre-op with curves. Am back in
town to let my hair down, with long
legs and shorter skirts. #90819GOOD-LOOKING MARRIED Man
looking for attractive, intelligent
Woman for the cunning/ingus not
offered at home. #90572GWM, 35, 5'11", black/blue, 195
lbs, loves all kinds of oral sex.
Looking for another GWM, 25-40.
#90568GWPM, 37, seeks fit, healthy, and
attractive Man under 40, for erotic
full body massage and hot oral
encounters. I will do it all, you just
need to enjoy. Satisfaction and
discretion are guaranteed. You will
not be disappointed. #90585HANDSOME MARRIED M, late
30s, looking for a F who enjoys
the oral side of life on occasion.
Please be healthy and discreet.
#90487HANDSOME, VERY Married
WPM, 5'10", 165 lbs, nice body,
trim, athletic build, healthy, with
proof, whose spouse has lost
interest. Seeks one very Married
Female counterpart for erotic
affair the old-fashioned way, long-
term, monogamous, totally dis-
creet. #90049HEALTHY, ATTRACTIVE, 42-year-
old GWM, 5'8", 145 lbs, ISO sim-
ilar, well-endowed, healthy Male to
receive oral pleasures. #90519HEY THERE, I'm a 21-year-old
WM who loves the outdoors! I'm
new to the great Portland scene
and would love to meet some cool
Ladies to chill in the city and in
nature with. Hope to talk to you!
#90590I'M A laid-back Gentleman who's
seeking a Lady between the ages
of 25-42, who would like to have
some fun. I like outdoor sports,
snowmobiling, ice fishing. I also
like to shoot pool, throw darts. I'll
be waiting to hear from you.
#90558I'M A submissive Male seeking to
sever a mistress, sadistic qualities
are welcomed. I am 44, 5'9", 190
lbs. Open, honest and lots of fun
to be with. Can train to be what my
mistress desires. #90578INEXPERIENCED BIWM, TS, 40,
5'11", 170 lbs, seeks Man or
Woman to help fulfill my fantasy.
Would like to start slow. Help me
be to be the Woman I know I can
be. #90573ISO HUGGIE bear. Outgoing
GWM, 30, 6'2", black/brown,
healthy, n/s, enjoys music, sports,
biking, camping. ISO active, blue-
collar type GWM, 20-40, for possi-
ble relationship. Let's enjoy our-
selves together. #90002ISO SLIM, healthy, sexy TV, TS to
fulfill my fantasy. Me: healthy
GWM, ready and waiting for you.
Call. #90686ISO VERSATILE GWM for healthy,
oral good times. GWM, 36, 5'9",
157 lbs, clean-cut, well-endowed.
You be about same. No old, over-
weight, hairy females. Real Men
only. Into dirty movies. Smokers
welcome. No strings attached.
Lewiston/Auburn area. #90521JUST A quickie. Looking for a play-
mate, not a soulmate, nor a room-
mate. Tired of the stale mate, need
an intimate date mate. SWM, 40s,
nonsmoker/drinker. Feminist ISO
SF into self-awareness, church and
reptiles. #90577KICK BACK and enjoy. In search
of well-endowed receiver for oral
fantasy. #90765KIND, CARING, intelligent, pas-
sionate, dominant, straight Single
Male, 44, I'm also sincere, discrim-
inating and communicative. Look-
ing to meet an honest, sincere,
intelligent and submissive Woman
for mutual exploration, to add
some joy, excitement, delight and
passion to both our lives. #90408LADIES INTERESTED in having a
threesome with husband or
boyfriend. I am a handsome, clean-
cut SWM, 34, straight, very fit and
healthy. Please be attractive, fit and
healthy. #90490LOOKING FOR a special Female
with unfulfilled desires and fan-
tasy. Please be over 35, weight
unimportant and very healthy. This
mid-40s SWM is 6'2", 200 lbs,
clean-cut, healthy, discreet, multi-
talented and a lot of fun to be with.
#90433MARRIED WM, Portland area,
seeks Female to help me improve
my oral skills. Wish to be a master
of cunning linguistics. English
degree not required. All replies
answered. Thanks. #90539MARRIED WM, young 50,
brown/blue, slim, well-endowed,
seeks Single/Married F for erotic
fun times, talks. Very open-minded.
You be, too. Just be real and
healthy. Size doesn't matter.
Thanks. Greater Portland area.
#90569MARRIED WM, 29, seeks Sin-
gle/Married F for discreet ren-
dezvous with no strings attached.
I'm 6'2", 195 lbs, healthy, fit, well-
educated, professional. You: 25-
35, drug-free and healthy, with an
appetite for consensual responsi-
ble encounter. First time for me.
#90581MASCULINE MALE seeks same
for discreet, daytime physical plea-
sure. I'm 32, 6'2", 190 lbs,
brown/blue, healthy, expect the
same. #90532MASCULINE, ATTRACTIVE,
friendly, low-key DWM, 50, 6',
very healthy, well-groomed,
healthy, sound, discreet and se-
lective. May be available for usual
or unusual sexual encounters.
#90357MASTER OF adventure seeks M
willing to submit to his naughty
side. Me: 30 and experienced.
You: under 35 and looking for re-
strained encounters in central
Maine. First timers ok. Very dis-
creet. #90503NICE-LOOKING GUY, middle-
aged, looking for a horny younger
Man to service on a regular basis!
#90561SBM, 38, very fine, special, cre-
ative, talented, seeking heavyset
Woman, race open W/M most wel-
come, for spanking, obeying, oral
and much more. Must be open,
aware and ready for discipline, fun,
romantic fun times. Talking and
acting naughty a plus. #90584SEEKING COUPLE for adult fun
SWM, 48, 6'1", 160 lbs, attractive,
healthy, discreet, easygoing and
open-minded. Cumberland/Lin-
coln Counties. #90552SENSUOUS, CARING Male seeks
pre-op TS for a meaningful LTR.
#90596SINGLE, AFFECTIONATE, hand-
some Man ISO insatiable passion-
ate Lady soulmate, 20s-30s, chil-
dren ok. I am romantic, healthy,
self-employed, like gardening, out-
doors, cooking and have a good
sense of humor. Homeowner. Possi-
ble LTR. #90570SWM SEEKING M/F Couple for
oral pleasures. Would like to share
a Man with a Woman. I'm healthy
and expect the same. I'm a dis-
creet, straight-acting BIM who
would enjoy being with a Couple.
#90425SWM, 37, 5'11", 150 lbs, dark
brown/brown, likes quiet nights at
home, NASCAR, country and rock
music, family-oriented, smoker,
light drinker. ISO petite, honest,
caring, nonjudgmental Lady, 30-
40. #90485TALL, SLENDER, college-educat-
ed, attractive Married Man, 40,
seeks feminine Female with kin-
dred spirit, WPTH, to discreetly live
out his fantasies. If you are looking
for baggage-free companionship
and fun, let's talk and see where it
takes us! #90582UNSCRUPULOUS TYRANT of lust
seeks fit, attractive female for
unbridled carnal pleasure as well
as the occasional stroll on the
beach. #90594VERY WELL-GROOMED, healthy,
n/s, nondrinking BM wants to be
orally serviced by G/B/M, experi-
enced only, no reciprocation. You
must be healthy and well-
groomed. Come take care of me.
#90525WANTED: LARGE 200 lbs+, well-
endowed, regular Guy, 40-60, for
hot fun with exciting mid-coast Gay
Couple. Try something different.
#90540WARM SWM, 42, brown/blue,
medium build, honest, open, gen-
tle, likes quiet times, spontaneous
activities. Seeks warm, sensitive F,
attractive to average looks, kind,
gentle, not controlling, for fun,
back rubs and quiet times. Port-
land area preferred. #90413WARM SWM, 42, brown/blue,
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land area preferred. #90413WARM SWM, 42, brown/blue,
medium build, honest, open, gen-
tle, likes quiet times, spontaneous
activities. Seeks warm, sensitive F,
attractive to average looks, kind,
gentle, not controlling, for fun,
back rubs and quiet times. Port-
land area preferred. #90413

women seeking

I AM looking for healthy and dis-
creet Men looking for a transsexu-
al to fulfill their wildest dreams.
#90593UNBELIEVABLE, EXTRAOR-
DINARLY 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. #90463WINTER IN New England. Woman
seeking another Woman, 45-55, to
have fun with, who likes romance,
candle dinners, music and who
likes to laugh a lot. #90541WINTER IN New England. Woman
seeking another Woman, 45-55, to
have fun with, who likes romance,
candle dinners, music and who
likes to laugh a lot. #90541ATTENTION, HUSBANDS and
boyfriends. Ever consider wife or
girlfriend with another Man. Avail-
able SM, 32, California surfer
look-alike, is available for discreet
pleasures. I'm healthy, blonde, light
blue eyes, nice body, with very
large hands and feet, enjoy skiing,
boating, snowmobile, hot tubs,
hockey and smiling. Please be
happy, healthy and discreet.
#90585ATTRACTIVE, FIT, healthy, monog-
amous Couple seeks Bi-curious
Female for one time experience.
Him: 28, athletic, cute, well-en-
dowed. Her: 29, very fit, attractive,
first time Bi experience. Looking
for attractive, fit, healthy, discreet
SWF, 20-35. #90571ATTRACTIVE, 31-YEAR-OLD, cur-
vaceous Female with a slightly
twisted sense of humor, seeks
attractive, well-endowed Female to
share my sexy Man with. If inter-
ested, we'd love to hear from you.
#90580ATTRACTIVE MARRIED White
Couple seeks professional Couple
or select Male, 20-40, for lasting,
erotic friendship. Must be fit,
healthy, discreet. He's 6'1", 195
lbs, submissive, bi-curious. She's
5'6", 130 lbs. Help me please this
beautiful Woman! #90588BIWM, 39, 5'11", 165 lbs, seeking
other BW, Bif or Bi Couple for
erotic discreet times. #90386BLACK and White Couple seek-
ing Bif/Couple for erotic times. I'm
White Female, 5'8", 120 lbs, blue
eyes, very outgoing. He's Black
Male, 5'7", 165 lbs. Both of us love
to go camping, have fun. Love
quiet times with the right person.
#90598BUSY PROFESSIONAL Couple
seeking some laughs, friendship
and hopefully some erotic adven-
tures. If you're a Female/Couple,
down-to-earth, with positive and
discreet attitude, we would like to
meet you. #90371GOOD-LOOKING, STRAIGHT
SWM, 42, 6'2", 230 lbs, healthy,
discreet, down-to-earth, seeks
secure Couple for fantasy ful-
fillment and erotic encounters.
#90464LOOKING FOR playmate. Attractive
Couple, 30 and 28, seeking F,
18-30, to make trio. Light smok-
er/drinker ok. Must be healthy and
discreet. What are you waiting for?
#90597

couples seeking

MARRIED COUPLE seeking Bif.
Very fit, attractive Couple seeks a
Female companion. #90562MARRIED WHITE COUPLE ISO Sin-
gle Males or Married Couples to
help with pleasing my wife. Me:
5'10", 220 lbs, brown/blue. She:
5'11", 110 lbs, blonde/blue, will
answer all replies. Discreet and
honest a must. #90559MARRIED WHITE COUPLE, 40s, fit,
attractive, straight, seeking
younger WM for threesome. She's
5'7", great body, likes to be ad-
mired in lingerie and heels. Live
your fantasy. #90574MARRIED WHITE COUPLE, 36 and
40. She: Bi, 5'2", 135 lbs,
blonde/blue. He: straight, 6'2",
235 lbs, blonde/blue. Seeking
select Couples for a lasting erotic
friendship. Likes include dining,
light drinking/partying, X movies,
massages, oils/gels and all that fol-
lows. Secure and for real. You be,
too! Let's connect soon! #90528PASSIONATE COUPLE wanted.
Are you a harmonious Couple
seeking an erotic experience? Stable
professional Married White
Couple looking for pleasurable
times, laughter and loving. Physical
perfection not required. Sensitive
and secure souls, please. #90785SINGLE WHITE Couple seeks
Couples/Females, Bi or straight, for
sensual pleasure. We are ready to
meet new friends and try new
things. He is 6'1", 195 lbs,
brown/hazel, beard. She is 5'6",
blonde/green. Let's make some
hot times. #90071WHITE COUPLE, 40s, ISO Bif to
join us in fulfilling our fantasies.
She's newly bi-curious, loves
movies, dancing, sitting by the fire
for hot conversation. Must be
healthy and discreet as we are. If
interested, call. #90708WHITE COUPLE, 40s, ISO Bif to
join us in fulfilling our fantasies.
She's newly bi-curious, loves
movies, dancing, sitting by the fire
for hot conversation. Must be
healthy and discreet as we are. If
interested, call. #90708WHITE COUPLE, 40s, ISO Bif to
join us in fulfilling our fantasies.
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for hot conversation. Must be
healthy and discreet as we are. If
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interested, call. #90708www.sexlinxxx.com
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women seeking

30-YEAR-OLD MARRIED Bif
seeking same for meeting, dis-
cussion, possibly more. #90599

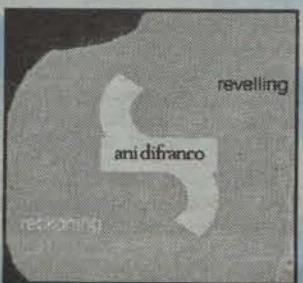
FREE DOUBLE MONITOR THIS CD!



TRICK DADDY
take it to da house (from the Atlantic album THUGS ARE US)



THE LIVING END
roll on (from the Reprise album ROLL ON)



ANI DIFRANCO
heartbreak even (from the Righteous Babe album REVELLING/RECKONING)



THE MINUS 5
you don't mean it (from the Mammoth/Matt album LET THE WAR AGAINST MUSIC BEGIN)



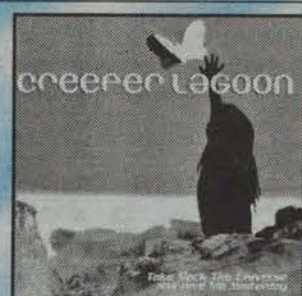
TOADIES
let's go joey (previously unreleased track not found on Interscope album HELL BELOW/STARS ABOVE)



INCLUDES: RADIOHEAD
TOADIES,
& MONSTER MAGNET
UNRELEASED TRACKS,
RAMMSTEIN,
OLD 97'S,
ANI DIFRANCO
& MORE!



BOB SCHNEIDER
metal and steel (from the Universal album LONELYLAND)



CREEPER LAGOON
wrecking ball (from the Dreamworks album TAKE BACK THE UNIVERSE AND GIVE ME YESTERDAY)



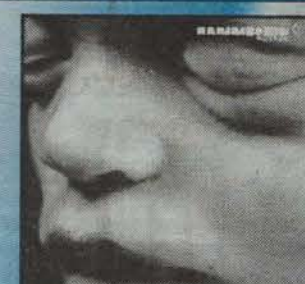
SARAH HARMER
weakened state (from the Zoe album YOU WERE HERE)



IDLEWILD
little discourage (from the Capitol/Odeon album 100 BROKEN WINDOWS)



OLD 97'S
king of all the world (from the Elektra album SATELLITE RIDES)



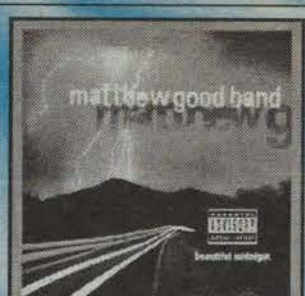
RAMMSTEIN
links 2 3 4 (from the Republic/Universal album MUTTER)



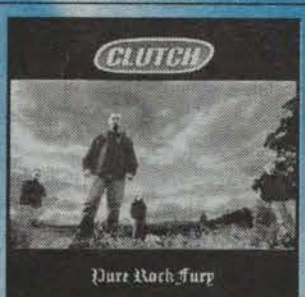
SALIVA
your disease (from the Island album EVERY SIX SECONDS)



ELIZA CARTHY
whispers of summer (from the Warner Brothers album ANGELS & CIGARETTES)



MATTHEW GOOD BAND
load me up (from the Atlantic album BEAUTIFUL MIDNIGHT)



CLUTCH
smoke banshee (from the Atlantic album PURE ROCK FURY)



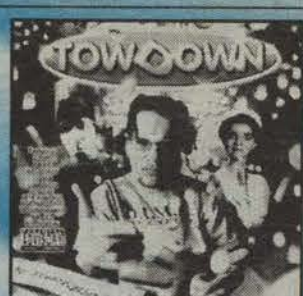
RADIOHEAD
idiotique (recorded live in Dublin, Ireland -original found on Capitol album KID A)



ST GERMAIN
rose rouge (from the Blue Note album TOURIST)



JOHN HAMMOND
2:19 (from the Pointblank/Virgin album WICKED GRIN)



TOW DOWN
country rap tune (from the Elektra album BY PRESCRIPTION ONLY)



MONSTER MAGNET
1970 (UK b-side not found on A&M album IF GOD SAYS NO)

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