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Casco Bay Weekly : 3 July 1997

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Casco Bay Weekly

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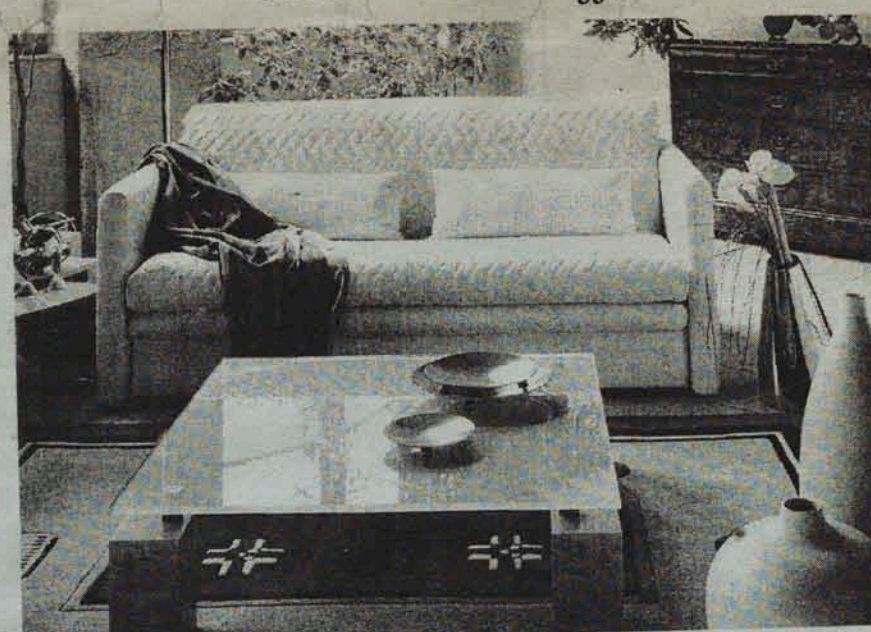
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**TALK A CONVERSATION WITH
PAUL FRENCH**

"Sometimes you dream you're having a conversation or actually playing music with somebody famous. I have a vague memory [of a dream] of just sort of being on stage with Jimi Hendrix or Led Zeppelin."

Paul French is a 34-year-old guitar teacher who's lived in Portland for 20 years. He teaches at Buckdancer's Choice on St. John Street, and performs with the band PCP. I've been taking lessons with him since last year, and he's OK.

How long have you been teaching guitar?

I taught my first guitar lesson probably in 1983. I've been doing it full time for the last three or four years. It's all I do for work, because it's the only thing that pays me money.

Did you start teaching because you liked it or because you needed the money?

Um, I did it to make a little extra money. When I first started, I was teaching a few lessons out of my parents' house, and I had like three or four students and I kinda didn't know what I was doing as far as the business side

of it, so it didn't work really well. I knew how to play, but I didn't know how to teach About three years ago, the other guitar teacher [at Buckdancer's Choice] was leaving and they thought I would be a good teacher. Turned out I really liked doing it a lot and got a lot better at it.

Do you think any guitar player can teach?

No. I mean, there are definitely plenty of people who can play guitar better than me, [but] there are people who can't teach mainly because of patience. It takes a certain temperament to be able to teach.

Do you ever talk to your students about stuff other than music?

Sometimes you get friendly with your students and it's not always strictly about the guitar lesson. But I try to keep it focused on that because that's what they're paying me for. I don't want them to come in and pay me to talk

about myself or cars, you know.

Of your 10 guitars, which is your favorite?

Um, I guess one of my Les Paul electrics.

What's your greatest thrill as a guitar teacher?

It's a great feeling watching people that you teach that take a long time to learn something, and then watching them get better.

What's the weirdest thing that's ever happened to you while teaching a lesson?

The other night [during a lesson] the lights went out for about half an hour. I ended up going outside and getting some flashlights [and] taught half a lesson with two flashlights.

Interview by Jordan Kocuba; photo by Colin Malakie

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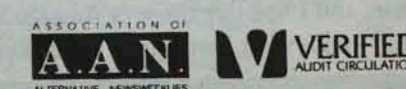
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Some of what the Production Department listened to while getting this week's paper out:
Sting, "Ten Summoner's Tales" • Annie Lennox, "Medusa" • Enigma, "MCMXC A.D." • Soundtrack from "Philadelphia" • Simon Wynberg, "Bountiful Bach"



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New boy

Maine Republicans are desperate, but they may not be quite this desperate.

The GOP is experiencing a severe shortage of candidates for major office in next year's elections. So when a reasonable specimen walks unannounced through the door, you might think the party regulars would clasp him to their bosoms in a gesture — not of Kennedyesque sexual

advance — but of welcoming camaraderie. If during that embrace, the elephantine politicos managed to brush their ponderous paws across the stranger's hind side — not as part of some Clintonesque scheme to fondle butts — but as a prudent measure designed to assess the newcomer's financial capabilities, you might think they'd be delighted to discover his wallet plump with personal wealth. Having determined that this recent arrival is suitably telegenic, capably articulate and admirably capitalized, you might expect Republicans to plant large wet kisses on both of his cheeks — not because they seek to emulate high-ranking members of the armed forces — but in a gesture of thanks for the service he is about to perform for them.

But this is not exactly the reception Ross J. Connelly of Biddeford is receiving as he makes the rounds of Republican functions this summer. Instead, Connelly is being greeted by an atmosphere of skepticism, disparagement and disapproval of the sort generally reserved for the likes of Jack DeCoster.

Connelly's sin is not that he, like DeCoster, ignored labor laws, flouted health standards and mistreated migrant workers. It's that he is a migrant. Or to put it in less-polite political terms, a carpetbagger. Connelly, who's planning to run for Congress, has lived in Maine for just six months.

"I'm really evaluating it right now," he said. "I'm planning to make a decision by midsummer, based on my discussions with political leaders to get their views."

Although those views have been less than scenic, Connelly is persisting in his efforts to win the GOP nomination to run against Democratic Congressman Tom Allen in the 1st District. "My background is in finance and investment," he said. "I can initially raise and sponsor enough to deal with the primary election."

Connelly, 45, describes himself as "a free-market, private-sector conservative. I don't consider myself to be a radical right-wing zealot. I consider myself to be pretty mainstream." Among his "mainstream" views are opposition to abortion and support for repealing the recently passed state gay rights law. Both positions put him at odds, not only with Allen, but with his potential primary opponent, GOP state Rep. David Ott of York.

Connelly spent 22 years working for the Bechtel Group, running an "energy development operation" based in Houston, Texas. For five years, he oversaw a joint venture between his employer and a Russian natural gas company. When that plan was put on hold, he split from Bechtel, and spent two years in Russia (Can you say "Manchurian Candidate?") working on his own energy-development schemes. Now he's returned to the state where he used to vacation, and where, he's quick to note, his family has owned a home since 1972, which was shortly after the glaciers receded.

Angus King notwithstanding, Maine voters have generally appeared inhospitable to rich guys from away seeking high public office. In the 1996 Republican U.S. Senate primary, Bob Monks spent a sum approaching the annual budget of the Florida Office of Tourism to convince the citizenry he was not from Florida. Or Massachusetts. Or Washington, D.C. He finished third in a three-way race, behind a guy accused of molesting a babysitter.

Which is to say that successful candidates are usually those who can point to evidence of residency for a period of time exceeding that of the baseball season. So if Connelly is so desperate to get involved in Maine politics, why doesn't he do what most ambitious newcomers do, and volunteer for the zoning board, run for city council or serve in the Legislature.

"A person like me would have better appeal at [the congressional] level," Connelly said in dismissing that suggestion. "My experience is much more appropriate to the issues debated in Washington."

Translation: I neither know nor care about your petty local concerns. I have more important matters to attend to.

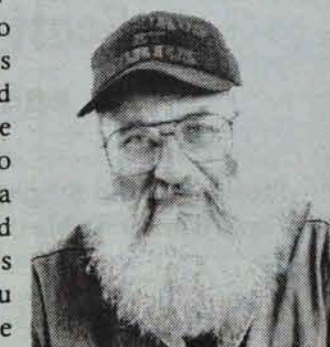
That attitude could be seen as a little arrogant — even by Republican standards.

When the spell is broken

GOP state Rep. Bob Winglass of Auburn has come to his senses and decided not to run for Congress in 1998. Winglass had been considering a bid against Democratic Congressman John Baldacci in the 2nd District, but now believes such a race would be futile. Instead, Winglass is assessing his chances of running for the state Senate, where the seat of term-limited Democrat John Cleveland will be up for grabs next year.

Politicians interested in making damn fools of themselves should contact this column, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by e-mail at ishmaelia@wi.net. We'll be happy to do the heavy lifting for you.

politics and other mistakes



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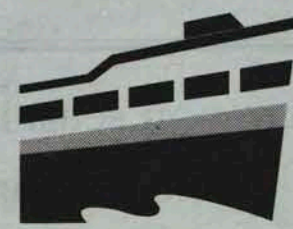
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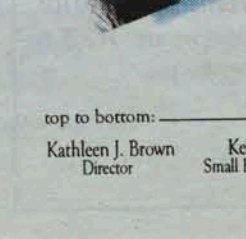
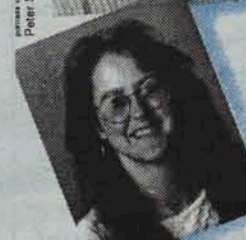
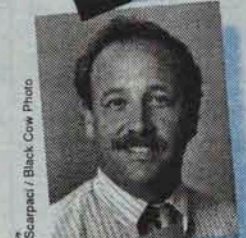
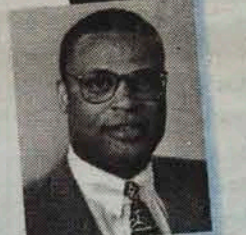
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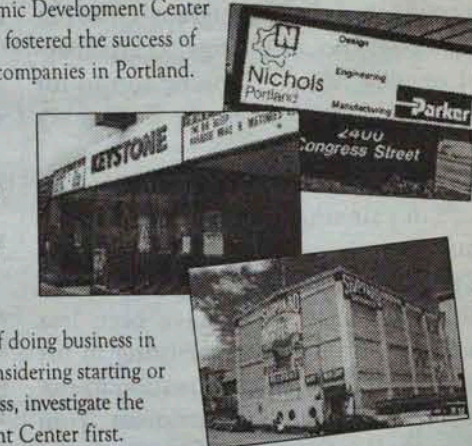
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Shifting gear

By the time I had remotely approached anything mildly resembling a decision, I was on my fourth L.L. Bean clerk. One's shift had ended; one had gone on break; one had simply lost interest in me. A butte of boxes was piled by my bench. I had worn a path on the carpeted floor similar to the type created by little Billy in the cartoon strip "Family Circus" when he's supposed to go to the garage to call his father in for his Jell-O snack and ends up traipsing all over the neighborhood (and don't you think it's creepy, the way his dead grandparents are always hanging around?). I trod the stairs, cruised the sock displays, climbed on benches, walked in circles. I gazed at my foreign, booted feet in the mirror. "What's happening to me?" I thought. "Surely these are not my feet." I then turned to the nearest unsuspecting clerk and took

outta my way



ELIZABETH PEAVEY

him by the chamois shoulders: "Help me," I pleaded. "I'm turning into a Gear Head."

This has not been a sudden development. Gear Head Disease is an insidious virus, often beginning with nothing more than a small outbreak of Gore-Tex in the back of your closet. Unchecked, however, it can develop into a full-blown contamination of your wardrobe. One day it's nothing but Chucks and Docs for you; the next, you're rolling around on the floor, wrestling your wool-socked feet, trying to keep them from slipping into a pair of Tevas.

This information comes firsthand. Over the past few years, I have been spending a fair amount of time trying to get in touch with my injured inner Outdoor Girl, whom I casually abandoned along the way some 20 years ago. "Outta the car, hick," I said with a swift shove, as I sped off into a city-studded horizon. "I got places to go, and you're slowing the engine."

But it was not always thus. I started life as a child of Nature. I romped. I frolicked. I swam in the Atlantic till my lips turned purple. I scrambled up hills, climbed trees, raced my bike down the steepest hills. I was a tomboy who became a jock. At my mother's house, the dresser in my bedroom (the shrine) still bears the weight of my sports trophies: field hockey, volleyball, gymnastics, track — plus one that was presented to me on Academy Awards night many years ago for the "Best Tragic Actress in an Ongoing Comedy." But that's another story.

In high school, I embraced the great outdoors. I camped, snowshoed, canoed and hiked. During the summer before my senior year, I trekked the Wyoming Rockies on a Sierra Club outing. I still have small indentations covering my torso from all the trees I hugged.

But in college, I entered into my writing life. I discovered books (I am the only

writer I know who never voluntarily read a book until she was of voting age) and bars and café society. I followed in the footsteps of my literary heroes — the Beats, the Paris-of-the-'20s crowd, the writers at *Mad* magazine — and they sure as hell weren't tripping lonely as a cloud. Well, that might not be entirely true, but their tripping had little to do with a gambol in the English countryside.

But since my return to Maine seven years ago, I decided I wanted my outdoor self back. I reasoned that if I was going to live in Maine, my perimeters had to extend beyond the slim Portland peninsula. And the only way I found to coax her out was through the acquisition of Gear.

This was not a simple thing. First, I had to learn the lingo. A bike is not a bike, it's a titanium GT. Skis are not skis, they're Rossignols (say

Rossis). Sandals are Tevas. Bike racks are Thules (say toolees). Sunglasses are Revos. You don't say "grab my vest." You say, "grab my Marmot fleece." Those I know who speak as such defend themselves by explaining that they own so much Gear they are forced to refer to each piece by its brand to avoid confusion. I have stemmed a similar problem in my world by naming all my pencils.

Next, I had to concede that if I planned to do anything more than dork around outdoors I needed Gear. I borrowed stuff for a while, but frankly, borrowing someone's sleeping bag has all the appeal of borrowing someone's underwear. Plus, you can only scale Bald Pate in combat boots and carrying a dented Poland Spring bottle in a crumpled paper bag so many times. These days, you need Gear to commune with Nature. (And where would that leave the Transcendentalists of yore? If, today, Emerson uttered his famous "What are you doing in there?" jailhouse question to Thoreau, might old Henry respond, "I'm spending a little quality time with my Merrells. Now get lost.")

Owning Gear has not yet completely changed me. Happily, most of my Gear is black, so it matches the rest of my wardrobe. When I stopped to see a friend after a recent outdoor adventure in Bethel, I was dressed in black bike shorts, a black sweatshirt, a black ball cap, boots, shades, earrings and lipstick. He took one look at me and said, "Look. It's Outdoor Urban Girl." A vision of my wool-socked feet stuffed into a pair of platform sandals flashed in my brain.

I think I could be on to a new fashion trend here.

Elizabeth Peavey's column runs biweekly. She would like to wish her mother, with whom she's spent many memorable outdoor hours and who has substantially subsidized her new Gear collection, a happy Fourth-of-July birthday.

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How come nobody ever complains about how incredibly dangerous East Deering is? The **triple murder** that occurred on a quiet residential street in that peaceful neighborhood is being blamed — big surprise — on those

news-orama

It seems that Sabato "Sabino" Raia got into a fight with Dana Matthews early on the morning of June 24 in the Old Port. An hour later, out in East Deering, Matthews and

two of his friends, Kevin Pinette and Nicholas Patenaude, were shot to death. Raia is charged with the murders, although he's claiming self-defense. The Old Port, which was two miles away at the time of the killings, is being indicted as well. The *Maine Sunday Telegram* reported the murder spree "had its origin" in the "tavern-laden" neighborhood.

How come they didn't think of that before they built it? The **maximum security wing** of Cumberland County's \$28-million jail can't open for business. That means potentially dangerous inmates, such as Raia and Leslie Lynds, who's accused of murdering Virginia Jackson of Scarborough, have to be stored in other counties' jails while awaiting trial. Cumberland County officials have two explanations for this situation: They can't afford to operate an entire wing to accommodate the small number of maximum security inmates available, and they can't find enough qualified guards to staff the operation. Meanwhile the county is paying \$130 a day to keep Raia and Lynds in somebody else's cooler. Nobody has yet blamed the alcohol-drenched Old Port for this mess.

Maybe they could move to the Old Port? **Zootz**, the Forest Avenue dance club that's been the focus of elderly neighbors' noise complaints, will not be forced to close, even though it hasn't yet found a new location. Zootz' owners were supposed to have moved to a more appropriate site by June 30, but they've yet to find a place they can afford. Nevertheless, city officials said they won't oppose the club's continued operation, because complaints about noise have virtually vanished since Zootz hired a cop to keep watch over patrons departing the late-night establishment. The club's owners say they're still seeking a new home, and hope to have something definite in the near future.

Not Waving, but drowning? **The Portland Wave** wrapped up its inaugural United States Basketball League season with a first-round playoff loss and a lot of empty seats. The Wave averaged about 500 paying customers per game, well below owner Bill Beyer's expectations. Beyer said he'd decide by the end of July whether to sink more of his cash into keeping the franchise alive. Beyer didn't say so, but everybody knows who's to blame for the city's lack of interest in minor league roundball, and its initials are O.P. CBW

CITY



Portland's gay community came out of the closet at Roland's Tavern. ILLUSTRATION/DOUG CRUGER (COURTESY OF BLACKSTONE'S)

Remembering Roland's Portland's first openly gay bar opened for business 30 years ago. A lot has changed since then.

AL DIAMON

In 1967, Portland was on another planet. The city that today prides itself on being the first in the state to approve a gay rights law was, 30 years ago, unwilling to approve a dance license for a bar frequented by same-sex couples. The police department that now pays particular attention to hate crimes looked the other way three decades ago, when a gay bar's windows were repeatedly smashed and its patrons harassed. The politicians who carefully court the gay vote in 1997 were, with few exceptions, openly hostile to the idea of protecting civil rights based on sexual orientation.

From the time Roland's Tavern opened its doors on the corner of Cumberland and Forest avenues in May 1967 until it burned down in May 1981, it provided Southern Maine's gay men and lesbians with their first fragile shelter from an angry straight world. Although the city had long had downtown businesses that tolerated gay cruising — the Falmouth Hotel, Cremo's and the State

Café to name a few — none was openly supportive of its homosexual clientele. Roland's was something new: All the patrons might not have been out, but the bar itself certainly was.

"It was unbelievable what we had to do to keep the door open," owner Roland Labbe recalled during a June 12 discussion at the Matlovich Society, a Portland-based gay, lesbian and bisexual educational organization. "We had to fight the City Council, the police and the state just to get a license For the first four or five years, I was in court more than I was in the business. But I got courage from support in the gay community."

Labbe, 61, was a Lewiston native who moved to Portland in the early 1960s before venturing on to New York. He returned to Portland in 1966, intent on bringing the Stonewall spirit to Maine. He and his mother lived upstairs over the bar, and several of his family members helped run the operation. In many ways, Roland's wasn't very different from a lot

of neighborhood watering holes, except it quickly became a common occurrence to have a brick come crashing through the bar's front window. "It was Saturday night entertainment for the straight crowd," Labbe said.

After repeatedly replacing the panes, only to have them smashed again the following week, he switched to Plexiglas. The bricks bounced off, leaving scrapes and scars that soon rendered the new windows dirty-looking and barely translucent.

"We had gangs coming in to beat up the faggots," Labbe said. "The one thing I can say about that is we never, ever, backed down from a fight."

From its opening weekend, Roland's drew large crowds. While some customers walked in openly, many waited across the street until they thought no one was watching before making the dash to the door. Inside, they found a long bar, walls covered with broken mirrors (souvenirs of fights with gay bashers), a jukebox, pool tables, pinball,

shuffleboard and a dance floor with a prominent red light above it. The light was not for atmosphere. It was turned on whenever a stranger entered in order to warn couples to halt any unlicensed shaking of booties. "When the light flashed on," said Randy Scott, a long-time employee, "everybody ran for the corners like cockroaches."

Initially, the crowd was mostly male, but Roland's soon attracted a significant lesbian clientele. "It was heaven," recalled one woman attending the Matlovich meeting. "It was dark, loud music, danger. It was a dive, and I say that with the utmost respect."

Scott, 42, who moved on to open The Underground in 1981, was part of an early 1970s exodus of young Maine gays who found the promised land in Portland. "After high school, I got out of Phillips, Maine, as fast as I could," he said. "When I got to Portland, people told me to stay away from Roland's, so that was the first place I went."

"There was a gay community before Roland's," said Scott, who worked at the bar as a bouncer and bartender, "but no legitimate place where gay men and lesbians could go and be comfortable."

But there was more to Roland's than simply cruising, boozing and dancing. The bar gave the fledgling gay community a focus. In the early '70s, Roland's began holding fundraisers, one of them for the group trying to stop singer Anita Bryant and other Christian fundamentalists from repealing an anti-discrimination law in Dade County, Fla. Although the law was overturned, Scott called the effort to save it "the single most solidifying campaign we'd had."

That led to some serious political discussions in the bar. Labbe often purchased copies of local gay political publications and handed them out to customers. Debates sprang up over the best course to follow in achieving equal rights. Older patrons, often prominent citizens with closeted sex lives, argued for a go-slow policy. Younger customers, who were increasingly out, wanted a faster schedule. When the first Maine Gay Symposium was held, nearly a quarter-century ago, Scott said it added weight to the arguments of those seeking rapid change. "It brought true activism to the bars," he said.

By the mid-1970s, the city's attitude toward its gay population showed some small signs of progress. A majority of the City Council no longer automatically voted against renewing Roland's liquor license. In 1975, when Labbe opened The Phoenix on Oak Street, a club that catered to both gays and straights, he had no trouble getting a dance license. The police were no longer openly hostile. When Labbe was attacked by a brick-wielding assailant, officers quickly tracked down the offender, but delayed arresting him for a few days. "They held off until he turned 18," said Scott, "so he could be prosecuted as an adult."

Nor was it just city government that

was changing. Scott and some friends were walking home from a party early one morning, when they were spotted by some men driving around in a car with the name of a local beer distributor on the side. The group in the car followed the gay men and harassed them. The next day, Scott went to Labbe and asked him to stop carrying that distributor's beer. When the distributor found out, he brought the offending employee in to meet with Labbe and Scott. "I want you to apologize," the distributor told his worker. "It won't make any difference in whether you keep your job, because I'm going to fire you anyway. But if you apologize, you'll get unemployment."

"When I got to Portland, people told me to stay away from Roland's, so that was the first place I went."
— Randy Scott

Although virtually everyone in Portland knew what and where Roland's was, the bar remained officially invisible throughout most of its 15-year existence. The operation drew attention from the local media only twice, once when the city's first gay porn shop, Wayne's Country, opened in the basement, and again in 1981, when an arsonist burned the building to the ground. Ironically, it wasn't gay bashers who finally put an end to Roland's, but a drunken patron who'd been refused service. In a final twist, the arsonist had his conviction and five-year prison term overturned by the Maine Supreme Court because the judge at his trial neglected to ask potential jurors if they had a bias against homosexuals. The man eventually pleaded guilty and was sentenced to prison for three years.

By the time Roland's burned, Portland had several gay bars — some open about it, some not. *Our Paper*, a local newspaper for gay men and lesbians, was being published by a group centered around Our Books, a gay bookstore. Fred Berger, a gay man, would soon run (unsuccessfully) for the City Council. A couple of years later Barb Wood, a lesbian, would win a council seat, and begin laying the groundwork for passage of the city's civil rights ordinance.

All that would probably have happened even if Roland's had never existed, but it might have taken a lot longer. Roland's didn't create the gay community, but it did force straight Portlanders to accept that one existed. It forced local government to accept that homosexuals had to be treated equitably. It forced the business community to acknowledge the power of gay dollars. Not bad for a place that today is a vacant lot.

"The straight community finally began to accept that we weren't going to go away," said Labbe. "We were always going to be there."

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Five days after Ernesto Fernando bought a 1987 Chevy Spectrum from Tri-State Brokers in Portland, the muffler system fell off. One month later it became evident that the car he had paid \$3,300 for had such severe and potentially life-threatening problems that Fernando — after making three futile attempts to get Tri-State to make the repairs — took it to a Chevrolet dealer in Saco.

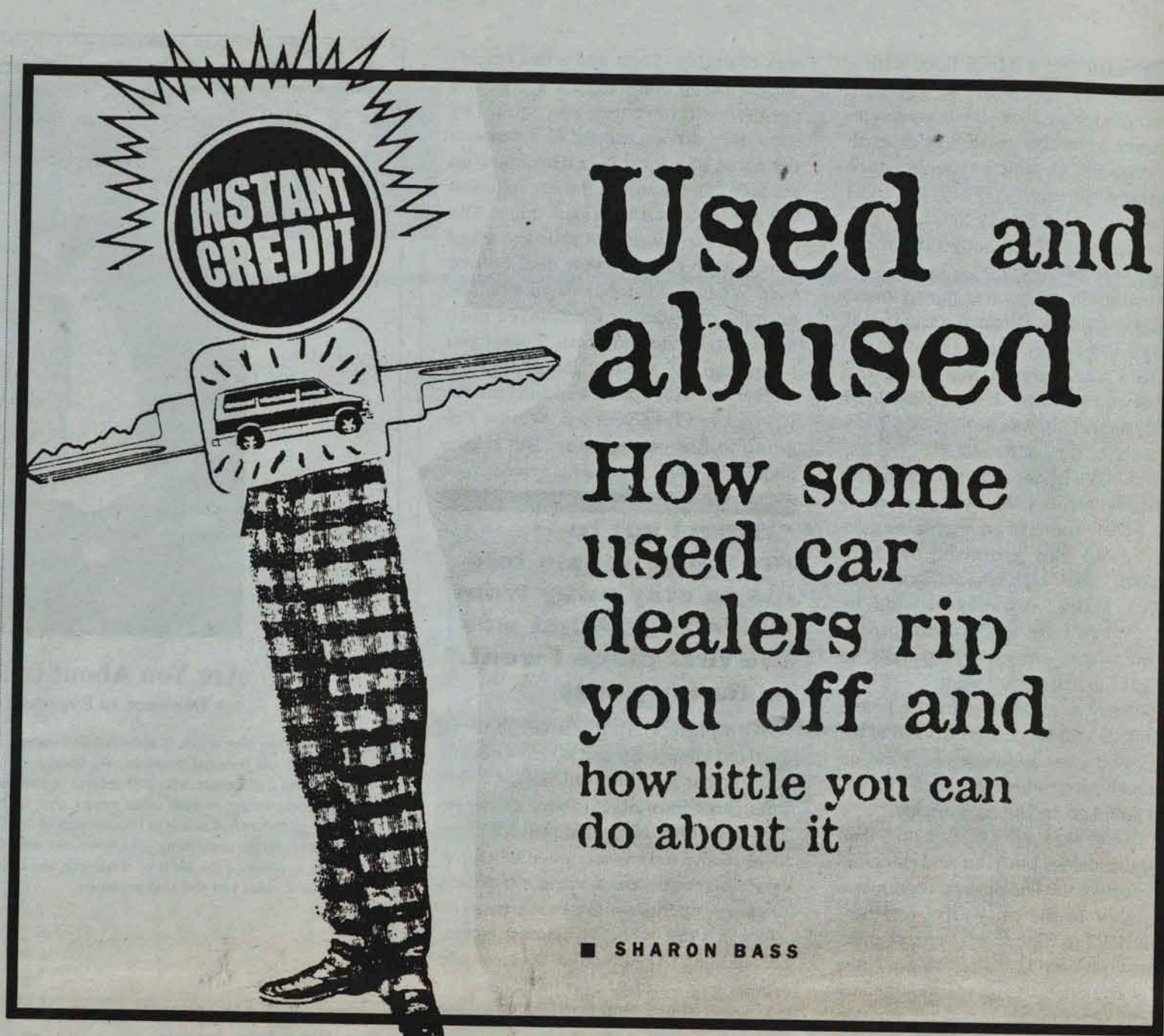
"There was a crack in the manifold ... that was causing ... carbon monoxide to enter the driver's compartment, potentially asphyxiating the driver," read a sworn statement by mechanic Jon Bartlett of Frank Galos Chevrolet, the Saco dealer. The testimony was used when Fernando, who lives in Biddeford, sued Tri-State in state District Court in 1994, a year after he bought the lemon. Furthermore, Bartlett wrote, "I noticed fresh muffler cement covering this manifold crack. I deduced that this car had recently been 'repaired' ... completely inadequate and improper. Additionally the exhaust system of this vehicle would not have met the inspection standards ... this car's emission system was also defective and would not have met the inspection standards."

Those problems, the mechanic said, were there before Fernando bought the car. The case was finally settled out of court for \$1,500, said Fernando's attorney, Michael Waxman. Tri-State, which financed the deal, had already repossessed the car for nonpayment while it was sitting on the Saco dealer's lot.

An isolated case? You wish — especially if, like a growing number of Mainers, you can't afford new wheels. (In 1980, 48,563 used cars were sold in the state; by 1996, that number had jumped to 181,954.) Knowingly selling defective vehicles, charging astronomical prices and then refusing to take responsibility when things go awry are all-too-common practices among used car dealers. (Casual sales — cars sold by individuals — are not covered in this article.)

Equally disturbing is the fact that some of those practices are legal. Dealers can charge as much as they want and warranties on used cars are not required by law. The state's lemon law only applies to cars still under manufacturer's warranty less than two years old or with fewer than 18,000 miles. All state law requires is that every used car sold on a lot have a valid inspection sticker, no more than 60 days old. In what seems like a conflict of interest, the law allows those selling the cars to do their own inspections. Hence, almost every car dealer has a state inspection station as well, resulting in many used vehicles that bear current stickers but shouldn't, say state officials.

What about stuff that doesn't fall under the inspection law? Maine law won't help you much there. As the attorney general's "Consumer Law Guide" reads, "... if your car can pass



inspection but the motor [which is not a state inspection item] fails, then you may very well have gambled and lost."

Your odds in this gaming venture are not too good. Few cases actually wind up in court. Lawyers, said Waxman, are reluctant to take on used car cases because little money is involved. And most people who buy no-good cars don't know there are other avenues to pursue, like filing complaints with the state.

"There's a lot of corruption in the used car business," said State Trooper Barry Moores. "If you did a criminal record check [on used car dealers], you would find a lot." He should know. Moores is in charge of investigating Cumberland County's 300 inspection stations, over 50 percent of which are located in car dealerships.

Moores said about 85 percent of freshly stickered used cars for sale that look defective to him are defective. When he discovers a lemon, he can suspend the dealer's inspection license for six months for a first offense, and longer for repeat infractions. He said he suspends about 25-30 licenses a year in Cumberland County. (The state police issue used car dealers' inspection licenses, and the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles, gives out licenses to operate car lots. Each department is in charge of investigating complaints and revoking licenses.) "Used car dealers are the biggest offenders of the inspection service," said Moores.

Revoking a license does little good, however. Moores said dealers with suspended licenses often get a friend who does vehicle inspections to do the dirty work for them.

William Dowling, director of the enforcement division for the motor vehicle bureau, said about 400 complaints come into his department every year from people who were sold unsafe cars. Another 100 complaints come from dealers rattling each other out. (It's a highly competitive field.)

Dowling said if it's ascertained that the dealer knew he was selling a lemon, his operator's license could be taken away. But in reality, said Assistant Attorney General Joe Wannemacher, "not much" really happens.

Very few lots actually get closed down, regardless of the number of violations, said Allen Wood, chief investigator for the motor vehicle bureau. "We're not in the business of putting people out of business. We try to educate," said Wood.

But lack of education doesn't seem to be the problem. These dealers know the law, most officials will tell you. In fact, it might be a case of too much knowledge leading to corrupt practices. Lt. Bruce Dow, of the Maine State Police traffic division, sees it nearly every day. He cites cases where Bondo, a putty-like substance that is not strong enough for structural repairs, is used as a temporary body filler in rusted-out areas; and where brake hoses are cleaned with Armor-All to hide

cracks. And the list of Band-Aid-type fixes goes on. "They're [used car dealers] all in this to make a profit. Some have a problem with ethics," said Dow. (When asked how many complaints about bad used cars are lodged each year, Dow said his department "doesn't have the resources to track numbers.")

All used cars must have a Used Vehicle Buyer's Guide sticker posted on the window. It gives the shopper basic info on the car, such as make and year. It also has a provision for "prior substantial damage to body or engine," where the dealer must list any known problems, and whether the car has been in an accident. (On the six used car lots I investigated, not one car had any disclosure of damage.) But Dow said hidden defects, such as bad brakes, ball joints and steering components and rust, are fairly common. The number one problem he sees, however, is that "the customer doesn't take their share of responsibility. The public just can't go out there and expect to be protected just because there's a statute in place The ones we get complaints from like the color of the car," said Dow, and don't take the vehicle to a mechanic.

Longtime Portland mechanic Dick Cole said about 75 percent of the used cars he inspects for customers have "significant problems," and at least a third are not worth buying. Often, he said, problem vehicles have new inspection stickers. "The sad thing is you

could bring 100 [defective] vehicles to shops in the state that aren't reputable and get stickers," said Cole. He said he often finds bad brakes, bad front-end parts — like CV joints, tie rods and ball joints — bad radiators and rust. Cole pointed out that unlike new car dealers, who make a bigger share of their profits through service, used car lots solely depend on sales for their profits.

Most of the little cover-ups, the temporary fixes to get the cars sold, don't fool him. After inspecting hundreds of used cars, he said there's not one used car dealer he would recommend.

A truck from hell

When Marcus Knott bought an '87 Chevy Blazer from Paul's Auto Service on Brighton Avenue in Portland a couple of years ago, he saw nothing wrong and didn't get the truck checked out. "It felt great, it handled great, drove great, and it had an inspection sticker," said Knott, assistant art director for *Casco Bay Weekly*. Today he says, "I hate this truck."

He traded in his '81 Saab for \$500 (or that's what he thought he got; more on that later) and paid \$4,500 cash for the Blazer.

Less than two weeks later, the truck started overheating. Knott said he took it back to Paul's and was told the thermostat was fine. Less than two weeks later, the radiator blew. Paul's would do nothing because it was a few days past the 30-day warranty. So Knott took it elsewhere. It cost him \$350. Within the next six months, Knott said he had to replace the tires, brakes and ball joints. And there were more problems ahead. The muffler was no good and neither was the catalytic converter. Knott said his mechanic told him the vehicle never had a fuel filter, that "it was pulled to mask a bad fuel pump." In one year, he forked out \$2,500 for repairs.

Then came the final straw: a bad timing chain. "That also looked like it was covered up, because the distributor had been rewired to compensate for the bad timing," said Knott. He said his mechanic told him these problems were present before he ever bought the vehicle, and the truck shouldn't have passed inspection. "My guess is that the truck had a single owner who sold it to [Paul's] because they knew it was falling apart and Paul's did a lot of cover-up stuff," he said. A new timing chain costs \$1,000; Knott's not paying. Instead he's looking for a new car.

When Paul DePalmer, owner of Paul's Auto Service, was contacted about Knott's ordeal, he said he had no record of him bringing the truck back after the purchase. "I'll be really frank with you, I don't remember him coming back to me. You see, I've been pretty sick. I've just been helping my son out here. I have a really good reputation in this business," said DePalmer.

After checking Knott's sale on his computer, the only things he found a record of were the sale price and the trade-in amount: \$150. I asked him to

repeat the trade-in amount, and again he said it was \$150. Remember, Knott said he got \$500 for it.

That discrepancy is the mark of another common rip-off: making the customer think he's getting more for his trade-in by charging top dollar for a car that would have been negotiated down without a trade. I was alerted to this practice by a Portland used car salesman who spoke to me when I was posing as a customer. Dick Cole told me about it too.

So I checked it out for myself at Paul's. Pretending to be a shopper, I first called to get an idea of cars and prices. DePalmer told me "everything's negotiable." I didn't mention a trade-in. When I arrived on his lot the next day (June 7), I showed an interest in a '92 Buick Regal with 82,500 miles, for which he wanted \$8,995 (The National Automobile Dealers' Association [NADA] used car guide lists that car for \$7,650), and a '93 Ford Escort Wagon with 57,000 miles and a price tag of \$5,995. I focused on the Escort and wrangled with DePalmer on the price. He reluctantly shaved off \$400. Then I pointed to my '87 Honda Civic and said I'd like to trade it in. At that point DePalmer, a large, fatherly type man, began fumbling and sweating (it was a hot day), and declared: "I'll have to charge you the full cost of the Escort then." He offered me \$1,500 for my car. I actually thought it wasn't too bright of him not to just admit he was only giving me \$1,100 for a trade-in. Anyway, it gave me a firsthand account of this trade-in scam.

Like Marcus Knott, Janet Harvie of Portland also bought a car with some serious problems. She paid \$4,500 for an '87 Volkswagen Quantum Syncro from a Portland used car dealer. (She asked not to disclose the dealer's name.) Two days after she drove it off the lot, she couldn't close two of the power windows. So she brought it back and "they had some guy play with it for a day. I don't even think he was a mechanic." And the windows still didn't work, she said.

Harvie took the car to a Volkswagen dealer who dismantled a door to get to the power switches. He found "all this masking tape wrapped around wires," she said. When she called the dealer who sold her the car, she said he didn't believe her and refused to pay for the repair.

Then came the biggies. The exhaust system and the brakes had to be replaced after she'd only had the car a month. The water pump blew. Harvie said her mechanic told her the pump was cracked before she bought the car. And then it was the radiator "and a ton of little things that went wrong with it." In total, \$1,500 went for repairs in the first eight months.

Harvie ditched the car. Today, she's biding it.

Buy here, pay through the nose here

Ernesto Fernando, Marcus Knott and Janet Harvie got lemons all right. But Knott and Harvie had one advantage

over Fernando: They paid in cash. While they were stuck with high repair bills, at least they weren't making inflated payments like Fernando was supposed to (his car became inoperable before the first payment was due and was repossessed). Fernando was under a finance plan called buy-here, pay-here — a plan opponents call the biggest used car scam of all.

Dealers who offer buy-here, pay-here (just about all do) finance the car for the customer, usually someone who can't get a bank loan because of bad or no credit. Since the consumer is at the mercy of the used car dealer, he often gets a very raw deal: high interest on a trumped-up purchase price for a high-mileage, older car that is hard to sell.

It's "an inflated market that victimizes the consumer," said John Searles, owner of Town & Country Motors in Westbrook. Searles said buy-here, pay-here accounted for 95 percent of his business just three years ago. Today, he said, it makes up less than 1 percent. He

"The customer doesn't take their share of responsibility. The public just can't go out there and expect to be protected just because there's a statute in place." — Lt. Bruce Dow, Maine State Police

said he got sick of trying to collect money from people, usually younger men, who would abuse, strip down or hide the cars when he tried to repossess them.

Searles conceded there are responsible buy-here, pay-here customers who live up to their end of the deal. Regardless of who's buying, he said, the cars are overpriced and often crappy.

While it's not against the law to overcharge, it is illegal to have one price list for people who need dealer financing and another for cash-paying customers, said Will Lund, director of the state's Office of Consumer Credit Regulation in Gardiner. Dealers who offer financing are examined by Lund's organization every two years. "It's rare to find no problems at lots," he said.

Before 1993, these buy-here, pay-here loans carried interest rates of 20 percent and above. Then a state law was passed capping the rate at 18 percent, which is what most used car dealers charge. (Bank car loans run 10-12 percent.)

Often dealers recoup their costs for a financed car after three months, while the customer's payments are usually drawn out over two or three years, said Michael Cocks, a vice president with Consumer Credit Counseling Services in Portland. What typically happens is the car breaks down and the customer can't afford to keep up the high payments and fix the car

at the same time. So the vehicle is repossessed. It is then resold, often without disclosure of mechanical problems. Not only has the first buyer lost his or her down payment and all subsequent payments, but if the car resells for less than the price initially agreed to, the buyer has to make up the difference. This is called the deficiency balance.

"It's getting worse and worse," said Cocks. "We're seeing a lot more deficiency balances. [This is] preying on the most vulnerable people." In 1996, he said his firm handled 1,200 cases of used car deficiency balances, up 20-30 percent from 1990.

Cocks said dealers that offer buy-here, pay-here won't display the purchase price on car windows, because many illegally charge a lot more to those looking for financing.

I checked this out at three lots chosen at random. Posing as a customer, I asked for financing on certain cars. Then *CBW* intern Penny Colston went to the same lots, offering cash for the same cars. Here's what we found.

On June 21, I went to Buy-Rite Auto Sales on Riverside Street in Portland. I looked at four cars, stating up front I needed financing. After showing me the cars, a salesman named Rick took me into the office to get me the prices. Remember, none are displayed on the cars. As he was looking them up at his desk, another salesman walked up and started to rattle off the price on a certain car, when Rick quickly interrupted him and said, "She needs special financing." The man walked away.

Here are the deals I was given: A '91 Ford Escort with 59,000 miles for \$6,995 (\$1,050 down and \$268 a month for 36 months). Total cost: \$10,698. A '93 Mercury Tracer with 92,000 miles for \$8,305 (\$1,245 down and \$276 a month for 36 months). Total cost: \$11,181. A '91 Grand Am with 98,000 miles for \$6,050, and a '92 Ford Tempo with 64,000 for \$7,275, both with similar down payments and 36 monthly payments.

Colston went in on June 23 and inquired about the same cars, but said she had cash. She was offered the '91 Escort, the '93 Mercury Tracer and the '92 Tempo each for \$4,995, and the '91 Grand Am for \$4,495.

I called Rick later that afternoon to verify the prices he had given to me two days earlier, and they stood. He, like the other dealers I visited, told me when going the buy-here, pay-here route there is no negotiating. Colston did not negotiate either. The prices she was given at each lot were the initial offers.

At Tri-State Brokers on Forest Avenue, we found a similar scenario. For buy-here, pay-here, an '87 Celebrity with 80,000 miles sold for \$3,695; an '86 Celebrity with 100,000 miles for \$2,995; an '88 Tracer with 95,000 miles for \$3,800; and an '89 Chevy Cavalier with 132,000 miles for \$3,200. All required a \$700 down payment with \$50 weekly payments. When I asked how long the

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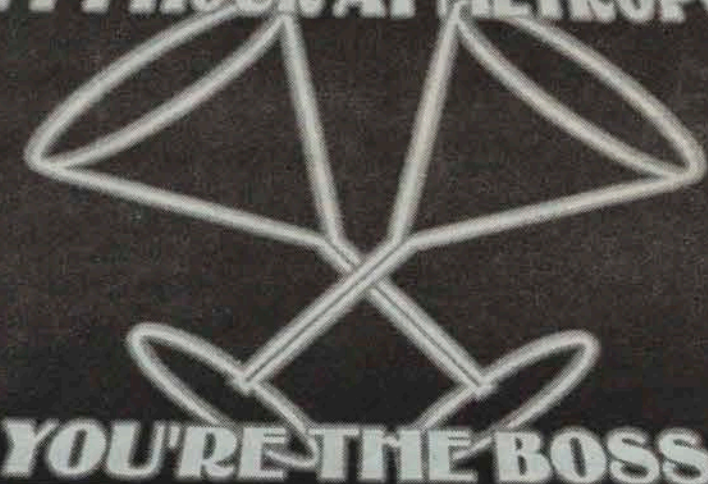
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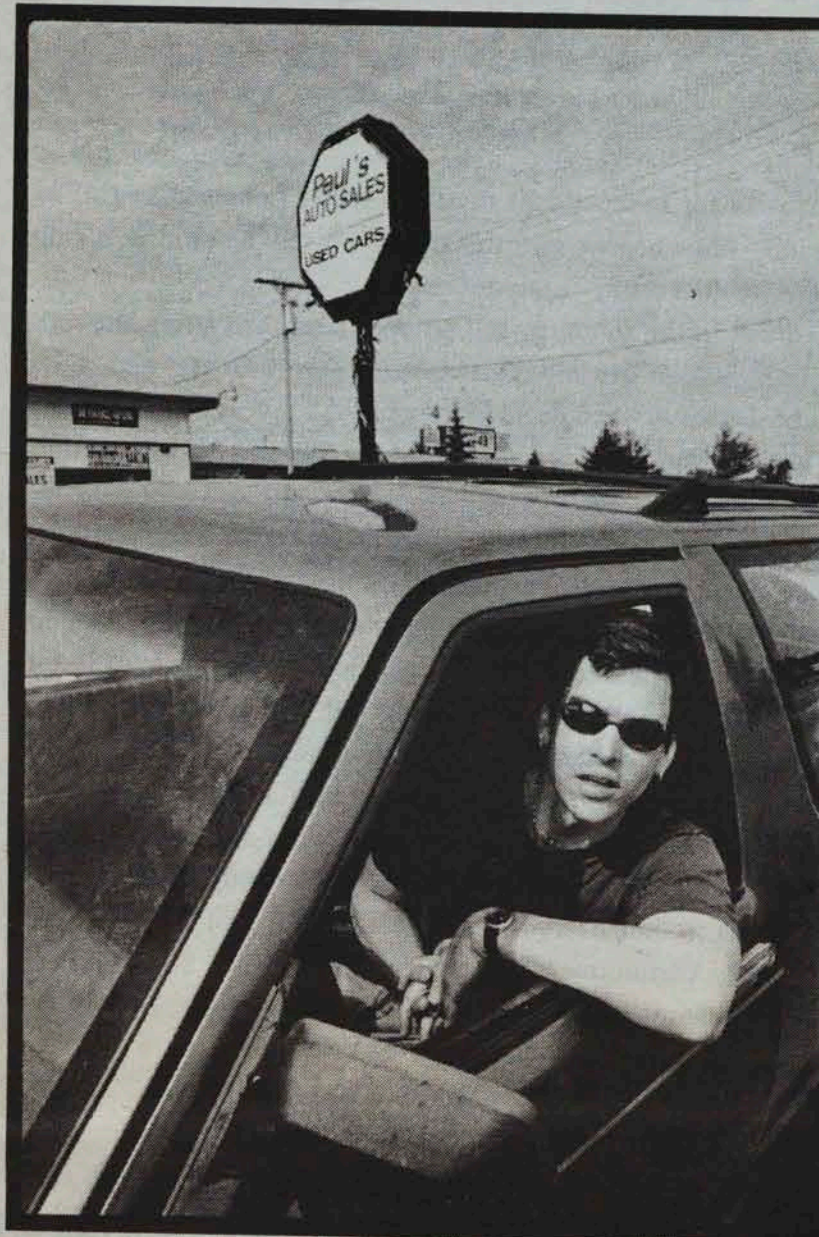
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Used and abused

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



When he bought his 1987 Chevy Blazer, says Marcus Knott, "it felt great, it handled great, drove great, and it had an inspection sticker." Today he says, "I hate this truck."

loan lasted, I was told it was uncertain until the deal was completed.

Colston was offered the '87 Celebrity for \$2,300; the '86 Celebrity for \$1,800; the '88 Tracer for \$2,300; and the '89 Cavalier for \$1,400.

At Rowe Ford, on Main Street in Westbrook, instead of finding illegal price discrimination, we found a curious form of vehicle discrimination. When I visited the dealer's special financing division, I was limited to a small portion of older, high-mileage cars that were segregated from the rest of the lot by yellow tape. I looked at an '89 Ford Tempo with 84,000 miles for \$5,144; \$895 down and \$65 a week for 80 weeks. Total price: \$6,095. An '88 Chevy Caprice with 103,000 miles cost \$4,995, and a '90 Chevy Corsica with 114,000 miles was selling for \$4,495. With the high interest tacked on, the total cost for each car was even higher.

When Colston inquired about these cars two days later, she was told the Tempo and Corsica didn't exist and was dissuaded from buying the Caprice because it is a "big, gas-guzzling car." I called the lot a few hours after Colston's visit and was told the Tempo and Corsica were still there. When I asked the salesman if he thought the Caprice was a good deal, he said, "Yes, it's a beautiful car."

Since Colston wasn't given any prices,

I compared what I was quoted at Rowe with the NADA used car guide. The '88 Caprice listed at \$1,725, and the '90 Corsica for \$3,775. The Tempo wasn't listed.

Taylor Smith-Petersen, general manager of Rowe special credit, said Colston was not shown the three cars because she was paying cash. "A Rowe retail salesman [who helped Colston] cannot sell a Rowe special credit car because they don't understand our financing," he said. When I asked him whether the buy-here, pay-here cars could be bought for cash, he said yes. But "to be frank," he added, "the cars I'm asking for financing, you'd have to be crazy to buy for cash."

I asked him about the wide price discrepancy between the NADA guide and the financed cars. He responded, "With special financing we can't sell by the book," but on the retail part of the lot many cars do go by NADA prices. I asked him if that wasn't price discrimination, which he said he knew was illegal. "No," he said. "This [financing] is a big risk. To be honest, we don't provide any warranty [for buy-here, pay-here]. But we're here."

Mark Cianchette, owner of Tri-State, explained the price differences by saying he offers the "best possible price when paying cash." I told him that since

Colston had not wrangled on the price with him, which would be the only legal way to sell her a car more cheaply than to someone who needed financing, what he did was against the law. He said he was unaware of that.

Earlier in June, when Cianchette learned CBW was doing a story about used cars, he told his CBW ad rep he'd like to be interviewed. When I called him then, the first thing he said was, "If you write anything derogatory about used cars, I'll pull my ads."

Paul Boutin, general manager of Buy-Rite, also talked advertising to me when I called him about his unlawful pricing practice. "It's funny because we just started advertising with you," he said. Boutin said he didn't understand what I was asking him when I told him what I had found at his lot. "I'm getting confused here," he said.

You still want to buy a used car?

So what's a person to do? Consumer Credit Counseling's Michael Cocks said a new car dealer, who also sells used, is probably better than a used car lot "because of reputation concerns." But even then, there are certainly no guarantees. It might be a good idea to get a copy of the attorney general's "Consumer Law Guide" on used cars, so you know your rights.

Most consumer advocates stress getting a mechanic's opinion. If dealers forbid you to do so — and they legally can — you probably want to avoid them like the plague. Dick Cole said a proper inspection should take about a half hour, keeping in mind that some faulty stuff can go undetected, especially with a professional cover-up job.

But Consumer Credit Counseling's Cocks warns that going to a mechanic is not foolproof. Disreputable mechanics are probably as plentiful as their used car-dealing counterparts. Some mechanics, knowing the car's in lousy shape, will tell you the car's fine to buy, he said. When it comes time — and that time will most likely come all too soon — to repair the monster, there's a good chance the mechanic who gave you the green light will also happily make the costly repairs.

And if you buy a lemon and the seller refuses to fix it, contact the state police if it's an inspection violation (287-3393); the attorney general's office if you suspect fraud, such as odometer tampering (626-8800); or the motor vehicle bureau if there's a problem that's not considered an inspectible item, such as a defective engine (287-5416).

Most people don't know they can file complaints. Knott and Harvie didn't. And while it's not a bad idea to let your public servants know that you've been ripped off, don't expect miracles, or even action.

Sharon Bass is a reporter for CBW. Research assistance provided by news interns Jennifer Boggs and Penelope Colston.

BANG

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AND EVERY THURSDAY
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UP-COMING EVENTS:

FAT BAG

EMPTY HEAD

RED LIGHT REVIEW



comment

Peer pressure

We are not alone. Weird, maybe. Obnoxious, sometimes. But not alone.

The staff of *CBW* was reminded of that fact after spending four days in Montreal last week, surrounded by writers, editors, designers, ad reps, number-crunchers and other ink-stained wretches from around North America. The occasion was the 20th convention of the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies (AAN) — our trade organization.

SO NOTED



There's a lot of variation among the papers that belong to AAN. There are urban giants with a circulation of over 100,000, like the *Chicago Reader*. There are tiny papers in sparsely populated hinterlands, like Montana's *Missoula Independent*. Some of the papers are fiercely political; some are more literary. Some are filled with humor; some are

deadly serious. Some, of course, are better than others. What, if anything, holds all these papers together? That question came up in a seminar for editorial types held on the conference's final day, in which the panelists and the audience debated the question "What's your mission?" Predictably, in an abrasively opinionated crowd like this, there was a lot of disagreement. When the panelists started tossing around the words "progressive" and "liberal," I got into something of a shouting match with Bruce Brugmann, editor of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, over the relevance of those terms — which I dislike intensely. I argued that the labels "liberal" and "progressive," far from being helpful in defining a mission, instead cripple

a journalist's capacity for independent thought. Other people may call us liberals — let them — but when we start thinking of ourselves that way, seeing the world that way, we do a disservice to our readers.

Many of the editors in the room, myself among them, had struggled with mission statements, which are mostly used to communicate with staff members. Many of the editors had decided they didn't even want to put their mission into words. One just tells the writers working for him, "If you want to make money, sell shoes."

The most useful phrase I heard that day came from David Carr, editor of the *Washington City Paper*, one of the best in AAN. Carr stated his mission this way: "To put out a good paper that makes people talk." It may not sound terribly high-minded. It may not be filled with specific political ideology. But it defines the qualities that we at *CBW* are striving for: writing of quality that engages the community in a debate about issues of substance.

Those of us who went to Montreal came back with a renewed sense of excitement about the work that we do. Sometimes we make people angry. Sometimes we make people laugh. Sometimes we make a difference. What is most important to us is that everyone on staff does his or her job with integrity, honesty and a commitment to excellence. We like to think that the result is a good paper that makes people talk.

SARAH GOODYEAR

Trail blazer

The opening of the Eastern Promenade trail this spring has given us a wonderful opportunity to feel civic pride. This long-awaited trail has already become a crown jewel within Portland's park system, affording convenient access to spectacular views of Casco Bay, which for years have been hidden from those of us who enjoy the Old Port. Completion of phase one of this trail is a cause for celebration, and many within the city, state and neighborhood deserve a tremendous amount of credit for their efforts.

The efforts to establish a linear park along the prom were substantial — five years (and counting), \$2 million, hundreds of meetings, citizens to accommodate and many layers of regulators to appease. For me, it only took one walk along the trail to demonstrate that all of this effort was worth it — the contribution this trail will make to the region's quality of life and its economic vitality will be noticeable and substantial.

It is a shame that *CBW* doesn't see it that way. Looking for scandal where none is to be found, this newspaper has managed to steer clear of praising the many volunteers who devoted countless hours to bring us this landmark, and has reserved its trademark tongue-in-cheek venom for the delays and environmental challenges these volunteers have worked hard to overcome. No one can deny that the public deliberative process can be frustrating and time consuming. The same challenges confront us every day when we seek to navigate the multiple layers of federal, state and local regulations that surround a project of this magnitude.

What you unfortunately forget is that these all too common political problems were not caused by our friends and neighbors who have struggled to make this trail a reality. As a result, this paper has once again lost an opportunity to tell a positive story, a story involving hard work by local people, substantial compromise to accommodate the diverse interests of residents, bikers, joggers, train-enthusiasts and transportation officials, and the ultimate construction of a beautiful waterfront park.

I wanted your readers to know that not all silver linings have clouds.

James I. Cohen
Portland Trails

LETTERS



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

Gossip ain't news

Our friend Kate Webb was the focus of a recent story in *CBW* ("Ear to the Pavement," 5.14.97). Knowing Kate and how she handles conflict, we know there's a lot missing from your coverage. We are dismayed by the one-sided approach, based exclusively on the comments of only one party to the conflict. The article leaves a false impression in the mind of the reader, intensified by the comment from the student that "She said she couldn't talk to me about it," and the reporter's comment that "when contacted, Webb said she couldn't discuss the matter." It's completely to Kate's credit that she couldn't discuss it; this concerns a conflict with a student, which Kate as a staff member is required to handle confidentially. But there are many other ways that the reporter could have gotten the information that would have contributed to a balanced account. The printed version amounted to a soapbox for the student's grievances.

Now that you have printed a story about someone we know, it raises disturbing questions about others you've published. It seems that *CBW* is leaning more and more in the direction of an attitude rag rather than a news journal. This one-sided account may have fit in with the hip, jaded, "can-you-believe-how-stupid-these-cretins-are" tone that seems to be invading the pages of your paper. But that does not make it right. It does not make it accurate. And it does not make it news.

There's another word for that kind of storytelling: it's called gossip.

Anne Sibley O'Brien
Peaks Island

Howard Solomon
Portland

Michael Miles
Cape Elizabeth

Gavalengud Valenzuela
Peaks Island

Diane Gilman
Wiscasset

David Agan
Wells

CBW

I was recently in New Hampshire and noticed that liquor sold in state stores there is almost unbelievably cheap when compared to the prices in Maine. This state isn't even close to being competitive in its pricing and marketing policies. Can anyone explain to me why a supposedly intelligent population in Maine is willing to tolerate the incredible rip-off being perpetrated by the money-grubbers in Augusta in regard to the price controls imposed on the selling of liquor?

No.
Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let *CBW's* crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. *CBW* Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.

North and South

As the person that hired George Campbell to assist in the development of Mack Point, I found your recent article ("He covers the waterfronts," 6.5.97) quite interesting. Your article is premised on the assumption, made by Anne Rand, Tom Valteau and Eliza Townsend, that Mack Point and Portland are

somehow antagonists, pitted against each other for funds and customers, and that George Campbell, in working for us, was somehow betraying Portland.

This premise is, of course, ridiculous, but it does help to explain why the northern Maine economy is struggling while southern Maine prospers; why companies in northern Maine must ship their products through out-of-state ports (or not ship them at all) while southern Maine companies have a decent working port; and, in general, why people in northern Maine believe people in southern Maine are actively working against them. Because, as these prominent officials demonstrate in your article, they often are.

A new port at Mack Point will allow companies from Waldo County to Aroostook County to ship products to international markets overseas. These companies either currently do not market to overseas customers, or they ship through non-Maine ports, such as St. John, New Brunswick, or the port of New Jersey. Despite Anne Rand and Tom Valteau's concerns about "competition between Mack Point and Portland," the fact of the matter is that Mack Point will serve a different market area with different customers, different shippers and different markets than the port of Portland.

What Mack Point offers is an opportunity that currently does not exist in northern Maine — the opportunity to compete, to reach new markets, to grow, create jobs and prosper. If you haven't been to northern Maine recently, you wouldn't know that opportunities like this are few and far between.

The fact is, the Port of Portland has received some \$35 million in public funds over the past decade, not to mention a new \$150 million bridge being built to allow taller and wider ships to enter the port. Meanwhile, companies in central and northern Maine are forced to ship their products through out-of-state ports because they don't have a modern facility. While northern Maine struggles to find a way to build basic economic infrastructure, such as a modern pier, Portland demands luxurious accoutrements to its already bustling port — for Tom Valteau and Anne Rand, a few new million-dollar cranes; for P.D. Merrill a new \$7 million interchange off Interstate 295 that will let trucks off at his front door.

I don't fault them for trying to compete and prosper — but it is disturbing to see these same individuals fighting tooth and nail to prevent everyone else from doing the same thing.

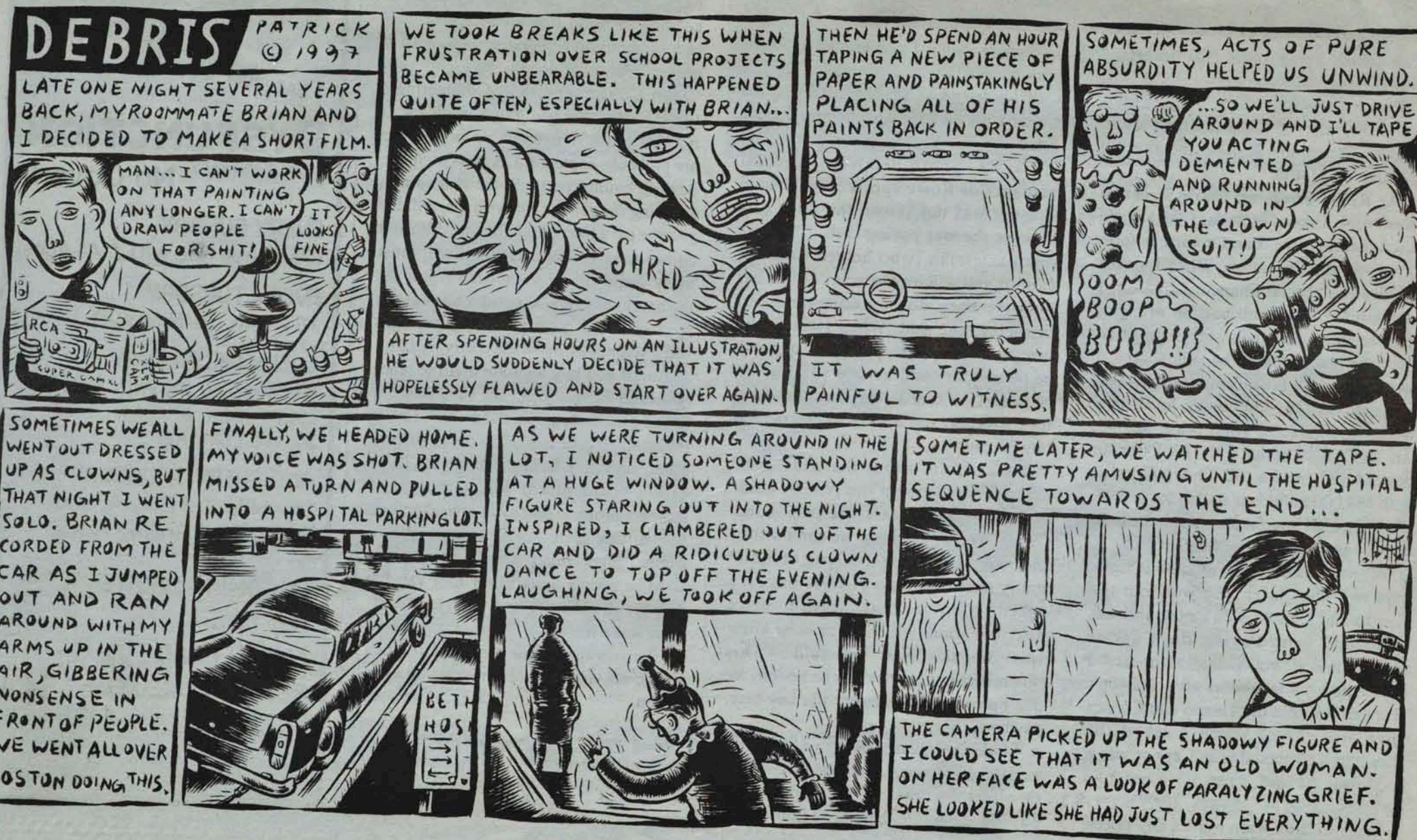
As for George Campbell, we hired him because he knows how to get things done, plain and simple. One would think that individuals like Anne Rand, Tom Valteau and Eliza Townsend would be proud that their mayor has the kind of expertise sought after by companies across this state, such as the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad and Bath Iron Works.

Ben Coes
General Manager, Mack Point Development
The Bangor & Aroostook System
Bangor

MEMO OF THE WEEK

RE: BALLOONING AT UNUM

I received a message from Security this morning. I have been asked to notify all employees that you are not allowed to balloon someone in the work area. It is too disruptive. The employee must come down to the lobby to get ballooned. Thank you, Carolann



Pleasant news: Get ready to party — Portland has a new gallery. Artists Allison Arnold, Jay Villani and Ty Parr have spent the last month putting the finishing touches on **Pleasant Street Collective**, their new gallery space at 52 Pleasant St. The original plan was to showcase their own work — Arnold's ceramics, Villani's metalwork and Parr's woodwork — but soon they realized that to fill the space

ear to the pavement



they'd need more people. Not a problem. The three have amassed work by friends and other local artists like Rebecca Wright-Wheeler and Jeremy Green. "We take a low commission [to] show

affordable art," Arnold told CBW, adding that she finds a lot of the galleries around town intimidating.

The fruits of their labor, including a screen door by Villani and woodwork by Parr, will be on display at the gallery's inaugural celebration, July 3 from 5-9 p.m.

■ Newborn news: Get ready to party — Portland artist Henry Wolyniec is the proud father of **"Wahh," a comic book**. After exploring his adoption through sculpture and websites for the past five years, Wolyniec has adopted a new medium. The first installment is a slick-covered, black-and-white depiction of baby Henry's journey from his natural mother's womb to the arms of his adoptive parents. According to Wolyniec, the subsequent five installments will deal with the search for his birth mother and father, finding them, the ramifications of the meeting and the end of fantasies. He adds that it's "not a self-help journal, not warm and fuzzy and not a sob story."

Wolyniec got the \$5,000 he needed for the project as a grant from the Xeric foundation, (established by Westbrook native Peter Laird of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" fame). Look for "Wahh" at local comic book stores (and nationwide) in September.

■ Haute couture news: Get ready to party — Portland is now home to **Flavour Online**, a "very, very fierce" fashion website presided over by local drag queen Susie (formerly Susie Q-Tip). The site goes up with a bang on July 4, featuring a bounty of photographs from Susie's June 28 fashion shoot. Aimed at capturing the many faces of Portland style, the shoot took the fabulous Susie to Cotton Street Cantina, Encore, Terra Firma and 11 other locations in Greater Portland. Flavour Online is part of a bigger site funded by Personals Connect that will also include chat rooms for 20-something singles, an advice column called "Say it to Susie" and illustrations by David Cedrone. "It's just gonna be a big camp experience," Susie said. See for yourself at: www.personalsconnect.com.

■ Just plain good news: Get ready to party because starting this week, **CBW's entertainment calendar gets a makeover**. Okay, so it's not exactly soiree-inducing, but we're excited. Why, you ask? It's simple. Our new calendar is easier to read, offers information on more of the best stuff happening in town and we think it looks pretty damn cool. Let us know what you think. **CBW**

edge

BARD BABIES...IT HURTS SO GOOD...CLUB FEET...
FIRE IN THE SKY...BARBECUED SAUERKRAUT...
SWIMMING LESSONS...



Passing the scissors: Danny Mardigian, left, and Peter Girouard. PHOTO/COLIN MALAKIE

A tale of two barbers

Danny Mardigian's no longer behind the chair, but the Columbia Barber Shop keeps clipping along

■ SCOTT SUTHERLAND

One day last August, Peter Girouard was standing across the street from the Columbia Barber Shop, the old-fashioned hair emporium next to the State Theatre. He stood and looked at the place, with its big sidewalk-front window, the red-and-white barber pole, the faint outline of the old barber chairs inside, and it occurred to him what he had to do. "I had this gut instinct that said, 'Write the old man a letter and you'll end up with that place,'" Girouard says. The old man was Danny Mardigian, who'd run the barber shop for nearly 40 years and was widely regarded as a Portland institution. Two months earlier, as the result of surgery and failing health, the 90-year-old Mardigian had closed his doors, and now the Columbia sat empty, a Congress Street relic destined to become yet another vacant storefront.

Girouard, though, had other plans. Trained as a cosmetologist, he'd grown disillusioned with what he describes as the "fluff and pretentiousness" of the salon scene. What he was looking for

was something simpler, more down-to-earth — like a barber shop, one he could call his own. He stood on the sidewalk looking at the Columbia a few minutes more, then headed home to write his letter to Mardigian, who, along with his wife, Genevieve, was living in Virginia with one of his three daughters. Girouard's pitch, in short, was to take over the day-to-day operation of the Columbia, preserving the shop's vintage look while offering updated hair cutting at affordable prices. He filled his letter with what he describes as "sentimentality and nostalgia" for what Mardigian had done. "I told him I wanted to carry on the tradition he'd devoted 75 years of his life to," Girouard says, "with the promise I'd preserve the barber shop for as long as I could." He mailed it off, and waited.

A few weeks later, he received a call from one of Mardigian's daughters, Joanne Gross, in Columbia, Md. Gross had read the letter and thought, "Great — he can work with dad in the shop and learn the business." But Mardigian's recovery from surgery to remove a tumor in his colon was progressing slowly; he

had other health concerns as well, and his eyesight wasn't what it used to be. She realized that her father probably wouldn't return to the barber shop, and that her parents would probably never again live in Portland. She also realized how important it was that the family keep the Columbia Barber Shop. "That shop is like the history of my father," Gross says. "We wanted to keep it there in his memory." She and Girouard talked for about an hour; she told him what the family's wishes were, he reiterated what he'd said in the letter, and that was all it took. A few weeks later, the family gave Girouard a key to the shop.

He spent the next three weeks and \$1,500 sprucing the place up — reupholstering the old chairs, fixing the barber pole, installing a new awning, painting new lettering on the front window, and doing "lots and lots and lots of cleaning." Girouard also talked with anyone and everyone who passed by the shop about what he was doing and what his plans were. "I had countless people ask about where Danny was, how he was feeling," he says. "I realized just what an institu-

tion he was, and how important it was to preserve what he'd begun." When he finally opened, the week before Thanksgiving, he had 27 customers his first day. "I was really touched the way the community came out and supported me," Girouard says. "It's been a success ever since."

The Columbia Barber Shop, originally located on the first floor of the old Columbia Hotel on Congress Street, opened for business in 1906, the same year Danny Mardigian was born in a small Armenian village called Akriv. Armenia at that time was a terrifying place to grow up; between 1896 and 1922, Turkish and Kurdish soldiers, acting on government orders, murdered more than 1.5 million Armenians. Another million fled as refugees. When Mardigian was 5, a squad of Turkish soldiers swept into his village. He fled into the nearby woods; huddled in the underbrush, Danny watched as the soldiers rounded up his parents, three of his five brothers and sisters and other members of the village, and marched them off to be shot.

He eventually landed in an orphanage on Russian soil near the Armenian capital of Yerevan, where he lived for the next seven years. He spent his days greasing rusty ammunition for the Armenian government and selling cigarettes on the streets to add to his stash of rubles. One day, Danny received a letter from an older brother, Michael, who was already living in the United States when the Turks arrived at his family's village. Michael was farming in a place called Maine, raising vegetables, cows, chickens. The brothers devised a plan to get Danny out of Russia; he ran away from the orphanage in the middle of the night, used his rubles to pay for a train ticket to Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, then another ticket to the Black Sea. There, he met an Armenian clergyman whose son had died in the genocide; the clergyman gave Danny — who still went by Donig, the name his parents gave him — his son's identity papers, and put him on yet another train that skirted the southern rim of the Black Sea through Turkey, all the way to Istanbul. Danny boarded a refugee ship and sailed from Istanbul to New York City. He shuffled through the lines at Ellis Island and emerged with the name Danny Mardigian, his last name a variant on his father's first name: Mardig. Danny was 12 years old.

He started his life over again on Michael's farm in Windham, learning English, going to school, studying the violin. He graduated from Portland High School, and worked with his brother, who also did a bit of barbering. Danny learned the trade, and entertained notions of going to college. Then the Great Depression hit, and his notions evaporated. He decided to pursue barbering, went to barber's school, and went to work in a small barber shop near the corner of High and Congress streets. He

married Genevieve, an Armenian girl from Pittsburgh, in 1940. In the early 1950s, he bought the Columbia Barber Shop, in the Columbia Hotel, for \$1,500, money he saved driving for Yellow Cab in the evenings. When the hotel was sold two years later, Mardigian relocated to a former candy shop next to the State Theatre, where he cut hair for the next four decades. "A lot of my customers told me I had the best shop in the city," Mardigian says. Asked if he agreed with those customers, he says, "Oh, yeah. I do."

Girouard, 37, grew up in Nashua, N.H., and couldn't wait to get to the big city. He worked as a clothing buyer and retailer in New York and Boston in his 20s, and immersed himself in the rapidly expanding gay culture of both cities. In 1982, he tested positive for a new virus that was being blamed for what was then called the "gay plague": HIV. He also developed a drinking habit he couldn't control. When he arrived in Portland, in 1989, it was to attend the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center, where he spent five months. These days, he says, he's clean: no booze, clean living, lots of time at the gym. He says he feels great.

Portland grew on him. He stayed in town to run the Salvation Army's thrift store on Warren Avenue, then decided to go to cosmetology school — Pierre's School of Beauty Culture on Congress Street — and become a hairdresser. His health was "shaky," though, he says, and school took longer than he anticipated. When he finished, he worked for a while at Shahnaz Hair Studio, until he realized that salon life wasn't for him. Then he found himself standing on Congress Street, looking into the window of the defunct Columbia Barber Shop, imagining himself giving haircuts at eight bucks a pop.

Last month: Danny Mardigian is visiting his old shop, the first time he's been back since closing his doors exactly a year before. He likes the look of the place, but then not a lot has changed. He waves toward Girouard, busy cutting a customer's hair, and exclaims, "By golly, he's a good boy. He's doing a good job. I've been a barber since the 1920s, and I know," Girouard grins.

A woman passing by on the sidewalk glances in, then does a double take when she sees Mardigian. She bursts into the shop and says, "Hi, Danny! I'm Mrs. Nelson. You remember me?"

"Yeah," he says, a little shakily.

"Really?"

"I think so."

"You're not retired yet?" she asks, her hand on his arm.

"Nah," he says, patting her hand.

"I'm never gonna retire." **CBW**

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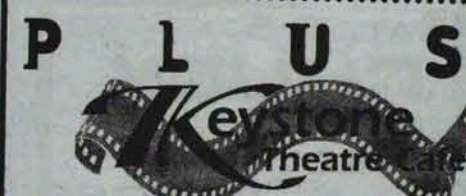
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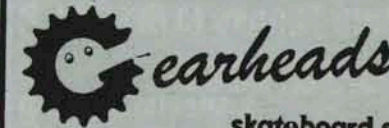
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clubs

Prime cut
Even when you're listening to an alternative rock station, it's rare to find a song that really stands from the others. So when Los Angeles-based trio **THE EELS** released its anthem to numbness, "vocaline for the Soul" last September, the song was like a breath of fresh air. Not to mention a modern rock hit. But the Eels are no one-hit wonder. The band's debut release, "Beautiful Freak," is home to a collection of styles and sounds, like distorted spoken word, dance beats, French horn riffs and full-on meter-cracking volume. Hear it for yourself July 9 at Stone Coast Brewing Company, 14 York St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$6 (all ages). Purr opens. 773-2337.

thursday 3

Asylum
Jenny and the Woodmen
(8 pm/rock); Y/Night (Wendell Gee spins the latest modern rock dance tracks until 2 am), 221 Center St., Portland, 772-8274.

The Barking Squirrel
T.B.A. (6-9 pm), Deering Oaks, Portland, 774-5514.

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

The Big Easy
The 3D Horns (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Comedy Showcase starring Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

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

Geno's
DJ Aaron, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killams
Felix, 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

Metropolis
Chem-free dance night (dueling DJs DJ Thunder and DJ Bad Boy Curtis Smith), 1037 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-3781.

Millennium
Ladies night, 35 India St., Portland, 773-5700.

The Moon
College night (top 40 dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

The Pavilion
Motor Booty Affair (funk/disco covers), 188 Middle St., Portland, 773-6422.

Old Port Tavern
Empty Head, 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raoul's
The Suspenders, 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Vitamin C (funk), 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

Stowaway's Beach Bar
Petting Zoo (funk covers), Great Diamond Island, Portland, 766-5850.

Friday 4

Asylum
DJ Jayce spins hip-hop/Latin/top 40/retro (dance until 2 am), 121 Center St., Portland, 772-8274.

The Barking Squirrel
Kevin Reams (5-8 pm), Deering Oaks, Portland, 774-5514.

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

Geno's
DJ Aaron, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killams
Felix, 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

Metropolis
Chem-free dance night (dueling DJs DJ Thunder and DJ Bad Boy Curtis Smith), 1037 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-3781.

Millennium
Ladies night, 35 India St., Portland, 773-5700.

The Moon
College night (top 40 dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

The Pavilion
Motor Booty Affair (funk/disco covers), 188 Middle St., Portland, 773-6422.

Old Port Tavern
Empty Head, 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raoul's
The Suspenders, 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Vitamin C (funk), 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

Stowaway's Beach Bar
Petting Zoo (funk covers), Great Diamond Island, Portland, 766-5850.

saturday 5

Asylum
Beat Street (DJ Dale "Da Dredd" Dorrette spins the hottest sounds from NYC and the West Coast — dance until 2 am), 121 Center St., Portland, 772-8274.

The Barking Squirrel
Peter Albert (11 am-3 pm), Deering Oaks, Portland, 774-5514.

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

Geno's
DJ Aaron, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killams
Felix, 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

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Raoul's
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Stone Coast Brewing Company
Vitamin C (funk), 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

Stowaway's Beach Bar
Petting Zoo (funk covers), Great Diamond Island, Portland, 766-5850.

monday 7

The Big Easy
Laser karaoke with Ray Dog, 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

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

Granny Killams
Employee appreciation night with band T.B.A. (all ages/6-9 pm — 21+/9 pm), 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

Metropolis
Chem free dance night (dueling DJs DJ Thunder and DJ Bad Boy Curtis Smith), 1037 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-3781.

Millennium
Ladies night (DJ Will), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

The Moon
College night (top 40 dance), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

The Pavilion
Motor Booty Affair (funk/disco covers), 188 Middle St., Portland, 773-6422.

Old Port Tavern
Empty Head, 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Raoul's
The Suspenders, 865 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-6886.

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Vitamin C (funk), 14 York St., Portland, 773-2337.

Stowaway's Beach Bar
Petting Zoo (funk covers), Great Diamond Island, Portland, 766-5850.

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

The Big Easy
The 3D Horns (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Comedy Showcase starring Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

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

Geno's
DJ Aaron, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killams
Felix, 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

Metropolis
Chem-free dance night (dueling DJs DJ Thunder and DJ Bad Boy Curtis Smith), 1037 Forest Ave., Portland, 797-3781.

Millennium
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Stowaway's Beach Bar
Petting Zoo (funk covers), Great Diamond Island, Portland, 766-5850.

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

The Big Easy
The 3D Horns (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Comedy Showcase starring Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

tuesday 8

The Basement
All ages dance party (Blue Soul spins from 9 am-3 pm), 1 Exchange St., Portland, 828-1111.

Comedy Connection
George Hamm's Comedy Showcase, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna
Buck Grunt, 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Geno's
A Benefit for the Children of Michelle LeClair featuring Strictly Business, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killams
Mess (punk — all ages/6-9 pm — 21+/9 pm), 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

Gritty McDuff's
Blue Steel Express, 396 Fore St., Portland, 772-2739.

Old Port Tavern
Actual Size, 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

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

Wharf's End
Solstice (acoustic Caribbean), 52 Wharf St., Portland, 773-0093.

Zootz
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

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

The Big Easy
The 3D Horns (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Comedy Showcase starring Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

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The Basement
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The Big Easy
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Comedy Connection
Comedy Showcase starring Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

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

wednesday 9

Asylum
DJ Curtis Von Isaac spins hot R&B and Top 40 Hip-Hop (dance until 2 am), 121 Center St., Portland, 772-8274.

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

The Big Easy
T.B.A., 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Improvisation starting the 10, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

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

Geno's
Downtown dance at the Lizard Lounge, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Gritty McDuff's
Blue Steel Express, 396 Fore St., Portland, 772-2739.

Millennium
Chem Free Dance Party, 35 India St., Portland, 773-5700.

The Moon
Ladies' night (DJ Will), 427 Fore St., Portland, 772-1983.

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Dancin' Don Cornan, 11 Moulton St., Portland, 774-0444.

Wharf's End
Open Mic with Ken Gimsley, 52 Wharf St., Portland, 773-0093.

Zootz
Dominate the Species (gothic dance night), open mic in the Rec Room, 31 Forest Ave., Portland, 773-8187.

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

The Big Easy
Two Bones and a Pick (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna
Buck Grunt, 128 Free St., Portland, 774-1114.

Geno's
Teknotica Slut and 13 Ghosts, 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7891.

Granny Killams
Elderberry Jam (all ages/6-9 pm — 21+/9 pm), 55 Market St., Portland, 761-5865.

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

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

The Big Easy
The 3D Horns (blues), 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Comedy Showcase starring Tom Dunham, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

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thursday 10

The Basement
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The Big Easy
T.B.A., 416 Fore St., Portland, 780-1207.

Comedy Connection
Improvisation starting the 10, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland, 774-5554.

Free Street Taverna
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Macbeans Music, Brunswick
Record Rendezvous, Kennebunk
Play It Again, Yarmouth
PRESENTED BY HEPTONES

calendar

thursday 3

THIRD OF JULY COUNTRY JAMBOREE, CONGRESS SQUARE

Gingham dresses, too-tight jeans, snakeskin cowboy boots and big black Garth Brooks hats — it's all part of the faux-country fun when Maine Arts turns Congress Square into a high-kickin', yee-hawin' country blowout. The highlight of the daylong event is the attempt to set a new Maine record for the most people ever assembled to line dance; last year, nearly 200 folks showed up to claim the record. It all gets going at noon with music by Country Hearts, followed at 2:30 p.m. by The Piners. Portland Stage previews excerpts from its upcoming musical comedy, "Das Barbecü," at 4:45 p.m. Warm-ups for the line dance record start at 5:30, with the big event getting underway at 5:55 sharp. At 6 p.m. the band Lone Star wraps things up. Food — barbecue, of course — will be served throughout the day. At Congress Square, Congress and High streets. Free. Rain date: July 4. 772-9012.

friday 4

EASTERN PROM FIREWORKS AND FESTIVAL

Reason #406 that we love living in Portland: stretching out on the grass of the Eastern Prom's grand lawn each Fourth of July and watching the fireworks burst over Casco Bay. Even before the fireworks start, though, there's big summer fun to be had, in the form of the Portland Parks & Recreation festival on the prom — music, fried dough, games, cotton candy, fried dough, ice cream sandwiches, fried dough. The festival begins at 11 a.m., fireworks around 9:30 p.m. The whole of Munjoy Hill and the Eastern Prom will be closed to traffic — locals have to show proof of residence to get through — starting at 5:30 p.m., so revelers are urged to walk, dawdle, stroll or otherwise perambulate to the prom. Rain date: July 5. 874-8793.

"HOSPITALITY SUITE," ARTS CONSERVATORY THEATER AND STUDIO

Another in a long line of Hank Beebe joints, "Hospitality Suite" dresses up the classic French farce in modern clothes — namely, in the form of a sales convention. There's a dictatorial top executive, a love match he initially resists between two junior execs, and a conniving consultant, all playing out their various plots and schemes against the frantic behind-the-scenes mayhem of a big sales jamboree. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., July 5-20. Tix: \$10, \$8 students and seniors. 761-2465.

saturday 5

monday 7

"VERTIGO," THE MOVIES

A lot of Hitchcock fans can provide you with a damn good argument as to why 1958's "Vertigo" is the Hitcher's best picture, and we're not inclined to argue. There's Jimmy Stewart, for starters, who plays the San Francisco detective Scottie Ferguson — quirky, nervy, a psychological wreck of a man with a pathological fear of heights — who's hired to shadow an old friend's wife, played by the ever-fetiching Kim Novak. A lot of early set-up yields a rip-roaring finale that has been borrowed, ripped off or spoofed in countless movies since. "Vertigo" precedes a Hitchcock film festival at Keystone Theater Café (504 Congress St.), which includes "North by Northwest" July 11, "The Birds" July 25, "The Man Who Knew Too Much" Aug. 8 and "The Trouble With Harry" Aug. 22. "Vertigo" shows at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., July 2-8. Tix: \$4.25, \$3 kids and seniors. 772-9600.



Kim Novak and Jimmy
Stewart getting to know
each other in "Vertigo"

sunday 6

"DAS BARBECÜ," PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY

PSC introduces professional summer theater to Portland with "Das Barbecü," a musical comedy based, believe it or not, on Wagner's operatic "Ring" cycle. This Texas-style "Ring" features star-crossed lovers Siegfried and Brünnhilde, who two-step like crazy in their pursuit of love, happiness and a magical ring of gold — Black Forest enchantment meets the denim and dust-devils of West Texas. At Portland Stage, 25A Forest Ave., July 6-Aug. 3. Tix: \$19-\$29. 774-0465.



Praying for the
sale: Lawrence Ross in
"Hospitality Suite"

QUICK PICKS

JULY 4

The Maine Train Jazz Festival presents a New Orleans Brass Band Parade through the Old Port at 10:30 a.m., followed by concerts, a beer garden and a lobster bake at the Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum, 58 Fore St., from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tix: \$6, \$3 children, \$15 families.

JULY 8

The Southern Maine Music Academy presents a concert by the USM Faculty Brass Trio in Cortell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$5. 780-5265.

JULY 9

Summer in the Parks music series with Darien Brahms, acoustic contemporary folk, Western Prom, 8 p.m. Free. 874-8793.

Submissions for the
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Asylum Dance Club

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july 10 thursday

Reverend Groove
8 - 10 pm free show

july 11 friday

Twisted Roots
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Congress Street Minutes

ANNE SEIKONIA

There are maggots in my hair!

It was a recent Sunday afternoon, and I was all set to go see Shakespeare in the park. All week I'd looked forward to the offering by the **Maine Summer Dramatic Institute (MSDI)**, the annual theater workshop for high school and college students. My overactive imagination pictured boys in tights, women in low-bodiced gowns, minstrels and jugglers. Since food was mentioned, I conjured up vats of mead, plates of fruit and hearty sandwiches with thick crusts — you know, your standard Renaissance fare.

Thus, I was vaguely disappointed when my significant other and I arrived on a perilously hot and humid afternoon to find a lot of high school kids milling around with name tags. But I guess it would have been cruel and unusual to expect anyone to wear tights and gowns on such a hot day. One table of students was having a merry olde tyne shouting the phrase, "There are maggots in my hair!" (My Shakespeare isn't good enough to figure out from whence that comment issued forth.) I overheard one student tell a new enrollee, "See what you have to look forward to? In-jokes like that."

The kids' boundless energy and goofy camaraderie seemed undaunted by either heat or distractions. Not only that, these youths were enraptured by Shakespeare — a seeming miracle in itself.

Having breakfasted lightly, my s.o. and I were eager for the food to be unveiled. We helped ourselves to copious draughts of iced tea and lemonade and strolled about. It was hard to tell who was in charge of what and when the program was to commence. At one point, a clear-skinned young man asked us if we were bored and told us we could take a **student tour** of the park to see the various parts of the park where that summer's upcoming production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was scheduled to take place. I turned her down, having espied the arrival of great buckets of food being portaged from the direction of **The Barking Squirrel** restaurant.

After chowing down, my s.o. and I wandered aimlessly, wondering if we were the only nonparent and/or teacher affiliates in the audience. By the time the program started, though, there was a modest crowd spread out on blankets before the stage.

Outdoor theater in Portland is a great idea, and I'd love to see more of it. There's no nicer backdrop than an open sky, trees and greenery, and it's nice to see art that's not smartly walled in and boxed up for consumption. Of course, the performers had to contend with a rustling wind, distant sirens, nearby traffic and the threat of an imminent thunderstorm that happily never reached fruition. But the kids seemed not to care; their boundless energy and goofy camaraderie seemed undaunted by either heat or distractions. Not only that, these boisterous youths were enraptured by Shakespeare — a seeming miracle in itself.

The performances — from "Richard III," "Romeo & Juliet," "Twelfth Night" — were spotty and rough, as expected, but the actors were obviously talented and managed to bring the bard's rich language to life. There was also a performance by Brazilian mime **Antonio Rocha**, an MSDI instructor who has studied with Marcel Marceau and Tony Montanaro, as well as a caterwauling episode from the Broadway hit "Cats." Though I'm not sure what these things had to do with Shakespeare, they were entertaining.

One thing that struck me was how much guts these kids have. I wouldn't have embarked on such an extroverted course when I was in high school, or even college, for anything. They're chosen by audition for the program, which was founded by **Jacob Aaron Broder**, a Tufts University graduate, in 1993. Broder is a guest artist this year, joining guest director **Toby Robertson**, who was the Obie-winning director at London's **Old Vic** and the National Theatre of Wales.

Rocha's introduction to his piece included this quote from **Marcel Marceau**: "Film creates illusion out of reality, while mime is the art of creating reality through illusion." An apt definition of the theater as well, to my mind, because of its dependence on the **magic spell** generated by the combination of live actors and the richness of the English language. As far as I know, there's been nothing close to a performance of Shakespeare in the park in Portland for at least the last decade. I look forward to MSDI's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which is scheduled for dusk performances from August 19-23, free of charge. Who knows, maybe I'll even get to see **Elizabethan** tights and gowns. **CBW**

nocturnal EMISSIONS

ZOE S. MILLER

Serious clubbin'

After weeks of hype and confusion over which was which, Metropolis and Millennium had their grand openings on June 21. I'll admit, I'd been a bit skeptical about it all; it's hard not to feel that Portland's market is too small to sustain the sudden arrival of three new night clubs (including Asylum). But regardless of their long-term viability, I was excited by the prospect of these new nightlife options.

My friends and I decided to hit Metropolis first, since the drive out to 1037 Forest Ave. seemed more palatable as an early evening venture. (The way Portlanders complain about leaving the peninsula may seem silly to people who've sampled nightlife elsewhere, but let's face it — taxis can add another \$5-10 onto your night, and public transportation isn't exactly an option.) Having spent at least a few nights in the clubs that line Boston's Lansdowne Street, I was dying to see if Metropolis would actually live up to its claim of being Portland's first Boston-style club.

After all, its fliers, impressively Bostonish, promised DJ's from Boston clubs, as well as a host of other big-city amenities.

Is a Boston-style club necessarily a good thing? Yes. Because Portlanders deserve a little sophistication and ambiance. Metropolis has managed to take a dauntingly cavernous space and create both.

When we arrived, a very Boston-sized line awaited us. To be fair, we got there just as the VIP happy hour was ending, and we had to wait for people to leave so we could enter. At first I was so disgruntled by having to pay a \$3 cover and by the music — a mix of old Top 40 stuff like Montell Jordan's "This Is How We Do It," Bobby Brown's "Don't Be Cruel" and "The Macarena" — that I neglected to notice the complete transformation of the old Odyssey 2000 digs into an atmospheric and elegant night-club. At the bar, we confronted another line and found expensive drinks served in tiny plastic cups. But when I forced myself to look around, I found a stylish lounge — dubbed the "Cigar Room" — filled with soft, squishy seats and tables. In the dance room, we found more tables, with varying degrees of privacy, overlooking the dance floor, and large expanses of wall covered by graffiti-style murals. As the night progressed, so did the music — to '70s disco, then hip-hop and techno.

Although somebody needs to warn patrons about the lighting (let's just say black lights and white underwear don't mix), the overall aura is very upscale and, well, Boston. Which begs the question: Is that necessarily a good thing? The last time I was on Lansdowne Street, my girlfriends and I got groped so much that we bagged dancing and left to grab a pizza. Still, I'm gonna go out on a limb and say yes. Why? Because Portlanders deserve a little sophistication, some ambiance, and Metropolis has managed to take a dauntingly cavernous space and create both. But I have to say, if they don't lose the "bringing serious clubbin'" to Portland" mantra, I may change my mind.

Serious gay clubbin'?

Then it was off to Millennium, the mostly gay-themed club down on India Street. Millennium also has a mantra — "a futuristic night club" — and if there's any truth to it, then I'm not looking forward to the future. After tolerating a 30-minute wait to get in and paying the exorbitant \$5 cover charge, we were disappointed to find that no attempt had been made to rid the place of clues to its previous inhabitant, the Hedgehog Brewpub. Thanks to Pride weekend, the place was packed, which only added to the already claustrophobic feel of the bar-turned-night club's low ceilings and narrow hallways. We didn't bother to dance, since the tiny stage area was even more confining. A friend and I tried out the lounge room and felt as though we had crashed a party in somebody's parents' basement.

After leaving, we concluded that waiting in line had been the best part of our night at Millennium. As we stood around waiting to get in, a woman emerged and gasped with surprise at the line. "Oh my god! It's not worth the wait," she said, half to her friend, half for our benefit. "I don't know about that place," another woman muttered on her way out the door. But the comment that seemed to sum up the evening was uttered by a clearly drunken, scraggly-haired man passing by. "Everyone's going to that bah," he exclaimed. "Weird!"

By night's end, I'd spent a lot of money, a lot of time waiting in lines and hadn't had nearly enough fun. You can't judge a club solely by its opening night, but a bad vibe goes a long way. I'll probably try Metropolis again, but I don't see myself returning to Millennium anytime soon.

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AUG 8

John Hiatt

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Merrill Auditorium, Portland 8pm

Tix: \$20



AUG 23

Pam Tillis

Country Music Sensation '94 CMA Vocalist of year
With guests the Don Campbell Band
Merrill Auditorium, Portland 8pm

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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.

stage

Among My Souvenirs Reindeer Theatre Company's tribute to America's sweetheart Connie Francis, featuring Kammy Marcotte with Nancy Durgin, Louis-Philippe and Richard Marcotte. June 29 at ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland at 2 p.m. Tix: \$10 (\$8 students/seniors). 761-2465.

Camelot Maine State Music Theatre presents Lerner and Loewe's classic musical about the adventures of King Arthur, Guenevere, Lancelot and Merlin as they battle in their quest for love, honor and justice. At Pickard Theater, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. July 8-26. Tues-Sat 8 pm. Matinees: July 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 & 18 at 2 p.m. Tix: \$18-\$30. 725-8769.

The Casco Steppes An evening of musical, political and social satire. June 28 at ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland at 8 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 students/seniors). 761-2465.

Dark Water Theater performs excerpts from Durang. Durang, Mrs. Sorken and For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls. June 27 in Congress Sq., Portland, at noon. Sponsored by Maine Arts. 772-9012.

Das Barbecô Portland Stage Company presents a musical comedy about tempest-crossed lovers Siegfried and Brinnhilde, in pursuit of love, happiness and a magical ring of gold. Featuring a country and western score. At Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland. July 6-Aug 3. Tues-Fri 8 pm, Sat 5 & 9 pm, Sun & Wed 2 pm (and 8 pm on 7/13). Tix: \$19-\$29 (discounts available). July 13 is pay-what-you-can. Matinee Madness: July 16, 23 & 30 kids/seniors/chaperones pay \$10 at 2 pm matinees. Curtain Call Discussions: July 13 & 20 following 2 pm matinees. 774-0465.

Durang — **Expanded** Dark Water Theater presents another excursion through the plays of Durang. Bill one (Thurs & Sat) features Mrs. Sorken, The Book of Leviticus Show, John & Mary Doe, Naomi in the Living Room, Nina in the Morning and For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls. Bill two (Fri & Sat) features: Mrs. Sorken, Funeral Parlor, The Hardy Boys, Desire, Desire, Medea and A Style of the Eye. July 10-Aug 3. At Oak Street Theater, 92 Oak St., Portland. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 7 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 students/seniors). Thursdays is half-price. 775-5103.

Hospitality Suite July 5-20. Hank Beebe's musical blend of the classic French farce and crazy modern behavior. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Fri-Sat 8 pm, Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 students/seniors). 761-2465.

A Midsummer Night's Dream The Theater at Monmouth presents Shakespeare's romantic frolic. At the Theater at Monmouth, Main St., Monmouth. July 26, 9, 16, 18 & 26, Aug 7, 9, 12, 17, 22 & 27 at 8 pm, Aug 2 & 30 at 2 pm. Opening night: \$24. Tix: \$20 (\$18 seniors & matinee/\$14 students). 933-9999.

The Miser The Theater at Monmouth presents Molière's madcap comedy. At the Theater at Monmouth, Main St., Monmouth. July 10-13, 17, 19 & 27 Aug 1, 6, 16, 19, 24 at 8 pm, Aug 9 at 2 pm. Opening night: \$24. Tix: \$20 (\$18 seniors & matinee/\$14 students). 933-9999.

Sweeney Todd Maine State Music Theatre presents the Tony Award winning musical about a barber and his accomplice, who team up to seek revenge on a dishonest judge. At Pickard Theater, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. June 24-July 5. Tues-Sat 8 pm. Matinees: June 27 & 29, July 1, 3 & 4 at 2 pm. Tix: \$18-\$30. 725-8769.

Who's Who in the Betty Crocker Cookbook of Life Reindeer Theatre Company's Private Performance Series presents a one-woman comedy by Nancy Woodward. At Reindeer Pointe, 650 Forest Ave., 2nd floor, Portland, at 8 pm. June 27 & 28, Aug 1 & 2. Tix: \$10. 874-9002.

auditions/etc

Auditions Acorn Productions announces open auditions for its season opener, *Desdemona*. Sept. 28-Oct. 12. Acorn seeks women ages 18-40 capable of British accents. Call Michael Levine at Oak Street Theatre to schedule an appointment. 775-5103.

Auditions Actors are needed for Willoughby a short movie to be shot Aug. 11-15. Parts available for all ages and sexes. Interested people should send photo/resume to: Matt Kauffman, 10 Gilman St. #2, Portland, ME 04102-3002. 828-3971.

Auditions The Portland Stage Company announces general auditions for its 1997-98 season. Equity and non-Equity auditions will be held Aug. 25 from 1-8 pm and Aug. 26 from 10 am-5 pm. At Portland Performing Arts, 3rd floor, 25A Forest Ave., Portland. To schedule and appointment, call 774-1043 after Aug. 1.

Auditions Moxielab seeks five adult actors (3 men, 2 women) for a site-specific performance to be presented in downtown Portland in August. Auditions held June 28 & 29 by appointment. 879-7901.

Auditions The Public Theatre seeks pictures and resumes from Equity and non-Equity actors for performances of *Steel Magnolias*, *A Christmas Carol* and *The Glass Menagerie*. Send to: The Public Theatre, 2 Great Falls Plaza, Box 7, Auburn, ME 04210. Deadline for submissions: July 7. Auditions will be held July 19 & 21 by appointment only. All roles are salaried. 782-2211.

Cattle Call Auditions Portland Stage Company seeks the slickest Texans in Portland to appear in walk-on cameo roles in *Das Barbecô*, a country and western musical comedy playing July 6-Aug 3. July 1 at Portland Stage Company, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, from 7-9 pm. To schedule an audition, call PSC at 774-1043.

Intems Wanted Dark Water Theatre Company seeks interns for the return of *Durang*. Durang. Positions available as wardrobe supervisor, runners, props manager and in publicity. Call Allison Marek at 761-0769.

Singers Wanted Veronica Sacred Theatre seeks women to be chant choir singers for its upcoming performance of *Faces in the Stone: Dancing a Woman's Story of God*, July 11 & 12. For more info, call Frederica Chapman at 828-1200.

Summer Institute at the Theater Project The Theater Project in Brunswick is accepting applications for its summer institute for young actors, ages 8-15. The program runs Mon-Fri from 9 am-1:30 pm, July 14-Aug 1. Cost: \$275 (\$100 per week). Scholarships are available. For more info or to register, call 729-8584.

Theater Classes Classes in acting, piano, African drumming, dance for actors, effective presentations, lighting and voice are offered at ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland. By appointment only. 761-2465.

Volunteers Needed The Theater at Monmouth seeks adult and student volunteers to help with summer productions. Attend the informational meeting, June 29 at Cumston Hall, Main St., Monmouth, at 6:30 pm. Or call Jamie or Jo'lie at 933-9999.

Warren Kids Warren Memorial Library is accepting applications for both sessions of its Workshops of the Performing Arts for Children program. Session I runs July 8-29. Session II runs Aug 5-26. Groups for kids ages 6-9 and 10 and up. At Warren Memorial Library, 479 Main St., Westbrook, at 3 pm. Cost: \$12. 854-5891.

The Upstarters A Casco Bay Lines' Music on the Bay concert. Departs from Casco Bay Lines, Commercial St., Portland at 7:30 pm (returns 10:30 pm). Tix: \$12 (\$10 advance). 774-7871.

Tangletoons Pip and Sharon give a kids' concert at Deering Oaks Park, at 12:30 pm. Free. Sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation. 874-8793.

Third of July Country Jamboree A barbeque, line dancing and country music by Country Hearts, The Midnight Ridge and Lone Star in Congress Square, Portland, from noon-9:30 pm. Free. Sponsored by Portland's Downtown District and Maine Arts. Rindate: July 4, 772-9012.

Friday 4

Chandler's Band At Fort Allen Park, So. Portland, at 6 pm. Sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation. 874-8793.

Kahtunes A Casco Bay Lines' Music on the Bay concert. Departs from Casco Bay Lines, Commercial St., Portland at 7:30 pm (returns 10:30 pm). Tix: \$12 (\$10 advance). 774-7871.

Musicalfest '97 Concert The Bowdoin summer music festival presents performances of music by Schubert, Copland and Gershwin. At Crooker Theater, Brunswick High School, Brunswick at 8 pm. Tix: \$17.50 (\$10 kids). 725-3895.

Red Light Revue A Casco Bay Lines' Music on the Bay concert. Departs from Casco Bay Lines, Commercial St., Portland at 8 pm (returns 11 pm). Tix: \$12 (\$10 advance). 774-7871.

Saturday 5

Chamber Music Concert Faculty and students from the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival present a program of Classical and Romantic chamber music for strings, winds and piano. At St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, 515 Woodford St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$5. 721-3040.

Sunday 6

The Saccharappa Boys play old-time music in Congress Square, Portland, at 2 pm. Free. Sponsored by Maine Arts. 772-9012.

The Terry White Big Band A 13-piece jazz ensemble concert presented by the Southern Maine Music Academy. At Corbett Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$5. 780-5265.

Monday 7

Bill Street plays jazz and classical selections. Presented by the Southern Maine Music Academy. At Corbett Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$5. 780-5265.

Tuesday 8

Darlen Brahms plays contemporary folk at Western Prom Park, at 8 pm. Sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation. 874-8793.

Robert MacDonald plays a program of classics and pops on the Koltzschmar organ. At Merrill Auditorium, City Hall, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Presented by Friends of the Koltzschmar Organ. Suggested donation: \$5. 885-0198.

Raccoon Beach plays light jazz in Tommy's Park, Portland, at noon. Free. Sponsored by Portland's Downtown District. 772-6828.

Phil Rich Big Band plays music from the '30s and '40s at Deering Oaks, at 7:30 pm. Free. Sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation. 874-8793.

Wednesday 9

The Pinetones play a concert at Mill Creek Park, So. Portland, at 7 pm. Free. Sponsored by South Portland Parks & Recreation. 767-7650.

Southern Maine Music Academy Staff Recital At Corbett Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Free. 780-5265.

Upbeat! Concert The Bowdoin summer music festival presents performances of music by Copland, Harbison and Brahms. At Kresge Auditorium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$8. 725-3895.

Jenny Woodman plays a concert for Casco Bay Lines' Music on the Bay series. Departs from Casco Bay Lines, Commercial St., Portland at 7:30 pm (returns 10:30 pm). Tix: \$12 (\$10 advance). 774-7871.

upcoming

Chandler's Band July 10. At Fort Allen Park, So. Portland, at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation. 874-8793.

Julie & Brownie July 10. Songs for kids at Deering Oaks, Portland, at 12:30 pm. Sponsored by Portland Parks & Recreation. 874-8793.

Southern Maine Music Academy Soloists Recital July 10. At Corbett Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Free. 780-5265.

Musicalfest '97 Concert July 11. The Bowdoin summer music festival presents performances of music by Carl Reinecke, George Crumb and Johannes Brahms. At Crooker Theater, Brunswick High School, Brunswick at 8 pm. Tix: \$17.50 (\$10 kids). 725-3895.

Southern Maine Music Academy Chamber Music Recital July 11 & 12. Members perform in small ensembles. At Corbett Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Free. 780-5265.

The David Grisman Quartet July 11. At the State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$22. 603-668-5588.

Cosby, Sills & Nash July 11. At Merrill Auditorium, City Hall, Portland at 8 pm. Tix: \$29.50/\$39.50. 842-0800.

Southern Maine Music Academy Concert July 13. Featuring the jazz ensemble directed by Scott Reeves and the concert band directed by Peter Martin. At the Gorham Performing Arts Center, Gorham High School, 41 Morrill Ave., Gorham, at 2 pm. Free. 780-5265.

Better Than Ezra July 25. Ednaswap opens. At The Pavilion, 188 Middle St., Portland. Tix: \$15. 772-NEXT.

Los Lobos July 27. At The Pavilion, 188 Middle St., Portland. Tix: \$18 (\$15 advance). 772-NEXT.

The Steve Miller Band July 27. Eric Johnson opens. At the Civic Center, Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$22.50-\$26.50. 775-3331.

Shawn Colvin July 31. At Merrill Auditorium, City Hall, Portland at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$23.50-\$25.50. 842-0800.

John Hiatt Aug. 8. At Merrill Auditorium, City Hall, Portland at 8 pm. Tix: \$20. 842-0800.

The Great Went Aug. 16 & 17. A multi-arts festival featuring jam-rock band Phish. At Loring Air Force Base, Limestone. Tix: \$70. Call Ticketmaster at 775-3331.

Travis Tritt Aug. 17. Joined by Hank Williams Jr., The Charlie Daniels Band and Joe Dee Messina. At the Ballpark, Old Orchard Beach, at 6 pm. Tix: \$26.50. 772-NEXT.

311 Aug. 21. De La Soul opens. At the Ballpark, Old Orchard Beach, at 7 pm. Tix: \$20. 772-NEXT.

Pam Tillis Aug. 21. The Don Campbell Band opens. At Merrill Auditorium, City Hall, Portland at 8 pm. Tix: \$24.50. 842-0800.

dance

American Landscapes July 7. Ram Island Dance performs in Post Office Park, Portland. Sponsored by Portland's Downtown District. 772-6828.

Ballroom Course with Wayne Barker A 7-week course covering the fox trot, cha cha, rumba and waltz begins July 10. Meets Thursdays at Casco Bay from 7-8 pm. Cost: \$60. 871-1013.

Casco Bay Cloggers July 8, 15, 22 & 29. The Cloggers perform at Smiling Hill Farm, 781 County Rd., Westbrook, from 6:30-8 pm. Free. 772-2048.

Danzo Latino A participatory dance in Congress Square, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. Sponsored by Maine Arts. 772-9012.

Island Moving Co. July 5. Modern dance in Congress Square, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. Sponsored by Maine Arts. 772-9012.

Master Jazz Class Eva Von Gensy, founder of Les Ballet Jazz de Montreal, teaches a master dance class July 12 at Casco Bay Movers Dance Studio, 151 St. John St., Portland, from 11 am-12:30 pm. Cost: \$15. 871-1013.

Volunteers Wanted to help set a new state of Maine record for the most people ever assembled to line dance. At the Third of July Country Jamboree in Square, Portland. Lessons at 5:30 pm, dance at 6 pm. Sponsored by Portland's Downtown District and Maine Arts. Rindate: July 4, 772-9012.

others

Agape Center for Soul, Community and the Arts, 657 St. Portland. "Creative Movement" meets Mon from 5:15-7:15 pm. Cost: \$5. "Dansknetics" meets Thurs from 6-7 pm. Cost: \$10. 780-1500.

Ballroom Dance Social The Gorham Dance Club hosts a ballroom party and social, Saturdays from 8-11 pm at the Center of Movement, 19 State St., Gorham. Potluck supper at 7 pm. Cost: \$5. 839-3267.

Contemporary Dance with Eduardo Mariscal Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 pm. At Casco Bay Movers Dance Studio, 151 St. John St., Portland. 871-1013.

Contradance with Crooked Stovepipe Band every third Fri at 8:30 pm at the Presumpscot Grange, 1844 Forest Ave., Portland (across from Tortilla Flat). All dances taught. Singles always welcome. Cost: \$5. 774-3392.

Contradance with The Sea Slugs the first Sat of each month at 7:30 pm at Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Cost: \$4 (\$2 kids/\$10 family max). 929-6472.

Contradance with Whirled Peas and John McIntyre the first Fri of every month at 8:30 pm at State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland. Cost: \$5. (All dances taught). 774-1873.

Dance Classes Classes in beginner ballet, African dance, modern dance, tap dance, dance for preschoolers and kids ages 6-12 and yoga are offered at ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland. By appointment only. 761-2465.

Dancers Wanted Eduardo Mariscal is looking for performers to participate in his ongoing community dance-theater project. Must be physically fit. 871-9056.

Family Dance Chem-free and fun-filled dancing for the whole family and for singles the 3rd Sat of the month. Bring your favorite music on tape or CD to guarantee a dance that will please you. At the Swedeborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave., Portland, from 6-10 pm. Donation: \$5. 772-8277. CBW

ECCE Homo

RICK MACPHERSON

Thank you, sir, may I have another

Of the many groups represented in last month's Portland Pride parade, none struck me as more fascinating than the Harbor Masters, a collection of men who indulge in S&M, bondage, domination, discipline and leather. Relegated to the outer fringes of "normalized" sexual behavior (even within the queer community) and often considered merely a fetish, S&M and leather culture have nevertheless maintained an ominous yet titillating presence.

It's easy to see why. A lot of the stereotypic posturing of S&M is intimidating — the leather, the chest and arm straps, the piercings, the ultra serious demeanor of the participants — and indeed, that's part of the appeal. There's also the fear of the unknown, of sexual activity that doesn't follow the culturally prescribed route. We're taught that pain and pleasure are two very different extremes, and the idea that mutual pleasure can be derived from pain or scenes that may involve bondage or domination is more often than not considered perverse or twisted.

Which is not to say that there aren't perverse and twisted individuals in the S&M scene — indeed there are. *The Village Voice* ran several stories last year warning S&M practitioners in Manhattan of a man who did not respect his partners' limits. But while I wouldn't judge all breeders by the worst of what I see coming out of some of the Old Port pubs on a Saturday night, I'm not about to dismiss S&M practitioners as deviant just because someone doesn't know the meaning of the words safe, sane and consensual.

More so than any other subculture within the queer community, S&M and leather culture possesses the most ritualized iconography of identification. Ironically (and humorously), perhaps only drag culture comes closest in its expectations of appearance and behavior. The distinction, however, should be drawn that while most serious S&M practitioners are leather wearers, few leather wearers are serious S&M practitioners.

Leather wear, after all, as well as black rubber, plastic and latex, have become tré chic in the queer club scenes. It's not uncommon to see an assortment of leather queens out for a Friday or Saturday night here in Portland. In cities like Boston, clubs like Ramrod thrive on a clientele of leathermen and the guys who love them. But even there, quite a bit of the leather wear is posturing. Which begs several questions: Is leather wear solely a function of fashion (especially when you consider that Versace dedicated a line of men's clothes this spring with a leather S&M theme)? Or does it at all speak to issues of masculinity and the internalized homophobia of someone believing they just don't appear masculine enough? Regardless how you answer those questions, the complex semiotics of S&M only add to the intimidation factor for those who may find it enticing.

A friend of mine returned from a trip to the West Coast last year with a leaflet from an S&M and leather store called The Crypt. The leaflet attempted to decipher the meanings behind the enigmatic leather armbands many S&M practitioners sport. Here's an abbreviated sample:

Armband color	Worn on left, Worn on right
Black	➤ S&M top, S&M bottom
Gray	➤ Bondage top, Bondage bottom
Red	➤ Fist fucker, Fist fuckee
Dark pink	➤ Tit torturer, Tit torturee
Mustard	➤ Has 8+ inches, Wants a big one
Leopard	➤ Has tattoos, Likes tattoos
Coral	➤ "Suck my toes", Shrimper
Yellow	➤ Piss freak, Pisser
Gray flannel	➤ Owns a suit, Likes men in suits

All of which I took as an indication that at least on the West Coast, S&M practitioners can stand back and poke some fun at themselves. It reveals a human face beneath the often intimidating exterior, which I see as a good thing, since it's easy to see all of this as humorous parody. Quite a few S&M folk look like clones of the leather guy from the Village People, or extras from a Mad Max movie.

But let me be clear. I don't think that general cultural acceptance is right around the corner for the S&M scene. Sadly, while I personally know quite a few younger people involved in the S&M scene, none were marching with the Harbor Masters. I can't say why, exactly, but with all the cultural conditioning that views S&M and leather culture as deviant, it's to be expected that some practitioners might be uncomfortable with their relationship to the scene. Then again, some observers of the parade didn't quite know what to make of the Harbor Masters. Which is unfortunate, because it would be sad and silly if we alienated one group during a celebration of inclusion. CBW

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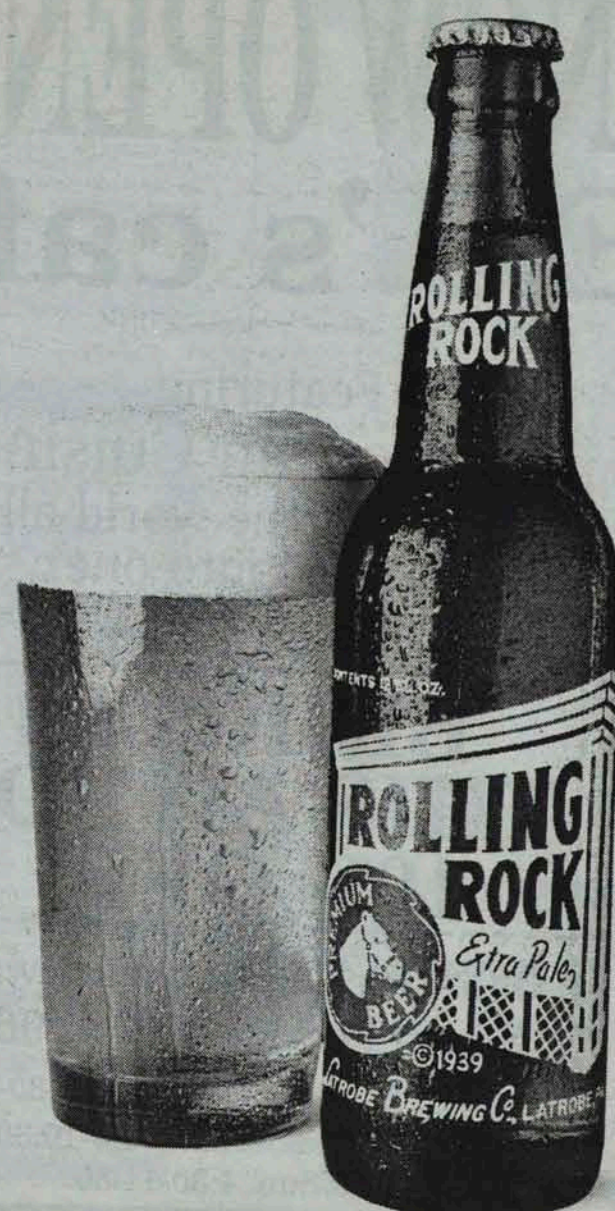
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CHAPPEL'S. This 15-year-old breakfast, lunch, and pub-style bar was purchased in March by restaurant entrepreneur Kelly Campbell and has received a total re-vamp creating a relaxed, casual, "Cher's" like atmosphere. Menu items include the best Buffalo Wings in Maine, hot and cold sandwiches, such as the Better Than Philly steak sandwich, Chicken Cordon Bleu, and the Maine Haddock. Daily lunch specials. Low-fat menu. Happy Hour MF 4-7. Half-price wings and dollar drafts Monday nights. Ladies Night - 50¢ off everything Thursdays. Darts. Pool. Private parties. Open seven days 6am-1am. 1192 Forest Ave., Portland, at Monti's Corner. 797-4165.

OLD PORT TAVERN. For Lunch (11:30-5) we carry delicious soups, salads, appetizers, mouth-watering seafood and other innovative sandwiches. For dinner (5-9:30pm) we offer salads, soups, appetizers, superb steaks, seafood and pasta dishes. Visa, MC, AmEx, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-6444.

MOUL'S ROADSIDE ATTRACTION. Enjoy lunch or dinner in our fun, casual atmosphere, comfortable enough to bring a date or dine alone. Sandwiches, appetizers, vegetable items and homemade desserts. Hours: Mon-Thurs 4-10pm, Fri-Sun 11am-10pm. MC & Visa accepted. Parking. 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

STONE COUNTRY BREWING COMPANY. Featuring a full service non-alcoholic restaurant with a menu that has something for everyone. From a quick burger, sandwich or one of our chef's selections of fresh seafood or charbroiled steaks. Serving Lunch and Dinner 11:30am-10pm Sun-Thurs and until 12am Fri & Sat. For something special try our spectacular Sunday Brunch Buffet with live jazz from 11am-2pm. Next to the Civic Center and the Old Port, with plenty of free parking. 14 York St., Gorham's Corner, Portland. 773-8833.

SEAFOOD

DOWNEAST VILLAGE RESTAURANT. The DownEast Restaurant is known for and wide for its excellent cuisine. We offer a range of beautifully prepared selections, including fresh seafood, which makes up a large part of our menu. You'll find the atmosphere of the dining room reminiscent of Yarmouth's ship-building days gone by. Breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily. Tuesday evenings, Jan. through May, we celebrate with an ever changing authentic ethnic buffet menu. (Cocktails, beer and wine are served.) 31 U.S. R. 1, Yarmouth. 546-5151.

JONES LANDING. Come on out to the island! A beautiful 15 minute ferry ride from Portland transports you to another world. Check out our new summer menu (fresh from Maine waters) prepared by our chef (fresh from St. Croix). Comfortable atmosphere, huge deck, glorious sunsets. Serving lunch & dinner daily. Weekend entertainment - including our legendary Reggae Sundays. Full bar. MC & Visa. Peaks Island. 766-5442.

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SQUEEZE ME JUICE BAR. 10 Exchange Street Mall, 771-7997. "Squeezing Melons Since 1997." Portland's only juice and smoothie bar. Creating stimulating blends from over fifty ingredients and adding inculcating wheatears, beer pollen and spirul na. Come in and enjoy fresh salads, fruit kabobs and crudités in a bright and tropical atmosphere. 10:00am-10:00pm daily.

CAFE

BARBARA'S KITCHEN AND CAFE. Due to popular demand, Chef Barbara Weinroth's acclaimed South Portland destination for breakfast, lunch and Sunday brunch, is now serving dinner Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Appetizers include: asparagus wrapped with prosciutto, with a honey-mustard dipping sauce; crusty with marinated eggplant, roasted red pepper and caramelized onion; red pepper and basil tortillas with corned chicken and brown rice; and grilled shrimp with black bean and corn salsa. Entrees include: Moroccan chicken with lemons, olives, saffron, and capers; seared scallops with sesame ginger sauce and fresh herbs; deep-fried oysters with Cajun remoulade; Angus beef rib-eye steaks with mustard pepperoni sauce and vegetable fennel; spinach pie in puff pastry with feta, cur ranks, and Mozzarella sauce; or stir-fried vegetables with tofu and basmati rice served on a bed of fresh spinach. Beers from local microbreweries and wines complement featured foods. Dessert: chocolate-raspberry or mocha cheesecake torte.

honey-peppercorn pie, or apricot upside-down cake. Catering services include over 200 menu options. Cafe available for private parties. Open for breakfast and lunch Tue-Fri, 7-5; Sat-Sun, 8-2; Dinner Thu, Fri and Sat, 5-10. 388 Cottage Rd., S. Portland. Cafe: 767-6313; Fax: 799-5037.

BLACK TIE. 870 Broadway, South Portland. Discover South Portland's most interesting lunch spot! Featuring hearty soups and sandwiches, healthy salads, entrees and fantastic bakery items. Daily specials - always! Dinner or take-out. Open Monday-Friday 7:30-10:30, 797-1159.

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CONTEMPORARY

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movies

Review

Head Above Water, directed by Jim Wilson. Rated R. At Keystone Theatre Cafe, 504 Congress Street, Portland, 871-5500.

Downtown Portland hadn't seen the premiere of a national film in over 20 years, so when **Head Above Water**—filmed entirely on location near Bath—made its Maine debut at Keystone Theatre Café last week, it was a special event. The invitation-only opening night shindig was a thematically consistent affair with shrimp and crab puffs to eat, painted buoys and starfish for decoration and Maine's own Bob Elliot as master of ceremonies. Partygoers were enthusiastic about yet another brief encounter with Hollywood. For about an hour, it actually felt like Congress Street was revitalized.

Then the movie started. "Head Above Water" stars Cameron Diaz as Nathalie, a woman with the proverbial checkered past who is spending a holiday with her new husband, George (Harvey Keitel). Twenty years Nathalie's senior, George also happens to be the judge who sentenced Nathalie to jail to help her get over her "little addictions" to sedatives and alcohol. With his fatherly advice and "Father Knows Best" pipe, George is more like a father to Nathalie than a husband—a necessary dynamic for the plot, but annoying nonetheless.

Also at the secluded cottage is Lance (Craig Sheffer), Nathalie's childhood friend. Lance is a shy fellow who sculpts, builds boats, communes with the environment and is given to saying things like "Ahoi, mates." (Mercifully, no one tries to replicate the Down East accent that seems to elude so many actors, i.e. Tom Bosley in "Murder She Wrote.")

The action really begins when Lance and George go on an overnight fishing trip, and Nathalie's roguish ex-lover Kent (perennial B-movie pretty boy Billy Zane) pays Nathalie a surprise visit. Kent imbibes all night long, tries to seduce

Nathalie and, shiver me timbers, is dead and nude in Nathalie's bed by morning. Boy, is her dad—I mean, husband—going to be pissed!

The rest of the movie scurries along like a typical black comedy with Nathalie, and then George, trying to dispose of Kent's corpse in macabre and wacky ways. Eventually, Nathalie suspects that George planned to kill Kent

from the beginning, and now wants to kill her too. There are other twists here and there, enough to keep you in your seat but not on the edge of it. As one viewer put it: "The acting was bad, the dialogue was lame and the plot was uninspired, but it wasn't boring."

Indeed, the acting is bad. Keitel is especially bad without a good script or strong characterization to support him. Diaz is gorgeous but without much range, and Sheffer is as wooden as the boats he pretends to build. Zane breathes a bit of life into his familiar role of gadfly. Too bad he dies in the first 15 minutes.

The real star of the movie is the Maine coast. The pristine beaches, rocky shoreline and green-blue Atlantic convey the solitude and mystique that the filmmakers were shooting for. Unfortunately, the story just doesn't measure up.

"Head Above Water" isn't a bad movie, but it isn't a good one either. Go see it—or, rent a cottage on the coast for a week, make some crab puffs and pick up Hitchcock's "The Trouble With Harry." Ahoi, mates!

JENNIFER BOGGS



Treading to keep a "Head Above Water" Cameron Diaz and Harvey Keitel

now playing

BATMAN & ROBIN The angst-ridden superhero is back. This time, sexy TV doctor George Clooney dons the mask to battle Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman). Chris O'Donnell returns as the boy wonder, while Alicia Silverstone adds some dash as Batgirl.

CON AIR It's one big exploding hunk-fest in Jerry Bruckheimer's \$110 million action extravaganza about a band of highly-dangerous criminals who manage to escape during transport to a new maximum-security prison. Nicolas Cage decides to save the day with help from a zany U.S. Marshal (Jon Cusack). Too bad Bruckheimer didn't throw a little more cash into scriptwriting. Reviewed 6/12/97.

CONTACT Jodie Foster plays a radio astronomer who gets to hang out with aliens in this highly emotional tale of human-alien contact. Also starring John Hurt, James Woods and that stud muffin Matthew McConaughey.

FACE/OFF Nicolas Cage dons the penitentiary jumpsuit again in John Woo's spectacular battle of the megastars. This time Cage plays the nasty psychopath whose identity John Travolta assumes (via some futuristic face-swapping technology) in order to infiltrate a scheming prison gang. Joan Allen ("The Crucible") stars as Travolta's wife.

FEMALE PERVERSIONS Inspired by the work of psychoanalyst Louise J. Kaplan, Susan Streiffeld's 1996 film focuses on Eve, a high-powered L.A. prosecutor with a taste for S&M and an obsession with the nuances of female allure. Starring Tilda Swinton, Amy Madigan and Paulina Porizkova.

GROSSE POINTE BLANK Ten years after standing up his high school sweetheart (Minnie Driver) on prom night, international assassin Martin Blank (Jon Cusack) returns home for his class reunion. Filled with witty banter, quirky characters and good comic timing, "Grosse Pointe Blank" scores points for being funny and smart. Reviewed 4/17/97.

HARRIET THE SPY Michelle Trachtenberg stars as the 12-year-old who knew too much for her own good. Determined to get a head start on her career by writing down everything that interests her, which is everything she sees. Rosie O'Donnell co-stars in this beloved '60s children's story as the nanny to the diminutive superspy.

HEAD ABOVE WATER In this murder mystery/black comedy a judge (Harvey Keitel) look for solace and romance on a secluded island in Maine. When her ex-lover (Billy Zane) shows up, things get sticky. Also starring Craig Sheffer. Reviewed this week.

HERCULES Disney's latest is a sugary, gospel-filled version of the story of Hercules—the son of Zeus who was captured by Hades and raised as a mortal. With voices by Danny DeVito, Tate Donovan and James Woods.

LIAR LIAR The Jim Carrey we all know and love is back. In this silly family comedy, Carrey plays a lawyer who can't tell the truth to save his life. That is, until his son makes a birthday wish for him to stop lying. Tied the facial contortions begin.

THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK Dinosaurs, dinosaurs everywhere. Steven Spielberg's follow-up to the highest grossing film in history is exactly what you'd expect: gazillions of dinos, rendered with startling technical

pross, cruising the forests of a tropical island and stomping through San Diego suburbs. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum) and his girlfriend Sarah Harding (Julianne Moore) get up-close-and-personal with the scaly beasts. Reviewed 5/29/97.

LOVEI VALOURI COMPASSION! Terrence McNally's adaptation of his own Broadway play—about the adventures of eight friends who spend three holiday weekends together—is brimming with gay archetypes and male frontal nudity. Starring Jason Alexander.

MEN IN BLACK A Ray Ban commercial starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Jones. Did a comedy about American secret agents fighting to keep the earth safe from scummy little aliens. (See "Independence Day.")

MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING Julia Roberts plays a restaurant critic and commitment-shy gal who, in grand "don't know what you got until it's gone" style, tries to wrestle her best friend (Dermot Mulroney) away from his fiancée (Cameron Diaz). Director P.J. Hogan ("Muriel's Wedding") serves up a charming and funny film while steering clear of your stereotypical resolution. Reviewed 6/26/97.

NOTHING TO LOSE Martin Lawrence plays a small-time crook who picks the wrong stiff to carjack—a wigged-out exec who thinks his boss and his wife are getting it on (Tim Robbins). The two wind up hitting the road and generally wreaking havoc.

OUT TO SEA Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau team up yet again. This time, the aged duo can't get their way aboard a cruise ship as dance instructors.

ROUGH MAGIC Set in the early 1950s, this mystical tale recounts the exciting misadventures of a magician's assistant (Bridget Fonda) who flees to Mexico to escape her jealous lover.

SUNG BLADE The subtly told Oscar-winning story of a man who returns home from an asylum 25 years after murdering his mother. Starring Billy Bob Thornton ("One False Move"), who also wrote and directed the film.

SPACE JAM Michael Jordan teams up with a bunch of Looney Tunes characters, including Bugs Bunny, in this live action/animation comedy where Mr. Air helps save the Tunes from destruction by aliens.

SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL "Speed" meets "The Poseidon Adventure" as Sandra Bullock finds herself on a runaway Caribbean cruise ship with her hunky boyfriend-cop, played by Jason Patric. Jan De Bont's sequel to "Speed" is a mindless, albeit well-made, thrill-minute joy ride, but it's no worse than any other guilty pleasure of summer. Reviewed 6/19/97.

VERTIGO Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 classic about a San Francisco detective (Jimmy Stewart) with a major fear of heights who gets hired to shadow an old friend's wife (Kim Novak).

WHEN WE WERE KINGS Leon Gast's Academy Award-winning documentary about the "Rumble in the Jungle," the heavyweight title fight between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in Zaire in 1974. The film is a jazzy, superbly edited portrait of this legendary bout, and introduces another generation to just how compelling Ali, the fighter and the man, really was. Reviewed 5/15/97.

WILD AMERICA This road trip movie for the teeny-bopper generation—starring teen heartthrob Jonathan Taylor Thomas—follows a trio of brothers on their cross-country trek to capture endangered species on film. Based on the real-life adventures of the Stouffer brothers.

times

starting friday

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AUSTIN POWERS (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50
TRIAL & ERROR (PG-13)
1, 4, 7, 9:40
GROSSE POINTE BLANK (R)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50
LIAR LIAR (PG-13)
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10
SUNG BLADE (R)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:20
THE SAINT (PG-13)
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:10

GENERAL CINEMAS, MAINE MALL, MAINE MALL ROAD, SO. PORTLAND. 774-1022.

CONTACT (PG)
7 (SAT ONLY)
SPACE JAM (PG)
10 AM (WED ONLY)
OUT TO SEA (PG-13)
11 (THURS-SUN ONLY), 1:30, 4, 7:30, 9:55

HERCULES (G)
12:45, 3:45, 6:50, 9:45
BATMAN & ROBIN (PG-13)
1, 1:20, 3:50, 4:10, 7 (EXCEPT SAT), 7:15, 9:45 (EXCEPT SAT), 9:50

THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30

HOYT'S CLARK'S POND, 333 CLARK'S RD., SO. PORTLAND. 879-1511.

MEN IN BLACK (PG-13)
12, 12:30, 1, 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 4:30, 5, 5:30, 7, 7:20, 7:45, 9:25, 9:45, 10

WILD AMERICA (PG)
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 10:05
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13)
12:50, 1:20, 3:30, 4, 6:30, 7:30, 9, 9:55
SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL (PG-13)
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:35
CON AIR (R)
1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

THE MOVIES, 10 EXCHANGE ST., PORTLAND. 772-9600.

WHEN WE WERE KINGS (NR)
JULY 38*THURS-FRI, 9:30*SAT-SUN 3:15, 7:30*
MON-TUES 7:30
VERTIGO (NR)
JULY 38*THURS-FRI 7*SAT-SUN 1, 5, 9:15*MON-TUES 5, 9:30

FEMALE PERVERSIONS (R)
JULY 9:15*WED-FRI 5, 7:15, 9:30*SAT-SUN 1, 3, 5:15, 7:15, 9:30*MON-TUES 5, 7:15, 9:30

FLASHPHILM CINEMAS, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH. 781-5616.

NOTHING TO LOSE (R)
7:20 (SAT ONLY)
OUT TO SEA (PG-13)
12:55, 3:30, 6:55, 9:20
MEN IN BLACK (PG-13)
12:40, 1:20, 3:45, 5:10, 7:05, 7:35, 9:20, 9:45

WILD AMERICA (PG)
12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25
FACE/OFF (R)
1:05, 3:55, 6:45, 9:35
HERCULES (G)
12:25, 2:30, 4:35, 7:10, 9:10

MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13)
12:45, 3:40, 7:15, 9:50
BATMAN & ROBIN (PG-13)
12:35, 2:55, 5:05, 7:25, 9:40

SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL (PG-13)
9:45
CON AIR (R)
12:40, 3:15, 7:20 (EXCEPT SAT), 9:45

THE LOST WORLD (PG-13)
1:30, 4:25, 7

KEYSTONE THEATRE CAFE, 504 CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND. 871-5500.

HEAD ABOVE WATER (PG-13)
1, 3 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 5:30, 7:45, 9:45
LOVEI VALOURI COMPASSION! (R)
1:30, 4 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:50, 9:30
AUSTIN POWERS (PG-13)
1:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:30
ROUGH MAGIC (PG-13)
3:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 8:45

PRIDE'S CORNER DRIVE-IN, 651 BRIDGTON RD., WESTBROOK. 797-3154.

THE LOST WORLD: JURASSIC PARK (PG-13)
8:35
LIAR LIAR (PG-13)
10:55

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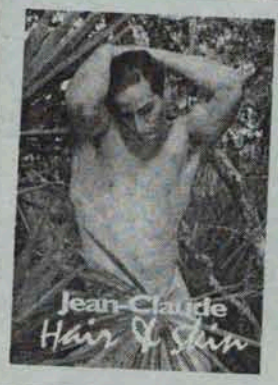
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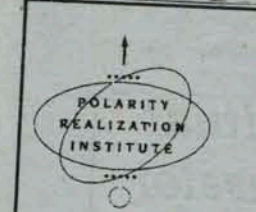
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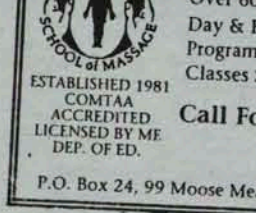
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32HP diesel, swing-keel, six berths, din-
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WOMEN MEN

ACTIVE, SLENDER, LITERATE, and sane SWF, 48, 5'8", visual arts professional seeks wise, witty, and healthy male companion for coffee, walks, meals, movies, travel and adventures. #2423 (08/13).

ADVENTURESS WANNABEE SWF 31 outdoor novice interested in becoming less recreationally impaired. Seeks SPM 28-38 for non-extreme outdoor activities. Kindness, patience, SOH, fun, friendship, laughter priority over romance. Bangor area. #2420 (08/13).

ALLURING educated, artistic, fit, tall PF young 39, looking for my romantic ideals. You are SM late 30's/early 40's compassionate, sensitive, good humored, values equality and healthy lifestyle. #2268 (07/23).

BORED IN BRUNSWICK growth oriented, spiritually evolving, moonlight beachcomber, tentative carpenter, bofo bread baker seeks SWPM 45-60 to share adventures, ideas, laughter, romance... joy. #2261 (07/23).

BOULET. Snapdragons seeking sturdy, well rooted sunflower for sun, shade, good company and a long growing season. Attractive, active 38 y.o. professional DWF seeking attractive lively S/DPMW 37-46. Plenty of topsail, well managed compost, not too much manure. #2283 (07/23).

BROWN EYED SWF, 48 seeks N/S SWM attracting, seacoast walking, dancing, dining in & out, talking honestly about life and other interests. #2411 (08/13).

CHRISTIAN FEMALE SEEKS SWPM CHRISTIAN 35-43, secure N/S N/D, Portland area, loves outdoors, church, animals, life, looking for LTR. Me: SWPF 38, secure BI/BI looking for you, lets talk. #2270 (07/23).

DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES SWF 48, N/S, WPTH, loves laughter, romance, adventure. Seeking fun loving independent energetic N/S with mutual interests and staunch character. #2285 (07/23).

ELECTRIC, ECCENTRIC, ECLECTIC: WHATEVER... PWF, 50'S seeks happy, hearty, healthy PWM. #2311 (07/30).

GREAT PERSON, HONEST, INTERESTED IN Arts, cross-cultural exchange, Nature, family/friends. Active SF 39 y.o., 5'8", looking for warm hearted, friendly, creative, fun man for friendship and/or LTR. #2296 (07/23).

I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS TOO MUCH to ask: 1 intelligent, sensitive, reasonably attractive 40ish man with good SOH. Where are you. #2271 (07/23).

I'D RATHER BE SAILING... with you, your sailboat to Boothbay Harbor, Wind Jammer Days, Friendship Sloop Days and/or Boston, sailing of "Old Ironsides" Call ASAP. #2331 (07/30).

LAUGHTER IS MY MEDICINE. SWF, 26, I enjoy working in organic garden, traveling the world, and exploring the outdoors. I'm N/S, energetic, creative, caring, and a teacher. I live on a cooperative farm. Looking for N/S down to earth, fun, loving, adventuresome man. #2293 (07/23).

LOOKING FOR KINDRED SPIRIT who shares a passion for self-discovery, taking healthy risks, intimacy, the metaphysical... Lovely mermaid seeks soulmate who's optimistic, sensual, an evolved explorer, late 30's/40's ready to revel in but not compromise who is truly is, I'm imaginative, reverent, left-of-center, fun, quirky, wise - a siren enamored with the ocean, music, growing flowers, the smell of ginger and honeydew... It's healthy to want it ALL. #2449 (08/13).

LOVE, LAUGHTER, LIFE. Young 57 with zest for life! Slim, attractive, 5'6", professional, romantic, caring, independent, feisty, loves laughter, conversation, outdoors, ocean, home travel and gardening! Seeking SWPM counter-part. #2280 (07/23).

MOON WATCHER WANTED. Looking for aman who takes time to look at the moon, has a life yet looking to share his life and experiences. Responsible yet playful. Patience & love of animals required. N/S, takes care of himself, but loves ice cream. 35-40 y.o. #2386 (08/06).

NIFTY? THRIFTY? FIFTY? DWF 48ish, average looking/height, weight, intelligent, conservative, moralistic, happy, lonely, homebodies. Love children, animals, outdoors, crafts, writing, computer. Friends/companionship marriage/lovers. #2380 (08/06).

OUR LIFE IS LIKE A SONG... Oldies rock & roll, country, friends, holding hands, kisses, love, togetherness, bonding. SWF 37, desires S/DWM 27-40 Portland area. LTR. #2336 (07/30).

HARMON'S 1-800-SUN-LILY
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personal of the week
M & W

WANTED: GEORGEOUS WOMAN to walk all over me and leave me for dead. Must have station wagon to cart my emotional baggage. Call soon let's get this over with. #2413 (08/13).

Winners of the Personal of the Week receive a gift certificate courtesy of Harmon's & Barton's. All Casco Bay Weekly personals are entered. Send your personal ad to: Casco Bay Weekly Personals, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104.

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• First 25 words are FREE with Personal Call®, (45 words if FAXED on Thursday), additional words are 50¢ each. Companions & Lost Souls are \$25/first 25 words for a two week ad. Ads without Personal Call® are \$1 per word plus \$25 mail forwarding or P.O. Box charges.

• Put your personal message on line as soon as you receive your easy instructions. You may not retrieve responses without it!

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• Following the voice prompts, punch in the 4-digit # of the ad you wish to respond to, or you may browse a specific category. The date following an ad is the last date you can reply to the ad.

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□ men • men
□ women • women
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□ others

\$25/FIRST 25 WORDS
2 WEEK ADS
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□ lost souls

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MEN WOMEN

SWEET, CARING, HEARING IMPAIRED SWF, outgoing, loves shopping and dining out seeks similarly minded hearing impaired, or ASL capable secure SM, SOH important, for fun nights out and view towards LTR. Write soon, lets meet. Personal Advertiser #892, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104.

TALL ORDER FOR 5'2" MAINE WOMAN. ISO Male 55-60, N/S, loyal, trusting, witty, honest and kind. Can you share feelings, communicate intellectually with a curious evolving mind? Are you healthy mentally and physically? I am vibrant, healthy and attractive SWF, passionate about Music (classical, jazz, opera and ethnic) the sea, books, cats (Leo), life, Zen meditation, Humanism, islands and trees. #2429 (08/13).

FINANCIALLY STABLE DWM, 40ish, 6', 190#, long hair, mustache, likes staying in entertaining friends etc. ISO slim S/DWF 30-40 monogamous nature, open minded. #2421 (08/13).

FIT, FUN, INTELLIGENT. I love movies, weight lifting, laughing, softball, roller skating, reading, rock music, romance. You are attractive, N/S, 25-44, I'm 5'11", 180#, 42, Portland. #2366 (08/06).

GO AHEAD, TAKE A CHANCE! ISO free spirited woman who would like lobstering on Maine islands. Riding Harley's and having fun. Long hair earth muffin types a plus. #2439 (08/13).

GOOD MAN, MID-COAST AREA, 49 y.o. part time father of 11-yr y.o. Educated, intelligent, complex, sensual, athletic, nature loving, ISO 30-50 y.o. woman for play, talk, touch & family. #2438 (08/13).

HANDSOME DWM 43, 5'11", good shape, easy going, good sense of humor, N/S N/D. New to portland. Lets enjoy walking, movies, computers, dining & more. Looking for attractive lady with similar interests and qualities. #2425 (08/13).

AN UNUSUAL REQUEST, but I would appreciate a 44-51 y.o. lady (5'5", 120#) to take me dancing, any night after 10:30pm between July 10th-26th. #2370 (08/06).

POET SEEKS SENSUAL GODDESS for inspiration & exploration of life. 30 y.o., tall, handsome, humorous, romantic desires to share life with intelligent, creative, loving, open-minded lady 25-45 who wishes to be respected & treasured. "Between reality and a dream there is a field... I'll meet you there." #2382 (08/06).

RUGGED MAN IN FLANNEL new in town. Seeks company of spirited, soulful, funny (ha-ha), funny (odd-like characters) into music loving, sandie-welding, eye-winking woman 19-26. #2400 (08/06).

SEEKING SSY.O. WOMAN who enjoys art, for conversation. Must be fit, well groomed, well traveled, and youngish. #2391 (08/06).

SEEKING FUN IN THE SUN- BM, 40, seeks intelligent, mature, fun-loving & financially secure woman. Lets enjoy the summer. Age & race not important. #2393 (08/06).

SHY TEDDY BEAR looking for honey of a woman to have fun with. S/D/F 19-35 good SOH. Me 25 Rd/BI. Friends first, possible LTR. #2416 (08/13).

SKUNKPUNK, P/T DRUNK, good listener, thin, broke, smugler, smoker, musician, wierdo, prefer Japanese, Black, White, Mexican, Russian, Indian, Italian, Creole, Lithuanian, Germanian, Nicaraguan, others. #2446 (08/13).

MEN WOMEN

HAVE HOUSE, CAR AND JOB- SWM, 31, with speech impediment, looking for young female companion to spend time together, walking, jogging, bike riding, etc. #2292 (07/23).

I'D LIKE TO PLANT A RAINBOW in your garden. See it's bands reflecting in your eyes, watch your smile as it's bringing on the Karma Sutra. I know how to treat a woman like a queen, but I'm no doormat. If you are tired of the B.S my fellow Tomcats dish out like ice cream, call me! #2427 (08/13).

ISO S/D, 45-58, I'm tired of being alone. 52 y.o. DWM, let's meet for coffee. #2435 (08/13).

LIFE IS FULL OF MAGIC, SWPM, 33, seeks SWPF, 24-35, girl next door type. Physically and mentally fit, enjoy tennis, movies, cooking, dining, walks, comedy clubs and magic. Friends first. #2434 (08/13).

LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES! DWM, 45, retired Naval officer seeks pretty S/DWF for LTR. Who is loveable & affectionate. #2422 (08/13).

LOVER OF WILDERNESS SOUL fit intuitive N/S mental health clinician, 5'9", 50 y.o., seeks firm, spiritual female to explore the woods, lakes and rivers of the unconscious. #2424 (08/13).

MIDCOAST SAILOR, young, active 53 y.o. seeking Female companion, soulmate for cruising, part time live aboard. Age unimportant, N/S living lightly on the earth. Intelligence/other interests important. Personal Advertiser #894, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104.

MINIMALLY REFINED, SEMI-RETIRED, mostly relaxed 54 y.o. teenager ISO secure, sophisticated, sexy PWF for fun, fine dining, frivolity, possible LTR. #2379 (08/06).

ONE MORE MR NICE GUY, SWM, 22, 5'3", attractive, funny, charming, seeks SF 20-25 with SOH, intelligence & open mind for LTR. Conversation & good times. No psychos! #2369 (08/06).

PLAYFUL SM, 34, MUSICIAN seeks good communicator to enjoy life and learn more about ourselves than we possibly could on our own. Do you know what you want and how to ask for it? I enjoy music, scabbie, and camping. #2432 (07/30).

POET SEEKS SENSUAL GODDESS for inspiration & exploration of life. 30 y.o., tall, handsome, humorous, romantic desires to share life with intelligent, creative, loving, open-minded lady 25-45 who wishes to be respected & treasured. "Between reality and a dream there is a field... I'll meet you there." #2382 (08/06).

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SKUNKPUNK, P/T DRUNK, good listener, thin, broke, smugler, smoker, musician, wierdo, prefer Japanese, Black, White, Mexican, Russian, Indian, Italian, Creole, Lithuanian, Germanian, Nicaraguan, others. #2446 (08/13).

SWM 29, 6'1", Br/BI, attractive, intelligent, emotionally available, financially secure N/S romantic seeks one woman, age unimportant, for life's finer pleasures. Friendship first & then more if the chemistry is right. I love working out, sports, chess, reading, kids, spending time w/ friends, good herb, Art, fine dining and boning up (pun intended) on the Karma Sutra. I know how to treat a woman like a queen, but I'm no doormat. If you are tired of the B.S my fellow Tomcats dish out like ice cream, call me! #2427 (08/13).

SWM 45, HANDSOME, SECURE, recent type 2 NIDDM ISO same to share healthy med free LTR. N/S N/D. #2376 (08/06).

THE PERFECT MALE, well almost SWPM, 41, fit, educated, attractive, 5'8", endowed by nature, ISO S/DWF, with the love of life. #2398 (08/06).

VEGAN WANNABE SEEKS GUIDE to state out/land garden. Spiritual, unpretentious, nurturing, supportive man, 38 would enjoy sharing thoughts & feelings with woman of wisdom, independence, wit & humor. Enjoy discourse? #2415 (08/13).

WANTED: GEORGEOUS WOMAN to walk all over me and leave me for dead. Must have station wagon to cart my emotional baggage. Call soon let's get this over with. #2413 (08/13).

WICKED WILD WOMAN WANTED! Water-nice, clean cut professional, 5'10", 190#, desires 20-30's dominant type 5'10" or taller. No drug/sex or drinker please. Bath to Portland areas a plus. #2418 (08/13).

HELLO OUT THERE IN TV LAND! Do you have brains, good personality, a strong SOH, good looks & no boyfriend? Doesn't it suck! Don't waste time! Call now! #2372 (08/06).

KISS, KEEPING IT SIMPLE & SEXY! Pleasing guys. Friday rendezvous. I'm a bottom, very oral. Your satisfaction is my pleasure. No strings! #2373 (08/06).

LEAN BLUE COLLAR GUY wants same. Me 6'1", 173#, 30's, oral, versatile, outdoory, NS/ND, jeans, hiking shoes type. You: similar 5'6" to 6'1", 20-30's, long hair a plus, not essential; wanting a lifemate is/2321 (07/30).

LET'S GET REAL NOW! Attractive, healthy, middle aged man looking for someone special. I'm outdoorsy, loving and sexy. Intelligence and sense of adventure important. Age is irrelevant. #2368 (08/06).

LET'S HAVE FUN I'm 32, 5'10", masculine build, handsome, down to earth, like to talk, enjoy my boat, camping, bike, explore, road trips, spontaneous. ISO WM, similar age, easy going guy! #2414 (08/13).

LIFE'S A BEACH! 38 y.o. GWM likes long walks, intimate talks, camping. Looking for 18-40 y.o. Willing to travel (Portland area). #2436 (08/13).

LOOKING FOR A REAL MAN. Uniform, suit, or hard hat a plus, tall dark & handsome with rugged body even better. Laid back/easy going with a good personality - no attitude. He enjoys work, but loves to play. If you think you fit this description, call. #2385 (08/06).

LOOKING FOR MASCULINE MAN. Me: 26 y.o., 6', Br/Gr, masculine guy. Likes sports, working out, and movies. Discreet. Looking for masculine man. 20-35 y.o. #2326 (07/30).

MASSAGE & PIANO GROUP starting for gay and bisexual men. G/BI men who play the piano & have an interest in exchanging massage Group forming, give us a call. #2440 (08/13).

NOT YOUR ORDINARY BEAR! Me: BIWM 36 Br/HZ N/S 5'8" 230# down to earth jeans type; seeks cub for friendship maybe more! Dk hair, Dk eyes a plus. #2441 (08/13).

MEN MEN

BOTTOM FOR TOP SGWM, 22, 5'10", 165#, Br/HZ, very attractive, good build, masculine, honest, outgoing, caring, seeks SGWM 21-35 ISO LTR. No feds, feds. #2265 (07/23).

CASUAL FUN and discreet, encounters. Layed back guy, 27, 6', 165#, Br/BI, good looking, seeks younger guy for exploration/experiences. No strings. Tell me what you want. #2304 (07/23).

CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN who happens to be gay (sorry Newt!) seeks G/BI/M, I'm 29, 5'11", Red/Br, attractive. Love history, gardening and day trips. Liberals welcome, convert me! #2275 (07/23).

DIRTY WHITE BOY. Not in trouble but BIWM 33 and all that seeking interesting & exciting slaves who take orders & do what they're told. #2328 (07/30).

FISHNETS & FEATHERS: Bi-curious WM 36, 180#, 6' seeking younger submissive cross dresser for role playing/massage, tickling, wrestling & slave/master fantasies. Please look good in heels. #2272 (07/23).

GAY, BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN, 6', 38, slender. Psychic, psychedelic, quietly outrageous, performer, artist, dog-owner, non-drinker, financially secure, toker, global villager, explorer, want slim open minded lover. #2337 (07/30).

GWM, 30's, ATTRACTIVE, ATTENTIVE NICE, clean cut professional, 5'10", 190#, desires 20-30's dominant type 5'10" or taller. No drug/sex or drinker please. Bath to Portland areas a plus. #2418 (08/13).

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PHONE HOME I NEED TO TALK. 40, goodlooking, into 24hr phone sex, hot & hung only, let's talk dirty. Always horny, possible gettogethers. Call/ready and waiting. #2367 (08/06).

ROSES ARE RED ARE YOU BLUE? WM, 35 seeks transgender/s Shemale for friendship and LTR. UB 20-37, clean and discreet. #2277 (07/23).

RUFF AND READY? Muscular, bearded WM, 45 looking for rugged, take charge man to satisfy. I'm discreet, easy going and eager to please. You be hot, orders and I'll obey them. #2281 (07/23).

SAVANT SEEKS ENIGMA GWM 45, 5'9", Br/BI enjoys music, movies, travel, exploring new things. Romantic, passionate ready to commit to right guy. You be liked minded 25-40 and wanting something special; race unimportant. #2291 (07/23).

STUD WANTED, GWM, 6'3", 190#, fit, ex-health, open minded. ISO SWM, WPH seeks the job done. LTR with right man. No feds, feds, or boy-toys. #2371 (08/06).

SUMMERTIME FUN!! GWM 28, 5'10", 125#, Br/Gr seeks GWM for friendship/fun/relationship. Lets go to the beach, yard sale, exercise, movies, mini golf, also a homebody and like card games, gardening, pets, board games, romance, creative projects. Turn on: guys in sandals with great personality and zest for life. UB honest, sincere. #2437 (08/13). Personal Advertiser #895, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104.

SWM PROFESSIONAL BANGOR AREA wants to meet same within 40 miles. I'm 54, 6'1", 170#, clean cut. No tobacco/drugs. Enjoy biking, hiking, etc. You are good looking, discreet and 45-57. #2324 (07/30).

TAKE CHARGE, BI-SWM 36, 5'11", 160#, seeks forceful, aggressive BI or straight male for encounter or encounters. Very discreet, clean, and willing to travel. #2302 (07/23).

TIRE OF THE HEAD GAMES? GWM 34, 6'3", 300# looking for GWM 25-38 must be built like a rock, all muscle. No tobacco, smoker OK, last handshake. #2419 (08/13).

WANTED: AGGRESSIVE TOP SWPM 37, 6'2", 185 y.o. very submissive. Seeks oral, clean, discreet, pushy, dominant master/slave sessions. Portland area or north. #2399 (08/06).

WELL TRAVELLED, WELL SCHOOLED, 38 y.o. cool, clam, attractive, classymale seeks younger, interesting, artist with whom to examine the world. #2390 (08/06).

WINNIE THE POOH SEEKS TIGER TOO! 32 y.o. cuddly male seeks sprightly tiger 18-35 for bedtime stories and fantasy fun. My honey jar is full and my treehouse is lonely. I am 5'9", 180#, GR/BR. Sorry Piglet, no Eeyores please. #2387 (08/06).

OTHERS

HOWDY! Portland MWM seeks female friend for BSD games (Has partners O.K. within guidelines) I'm 43, 6', 210#, and enjoy dominant or submissive roles. #2452 (08/13).

LET'S MAKE EROTIC MEMORIES mostly happily physically fit MWM needs S/MF for erotic encounters that will leave smiles on our faces and spring in our steps. So ladies, if your 20-40, free on weekdays, satisfied in love, but starving in lust, let's talk? Total discretion expected and given. #2433 (08/13).

LIFE STARTS AT 50. Professional GMC 31/54, non-smoking, flexible and unpretentious looking to connect with singles/couples, older and married a plus for socialization. Friendship first then possibility of more. Open to all suggestions. Please be open minded and positive attitude. Discretion assured. #2392 (08/06).

RU AN ATTRACTIVE COUPLE? SWM, 25 very attractive seeking attractive couple for adult fun. First time exploration for me, but anything is possible with the right couple. I will reply to all who respond. Discretion assured, and expected. Call and we will talk. #2389 (08/06).

SHOW ME THE WAY! Bi-curious WM, 40's, 6'1", 220#. Seeks C (M&F) where M is bi for discreet wild get togethers. Week day afternoon only. #2448 (08/13).

TIME FOR SOME FUN! recently released submissive

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Alex Katz Under the Stars: American Landscapes 1951-1995

June 19–September 14, 1997



Alex Katz *Under the Stars: American Landscapes 1951-1995* was organized by The Institute for Contemporary Art/P.S. 1 Museum, New York. Curated by Alanna Heiss. Major support for the exhibition has been provided by The National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the Marlborough Gallery, New York.

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