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Casco Bay
Weekly

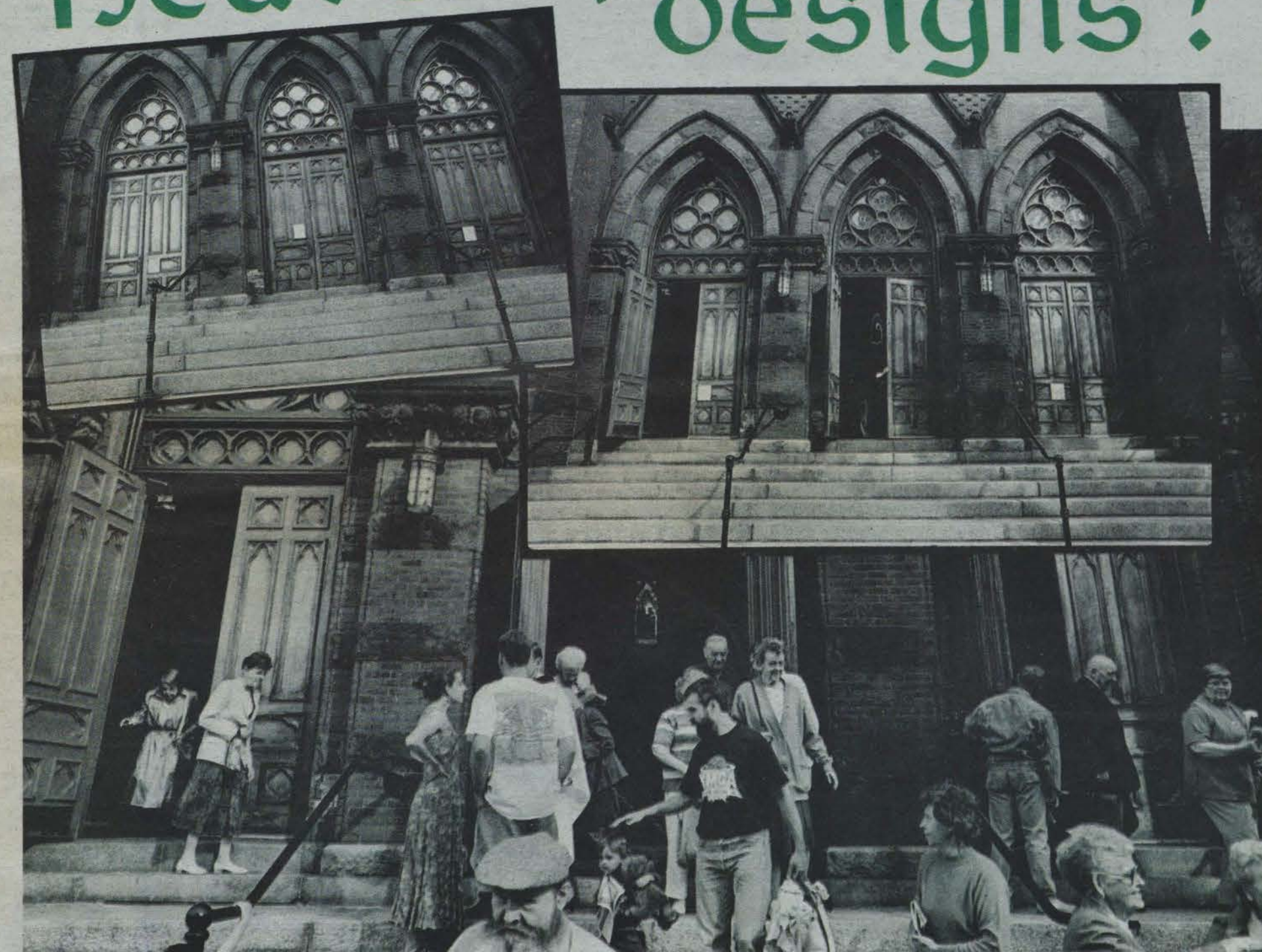
GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS & OPINION

www.cascobayweekly.com APRIL 4, 2002 VOL XIV NO 14

FREE



Heavenly designs?



PHOTOGRAPHY/COLIN MALONE

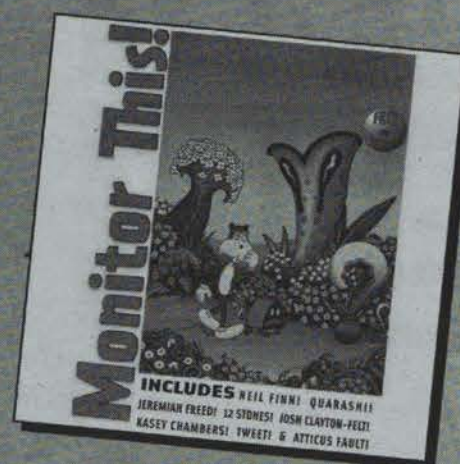
Lofty plans for St. Dom's survival challenge Portland's Irish community.
Theresa Slaherty's story begins on page 10.

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Home & Garden Advertising Supplement is on pages 13 & 15

4 APRIL 2002

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TALK

A CONVERSATION WITH **ANGELA FEROZE**

“People say, ‘You’re very pretty, where are you from? Can I ask?’ I say ‘Afghanistan,’ and they look where that is.”

Angela Feroze, 19, is a pre-med student at the University of Southern Maine. She works part time as a certified nurse's assistant. She was born in Afghanistan, and lived there for a year before her family moved to New York for six months, and then onto Maine, where she has been living ever since.

How do you feel about the war?

I'm glad America did something, because if they didn't that would have been a big slap in the face, considering all the people who died in New York. For them to go over there and break everything up, that's wonderful. I think that's great.

Is your family prominent in the local Afghan community?

My dad is. He was the president of the Afghan community for a little while, and then he stopped because they honestly weren't getting too much done. He goes to the meetings once a month, stuff like that.

What are some things the community is trying to do?

They are trying to build a mosque. They need to find a place. It's hard for them to find a place here. Either the neighbors don't want them or the city doesn't approve.

Is the Afghan community in Portland trying to maintain its culture or assimilate?

They are trying to maintain the culture, especially with the young. They want the religion and the language especially.

What are some of your customs?

I pray five times a day. It's hard going to school full time and working. I do wear a veil. It's like a burka, but we don't call it that in Farsi. It's called a chadri. When my mom grew up, she never wore a veil. She wore little, tiny skirts and a tank top and would go outside. It was becoming very westernized up until the Russians came in the mid '70s.

Do you think Bush is handling this well?

He's done a couple of things I didn't appreciate, but he's doing well. Having family there and knowing that the al Qaeda is being swept out of there makes me feel safer. It's depressing, it's upsetting about civilians in Afghanistan being killed, but it's better than having this go on for another 20, 40, 50 years of living under this extreme, supposed religious group. Islam is not about violence or killing or treating women like shit. I think [Osama] bin Laden is jealous. He uses religion as a big cover-up. If it was that bad, if Muslims hated Americans, we wouldn't be here. I had a woman in a class say, 'I think everyone from that part of the world is violent.' I disagree. It's just this portrayal of Muslims in the media being violent, unsophisticated and uneducated. You have an Afghan friend and you have got them for life, even if you don't want them. There's good and bad in every society.

Interview by Regina Anderson; photo by Tom Mahoney



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beat

LAEL MORGAN

Blowing a soft whistle — for now

It has been lonesome. For two years or more, *Casco Bay Weekly* appeared to be the only member of the media concerned about a city the size of Portland having a closed police log. Admittedly, we've had little success in opening law-enforcement records.

We do have a few options. We could file another Freedom of Access request, sit out the five working-days waiting period, and then sue the city for non-compliance. The city probably doesn't consider this likely, because *CBW* just went through the most public downsizing since Enron, and where would we get the bucks? We're just a toothless little tiger, right? Don't count on it.

We've ruled out immediate legal action, not for lack of resources, but because we think the city is fielding more than enough lawsuits at the minute. After all, we're taxpayers, too. It is our hope, with a bit of gentle joshing, the PPD and its attorney will see how dumb it is to defy the law and keep its records closed. In the face of an ongoing federal investigation for police brutality, one would think the public relations value of candor would be readily apparent.

Not so lonesome anymore

If not, perhaps a little prod from the Society of Professional Journalists will help. SPJ is well respected, the largest such organization in the world. It was chartered back in 1909 as Sigma Delta Chi, and is now in league with the Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Center. Its stated mission is to "improve and protect journalism." Freedom of information is the foundation on which SPJ is built. Without freedom of information, a democracy cannot survive.

Which is why the Maine Pro Chapter of SPJ is sponsoring a statewide police reporting workshop this spring.

"Journalists in Maine report significant problems in obtaining public information from police departments around the state," Irwin Gratz, president of the SPJ local chapter, wrote in a recent grant proposal to help fund the workshop. "This is the result of several factors, including a less-than-clear records law, the move to computerization, which creates novel legal situations, and a lack of understanding on the part of journalists about what they are entitled to under the Maine law."

As the result of Gratz's efforts, the organization has received funding to host a one-day training session. Gratz set two goals for the event: to provide better training for journalists on Maine law regarding police records, and to offer a forum for journalists, law enforcement officers and media-law professionals "to discuss ways to regularize the flow of information the public is entitled to." Police officers and media representatives will form panels to discuss current issues. There may be specific case histories to study. One of Maine's top media law firms, Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau and Pachios, has agreed to participate, and other firms who specialize in this field are being contacted.

The SPJ planning committee is headed by Bonny Rodden, adviser to the *Free Press*, University of Southern Maine. For more information, contact her at 781-2505.

The workshop is tentatively scheduled for a Saturday in early May, time and place to be announced. Admission for non-SPJ members will be \$35; \$25 for members. And, for the record, downsized though *CBW* may be, we'd gladly sponsor a member of the PPD to attend.

Meanwhile, back at the PPD

In lieu of an actual police log, we'll again report where Portland's finest are responding and what they are responding to. This account was taken from a squished-up spreadsheet dated March 24-31, that does not adequately display some of the categories.

For starters, there was apparently another cruiser accident — the third that's been documented in four weeks. If, as we assume, these involve police cars instead of horny types looking for a date, being a Portland cop is a dangerous business, indeed. Or is it that Portland cops are lousy drivers?

Most alarming were 16 reports of THEFT/TERRORIZING, a category I hadn't noticed before. Looking back over old records, however, I see terrorizing theft is a fairly common occurrence here. There were 22 cases of it reported during the first week in March, 18 the week that followed, and 10 from March 17 to 23.

Casualties in Portland's war against drugs included four OVERDOSES, two DRUG POSSESSION and two DRUG SALE/MANUFACTURE — all at different addresses, which is unusual.

Only three unlucky souls were spotted DRINKING IN PUBLIC. But 36 INTOXICATED PERSON were also noted.

There were 22 FIGHT, compared to 12 last week. And there was another LARGE GROUP FIGHT, apparently a weekly Portland tradition.

Five ESCORTS appear on the report. There were 37 DOMESTIC DISPUTE and 12 DOMESTIC DISPUTE/. (We're still wondering what subtle difference is signified by the slash.) There were 13 cases of HARASSMENT and five cases of HARASSMENT/PHONE. Does phone harassment carry a lighter penalty?

Four MISSING PERSONS and four MISSING PERSONS J were reported. There were 58 PERSONS BOTHERING and six PERSONS REFUSING. Ten ASSIST CITIZEN were reported, 27 ASSIST FIRE DEPT, three ASSIST MEDCU and 15 ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES.

There were 157 cases of auto theft, up 47 from March 10-16. Earlier, the majority were "stolen" (possibly towed?) from Congress Street. That area didn't figure in many reports last week. Perhaps the gang is seeking greener pastures.

However, of 24 reported ASSAULT, seven were listed at 109 Middle St., which is the address of the Portland police headquarters. So this week's citizen's alert is focused on this area.

Longfellow Books
April EventsNEW VOICES: WRITERS
BECOMING AUTHORS

Special Event: POETS ON POETS

Friday, April 5th at 7:00 PM

Event held "across the hall" at BONOMOS Restaurant

In celebration of New Voices' year anniversary and in honor of National Poetry Month, local poets will read the works of those poets that inspire them. Local poet, Jay Davis, hosts.

WE WERE THERE, TOO! : YOUNG
PEOPLE IN U.S. HISTORY

by Phillip Hoose

Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 PM

Event held "across the hall" at BONOMOS Restaurant

Local, award-winning author will give a slide show presentation on the kids that stepped up to participate in and alter U.S. History.

WAYNFLETE SCHOOL WRITERS
PRESENT

Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 PM

Event held "across the hall" at BONOMOS Restaurant

Waynflete students will read their poetry, prose and essays. The evening will be hosted by local poet, Michael Macklin.

FAMILY PHILOSOPHY DAY

With Chris Phillips, author of SOCRATES CAFE

Saturday, April 13th at 4:00 PM

Event to be held at ARABICA Coffee, 16 Free Street

Kids and adults are invited to join the conversation on how to be an autonomous thinker on the important questions of the day.



THE BUGLIEST BUG

Illustrated by Scott Nash and written by Carol Diggory

Shields

Saturday, April 20th AT 4:00 PM

Peaks Island illustrator signs copies of his fabulous new picture book. Bring the kids - there will be both crafts and refreshments.

BURNING MARGUERITE

By Elizabeth Inness-Brown

Wednesday, April 24th at Noon

Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library

Vermont author reads her acclaimed first novel at The Brown Bag Lunch Series sponsored by Longfellow Books.

For more details about Longfellow Books' Events,
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Thank goodness people strolling down Congress Street, or anywhere else in Portland, will not have to fend off giant people-eating bugs. That's because Portland's Public Works Department plans to spray the city's sidewalks with a fine toxic pesticide called "Round Up." In fact, in recognition of this plan, the Portland Pesticide Watch and Toxics Action Center has awarded the department a "Toxic Ten" award. The award is presented to 10 sites where public health is threatened. So, Portland's sidewalks will be beautiful, but the citizens milling about will not be. Possible side effects include blurred vision, headaches, nausea and the always attractive skin rash. And that's just for starters. Mark reminders on your far-distant future calendars to check for lesions, reproductive disorders and cancer.

Drunks and other offensive drivers should look out when weaving or speeding in Portland. A new ordinance will allow police to impound the vehicles of habitual offenders for 30 days. The law is aimed at reducing drunk-driving accidents, but will also affect anyone caught driving after suspension for being a habitual offender. Also, anyone caught driving after suspension — who has an operating-after-suspension (OAS) conviction within the previous five years — will have their car impounded (you figure that one out). The new law, which takes effect in early May, applies to people regardless of where they reside, or who owns the vehicle. Unless, of course, the vehicle is owned by the Portland Police Department, in which case you'll just get a little scolding from Chitwood.

Sex-ed bill is a **dirty term for people** who wanted access to the legislation prior to its passage by the House, before reps took off for the weekend. The bill, aimed at family-life education, describes programming that "promotes responsible sexual behavior with an emphasis on abstinence." House leaders should have abstained from voting on the bill because no senators were present at the time, in violation of legislative rules. Meanwhile, an investigation has been called for to look into the way it's been handled. Concerned citizens have complained the bill has been kept under plain brown wrappers, interfering with their parental rights to know what the government plans to teach their children.

Unlike certain local weeklies, who have done some, shall we say, housekeeping in recent weeks, the on-air firings of **WJBC personalities** Meredith Manning and Jeff Parsons was an April Fool's joke. Did the listeners really believe the morning hosts were history? Did the stunt drive up ratings? Does anybody care? Is this just space filler? Yes, it is.

"News-o-rama" items are **salted, sanded and served straight up** by Theresa Flaherty, who claims it's snow job for a serious journalist to peruse reports, news articles and the flukes at the public works storage building for worthy bits.

news-o-rama

CITY

Color him Green

John Eder is ready to take his fights against landlords, polluters and corporations to Augusta

by TOM MAHONEY

John Eder is a politician and activist. At 33, the Portland resident is the co-chair of the Portland Green Independent Party, a representative for the Portland Tenants Union, a member of Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights (P.O.W.E.R.) and a co-founder of Portland Pesticide Watch. Eder, who epitomizes the term "busy man," spent the last week of March fighting for tenants' rights in Portland and combating uses of pesticides in the city's neighborhoods. On May 5, Eder will officially kick off his campaign for the District 31 House of Representatives seat.

CBW: Why are you involved in so many political organizations?

Eder: I am a concerned citizen and I've dedicated the past year or so to the environment and social-justice causes. David Bauer, who writes for the *Earth Island Journal*, had this call out to people: if everyone would dedicate two years of their life to the environment, that would make a big difference. [Ralph] Nader said something along the same lines. If you kick in a few hours of your time a week, you can make a change.

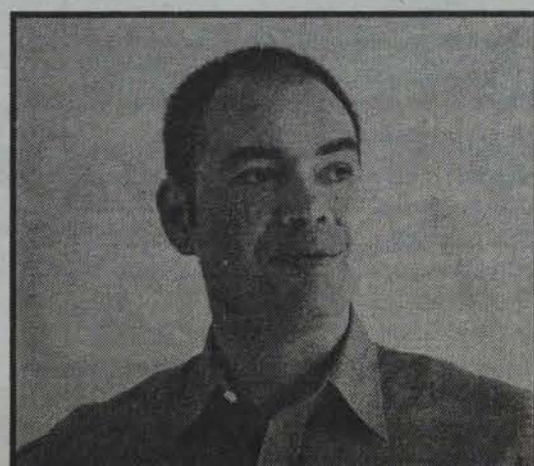
I go to a lot of events. In Portland, if you just show up [at political events], you are a politico.

CBW: What exactly is the Portland Tenants Union, and why does it matter that it exists?

Eder: There is no advocacy for tenants in Portland. Mark Adelson, the current housing director, recognizes this and so does [City Councilor] Jim Cloutier. There needs to be some sort of advocate within City Hall for tenants. Tenant laws in Maine are archaic. We were just commenting the other day that this is like feudalism. The term 'landlords' says a lot about the relationship.

I, myself, had some issues and called up Pine Tree Legal. Their attitude is to wait for the eviction notice. It's stressful, paying rent and bills. To have to let it go to that level is intimidating. The [problem with the] rental situation is rampant in Portland. People are scared and backed into a corner. The market is impossible. I don't think it will get better. I don't see, even with more housing, the prices going down. I can't see fair market value.

The Maine State Housing Authority has a fair-market rent guide, but there is no way of enforcing it. If you have a lease, you have a couple of rights, but most lawyers we've talked to say they are archaic.



Looking toward the future: John Eder PHOTO/TOM MAHONEY

CBW: With the City Council rejecting the rent freeze proposed by the PTU, what is the group's next step?

Eder: We really need to come up with a solution that shows some flexibility. It was a foolish thing to do, for us to ask them to set up a situation between us and the landlords. It was naive for us to think the City Council would do anything for us.

We haven't decided to take it to the referendum. That would mean a lot of work.

CBW: You just gave out a Toxic Ten award to Portland Public Works. What is that and why did you do it?

Eder: We were giving out a Toxic Ten award from the Toxic Action Center [an environmental watchdog group]. It awarded the Toxic Ten to 10 targets around the state, with poor policy or ineffective action by officials to correct a problem. Public works, our first target [for the Portland Pesticide Watch], got one for spraying glyphosate on city streets to kill weeds. It's linked to cancer and learning disabilities, along with difficulty breathing and eye irritation. It's brought to you by Monsanto, the people who brought you Agent Orange.

We commend the public works for responding. Based on concerns we raised, they are cutting down on the spray cycle by 50 percent, or so they say. They have decided to see what happens if the weeds go, and try manual suppression [methods], such as hand-picking or using weed cutters.

CBW: What issues will dominate the theme of your campaign?

Eder: I am running on the idea of affordable housing as a right, and a living-wage campaign, starting with state-contracted jobs. Maine has the highest multiple-job-holding rate in the

country. A lot of kids are growing up in day care.

Also, corporate accountability. Corporations should pay their fair share of taxes. Taxpayers paying for Wal-Mart to move into Lewiston is corporate welfare. Wal-Mart will put all the local businesses out of business. They are not paying taxes, and we call that economic development. We've spent \$200 million over the past few years on Wal-Mart, L.L. Bean, National Semiconductor and others. There are no strings attached — no environmental standards, no living-wage guarantee, no guarantee of jobs.

Single-payer health care is another issue — straight Medicaid for everybody. I know the term 'universal' is getting knocked around, but I don't know what one politician to the next means by that term. I know what single payer means, and I want nothing short of that.

I would like to see us move toward green industry and create new jobs [in industries like] biofuels, wind-power and solar research.

CBW: Do you feel younger people tend to be apathetic about activism?

Eder: They've filled out credit card forms, but not a voter registration card. Here are our bright young minds and they don't know civics. They go to college, but don't know how to register to vote. That's a crime.

People are motivated when they hear something that touches them. They are usually marketed toward the middle [of the political spectrum]. When they hear something they can get behind, they will register.

Some of the most intelligent people I know, who I consider activists, have convoluted arguments of why not to vote. I think some of it is embarrassment or ignorance of the process. A woman told me that she lied to her kids about voting. She didn't know how to register, but she wanted her kids to be political. We need to get those young kids.

CBW: How much optimism is needed to be involved with a smaller, younger political organization like the Green Party?

Eder: It's 90 percent optimism. There are plenty of reasons to be pessimistic in the world, but there are tons of reasons to be optimistic. People are inundated with cynicism everywhere they look. They think 'why bother?' But, in the past couple of years, I have seen so many examples of just a little effort having a big impact.

Tom Mahoney can be e-mailed at tmahoney@destabilizer.com.

LOCAL TV

Home shopping on hold

Bum antenna kills armchair consumerism

You could shop 'til you dropped (from your couch). Then it stopped.

After a successful, five-year run, the Home Shopping Network, Channel 34, disappeared from the Portland airwaves about two months ago. And if it wasn't for a faulty antenna, the station would still be pushing its wares on viewers, although illegally so.

According to the state Bureau of Corporations, part of the State Department, Carter Broadcasting Co. — a Massachusetts-based company that owns the low-power TV station — lost its legal right to do business in Maine about six months before it went off the air. The reason was failure to file an annual report in 2001, said Jeanne Mathews, who clerks for the bureau. State records show the company was warned last July and officially cut off on Aug. 20, but continued to broadcast anyway.

Antenna trouble, said Ken Carberry, who, with his family owns the station, was what actually caused the station to close shop. "I think it was weather-related, as is often the case in Maine," he said.

Carberry said he was not aware that Carter Broadcasting had lost its right to do business in Portland.

The station will go back on the air as Channel 15, transmitting from higher ground, said Carberry, who also works under the name of Carter. "We're at the same time changing transmitters and towers. It will be a 30 to 40 percent greater reach than it was," he said. "Not the whole state of Maine or anything. It will still be the Greater Portland area."

According to the Department of Corporations, Carter Broadcasting will need to requalify in Maine in order to resume business here. Carberry is optimistic that both repair problems and those involved with corporate paperwork will be solved, so that the station will be back on the air in a month or two. Despite the change in channel numbers, it will still exclusively carry the Home Shopping Network.

LAEL MORGAN

HOMELESS TEENS

Not near me, please

Plans to move Preble Street's teen center irk neighbors

It's the old "not in my back yard" chorus, but this time we're talking about homeless, forgotten kids.

At the end of last year, the Preble Street Resource Center purchased the Casco Bay Box Co. building at 343 Cumberland Ave. The primary purpose was to relocate its teen drop-in center, which has been "temporarily" housed at the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church for five years.

Some folks who work and live by the box

company building aren't too thrilled. During a private meeting at Back Bay Towers on March 28, representatives from Preble Street, the city of Portland and Back Bay — which is 2 1/2 blocks from the box company building — "asked lots of questions" about having the homeless teen center move to the new location, according to an attendee who asked not to be identified.

"We already have the soup kitchen across the street from us," said Anthony Napolitano, during a phone interview. He owns Maria's Ristorante, two doors away from the box company building. "It seems sad they have to dump everything in this section of town. Why not put them [homeless teens] in the Old Port?"

Napolitano said he's concerned his elderly diners will be "scared" away by the presence of teens. "I don't want to sound like a bad guy in the newspaper, but who wants them hanging around next to the restaurant?"

Calls to Back Bay Tower were not returned by CBW's deadline.

The Preble Street Teen Collaborative was only supposed to be located in the Chestnut Street church for a short time. Five years later, it has long outgrown its space.

"We're victims of our own success," said Joseph Carpenito, a Day One substance abuse counselor, who works at the homeless teen center. In response to opposition about relocating the program to the box company building, he said, "That's pretty sad, don't you think? We get kids as young as 15, 16 years old. What are we supposed to do with these kids?"

Napolitano isn't moved. Across the street from Maria's is a soup kitchen. "Police are constantly down there. The music blasting away. I don't know if it's affected business, but it doesn't look good," he said.

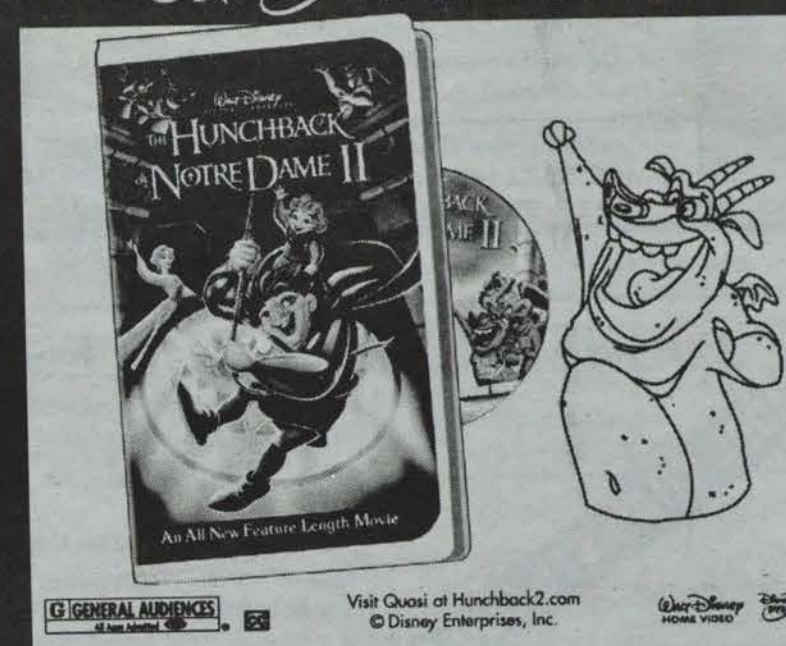
John Bradley, assistant director of the Preble Street center, said his agency has been looking for a permanent home for the teen program ever since his agency took over the project and placed it in the church five years ago. He said it's tough finding a large, affordable space downtown. Bradley said Preble Street purchased the box building for \$600,000. Renovations will be "very expensive, in the millions," he said, but didn't have an exact figure.

In addition to the teen center, some administrative offices at the Preble Street center will move into the new building, as well as the city-run Health Care for the Homeless clinic. Nate Nickerson, director of the city's Health and Human Services Public Health division, said more space is sorely needed. Roughly 1,600 people use the clinic each year, with a total of 10,000 visits.

In response to the negative feedback coming from neighbors, Nickerson said, "We're putting a lot of thought into how to manage the [box company] building and the flow, and to separate the teens from the adults." He said ways to minimize street activity are also being looked into.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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CITY

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Unhappy neighbors will have a chance to publicly speak out against the project. City projects that are 5,000 square feet or larger have to go through a major site plan review, public hearings and planning board review and approval. The box company building is 22,000 square feet.

The bottom line, say advocates like Carpenito, is the welfare of disadvantaged children in the community. "The kids we serve are our kids," Carpenito said. "We have homeless and impoverished and abused kids and it's sad. In a perfect world, there'd be no homeless or abused kids."

But it's far from a perfect world. Just ask Napolitano.

SHARON BASS

ISLAND DISPUTE

A fence for his neighbors Out-of-towner makes waves on Peaks

First, Charles Hitt put up "No Trespassing" signs to keep his neighbors off his piece of a beach.

But the signs were torn down.

So he erected a 50-foot-long, 4-foot-high fence last fall with a gate to guard entry to his little beach, which is directly across from his six-room cottage at 55 Oak Lawn Road, on Peaks Island.

Last month, the gate was ripped off its hinges.

Seems some folks aren't too happy with Hitt, who lives in Atlanta, Ga., and summers on Peaks. He bought the Oak Lawn Road house two years ago.

"When I see that man [Hitt] who owns the house, I'm going to give him my opinion," said Judith Peltier, who lives in New York and owns a summer house on Brooklet Place, right off Oak Lawn. "I think it's very unfair. He appears to be one of those very arrogant out-of-staters."

Arrogant or not, Hitt legally has the right to block people from walking through his property to get to the beach. According to the city Assessor's Office, Hitt's property extends to the beach line.

Still, many year-round and summer residents agree with Peltier that it's unfair they can no longer walk the route to the beach they have for years and years.

"We've been understood that there's access to the beach there," said Terry Zipper, who lives on Island Avenue, off Oak Lawn. "This is unacceptable. It's our only [close] access to the beach."

Zipper said the alternate route to the small beach is roughly a 10-minute walk. On either side of Hitt's fence is aggressive, overgrown brush, making it virtually impossible to pass. When told the land is Hitt's to do as

he pleases with, Zipper said, "I think we still have the right to walk through that gate and down the steps." Last fall, Hitt installed concrete steps, which lead from the street down an incline to the beach.

Tom Fortier, island/neighborhood administrator for the city of Portland, said, "He may legally have a right to put up that fence, [but] apparently [the previous owner of 55 Oak Lawn] didn't mind islanders walking through the property to get to the beach."

While Fortier didn't say what, if anything, the city could do about the fence situation, he said, "We continually are making decisions about the use and development on our island communities, and maintaining public access is certainly a priority."

Hitt is firm in his decision to shut his neighbors out. "It's not a public beach, it's not a public thoroughfare," he said during a phone interview from his Atlanta home.

"If people want to walk up and down the beach, I don't care," said Hitt. But they're not going to get there through his property. He said he's concerned someone will get hurt walking down his steps to the beach, and he'll be held liable. Hitt also said he is tired of beach-goers parking in his driveway and nearby.



Neighborhood sentiment. PHOTO / SHARON BASS

"What's happened is a lot of people who rent houses in the summer think it's a public right of way," he said.

Not everyone thinks that way. Some islanders, notably ones with their own private entrances to the beach, are on Hitt's side.

"I feel if people own their property and they're not breaking the law, they can do what they want," said Peggie Peretti, who lives on Oshua Path, a two-house road off Oak Lawn. Peretti has her own beach entrance.

One summer islander, who asked not to be identified, said there's a lot of "riffraff" by Hitt's house in the summer, so she feels the fence is a good idea.

But others see the beach scene there quite differently.

"It's a very quiet beach. I don't know why he put up the fence," said Peltier. "It's very hard to understand when you see kids happily playing in the sand. I don't understand why he wants to take that away from them."

SHARON BASS

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Heavenly designs?

Lofty plans for St. Dom's survival challenge Portland's Irish community

■ THERESA FLAHERTY



In the nearly four years since St. Dominic's Church closed, the stately Gothic buildings have sat, silent and mostly empty, but not forgotten. Former parishioners met occasionally, discussing ideas for saving their beloved buildings. Slowly, momentum began to build. The seeds of an idea took root.

It's a grandiose dream, full of hope and vision. It embraces the past as it looks to the future. Its backers promise affordable housing and a complex facility, a cultural heritage center that is part museum, part theater, part office and rental space.

It would be a wonderful asset to Portland. But can it work?

Can the excitement rippling through Portland's Irish-American community see this hugely complex project through to completion and beyond, to a self-sustaining enterprise? The heritage center needs money, lots of it, to succeed. It also needs parking.

"God's guiding us through this, it's the way it's supposed to be," said Maureen Coyne Norris, the president of the Irish Heritage Center board and a former parishioner of St. Dom's. "I'm just overjoyed to be able to return that building to its essence."

As plans for the center took shape, enthusiasm for the project snowballed. A \$13,000 feasibility study was commissioned to look into the financial and architectural aspects of the proposal, and to gauge community support.

"We raised \$15,000 in a little over a week," said Norris. "We received \$5,000 in the form of a loan from the Irish-American Club. The rest is basically from our members, our extended family." The IAC is a 29-year-old Portland group.

Linda Hogan joined their family in December as a consultant to do the community survey portion of the study. In March, after completing this work, she became the project director.

It's an ambitious project, part community center, part community preservation. Backers envision an environment where people will hold weddings and funerals; attend classes and live performances; perform research and discover their shared history.

Included in the plans are a memorial library, a genealogy center, a museum and a gift shop, aimed at drawing Maine's scattered Irish-American community. The lower level of the building would provide office, meeting and event space. And the sanctuary, with its seating for 300, will set the stage for a variety of multicultural events.

The church and school buildings were completed in 1893, although the parish dates to 1833. At its height, in the mid-1960s, the parish was home to as many as 1,400 families, many of them descendants of the working-class Irish immigrants who built the church. As these families prospered, they began leaving the inner city for the suburbs, often setting up new churches in those communities. Eventually, only a couple of hundred St. Dom's parishioners remained, many of them elderly, neighborhood residents who walked to services.

In 1996, faced with dwindling numbers and \$1 million in capital improvements to the aging buildings, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland announced plans to close St. Dom's. Two years later, in May 1998, the final Mass was held at the church.

"We never dreamed it would happen," said Mary T. Conroy, 70, whose parents were wed in the church and who, with her two sisters, was baptized there. "We couldn't believe it."

Pulling together a plan

Turning St. Dom's into a cultural center was proposed when the diocese still owned the property, but the feasibility of such a plan was questioned. Perceptions began to change in January 2001, when the city of Portland purchased the property from the diocese for \$50,000. A public meeting was held in March 2001, to gather suggestions on possible uses for the property. It became clear that affordable housing and the preservation of the church building for community use were priorities.

The People's Regional Opportunity Program, in conjunction with the Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council, submitted a plan that requested \$200,000 in housing funds from the city to develop affordable housing in the former girls school. PROP would use the money to buy the property from the city and develop it.

Meanwhile, members of the former Friends of St. Dom's were still meeting to discuss how to save the church building. In August, a group of St. Dom's supporters, along with members of the IAC, approached PROP/Portland West with the idea of establishing a cultural heritage center. Thus, the Irish Heritage Center was born and a board appointed.

PROP/Portland West joined forces with the IHC board to present their dual proposal to the city in October, just under the wire, for a final review. PROP/Portland West would become co-owners of the girls school, while the cathedral would become the home of the new Irish Heritage Center for the bargain rate of a buck.

With the introduction of PROP into the equation, saving the building became possible.

Another proposal, submitted by Barba Associates of Portland, would have turned the girls school into six luxury apartments and the church into commercial office space.

"We liked their money," Nancy Merrow said bluntly. Merrow, who lives on Gray Street, served on the six-member neighborhood review committee at the city's request. The committee was one of three that studied both proposals. "It was no nonprofit that might have to spend years trying to raise the money. And, we liked the fact that they were going to do both buildings. They were going to take the girls school profits and use them to develop the church."

But luxury housing simply didn't fit in with the city's mission to develop affordable housing.

The development of affordable housing is a key goal of the city, which the PROP/IHC proposal satisfied, said Betsy Sawyer-Manter, PROP's director of community initiatives. Also attractive was the chance for the church building to remain in the hands of the community.

"Had the city opted to go with a private developer, there would be no opportunity to voice these concerns," said Grant Lee, PROP's executive director. "What if [the Barba proposal] hadn't worked? They could tear it down. The potential for community involvement is [now] there."

Merrow is not impressed.

"The building was never accessible to me," she said. "I personally don't feel a need to have public access. I'm not sure many in the neighborhood do. That's why the diocese pulled out. The parishioners were gone."

Every facet of the proposed Irish Heritage Center plan draws upon its Irish ties. The memorial library will honor the founders and parishioners of St. Dom's. The Irish love of history will be satiated through an anticipated collection that will pull together books, photographs, film, music and oral histories from across the state.

"People are coming up to me and offering class pictures and school memorabilia," said IHC board member Jim Walsh, whose photograph as a boy accompanied a recent *Press Herald* article on St. Dom's. "They saw the picture in the paper. They want to memorialize their parents." It's obvious former parishioners still feel a strong connection to their church. In October, about 60 attended a reunion supper there, with plans to hold more.

"There's a lot of hurt and pain," said Walsh, who also founded the former Friends of St. Dom's. "When you lose a church, it's like losing a relative or a friend. Some had it in their minds to be buried there."

A state-of-the-art genealogy center would allow visitors to research family histories and cross-reference ties with other Irish families.

"People are coming home," said Walsh, whose own parents emigrated from Ireland and were married at St. Dom's. "They want to spend more time with family and learn where they came from. Genealogy is huge."

Members of the Irish community with a passion for genealogy would be called upon to volunteer their time and expertise.

The desire of Portland's Irish community to return to roots is reflected in the increasing membership at the IAC. Forty-seven of its 500 members have joined in the last few months as a direct result of the impending proposal.

The organization, which has pledged full support to the plan, would at last have a home of its own. Since its inception, the club has rented or borrowed space in a variety of locations, including the Italian Heritage Center on Westland Avenue in Portland.

The proposed Irish Heritage Center plans to offer Irish language classes, dance, music and literature classes and meetings. Additionally, the IHC board has received requests from several businesses and nonprofits interested in the possibility of renting office space.

An expensive proposition

But housing and cultural enrichment don't come cheap. The conversion of the girls school into affordable housing would cost roughly \$2.5 million, funded with historic and low-income housing tax credits, and federal housing grants. The apartments would cost \$200,000 apiece to renovate.

"Yes, it's expensive," allowed Lee, who, as PROP's director, has dealt with such challenges before. "Start with the historical preservation. It's more expensive than building from scratch. But a goal of the city is adaptive reuse." Included in the budget is a \$90,000 grant for lead removal. The building would also need to be brought into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

From Lee's perspective, remaking the school into affordable housing is in keeping with the city's goals of adaptive reuse. But from his Gray Street home, property owner Patrick Costin has a different view.

"For me as a taxpayer, it doesn't seem to be a sensible location," said Costin. "The city could invest better elsewhere." A more practical solution, he said, is to develop scattered-site housing on undeveloped land.

The need for affordable housing assures the financial success of the project. Once completed, the girls school property would generate approximately \$88,000 in yearly income,

which would cover projected operating expenses of \$71,000. And, the school building would contribute to the city tax base for the first time in its history — about \$19,000 annually.

Financing for the heritage center is dicier. Much of the funding is unsecured. The bulk of the \$1.8 million required to fully renovate the vacant church building is expected to be achieved through fund-raising. To date, the board has raised \$75,000, \$50,000 of it in the form of an interest-free loan from the IAC.

Projected annual operating costs for the heritage center are \$103,838, which include a salary for a part-time administrative person for the first year, marketing and administrative costs and insurance and maintenance on the 19th-century building. In 1998, the church and school buildings together required 15,000 gallons of heating oil. Because the two buildings would be separately owned, such expenses would no longer be shared.

Annual income of \$121,760 is anticipated, most of that from events and fund-raising, and about \$35,000 from commercial leasing. The foundation has applied for nonprofit status, which will allow it to qualify for historic preservation tax credits and grants, as well as federal and local grants. Until the proposal is approved, however, these sources, and the planned capital campaign, remain on hold.

But is it feasible?

The future success of the heritage center depends on its ability to sustain itself. While the prospects for the girls school look rosy, many pieces of the heritage center's plans — initial start-up costs, money-making prospects and long-term community support — remain up in the air.

"Is it commercially viable?" asked Barbara Hathaway, owner of The Danforth, a bed-and-breakfast that abuts the church property. Hathaway had previously joined forces to save St. Dom's, and would like to see the new plans succeed. "Can it save the building? Many of the developers who looked at these projects had a lot of problems with it. It's in very bad shape."

Of particular concern is the separation of the church from the girls school, a move some feel would leave the church financially vulnerable.

"It's very important that the two buildings stay together," said Nancy Merrow, who served on the neighborhood review committee that studied both proposals. "The girls school has the greatest money possibility. With the severing of the two buildings, if it doesn't work, it's orphaned."

"Oh, it will work," countered Norris. "We'll make it work. There's no doubt in my mind." Her attitude is shared by everyone involved in the project, who has tackled each issue raised by the community and the city housing committee.

The symbiotic relationship between PROP/IHC proposal backers and members of the housing committee has raised a few eyebrows.

"The proposal has been struggling with [the issues]," said Costin. "They got two responses, and the stewards of the housing committee allowed PROP to go forward, and reinvent itself on a monthly basis to address [problems]."

In fact, both Barba Associates and the PROP/IHC partnership wanted a decision made before investing any more money in the process.

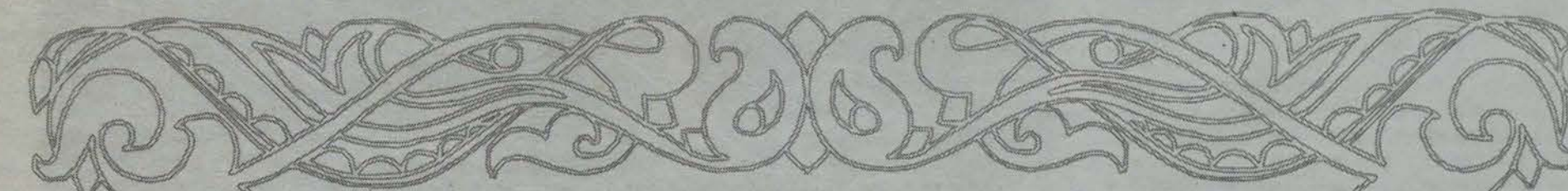
"I think the city recognized how expensive it is to do these estimates," said Betsy Sawyer-Manter, PROP's director of community initiatives. "It was better [to go forward] than to say 'Give us full-blown proposals.'" She estimates that PROP/IHC has spent \$80,000 so far on the proposal process.

City Councilor Jim Cloutier, who serves on the housing committee, agreed. "Both sides felt they wanted a decision made before they spent more on the project." Both sides also did at least two rounds of the proposal process, he said. Cloutier's role on the housing committee has raised questions of a conflict of interest.

"I think the sponsor of the process has a political agenda to promote affordable housing. Karen Geraghty was head of the housing committee at the time," said Costin. "Jim



PHOTOGRAPHY/COLIN MALAKIE



"Is it commercially viable?" asked Barbara Hathaway, owner of The Danforth, a bed-and-breakfast that abuts the church property. "Can it save the building? Many of the developers who looked at these projects had a lot of problems with it. It's in very bad shape."

Portland's green life

2002 could aptly be called "the year of the Irish" in Portland. There is a renewal of ethnic pride, a push toward promoting Irish culture and heritage, more so this year than in decades.

A book on the history of the Irish in Maine, "The Western Cemetery Project: 1997-2001," was published last month by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. At least three other local authors are working on projects featuring Portland's Irish community.

A new Irish pub, Bull Feeney's, named for the famous Portland High football player who later became Hollywood movie director John Ford, just opened in an old Irish neighborhood on Fore Street. The local Irish-American Club and the Foundation for the Preservation of St. Dominic's formed an Irish Heritage Center board for the preservation of the St. Dominic's Church property.

Portland's St. Patrick's Day Parade this year was the biggest in a long time, according to James Avjian, a member of the AOH, who is half-Irish and half-Armenian. He and 200-300 others marched in a procession that commenced on Brackett Street, weaved off on an unusual detour past St. Dom's, and eventually ended up at a park near the Casco Bay Bridge.

It was a good turnout, as was the annual Mass at St. Patrick's Church beforehand, Avjian reported. He and his wife, Peggy, who celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary on March 17, placed green carnations at the memorial stone in Western Cemetery that honors some 900 Irish Catholics buried there and those lost in "An Gorta Mor," the Great Hunger, Irish Famine.

Local musician Joe Markley sang a song he wrote in honor of St. Dominic's Church.

Ever since 1663, when Lt. Thaddeus (Teague) Clark wed Elizabeth Milton in this area, Irish men and women have been contributing to Portland's heritage. Our police chief, Michael J. Chitwood, is of Irish descent, as is Mayor Karen Geraghty. Councilors Jack Dawson and Peter O'Donnell and newly elected state Sen. Michael Brennan all claim the green. Deputy Police Chief William Ridge is from an old Galway Irish family. So were the parents of former Gov. Joe Brennan, a resident of Munjoy Hill. Former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, who once practiced law in Portland, is of Irish and Lebanese descent. William David Barry, voted by *Casco Bay Weekly* readers as best local writer, is the grandson of Irish immigrants. Local TV newscasters Doug Rafferty, Pat Callaghan, John Doherty and Bill Green are all Irish.

There are four Irish pubs in Portland, as well as more than a dozen businesses owned and operated by Irish-Americans. With close to 30 percent of Portland's population of Irish ancestry, it is no wonder the city abounds with Irish place names. These include O'Brien Street, named after a long-gone politician; Cassidy Hill, named after a 19th-century Irish immigrant; and the Barron Center, which honors former Mayor Matthew I. Barron. Fitzpatrick Stadium was named after the local, late football legend, Coach Jimmy Fitzpatrick. Clark Street is for Thaddeus Clark, who was actually from the Irish Teagues.

Names of the first settlers included Shea, Mahoney, Cannon, Buggy and Driscoll. Bishop Jean Cheverus of Boston said the first Catholic Mass in Portland at the home of Nicholas and Barbara Connolly Shea in 1822. Soon after, St. Dominic's Parish was formed, and the first St. Dom's church was dedicated in 1833. At the time, the Irish community numbered just a few hundred, but during the Great Hunger of the 1840s, thousands of Irish immigrated to Portland.

By the 1850s, St. Dominic's Parish had 4,000 communicants, and the numbers continued to grow. In 1874, thousands marched in Portland's St. Patrick Day parade, which included four Irish groups, two marching bands and a whole police platoon. Rumor has it that when non-Irish residents protested the building of the second St. Dom's church in 1890, Portland's Irish guarded the foundations in shifts with baseball bats.

Then, Portland's Irish heyday came to an end with the advent of World War II.

From the 1940s to the mid-1970s, Irish parades were few

and decidedly smaller, as Portland's formerly close-knit Irish community dispersed, often to the suburbs in a move toward upward mobility. Of dozens of early Irish organizations, only two survived: the fraternal Ancient Order of Hibernians, with an all-male, Catholic membership; and the Irish-American Club, which anyone can join.

In the last few years, however, both have become increasingly active. The Hibernians just completed an ambitious project, which included the building of a monument at Western Cemetery and a book to document it all.

The Irish-American Club sponsors Irish language classes, céilís (dance get-togethers), musicians and a popular annual picnic.

Local Irish-American genealogists and researchers, like Kathy Bolduc Amoroso, Rich Clonan, Walter Feeney and David Soule, report increasing interest by those tracing their Irish heritage here — so much so, there is talk of setting up a special database to help with the search.

Also a special-ed teacher at South Portland High School, Soule now hosts an Irish history roundtable at his home several times a year. He attends Irish language classes with Feeney, who is already fluent in Gaelic.

"There should be a lot more (Irish activity), but it is definitely turning around," Feeney said.

Simone Ryle, who moved to Portland six months ago from County Limerick, Ireland, said she was quite impressed with the holiday turnout at RIRá, the Irish pub on Commercial Street, where she works. "We had three Irish bands and business was phenomenal," she said. Although Ryle had no prior connection to Portland's Irish community, she appreciates the many Irish-Americans she's met here who like to talk about their connections to the old country.

The spirit of Portland's Irish community is perhaps best summed up by Paul O'Neil, who noticed when he moved here from Boston in the 1980s there were no Irish radio programs. With the assistance of the AOH, he started one at WMPG (5-7 p.m. each Sunday) that is still a must-listen for those who are fond of Irish music and culture.

"I try to make every day a little like St. Patrick's Day," O'Neil said. And it's going to be at least a year-long party if Portland's Irish preservationists have their way.

MATTHEW JUDE BARKER

Matthew Jude Barker is an Irish-American genealogist and historian who works as a researcher for the Maine Historical Society. His computer sports a Kelly green Irish screen saver that matches a good percentage of his wardrobe.



Cloutier is the campaign finance director of Ethan Strimling's campaign (for Senate). Strimling is the director of Portland West, the group that will become part-owner of the girls school and earn a management fee of 7 percent of the building's gross profits. Portland West will also split a \$311,000 development fee with PROP, all without investing a dime.

"The attempt to try to personalize this is not legitimate," Cloutier countered. "I don't work for Ethan Strimling. It's an honorary position."

That's of little comfort to Merrow, who felt the proposal was a "done deal." The six-member neighborhood committee, as well as an internal staff review composed of members of the city's legal, housing and community planning and development departments, unanimously favored the luxury housing proposal submitted by Barba Associates.

"We were dumbfounded when the housing committee asked Portland West to submit a full proposal," said Merrow. "By the time the decision was made, the proposal had completely changed. They had a new partner (IHC). We never got to review the proposal in its present state. The process that was followed was really flawed. They dragged all those people in for nothing," she said. "Why did they waste their time? Why didn't they listen to their professionals?"

"What happened was, the community committee discussed the strengths and weaknesses [of the proposals]," said Mark Adelson, director of housing and neighborhood services for the city. "Affordable housing was not in the Barba proposal. The housing committee reviewed the changes and said [PROP's plan] seems to address those weaknesses. They also saw it as fitting the neighborhood."

Cloutier said the neighborhood committee's advice was taken into consideration.

"The proposals were changed in large part based on problems we saw, and they saw," said Cloutier. "The whole process has been a public process."

And, in a March 18, 2002, letter to Nathan Smith, current chair of the housing committee (who recused himself from the review process), three members of the neighborhood review committee refute the notion that they felt ignored in the review process.

"There was no concrete approval," said neighborhood committee member Martin Quinlan, a resident of Gray

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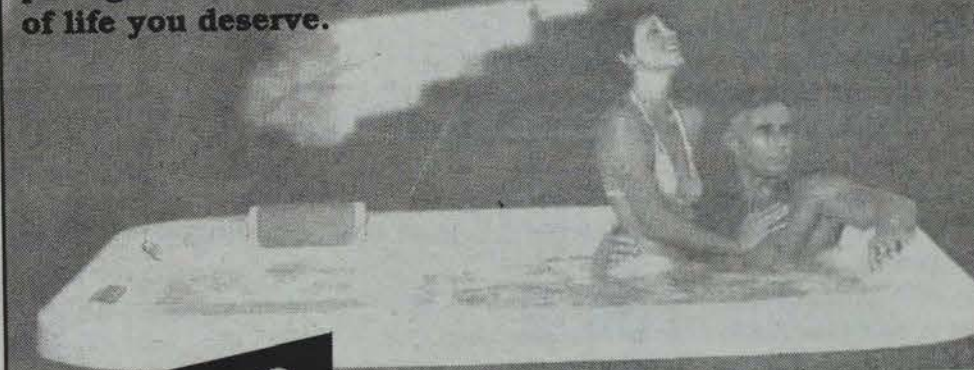
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"Is there a bias?" asked [Linda] Hogan, addressing concerns the center might fail. "It's always interesting. Restaurants fail at a rate of 60 percent, but if you are a nonprofit, everyone has concerns. Why is there always some reserve?"

Street. "We made suggestions of revisions that needed to be done and recommended it to the housing committee for them and the city council to make the final decision," Quinlan likes the current proposal.

"It really takes into consideration what this part of the city is about. It could not be more fitting."

Parking from hell

A major issue that affects both the viability of the proposed heritage center as a public venue and the livability of the surrounding neighborhood is the lack of parking. The 18 existing spaces would become the property of PROP and Portland West to meet the city's parking requirement of 1.5 spaces per apartment. That leaves the Irish Heritage Center with no on-site parking for proposed events, some of which are projected to draw up to 300 visitors.

The IHC board has entered into an agreement with PROP to use five or six spaces during daytime hours, when many tenants would be at work — enough for planned daytime use of the building. Larger events, such as weddings or performances, would be planned for nights or weekends. Catholic Charities Maine has promised the board 35 spaces at its former boys school next door. And Reiche School has offered another 40. Such arrangements will ease the crunch, but a full-scale event for 300 would still leave attendees and neighborhood residents vying for parking.

"Parking is a competitive sport in our neighborhood," said Costin, who questions how secure these promised spots are. "It's not guaranteed. They'd be parking at the whim of Catholic Charities."

"The street is unbearable now," complained Nancy Merrow, whose property is one of a few that does have off-site parking.

But will Portlanders — especially the elderly — be willing to walk a few blocks on frigid winter evenings to attend an event? Reiche School is three blocks away on Brackett Street.

Merrow doesn't think so. "I don't believe people are going to go out for an evening of fun and walk a couple of blocks," she said. "It's not fun."

Adding to the parking crunch in the densely populated neighborhood is 100 State Street, a residence for senior and disabled residents, which has no visitor park-

ing space for its 169 units. Throw in about 1,700 Mercy Hospital employees cruising the streets for a spot and it's obvious the area is at critical mass.

Off-site parking, while not common in the Portland area, has been tried with mixed, mostly unsuccessful results. The University of Southern Maine has a satellite lot on Marginal Way, where students can park and hop a campus shuttle bus every 15 minutes. In the 10 years the school has operated the free service, ridership has increased to 75 to 85 riders per day. That's out of about 11,000 students.

"I believe it's a line-of-sight thing," explained Dewey Ferguson of USM's parking and transportation department. "People think, 'If I can see it, I'm in the right place.'" A more successful endeavor is the now-defunct Zip bus, which the Greater Portland Transit District operated under a three-year federal grant.

According to general manager Peter Heffler, ridership peaked in the second year and then dropped off.

"We hit our projected numbers," he said, "but then parking opened up in Portland and people went right back to their cars."

If you book it, will they come?

Portland lacks neither community centers nor performance venues. There are neighborhood community centers including one at Reiche, the Center for Cultural Exchange, State Street Church, the State Theatre, the Cumberland County Civic Center, Merrill Auditorium and various smaller theaters and performance venues. Of course, not all of these will compete with the proposed center.

The closest comparison would seem to be the former St. Lawrence Church, now the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, on Munjoy Hill.

Hogan, who served on that entity's board for five years, insists the two are not alike.

"St. Lawrence is a performing arts center. We're opening a heritage center, the only one of its kind in Maine. One of the only ones in New England," she said. "Its history is unique and special. We're trying to establish a center that will include that."

A more accurate comparison might be the Center for Cultural Exchange, which hosts about 200 events a year, similar to the number the IHC anticipates. These include performances at schools, workshops and multiple performances of an event. The center itself has a capacity of about 200, depending upon the needs of performers. Rosemary Ciciliano, CCE's director of marketing and public relations, said most performances are well attended thanks to all-out publicity campaigns. Because it is a small venue, it is able to fill a niche, hosting acts that a larger venue, such as the State Theatre, could not profitably book.

No easy answers

The IHC board insists it has done its homework. Members have surveyed the community, tapped potential funding sources and done comparative analyses. The seven-member board comprises active members of the Irish-American community. Board president Norris is a preservationist with extensive business experience.

And in Linda Hogan, the board has retained a project director with extensive nonprofit and fund-raising experience.

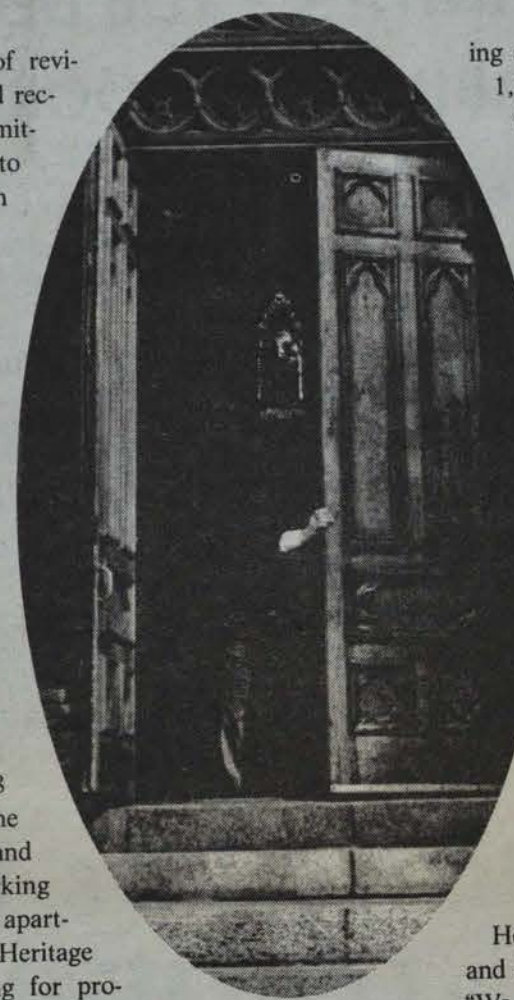
"Is there a bias?" asked Hogan, addressing concerns the center might fail. "It's always interesting. Restaurants fail at a rate of 60 percent, but if you are a nonprofit, everyone has concerns. Why is there always some reserve?"

For neighboring residents, living in the shadow of St. Dom's, concern lingers.

"We applaud what they're trying to do," said Nancy Merrow. "It's just not the right area. It's a lose-lose situation. If they succeed, this neighborhood is going to be unbearable to live in. If they don't, we're going to lose the church."

"You can't please everyone," said Jim Walsh. "It should be happiness, laughter and merriment. It will follow something that's sad, but life will go on."

Theresa Flaherty can be reached at theresaflaherty@earthlink.net.



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COMMENT

SO noted
Grieving New Yorker
looks north

KAREN MICHEL

I want to look out the window and see no other houses, nobody's junk. I want to see trees. It's time to reorient and reintegrate. That's what 9/11 did to me.

On the morning of 9/11, my husband and I had overslept. I woke to the sound of the impact, knowing only that it was louder, different from the other similarly startling and percussive city sounds that I knew: that of a manhole cover blowing several stories into the air, landing with a terrifying thud. As always, we had the radio on the local public station; the reporter saying only that he didn't know what had happened, followed by an eyewitness account of an airplane, followed by wonder, more reports and, by then the second strike. By now, we were all awake, all sonically attuned.

My husband dressed, ran up to the roof. The dog and I both cowered in bed, all reprioritizing instincts suppressed by the surety that this was the end of the world. The sky truly went black, bits of bits floated into our back yard. The morning began gloriously sunny. It was only knowing that it was really the end of the world — or why else would the sky go black? That prompted me to get dressed. I didn't want to be naked when the world ceased to be.

It's now more than six months later. In that time, I've done stories for public radio on the memorials to the dead and to the buildings, celebrated artists who've responded to the tragedy, and felt a sadness rivaled only by that of my mother's passing several years ago. Mourning takes time to be sure; it also releases thoughts that only sorrow can touch.

I'd thought I would never want to leave New York, wanted to stay for possibly ever in this apartment in Brooklyn, to reclaim my origins (I was born in Manhattan) and live in a place full of talkative, contentious and surprisingly courteous folk, and besieged by a glut of good or at least curiously interesting culture.

I continue to take pleasure in the view of tall buildings and of the rhythm my clothes make drying on the line stretched across my scrappy patch of back yard. There's a birdbath and fountain that my husband, Bob, built. I'm thankful for the shimmy of feathers fluttering around the perimeter; for every blue jay or mocking bird that insinuates itself into this urban anti-sprawl. My neighborhood is lousy with good restaurants, smoky bars, self-conscious hipness. It's the new Village. It is a bastion of Dominican and Sicilian social clubs closed to all but those who truly belonged.

Portland, Maine?

But I continue to feel sadness, to bear witness to the site of the September tragedy, to feel overwhelmed by the pit that lies below the skyline and in my heart. I know now that I can go.

My husband has wanted to move for some years. A Canadian, even after a dozen years in Brooklyn, he's still on a sort of time delay. He gets furious at drivers, riled at nearly everything, wants to go where the livin' is easy. Whatever else the life is here, easy it's not. Quiet? Unhuh. Slow? Fergedaboutit!

So, we've started looking. First, we both said what we wanted, what kind of life for ourselves and for our fine

Akita-Shepherd pooch, Mingus. We wanted a space where he could run, where there was enough land that he could have a canine companion. Where we could garden without competition for the space with an animal's needs to explore.

That means away from a city. We wanted space indoors, for a shop for my custom-furniture-maker spouse, and for me a sound studio. And the time for parties and friends and life to stretch out. We wanted peace and beauty, and winters, that if brutal, weren't so for long, and were mitigated by nearby ocean. Proximity to water was important. We've got a power boat to consider, and that boat is my husband's second wife. Or maybe first. My paramour is the city, and the cultural vitality cities provide. I needed to be close enough to a city to allow this vampire to live.

And this brought us to Portland, Maine. We'd been there before. There's a good friend and an old friend, and there's the lobster to consider. As nonmeat-eaters, that wonderful lobster is a powerful draw. During our last visit, the crustaceans tasted better than ever. Taking a ferry to dinner seemed terrifically adventurous. Our dog was especially ecstatic running on the beach. So we thought maybe Portland's where we'd like to live.

My fears: lack of work, abundance of boredom, feelings of isolation and even alienation. At heart, and at vocal chord, I'm a New Yorker. Black truly is my favorite color. I don't know that I even remember how to walk on snowshoes or shovel snow or haul and cut firewood. I don't know that I can do without too many choices of art exhibitions and jazz clubs and quirky performances and would-be cutting-edge restaurants to choose from. I don't know. Even as Portland — like my Brooklyn neighborhood — evolves, I don't know.

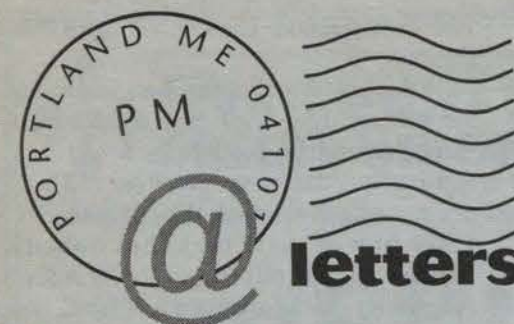
But for my sanity and my husband's and our dog's, there's a need to find out. It could well be that Portland is the testing ground and the ground zero to heal the deep sadness in this New Yorker's soul. The air is clear, the sky visible, the memories hundreds of miles away.

Karen Michel is a free-lance cultural correspondent for National Public Radio and itinerant teacher of radio journalism in Brooklyn, NY. In late March, she won a Peabody Award for a series she produced on DNA.

We've moved, but not far
Just head for our old back door

Casco Bay Weekly has moved to the back of the Congress Street building we've long occupied. This retreat makes the former back door our front door and changes our street address to 11 Forest Ave. However, finding us is not much of a challenge, unless you read on.

Now, from our old address at 561 Congress, walk south a few steps to the famed Wit's End Bar. Round that corner, turn right on Forest. Still with us? If so, walk about 20 steps to the parking lot on the Wit's End side of the street and look up. There at the back of the parking lot, at second-story level, you'll spy our famous green and yellow sign. Below it is our old back (now new) front door. Welcome.

Some of my best
friends are ...

I think it is about time my generation has a little to say in your weekly magazine. It's trite to say it's wonderful to be young, because it truly is. However, there has to be a little perspective to growing older.

For example, why a weekly feature on the gay scene? Now that most gays have come "out of the closet," why can't they go about living in a normal sort of way? Why gay bars?

There was a time when grown-ups kept their preferences to themselves. That's gone now. It is all in the big wide open world around us. However, none of my friends goes around telling each other what their sexual leanings are. I'll gladly confess I love tall, skinny, brown- or blue-eyed guys with a great sense of humor. I married one, but I never had to make any public announcements that this was my type of bed partner.

So come on. Get on with your lives. Enjoy everybody you meet. Don't hole up in some little corner bar and pretend there is no one else in this world who understands you. In the little town where we summer, we have gays, but no one ever calls them by that name. We [say], "He's just a bit odd." No giggling, no raised eyebrows. That's just the way it is.

Ellen Knight
Cape Elizabeth

Bitching publisher

When the announcement was made that CBW had fired its entire editorial staff, I was just about to leave the state for a two-week vacation. I wanted to see what would be different in the next issue, but I was unable to pick one up.

So two weeks later, I finally got a chance to look. In it I see that a publisher who called her former staff "mean-spirited" uses both the cover story and an entire editorial to bitch about why she's right and they're wrong. I can't help wondering if she used the previous two weeks to do the same.

And rather than the previous "mean-spirited" cover stories about what faces our youth, our homeless, our mentally ill or our low-wage workers, we get to see

Lael Morgan's Portland: the pressing issue of whether psychics are real.

I wish this paper cost money, so I could say I'll never buy it again.

Laura J. Sullivan
South Portland

Screw cyber love

I just read Sharon Bass' article on Internet dating ("My nights at the cyber meat market," 3.28.02), and I have had much the same experience with women.

[One woman and I] were talking on the phone and she was asking questions. Among other things, she wanted to know if I had any idea what she

looked like. Of course I didn't, but she kept pushing me for a description, and when I finally got through to her that I did not have a clue, she said, "Why don't you start by guessing my bra size?" Up went the red flag! Whatever possessed me to meet her is a mystery to me now, but I did anyway.

She invited me to lunch. It was obvious there was nothing there to build on, what with her lack of any sense of humor, so we had the lunch and left.

In the parking lot, we were talking about the new rules of dating, and I made the mistake of telling her that I'm not into rules. I also said that I treat women as friends, and if I invite a friend to lunch, I pick up the tab. If the friend invited me, they pick up the tab. She remembered that she had invited me, yet I paid the check, so she got her teeth into that, got rather huffy, and said, "Well, I don't have a penis!" At that, I said, "Well, I do, but I have never tried to pay the check with it." She didn't even smile. As I said, no sense of humor.

Kendall Morse
South Portland

In a sentence, you have just scared the hell out of me! I was divorced in 2001 and, not liking what is available in the local Portland bar scene, was considering placing an ad on a local server. I will NOT do that now. Thank you for sharing your tribulations with us who read the Casco Bay Weekly.

B. Waters
Portland

I just read Sharon Bass' piece in the Casco Bay Weekly on cyberlove wanted ads. It is not much better for a man seeking a woman.

I did the ad thing two years ago and basically regretted every response I replied to. The first woman

spoke in the teeniest, littiest voice I have ever heard. Something told me she was a time bomb. We set up a date at Bookland in Bath, but my son Eddie showed up on my doorstep with schizophrenia, so I called to cancel the date. The next day I received the nastiest, most vicious letter [from her] I have ever seen. I wanted to fire back, but envisioned Glenn Close boiling my son's miniature rabbit.

Well, the woman apologized and I actually met her. Call me suicidal. She looked like Glenn Close's twin sister. I changed the locks on my doors and hid the rabbit.

Stephen Otter
Standish

I just read Sharon Bass' enlightening article about Internet dating. Unfortunately, it was pretty much as I thought it would be. It came at just the right time as I am getting ready to try match.com. A good friend of mine has just gone into her second month dating a guy from Westbook, who is a great guy. She met him through match.com. I've met him and he seems to be the genuine article — honest, open, caring, good looking, funny, great job and, she tells me, fantastic in bed.

I have tried two dating services around town and have had the worst experiences, so I thought I would try the Internet in hopes of meeting someone outside our little city of Portland.

Again, thanks for the article.

Judy Roberts
Portland

After spending the better part of last weekend running to my computer to check my incoming e-mail, I laughed and cried (figuratively) as I read [Sharon Bass'] too-close-to-home essay. How alike we all are, how vulnerable, and yes, I guess, how dishonest in many cases. I had just tried for the first time to establish a cyberspace connection. And after one fabulously "honest" and witty exchange, it seems to be over.

While I laughed a lot as I read [Bass'] words, she was also telling me things I didn't want to hear. So do I have what it takes to endure? Probably not, since I am an actual 58 and part of a generation of women who was raised to wait to be "chosen" by a man — and they don't even know I'm here. And from what I read, I am not missing much as far as the electronic means of connecting would indicate.

Again, I really enjoyed [Bass'] article, even though the reality which accompanied the humor wasn't what I had hoped to hear. I guess "meat markets" are all around us. Are there any vegetarians out there?

Eileen Simpson
South Portland

LETTERS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

I found the article on cyber-dating to be most interesting as I have recently started [cyber dating].

Sharon Bass writes with humor and truth. I've been single off and on for most of my 52 years, and the article rings true on so many points. It's tough out there even with the numerous opportunities cyber dating brings. It's still the same old game in a way. I'm a writer [of] screenplays, novels, etc., and I own an out-of-print/used bookstore in Bath. I am truthful and decent looking.

John Ring
Bath

Wrong pic

I read Sharon Bass' article "Pissed off on Peaks" (3.21.02). The picture was pleasant, but it wasn't Peaks Island. It was a picture of Ponce's Landing on Long Island, which was put out of use when they opened Mariner's Wharf. On Long Island, there is a taxi/bus run by Chubb Doughty. Chubb doesn't have subsidy and doesn't need or complain about not having one. Chubb gets enough money from tourists and other passengers to pay for gas and other requirements for the taxi/bus without a subsidy.

Shannon Nickerson
Portland

Ask a cop why, but nicely

As a Portland police officer, I would suggest that if any CBW staff or any member of the public has a question about why a patrol officer does a certain thing or uses a certain tactic, don't ask a deputy chief ("Cocky cops?" 3.28.02). Ask that particular patrol officer.

I don't know of any officer that works for the Portland Police Department who wouldn't be happy to clear up any misconception, or to answer any question about why certain things occur. I would only suggest that the questions shouldn't come in the middle of a heated situation or in an accusatory manner.

I would like to clear up the misconceptions in the article. While it might appear that we at times disregard traffic laws when you see us roll through stop signs, or appear to be traveling at higher-than-normal speeds — all without our emergency equipment activated — I can guarantee that if you were the person who was calling for help, the only thing important to you at that moment would be how fast we got there, not if we came to a complete stop at every stop sign. That said, I don't know of any cop on our force who doesn't also take the public's safety

into consideration when operating in that manner.

In reference to citizens who state they see officers using their blue lights to get through busy intersections or to get to a store faster, that is simply absurd. There are countless reasons this occurs. We know how it must look, but nobody bothers to find out why. Your readers deserve all the information available, not just one slanted side of it.

Mike Porter
South Portland

A Portland without Strimling

Those who remember Ethan Strimling's 1999 City Council race know that he and his band of followers will do whatever it takes to win an election, even if that means using lies, misrepresentations and half-truths to do it. Based on last week's letters to the *Casco Bay Weekly*, it seems they are at it again.

Portland needs to be united for universal health care, for lower property taxes and for civil rights. We need to help our neighbors, bring down the price of prescription drugs and make sure our kids have good schools to go to. We do not have room in our city for the politics of personal destruction.

If Ethan Strimling wants to campaign as though he's in New York, he's welcome to go back and run for office there.

Will Gorham
Portland

Evil exposed

I would first like to personally thank [Aaron Belmont] for exposing the world to the evil that is compassionate people giving of themselves to help the less fortunate ("Another donut in Portland?" Letters, 3.21.02). Way to go Aaron, showing the readers of the *Casco Bay Weekly* that Abby Woodman (Talk, 3.14.02) is not a caring individual who, with the help of her wonderful family, is not trying to give back to her community that she loves, but in truth, is creating some evil pact with some economic devil.

Finally, I can see the truth, which I thought was a good person helping kids get the level of education that she had, but now I see that it's some prison of conformity. Damn private education never done no good for nobody. While we're at it, here's some more info you can expose the truth on. While in Guatemala last summer on an educational retreat, [Woodman] spent her free time taking poor children to get their much-needed immunizations and buying food for the homeless. OOH EVIL! There's also her work for The AIDS Project and her assistance in raising a beautiful little girl, who at 3, has already had a much rougher life than [many]. So I hope this helps your pointless crusade.

Troy Pennell
Portland



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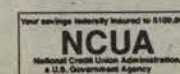
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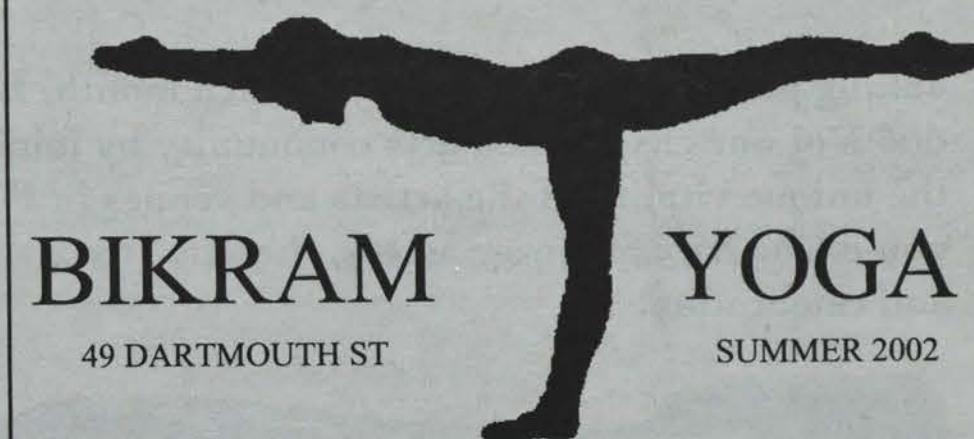
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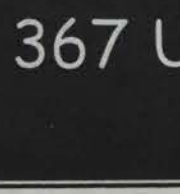
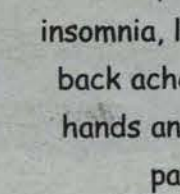
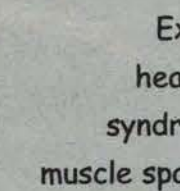
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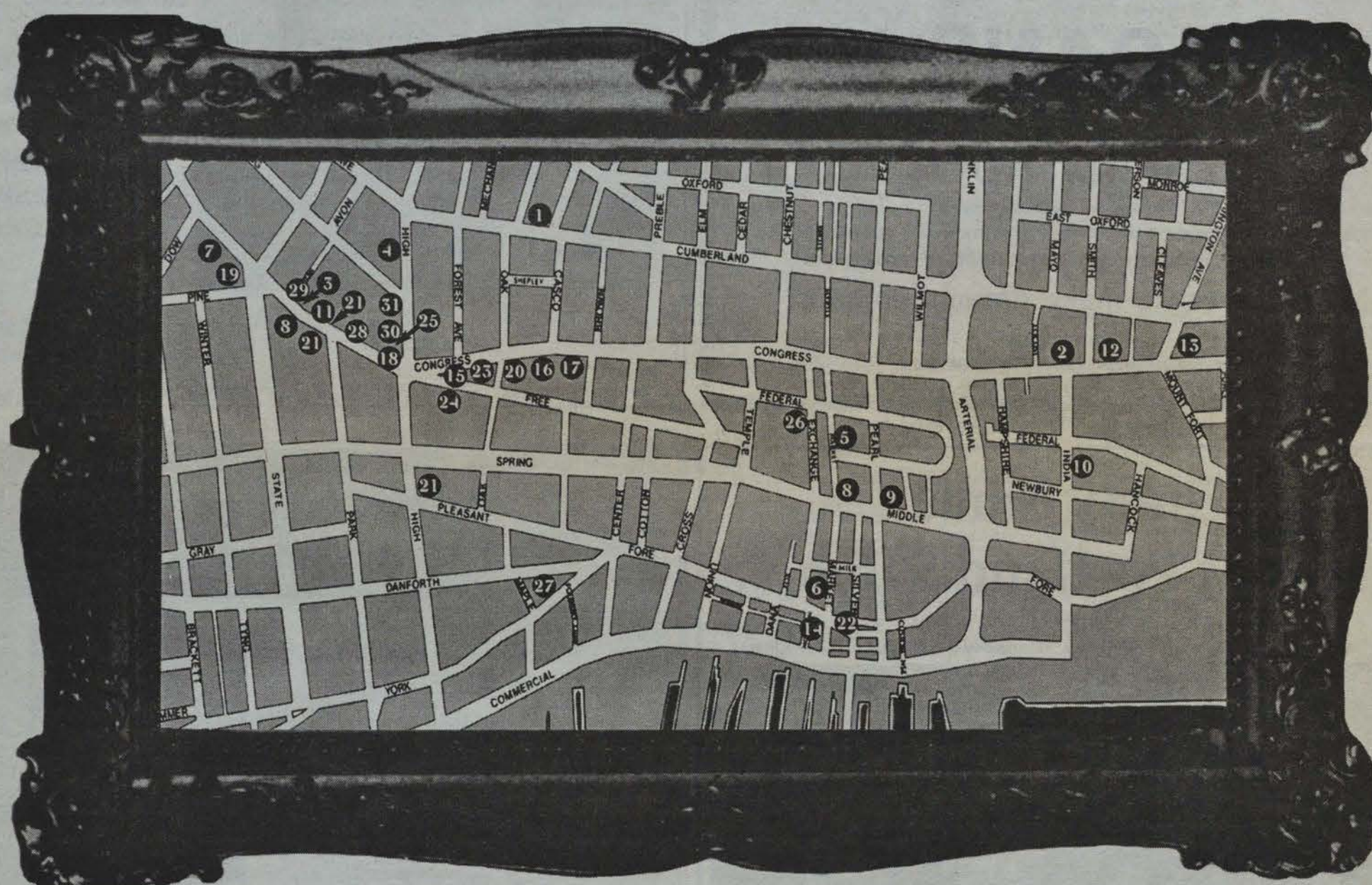
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April 5th *First Friday*

Taking place every first Friday of each month, Portland's First Friday Art Walk seeks to open the doors of our city's visual arts community by joining together and introducing a wider audience to the unique vitality of the artists and venues in Portland. The art walk also promotes interest with non-exclusivity and easy access, thereby strengthening the arts and community through diversity and celebration.



Take a stroll & visit the galleries participating in the April 5th First Friday ArtWalk. Art makes a great gift for yourself or someone else, and the walk is a lot of fun!

The next ArtWalk will be Friday, May 3. Check out CBW's May 2nd issue for all the info!

CBW's Publication of the First Friday

ArtWalk

Key to Participating Galleries & Venues:

1. 3 Fish Gallery. 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland, 773.4773. Closed for renovations during April Artwalk
2. Angela Adams. 273 Congress St., Portland, 774.3623. Contemporary, hand made rugs, furniture, fabric & accessories. First Friday Showroom Hours until 7pm
3. Aucocisco. 615A Congress St., Portland, 874.2060. Anne Whiston Spirn, Photography, through April 27. First Friday Reception April 5, 5-8pm
4. Aucocisco at the Eastland Park Hotel. 157 High St., Portland, 775.2227. Group Show, through April 27. First Friday Reception April 5, 5-8pm
5. Bayview Gallery. 13 Exchange St., Portland, 761.5637. Gayle Levee, Still Life Paintings, through April 30. First Friday Hours until 7pm
6. Breaking New Grounds. 151 Exchange St., Portland, 541.3842. John and Nancy Nelson, New England seacoast prints in pastels, oils & watercolors, First Friday Hours until 10pm
7. Cafe Uffa. 190 State St., Portland, 775.3580. David A. Marshall, *Postmodern Paintings*, through June 30. First Friday Hours until 10pm
8. Casco Bay Books. 151 Middle St., Portland, 541.3842. Jim Pinfold's elaborate record cover art collection of quixotic and idealistic portraits of the post-war years. First Friday Hours until 11pm
9. The Clown. 123 Middle St., Portland, 756.7399. Stephan Lanzalotta and Mexico!, Recent Oils, Jan Pieter, Black & White Prints, through April 29. First Friday hours until 7pm
10. Coffee By Design. 620 Congress St. Portland, 772.5533; 67 India Street Portland 879.2233. Joseph M. Landis, *Dreams, Figures & Seascapes*, Oil, Watercolor & Charcoal Paintings, thru May 4
11. C.W. White Gallery & Arts Resource Service. 656 Congress St., Portland, 871.7282. Maxine McDonald, *Glory Days*, photography selection through May 11
12. Ferdinand. 243 Congress St., Portland, 761.2151. Studio and storefront offering handmade lampshades, cards, books, new and vintage housewares and furniture
13. Filament Gallery. 181 Congress St., Portland, 221.2061. Michael Angulo and Ernest Paterno, *Synergetic Spatial Relations*, mandalic graphic illustrations in pencil & paint and blown glass & neon sculpture through April 20
14. Fore Street Gallery. 366 Fore St., Portland, 874.8084. Gallery Artists Group Show, paintings & photography, First Friday hours until 7pm
15. Hay Gallery. 594 Congress St., Portland, 773.2513. Janis Goodman, *Ruminations*, mixed media thru April 28. Opening Reception April 5, 5-8pm
16. ICA @ MECA. 522 Congress St., Portland, 879.5742. Group Show, *Terrain: Sculpture Today*, through April 24
17. June Fitzpatrick Gallery @ MECA. 522 Congress St., Portland, 879.5742 X-283. Closed during April Artwalk
18. June Fitzpatrick Gallery @ High St. 112 High St., Portland, 772.1961. Closed during April Artwalk
19. Local 188. 188 State St., Portland, 761.7909. Sunday Richards and Monica Walsh, S & M show, collages and paintings, with special guest Erin Sweeney, sculpture, through April 28. First Friday hours until 10:30pm
20. Mainly Frames & Gallery. 534 Congress St., Portland, 828.0031.
21. Museum of African Art. 122 Spring St., Portland, 871.7188
22. Maine Potters Market. 376 Fore St., Portland, 774.1633. Functional and one-of-a-kind ceramics by fifteen Maine Artists. Featuring Nancy Button and Laurie Adams, porcelain
23. Mary Amalia. 574 Congress St., Second Floor, Portland, 831.2844. Hand made jewelry, from whimsical to elegant, with sterling silver, copper, stones, silk, pearls and all kinds of beads or found objects
24. Portland Museum of Art. 7 Congress Sq., Portland, 775.6148. Free Fridays 5-9pm. Archive, Alan Magee Monotypes through May 19. *The Poetry Within: The Life and Work of William Thon*, watercolor and oil paintings through May 27. Open House, Jonathan Bailey photography, April 6 thru May 26
25. Radiant Light Gallery. 142 High St., Suite 315, Portland, 252.7258. Group Show, *Enlightened Realm: Seen Beyond Time & Place*, Photography. First Friday reception 6-8pm
26. Salt Gallery at The Salt Institute for Documentary Studies. 110 Exchange St., Portland, 761.0660. Photographic Collection of Samuel Zaitlin, *Documenting Intolerance*, through May 6
27. Sanctuary Tattoo. 20-36 Danforth St. #213, Portland, 828.8866. On-going, Rotating Exhibit. First Friday hours until 7pm
28. Scott Potter Designs. 142A High St., Portland, 775.3630
29. The Skinny. 625 Congress St., Portland, 871.8983. Sarah Baldwin, paintings & mixed media
30. Terrazzo. 148 High St., Portland, 871.0075. Missy Asen & Jennifer Potthoff, Paintings, Whimsical Sculpture and Handpainted Furniture, First Friday Hours until 8
31. William Richey Fine Jewelry. 150 High St., Portland, 772.5252. Featuring J.E. Paterak, Stephani Briggs, Andrew Nyce and William Richey. First Friday hours until 8pm

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There was music in CBW's voice mail at 7:41 a.m. on April Fool's Day. "You gotta put another quarter in the frigging thing," an excited voice shouted in the background. Then came some blues — "You Put a Spell on Me."

This is **Uncle Billy's** at 69 Newbury St., cut in someone who sounded a lot like Jon St. Laurent, owner of the recently barbecued barbecue restaurant. "The jukebox is working. We just found some power and the darned jukebox does work!" No word about when Portland's long-established barbecue joint will recover from the fire damage that closed it on March 25. But the fact that the most popular juke in Portland is working again is a welcome sign of progress.

Also music to our ears is a benefit concert and spaghetti supper planned for Sunday, April 7. Seems Jon St. Laurent's popularity extends far beyond his cooking — or his tune box. Staying true to the eatery's barbecue flavor, several local blues and bluegrass bands will rosin up their bows, including The AJ Hawkes Trio, Kevin Midgley and the Rubes, and The Hollering Man with Tombstone Territory. Because no one serves up barbecue like Uncle Billy's, the menu will feature pasta and sauce donated by Micucci's. No matter, a good, messy red sauce is always appreciated.

There's no more music, or anything else, at **Club Subterra**. The revolving door at 1 Exchange St. has just closed on the year-old establishment, which served its last call on March 30. Seems the rent on the subterranean space — located at the corner of Fore and Exchange streets — is sky-high. Eric, a Club Subterra bartender, who was helping clear out the joint April 2, said he could not legally comment on what the bar was paying in rent, except to say it was "astronomical." The club's owners would have had to give up on the idea of profits in order to meet rent. "We had a good time," said Eric. "We thank all the bands that played and all the customers who kept coming back, but the financial equation is just not working."

The alcohol content at **The Wine Bar** has gone up. After closing for three weeks of renovations, the Wharf Street establishment is fully reopened with some changes. In addition to the grape, hard liquor is now available. And, if that is not enough alcohol to make your head spin, they've also decided to make it a double — bar that is. The restaurant downstairs has given way to a bar with a similar atmosphere to the upstairs bar, except that it will be smoke-free. In addition to the expanded alcoholic beverage possibilities, imbibers can nibble on a meatier offering of appetizers.

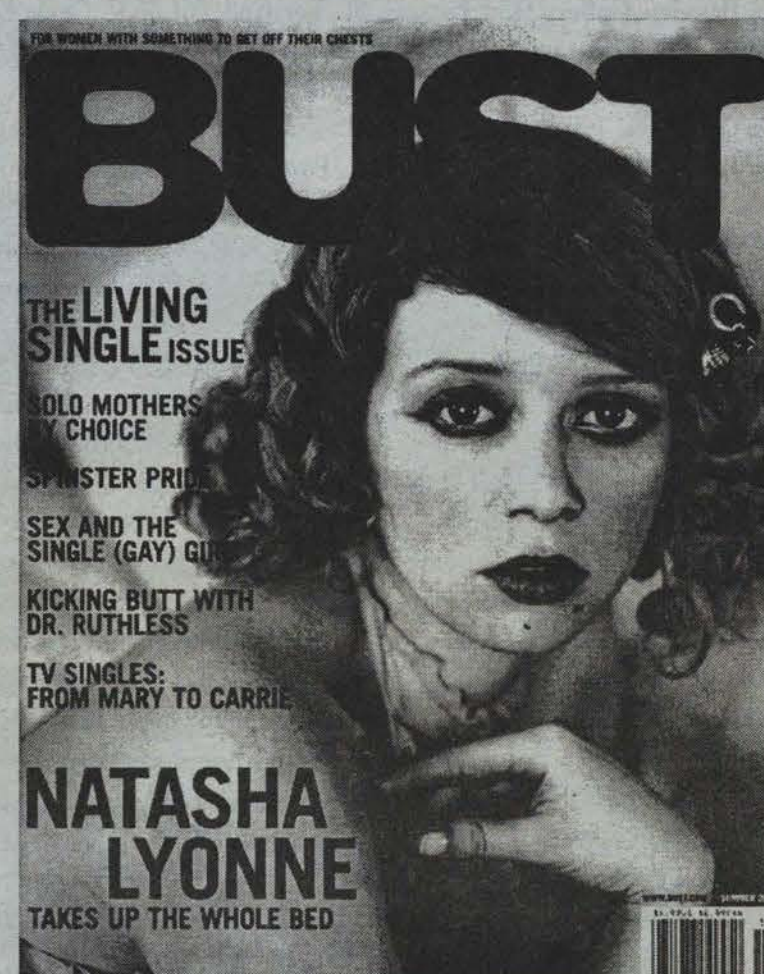
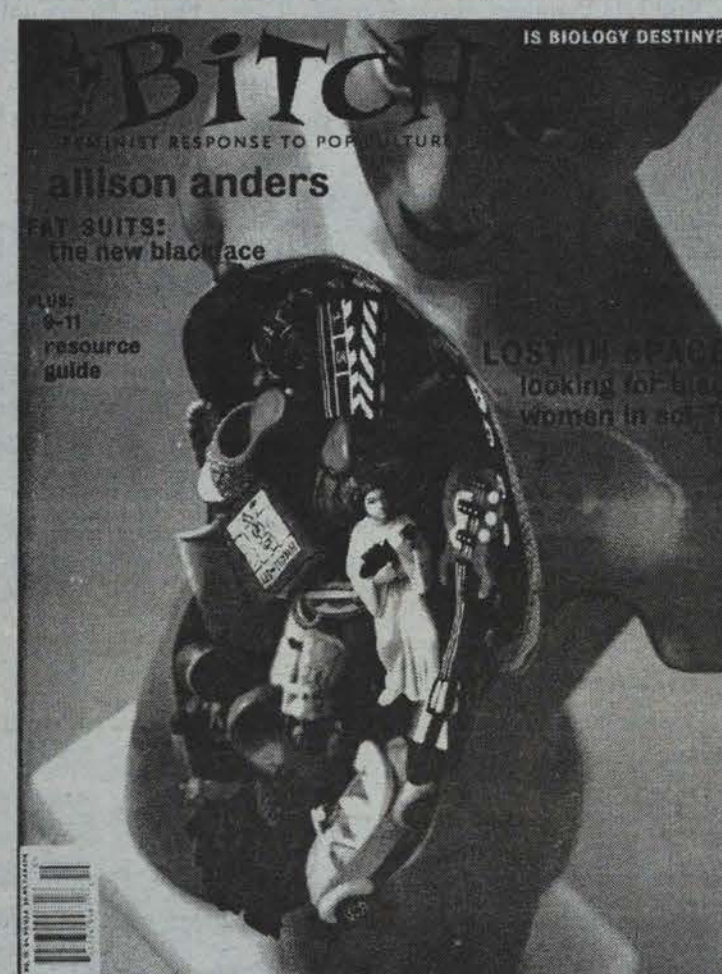
— Items by Theresa Flaherty and Lael Morgan

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

Keeping abreast of *Bust*, *Bitch* and *Moxie*

Not-so-new fem pubs offer different take, but hard to find around town



KARMO SANDERS

Willing to date myself, I'll allow that I was of bonfire-burning age in the '60s. Though Gloria Steinem has since married and is now deferring to her "better half," there's no getting around the fact that the feminist movement she helped mount inspired us to band together, unhook those cumbersome straps, take off our bras and burn them.

Now, at the forefront of the 21st century, we're again pulling, pushing and squeezing our breasts into various uplifted, underwired, foam-formed cups and miracle bras. Enter *Bust* magazine, a splashy feminist periodical "For Women Who Have Something To Get Off Their Chests," and an outrageous group of sister publications, *Bitch*, *Moxie*, *Hip Mama* and *Rockrgl*.

In marked contrast to plain-talking Ms. magazine, regarded as the voice of the

early feminist movement, the upstarts look like a cross between *Cosmo* and something from the skin trade. In an attempt to define feminism for the 20- to 30-something group, these magazines offer a much broader view that includes fashion, frivolity and tips on romance, along with game plans for women's liberation.

I first learned of these publications in a Sept. 10, 2001, article in *The New York Times* entitled, "The New Feminist Mystique." Conservative critics and traditional feminists of the National Organization for Women did not favor this new approach, *Times* writer Alex Kuczynski reported. But they were being out-voted at the newsstand.

"There are lots of different ways to be feminist," *Bust*'s editor Debbie Stoller was quoted as saying. "There is a political way and there is also a way through popular culture. I know that celebrating nail

polish is not going to save a woman's right to abortion. But I also don't think we have to go and point out every single wrong in society."

Although most of the new feminist publications have been around since the mid-1990s, it's hard to find them in Portland. They sell out quickly at Longfellow Books and at Borders, and I couldn't find any other dealers who stocked them. None is available at the Portland Public Library, Maine College of Art or the library at the University of Southern Maine.

Cally Gurley, head of the Maine Women Writers Collection at the University of New England, had never heard of the publications, but was excited about the concept. "I think it's about time we all had a chance to read this new genre of feminist writing," she said.

Luisa Deprez, director of women's studies at USM, said she'd just received a

copy of *Bust* from a friend, but refused to comment. Deprez said she was still angry about the anti-feminist cartoons *CBW* had run 13 months ago.

Bust is a surprising mix. Everything you ever really wanted to know from Ann Landers. Hints you wish Heloise might have come through with. Information Martha Stewart will never know. Full concentration on the women's issues the Associated Press just glances over. Not to be outdone by *Parents* magazine.

Last summer's issue, which was the only one I could get my hands on, featured "Solo Mothers by Choice," "Spinster Pride" and "Sex and the Single (Gay) Girl." There were seductive fashions for top-heavy beauties, and a delightful feature on old broads (over 70), predictably referred to as "Golden Girls."

Bust's "Fashion Nation" featured "Real girls in their real clothes." Where *Cosmopolitan* might offer a multiple-choice questionnaire on "How to Tell if He's Cheating On You," *Bust* offered a spoof in "Spinsterama—A quiz for old maids in the making."

Earlier, *Bust* published a homemaking issue featuring articles such as "A Broom of One's Own," "Confessions of a Topless House Cleaner" and "The Bad Girl's Guide to Good Housekeeping."

Bitch, billed as the "Feminist response to pop culture," is less colorful (mostly black and white pages) but verbally intriguing. A recent article was titled, "The Past Decade Has Seen African-American Men Invade the Science Fiction Genre, But What About the Sci-Fi Sisters?" Another was called, "So You Want to Be A Rock And Roll Star."

There's no comparison here to the strong political activism displayed in *Ms.*, which remains at the front line on women's issues. However, *Bust* does inform with a feature titled, "News From a Broad." For example: "GOP Attacks Abortion Rights — Don't Just Grin and Bear It! ... we're counting on a divided Senate to prevent a huge miscarriage of justice, so you might want to write your representatives and let them know that your uterus begins with U."

Bitch tends to publish in-depth articles on subjects like "Hollywood's Big New Minstrel Show — Fat Suits: the new blackface," which reports "one of the most disturbing and offensive cinematic trends in recent history ... fat people are now America's favorite celluloid punch-lines."

The magazine recently tackled the gender divide in children's literature.

"The math is simple: Boys' books will be bought by both boys and girls, and girls' books will be bought by girls; ergo, boys' books will make more money." *Bitch*'s lengthy book review and music sections are also provocative.

Advertising in these magazines runs a wide gamut from fingernail art to Fuck Work — "free stickers and insane catalogue." I found one vibrator advertised solely for the purpose of relieving cramps. Another was billed as the "Hitachi Magic Wand — Be Your Own Fairy Godmother." *Bust* sells Lady Marmalade soap, T-shirts and postcards. From "The *Bust* Boobtique!" you can order "Great Girlie Gear." *Bitch* pushes catalogs like "Venus Envy" and the "Blowfish."

While I wouldn't say these new feminist mags offer the best writing I've ever come across, I am tired of being bombarded by *Cosmopolitan* images of perfect pin-ups, *Elle*'s fashion-plated smiles and *Vanity Fair*'s lounging starlets. I'm ready for change.

I never thought of myself as a feminist, and *Ms.* magazine is a bit grim for my taste. But being female inherently bonds us in degrees as feminists, so *Bust* and its bitchy sisters are a welcome departure. At last, a fun read for females of all ages, body types, political and sexual persuasions, and, best of all, for those of us who enjoy a good laugh.

Karmo Sanders is a Portland-based playwright

loose change

Even during a coffee break, the bean counters at CBW kept busy.

The following disbursement of Portlanders consuming my favorite vice took place April 1, between 1:50 and 2:20 p.m., at various cafes. Starbucks takes the java lead at both its locations.

The head count within that 30-minute period was:
Breaking New Grounds (Exchange Street): 6
Java Net (Exchange Street): 7
Arabica Coffee Co. (Free Street): 7

Coffee by Design:
Monument Square: 9
Congress Street: 10
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Counted on the shaky, over-caffeinated fingers and toes of Ben Jenkins.

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...Glenn Jordan, *The Portland Press Herald*

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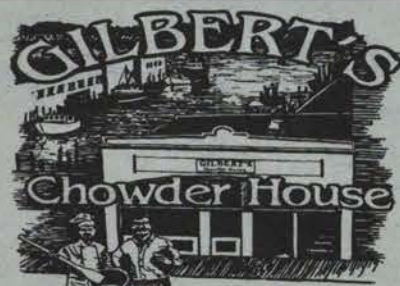
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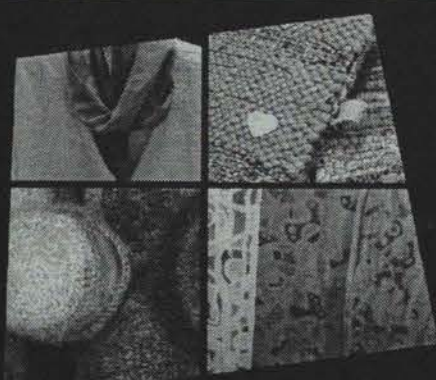
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calendar

friday, april 5

**HOWARD JOHNSON,
GARY WITTNER,
BRUCE DITMAS**

Tubaist Howard Johnson, guitarist Gary Wittner and drummer Bruce Dittmas perform contemporary, challenging jazz with the expertise of old pros. The name power of their past bandmates, many no longer around, attests to their know-how. Johnson (no relation to the motel chain) has played with Miles Davis, Charlie Mingus and Duke Ellington; Dittmas, with Judy Garland, Pat Metheny and Ira Sullivan. Wittner is a well-known composer, jazz educator and Thelonious Monk scholar. Their gig is the first in the April Fest music series sponsored by Dimensions in Jazz and the Maine Jazz Alliance. Listen to the syncopation at the Center for Cultural Exchange, 1 Longfellow Square, Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$15. 761-0591.

friday, april 5

"THE FOREIGNER"

Two Englishmen go to a fishing lodge in Georgia, and ... To find out the punch line, you have to go south — not to Georgia, but to South Portland, and watch the Portland

Players' production of Larry Shue's comedy, "The Foreigner." Directed by David Goulet, the cast includes Garvy MacLean as "Froggy" LeSuer, William Sandstead as Charlie Baker, Sally Sprafka as Betty Meeks and several others. Hear Mainers try to talk in English and Southern accents at the Portland Players, 420 Cottage Road, South Portland, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tix: \$12 opening night, \$15 regular. 799-7337.

saturday, april 6

**"OPEN HOUSE:
JONATHAN BAILEY"**

Jonathan Bailey's work is the fifth in a series of eight photographers' exhibitions inspired by the McLellan House and L.D.M. Sweat Memorial Galleries, portions of the Portland Museum of Art under restoration. Bailey's photographs are marked by his use of a "Diana," a plastic, toy camera made in the 1960s. By using such simple equipment, Bailey creates photographs flooded with unpredictable, ethereal light patterns. A resident of St. George, Bailey has had numerous solo shows throughout the country. See what's behind closed doors at the PMA, 7 Congress Square, Portland, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The exhibit continues through May 26. Tix: \$1-\$6. 775-6148.



Cool and sweet: Howard Johnson, along with Gary Wittner and Bruce Dittmas, plays April 5 at the Center for Cultural Exchange.

tuesday, april 9

"ART"

When a man shells out big bucks for a white canvas painted with diagonal white lines, his two friends question his sanity, their friendship and the nature of art. The aptly named "Art," which won a best-play Tony award for its author, Yasmina Reza, closes out the season for Portland Stage Company. Michael Rafkin directs Aled Davies, Tom Ford and Lawrence Nathanson. Previews run through Thursday, April 11, with opening night Friday, April 12. Watch art ruin relationships at Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Preview tix: \$20. 774-0465.

Toy show: "The Sweat House: Portland Museum of Art. Portland (Copper Beech and Fence)" is among Jonathan Bailey photos, many taken with a toy camera, on exhibit starting April 6 at the Portland Museum of Art.



Framed: (from left) Tom Ford, Lawrence Nathanson and Aled Davies find their friendship strained in "Art," which begins with previews April 9 at Portland Stage Company.

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

quick picks

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

William Corbett reads from his book, "Cadences V," as part of National Poetry Month, at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7-8:30 p.m., free.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Take part in the international celebration of World Tai Chi and Chi Kung Day, at Tommy's Park, Middle and Exchange streets, Portland, from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Free. 780-9581.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Sugar-shock your body for a good cause with a chocolate indulgence at the 16th annual Chocolate Lovers' Fling and Auction, to benefit the Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine, at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, from 1-4 p.m. Tix: \$15. (800) 313-9900.

sound bites

Slowing Room plays acid jazz Wednesday, April 10, at Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland. (10 p.m./21+) 774-1114.

Indie-rockers A Giant Robot, Adamo, and Extendo Ride rock out at an all-ages, alcohol-free show Saturday, April 6 at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St., Portland. (7 p.m./\$5). 775-5568.

Alt-rockers Peepshow, ThrutheWires and Corn Mo (of Bindlestiff Family Circus) play Saturday, April 6 at the Skinny, 625 Congress St., Portland. (9 p.m./21+/\$5). 871-8983.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 • 4-8 PM
Casco Bay Brewing
\$2.25 PINTS
Music by Lee Sykes
Portland's Original Alehouse
Come Party With Us
www.threedollardeweys.com 241 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine (207) 772-3310

Shoes shined: check
Tie straight: check
Resume updated: check



Best place to find a new job:

check
Casco Bay Weekly's
HELP WANTED
section

Mondays 3-9
Pail of Pale Night
20 oz. Pail of Sea Dog
India Pale Ale
\$1.95

EVERY TUESDAY 3-9
ALL DRAFTS, 20 OZ.
\$1.95
11 TO CHOOSE FROM SUCH AS GUINNESS, SHIPYARD & ALLAGASH

Every Wed. 3 til close
is Wine-O Night
by glass \$2.25-\$4.45
by bottle \$8-\$20
Mondavi, Bogle, Blackstone & more

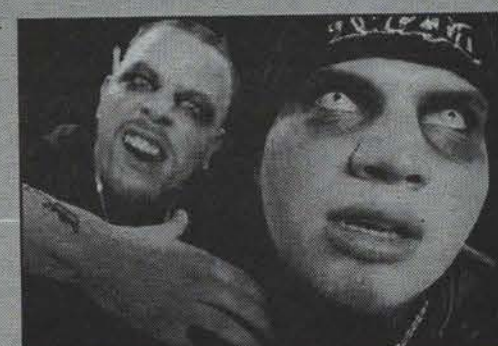
336 Fore St - Old Port
772.8619

PUB 21
ENTERTAINMENT LINE UP
TUES:
7PM IN-HOUSE POOL LEAGUE
NEW SESSION BEGINS 4/6/2
EVERYONE WELCOME - CASH PRIZES
WEDS:
JOEYKE - THEME NIGHTS - KARAOKE
THURS:
KARAOKE W/ DJ MICHAEL C
CHECK OUT
"POWER HOUR"
8:30PM EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
2 FOR 1 WELL DRINKS - \$2 SHOTS OF SCHNAPPS
SUNDAYS - OLDIES NIGHT WITH JOEYKE
APRIL LINE UP
4/5 RIOT ACT
4/12 & 13 F.U.N.L.
4/19 & 20 LITTLE SISTER
4/26 & 27 TBA
225 CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND • 874-9898

dock fore
UMaine v. UNH
Thursday, April 4
doors open @ 1pm,
face-off @ 1:30pm
\$1 Dr's shot
w/each UMaine goal
Sea Dog pints \$1.95
Watch the
Red Sox &
up to 4
other games daily
\$1 Dr's shot
w/each Red Sox homerun or
Pedro strikeout

MUSIC

Prime cut



Clown-college graduates: Twiztid goes on the offensive at Asylum on April 7.

If you thought nu-metal had the strangest hold on horrific clown imagery, think again. Rap duo Twiztid, an offshoot of the Insane Clown Posse, fronts as much makeup as it does rhymes about death, drugs and the requisite "bitches." The group's newest release, "Mirror-Mirror," continues rappers Jamie Madrox's and Monoxide Child's descent into the realm of extremity, coupling bass-heavy beats with R-rated lyrics. The Detroit pair turned down several major-label recording contracts, choosing to retain its supposed credibility in the underground, hardcore-rap scene. Twiztid - with heavy-hitters Blaze, Anybody Killa and Eastside - clowns around on Sunday, April 7 at Asylum, 121 Center St, Portland, at 4 pm. Tix: \$15-\$17. 772-8274.

thursday 4
Alehouse
-c/c 10pm rock/9:30/fret/21+
Asylum
Fusion w/ DJ Nicole (dance/9:30/\$2/21+)
The Big Easy
Relish acoustic rock/9:30/\$3/21+
Brian Boni
Stream reggae/9:30 pm/no cover/21+
Commercial Street Pub
Jeff Aumiller/Isa shanties and folk/9 pm/no cover/21+
David's Restaurant
Jenny Woodman jazz quintet/6-9 pm/no cover
Diggs/Liquid Blue
DJ Jack MF retro dance/9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+
The Dirty Bird
DJ Junior 9 pm/no cover/21+
First Parish Church
Lynne Mattingly, Robert Ruhe (classical/12:15 pm/no cover)
Free Street Taverna
Jambalaya Jam open mic three-form blues/9 pm/no cover/21+
Happy Cooking
Kevin Midgely and Mark Cousins (acoustic blues/7:30 pm/no cover)
The Iguala
Dance night 9 pm/no cover/21+
The Mercury
DJ Joey Melanson (dance/9:30 pm/no cover/21+)
Merrill Auditorium
University of Southern Maine-Fleet Youth Ensemble (classical/7:30 pm/\$3-\$5)
Moose Crossing Steakhouse
Jason St. Pierre (jazz/7 pm/no cover)
Old Port Tavern
DJ P. Dance/9:30 pm/no cover/21+
O'Rourke's Landing
Dave Dodge All Star Review (9 pm/no cover/21+)

Pub 21
DJ Mike C (9 pm/no cover/21+)
The Shady Lady
Karaoke (9:30 pm/no cover/21+)
Sierra's Bar and Grill
Karaoke with Surf 'n Turf (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Somewhere
Karaoke with Larry (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)
The Station
Karaoke night (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Three Dollar Dewey's
Paul Melnyk (folk/6 pm/no cover/21+)
The Undergound
DJ Jack MF retro dance/9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+
The Industry
DJ Jesse 10 pm-3 am/\$10 for 18+, \$3 for 21+
The Mercury
DJ's Nicole and Laree Love (dance/9:30 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Old Port Tavern
Stream reggae/9:30 pm/no cover/21+
St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center
The McCarthy's folk-country/8 pm/\$10
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)
States
Top 40 dance w/ DJ Cate (9 pm/\$3/21+)
The Skinny
Castle Bravo, Del Rey, and Videogamez (indie rock/9:30 pm/\$5/21+)
Somewhere
Charlie Brown (piano/8 pm/midnight/cover/21+)
The Station
Latin dance night w/ DJ Omar (salsa, merengue and bachata/9 pm-1 am/\$3/21+)
The Undergound
Blackout w/ DJ Nova (9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+)
C.J. Thrifty's
DJ Long Island Larry (9 pm/no cover/21+)

Center for Cultural Exchange
Howard Johnson, Gary Wittner, Bruce Dimas (jazz/7:30 pm/\$15)
Cortell Concert Hall
2002 Honors Recital (classical/8 pm/fret)
Diggs/Liquid Blue
DJ Double D (retro dance/9 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Free Street Taverna
Kate's Dream modern rock/10 pm/\$3/21+
Geno's
Edenscon, Last Concessions (rock/8 pm/\$4/21+)
Granny's Burritos
Muddy Marsh Ramblers (Americana/9 pm/no cover)
The Iguala
Dance night 9 pm/no cover/21+
The Industry
DJ Jesse 10 pm-3 am/\$10 for 18+, \$3 for 21+
The Mercury
DJ's Nicole and Laree Love (dance/9:30 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Old Port Tavern
Stream reggae/9:30 pm/no cover/21+
St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center
The McCarthy's folk-country/8 pm/\$10
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)
States
Top 40 dance w/ DJ Cate (9 pm/\$3/21+)
The Skinny
Castle Bravo, Del Rey, and Videogamez (indie rock/9:30 pm/\$5/21+)
Somewhere
Charlie Brown (piano/8 pm/midnight/cover/21+)
The Station
Latin dance night w/ DJ Omar (salsa, merengue and bachata/9 pm-1 am/\$3/21+)
The Undergound
Blackout w/ DJ Nova (9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+)
C.J. Thrifty's
DJ Long Island Larry (9 pm/no cover/21+)

saturday 6
Alehouse
Strange Pleasure (jam band/9:30 pm/\$3-\$5/21+)
Asylum
DJ Jon (hip-hop and dance/9 pm-2 am/cover TBA/21+)
The Big Easy
Ricky Russell and the Cadillac Horns (9 pm/\$3/21+)
Brian Boni
Chronic Funk (funk/9 pm/no cover)
Bridgeway Restaurant
Bobby Lane (jazz/6 pm/no cover)
C.J. Thrifty's
DJ Jesse Butler (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Commercial Street Pub
Keith Hamilton (blues rock/9 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Diggs/Liquid Blue
DJ Double D (retro dance/9 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Free Street Taverna
The Roadies (10 pm/\$3/21+)
Geno's
1980 Drumroll (rock/9 pm/cover TBA/21+)
The Iguala
Dance night 9 pm/no cover/21+
The Industry
DJ Kinky (10 pm-3 am/\$10 for 18+, \$3 for 21+)
The Mercury
Polyquid (old school rock and soul/9 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Old Port Tavern
Stream reggae/9:30 pm/no cover/21+
The Pavilion
DJ Thunder (top 40 dance/9 pm/\$3 after 10 pm/21+)
St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center
A Giant Robot, Adamo and Extendo Ride (indie rock/7pm/\$5/all ages)
Silver House Tavern
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)

Sisters
Top 40 dance music w/ DJ Richard (9 pm/\$3/21+)
The Skinny
Peepshow, Truthwines and Corn Mo (modern rock/9pm/\$5/21+)
Somewhere
DJ Larry (9 pm/no cover/21+)
una
DJ Nicotine (9:30 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)
The Undergound
DJ Dan (9 pm-1:30 am/\$3/21+)

tuesday 9
The Alehouse
Acoustic open mic w/ Keith Brine (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Cortell Concert Hall
Jazz Combo (7:30 pm/\$3-\$5)
Diggs/Liquid Blue
DJ Ammon EP and Resurrection House (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Free Street Taverna
Johnny Welfare (10 pm/no cover/21+)
Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Sid Thorne (dance/9:30 pm/no cover/21+)
O'Rourke's Landing
Free rehearsal space night (8 pm/no cover/21+)
Pub 21
Ben Rowan's karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)
The Undergound
Gothic/Industrial night (9 pm-1 am/\$3/21+)

sunday 7
The Alehouse
Soul Shakedown Party (reggae/9:30 pm/no cover/21+)
Asylum
Twiztid, Blaze, Anybody Killa and Eastside (hardcore rap/4 pm/\$15-\$17)
The Big Easy
Stream reggae/9:30 pm/\$3/21+
Brian Boni
An Irish traditional Irish/3 pm/no cover
Commercial Street Pub
Keith Hamilton (blues rock/9 pm/no cover/21+)
David's Restaurant
Jenny Woodman (acoustic duo/6 pm/no cover)
Free Street Taverna
Allen Lowe and Hubert's Jazz Musicians, the Revolvers, Gabe's Spin (4 pm/no cover/21+)
Mathew's Lounge
Karaoke with DJ Bonnie (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Mike C (9:30 pm/no cover/21+)
O'Rourke's Landing
Free rehearsal space night (8 pm/no cover/21+)
Pub 21
Karaoke (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Somewhere
Karaoke with Jeff Rockwell (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)
The Station
Open blues and jazz jam session with Mark "Guitar" Miller (8 pm/no cover/21+)
Three Dollar Dewey's
Tom Kennedy (6 pm/no cover/21+)
The Undergound
Queer TV (8 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)
Sisters
Open mic night (5 pm/no cover/21+)
State Street Church
Maine Music Society (classical/3 pm/\$7.50-\$17.50)
Three Dollar Dewey's
Ben Trout and Charlie Schmidt (folk/4 pm/no cover/21+)
una
Stuck in the '80's with WMPG's Ron and Kim (8:30 tunes/9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)
The Undergound
Karaoke with Dan (9 pm-1 am/no cover/21+)
DJ Nova (pop, house and trance/9 pm-1 am/cover TBA/21+)

monday 8
The Alehouse
Scott Girouard Band (blues and rock/9:30 pm/no cover/21+)
The Big Easy
Inside Straight (9:30 pm/cover TBA/21+)
Brian Boni
Hollerin' Man (country/9 pm/no cover/21+)
Club Subterra
Karaoke with Don Corman (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Free Street Taverna
Hip-hop open mic (9 pm/no cover/21+)
Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Sid Thorne (9:30 pm/no cover/21+)

live radio broadcasts
friday 5
WMPG 90.9 FM and 104.1 FM
On "Us Folk," Christopher Williams (9 pm-11 am/no cover/21+)
sunday 7
WCL 98.9 FM
On "Greetings from Area Code 207," Jerks of Grass (bluegrass) at 11 am
wednesday 10
WCL 98.9 FM
On "Greetings from Area Code 207," Rocktopus (rock) at 6 pm

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WMPG 90.9 FM and 104.1 FM
On "Us Folk," Christopher Williams (9 pm-11 am/no cover/21+)
sunday 7
WCL 98.9 FM
On "Greetings from Area Code 207," Jerks of Grass (bluegrass) at 11 am
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Visual Arts

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

openings and events

thursday, april 4

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick. Opening of "Painted Pairings: The Valuing of Art," in which similar art objects are shown with disparate monetary values, with a lecture by Lawrence Weschler, a writer for the New Yorker, at 7:30 pm. Continues through Sun, June 9. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Free. 725-3275.

Greenhut Galleries 146 Middle St., Portland. Opening of "Pastels: Kathleen Galligan and Nicola Gangi," still lifes and landscapes, 5-7 pm. Continues through Sat, April 27. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

friday, april 5

Aucocisco 615A Congress St., Portland. Opening of "Anne Whiston Spurr: Landscapes Photographs," color photographs and giclee prints, 5-8 pm. Continues through Sat, April 27. Hours: Wed-Sat noon-5 pm, 874-2060.

Bates College Museum of Art, Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell St., Lewiston. Opening of "Annual Senior Exhibition," work done by graduating Bates seniors in various media. Continues through Sun, May 26. Ongoing in lower gallery. Documentary photographs, and highlights from permanent collection. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1pm-5pm. 786-6158.

Bayview Gallery 75 Market St., Portland. Opening of an exhibit of still-life paintings by Gayle Levee, 5-7 pm. Continues through Tues, April 30. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-5 pm. 773-3007.

Chocolate Church Arts Center 798 Washington St., Bath. Opening of "Come to My Garden," a juried exhibition of garden-themed works. Continues through Sat, May 4. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-4 pm, 442-8455.

The Kitchen 593 Congress St., Portland. Opening of "Nathan Deyesso and Byron Kanoti: Mixed Media Paintings and Drawings." Shows through Fri, May 31. Hours: Mon, Tues and Sat 10 am-4 pm, Wed-Fri 10 am-7 pm. 775-0833.

The Skinny 625 Congress St., Portland. Opening of paintings and mixed media by Sarah Baldwin, 5-8 pm. Continues through Thurs, May 2. Hours: Mon-Fri 5 pm-1 am, Sat and Sun 9 pm-1 am (21+). 871-8983.

saturday, april 6

Icon Contemporary Art 19 Mason St., Brunswick. Opening of "Jeff Kellar," new wall and freestanding sculpture, 4-6 pm. Continues through Sat, May 4. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square, Portland. Opening of "Open House: Jonathan Bailey," an exhibition of photographs by Jonathan Bailey inspired by the McLeallen House and the L.D.M. Sweet Memorial Galleries. Continues through Sun, May 26. Tix: \$1-\$6. Hours: Tues-Wed, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-9 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 6-12). Free every Fri from 5-9 pm. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

Portland Parks and Recreation 17 Arbor St., Portland. Opening of historic photographic display of Riverton Trolley Park, 11 am-2 pm. Continues through Thurs, April 30. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-4:30 pm. 766-2970.

galleries

C.W. White Gallery 656 Congress St., Portland. "Glory Days," photography by Maxine McDonald continues through Sat, May 11. Hours: Wed-Sat 11 am-6 pm. 871-7282.

The Clown 123 Middle St., Portland. "Recent Oils," paintings by Stephen Joseph Lanzetta and "Mexican Black and White Prints," photography by Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest continues through Mon, April 29. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs-Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 756-7399.

Filament Gallery 181 Congress St., Portland. "Synergistic Spatial Relationships," glassworks by Ernest Palermo and graphic illustrations by Michael Angulo, shows through Sat, April 20. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10 am-6 pm and by appointment, 221-2061.

The Firehouse Gallery 1 Bristol Road, Damariscotta. "The Day We Saw the Edge of the Earth," featuring the works of 13 New England painters, fiber artists and sculptors, inspired by the events of Sept. 11, including Karen Adrienne, Erica Hansen, Robert Lieber, Natasha Mayers and more. Continues through Sun, April 21. Hours: Mon, Fri and Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-4 pm. 563-7299.

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

June Fitzpatrick Gallery at Maine College of Art 522 Congress St., Portland. "Incubation," mixed-media works by Jen Blackstone, continues through Sat, April 27. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 879-5742 x283.

Hay Gallery 594 Congress St., Portland. "Ruminations," mixed-media works by Janis Goodman, continues through Sun, April 28. Hours: Tues-Sun noon-5 pm, Fri noon-7 pm. 773-2513.

Hole in the Wall Studioworks Route 302, Raymond. Watercolors by Cynthia McMullin, gouache paintings by Wendy Newcomb. Continues through Mon, May 20. Hours: Thurs-Sun 9:30 am-5 pm. 655-4952.

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

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.

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

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

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

Portland Coalition Art Gallery 688 Congress St., Portland. Ongoing exhibit of mixed-media works by artists associated with the Portland Coalition for the Psychiatrically Labeled. Hours: Daily 9 am-7 pm. 772-1206.

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

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

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

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

Salt Gallery 110 Exchange St., Portland. "Documenting Intolerance: The Photographic Collection of Samuel Zeitlin," featuring photography by Eugene Khaldei, Danny Lyon and Ernest Withers, shows through Mon, May 6. Hours: Mon-Fri 11:30 am-4 pm. 761-0660.

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

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

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

Stein Gallery 195 Middle St., Portland. "Rob Levin's Bridges," featuring cast glass and gold leaf bridge

LEFT OF CENTER



"The Fertile Harvest," by Louella Mitchell, is part of the ongoing exhibit at the Portland Coalition Art Gallery.

Through the haze of mental illness, clarity and vision

The Portland Coalition Art Gallery is a few blocks west of the city's arts district. But the gallery is different from other Portland galleries in more ways than just its location. At 688 Congress St., it is purposely close to its parent organization, the Coalition for the Psychiatrically Labeled, next to Joe's Smoke Shop.

The gallery has one firm criterion for artists — they must be members of the coalition, a nonprofit, state-funded agency run by and for people who are mentally ill.

"A couple of people have told me they wanted to have stuff up in the gallery," said Walter Benedict, who staffs the gallery and whose pictures comprise about half of the hanging artwork. "They said they could go sign up at the coalition, and tell them they're a nut. But they can't," he said. If it came down to it, Benedict said, the coalition would run a background check on prospective artists to ensure the validity of their psychiatric diagnosis.

Work by five artists is up in the gallery, which Benedict helped open eight weeks ago in the space that used to house the coalition's library. Very little of it is amateurish — surprising, since the gallery screens artists only for mental diagnosis, not artistic proficiency.

Benedict's 37 oil paintings and drawings cover most of one wall. "Images of Sight" hints at his deep inspiration and potential. Against a moody background of pea greens and subdued yellows, dashed with bright, primary colors, are 10 scattered eyes. Benedict, a recovering alcoholic, said the haunting painting stemmed from the feeling that "everybody was watching me, to see how I would do on my own." The rest of his work is primarily of nature scenes, local monuments and lighthouses. The fine, cross-hatched detail of his drawings is impressive, but Portland doesn't need more light-house pictures.

Three paintings by a woman named Dixie are also up. Her loose, figurative style is defined by wavy lines of color, as if she were painting the world through the bottom of a drinking glass. Her painting of the Portland cityscape, in which the sea-blue buildings sag and smear into one another, is less dizzying than her portraits because of its larger scale.

Louella Mitchell, whose work showed at the Congress Square Gallery and Art Mall before its abrupt closure at the end of March, has 11 pieces up at the Portland Coalition Art Gallery. Her surrealist paintings and drawings run the gamut from frightening to hopeful. "Consumer" is a pencil drawing of a fanged monkey on a crying woman's back. Mitchell said the paper is off-white, rather than white, because it was all she could get in jail, where she drew it.

"Fertile Harvest" is a portrait of a "beaming woman pregnant with possibility," said Mitchell. "She's pleased with what she is. That's what I would like to feel like all the time."

VICTORIA GANNON

The ongoing exhibit of work by artists associated with the Portland Coalition for the Psychiatrically Labeled is on display at the Portland Coalition Art Gallery, 688 Congress St., Portland. Hours: Daily, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 772-1206

Visual Arts



"Mexican Man With Polka Dot Shirt," by Bill Traylor, is part of the "Painted Pairings" exhibit opening April 4 at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

forms, shows through Sat, April 27. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 772-9072.

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

University of New England Art Gallery 716 Stevens Ave., Portland. "6 Select 6" featuring women artists from Maine and beyond including Jean Beal, Katherine Bradford, Bronlynn Jones, Rowena Oremba, and more, in various media, shows through Sat, May 11. Hours: Wed, Fri-Sun 1 pm-4 pm; Thurs, 1 pm-7 pm. 797-7261 x4499.

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

museums

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

"Art, Science, and Mind," exhibit of work from permanent collection illustrating the interaction of science and art in European and American culture, shows through Sun, May 5.

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.

Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville. Sculptures and drawings by Harriette Matthews show through Sun, April 7. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-4:30 pm, Sun 2-4:30 pm. 872-3228.

Maine Maritime Museum 243 Washington St., Bath. "Working the Coast," paintings by Helen St. Clair, R. Valentine Gray, Stephen Emier, Edith A. Sternfeld and Paul Rickert, is ongoing. Hours: 9:30 am-5 pm daily. Admission: \$8.75 (\$6 under 17, kids under 6 free). 443-3161.

The Museum of African Tribal Art 122 Spring St., Portland. "The Spirit of the Igbo Masks," masks and other objects representing over 1,000 years of sub-

Saharan history, is ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Sat 12:30-5 pm. Free. 871-7188.

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

Archive: Alan Magee Monotypes," works by the local artist, shows through Sun, May 19.

"The Poetry Within: The Life and Works of William Thon," paintings, shows through Mon, May 27.

Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum Bowdoin College, Brunswick. "Latitudes: The Far Northeast," photography by geographer Wilfred Richard, shows through Thurs, June 13. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Free. 725-3416.

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

University of Southern Maine Art Gallery 37 College Ave., Gorham. "Student Exhibit 2002," works by graduating seniors, shows through Sat, April 20. Hours: Tues-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 780-5009.

other venues

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

Casco Bay Books 151 Middle St., Portland. "Small Art," works by Shannon Rankin, Rufus Tureen and Rox Cockrell, are ongoing. Hours: 10 am-11 pm daily. 541-3842.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St., Portland. "Dreams, Figures and Seascapes," oil, watercolor and charcoal paintings by Joseph M. Landis. Continues through Sat, May 4. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6:30 am-8 pm, Sat 7 am-9 pm, Sun 7 am-7 pm.

Coffee By Design 24 Monument Square, Portland. "Dreams, Figures and Seascapes," oil, watercolor, and charcoal paintings by Joseph M. Landis. Continues through Sat, May 4. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-5:30 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm.

Coffee By Design 67 India St., Portland. "Northern Carnival," oil paintings by Sarah Darling. Continues through Sat, May 4. Hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 am-6 pm, Sat 7 am-6 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm.

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

Maine Audubon "What the Rocks Say: Western Landscapes and Their Stories," landscape photography by John G. Kelley, continues through Wed, May 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm.

Nonesuch Books Mill Creek Shopping Center, 50 Market St., Portland. Cartoons and drawings by "Mindlitter" artist Lawrence Nelson show through Sun, April 28. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-9 pm, Sun 9 am-5 pm. 799-2659.

Sophia's 81 Market St., Portland. Abstract works in oil on wood panels and canvas by baker Stephen Lanzetta are ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 8 am-4 pm and by appointment. 879-1869.

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

Starbucks 176 Middle St., Portland. Paintings by Kat Farnin and Betsy McLean. 761-2797. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-9 pm, Fri 6 am-10 pm, Sat 7 am-10 pm, Sun 7 am-10 pm.

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

calls for art

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

Central Square Studios, 463 Stevens Ave., Portland. seeks art, especially from fiber and fabric artists, for consignment and display. Call Melodi at 780-3345.

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

Ocean Street Arts 520 Ocean St., South Portland. seeks artwork in various media for a new gallery. E-mail oceanstreetarts@hotmail.com or call Martha or Kate at 767-7773.

The Skinny, at 625 Congress St., Portland, seeks art in all media for display. Call Mellow at 871-8993.



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Michelob	1/2 \$85	Miller Lite	1/2 \$45
Michelob	1/2 \$60	Beck's	1/2 \$125
Red Hook	1/2 \$115	Fosters	1/2 \$95
Red Hook (ESB & Hefeweizen)	1/2 \$60	Bass	1/2 \$135
Boddington's	1/2 \$120	(+ \$50 for special tap)	
(+ \$50 for special tap)		Caffrey's	1/2 \$145
Labatt's (exc. Ice)	1/2 \$85	(+ \$50 for special tap)	
Stone Coast	1/2 \$125	Guinness	1/2 \$145
Atlantic	1/2 \$155	(+ \$50 for special tap)	
Critty's	1/2 \$125	Harp	1/2 \$125
Harpoon	1/2 \$120	(+ \$50 for special tap)	
Long Trail	1/2 \$120	Moosehead	1/2 \$85
Woodchuck Cider	1/2 \$140	Woodpecker	1/2 \$150
Old Saddleback	1/2 \$130	(+ \$50 for special tap)	
Coors & Coors Light	1/2 \$55	Pilsner Urquell	1/2 \$135
Coors & Coors Light	1/2 \$80	Pabst Blue Ribbon	1/2 \$60
Schaffer	1/2 \$50	Oak Pond Nut Brown	1/2 \$125
Heineken	1/2 \$112.50	Geary's	13.25 Gal. \$100
Amstel Light	1/2 \$112.50	Geary's Hampshire*	13.25 Gal. \$110
Genny 12 Horse	1/2 \$80	Shipyard	1/2 \$130
Shea's	1/2 \$80	Shipyard	1/2 \$75
Honey Brown	1/2 \$80	Shipyard Old Thumper	1/2 \$135
Pete's	1/2 \$125	Sam Adams	1/2 \$130
Carrabassett	1/2 \$125	Sam Adams Boston Lager	1/2 \$75
Casco Bay	1/2 \$125	Allagash	1/2 \$145
Sebag	1/2 \$125	Newcastle Brown	1/2 \$135
Sea Dog	1/2 \$125	Rocky Bay	1/2 \$125
Cider Jack	1/2 \$135	Rocky Bay	1/2 \$135
Paulaner Hefe-Weizen	1/2 \$149	Sierre Nevada Pale Ale	1/2 \$135
Warsteiner	1/2 \$137	Anchor Steam Ale	1/2 \$160
Smuttynose	1/2 \$130	Molson	1/2 \$85
		Kilian's Red	1/2 \$90



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Portland Museum of Art
APRIL VACATION WEEK
BOREDOM BUSTER
FAMILY ACTIVITIES

April 16 to April 19, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
Free with Museum admission.
No registration is necessary; just stop in!

Celebrate spring at the PMA! Each Boredom Buster day has a theme with artmaking, gallery activities, and the art lounge, a resting place with storybooks and art books related to the day's theme.

Tuesday and Thursday: Langlais Land

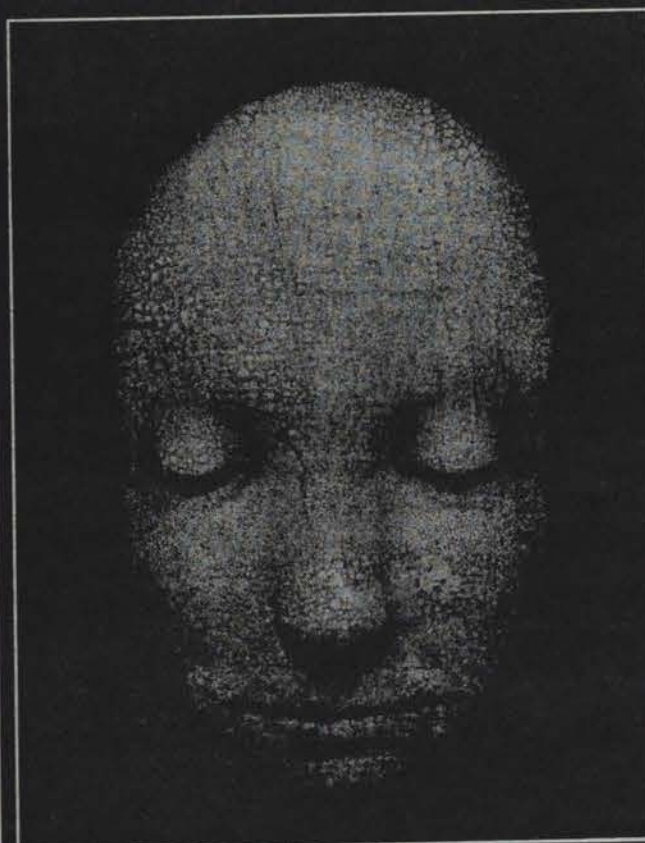
Bernard Langlais made sculptures of animals, people, and other intriguing subjects using wood and paint. See Langlais's creatures and characters to get ideas for making your own wood sculpture at the art tables!

Wednesday and Friday: New Studio Project

The PMA Community Studio has been in temporary digs for about a year and a half. In May we will start moving into our new and improved studio spaces, and you can help! We want you to make a painting that celebrates your favorite artwork or artist or your favorite thing to do at the Museum. We will use these small canvases to decorate the new studio spaces for the Grand Opening of the buildings on October 5.

meet the artist

ALAN MAGEE



The Museum welcomes Maine artist Alan Magee, who will discuss the powerful and poignant monotypes on view at the Museum in *Archive: Alan Magee Monotypes*. Magee will talk about the path that led to this body of work.

Archive: Alan Magee Monotypes is on view at the Portland Museum of Art from March 9 through May 19.

Meet the Artist programs are made possible by The Beatrice Gilmore Fund for Museum Education.

Burns, 5/2000 Alan Magee, monotype, 14 x 11 inches. Alan Magee is represented by Forum Gallery in New York and Los Angeles.

Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m.

Free with Museum admission.

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART

Seven Congress Square
 775-6148
www.portlandmuseum.org

short
CUTS

DAN SHORT

Running on Empty

While the music scene is rarely on the cutting edge — or anywhere near it — there is the occasional band or two that does seem to be. Though not trying to make the sound of the future, at least these bands are trying to produce music that sounds current. Within recent history, Lincolnville and Cerberus Shoal created music that, if not on the cutting edge, could be considered at least near the forefront of national trends.

Of course, the importance of sounding contemporary all depends on the quality of the music. Rap-metal may be all over the national scene, but most of the music is clichéd and moronic. The last thing Portland needs is a band like that.

So to say that the local quintet Emptyhead could easily fit into the national scene isn't giving away much. Judging from its EP, "A Single Thread," Emptyhead is very much in the vein of Creed, Default and other bands that heavily borrow from Pearl Jam. Emptyhead has the same big, yet conservative, hard-rock sound, inspired by classic rock, but emphasizing emotion and sensitivity over macho strutting. It's a sound that anyone who listens to modern-rock radio will be familiar with.

Emptyhead's songwriting is good, and the performances are appropriately earnest. The only thing it lacks is a pristine production job. Still, the sound has been overdone, and Emptyhead doesn't add much to make it stand out. If you're sick of the sound already, Emptyhead won't change your mind. But people who love bands like Creed might as well give Emptyhead a chance.

Emptyhead plays at Asylum, 121 Center St., Portland on Friday, April 5 at 8 p.m. Tix: \$5. 772-8274.

Dreamland



Nocturnal pleasures: Kate's Dream plays April 5 at the Free Street Taverna in Portland.

Local quartet Kate's Dream also plays a style of modern rock, but its music isn't so easily classifiable. Band members cite U2 and Jane's Addiction as primary influences — and the influences are apparent — but neither band is imitated.

On its self-titled, four-song EP, Dream shows a strong, melodic element, but more complex than one would expect. On songs like "Daredevil Dolly" and "Colony," the group demonstrates an ability to combine strong pop songs with intense performances. Attempts to show a softer side on "Midnight is Gone" are awkward by comparison. Still, Kate's Dream has plenty of appeal for anybody who likes melodic rock.

Kate's Dream plays at the Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, on Friday, April 5 at 10 p.m. Tix: \$3. 774-1114.

Dreadlocks

Sometimes, bands aren't exactly accurate when describing their sound. Take the New Hampshire trio Dreadnaught, which calls its music "prog-billy," a mixture of progressive rock and country. After listening to its latest CD, "American Standard," that description seems a bit of an overstatement. It is definitely a progressive rock band, and there are some country sounds on the CD, but there are also heavy metal, reggae, jazz, classical, techno and new wave sounds. What it has really done is incorporate a genre-hopping mentality into a progressive-rock framework.

With pronounced Frank Zappa, King Crimson and Rush influences, Dreadnaught holds a lot of appeal for fans of progressive rock. The music may be too difficult for some, and there's very little emotional content to "American Standard." But what really separates this group from other progressive rock bands is its sense of fun. A sense of humor shows with unexpected genre jumps and things like the New Wave parody on "Popeye." Moreover, band members seem to enjoy playing. And that makes Dreadnaught a lot more enjoyable than most progressive rockers.

Dreadnaught, with Seepeoples, plays the Alehouse, 30 Market St., Portland, on Friday, April 5 at 9:30 p.m. Tix: \$3. 772-8274.

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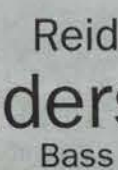
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PERFORMANCE

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

Send to: Victoria Gannon, Casco Bay Weekly,
561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101
or e-mail: listings@maine.cc.com

DANCE

Faculty Show Thurs. April 4-Sat. April 6. Bowdoin College Department of Dance and Theatre's faculty show. Wish Theatre, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. 7 pm. Free. 725-3375.

THEATER/COMEDY

"Art" Tues. April 9-Sun. May 5. In this Portland Stage Company production directed by Michael Ratkin, a man buys a work of modern art that looks like a blank canvas, and his two friends question their relationship, among other issues. At Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave. Portland. Previews Tues. April 9-Thurs. April 11 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$20. Opening night Fri. April 12 at 7:30 pm. Performances Wed-Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 4 pm and 8 pm, Sunday, 2pm. Matinees Wed April 17, 2pm. Tix: \$27-\$32. 774-0465.

"Bride to Terabithia" Fri. April 5-Sun. April 21. Children's Theatre of Maine presents the play based on popular children's novel by Katherine Paterson, in which two lonely children discover a mutual world of imagination and wonder. At Children's Theatre of Maine, 317 Marginal Way, Portland. Fri at 7 pm. Sat at 2 pm and 7 pm. Sun at 2 pm. Mon. April 15-Fri. April 19 at 10 am. Tix: \$6-\$8. Sat. April 16 at 7 pm is Pay What You Can. 828-0617.

Comedy Connection Thurs. April 4, Portland's Funniest Professional Contest semifinals, hosted by

There are no heroes, only heroines, in "Girls to the Rescue." In the three short plays presented by A Company of Girls' Fledgling Ensemble, the girls — directed by Avesha DeWolfe, Leah Cross and Odelle Bowman — outsmart monsters and spread wisdom. Established six years ago as a program of the East End Children's Workshop, A Company of Girls introduces girls to experiences in art, theater and community service, while raising self-esteem and awareness. Watch girls save the day (natch) at 10 Mayo St. Portland, Saturday, April 6 and April 13, and Sunday, April 7 and April 14, at 2:30 p.m. Tix: \$5. 874-2107.

Center stage



Girl power: A Company of Girls' Fledgling Ensemble (from left) Winnie Carlo, Lorraine Jabine, Hannah Cormier and Sierra Frisbee, save the day in "Girls to the Rescue," April 6 and April 7 at 10 Mayo St., Portland.

George Hamm. 8 pm. Tix: \$6. George Hamm with Danny Kelley. Fri. April 5, 8:30 pm. Sat. April 6, 7:30 and 9:30 pm. Tix: \$10. Sun. April 7, Kelly MacFarland's Comedy Showcase. 8 pm. Tix: \$6. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

"Damn Yankees" Through Sun. April 14. A baseball fan gets his wishes granted by the devil in the classic musical. At the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Rte 114, Sebago Lake Village. Fri and Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$10-\$14. 642-2612.

"The Foreigner" Fri. April 5-Sat. April 20. Two Englishmen discover scandal at a fishing lodge in Georgia. Directed by David Goulet. At the Portland Players, 420 Cottage Road, South Portland. Thurs. April 18 at 8 pm. Fri and Sat at 8 pm. Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13-\$15; opening night \$12; Sun. April 7 students \$3. 799-7337.

"Girls to the Rescue" Sat. April 6-Sun. April 14. See Center Stage.

Love, Sex, and the IRS Through Sun. April 7. Vincent Knue directs a comedy in which roommate musicians file joint tax returns as a couple to screw the IRS. At MainePlay Productions, 28 Preble St., Portland. Fri and Sat at 8 pm. Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$12. 771-5611.

"Maine+Acts" Sat. April 6. Children's Theatre of Maine's improvisational comedy troupe. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 1 pm. Tix: \$6 child, \$8 adult. 878-2774.

"Matching Shadows with Homer" Through Sun. April 7. Al Miller's play recounts the life of a dentist posing as the Albanian head of state. At the Theater Project, 14 School St., Brunswick. Fri and Sat at 7 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$15. 729-8584.

"The Story of My Life" Through Sat. April 13. The Broadway Cabaret's newest show revolves around the music of legendary crooner Burt Bacharach. At the Eastland Park Hotel, 157 High St., Portland. Sat at 7:30 pm and 9 pm. Tix: \$12. 781-5093.

"The Sound of Music" Fri. April 5-Sun. April 14. Crossroads Youth Center perform a full musical production of the story of a nun named Maria who charms the Von Trapp family into singing and dancing. At Burns School Stage, Middle Street Extension, Saco. Fri-Sat at 7:30 pm. Sun at 2 pm. 838-2146.

"The Woolgatherer" Fri. April 5-Sat. April 13. The Originals put on play about a shy, eccentric salesgirl and a truck driver who develop a relationship. At the Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. 7:30 pm. Tix: \$10 Adults. \$8 Students and Seniors. Thurs. April 11 Pay What You Can. 929-5412.

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.cc.com

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, April 4

"Cadences V" William Corbett, a writer of non-fiction and poetry, reads from his latest book, "Cadences V," as part of National Poetry Month at the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 871-1710.

"Cool Science: Dig for Dinosaurs" A dinosaur excavation for junior archaeologists followed by an art workshop at the Children's Museum of Maine, 142 Free St., Portland, at 2 pm. Free with \$5 admission. 828-1234.

"Full Sized Drawings" Make a life-sized self-portrait to hang on your wall at Northern Sky Toys, 388 Fore St., Portland at 10:30 am. Free. (Ages 2-5) 828-0911.

Guerrilla Girls Feminist art activism group presents "Your Cultural Conscience," as part of the Colby College Women's Studies Colloquia at Colby Union, Colby College, Waterville, at 7 pm. Free. 872-3195.

Lecture Series in the Visual Arts Ceramicist Carol Grant gives a talk about her work at the Robie Andrews Hall on the University of Southern Maine, 37 College Ave., Gorham, at 4 pm. Free. 780-5460.

politics gives a lecture to coincide with the opening of the exhibition "Pointed Pairings: The Valuing of Art," at Kresge Auditorium at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Free. 725-3743.

Friday, April 5

Ceramic Workshop Carol Grant leads participants in "Sculpting in Relief" at the Robie Andrews Hall at the University of Southern Maine, 37 College Ave., Gorham, from 9 am-6 pm. Tix: \$40. 780-5460.

Contradance An evening of traditional New England folk dancing with the band Wake the Neighbors, at the Chase Hall Lounge, Bates College, Lewiston, at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$3-\$6. 786-6255.

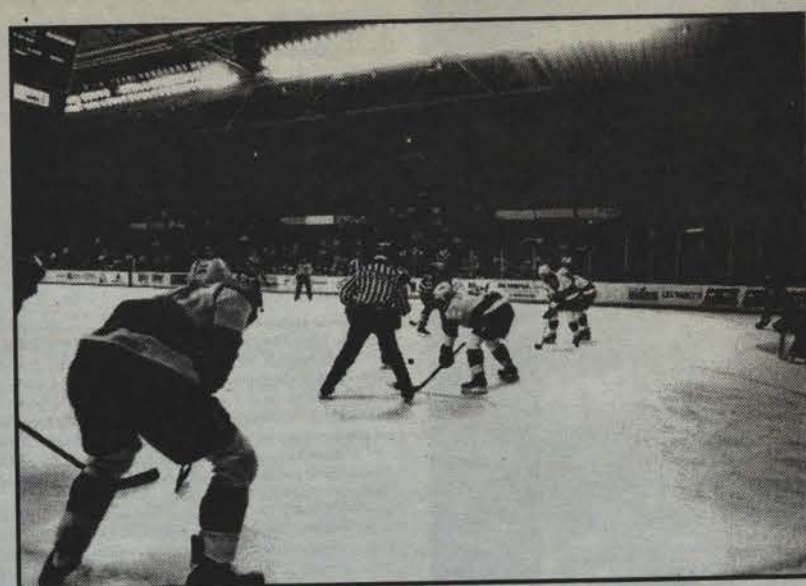
"Crossing Cultural Borders: Marginalized Identities in a Multicultural Society" Two-day event including workshops and presentations regarding issues of deafness and multiculturalism at Luther Bonney Hall at University of Southern Maine, 96 Falmouth St., Portland, from 1-5:30 pm. Free. 799-4507.

"New Voices" Jay Davis, Peter Manuel, Steve Luttrell and several other local poets will read as part of Longfellow Books monthly reading series, at Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 772-4045.

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

Saturday, April 6

Baseball writer Maria Testa reads from her young-adult novels "Becoming Joe DiMaggio" and "Some Kind of Pride," at Nonesuch Books, Mill Creek Shopping Center, 50 Market St., So. Portland, at 1 pm. Free. 799-2659.



Root for the Portland Pirates April 4 and April 6 at the Cumberland County Civic Center. FILE PHOTO

Portland Pirates vs. Albany River Rats Watch grown men ice skate, fight and battle for goals at the Cumberland County Civic Center, Spring and Free streets, Portland, at 6:05 pm. Tix: \$8-\$18. 775-3458.

Lynn Price A reception with the founder of "Camp To Belong," a nonprofit organization dedicated to reuniting brothers and sisters placed in different foster homes, at the Children's Museum of Maine, 142 Free St., Portland, at 5 pm. 780-5861.

"Travelers' Club: Biking the Pacific Northwest" Jeff Miller will show slides of a bicycle tour beginning in Seattle and ending in Calgary, at Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, at 7 pm. Free. 781-2330 x215.

Lawrence Weschler Longtime New Yorker staff writer and author of numerous books on art and

"Beyond the Pavement" The Maine Olmstead Alliance for Parks and Landscapes hosts a half-day conference exploring how design standards used in roadway projects effect the surrounding landscape, at Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Tix: \$10. 761-8081.

Bet Ha'am 10th Annual Art Festival and Bowl Auction An exhibit, sale and auction of bowls made by local potters benefiting the Seeds of Peace International Camp, at Congregation Bet Ha'am, 81 Westbrook St., South Portland, from 5-10 pm. Free. 846-0666.

"Bid Against Child Abuse Mostly Silent Auction" Vacations and theater tickets are two of the items up for grabs at this auction to ben-

efactor Weschler. Longtime New Yorker staff writer and author of numerous books on art and

LISTINGS CONTINUED ON PAGE 36.

MOVIES

"Panic Room"

review

Directed by David Fincher. Rated R. At Hoyts Falmouth 10, 206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. 781-5616; Maine Mall Cinema, Maine Mall Road, So. Portland. 774-1002.

After the freaky plot twists and surreal tone of 1999's "Fight Club," director David Fincher's latest opus, "Panic Room," is disarmingly straightforward. Despite its simplicity, it's a dark, harrowing ride.

Recently divorced mom Meg



Silencing her lamb: Jodie Foster (right) as Meg huddles with Kristen Stewart as her daughter Sarah in "Panic Room."

Altman (Jodie Foster) and daughter Sarah (Kristen Stewart) have just moved into a luxurious Manhattan brownstone that comes complete with "panic room" — a steel-reinforced safe room, where the occupants can hide during an emergency until help arrives. The room is equipped with closed-circuit monitors on every room in the house, food, water and a separate phone line to the outside.

Not surprisingly, Meg falls asleep after a long first day without having hooked up the panic room phone. Big mistake. Three burglars have chosen this night to break in, believing the house unoccupied. One of them spent the last 12 years working for the company that designed the panic room and all the apartment's security features.

Naturally, mother and daughter make it into the panic room in time; unfortunately, that's the only room in the house that interests the thieves — a previous owner stashed a fortune there. Now, the intruders must figure out a way to get mother and daughter out of the room, while Meg and Sarah have the unenviable task of summoning help from inside their locked fortress.

"Panic Room" is a far more traditional thriller than "Fight Club," but

it's no less stylish. Fincher pulls out all the stops in terms of camera work and editing to keep his audience squirming as the film unfolds. In a jolting shot, reminiscent of some of the best camera work from "Citizen Kane," the camera tracks down several flights of stairs, straight into a keyhole and back out in a matter of seconds. Later, to drive the point home, there are some impossible shots where the camera tracks smoothly through kitchen walls.

The movie does rely on some thriller conventions, of course. For one thing, the crooks are ill-matched and don't get along. The trio consists of Burnham (Forest Whitaker), the security expert and "good thief"; Junior (Jared Leto), the dumb thief who planned the operation; and Raoul (Dwight Yoakum), the loose cannon with a gun.

Stereotypes aside, the situation is compelling and the performances are top-notch. Foster is terrific as a mother out of her element, who must find the strength to deal with her bizarre situation, much as she has to redefine herself after the

breakdown of her marriage. Interestingly, even her ex-husband Stephen (Patrick Bauchau) comes through in his own way, but not without taking a severe pounding along the way. Perhaps there's a message there for guys who dump their wives for this year's model?

Whitaker is, as always, excellent as the reluctant burglar, and serves as a perfect foil to gun-toting Raoul. Junior brought in Raoul at the last minute, and as soon as the gun-toting, mask-wearing psycho is introduced, it's apparent this robbery is going to go very sour. Yoakum is totally menacing, both masked and unmasked. Only Junior's character seems weakly rendered. It's hard to tell if that's because of bad acting by Leto, or lines that don't ring true because they're overloaded with information.

That quibble aside, "Panic Room" offers plenty of well-executed thrills and suspense to spare. For someone in a seemingly helpless position, Meg manages to get a few severe licks in at her tormentors, who provide plenty of menace and some fiendish ingenuity as they try to draw her out of the panic room.

In true thriller fashion, the movie wrings the utmost out of its audience right up to the very last minutes. It's a pleasure to see Jodie Foster in action again, especially in a role with such visceral impact.

"Panic Room" may not offer more than an adrenaline rush, but it delivers that in spades.

LENNY SMITH

NEW RELEASES

BIG TROUBLE Tim Allen, Rene Russo, Tom Sizemore, mustachioed-madman Dennis Farina and a slew of others star in a Miami-based comedy about the intersecting lives of everyone from gangsters to school children. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema

FESTIVAL IN CANNES A fledgling actress/screenwriter teams up with an overbearing producer at the French film festival to lure a famous actor to their project. The Movies

HIGH CRIMES Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman were destined to team up for another trite thriller. If it plays like "Double Jeopardy" meets "Kiss the Girls," we just might have an Oscar contender — not. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10

ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS In a Danish town, lonely students of a foreign-language course find they have more in common than an interest in linguistics. Created in the Dogme 95 style of filmmaking. Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6

KISSING JESSICA STEIN A Jewish businesswoman begins questioning her sexual orientation after forging a new friendship with a woman. Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Falmouth 10

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER A cast of young and hip MTV types get together to film their version of "Animal House." Obviously, someone forgot to tell them that Jeremy Piven did that a couple of years ago with the brilliant "P.C.U." Hoyts Clark's Pond

NO MAN'S LAND Two opposing soldiers in the Serbian and Croatian armies find themselves trapped together in a trench along enemy lines. Oh, the tension! The Movies

SCRATCH Doug Pray's documentary explores the history, culture and art of turntablism, following the lives of 15 disc jockeys, including DJ Q-Bert. The Movies

ALSO SHOWING

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

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

BLADE II: BLOODHUNT Vampire hunter Blade (Wesley Snipes) teams up with the bloodsuckers that he originally fought to take on some mutants in the romantic-comedy, er, horror event of the season. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema

CLOCKTOPPERS "Star Trek: The Next Generation" star Jonathan Frakes gets behind the camera to direct a film about some dude who finds a watch that can freeze time. Hoyts Falmouth 10

new on DVD

- Bandits • She Creature
- The Strange Case of Senior Computer
- 13 Ghosts

AVAILABLE TUES., APRIL 9:

- High Hells and Low Lites • Mulholland Drive • No Man's Land
- Serendipity • The Skulls II • Spy Game

now playing

DEATH TO SMOOCHY Danny DeVito directs Robin Williams and Edward Norton in a black comedy about dueling children's television characters. Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Hoyts Falmouth 10

E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL Studio heads decided to re-release the classic film about a candy-munching alien's exploits in suburban America and see if they could add a few extra million dollars to its worldwide grosses. Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10

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

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

ICE AGE The animated film revolves around a cast of woolly mammoths, sloths, saber-toothed tigers and, er, a saber-toothed squirrel living in prehistoric times. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema

IRIS Kate Winslet and Judi Dench star in a depiction of an author's battle with Alzheimer's disease. Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING Director Peter Jackson the auteur behind gore-fests like "Dead Alive" and "Meet the Feebles" spent two years and nearly \$300 million in his native New Zealand filming J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy of fantasy novels. The first installment begins the story of a young hobbit in possession of a ring that, if in the wrong hands, could wreak devastation. Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6

MONSOON WEDDING When an Indian woman agrees to an arranged marriage, relatives come from all over the world to New Delhi during monsoon season for the wedding. Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6

MONSTERS BALL A prison executioner (Billy Bob Thornton) unknowingly falls in love with the ex-wife (Halle Berry) of a man he just put to death. The Movies

PANIC ROOM See review, this page.

THE ROOKIE A high school baseball coach loses a bet with his players, tries out for the big leagues and ends up making the cut — or something genius like that. Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinema

SHOWTIME An old-school detective (Robert DeNiro) is teamed up with a rookie cop (Eddie Murphy) for a reality TV show about the police department.

SORORITY BOYS After being kicked out of their dorm, three college guys decide to dress up in drag and join the sorority for ugly girls. Hoyts Clark's Pond

WE WERE SOLDIERS As part of his quest to play a warrior-soldier of every possible time period, Mel Gibson stars in a true story about a Vietnam army officer who leads his troops to slaughter. Hoyts Clark's Pond

times starting friday

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRI., APRIL 5, THROUGH THURS., APRIL 11 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
1, 4, 7, 9:40
HIGH CRIMES PG-13
BIG TROUBLE PG-13
1:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:10
NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VAN WILDER R
1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50
E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL PG
12:50, 1:20, 3:40, 6:10, 6:40, 9:20
40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS R
3:50, 9:45
SHOWTIME PG-13
12:45, 3:10, 6:50, 9:15
I AM SAM PG-13
12:40, 6:40
SORORITY BOYS R
7:30, 9:50
WE WERE SOLDIERS R
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

HOYTS FALMOUTH 10

206 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. 781-5616
HIGH CRIMES PG-13
1, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40
BIG TROUBLE PG-13
12:15, 2:35, 4:45, 7:05, 9:15
KISSING JESSICA STEIN R
12:20, 2:40, 5:20, 7:10
PANIC ROOM R
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45
ICE AGE PG
12:45, 2:50, 4:55, 7:15, 9:20
THE ROOKIE R
12:30, 3:25, 6:30, 9:25
CLOCKTOPPERS PG
12:15, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
BLADE II: BLOODHUNT R
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50
A BEAUTIFUL MIND PG-13
12:35, 3:35, 6:55, 9:50
E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL PG
12:50, 1:50, 3:50, 6:45
DEATH TO SMOOCHY R
9:35

MAINE MALL CINEMA

Maine Mall Road, So. Portland. 774-1022
BIG TROUBLE PG-13
1:55, 4:20, 6:35
THE ROOKIE R
1:30, 4:15, 7:10, 9:40
PANIC ROOM R
1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
ICE AGE PG
1:35, 3:45, 7:15, 9:15
CLOCKTOPPERS PG
2:45, 7:25, 9:35
BLADE II: BLOODHUNT R
1:50, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45
A BEAUTIFUL MIND PG-13
2:45
DEATH TO SMOOCHY R
9:45

THE MOVIES

10 Exchange St., Portland. 772-9600
MONSTERS BALL R
SHOWS WED., APRIL 3-TUES., APRIL 9
SHOWS WED.-SAT. 5, 9-SAT.-SUN. 1
-SUN.-TUES. 7
NO MAN'S LAND R
SHOWS WED., APRIL 3-TUES., APRIL 9
SHOWS WED.-SAT. 7:15-SAT.-SUN. 3
-SUN.-TUES. 5, 9:15
SCRATCH R
SHOWS WED., APRIL 10-TUES., APRIL 16
SHOWS WED.-SAT. 5, 9-SAT.-SUN. 1
-SUN.-TUES. 7
FESTIVAL IN CANNES (NR)
SHOWS WED., APRIL 10-TUES., APRIL 16
SHOWS WED.-SAT. 7-SAT.-SUN. 3
-SUN.-TUES. 5, 9

NICKELODEON CINEMAS 1-6

Temple and Middle Streets, Portland. 777-9751
KISSING JESSICA STEIN R
1:20, 3:50, 7:15
ITALIAN FOR BEGINNERS R
12:45, 2:45, 4:45, 7:30, 9:40
MONSOON WEDDING R
1:10, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45
DEATH TO SMOOCHY R
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING PG-13
12:30, 8:55
IRIS R
1, 9:30
AMELIE R
4, 6:30
A BEAUTIFUL MIND PG-13
3:40, 6:45

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LISTINGS

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LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34.

effit the York County Child Abuse and Neglect Council, at the Dunegrass Golf Club, Old Orchard Beach, at 7 pm. Tix: \$15. 284-1337.
Big Business Day Protest A rally and march sponsored by Maine People's Alliance, People Against Corporate Tyranny, and others, protesting the policies of Anthem/Blue Cross Blue Shield, starting at Monument Square, Portland, at 1 pm. 831-1402.

Wilson Cruz The actor who played "Ricky" on "My So Called Life" discusses his personal coming-out process in a lecture sponsored by OUTfront, at the Benjamin Mays Center, Bates College, Lewiston, at 8 pm. Free. 786-6330.
"Gift Exchange" At Maine College of Art's third annual service project, participants will be invited to create a gift for someone else and take one for themselves, at Monument Square, Portland, from 11 am-2 pm. Free. 775-3052.

"Landscaping for Wildlife" Co-sponsored by the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, the program will instruct gardeners in ways to attract wildlife to their gardens, at Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, from 9 am-2 pm. Tix: \$15-\$30. 781-2330 x215.

"National Kite Month Fun Fly" A kite flying and kite making event for kids sponsored by Northern Sky Toyz Kite at the Eastern Promenade, 11 am-4 pm. Free. 828-0911.
Outdoor Recreation Show A two-day show featuring the world's biggest fishing lure, dozens of exhibits and speakers about outdoor activities at the Portland Athletic Club, 196 Route 1, Falmouth, from 9 am-6 pm. Tix: \$3. 797-0780.

"Play It Safe Day" Meet members of local rescue teams, while getting tips on how to stay safe while playing, at the Children's Museum of Maine, 142 Free St. Portland, at 10 am and 2 pm. Free with \$5 admission. 828-1234.
Portland Pirates vs. Worcester Ice Cats Watch grown men ice skate, fight and battle for goals at the Cumberland County Civic Center, Spring and Free streets, Portland, at 7:05 pm. Tix: \$8-\$18. 775-3458.

"Selling Art on the Internet" A lecture by California figurative artist Marques Vickers, sponsored by the Center for Contemporary Art, at the Camden Public Library, 55 Main St, Camden, from 1-4:30 pm. Tix: \$25-\$35. 236-2875.

Southworth Planetarium See Fri, April 5 for full listing. "Rusty Rocket's Last Blast" at 3 pm, "Seeing the Invisible Universe" at 7 pm, U2 laser show at 8:30 pm.

"World Tai Chi and Chi Kung Day" Join the local celebration of this international event sponsored by the World Tai Chi and Chi Kung Day Organization at Tommy's Park, Middle and Exchange streets, Portland, at 9:30 am. Free. 780-9581.

Sunday, April 7

"Chocolate Lovers' Fling" Stuff your face to benefit Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine at this event featuring the area's best pastry chefs, caterers and confectioners at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland, from 1-4 pm. Tix: \$15. 1(800) 313-9900.

"Manpower Multiple Sclerosis Walk" Walkers pledges benefit the National MS Society. Walks are beginning at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Road, South Portland at 9 am, and Thornton Academy Gym, 436 Main St, Saco, at 9 am. Free. 761-5815.

Outdoor Recreation Show See Saturday, April 6 for full listing.

Southworth Planetarium See Fri, April 5 for full listing. "Just Imagine" at 3 pm.

Total Wellness Expo An event with information about wellness programs, integrative medicines, stress management, massage, environmental awareness and alternative energy sources, featuring over a dozen workshops about alternative healing methods, at Doubletree Hotel, 1230 Congress St, Portland, from 11 am-4 pm. Tix: \$2. 286-1427.

Uncle Billy's Barb-b-que Fund-raiser A benefit featuring music by the Al Hawkes Trio, the Hollerin' Men, and Kevin Midgeley and the Rubes, as well as an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner, to help the restaurant recover from fire damage incurred in last month's fire, at St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St, Portland, at 3 pm. Tix: \$15. 775-5568.

Monday, April 8

Nature Book Discussion Group Discuss "Tapiir's Morning Bath," a book by environmental journalist Elizabeth Royte, about her year on an island inside the Panama Canal, at Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, at 7 pm. Free. 781-2330 x215.

Tuesday, April 9

"Fireside Chats for New Millenium" U.S. Rep. Tom Allen will discuss recent diplomatic travels to Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and China over breakfast, at the Portland Regency Hotel, 20 Milk St, Portland, from 7:30-9 am. Tix: \$15-\$18. 773-0980.

"Introduction to Ornithology" The first in a four-week class covering the basics of bird biology, at Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, from 6:30-9 pm. Registration fee: \$90-\$110. 781-2330 x215.

Portland West Neighborhood Issues Forum and Community Meal George Coleman, of Portland Organization to Win Economic Rights, will speak about rent control and Portland's housing crisis, at Portland West, 181 Brackett St, Portland, at 6:30 pm. Free. 775-0105 x27.

"Poetry Night with Rodney" Open poetry reading at the Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St, Portland, at 8 pm. Free. (21+) 771-1114.
The Skinny Poetry Slam The open reading and slam hosted by Jay Davis the second Tuesday of every month, at The Skinny, 625 Congress St, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$5 (21+) 871-8983.

Wednesday, April 10

"Director Talkback" Michael Raskin, director of Portland Stage Company's production of "Art," will discuss the play with audience members and other artistic staff working on the play, at Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave, Portland, after the 7:30 pm performance. Free with show ticket. 774-1043.

"Nature and Outdoor Photography" The first in a 4 week workshop introducing techniques to photograph landscapes, wildlife, people, and events, at Maine Audubon, 20 Gilsland Farm Rd, Falmouth, 6:30-8:30 pm. Registration: \$70-\$85. 781-2330 x215.

Public Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Screenings The University of Southern Maine Lifeline Center will administer cholesterol and blood pressure screenings to the public, at Sullivan Gym, University of Southern Maine, Portland campus, 96 Falmouth St, from 7 am-2 pm and 4-7 pm. Tix: \$5-\$15. 780-4170.

LISTINGS

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Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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

Underground Railroad Tours Peace Action Maine member Wells Staley-Mays gives tours of

Portland's Underground Railway and other sites important to African-American history. Complete tour is two hours or less. Tix: \$6 per person (minimum group of six). 772-7249.

PERFORMING ARTS

auditions/submissions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Singers The Southern Maine Chorale seeks singers of all ages and voice parts. The group holds rehearsals every Tues at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Storer Avenue, Kennebunk, at 7 pm. Membership is \$35. 985-0092 or 967-2793. Writers above beginning levels are encouraged to submit poetry, fiction or nonfiction for a monthly reading group. Contact Christopher Bowe at Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, ME 04101. 772-4045.

VOLUNTEER

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

The American Red Cross, 524 Forest Ave, Portland, is open for blood donations Tues-Thurs from noon-7 pm and Fri from 9 am-4 pm. 775-2367, 800-482-0743 or 800-448-3543, or online at www.redcross.org.

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

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Portland Suite 216B, 175 Lancaster St, Portland. Volun-

teers age 18 and up are needed to spend time as an adult friend to an at-risk child. Commitment is either weekly or every other week for at least one year. 773-5437.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Master's Level Clinician: Must hold appropriate licensure as LCSW or
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Case Manager: Must possess prior case management experience and
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Educational Technicians III: Must hold appropriate endorsement and
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY - WEEK OF APRIL 4 © 2002 BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I'm thankful that 2002 is turning out just as I predicted: the year of your homecoming. Many of you have the blueprints for your dream home or are well on your way to creating a rich new sense of community. Virtually all of you have deepened your understanding of what your mission is here on planet Earth. That alone has made you feel less restless and more at home than you've ever been. Next step: Update any tradition that has lost its emotional power.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Scientists say that if you're normal, it would take a solid month of yelling at the top of your lungs to generate enough energy to boil water for a pot of tea. But you're not exactly normal these days. Your anger is of a higher quality than usual and your ability to channel it is far more concentrated. You could probably heat up three cups of Earl Grey with a mere eight hours of hollering. But might I talk you into making more productive uses of such primal force? You could, for instance, actually change the circumstances that are pissing you off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ancient Chinese astrologers believed that 70 percent of all omens were bad. There's never been a survey of their modern Western counterparts, but a majority of them also focus on doom and gloom. Fortunately, a few astrological mavericks like me, Caroline Casey, Antero Ali, and Elias Lonsdale are conjuring up a tradition of boom and zoom. I believe we are the wave of the future. Would you care to join our cause, Gemini? It's prime time for you to get the hang of expecting the best. "Can you afford not to make / the magical study / which happiness is?" (Thanks to poet Charles Olson for asking that portent question) P.S. To nominate an astrologer or prophet you know for our Boom and Zoom Hall of Fame, write us at www.freewillastrology.com.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The astrological omens suggest that it's Special Dispensation Week for you Crabs. Dull karmic necessity will be taking a break in your vicinity. An oppressive rule of thumb is ripe for one of its periodic exceptions. I suspect you'll be given at least partial exemptions from several ponderous cosmic regulations—perhaps even the law of gravity itself. Not only are you likely to get clearance to fly in your dreams far more than usual, I bet you'll also receive unexpected boosts from unseen helpers whenever you attempt quantum leaps of faith.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): I've channeled many first-class spirits in my time, like Thomas Jefferson and John Keats and Virginia Woolf. So I was confused and annoyed when I woke up this morning with the voice of Barbie in my groggy head. "I refuse to channel a plastic doll with an impossible figure!" I moaned. But Barbie was undeterred. "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful," she cooed. "Go ahead," I sighed, burying my face in my pillow. I am a Leo, "she began," and like many members of my tribe, I'm a little too dependent on my charisma. My charm can become an excuse for laziness. But no more. This April, I will be Adventurer Barbie full-time. I will be Astronaut Barbie and Safari Leader Barbie and Himalaya Expedition Barbie. Tell my fellow Lions I dare them to follow my lead." Oddly, I have to admit that her advice jibes with your astrological omens.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The "Consumer Education for Teens" Web site has helpful hints for anyone contemplating a new tattoo. For instance, artists at most parlors won't brand you with the name of your lover unless you agree to have it done in green or red. That way, if romance ever fades, it'll be relatively easy to convert the now offensive name into the image of a flower. While I admire the foresight of such a policy, I must note that it tends to undermine the tattoo recipient's faith in the long-term viability of the relationship. This is exactly the kind of subtle sabotage you should eschew in the coming weeks as you rev up your undying devotion to a beautiful cause. I advise you to do the metaphorical equivalent of getting that tattoo done in all the colors of the rainbow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A muse may be a provocative person or a lyrical spirit or the mysterious voice of an autonomous part of your own brain. Each of us has one. Poets and musicians may be in more conscious contact with theirs, but with a little work anyone can access their potential source of creative inspiration. I bring this up, Libra, because it's a perfect moment to upgrade your relationship with your muse. If the current office-holder is unwilling to undertake a deeper, hotter collaboration with you, consider handing him or her a pink slip and seeking out a more enthusiastic candidate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): I had never played a video game until recently. Then I bought "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Having heard that vicious mayhem characterizes most games, I've been pleased to find that I don't have to kill anyone as I help Harry navigate his way through a series of non-violent conflicts. Even more delightful is how closely his experiences mirror the game of life. Harry and I sometimes have to repeat a lesson 20 times before we master it. There's no guidebook to study, so we have to figure everything out through trial and error. Best of all: The rules keep changing. What works to get one through one tight spot isn't necessarily relevant in the next one. Sound familiar, Scorpio? This is an apt description of your current situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): To paraphrase French poet Charles Baudelaire: Genius is nothing more or less than childhood recovered—a childhood now equipped for self-expression with an adult's capacities. I thought I'd dangle this tempting notion in front of you now that you're so close to the fountain of youth. Maybe I'll encourage you to slorp, not just sip from those healing waters. Between gulps, you might want to wait the chorus of Bob Dylan's song "My Back Pages." "I was so much older then / I'm younger than that now."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In Ruth Manning-Sanders' fairy tale "The Small-Toothed Dog," a homely male dog saves a wealthy man from thieves. In gratitude, the man asks the dog what reward he'd like. "Will you accept a fish that speaks 12 languages?" he says. "Or a goose that lays golden eggs? Or a mirror in which you can see what anyone is thinking?" The dog refuses them all and leaves, promising to return soon to deliver his ultimate request. In the end, the man's daughter gives the dog what he wants most: her hand in marriage. In so doing, she frees him from a curse and he changes into a handsome prince. I urge you to make this your guiding myth for a few weeks, Capricorn. Don't grab the first bait that's offered. Hold out for what you really want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I don't take drugs, but I've always known people who do. I've noticed a curious evolution among the experimenters in recent years: It has become unusual for them to take just one substance at a time. Some of the many blends I've seen include Prozac and pot, "smart" drinks and vodka, No-Doz and Valium. This is amazing to me. One mind-altering blast isn't enough? I suppose it's just another symptom of the larger cultural trend towards multi-tasking, like people who eat breakfast and gab on cell phones while driving, or who ricochet among three different sexual partners. All this is meant to serve as context for your oracle this week, Aquarius, which is: Concentrate on one reality at a time. Avoid mixing and matching.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The astrological powers-that-be have declared this Figure Out Your Game Plan Week. You have a cosmic mandate to slip away from the vision-narrowing routine and climb to the mountaintop—or at least to a mountaintop perspective. There I predict you will receive the exhilarating benefits of viewing the big picture from on high. You will prune away all but one goal, pledge to devote yourself to it utterly, and formulate a step-by-step strategy to achieve total victory by next December.

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DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW
DESTABILIZING IT WOULD BE IF
THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ACTU-
ALLY DECIDED TO COMBAT TERROR-
ISM WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

YOU REPLY:
WHY DO YOU
HATE AMERICA
SO MUCH?

WHEN THEY SAY:

WHEN THEY SAY:
THE TALIBAN CAME TO POWER
AFTER WE ABANDONED AFGHANIS-
TAN TO FLOODING WARLORDS IN
THE 1980S! CERTAINLY WE'RE
NOT GOING TO MAKE THE SAME
MISTAKE AGAIN?

YOU REPLY:
WHY DO YOU
HATE AMERICA
SO MUCH?

WHEN THEY SAY:

WHEN THEY SAY:
IT STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW
A MISSILE DEFENSE SYS-
TEM WILL PROTECT US FROM
SUICIDAL MIJACKERS AND
SUICASE BOMBS?

YOU REPLY:
WHY DO YOU
HATE AMERICA
SO MUCH?

AND WHEN THEY SAY:

AND WHEN THEY SAY:
THEY THAT CAN GIVE UP
ESSENTIAL LIBERTY TO
OBTAIN A LITTLE TEAM-
PORARY SAFETY RESERVE
NEITHER LIBERTY NOR
SAFETY?

**YOU, OF COURSE,
REPLY:**
WHY DO YOU
HATE
AMERICA
SO MUCH?



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Gimme a B!
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DODGE DYNASTY 1992 Good buy and good eng. tilt, cruise. \$950 obo. 775-6132.

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN 1996 Dual sliding doors, 93k, clean, ac, cruise, tilt, tinted glass, roof rack. Must sell. \$6000. 774-3679.

DODGE INTREPID 1996 Blue, 100k, runs great 3.5 V6, auto, pw, pl, ac, cruise, am/fm/cd, alloy wheels, new tires, tint windows, spoiler, power clean. Must sell. \$5,000 obo. 649-4078.

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

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

DODGE SHELBY DAYTONA 1987 2.2 turbo. Good condition. \$1500. Call at 6 PM. 584-8315.

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

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

CHEVY CAVALIER 1997 2 door, burgundy with dark gray interior. Automatic, ac. Exc. condition, dealer serviced. 70 k. New tires, brakes, sticker. \$5500 obo. 314-2955.

DODGE STEALTH RT 1994 93,000 miles. Sapphire blue. Cream leather, fully loaded. Asking \$7,000. 773-0921.

FORD ESCORT 1994 2 dr, automatic, a/c, new batteries and brakes. 163 k. Sunroof. Cassette. One owner, runs great \$1200 obo. 865-4041.

FORD EXPLORER LIMITED 1995 leather interior, 4wd automatic, power everything, tinted windows, exc. cond. 112,000 miles. \$8600. 354-7012.

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

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

FORD THUNDERBOLT 1995 V8, moon roof, 77k miles. Excellent shape, must sell. \$6500, I will dicker. 633-1114.

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

GAS TANKS. New Gas Tanks at Wholesale Prices. \$99.00 for most GM, FORD, & CHRYSLER. \$119.00 for most imports. Buy Direct from the Distributor. Call us Toll Free Mon - Fri at 1-800-561-8265.

GEO TRACKER 1990 Good condition. \$2400. 772-0295.

CHEVY LUMINA 1999 Granite metallic, immaculate inside and out, brand new cond, exc. mechanical cond. and maintenance record. Loaded w/all extras. 84k miles. \$6950 obo. Call after 4:30 PM weekdays, 8am-9pm wkends. 546-2690.

CHEVY MALIBU 1999 40,000 original miles. Silver met. \$7200. 737-2235.

CHEVY PRISM LSI 1998 4 dr, automatic, mint cond., repaired vehicle. \$6500. 751-4100.

CHEVY SUBURBAN 1998 Black, gray leather, loaded. Dual controls heat and air. 3rd seat. Barn doors, low package, running boards. Exc. condition. 77k. \$17,900. 655-3101.

CHRYSLER MINI VAN 2001 V6, loaded, tinted glass, factory warranty, blue. 8k. Asking \$15,900. 848-5849.

CHRYSLER PT CRUISER PW 2001 ps, sunroof, auto, ce, leather, dark green, 13k miles, ltd. edition, immaculate. \$19,500 obo. 882-5400.

DODGE AVEGER ES 1997 V6, auto, pw, pl, power seats. AC, sunroof. 59K. Reliable. car \$8500/best offer. 947-6076.

DODGE CARAVAN 1999 7pass, white, ps, pb, ac. 50k miles. \$9,000. 353-9303.

DODGE COLT 1990 1500 mi. 2D Hatchback. Fair to good condition. Teal exterior. Brown leather seats. A/C not working. Minor body work needed. Tape deck, am/fm radio. \$1000 obo. Tom or Lisa, 892-0977.

DODGE COLT HATCHBACK 1992 Runs great, exc. gas mileage, regular maintenance, rust treatment. 132k miles. 5 spd, blue. Inspected til July 2002. \$995. 657-7344.

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women 2 men

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

40-ISHBFF enjoys reading, shopping, writing, excellent cook, hiking and long drives in the country. ISO Male, 40-46, 6'4", for friendship first, n/drugs, financially secure, children ok, no head games, college degree, honest, rare unimportant, flexible, moderate drinking. #85286

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

53-YEAR-OLD DWF, 5'7". Great sense of humor and positive outlook. Looking for lasting relationship. Life is what we make it! #85349

AFFECTIONATE, KIND SWF, 33, mother of three. Blonde/blue, 5'3", 150 lbs, smoker, social drinker. Looking for SWM, 24-40, with similar attributes, for friendship leading to possible intimate relationship. #85215

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

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

ARTS and outdoors-oriented DWF, 46, smart, classy, petite, energetic mom with two teens. Enjoy gardening, mountain biking, walks, reading, kayaking and cultural events. Seeking DWM, 40-52, fit, secure, intellectually curious, warm-hearted, with similar interests. #85370

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

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

BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, passionate, moral, professional, equally comfortable in jeans as little black dress, gift-necked SF brown hair, baby blue eyes, 3'7", 5'3", 115 lbs. Seek educated, humorous, boating, sailing, professional yet outdoorsy, boy-next-door kind of Guy, 35-42. #85274

BLACK, MATURE Female who's attractive, adorable, romantic, intelligent, edible and likes learning new things, traveling, cooking, dining, old movies. I neither smoke or drink. Seeking the same in a Man who's sincere, honest, loyal, caring and a nonsmoker or drinker. #85373

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

BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN, young 55, read the bible, go to church, listen to Christian music, exercise. Would like to meet a born-again Christian who reads the bible, goes to church, listens to Christian music, in ME area, for LTR. #85339

CAREFREE SPIRIT, adventurous, attractive, spontaneous SWF, 50s, blonde/blue, n/s, ISO, classy, intelligent, funny, 50s, 58, sympathetic to the arts, intellectual and spiritual pursuits. I enjoy spending time in cities as well as hiking, kayaking down a neighboring river to the ocean. Gentle in spirit, with a high regard for the finer things in life, open to possible LTR. #85359

DWF, 40, cute secretary, 5'5", seeks SWM for friendship, possible LTR. Must be stable, laid-back, old-fashioned values and like old rock 'n' roll, country, shopping, outdoors, movies, candlelit dinners. #85256

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

DWF, ARTSY, 51, number cruncher, divorced and looking, likes getaways, museums, trains, my work, n/s, veggie, petite, personable, have photo. #85386

FEMALE, 57, wants to meet Man for quiet times together. Personality is more important than looks to me. Call me. #85251

FIRST FRIEND! SHF, 44, wishes to meet SW, 40+, for dancing, country and western, singles network dancing. #85208

FULL OF energy, SWF, 43, 5'10", slender, very affectionate, adventurous person, very outgoing, like everything in life. Looking for someone who has similar qualities. #85237

FULL-FIGURED WOMAN likes walks on beach, oldies music, quiet nights at home, enjoys baseball, seeks Man, 30-42, rare unicorn. #85282

FUN, LOVABLE SWF, 25, new to town, like reggie and The Dead, snowboarder, camping and other adventures. Seeking friendship, possible LTR with SWM, as well as similar interests. If you're interested in good times, please call. #85224

GUY, 35-42, #85274

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I AM 45, a single mom and tired of wolves knocking at my door. Looking for a burly woodsman to rescue me. Must be honest, accepting and love kids, family oriented, as I will be the same. #85356

I AM an outgoing, attractive Woman looking to meet a Guy who is emotionally stable, kind, good-looking, an animal lover, who enjoys life and has an optimistic personality. #85299

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I AM an outgoing, attractive Woman looking to meet a Guy who is emotionally stable, kind, good-looking, an animal lover, who enjoys life and has an optimistic personality. #85299

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men seeking

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

38-YEAR-OLD MALE nudist seeks Singles or Couples into naturism. Good-looking professional, 6', 190 lbs, looking to meet attractive, in shape individuals, 25-45, for friendship, socializing. Would like to hang out at home or under the sun this summer. Sincere, down-to-earth only. #90887

40-YEAR-OLD BIM ISO BM or GM, healthy, no heaves, in Saco or southern ME area, for occasional encounters. Show me what it's like. #90849

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

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

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

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

BI-CURIOS, 48-YEAR-OLD, handsome, rugged, professional, down-to-earth Guy looking for discreet, healthy experiences. Looking to explore with other bi-curious Cross-dressers or she-males. #90902

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

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

BIM, 45, who likes cross-dressing, seeks the same for fun times. #90466

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

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

DAYTIME ENCOUNTERS. Looking to spend time once in while with a Man in the Portland area. BIM, 40s. Will answer all. #90809

DECENT, SINCERE, attentive, intelligent, attractive DWPW, 5'11", 6', 195 lbs, seeks full honest relationship, short or long-term, with very slender, affectionate, pretty Woman with variant sexual needs. This is a possible real relationship ad, not a sex ad. Be cool. #90895

FANTASIES FULFILLED. Married WM seeking Couples to assist them in fulfilling their wildest dreams. Let this tall, very healthy, good-looking, drug-free, healthy, masculine Male show you what you have been missing and dreaming about. Discretion a must. #90900

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

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

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

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

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

GWM, THIRTSOMETHING, seeks GWM, thirtysomething, versatile top ISO LTR. Versatile bottom you be: clean-cut, well-endowed, good sense of humor, open-minded, willing to be dominated. This is for real for life. Lewiston, Auburn area only. Call to fill out application. #90904

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

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

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

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

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

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

LOVING, DOMINANT MWM, 47, seeking submissive Female, 25-55, who is not getting the domination she craves. Reach heights of ecstasy through bondage, erotic teasing and healthy sane discipline with skilled, experienced master. Limits respected. Novices and Male dominant Couples welcome. #90901

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NICE-LOOKING, SUBMISSIVE Guy needs to be humiliated under the dirtiest sweatiest feet available. Grind me under your heels. No Men unless you're cute. #90703

PHONE CHAT tall, good-looking Male, early 40s, seeks Lady for evening phone chat. Enjoy the healthy way to explore your fantasies. Age, race unimportant. Please be discreet. Call now, I'm waiting to chat. #90897

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIVE WM, 45, seeking strong-willed WF, 18-50, for over the knee correction. #9088

SUBMISSIVE MALE, 38, looking for a dominant Female. #90899

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

TEN POUND tongue looking for fun, Lickety split, I'll give you a licking good time, so if you would like a Guy who likes to eat out, then give me a call. #90641

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

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

YOUNG 23-YEAR-OLD Male looking for healthy, discreet, adventurous fun with attractive Lady. If interested, send me a message. #90903

women seeking

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

HI, BOYS! We are six fabulous Women, 27 to 29, who are seeking six or more professional, funny Men, 27-35, who want to pamper us. Have your people call our people. #90896

I'M A bi-curious, 32-year-old, not beauty with incredible sex appeal, so I'm told. I am a large-breasted beautiful Woman with a hot Man wanting to help me fulfill my fantasies. Me, he and you? Serious replies only. #90871

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

women seeking

MARRIED PROFESSIONAL WOMAN seeks romance, companionship and discreet adventures. Loves jazz, theater, the New Yorker and fine wine. Looking for secure, intellectually curious, affectionate professional Man, 40-55, who is intimate, romantic and outgoing, to share similar interests and discreet rendezvous. #90898

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

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

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

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

TRAVELING BUSINESS Woman, Married WF, 22, 5'10", 120 lbs, beautiful hair and eyes, seek what husband can't give me. Attractive, fit Couple or SF, 21-55, for candlelit dinners. Must be discreet. (NY) #90845

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

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