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Casco Bay Weekly

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FREE

In search of the REAL Ethan Strimling

Is he an activist? An ambitious politician? Or an actor?
Al Diamon's quest starts on page 10.

Inside:

ALL IS NOT
AS IT SEEMS
AT THE PORTLAND
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ILLUSTRATION/COREY PANDOLPH

6 September 2001



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TALK

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Do you have males in your organization?

Sure, I have a few. The top representative in our division is a male. I've had several districts, and the last district I had, one of my top people was a male. We're also getting a lot more couples. At [a recent Avon convention in New Orleans], everyone who was recognized was a couple, really into it. [The men] are male. They're definitely male.

You make fun of them?

No, they're respected. They're very serious. One gentleman that used to be in a district I had came up to me and asked for some information on my district. He's in leadership, and he's interested in doing some recruiting. If anything, they're well respected.

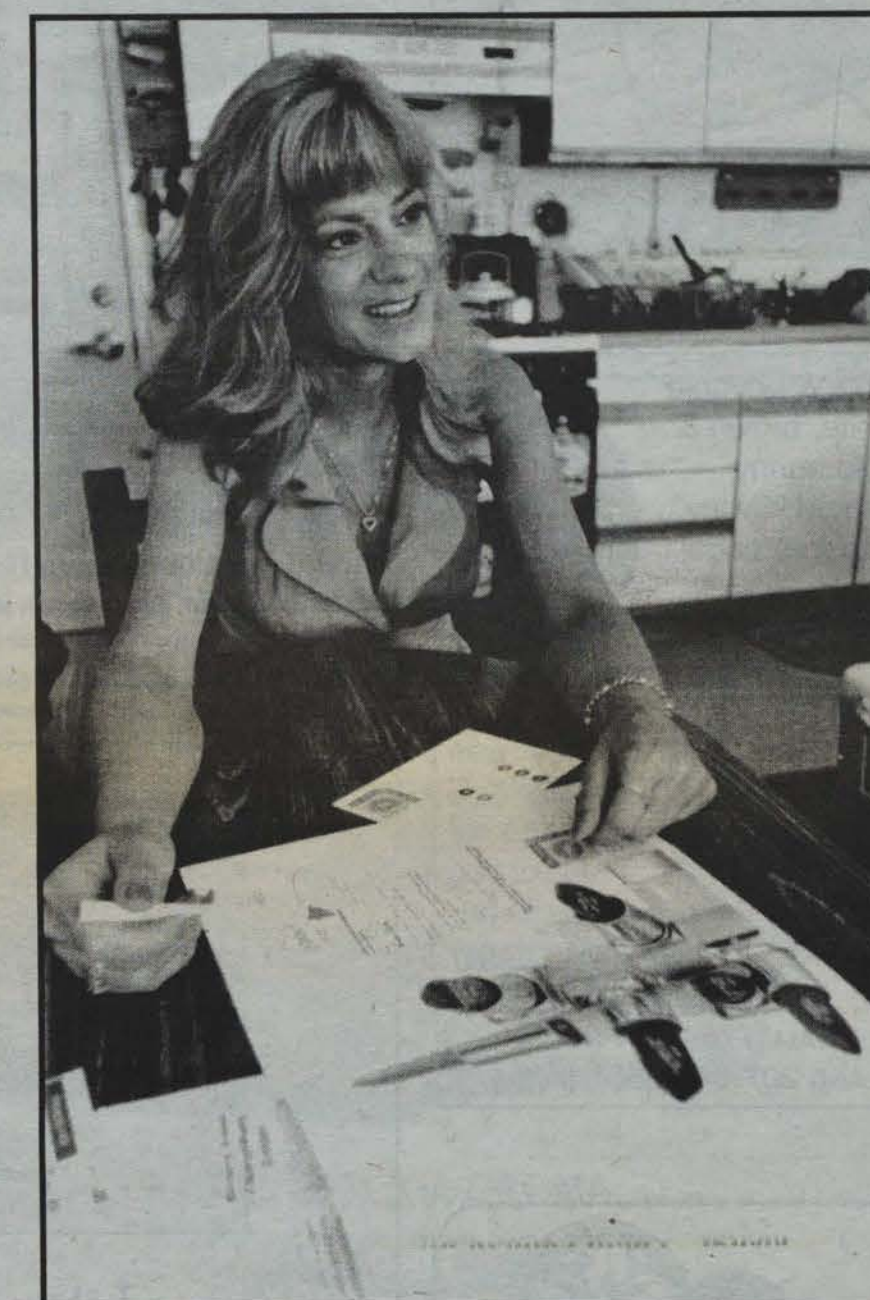
Any anecdotes?

Oh, gosh, I could probably write a book. I got a call about a year ago from a transvestite who wanted to know if I could come over and do makeovers on her — or should I say him? — and all of his friends. I thought perhaps that might be a market I hadn't tapped into.

Have you ever wanted to clock one of the Mary Kay people?

No, I've never felt that way. First of all, we're about 10 times bigger. I've never felt the need to compete.

Interview by Allen Dammann, photo by Rachel Sieben



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Is he an activist? An ambitious politician? An actor?

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Kill the poor

Conservatives and liberals agree on little, except this: The poor are stupid. After that, the two ideologies diverge, with left-wingers believing the best way to raise the brain power of the destitute is to spend millions of the taxpayers' dollars on a study entitled "The Effect of Government Studies on the Intelligence Levels of the Lower Socio-Economic Classes: The Case for Further Studies."

Right-wingers, on the other hand, would just let them starve. Because both sides buy into the disadvantaged-as-dopes idea, they also end up on the same side of a different debate. Progressives and reactionaries both oppose legalized gambling. The former are convinced the poor are so dumb they'll be duped by card cheats. The latter believe gambling, like poverty, is a sin.

Nevertheless, poor people continue to grab their welfare checks and rush off to buy lottery tickets, hang out at off-track betting parlors and take bus trips to casinos. They return sadder but no wiser.

The tattered masses then proceed to collect food stamps, heating assistance, housing vouchers and other forms of the public dole, thereby proving that while they may not understand probability theory, they're not quite as dumb as is generally supposed.

Fortunately, most legal forms of betting, such as the lottery and horse racing, are required to return some money to the state, thereby covering at least part of the societal cost of ripping off the low-income population. But the same cannot be said for illegal gaming. It's ill-gotten gains are beyond the reach not only of the ignorant poor, but also of the intelligent rich.

There's a simple method for fixing that problem: Legalize video gambling. Liberals may dismiss that proposal as unconscionable. Conservatives may find it immoral. But anyone with sense enough to hold at 18 ought to see the idea makes fiscal sense.

Here's why: Video gambling is going to happen, whether it's legal or not. If the state licensed the activity, it could grab a share of the profits. That would make liberals happy (the money could be used to fund expensive new programs), and it would make conservatives happy (the money could be used to fund tax breaks for the wealthy). It would also make the poor happy (they might win, thereby becoming rich and able to take advantage of those tax breaks, or they might lose, thereby becoming even poorer and able to take advantage of those expensive new programs).

Everyone would be a winner, except, of course, anti-gambling crusader Michael Heath of the Christian Civic League. But it's a safe bet Heath is never going to be happy so long as homosexuals roam the land in search of unspeakable perversions (such as not being fired from their jobs for being gay), so it hardly seems worthwhile to hold up this endeavor simply because it upsets the digestion of a guy who always looks as if he were just dealt aces and eights.

One reason video gambling has failed to win the backing of many politicians is because the industry has an unsavory image. The trade group, the Society to Legalize Illegal Machines for Entertainment (SLIME), has attempted to improve the reputation of its members by, in the words of executive director Joey Boxcars, "spreadin' the vig around and breakin' a few legs."

Nevertheless, last November, voters rejected a proposal that would have given Scarborough Downs race track what amounted to a monopoly on video gambling in the state. Instead, the electorate wisely left the games in the hands of small businesspeople and other petty criminals. With their capable guidance, video terminals have found their way into hundreds of convenient locations.

Of course, these machines are used for "fun" only. They do not pay cash prizes. For that, you have to see the bartender.

But the point is not that a few owners of these machines are doing something illegal. (In the preceding sentence, "few" is defined as "all but one, and we're not so sure about that guy.") The point is there's a lot of money to be made. Video-gambling proponents claimed the Scarborough Downs initiative would have returned \$44 million to taxpayers each year. Since those people had less credibility than Gary Condit, the real number is undoubtedly larger. State Police estimated one illegal machine seized last year from a York County social club earned profits of \$1,000 a day. If Maine licensed 1,500 machines, each just half as successful as that one, allowed operators to take 40 percent of the proceeds for overhead and steal another 10 percent, there'd still be over \$100 million a year left over.

Enough to fund a big income-tax cut.

Enough to fund a big increase in the Department of Human Services budget.

Enough to send every poor person in Maine to college to study statistics.

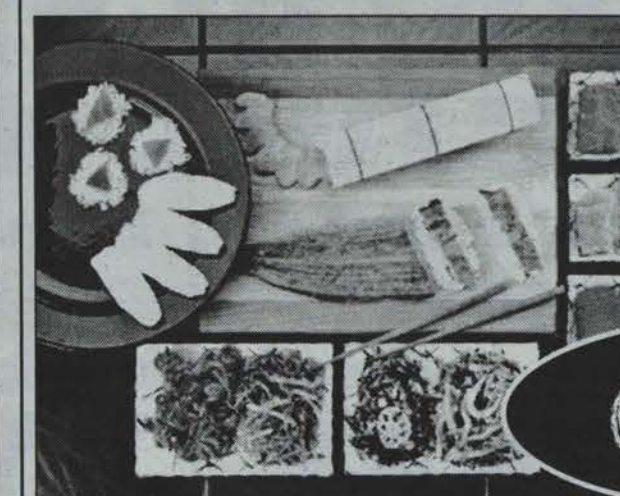
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politics & other mistakes



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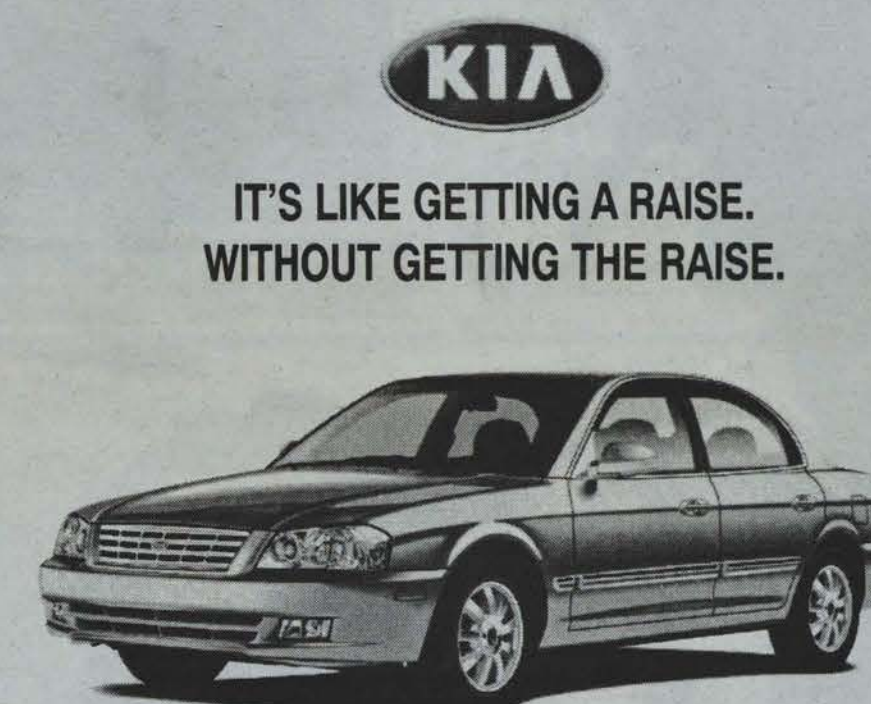


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The song remains the same

We all sat back on a recent August afternoon, stuffed from the great lobster feed that had just been cleared away, as Lloyd and Ellen took the stage — a spot under a soaring walnut tree at their homestead and summer retreat in Limerick — and started fielding song requests. Song pretty much defines any Knight family gathering, and — aside from the fact Ellen has championed my writing career longer than anyone (besides Mom) — it most defines my relationship with them.

I've known the Knight family for as long as I can remember. Elder locals (like me) might better know Lloyd as "Cap'n Lloyd," host of the Channel 13 children's show, "Cap'n and the Kids." Though the show has long been off the air, I, and just about everyone, still call him Cap'n.

My father and the Cap'n — both local boys — played basketball against each other in high school, and they met again later in life through mutual friends. Ellen and Lloyd, well-known in the area's musical-theater community, were regular fixtures at the piano during my parents' cocktail parties, where the ashtrays overflowed and the highball voices rose to call home the poor little lamb who's lost its way, baa, baa, baa. The Cap'n often did his booming baritone rendition of "O Shenandoah," my dad's favorite song. Dad and the Cap'n had a running joke/promise that he would sing that song at my father's funeral, a joke made at a time when death couldn't have been further from the minds of these two strapping Maine men.

I, on the other hand, was ready to throttle someone. I'd lie in bed glowering and thinking, "Why are grown-ups so loud? When I get older, I'm never going to be like that," until I stomped to the top of the stairs and bellowed, "Momm! I can't sleep." The voices would lower, but only for a time.

My parents frequently traveled when I was a kid, and I was often invited to stay with the Knights at their house, the Casino, in Cape Elizabeth. This was a big event. First, there was the glamour of bunking at the home of a TV star. "Oh yes," I'd offhandedly say to anyone who'd listen, "I'll be staying at the Cap'n's this weekend. You know, Cap'n Lloyd? He's a very close personal friend of mine." Plus, the Cap'n would bring home reels of TV shows like "F Troop" from the station and play them on a projector in the Casino's ballroom — a highly exotic diversion before the days of VCRs. I even thought there might be a chance my then-hero, Mr. Greenjeans, would drop by. (I never said I was a particularly bright child.)

Although most of the kids who appeared on "Cap'n and the Kids" came in packs — 4-H or the Cub Scouts — I used my celebrity connections to get a solo slot on the show. (Always the outsider, always the other.) Pushing my way to the front row past all the uniformed twerps, I mentally prepped for my big TV debut. But when the Cap'n came around with the mike and asked me my name, I froze. When he asked if there was anyone I wanted to say hello to, I stared blankly at the camera. "How about your brothers?" he said, trying to prompt me into interview mode. "How about your grandparents out in Gorham?" More dead air. The Cap'n finally moved on. I just hoped Mr. Greenjeans wasn't watching from the wings.

Fast-forward 15 years to the death of my father. In the crazy scramble to make the funeral arrangements, someone — my mother? Lloyd himself? — remembered the promise that started as a joke, and "O Shenandoah" was placed in the program. Yet, when Lloyd and Ellen pulled in the driveway on the appointed day, I saw the Cap'n carting a boom box. Eyes full of tears, he said he couldn't do it. Of course, we all understood. The boom-box version would have to do.

I never said so, but in the years that followed, I decided I wanted my dad's song. There were occasions to ask at various functions and fetes I've attended with the Knights, but I could never quite figure out how to say, "Hey, you owe me a song." Even at this most recent party, as the extended Knight clan tossed out requests, I didn't throw mine into the ring. There was no need.

That's because two years ago, at my wedding reception, someone grabbed me and Husband and told us we were wanted under the tent for a surprise. There, Ellen was seated at the keyboard, and Lloyd stood at the mike. They did a couple numbers to wild applause and hoots and hollers. Lloyd next stepped forward with the mic cupped in his hands to begin his final song. I shuddered for a minute, waiting. What followed was a heart-breaking version of "Some Enchanted Evening." Within moments, the hankies were flying. Then, as the Cap'n reached for that final note in "never let her go," his voice broke, and the tears came for him, too.

I thought of that gift as I sat on the shady lawn in Limerick on that recent waning August afternoon and kept my "O Shenandoah" to myself.

My debt of song had long been paid — in spades.

Elizabeth Peavey just wanted to say thanks — and to send a belated hello to everyone out in TV-land.

outta
my way



ELIZABETH PEAVEY

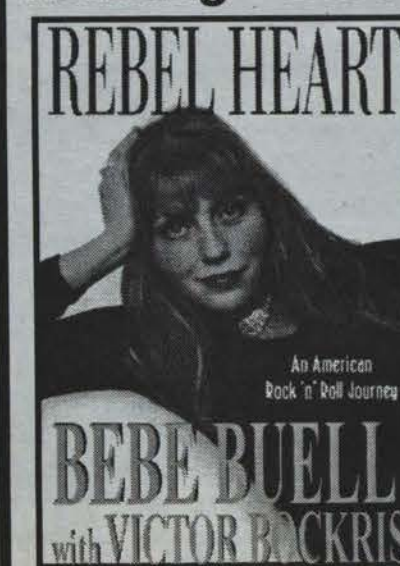
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Let's run this one through the old credibility meter, and see if the little needle gets an erection. **Nike Inc.**, the giant shoe and clothing company that planned to hold its annual shareholders' meeting on Sept. 17 at the Center for Cultural Exchange in Portland, has changed its corporate mind. The meeting has been shifted to the elegant Portland Expo (motto: There's a reason it smells like rotting sweat socks), which a Nike official told the *Portland Press Herald* (motto: No messy bylines to read) was the company's "dream location." Nike spokespersons insisted the move had nothing to do with the controversy over the decision by the center, which is supposed to promote multiculturalism, to rent to a corporation with a wretched reputation for exploiting Third-World workers. Instead, Nike said, it was because the company suddenly discovered the site was too small. The spokesperson claimed the center was chosen without anyone from Nike actually visiting the site. Or, apparently, inquiring about its capacity. You can understand how a business with that kind of sloppy planning procedure could accidentally underpay a few thousand foreign employees. As for the credibility meter, its little needle seems to be stuck on zero. Maybe the batteries need changing.

While we're doing that, let's examine the latest crisis at **Portland Stage Company**. The theater's managing director, Joel Thayer, quit in July, making him the fourth person to depart from that post in the last six seasons. So it's hardly big news. Except that Thayer told the *Press Herald* latest wage offer: Nike minus 10 percent. "I truly wish them well, but... my thought is, they won't be around for another six months. And I know the financials better than anyone." Portland Stage officials denied there was any crisis. They also denied rumors this year's season would be moved to the Portland Expo, where one of the productions would be Shakespeare's "High School Track Meet."

Hmmm, the credibility meter still can't seem to get its pointy thing to rise at all. But news Portland's **Civil Service Commission** is developing plans to allow citizens to review police investigations of complaints against cops ought to bring the little phallic symbol to full attention. Except the proposal under consideration wouldn't deal with specific cases, but only with the department's overall fairness and competence in sweeping unpleasant incidents into a Dumpster in back of the Portland Expo. It would also expand the commission from three to eight members. The City Council is scheduled to consider the idea on Sept. 19. Still no reading on the meter. I wonder if this thing is under warranty.

— compiled by Al Diamon from news reports, interviews and readings from complex scientific instruments

CITY

Harvest of employees

The Portland Public Market's director rents workers to his wife's business

by CHRIS BUSBY

Farm to Market Inc. — the nonprofit entity that currently operates eight stalls in the Portland Public Market and is headed by market director Ted Spitzer — also provides employees to Maine's Pantry, a for-profit business in the market owned by Spitzer's wife, Elena Morrow-Spitzer.

According to Spitzer, Maine's Pantry "leases" the workers from Farm to Market (FTM), reimbursing the nonprofit for the workers' pay every two weeks. The major advantage of hiring FTM employees, he said, is the ability to offer those workers FTM's health benefits and an IRA retirement account.

In order to qualify for those benefits, however, FTM employees must work full time. According to Spitzer, only one Maine's Pantry worker does so: manager Jeanette Richtmyer. Richtmyer herself was unsure whether any other Maine's Pantry employees worked full time. She referred the question to Spitzer.

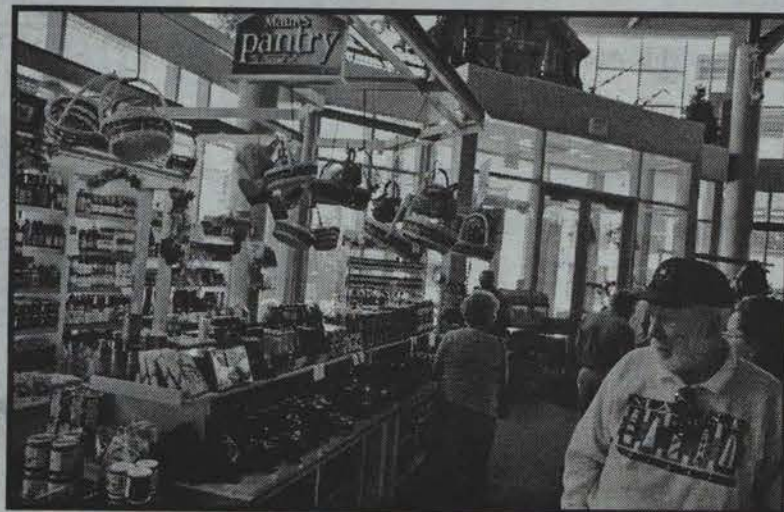
Spitzer said he didn't "perceive any impropriety" with the arrangement in which his wife's for-profit business pays the nonprofit business he heads for its help. He noted his wife draws no salary from Maine's Pantry, and said FTM receives no tangible financial benefits by virtue of its nonprofit status.

Yet Spitzer cited the perception of impropriety as a major consideration when he set up FTM as a nonprofit in February 2000 to run stalls vacated by for-profit businesses. FTM currently operates roughly a third of the market's stalls.

"I didn't want people to think I would gain as an owner if [FTM] became profitable or successful," Spitzer said. "Obviously, with my dual role as president of Farm to Market [and director of the Portland Public Market], I didn't want anyone to think I wanted to do this to get rich.... By incorporating as a nonprofit, we avoid that issue."

By failing to make a profit, the issue of what to do with any extra money can also be avoided.

FTM isn't the only entity involved in this odd transaction that isn't turning a profit. Though Spitzer said his wife has made Maine's Pantry, which sells packaged products such as mustards and fruit spreads, more successful since taking it over in the spring of 2000, the business is still not breaking even.



For-profit business — nonprofit employees: Maine's Pantry in the Portland Public Market. PHOTO / JOHN MONROE

NAPPI'S TOWING

Illegal evidence?

The lawyer for a suspended towing company says police revealed confidential info

The lawyer for the owner of two Portland tow companies says the city used unlawful evidence that revealed confidential details of an internal police investigation when it suspended his client's business licenses in July.

In documents filed at City Hall on Aug. 30, attorney Bruce McGlaulin claims Deputy Police Chief William Ridge violated state law and the department's rules during a public inquiry into Nappi's Towing and Metro Towing, both owned by Sandra Rizzo of Gorham, the wife of Portland Police Sgt. Sullivan Rizzo (City, "License suspended," 8.2.01).

The July 20 hearing was ordered by City Clerk Linda Cohen after learning Sandra Rizzo had neglected to answer a question on her license applications in June 2000. It asked, "Does the award of this license benefit any city employee?" At the time, Sgt. Rizzo was in charge of deciding which towing companies could work for the city. He was later transferred to another position after his superiors learned of his connection to Nappi's. He is currently on leave from the force, while an internal affairs investigation is conducted into allegations he worked for his wife's companies after being ordered not to do so.

After the hearing, Cohen suspended Nappi's operating license for 30 days and had the wrecker company struck from the city's towing list until it could be demonstrated "Sullivan Rizzo does not have a substantial financial interest in [Nappi's]."

McGlaulin appealed that decision to the city manager's office, and Larry Mead, an assistant city manager, was set to hear that case on Sept. 5 (after *CBW*'s deadline). Both towing companies have continued doing business pending the outcome of the appeal.

McGlaulin argued Cohen's ruling was based in part on testimony by Ridge about two complaints filed against Sgt. Rizzo involving altercations between the officer and people reclaiming cars from the Nappi's lot. Ridge said one case was dismissed. He testified the second incident was still under investigation.

It's that testimony McGlaulin claimed is illegal.

Neither the Rizzos nor McGlaulin returned phone calls, but in documents filed with City Hall, McGlaulin wrote, "Ridge disclosed confidential information about a Police Department internal investigation.... The Department's SOP [standard operating procedure] on Internal Affairs requires that such records be kept confidential in accordance with state law."

In those same documents, McGlaulin also argued Cohen overstepped her bounds by removing Nappi's from the city's towing list — an act, he said, only the chief of police has the authority to do.

He also took issue with the legality of Cohen's decision to suspend Nappi's license. "There is no licensing provision in the Portland Code or any state licensing statute," McGlaulin wrote, "that authorizes the City to deny, suspend, condition or take any other disciplinary action on a license based on conflict of interest."

McGlaulin concludes the documents by stating, "If the Clerk's decision is upheld, it will set a precedent that will undermine countless City contracts."

Meanwhile, another city employee has been given the go-ahead to work for a towing company, even though — like Sgt. Rizzo and Nappi's — the arrangement has the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Andy Martin, who works in the parking division, was granted permission to work during his off hours at S&R Towing. The parking division regularly utilizes the company to haul away vehicles during street cleaning and snow bans.

Following a meeting among City Councilor Peter O'Donnell (who earlier opposed letting Martin work for a towing company), City Manager Joe Gray and city human resources director Gloria Thomas, the three agreed to let Martin work at S&R as long as he doesn't involve himself with any towing related to the parking division. Performing other tows, such as those commissioned by the police, is acceptable.

Thomas said Martin would be under considerable scrutiny.

"Word will get back to us through some city employee," she said, "whether it's a police officer or some other staff employee."

ALLEN DAMMANN

MAINE COLLEGE OF ART

Access denied

MECA officials close buildings to students who want to work late

When students at Maine College of Art (MECA) in Portland arrived for the start of the new school year on Sept. 4, they discovered the administration had made a decision during the summer — without student input — to close the Porteous and Baxter buildings on Congress Street from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Students say 24-hour access was one of the school's biggest selling points and was used to recruit applicants.

A school-wide meeting is scheduled for noon Thursday, Sept. 6, in the Baxter building's Goodbody Auditorium, to discuss the change in access, as well as tighter restrictions on visitors. Some students have hung flyers on the Porteous building's entrance calling the meeting a "student protest."

"Do you think the school's retraction of the 24-hour policy was shifty and underhanded?" the flyer asks. "Join us to let them know how much we dislike their academic dishonesty."

Tim Kane, MECA's vice president of advancement and college relations, acknowledged the school has billed the 24-hour access to studios and darkrooms as a feature rare among art schools. He said the school had to make the change because of the increased cost of security to protect new computer equipment in the Baxter building. In the past, Baxter has not had security.

"The advertising [of 24-hour access] is already out there," Kane said. "But sometimes you have to make budget decisions."

Kane admitted MECA's tuition typically goes up between 2 and 5 percent each year — the 2001-2002 tuition is \$18,500 — but that, apparently, doesn't cover the new security. He said the school has had to make a number of cuts to cover rising costs.

Students said they want what they were promised. "A lot of people have said they would reconsider coming back without the 24-hour access," said Christina Thibault, a second-year MECA student. "I think that's why a lot of people go to MECA.... They don't have the room in their apartments to work."

Senior Ryan Greene said MECA should better prioritize its spending, saying it should not buy new games for the lounge when it can't afford total access to the school. He said he relies on the 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. time for working. "Like most artists," he said, "I'm definitely a late-night person."

Chris Kitzerow of New Jersey, whose son transferred to MECA this year as a junior, said, "They should stay open 24 hours. It's so damn expensive."

In a letter to the school, Linda Lambertson, another second-year student, wrote, "The flexibility and freedom to create in a secure environment, whenever we need it, is what we were promised as students at MECA."

In an interview, Lambertson said, "We're all pretty much up in arms about this. I don't see how four hours in two buildings is that big a budgetary concern."

Thibault said she and other students plan to propose having student monitors work from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Kane said, "It's certainly an idea. That's the kind of thing we will probably talk about [at the meeting]." He said a final decision would be up to new president Christine Vincent.

"We're open-minded," Kane said. "We don't want to be completely authoritarian here.... [But] some decisions are made with consensus and some aren't."

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ILLUSTRATIONS/COREY PANDOLPH

Acting, said Ethan Strimling, "was in my blood."

His grandmother was an actress. His father was an actor. Strimling, who grew up in New York City, was preparing to follow in their footsteps. He attended the High School for the Performing Arts and the prestigious Juilliard School.

But something besides acting was also in Strimling's blood.

In 1986, at age 19, he quit Juilliard after two years, and came to Maine to stay with friends on a farm in Sedgwick. He was still doing a little theater work, but increasingly his interest was directed toward another field, one in which — like acting — appearance and reality have little in common.

He was becoming involved in politics.

The decision to switch from acting to activism led Strimling to enroll at the University of Maine in Orono, where he majored in history and specialized in leading student protests of everything from the Persian Gulf war to the celebration of Columbus Day to questionable campaign spending in a Student Senate race. After graduation, he moved on to Harvard University, where he got a master's degree in education.

Even while he was still in college, Strimling was developing a résumé that reads like a road map for the liberal Democratic up-and-comer. He worked on Tom Andrews' successful 1990 congressional campaign. He later assisted several state legislative candidates. He put in some time on a project to improve educational aspirations in Maine. He counseled at-risk youth in Boston. He ran a Democratic political action committee in Washington. He served as campaign manager for Dale McCormick in 1996, when she nearly upset Tom Allen in the congressional primary. In 1999, he ran unsuccessfully (in more ways than one) for the Portland City Council. And he's now laying the groundwork for a 2002 campaign for the state Senate seat representing the Portland peninsula.

Since 1996, Strimling, 33, has also been executive director of the Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council, a nonprofit agency that serves low-income people and at-risk youth.

Strimling said his involvement with the organization shows he's about more than politics.

"Five years ago, I was a political junkie," he said. "That kind of life can be very disconnected from reality. That's what pulled me to come to this place. Portland West's work is the heart and soul of why I'm in politics."

The agency provides housing, job training and a variety of other programs. But in the past, Portland West has provided something else. For many years, the organization served as little more than a front for a neighborhood political machine intent on protecting its funding, promoting its friends and punishing its enemies.

That reputation for bare-knuckle politics and back-room deals, combined with lingering questions about Strimling's actions during his council race (more about that later), are already dogging his campaign, nine months before the primary election that will likely decide his future in elective politics.

Ethan Strimling

"You have to go talk to people you think you don't like and don't like you. I've made it a point to talk to people who don't like me."

— Ethan Strimling

In the spotlight

Strimling inspires strong opinions. Few who know him are neutral.

His supporters say he's intelligent, hardworking and dedicated to improving people's lives.

"He's a man of compassion," said Tom Ainsworth, a Portland lawyer. "He's principled. He has very firmly held beliefs."

His opponents say he's power-hungry, slick and phony.

"If he was elected to the Legislature, the voice he'd bring to Augusta would be for Ethan Strimling, rather than the city of Portland," said City Councilor Jack Dawson, the man Strimling nearly defeated in '99. "He seems to be the kind of person who'll blow Ethan Strimling's horn."

The only assessment on which both sides agree is that Strimling has strong ambitions.

"His career goals are to get in elected office and continue up the hill," said Bruce Erwin Johnson, a Portland activist and Strimling supporter. "He's ambitious, but I don't think that's a bad thing."

"He's hardworking and ambitious. Those are his major qualities," said state Rep. Ben Dudley, who considered challenging Strimling in the Democratic primary next year, but decided against it. "That's probably all I feel like saying to you about him."

His detractors say Strimling is still using his talent for acting, playing the social-service provider and good citizen to cover his real agenda: getting elected to the highest office he can attain.

His supporters say such claims amount to little more than envy.

"Nobody should be as good-looking as Ethan, and I hate him for that," joked William Shuttleworth, a former Portland West board president. "When you have that face, people say, 'How can he have any substance?'"

Shuttleworth turned serious: "I don't think he has any interest in doing anything but serve the community. I don't think [politics] feeds his ego You know, there are a few Robert Kennedys left in the world. I see that in Ethan."

Strimling points to his extended stay at Portland West as proof he's committed to helping those in need. "A lot of people thought I wouldn't be here two years," he said. "They figured I was using Portland West as a stepping stone. But I found the work to be phenomenal."

Strimling has overseen the transformation of the agency. When he first arrived, fresh from the McCormick campaign and a brief stint as a political consultant, Portland West was broke, was being evicted from its offices, had lost key staffers and had a disorganized and divided board. Over the next five years, he's obtained new funding — much of it from the private sector — to balance the budget and pay for renovating a Brackett Street building into classrooms, workshops and offices. He's restructured the organization, but only after extensive consultations with staff, clients and the board. He's rebuilt that board, attracting a mix of neighborhood residents, businesspeople and activists.

"We came out of kind of an economic crisis," said Bruce Kornbluth, the current board president. "We are financially stable. We have a strategic plan we spent a year developing. We know where we're going for the next five years. Ninety-five percent of that is attributable to Ethan."

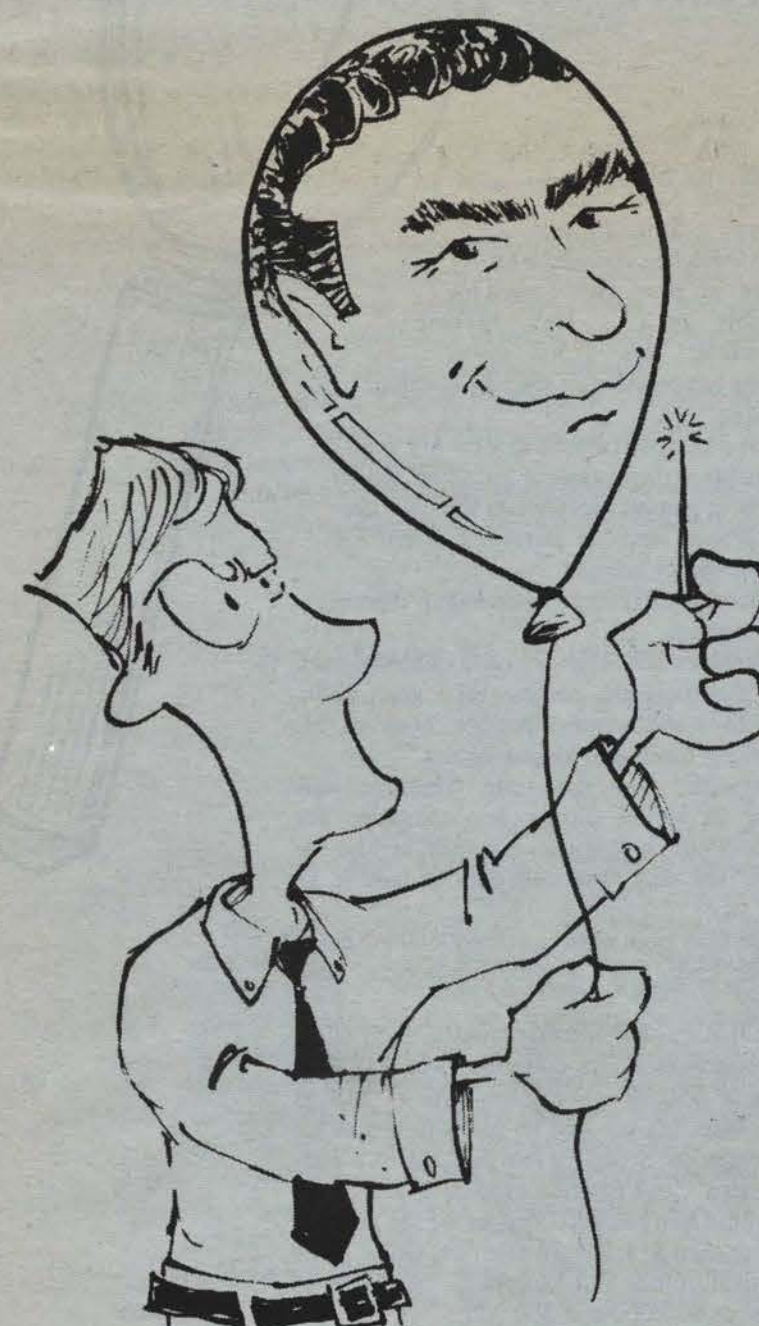
His critics say Strimling merely capitalized on the work done by his predecessor, former executive director Peter O'Donnell. O'Donnell, now a Portland city councilor, refused to comment, but City Hall insiders say he is angry Strimling has gotten the glory for saving Portland West.

"I don't see there's any improvement there," said Dawson. "He took the credit for work done by others before him."

Exit stage left

To understand how Portland West fell on hard times in the first place — and why there's so much suspicion concerning Strimling's motives — it's necessary to run through a little history.

Formed in the 1960s by a rag-tag assortment of low-income activists, Portland West transformed itself in the 1970s. It got several large state and federal grants to provide housing, job training and other services to low-income people. It also began to develop into a powerful Democratic political machine that, over the next 25 years, helped elect numerous candidates, from the late state Rep. Larry Connolly to current City Councilor Tom Kane. Any politician seeking support in the city's West End needed Portland West's support. Any social-service undertaking in the neighborhood required its blessing. It had influence at City Hall, the State House and in the congressional delegation. And it didn't hesitate to use those connections to stifle opposition, often in ways that were far from subtle. Its



critics sometimes found their jobs threatened or their apartment leases terminated.

In the 1980s, questions began to arise about whether Portland West was wasting much of the public money it received. There were allegations the housing it owned was poorly maintained and badly managed. There were news stories showing the agency had few clients, but ran them through multiple programs to make it appear it was providing services to a lot of people.

Portland West officials, notably then-executive director Jim Oliver, met these criticisms with overly political counter-offensives. Oliver, himself a state representative, had no compunction about using his position to defend his agency. When the Maine State Housing Authority questioned how the money it was giving Portland West was being spent, Oliver attempted a behind-the-scenes coup to oust its director, Libby Mitchell. When Maine Public TV aired an unflattering news story about Oliver's organization, he tried to convince friends on the Legislature's appropriations committee to cut funding for the offending program.

While Mitchell and the TV show survived Oliver's assaults, his methods were generally successful in preserving Portland West's cash flow. But

Bad review

Strimling is a candidate for the Senate seat currently held by Democrat Anne Rand, who will be forced out of office next year by term limits. Rand has already endorsed Strimling's opponent in the primary election, state Rep. Michael Quint, who represents the Parkside and Bayside neighborhoods.

Asked for her impression of Strimling, Rand paused for several seconds, before saying, "I really just don't know Ethan Strimling."

In fact, Rand, like most Portlanders, does know Strimling, at least as a political candidate. The city hasn't forgotten his unusual run for an at-large council seat in 1999.

In that hard-fought race, Strimling appeared to have lost to the incumbent, Dawson, by just 24 votes. But Strimling's team of lawyers argued that 35 ballots on which voters had checked the blank line below Strimling's name should be added to his total. They presented evidence from an eye doctor, who said "ocular muscle imbalances" could have caused people to mark the wrong space. The Strimling forces also contended state law required

Strimling has never apologized for his role in the incident. But he doesn't shy away from the issue. In preparing to run for the Senate, he said he's asked numerous people for their impressions. "It's definitely an obstacle," he said. "Insiders remember it really well. But it doesn't seem to be a make-or-break issue with most people. They say, 'I really want to hear what's next.'"

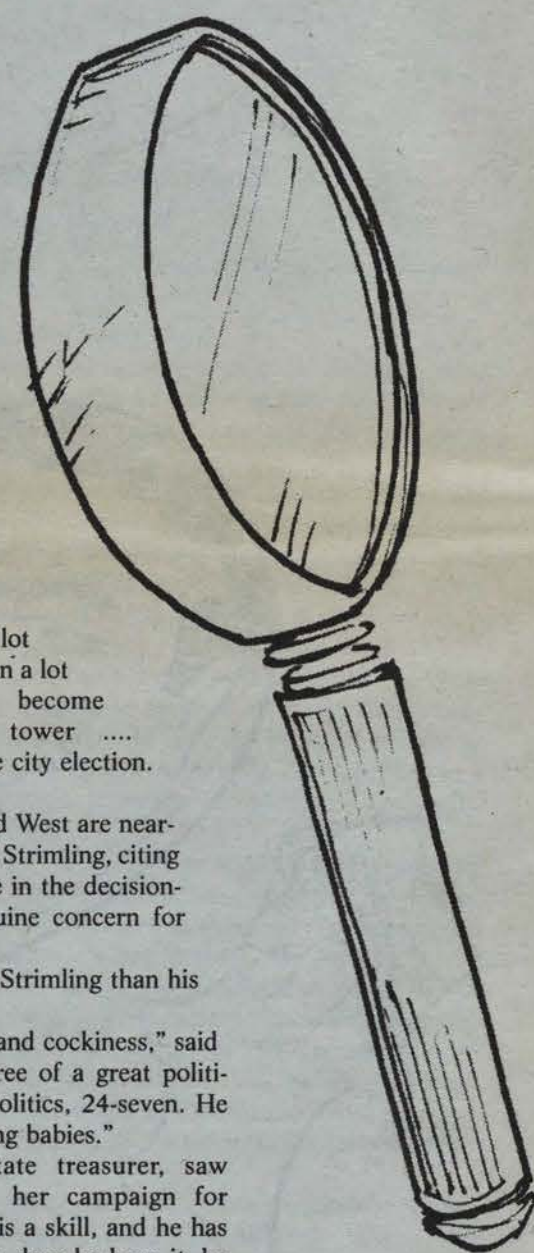
Star quality

Every weekend, Strimling shows up at the St. Luke's soup kitchen at the Preble Street Resource Center to help make breakfast for homeless people. "He does cook a good egg," said Daniel Nere, the coordinator.

But does cooking one make you one? "He's a very sensitive, helpful and caring person," Nere said. "He can talk to people, homeless people He feels what they feel."

He feels their pain? Where have we heard that before?

"He's the Bill



"His career goals are to get in elected office and continue up the hill. He's ambitious, but I don't think that's a bad thing."

— Bruce Erwin Johnson, activist and Strimling supporter

the agency's image suffered, and many pols no longer wanted to be publicly linked with it. Its political influence began to wane. By the early 1990s, the organization's finances were in disarray. An audit revealed numerous irregularities. As Oliver prepared to depart for a job with the Peace Corps, information surfaced indicating he had secretly given Bruce Reeves, a close friend, a lucrative, long-term contract as the agency's grant writer. O'Donnell, the new executive director, moved to void the deal, arguing it had never been approved by the board. Board members, staff and supporters split between those loyal to Oliver and those backing O'Donnell.

The resulting controversy crippled Portland West. Grants dried up. Private-sector fund-raising went nowhere. By the time O'Donnell departed in 1996, the agency had a huge debt, terrible public relations and a severely depleted supply of political juice.

Strimling has made major strides in solving the first two problems. To do that, he's had to distance the agency from its partisan past, assuring funding sources he's concentrating on providing services, instead of delivering votes.

While that course won praise — and money — for Portland West, it also cost the agency some credibility. In 1982 and 1988, when Mercy Hospital proposed major expansions in the West End, Portland West led the neighborhood opposition. But in 1999, when Mercy again announced plans to expand, Strimling and his board had nothing to say. Critics charged this silence was the result of generous annual contributions the hospital was making to Portland West's YouthBuild program.

"Portland West is not a political organization, anymore," said Kornbluth. "It's a social-service organization It's not the Portland West it used to be."

But with Strimling's state Senate bid, memories of the agency's political past are stirring.

councilors to count the disputed ballots.

Strimling's allies on the council (including Kane, who works for Strimling) voted to accept those arguments, reversing the election-night outcome and provoking public outrage. But a week later, the massive negative reaction — and the discovery the law did not compel the council to add the mis-marked ballots to the tally — finally forced Strimling to withdraw, leaving the seat to Dawson.

That controversy left its mark on Strimling's image.

"The only thing I really know about Ethan Strimling is that notorious run for the City Council," said Derrick Grant, a former Green Party legislative candidate in the West End.

Strimling's bid for the council was part of a carefully constructed plan that was supposed to carry him all the way to Congress. He expected to use the role of city councilor to build his name recognition, thereby positioning himself to succeed U.S. Rep. Tom Allen, should Allen (as was then expected) run for the U.S. Senate in 2002. When Strimling appeared to have lost the council race, his congressional hopes were also threatened, since there was no other office he could seek in the interim without challenging a close ally or powerful incumbent Democrat.

"He was so close he could taste it," said Orlando Delogu, a former city councilor from the West End. "As a result, he became too aggressive."

Strimling and his advisers decided pursuing the blank-ballot strategy was the only way to preserve his political options. In reality, it all but destroyed those options by linking his name in the public's mind with what many considered an unethical attempt to overturn the vote.

"That's a skeleton that's still rattling around," said Bill Dobrowski, a Strimling supporter from Stroudwater. "But I don't think it's as big an issue as before the last presidential election, because he did the same thing as [Al] Gore tried to do [in Florida]."

Clinton of Maine,"

said Tae Chong, an activist in the Asian community and a Strimling supporter. "I think he's changed a lot in the last two years. He's eaten a lot of humble pie He's become approachable, less ivory tower Something happened after the city election. He matured."

Staff and clients at Portland West are nearly unanimous in their praise of Strimling, citing his efforts to involve everyone in the decision-making process and his genuine concern for people the agency helps.

But there's clearly more to Strimling than his do-gooder image.

"His Achilles heel is pride and cockiness," said Chong. "But that's the pedigree of a great politician. He lives and breathes politics, 24-seven. He loves shaking hands and kissing babies."

McCormick, now the state treasurer, saw Strimling in action during her campaign for Congress. "Being a politician is a skill, and he has that skill," she said. "Not only does he have it, he likes it."

He also likes what most pols hate: shaking down people for cash. "He's a good schmoozer," said Kornbluth.

While that's a skill he's employed to good effect in his council race (he collected over \$17,000, including a \$50 donation from Quint) and at Portland West, it's not one he plans to use in his Senate campaign. Strimling said he'll run as a publicly financed Clean Election candidate, a decision that will limit him to a total budget for the primary of no more than \$14,304. In contrast, Quint plans to use private funds and expects his campaign to cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

Changing scenery

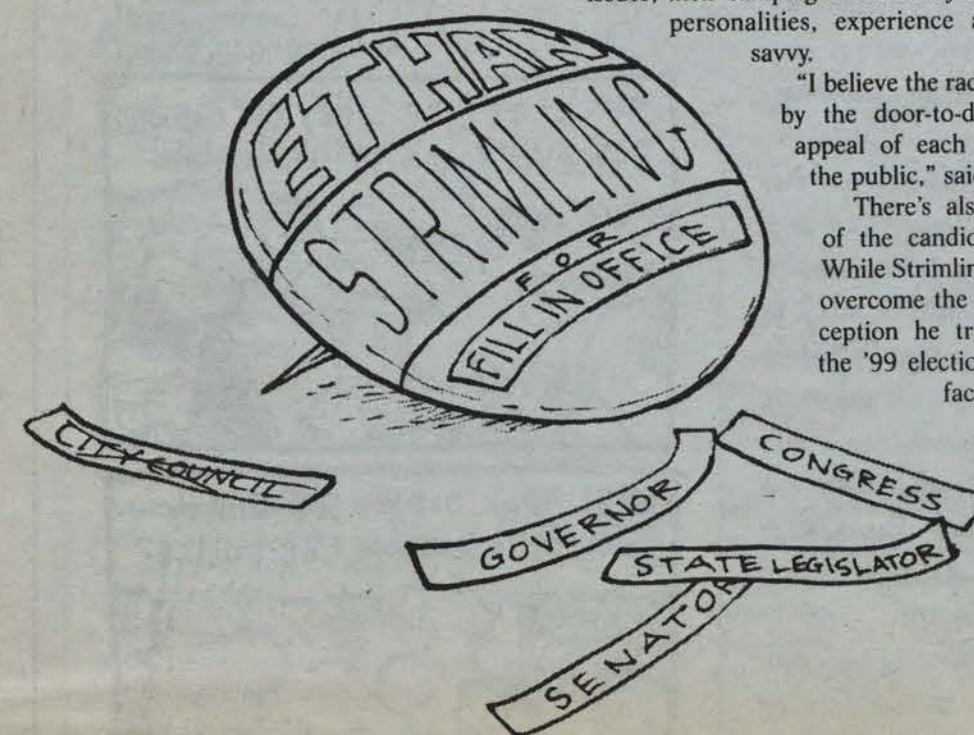
Portland's peninsula has so few Republican voters that no member of the GOP has ever held its Senate seat. So the Democratic primary next June will effectively decide who will represent the district in Augusta.

There's a lot at stake in that primary for Portland taxpayers. After the next election, both the city's senators will be rookies. That could leave the state's most populous municipality in a weakened position at a time when — to cite one important matter — legislators will be debating changes in the school-funding formula that could shift money away from Portland to rural areas.

Since both Strimling and Quint are liberals who agree on virtually all the major issues, their campaigns will likely focus on their personalities, experience and political savvy.

"I believe the race will be won by the door-to-door personal appeal of each candidate to the public," said Rand.

There's also the matter of the candidates' foibles. While Strimling will have to overcome the lingering perception he tried to hijack the '99 election, Quint will face criticism for



repeatedly failing to file campaign finance reports on time and paying substantial fines for those violations.

Strimling has already said his goal at the State House will be to block as much of the impact of the Bush administration's agenda on the state as possible. That's the kind of partisan platform that's unlikely to sit well with Republicans, who stand a better-than-even chance of taking control of the Senate in '02. (The party needs a net gain of just one seat to win a majority.)

Quint said he'll be better prepared than Strimling to deal with that possibility because he already knows many of the GOP's key players and has worked with them on issues in the past.

Strimling said he can build coalitions with Republicans and rural legislators. "It begins with conversation," he said. "You have to go talk to people you think you

"He's going to go up to Augusta and piss a lot of people off."

— Tae Chong, activist and Strimling supporter

don't like and don't like you. I've made it a point to talk to people who don't like me."

With mixed results. He met with Rand several months ago to discuss his candidacy, but was unable to sway her from endorsing Quint. That leaves Strimling in a difficult position. While he has a base of support in the West End, he needs to move quickly to counteract Rand's considerable influence on Munjoy Hill, where she lives. Other problems for him are on the East End: That's the area O'Donnell, his disgruntled predecessor at Portland West, represents on the council. With Dudley, the hill's state representative, also sending off chilly vibes, Strimling may find it tough to make inroads in that neighborhood.

Quint will undoubtedly do well in Parkside and Bayside, areas he represents in the Legislature. But those precincts have traditionally had some of the lowest voter turnouts in the state.

That leaves the area around Deering High School. Voters there tend to go to the polls in large numbers, but they also tend to be somewhat less liberal than the rest of the Senate district, making the area difficult political terrain for both Strimling and Quint.

"That's an entirely different part of Portland with its own neighborhood needs," said Herb Adams, a School Committee member, former legislator and possible can-

didate for Quint's House seat. "A wise candidate should do a lot of footwork there."

"It's going to be a very competitive primary," said House Speaker Mike Saxl, who represents the West End and has yet to endorse either candidate. "They're both progressive individuals with solid progressive credentials [who've been] working in grassroots politics."

Curtain call

One of the most frequently asked questions about Strimling's candidacy is why he's running for senator instead of state representative. Saxl's House seat will be open next year because of term limits, and Strimling would probably have an easy shot at that job.

"Both races would be a lot of hard work," Strimling said, "but in the Senate, there's an opportunity to accomplish more."

Translation: Being one of 35 senators means you're a lot more powerful — and visible — than being one of 151 representatives. It's roughly the difference between being cast as Hamlet or getting the role of Guildenstern. (You both end up dead, but Hamlet gets to die on stage.)

Or as one of Strimling's advisers put it: "Ethan is too smart for the House."

There's also the little matter of Congress. When Allen finally decides to move on, Strimling would still like to be positioned to succeed him. The state Senate is a far better platform for that than the House. Even if his congressional dreams fizzled, Strimling could serve four terms as a senator and still be only 42 years old, an acceptable age for, say, a gubernatorial bid.

But first, there's the little matter of getting elected to the Senate. To do that, Strimling will have to balance his liberal-activist tendencies with the practicalities of day-to-day campaigning. And if he reaches the State House, he'll have to figure out how to be effective in what may be a hostile political climate.

"He's going to go up to Augusta and piss a lot of people off," said Chong. "He needs to surround himself with people who'll remind him he's got to stay true."

Then there's the matter of his future at Portland West. His contract with the agency expires at the end of next year, and both Strimling and board members are coy about whether he'll stay on after the election. Those familiar with Strimling's work at Portland West say it would be all but impossible for him to continue putting his usual long hours into the job, while also serving in Augusta.

"If you want to help people, you have to move forward," said Mark Dion, Cumberland County sheriff and treasurer of Strimling's council campaign. "Ethan has a genuine interest in helping people and just wants to get

into the fray."

How successful Strimling is at that may depend to a large extent on how well he controls the ambition that sometimes seems to ooze from his pores.

"Ambition, if done for the right reason, it's leadership," said Dion. "If done for the wrong reason, it's ego and it's destructive."

Then he laughed and added, "I keep telling Ethan we can't both be governor."

Al Diamon is CBW's political columnist. He can be e-mailed at ishmaelia@awi.net.

COMMENT

SO noted Listen to the muse

Students at Maine College of Art (MECA) in Portland are about to teach the school's administration a hard lesson. Whether administrators take heed may determine whether MECA passes or fails as a viable institution of higher learning.

At issue is the school's decision to limit the hours students can use darkroom and studio space in MECA's Porteous and Baxter buildings (see "Access denied," page 9). Students previously had 24-hour access to the facilities, a fact the school touted as one of its prime

afford their own studio space. If MECA honchos had bothered to consult with the people who pay their salaries and make the college possible, they would have known this.

Yet, given the sniveling, underhanded way they sprung their decision on the students, I suspect they were fully aware of this situation. The letter detailing the new policy — which also places stricter limits on access by non-students (including alumni) — was stuck in the back of a folder full of considerably less important paperwork

students were handed when they registered for classes. The changes in the buildings' hours were described as "modest adjustments to the 24 hour access."

Cutting back access by a sixth of the day is modest only by comparison with, say, cutting access in half.

Tim Kane, MECA's vice president of advancement and college relations, attributed the decision to rising expenses. Since students are faced with tuition costs rising as much as 5 percent annually (it now costs \$18,500 a year to attend the school), they can

probably relate to Kane's concerns. What they can't relate to is paying more to get less, which is just what the school is trying to make them do.

The primary expense Kane cited is the increased cost of providing security for computer equipment in the Baxter building. Cutting access to facilities for more traditional art forms — like painting and photography — to guard computers implies some unsettling reasoning. Does MECA think it's more important to create with a mouse and keyboard rather than one's hands and eyes? Is this the face of MECA's future: computers locked in secure rooms and artists locked out of studios?

MECA administrators should give serious consideration to any proposal — such as the implementation of a system of student monitors — that will preserve 24-hour access to its buildings.

But the real lesson is a no-brainer: Listen to the people who make your college what it is. If you don't, you won't have one for long.

CHRIS BUSBY



Take the night off: The Maine College of Art's Porteous building. PHOTO / JOSEPH DUPONT

attractions in its promotional literature. But sometime during the summer, MECA higher-ups decided to make the buildings off-limits between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. — a decision made without consulting with the students it will affect.

The artists are justifiably pissed, and at an all-school meeting scheduled for Sept. 6 in the Baxter building's Goodbody Auditorium, they intend to let administrators know just how much. If MECA doesn't get the message at that meeting, it may get another, harsher one when enrollment falls next year as disaffected students leave in droves.

Artists, by nature, are people who seldom work within pre-set time schedules. If inspiration strikes in the middle of the night, they may need to run down to MECA's facilities and work until dawn. Limiting the hours students have access to these buildings effectively limits their ability to create.

Many students also prefer to work during the small hours because the facilities are less crowded. Few can



Act local

My tour of the *Rainbow Warrior II* [the weekend of Sept. 1] clarifies for me that Greenpeace plays a positive role in the environmental movement. It also gave me an increased appreciation of the Sierra Club, the environmental group in which I am active.

The ship is very nice, and they "walk the walk" in operating it in terms of the paint and coating they apply and their use of sails whenever possible instead of diesel. The day was particularly lovely, warm and sunny, and four or five harbor seals were frolicking in the water just beyond the ship, as if aware they were among friends.

Anyway, Greenpeace, with whom I have worked effectively in the Nigerian human-rights-and-the-environment campaign, is basically an organization of professional activists, as opposed to an organization of grassroots volunteers like us. And its environmental priorities are decided by its top professional staff, as opposed to the grassroots membership deciding on conservation priorities. They talk about democracy, but we practice democracy in the way our organization functions.

There are no local chapters anywhere near Maine. When people asked about contacting the organization, they were told to contact Washington, D.C., and some of the volunteer activists assisting in the recruitment drive were from the New York office, which is actually in Hoboken, N.J.

They said one of their six environmental issues was forest protection. When I asked what they are doing about it in Maine, they told me: "Nothing in Maine"! They have been working to protect a threatened, old-growth forest in British Columbia and apparently have been successful in getting the owners to agree not to cut it down. Now they are turning to protection of parts of the Amazon rain forests. That's good, but what about here?

So, this very worthy organization that does very good work does not work in Maine or have a Maine constituency. When they talked about the Bush energy policy and the threat to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I pointed out there is also a threat of off-shore drilling on the Georges Bank and along the Maine coast as part of the Bush-Cheney energy strategy.

I think it is important that we relate our conservation issues to the lives of Maine people, rather than focusing only on more remote environmental threats.

And when they got to the recruitment at the end of the tour, I learned that membership costs a minimum of \$15 a month, which you can only do by credit card. I noticed they never referred to the \$180 a year price tag. To me, that amount puts the membership out of the reach of all but fairly upper-income individuals. At \$39 for a regular membership and reduced memberships available for \$25, we are really a bargain by comparison and certainly affordable for normal people.

I wish them well, but wish us better.

Louis T. Sigel
Conservation Chair,
Sierra Club,
Maine Chapter
Portland

Kudos for dog reporter

I laughed, I cried, I barked! Stryder Smith, I can't thank you enough for contributing such hilarious canine levity to such a serious, politically boring publication (Edge, "Spot's favorite spot," 8.23.01). It was fun to actually laugh out loud while reading your article at my desk today!

Although I am not a pet owner, I'm happy to see that [Pampered Pets' owner] Lori Sanford has provided a place for owners and their dogs to go together. In this uptight, puritanical society we call New England, folks seem to frown on dogs in public places. There are places, however, like the French side on the island of St. Martin, where a restaurant or store without a dog roaming about is in the minority. Even the finest restaurant may have a "house" dog to greet you at the door or cop a lick on your ankle while dining.

If more people took heed of studies that prove that pets actually help lower blood pressure and relieve stress, then perhaps these same people would be a little less stressed out at seeing dogs in public places.

So, Stryder, in closing, blah, blah, blah. You're awesome. Whine, whine. Go after Niki. You should have your own weekly column. Blah-bitty-blah-blah!

Kandace Wagner
Scarborough

Kudos for human reporter

I am sorry Connie Pacillo has left CBW. She was brassy

and sassy, and, underneath it all, was a first-rate newspaperwoman. Maine journalism was enriched by her bold romp through areas where other, more cautious writers, refused to go.

Portland needs a voice like hers, and the media outlet — here or elsewhere — will be fortunate that adds her reporting and commentary to its lineup.

"Vaya con Dios," Connie, as we would say here in the Southwest. Go with God, and know you made a difference in the great state of Maine.

George Neavoll
Las Cruces, N.M.

Afford this

Affordable housing. That's all we hear about. But why has this happened? If you have read the *Press Herald* lately, you would have read all the stories on political refugees and out-of-state welfare recipients coming to live in Portland and reap the welfare system here. Since 1990 until the present, this city has taken in more and more immigrants to fill the low-paying jobs or increase the population of a dying city, sponsored by Catholic Charities and funded by the U.S. government. Why?

The city is full now. There is no housing for anyone, unless you want to buy a condo on the Eastern Prom for half a million. Cheryl Leeman, our mayor, said we need housing for the changing face of Portland and for people who work but cannot afford a nice place to live. Well, when Unity Village opened its first couple of apartments for low-income people, the first two faces in the *Press Herald* were immigrants — one from Africa, one from Asia.

When are the low-wage workers who have lived in Portland all their lives going to get their chance? When will the people of Portland wake up and speak up? Your tax dollars are flying out the window to support other countries' and other states' problems. The *Herald* recently reported we must cut taxes by \$2 million, and every department must make cuts but the education department. Well, that should be the first place they start. Get rid of three sex education teachers and the 40 bilingual teachers. Stop immigration for five years, and put these people here now to work.

In the early 1900s, immigrants came to Portland, unpacked their bags the first day and went to work the second. Not today. Immigrants are flown in, given every freebie possible, financed in business, bought cars, and after seven months supported by the government, go on city welfare.

People are tired of tax increases every year to support other countries' problems. But, don't contact your city councilors. They won't do anything that's not politically correct for them. Instead, vote them out.

John Griffin
Portland

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ello again. The follow-up to last year's popular and critically acclaimed local-music compilation "Greetings From Area Code 207" is scheduled to be released on Nov. 9. According to producer Charlie Gaylord, roughly half the acts featured on the first installment will contribute material to the second volume. Though Gaylord said the "feel of the record will be similar to the first," he noted the album will contain "a few more pop songs," than its predominately rootsy predecessor, including a track by hometown-boys-making-it-kinda-big Rustic Overtones. Gaylord said the Rustic cut may be an outtake from sessions for the group's latest album, "Viva Nueva," but final details have not yet been nailed down.

Gaylord, who also plays guitar with Portland honky-tonkers Diesel Doug and the Long Haul Truckers, said his own band plans to contribute a cover version of the litanies "My Girlfriend is a Waitress." Old-time country/rockabilly crooner Jenny Jumpstart is collaborating with Jerk of Grass Jason Phelps and a couple Long Haul Truckers on the Diesel Doug-penned "Hazy Moon."

Portland popsters the Troubles — who will release a new album, "Here We Go Again," on Oct. 9 — will contribute a previously unreleased version of one of the band's old songs, "Never Understood." Alt-country outfit the Coming Grass will include a tune from their forthcoming album. And chanteuse Darien Brahms, soon to depart the Latin lounge-rock band the Munjoy Hill Society, will contribute a country-tinged tune.

All proceeds from the CDs sale will once again benefit the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, a performance space on Portland's Munjoy Hill currently being renovated from the remains of a dilapidated church. The center recently converted the church's parish hall into a venue for musical and theatrical performances, and hopes to raise enough dough to rehab the high-ceilinged church sanctuary.

Gaylord said about 1,700 copies of the first "Area Code" have been sold so far (raising roughly \$17,000 for the center), without, he noted, "basically any airplay" other than support from college radio stations like the University of Southern Maine's WMFG. He said the new album, however, is "tentatively being done in conjunction with the Point," which would be a reunion of sorts for local musicians and the radio station. In the 1990s, the Point, then known as WCLZ, helped produce several volumes of its "Homegrown" series spotlighting Maine acts. But in late 1999, shortly after the station was taken over by corporate assholes, the adult, acoustic alternative format disappeared from CLZ, and so did "Homegrown."

On Aug. 31, the Point, which had been using the call letters WTPN, reverted to its old WCLZ name. An alliance with "Area Code 207" would complete the station's transformation back to where it began.

— by Chris Busby with help from Allen Dammann and Al Diamon

Arts, Entertainment, Weirdness

EDGE

In the deserts of Maine

From a pseudo-Sahara to parking lots, the state has plenty of barren land for camping

by CHRIS BARRY

The wind blew grains of sand across 40 acres of parched earth, slowly burying a stand of pine trees.

Fascinating, eh? Welcome to the Desert of Maine. Located about 10 minutes from downtown Freeport, this semi-famous tourist attraction has long intrigued me, so on a Sunday in early August, my friend Ginger and I headed there in a converted van to investigate.

The Desert of Maine isn't really a desert, a fact the people who manage the place readily admit. Deserts, by definition, receive less than 10 inches of rainfall a year. Freeport gets a lot more than that.

This desert is actually the result of humans overworking the earth. A couple hundred years ago, the Tuttle family set up a farm here. But after a century of shortsighted agricultural techniques, the land no longer bore fruit. The topsoil disappeared, uncovering acres of sand left behind thousands of years ago by a glacier.

After checking into an adjacent campground, Ginger and I formed a two-person caravan and set out across the wasteland. (Note: Admission to see acres of nothing is \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for kids. If, like we did, you pay 20 bucks or so for a campsite — the grounds of which were quiet, cozy and clean — admission is free.)

Walking around, I felt like I was stuck in an oversized, golf-course sand trap. The landscape, dotted with small hills and signs pointing to natural attractions, was easily explored in less than a half-hour.

One sign indicated a dune was off-limits because an ant colony called the mound home. Other signs directed visitors to the woods bordering the desert, where one could see real Maine wildflowers, trees, birds and insects. A sign next to the remains of a wagon told the story of its former life as one of the Tuttle family's farm tools. Another marked the location of an old pump house that had long ago been covered by the shifting sands. Several signs gave directions to other signs.

The place was pretty boring. It's barren



No mirage: One of the attractions at the Desert of Maine. PHOTO / CHRIS BARRY

and lacks cacti, scorpions, coyotes and vultures — the elements that make desert life so exciting. Other than the ant colony and pine trees, the area seemed devoid of life.

Nearing the end of our journey, however, Ginger spotted fresh tracks. From the looks of them, we thought perhaps it was a snake. Excited, we followed the wandering path until we discovered a gigantic, fluorescent-green inchworm — as big as an index finger — sluggishly making its way across the dunes.

Back at the partially wooded campground, we met a semi-retired college professor on a cross-country expedition. He and his wife were not happy with their desert experience. "We felt ripped off," he said. "We should have known better. There's no desert in Maine."

He was looking in the wrong place. There are plenty of huge, barren tracts of land in Maine devoid of vegetation and most higher life forms. And, unlike the Desert of Maine, you can camp smack dab in the middle of this nothingness for free. I'm talking about Wal-Mart.

In an marketing move aimed at the wallets of recreational-vehicle owners, Wal-Mart recently began allowing camping in its parking lots — the idea being that people spending the night there are also likely to shop for supplies.

The day after visiting the Desert of

Maine, I called the Falmouth Wal-Mart and asked if it was OK to camp out there. "Sure," an employee said. "It's a great place to stay. The Wendy's is open late, and there's a McDonald's across the street and a movie theater in the same parking lot."

She made no mention of Falmouth's Village Park. Located next to Wal-Mart, the park has open fields, tennis courts and a gazebo — but no cash register.

Ginger and I arrived a little past 6 p.m., and set up camp near display models of ready-made backyard sheds. We cooked dinner, drank beer, read and listened to the frequent squawking of the store loudspeaker. Basking in the powerful parking lot lights, we didn't even notice the sun going down.

Just before closing time, I headed into the store to use the facilities and do some comparison shopping. I recently purchased camping gear at L.L. Bean. Since philosophical issues prevent me from shopping at the big-box, capitalist behemoth, I was disappointed to discover the same items I'd bought at Bean's on sale for half the price. My only consolation was knowing that if my stove ever breaks, L.L. will give me a new one.

Ginger and I were the only campers in the lot that night, but we awoke the next morning to a steady stream of traffic, having unknowingly set up camp next to a mailbox popular with Falmouth citizens. We bought bagels and a newspaper at a Mr. Bagel across the lot, and left an hour later.

A few nights later, Ginger and I headed over to the Wal-Mart in Scarborough. We arrived a little after 11 p.m. and were happy to see about 10 vehicles spending the night. Sleep came quickly.

I got up early the next morning and wandered the lot. The license plates on the RVs were from all across the country. There were new, quarter-million-dollar motor homes with all the modern riggings; less elaborate, older campers; a couple minivans with windows fogged by sleepers' breaths; and a tour bus with tinted windows and a constantly

humming air conditioner.

Back at our parking space, I boiled water for tea and watched as Camp Wal-Mart slowly woke up. A large woman exited a camper, toiletries in hand, and headed into the store. A rumpled, middle-aged man with a towel wrapped around his neck emerged from a minivan on a similar mission.

A woman in her mid-30s opened the back door of a beat-up Dodge van with Arizona tags, climbed out, looked around, scratched and stretched, then headed toward the store.

Ten minutes later, this refugee from the land of real deserts returned with a small Wal-Mart bag and a cup of coffee. She sat in the cab of the van, drinking her java, then disappeared into the back. When she reappeared, she was with a small boy. Still in his pajamas, he rubbed sleep from his eyes, as she put shoes on his feet and led him by the hand into the store.

A few minutes later, the van's doors opened again, and a man clad only in shorts with an enormous, hairy belly

emerged carrying a large Gatorade bottle filled with yellow fluid. He dumped the contents — obviously urine — on a tree.

I waved to him, but didn't get one back. He emptied the van of sleeping bags, pillows and sheets, shook each one and then carefully folded and packed them into the rear of the vehicle. He then pulled out a cooler and drained the melted ice, donned a shirt and shoes and headed for the store.

It was time for us to leave. Despite my distaste for Wal-Mart, I understand why many folks consider its parking lots fine places to sleep. They're handy for road-trippers in desperate need of shut-eye, homeless people with cars looking for a safe place to snooze or escaped convicts who need to disappear.

Perhaps people of a future age will view Wal-Mart parking lots — with their acres of barren blacktop and stunted, piss-parched trees — much as we view the Desert of Maine today: as examples of humanity's ignorant tendency to wreck the world. Of course, in that scenario, Wal-Mart would undoubtedly start charging camping fees.

HEADBUTTER

Misguided by voices

Wesley Willis is a freak.

That has nothing to do with the fact the Chicago singer-songwriter stands 6 feet 5 inches tall, weighs a crushing 300 pounds and is a certified schizophrenic. Nor does it have to do with Willis' preferred method of greeting strangers: a stiff headbutt to the skull.

It has to do with the fact Willis is an inexhaustible, one-man song factory. Since 1992, when he first began dabbling in music, Willis has put together 20 albums, released two volumes of greatest hits and penned more than 400 ditties. Over the course of one feverish marathon, Willis wrote and recorded four albums in just 36 days.



Rock over Portland: Wesley Willis brings his freak scene to the Skinny on Sept. 13.

Willis' own life is equally bizarre. For years a denizen of the Chicago streets, he scraped out a living by doing pen-and-ink drawings of the city. He began hearing voices on Oct. 21, 1989, after his stepfather put a gun to Willis' temple and demanded he hand over his \$100 in savings in order to buy drugs. Willis was later diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic.

To help rid himself of demons that caused him "torture hell rides," Willis began putting songs to paper, at first performing and recording them himself. He eventually formed a band, the Fiasco, and was picked up by Alternative Tentacles, the indie label owned by the former Dead Kennedy, Jello Biafra.

Willis' creativity lies somewhere between amusing and harrowing, a mix of ranting lyrics sung-spoken to an unsettling, electronic motif. On his new album, "Rush Hour," he bluntly describes how he was banned from an art store in the gentle, Neil Young-like country song, "Outburst."

"The forces in my head cussed at me. I was yelling like a wild animal," Willis sings. "I freaked out a lot of customers. I also said 'suck my dick' in front of a lot of people."

Like all the tracks on "Rush Hour," Willis ends the song with the mantra, "Rock over London, rock on Chicago."

Some music critics have described Willis' creations as everything from "possessing an honesty rarely found in contemporary pop" to "country & western played badly on a Casio keyboard." In the end, however, his out-there songs bring only one word to mind.

Freaky.

ALLEN DAMMANN

Wesley Willis performs with Grand Buffet and Extendo-Ride on Thurs., Sept. 13 at the Skinny, 625 Congress St., Portland, at 9 p.m. Tix: \$6 (21+). 871-9983.

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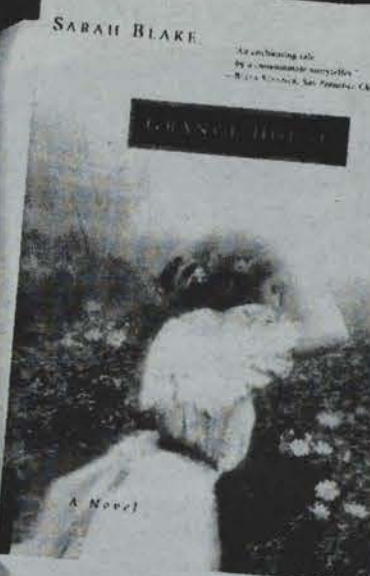
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The September book selection is *Grange House*, by Sarah Blake, published by Picador USA. The novel begins in 1896, when Maisie turns 17. Her annual summer visit to a hotel



on the coast of Maine marks a turning point—a series of ghostly incidents casts a shadow over Maisie's summer and her future, as she considers the attentions of two young men.

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Prime cut

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

the next BIG things

Collective Soul
Hampilton Beach Casino Ballroom,
NH, 9/15
Alexandro Escovedo
CANCELED
Tool
Ray Davies
St. David's Theatre, 9/21
Strangelove
St. David's Theatre, 9/22
David Byrne
State Theatre, 9/23
Robert Downey Jr.
Bowditch College's Marmel Gym,
Brunswick, 9/28
The Bacon Brothers
Saffire - The Uppity Blues
Nones
Chocolate Church, Bath, 9/29

O'Rourke's Landing
Karaoke with Tim Kennedy @ 9pm
cover(7+)

The Pavilion
The Pavilion Super Top 40 dance hit/s
per night, genres(ies) 537(+)
RNR
His session night 6-9 pm(9/21)
Singles
Karaoke with Jamie @ 9pm cover(7+)

The Skippy
Tarpoff's "Elements of Rock" puppet
gigs with Cami Simpson experimental
music/555(+)

Uncle Billy & the Family Circus
San Mencher No Joe family country
karaoke cover(7+)

The Underground
Karaoke with Mike @ 9pm cover(7+)

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Brambling Hall Congress & Portland, 773-8873.
Breakaway 25 India St., Portland, 541-4004.
Broadway Restaurant 71 Ocean St., Portland, 789-5418.
Brian Reid 57 Center St., Portland, 780-1506.
Broadway Restaurant 617 Congress St., Portland, 773-4595.
Carcen Bay Line Sea View Restaurant 724-6977.
Center for Cultural Exchange 1 Longfellow Square, Portland, 781-1545.
Chocolate Church Arts Center 38 Washington St., Bath, 441-8455.
Cliff Thewys 726 Forest Ave., Portland, 775-6581.
Club Soda 322 Fore St., Portland, 775-2515 or 775-2516.
Club Soda's Lounge & Exchange St., Portland, 772-6556.
Commercial Street Pub 125 Commercial St., Portland, 781-8970.
Congress Square Events Congress and High Streets, Portland, 772-6012.
Dillon's Restaurant 12 Monument Square, Portland, 772-4340.
Dillon's Floating Restaurant 25 Long Wharf St., Portland, 772-2216.
Dillon's Restaurant 705 Route 1, Yarmouth, 486-5161.
The Hubbard Company 72 Commercial St., Portland, 772-8777.
Joe Street Lounge 125 Main St., Portland, 774-1114.
Kenny K 13 Brown St., Portland, 772-7851.
Kerry's Bar/Buffet 402 Fore St., Portland, 828-1579.
Gitty McCall's 95 Fore St., Portland, 772-7329.
Hampton Beach Casino 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, NH 603-924-4100.
The Igloo 52 Whit St., Portland, 871-5886.
The Industry 50 Whit St., Portland, 878-0665.
L.L. Bean Discovery Park Moose Store, Freeport, 800-559-0747 x37222.
Longwood University University of New England Westchester Campus, Lewis, ME campus, 9/16.
Mother's Lounge 132 Fore St., Portland, 253-1812.
Mozza 36 Market St., Portland, 780-0800.
The Music 416 Fore St., Portland, 878-4007.
Norfolk Auditorium 215 Westbrook Ave., Portland, 841-0000.
Mojo's A 66 Market St., Portland, 781-4004.
Old Port Tavern 11 Molloy St., Portland, 774-0444.
Old Arts Center 125 State St., Bates College, Lewiston, 786-6252.
Orpheum Theater 175 State St., Portland, 773-3600 or 773-3611.
Post Office Park Events Exchange Middle Streets, Portland, 842-0000.
Pub 21 223 Congress St., Portland, 773-5832.
R&R 72 Commercial St., Portland, 781-4646.
Rocky Pointe 125 Main St., Portland, 773-3600.
St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center 773-5568.
Silver House Tavern 340 Fore St., Portland, 773-8685.
Three 45 Davidson St., Portland, 774-1505.
The Silken Cuffs 203 Congress St., Portland, 871-8883.
Somewhere 117 Congress St., Portland, 871-8949.
Stanford Redhead Hall 525 Fore St., Portland, 775-2732.
State Street Church 158 State St., Portland, 774-8306.
State Theatre 68 Congress St., Portland, 775-3531.
Steak Station 2725 S. Maine St., Portland, 773-3646.
Stone Coast Brewing Co. 24 York St., Portland, 772-2037.
Thomas Point Beach 240 Main Rd., Brunswick, 773-6538.
Three Dollar Bill 241 Commercial St., Portland, 773-3310.
Three Dollars 241 Commercial St., Portland, 773-3310.
Uncle Billy's Back-to-back Restaurant 69 Newbury St., Portland, 871-5631.**

Hootie and the Blowfish
Hampilton Beach Casino Ballroom,
NH, 9/30

Ratdog
State Theatre, 9/30

Meredith, Martin and Wood
State Theatre, 10/5

Goldfinger
State Theatre, 10/6

Gov't Mule
State Theatre, 10/14

Moscow State Symphony Orchestra
Merill Auditorium, 10/22

Merrill Auditorium, 10/22

Black Merl
Merrill Auditorium, 10/31

Robert Cray
State Theatre, 11/2

Sтивен Wright
State Theatre, 11/3

Suzanne Vega
State Theatre, 11/23

Billy Dren
City Centre, 11/13

Circus
City Centre, 11/23

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Sat 9/8-**Now is Now/The Reedling**
Fri 9/14-**Barry Arvin Young Band**
Sat 9/15-**TF3**
Fri 9/21-**Elmore Twist**
Sat 9/22-**Zoe's Choice**
Sat 10/13-**JOHNNY A**

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PERFORMANCE

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561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101
or e-mail: listings@maine.rr.com.

DANCE

The Portland Ballet Sat, Sept. 8. The company performs five ballets as part of Ogunquit's week-long arts festival, Capriccio 2001. Three of the ballets — Kenneth Oberly's "Ragtime," Noble Barker's "Almost Blue" and Daisela Santos' "Higachi" — are world premiere performances. At the Ogunquit Playhouse, Route 1, Ogunquit, at 8 pm. Tix: \$14-\$16 (\$12 students and seniors). 646-6170.

THEATER • COMEDY

Acorn School Student Showcase Wed, Sept. 12. The students of the Acorn School for the Performing Arts present a variety of scenes and skits. At the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St., Portland, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Free. 761-0617.

Club Q Sun, Sept. 9. Scott Foley hosts a weekly event featuring gay cabaret, comedy routines, drag bingo, live music and more by a variety of entertainers. At the Alehouse, 30 Market St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$2 (\$1+). 774-4432.

Comedy Connection Fri, Sept. 7: Bob Marley, at 7 pm and 8:45 pm. Tix: \$12. Sat, Sept. 8: Mike McDonald, at 8 pm and 9:45 pm. Tix: \$10. Sun, Sept. 9: Comedy Showcase, hosted by Kelley MacFarland, at 8:30 pm. Tix: \$6. At the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

Community Variety Show Sat and Sun, Sept. 15 and 16. Schoolhouse Arts Center hosts a variety show featuring scads of local talent. At the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Standish. Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$7 (\$5 students and seniors). 839-5825.

"Hearing the Call" Sun, Sept. 9. The Swedenborgian Church hosts a one-woman play about three biblical women, performed by actress Olivia Woodford, at 302 Stevens Ave., Portland, at 2 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$5 ages 5-12). 774-1203.

Instant Comedy! Sun, Sept. 9. The Portland-based comedy group performs improv comedy every other Sun at the Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, at 9 pm. Free (21+). 774-1114.

Lyric Music Theater Open House Sat and Sun, Sept. 8 and 9. The theater presents a show highlighting the upcoming season's productions: "Gypsy," "Wizard of Oz," "A Chorus Line" and "High Society." At 176 Sawyer St., South Portland. Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Free, but reservations required. 799-1421.

World Puppets Portland Tues, Sept. 11-Sun, Sept. 16. Portland's Downtown District and Figures of Speech Theatre present several performances by puppeteers from around the world. Tues and Wed: Das Meininger Puppentheater of Germany presents Hans Christian Andersen's "Steadfast Tin Soldier," at the Eastland Hotel Ballroom, 157 High St., at 6 pm. Tix: \$25. Tues-Thurs: France's Lullabelle Compagnie presents a kids' performance entitled, "et rond et rond," at the Downtown Beautification Center conference room, 94 Free St., at 10 am and 4 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$4 babies). Wed and Thurs: Figures of Speech Theatre presents "She-Who-Loves," an adaptation of a Comanche story, at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St., Wed at 6 pm, Thurs at 8 pm. Tix: \$16. Sat and Sun: Richard Bradshaw's Shadows, Australian shadow theater, performs at the Portland Performing Arts Center, 25 Forest Ave. Sat at 1:30 pm, Sun at 1 pm and 4 pm. Fri-Sun: Bulgaria's Credo Theater presents "The Overcoat," a one-act play about a ghost, a clerk and a coat, adapted from the Nikolai Gogol story. At Portland Performing Arts Center, Fri and Sat at 7 pm, Sun at 8 pm. Tix: \$16. Fri-Sun: Vélo Théâtre of France presents "Appel d'Air," a silent study about a man's struggle with solitude. At the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, Fri and Sat at 9 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$16. Tues, Thurs and Sat: England's Hand-To-Mouth Theatre presents "Piggy Jockey" and "Punch & Judy," two shows for four little hands. At Portland Performing Arts Center, Tues and Thurs at 6 pm, Sat at 11 am. Tix: \$14 (\$10 students and seniors). 842-0800.

Portland's favorite comedian, Bob Marley, no longer has to put up with the same stuff as beginning jokesters. Having sold out more than 300 consecutive shows at the Comedy Connection, Marley, a native Mainer and current Los Angeles resident, need not worry about the prospect of walking on stage and finding just seven people in the room, tittering nervously into their beers. Nor does he have to experience telling a joke that provokes the kind of mirth usually reserved for lists of actuarial statistics. Instead, he can expect a large and and laugh-prone audience when he returns to Portland on Fri, Sept. 7 at the Comedy Connection, 6 Custom House Wharf, at 7 pm and 8:45 pm. Tix: \$12. 774-5554.



Center stage

Have you heard the one about Portland City Manager Joe Gray and the sexually aroused elephant? Just as well if you haven't. Because unlike Bob Marley, appearing at the Comedy Connection on Sept. 7, it sucks.

State Theatre 609 Congress St. Portland, ME

JAZZ MANDOLIN PROJECT Sat. Sept. 8th 8PM

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Suzanne Vega Fri NOV. 13 8:00PM

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calendar

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

saturday, september 8

"GOT ROOTS?"

As another summer of free concerts in Congress Square comes to a close, Maine Arts and associated organizations once again ask the rhetorical question, "Got Roots?" And, once again, the answer is "What the hell are you talking about?" Of course, the "roots" in question refer to roots music, in this case country, bluegrass and rockabilly. The final free show in the square this summer features country crooner Hollerin' Man, bluegrassers the Muddy Marsh Ramblers, the eclectic folk-country stylings of Bait the Hook, rockabilly swingers the Sean Mencher Combo and rockabilly legend Billy Lee Riley, a former Sun Records up-and-comer who recorded "Flying Saucer Rock n' Roll." Stay rooted at Congress Square, Portland, at 2 p.m. Free. 772-9012.

saturday, september 8

THE PORTLAND BALLET

It's time once again for Capriccio, an annual event that begs the question, "What the hell is that?" In fact, Capriccio is Ogunquit's week-long arts festival, and this year it features the Portland Ballet. The company will perform five works, three of them for the first time anywhere. In addition to "American All Stars," choreographed by Lisa de Roberge, and "Summer Breeze," by Judy Williams, the company will premiere "Almost Blue," a piece choreographed by Noble Barker; "Higashi," choreographed by Daielma Santos; and "Ragtime," choreographed by Kennet Oberly. Show some appreciation at the Ogunquit Playhouse, Route 1, Ogunquit, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$14-\$16 (\$12 students and seniors). 646-6170.



Join her fan club: Jackie Terrano dances in the world premiere of "Higashi" by the Portland Ballet on Sept. 8 at the Ogunquit Playhouse.

tuesday, september 11

LUCINDA WILLIAMS

Anyone wandering around wondering, "Who the hell is Lucinda Williams?" had best get a clue. Granted, Lucinda Williams isn't as famous as, say, Hank Williams Jr., but she oughta be, and she's getting close. An alt-country singer with a voice as haunting and damaged as the subjects of her songs, Williams won a Grammy in 1994 with "Passionate Kisses," and has gone on to release the critically acclaimed album, "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road." Her latest offering is "Essence." Ron Sexsmith opens the show at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$29.50-\$35.50. 775-3331.

tuesday-sunday, september 11-16

WORLD PUPPETS PORTLAND

Granted, we're all puppets of the capital-crazed fat cats who rule the planet, but given our situation, it helps to be entertained by funny dolls with strings attached to them. The shadowy totalitarian organization known as Portland's Downtown District has enlisted Figures of Speech Theatre to help present "World Puppets Portland," a festival featuring theatrical puppet troupes from around the world, to the bread-and-circus-craving masses. On Tues. and Wed., Sept. 11 and 12, Das Meininger Puppentheater of Germany presents Hans Christian Andersen's "Steadfast Tin Soldier," at the Eastland Park Hotel Ballroom, 157 High St., at 6 p.m. Tix: \$25. Tues.-Thurs., Sept. 11-13, France's Lulubelle Compagnie presents a performance for plebeians 3 and under titled "et rond et rond" at the Downtown Beautification Center, 94 Free St., at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tix: \$6 (\$4 babies). And on Wed. and Thurs., Sept. 12 and 13, Figures of Speech Theatre presents "She-Who-Loves," an adaptation of a Comanche Indian story about a parent-child relationship, at the St. Lawrence Arts and Community Center, 76 Congress St., Wed. at 6 p.m., Thurs. at 8 p.m. Tix: \$16. See performance listings on page 20 for other events. 842-0800.

wednesday, september 12

TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS

As another road-tested reggae band pulls into Portland, fans are once again asking each other, "Got Toots?" In this case, they're referring to Toots and the Maytals, the legendary reggae band whose classics such as "Sweet and Dandy" and "Pressure Drop" are still causing people to bob their heads and flinch to a beat. They'll be joined by local reggae rene-gades Mystic Vibes at Asylum, 121 Center St., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$17-\$20 (18+). 772-8274.



Keep the pressure up: Toots and the Maytals plays Asylum on Sept. 12.



Maybe it won't snow in September: Swamp Witch Revival and a shovelful of other bands play at "Fudaville" in Norway on Sept. 7 and 8.

quick picks

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

•As the name implies, the show "Books Metal Sculpture Painting" includes handmade books by Chris Letizia, works made of metal by Jason Morrissey and mixed-media pieces by Steve Pullan. It opens at Filament Gallery, 181 Congress St., Portland, from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. and continues through Sat., Oct. 13. 221-2061.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

•The Portland Museum of Art delivers a double shot of new shows with "Open House: Tonee Harbert," photographs inspired by the museum's McLellan-Sweat House by one of CBW's first photographers (showing through Sun. Oct. 28); and "Drawn to the Figure: Works by Sigmund Abeles," a collection of drawings (showing through Sun. Dec. 2) at the PMA, 7 Congress Square, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 6-12). 775-6148.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

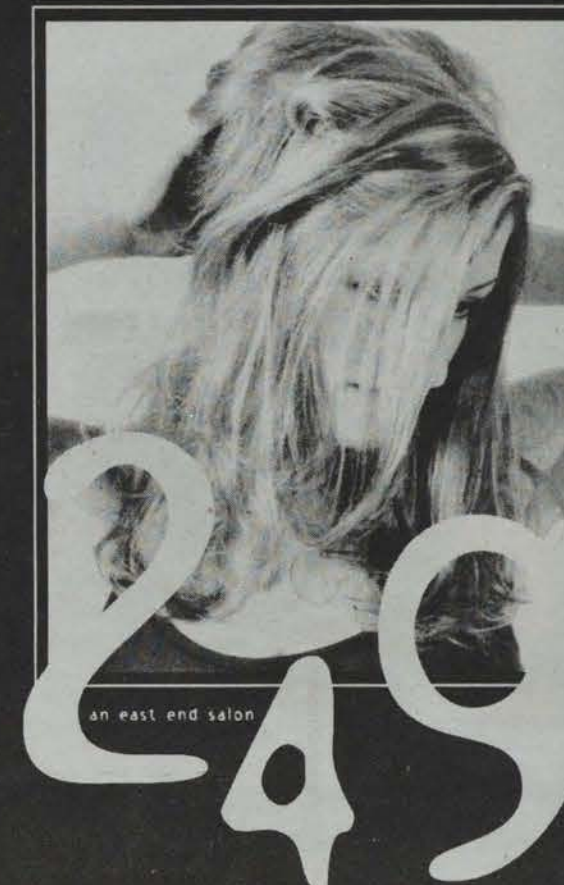
•The Portland Tenants Union discusses ways to stick it back to the man during a panel discussion titled "Rent Control vs. Increasing the Housing Supply" at the University of Southern Maine's Campus Center, Bedford Street, Portland, at 7 p.m. Free. 774-9393.

sound bites

•Anticon, a California-based hip-hop collective composed of many former Portlanders, returns to town on Thurs., Sept. 6 for a gig at the Well, 369 Forest Ave., Portland (7 p.m./\$8). 828-1778.

•A veritable orgy of local punk, hard rock and roots bands — including Swamp Witch Revival, Big Meat Hammer, Rock City Crime Wave, the Horror, Ogre, the Pontiffs, the Capital Gunmen and many others — convenes on Fri. and Sat., Sept. 7 and 8, at "Fudaville," Willey Road (off Route 118), Norway. Fri. at 6 p.m., Sat. as soon as you get your hung-over ass out of your sleeping bag. Tix: \$5 for both days (includes camping). 773-0178.

•The weekly hip-hop open mic night reconvenes after an extended hiatus on Tues., Sept. 11 at Stone Coast Brewing Co., 14 York St., Portland (9 p.m./\$2/21+). 775-2337.



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HELL yeah! JOE S. HARRINGTON

Indie peeps

Real indie rock has all but disappeared, mostly because the whole concept of "indie" has been used to such self-serving ends it's become irrelevant. Slumming of the worst kind, indie rock has been overwhelmed by vanity projects by slackers who think they have something to say, but more likely are just smarmy contrarians with poor social skills. Don't give up your jobs at Kinko's, guys.

Originally an underground phenomenon — as evidenced by Michael Azzerad's recent book, "Our Band Could Be Your Life" — true indie rock has suffered because of its practitioners' stubborn insistence on purveying the same old self-indulgent tricks. Their cynical, mush-mouthed mewlings just don't have the same resonance in the post-everything climate of the new millennium.

There was a time when bands like Dinosaur Jr., the Butthole Surfers and Sebadoh, as well as the early sproutings of the Seattle scene, were carving exciting new features into the stone-dead facade of '80s rock. But what once sounded like a bold acknowledgment of our culture's malaise now sounds like a musical cop-out. How many minor chords can anyone stand, not to mention snotty lyrics about how stupid everybody else is?

Three Portland bands whose sounds hearken back to the era when indie-rock expectations were at a high point will convene on Sept. 7 for a show at Free Street Taverna.

Of course, to the members of the bands on the bill — Peepshow, A Giant Robot and the Ponys — I'm probably full of shit. Nobody likes to be typecast, least of all musicians, but there's no denying that in the maddening climate of today's corporate-rock hegemony, these groups sound almost quaint; that is, their indie-rock impulses are pure.

Peepshow (which includes CBW illustrator Patrick Corrigan) operates fully on its own terms. A listen to the band's forthcoming eight-song CD, "Fancy," proves this. With its embryonic mix of gnarling guitars going all over the place, Peepshow recalls the hypnotic textures of Sonic Youth, Dinosaur Jr. and even Mission of Burma. There's more electricity in this album than in any computer a typical indie-rocker will be operating at his office-temp job this week.

Peepshow might be the first certified five-man guitar army since vintage Blue Oyster Cult, given that each member wields an ax on the album at one time or another. It really adds up on the Pavement-like screed, "Ghost of John," with its triangular prism of guitars, topical lyrics about a guy who "lives in Windham in a box of tin" and snotty "yeah, yeah, yeahs." There's even some subtle trumpet courtesy of the versatile Jon White, who also plays guitar and bass, and sings.

On "Suzuki Samurai," White evokes the blood-curdling bleat of Pere Ubu frontman David Thomas, while the band really piles up the sludge behind him. "Revolution Land," in its stuttering, somnambulist indie-rock stride, conjures memories of indie-era champs like Sebadoh and Poison Ivy Shadows. Listening to an advance copy of "Fancy," I feel like I'm back at the Middle East in Cambridge, and it's 1994 all over again.

Then there's A Giant Robot, which, in typical indie-rock fashion, constructs plaintive songs about nothing. The often-ghostly backing vocals and sinewy guitar riffs on a recent demo indicate there's a lot going on within the band's deceptively simple format. There's even some a cappella.

Robot's cover of Guns N' Roses' "Mr. Brownstone" sounds like what the Butthole Surfers would do to that track. The group turns the "used to do a little" part into a mantra of sorts, and engages in some stabbing guitar dialogue as the song evolves into a jam. Then there's "The Demise of Exodoom," a song on which the band takes a scratchy, spoken-word, sci-fi record and adds a scraping riff to it. It's the best audio-sample-as-lead-vocal since AntiScen guitarist Joe Young pulled some Charles Manson psycho-babble for his own "Charlie's Blues."

Combined with the Ponys' penchant for performing slightly off-kilter, '60s frat-rock knock-offs, this show should cause the audience to flash back to more earnest indie times.

Peepshow, A Giant Robot and the Ponys play on Fri., Sept. 7 at Free Street Taverna, 128 Free St., Portland, at 10 p.m. Tix: \$5 (21+), 774-1114.



Throwbacks to a purer era: Peepshow delivers indie rock at Free Street Taverna on Sept. 7.

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Visual Arts

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

openings

Thursday, Sept 6

The Clown 123 Middle St., Portland. Opening reception for drawings, paintings and photographs based on the Casco Bay Bridge by Lisa A. Dombek, and metal sculpture and drawings by Susan E. Bennett, from 6-8 pm (wine tasting at 5 pm). Shows through Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Sat 10 am-7 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 756-7399.

Friday, Sept 7

Aucocisco 615 Congress St., Portland. Reception for "Todd Webb: Vintage and Modern Photographs of Paris and France," a collection of never-before-exhibited photographs, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Thurs, Oct. 4. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm and by appointment. 874-2060.

Danforth Gallery/Maine Artists Space 34 Danforth St., Portland. Opening reception for "MAAS Exposure II," paintings and works on paper by several local artists, from 6-8 pm; the artists discuss their work from 5-6 pm. Shows through Fri, Sept. 28. Hours: Thurs-Sat 1-8 pm. 775-6245.

Filament Gallery 181 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Books Metal Sculpture Painting," handmade books by Chris Letizia, metalwork by Jason Morrissey and mixed-media sculpture by Steve Pullan, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, Oct. 13. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10 am-6 pm and by appointment. 775-6245.

Fore Street Gallery 366 Fore St., Portland. Reception for "Height of Land," oil paintings of northern Maine by John Bickford, from 6-8 pm. Shows through Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 874-8084.

First Friday Artwalk Local galleries and other venues showing art stay open late on the first Friday of the month. Participants include Aucocisco, the Clown, Coffee by Design, the June Fitzpatrick galleries, the Hay Gallery, the Institute of Contemporary Art, the Radiant Light Gallery, Scott Potter Designs, Studio 656, the C.W. White Gallery, the Three Fish Gallery and the studio at 547A Congress St. For a map or more info, call Jill at 775-0418, Renata at 775-6148 or Mellow at 871-8983.

The Stein Gallery 155 Middle St., Portland. Reception for "Images of Africa: Gary Genetti," stylized animal vases and urns, from 5-7 pm. Shows through Sun, Oct. 21. "Body Language: Philip Crooks and Douglas Ohm," figurative glass works by Crooks and Ohm, shows through Sun, Sept. 16. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-6 pm. 772-9072.

Saturday, Sept 8

Eastland Gallery 157 High St., Portland. Reception for paintings by Marguerite Lawler and drawings by Freema Kutler Rauh, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, Sept. 29. Contemporary art jewelry by several artists is ongoing. Paintings by Bonnie Spiegel show on an ongoing basis in the hotel lobby. Hours: noon-5 pm daily and by appointment. 775-2277.

"Fall in the Village Art Exhibition" At L.L. Bean's parking lots, Casco Street, Freeport. The Freeport Merchants Association presents its third annual one-day art competition, show and sale, featuring works by

over 90 Maine- and New England-based artists, from 10 am-5 pm. 865-1212.

Ogunquit Arts Collaborative Gallery Bourne Lane and Shore Road, Ogunquit. Reception for works by Rosalind Fedeli and John Latham Knapp, from 5-8 pm. Part of Ogunquit's week-long arts festival, Capriccio 2001. Shows Thurs, Sept. 6-Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Mon-Sat 11 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. 646-8400.

new exhibits

Bowdoin College Quad Brunswick, North. Carolina sculptor Patrick Dougherty constructs a temporary, large-scale sculpture out of saplings, branches and other materials, from Mon, Sept. 6, Thurs, Sept. 27-725-3743.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery at Maine College of Art 522 Congress St., Portland. "The Master's Eye: Puppets of Japan," the antique bunraku puppets and other objects collected by Toru Saito, shows Fri, Sept. 7-Sat, Sept. 29 as part of World Puppets Portland see "Performance" section for more details. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 879-5742 x283.

Maine Potters Market 376 Fore St., Portland. New work by Nancy Button and Peggy Anne Mack, as well as ongoing works by 15 Maine ceramic artists, shows through Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Mon-Wed 10 am-6 pm, Thurs-Sat 10 am-9 pm, Sun 11 am-6 pm. 774-1633.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Square. "Open House: Teneo Harbert," photographic works inspired by the museum's McEllan-Sweat House, shows Sat, Sept. 8-Sun, Oct. 28. "Drawn to the Figure: Works by Sigmund Abeles," a collection of drawings, shows Sat, Sept. 8-Sun, Dec. 2. Hours: Mon-Wed, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm, Thurs and Fri 10 am-9 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 6-12). Free every Fri from 5-9 pm. 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

galleries

Central Square Studios 463 Stevens Ave., Portland. Ceramic scarves, paintings, sculpture, pottery, jewelry and more are ongoing. Hours: Wed-Fri noon-5 pm and by appointment. 780-1345.

Congress Square Gallery and Mail 589 Congress St., Portland. The mall/gallery houses ongoing works by over 20 local artists and craftsmen. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-7 pm, Sat noon-7 pm. 775-1485 or 828-4240.

Firehouse Gallery 1 Bristol Rd., Damariscotta. "Stories from the Sea," oil paintings and etchings by John Neville and Joyce Martin Neville, shows through Mon, Sept. 17. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-3 pm. 563-7299.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St., Portland. Opening reception for small abstract paintings by Susan Turner, from 5-8 pm. Shows through Sat, Oct. 20. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

Forty Five Degrees Artisans Gallery 169 Port Rd., Suite 14, Kennebunk. Oil paintings by Ron Bickford, shows through Sat, Sept. 8. Hours: Tues-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-3 pm. 967-4505.

Front Room Gallery 378 Cottage Rd., South Portland. "FORT," paintings by Don Ogier and Pat Corrigan, ceramics by Jon White and sculpture by Steve Welch, shows through Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Wed-Sat 11 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm. 767-9070.

The Gallery at Wigwag Cove Route 123, Harpswell. "Tuscany Revisited," watercolors, monotypes and pulp paintings by Georgeann Kuhl, shows through Sun, Sept. 9. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm, Mon 10 am-5 pm. 833-6081.

Hay Gallery 594 Congress St., Portland. "Medicine Creek: Images from the Prairie," new works by Maine photographer Robert Clements, shows through Sat, Sept. 22. Hours: Tues-Thurs, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Fri 10 am-9 pm. 773-2513.

Hole in the Wall Studioworks 1544 Route 302, Raymond. "Interiors," paintings by Marilyn Blinnhorn; "Faces," metal sculpture by Lou Mastro; "Waterscapes," oil paintings by Wendy Newcomb, show through Sun, Oct. 14. "Art in the Yard 2001," an outdoor sculpture show featuring works by several artists, shows through Mon, Oct. 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Sun 10 am-5 pm. 655-4952.

ICON Contemporary Art 19 Mason St., Brunswick. New paintings by Katherine Bradford and Mark Whetthill, show through Sat, Sept. 22. Paintings, drawings and sculpture by several local artists are ongoing. Call ahead for hours. 725-8157.

Institute of Contemporary Art Maine College of Art Building, 522 Congress St., Portland. "2 Photographers," works by Paul Damato and Brooks Kraft, shows through Thurs, Oct. 18. Hours: Tues-Sun 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 879-5742.

Lewiston-Auburn College Artium Gallery 51 Westminster Street, Lewiston. Opening reception for "Ayan Magee: Undercurrents," monotypes, paintings, collages and sculpture. Thurs, Sept. 13 from 5-7 pm. Shows through Sat, Oct. 27. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm. 782-7228 or 800-639-2919.

Maine Art Gallery Warren Street, Wiscasset. An exhibit of hand-pulled prints by several artists shows through Sun, Sept. 9. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-4 pm, Sun 1-4 pm. 882-7511.

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

The New O'Farrell Gallery 58 Maine St., Brunswick. "The Artist Behind the Myth," plein air paintings by Chris Huntington, and "Nature's Seduction," new paintings by Kristin Malin, show through Tues, Sept. 18. Paintings by Paul Plante are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm. 729-8228.

Old Orchard Beach Gallery 20 Washington Ave., Old Orchard Beach. Photography by Eugene Cole is ongoing. Call ahead for hours. 934-1362.

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

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

Toby Rosenberg Gallery 293 Read St., Portland. Pottery, contemporary American crafts, sculpture and Judaica by various artists are ongoing. Hours: Mon-Fri noon-6 pm, Sat and Sun by chance or by appointment.

Round Top Center for the Arts Business Route 1, Damariscotta. Works on paper and other works from the exhibit "From the Library of the Soul," by Finnish artist Martine Erika Gerberick, show through Mon, Oct. 1. Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-4 pm, Sat noon-4 pm, Sun 1-4 pm. 563-1507.

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

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

University of New England Art Gallery Westbrook Campus Center, 716 Stevens Ave., Portland. "Discovering a North American AfterCulture: Toward an Anthropology of the Future," an exhibit by artist/curator Michael Grech, shows through Sat, Sept. 29. "The First Outdoor: Sculptural Invitational," sculpture by Ed Gamble, Phil Kaelin, Lin Lisberger, Pat Plourde and others, shows through Sat, Oct. 13. Hours: Wed and Fri-Sun 1-4 pm, Thurs 1-7 pm. Free. 797-7261 x4375.

University of Southern Maine Area Gallery Woodbury Campus Center, Bedford Street, Portland. "Back Cove: Heart of Portland," over 40 works by artists, historians, scientists and students exploring the relationship between art and the environment, shows through Sun, Oct. 21. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm. 780-5009.

C.W. White Gallery 656 Congress St., Portland. Artist's reception for recent works on paper by 80-year-old artist Jules Olitski, Sat, Sept. 15 from 5-7 pm. Shows now through Sat, Oct. 13. Hours: Wed-Sat 11 am-6 pm. 871-7282.

Wiscasset Bay Gallery 67 Main St., Wiscasset. "A Time of Innocence and Change: American and European Art of the Nineteenth Century," works by several artists, shows through Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Sun-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Sat 10:30 am-8 pm. 882-7682.

Zero Station 380 Cottage Rd., South Portland. "Invisible Cities," paintings by Catherine Jackson, shows through Sun, Sept. 9. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat and Sun 10 am-5 pm. 767-2788.

UNCLAD CHAPS



"Jorge #3," by James Spada, part of "Edwardian Men: New Vintage Photographs," showing at Radiant Light Gallery through Fri, Oct. 5.

Hot Victorians? Not exactly

James Spada's photographs of naked, "turn-of-the-century" gentlemen give new meaning to the term "public exhibition." Twenty of Spada's vintage-looking nude portraits will show at Portland's Radiant Light Gallery until Oct. 5.

"This new portfolio reflects my love of Victorian and Edwardian decor and architecture," Spada said, while taking a break from his darkroom in Natick, Mass. "I also like the idea of having nude men posing in such settings, because there's a tension between their masculine brawn and the decorative delicacy of the era."

Spada has also written biographies of such gay icons as Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Bette Davis. "I really like dichotomies," he said. "My writing helps me exercise the analytical, detail-minded aspects of my personality, while photography projects like 'Edwardian Men' encourage my artistic, visual and romantic impulses."

Photography has been Spada's main focus of late, and it's paying off. "John and Caroline," his pictorial exploration of the lives of Camelot's photogenic offspring — John and Caroline Kennedy — has been climbing up the *New York Times*' best-seller list in recent weeks.

The portraits in "Edwardian Men" are from his first volume of male nudes, "Black & White Men." Cast in warm, sepia tones, the sumptuously composed photographs remind one of the haunted quality radiating from antique daguerreotypes. "I thought it would be fun to take photographs that people would look at and wonder, 'Is this an old picture or a new picture?'" Spada said.

Nevertheless, the unclad chaps in the photos couldn't be more modern, with their eye-filling, Soloflex-styled physiques. "The sexually overt quality of these pictures is very un-Victorian," he observed. "I've never seen a nude from that period with even a semi-erection, for instance, and some of my models are clearly, shall we say, not unbothered."

As a result, the Radiant Light Gallery can guarantee patrons the pictures on its walls are (forgive me) well hung.

MARK GRIFFIN

"Edwardian Men: New Vintage Photographs," by James Spada, shows at Radiant Light Gallery, 142 High St., Suite 315, Portland, through Fri, Oct. 5. An opening reception takes place Fri, Sept. 7 from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Hours: Thurs-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. After Sat., Sept. 8, hours are Sat. from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. and by appointment. 252-7258.

Visual Arts

museums

Bates College Museum of Art 75 Russell St., Lewiston. "Hyman Bloom: The Lubec Woods," shows Fri, Sept. 14-Wed, Oct. 17. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Free. 725-3275.

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

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

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

* **"Picturing the Artist,"** works in a variety of media from the permanent collection, shows through Sun, Oct. 7.

Maine Maritime Museum 243 Washington St., Bath. "Working the Coast," paintings by Helen St. Clair, R. Valentine Gray, Stephen Etner, Edith A. Sternfeld and Paul Rickert, is ongoing. Hours: 9:30 am-5 pm daily. Admission: \$8.75 \$6 under 17, kids under 6 free. 443-1316.

The Museum of African Tribal Art 122 Spring St., Portland. Headdresses, crest masks and other pieces by the Etoi of Cameroon and Nigeria show through Sat, Sept. 29. "The Spirit of the Igbo Masks," masks and other objects representing over 1,000 years of sub-Saharan history is ongoing. Hours: Tues-Fri 10:30 am-5 pm, Sat 12:30-5 pm. Free. 871-7188.

Ogunquit Museum of American Art 183 Shore Rd., "Neil Wellver: Paintings 1983-2001," an exhibit of large-scale landscape paintings, and "The Paintings of J.J. Enneking," an exhibit of Impressionist paintings, show through Mon, Oct. 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 10:30 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Admission: \$4 (\$3 students and seniors, under 12 free). 646-4909.

Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum At Hubbard Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. "Four Years in the White North: Donald MacMillan's Crocker Land Lecture," glass lantern slides, photographs and lecture notes by the polar explorer, shows through Sat, Dec. 29. Hours: Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. Free. 725-3832.

Portland Harbor Museum at Spring Point Fort Road, South Portland. They Came by Sea: Portland Harbor, a Tourist Destination, an exhibit on the history of Portland's tourist trade, shows through Mon, Dec. 31. Hours: 10 am-4:30 pm daily. Admission: \$3 (\$1 kids 6-16, under 6 free). 799-6337.

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

* **"American Artists Affiliated"** more than 40 "travel" paintings from the 19th and early 20th centuries, shows through Sun, Sept. 16.

* **"American Impressionism: Treasures from the Smithsonian American Art Museum"** shows through Sun, Oct. 21.

* **"Degas, Rodin and Moore: Bronzes by European Masters"** shows through Sun, Sept. 23.

* **"Drawn to the Figure: Works by Sigmund Abeles,"** a collection of drawings, shows Sat, Sept. 8-Sun, Dec. 2.

* **"Open House: Teneo Harbert,"** photographic works inspired by the museum's McEllan-Sweat House, shows Sat, Sept. 8-Sun, Oct. 18. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-5 pm, Thurs 11 am-9 pm. 879-5742.

Saco Museum and Dyer Library 371 Main St., Saco. "Life is Uncertain: Past and Present American Mourning Customs," a collection of jewelry and wreaths, photographs, mourning stationery and clothing, shows Thurs, Sept. 13-Mon, Dec. 31. "On a Very Small Scale," miniature paintings, books, furniture and

ceramics, shows through Thurs, Sept. 20. Hours: Mon-Wed, Fri noon-4 pm; Thurs noon-4 pm and 5-8 pm. Admission: \$4 (\$3 seniors, \$1 students; free Thurs from 5-8 pm). 283-3861.

The Shaker Museum 707 Shaker Rd., New Gloucester. "The Frutiger Will Never Fail: The Sabbathday Lake Shaker Orchards" and "The Sabbathday Lake Shakers and the Rickers of Poland Spring Hotel: A Scrapbook History" show through Sat, Oct. 6. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-4:30 pm. Admission: \$6-\$7.50 (includes tour). 926-4597.

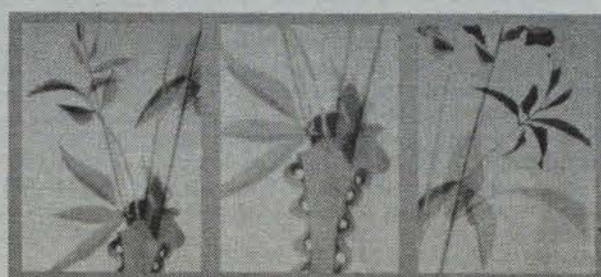
Willowbrook at Newfield Off Route 11, Newfield. The fully restored 19th-century country village museum houses over 10,000 artifacts in its 37 buildings. Hours: 10 am-5 pm daily through Sun, Sept. 30. Admission: \$8 (\$4 students ages 6-18; under 6 free). 793-2784.

other venues

Chocolate Church Arts Center 798 Washington Ave., Bath. "The Culture of Nature: Artists Explore the Environment," interdisciplinary works by 17 artists and two nature writers, shows through Sat, Sept. 22. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-4 pm. 442-8455.

Coffee By Design 620 Congress St., Portland. "Spectrum Dynamics," contemporary fiber art by Cynthia Simonds, shows through Sat, Sept. 8. Hours: Mon-Thurs 6:30 am-8 pm, Fri 6:30 am-9 pm, Sat 7 am-9 pm, Sun 7 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

Coffee By Design 67 India St. and Monument Square, Portland. "Post Insouciance: An Unmeasured Response," paintings by Carl Jensen, shows through Sat, Sept. 8. India Street hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 am-6:00 pm, Sat 6:30 am-5 pm, Sun 8 am-3 pm. 879-2233.



"Wild Bloom from a Friend: A Still Life," a drawing by Freema Kutler Rauh, is part of a show that opens at the Eastland Gallery on Sat, Sept. 8.

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

Falmouth Memorial Library 5 Lunt Rd., Falmouth. "Katherine Brinn: A Memorial Retrospective," various works by the late artist, shows through Sat, Sept. 29. Hours: Tues and Thurs 9:30 am-8 pm, Wed, Fri and Sat 9:30 am-5 pm.

Glickman Family Library University of Southern Maine, Bedford Street and Forest Avenue, Portland. "Road Maps: The American Way," a cartographic exhibit, shows through Thurs, Dec. 20. Hours: Tues 4:30-6 pm, Wed and Thurs 12:30-4:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm. 780-4850.

Local 188 188 State St., Portland. Paintings by Louise Philbrick show through Thurs, Sept. 27. Hours: Tues and Wed 4-10 pm, Thurs-Sat 11 am-10 pm, Sun 9 am-2 pm. 761-7909.

Thomas Memorial Library 6 Scott Dyer Road, Cape Elizabeth. "Indian Summer," oil paintings by Pamela Moulton, shows through Sun, Sept. 30. Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 9 am-5 pm, Tues and Thurs 9 am-8:30 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm (9 am-5 pm after Sept. 7). 799-7720.

events and lectures

Back Cove Tours Marsha Howell leads tours of the history, ecology and art of the Back Cove every other Sat, Sept. 15 and 29 and Oct. 6. Meet at the Back Cove parking lot on Frieble Street Extension at 10 am. The tour finishes at the University of Southern Maine Area Gallery. Tix: by donation. 774-9659.

* **"Exploring the Borders of Art: American Period Frames, 1890-1920"** On Thurs, Sept. 6, frame restoration expert Suzanne Smeaton gives an illustrated lecture on the art of frame re-creation and restoration. At the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, at 6:30 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 6-12). 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

Institute of Contemporary Art Maine College of Art Building, 522 Congress St., Portland. On Wed, Sept. 12, ICA director Mark H.C. Bessire gives a free, guided tour of the exhibit, "2 Photographers: Paul Damato and Brooks Kraft," from 12:15-12:45 pm. 879-5742.

Japanese Puppetry Talk On Sun, Sept. 9, the June Fitzpatrick Gallery at Maine College of Art hosts a talk by Toru Saito on the materials, techniques and theory of traditional Japanese puppetry, at 522 Congress St., Portland, at 1:30 pm. Free. 879-5742 x283 or 772-6828.

* **"American Impressionist Portraits"** Fri, Sept. 7, Portland Museum of Art docent Barbara Schenkel discusses some of the Impressionist works currently showing in the museum. At the PMA, 7 Congress Square. Thurs at 6 pm, Fri at 12:30 pm. Admission: \$6 (\$5 students and seniors, \$1 kids 6-12). 775-6148 or 800-639-4067.

LISTINGS

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

HAPPENINGS

Thursday, Sept 6

Fashion Fling The Ogunquit Playhouse hosts a fashion show to benefit the nursing program at York Hospital, as part of Ogunquit's week-long arts festival, Capriccio 2001. At the Ogunquit Playhouse, Route 1, Ogunquit, at 7 pm (social hour at 6 pm). Tix: \$30. 646-6170.

Friends of Casco Bay Duck Tour The environmental organization sponsors an amphibious Duck tour (a boat/truck modeled after the World War II-era landing craft of Portland and its harbor. Advance registration is required. Tix: \$25 (\$10 under 12). For more details, call 799-8574.

Library Book Sale The Walker Memorial Library holds a two-day book sale to raise money for its Student Scholarship Fund. At the WML, 800 Main St., Westbrook, from 10 am-4 pm both days. Free. 854-0630.

Poet Steve Lanagan The author of "Freezing" reads from his works. At Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 772-4045.

Traveler's Club Members Chuck and Sara Staples show slides and tell stories of their recent trip up Mount Aconcagua in the Argentine Andes. At Maine Audubon's Cislind Farm, 118 Route 1, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 pm. Free. Open to all. 774-6256.

Friday, Sept 7

Contradance The Mere Mortals provide the music, with John McIntire calling. Bring soft-soled shoes. At Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland, from 7:30-11 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$2 kids under 13, under 4 free). 767-3934.

Eastern Wrestling Alliance The Portland-based wrestling group holds several bouts, featuring EWA World Champion Dr. Heresy vs. challenger Adam Booker, as well as Rick Fuller, Larry Huntley, Steve Ramsey, El Tornado, the Damned, Elements of Suicide, the Asian Contingent and more. At Stevens Avenue Armory, 772 Stevens Ave., Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$8-\$10 (\$6-\$8 kids and seniors). 780-1676, 774-8282 or 774-6434.

Elizabeth Peavey and Tanya Whiton, two local writers, give a reading/performance, at Longfellow Books, 1 Monument Way, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. 772-4045.

Library Book Sale See Thurs, Sept 6 for full listing. St. Hyacinth's Family Festival The church hosts a three-day festival featuring a flea market, crafts, raffles, casino tables, cribbage tournaments and more, at 295 Brown St., Westbrook. Fri from 5-10 pm, Sat from 10 am-10 pm, Sun from 7:30 am-2 pm. 854-2003.

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

Saturday, Sept 8

Civil War Re-enactment The Freeport Historical Society holds a two-day Civil War re-enactment, featuring infant demonstrations, life and drum marches, drills, apple cider pressing, guided tours, a performance by the folk band Castlaway and more. At Pettegill Farm, Pettegill Road (off Flying Point Road), Freeport, from 10 am on Sat through 3 pm on Sun. Free; public camping is allowed on the farm's grounds. 865-3170.

Collector Fest 2001 A two-day show by over 100 collectors of sports, cards, Beanie Babies, Pokemon items, comics and more. At the Cumberland County Civic Center, between Spring and Free streets, Portland, from 10 am-3 pm both days. Tix: \$3. 775-3458.

Contradance The Southern Maine Folk Association sponsors a contradance, called by Sue Rosen. At Westcott Hall, Route 115, North Yarmouth. Family barn dance at 6 pm, adult contradance from 8:30 pm-midnight. Tix: \$7. 865-9014 or 232-9042.

La Leche League's World Walk for Breast-feeding

The international nonprofit group's Portland chapter sponsors a half-mile walk, followed by a talk by Pam Leo, to raise funds and awareness for breast-feeding. At Deering Oaks, Portland, at 11 am. Free. 642-3200.

Maine Genealogical Society Meeting The Cape Elizabeth/Portland chapter of the group holds its monthly meeting, open to all, with guest speaker Dr. Joseph Conforti of the University of Southern Maine speaking about "The White Village: Creating and Imagining the New England Town." At Thomas Memorial Library, Scott Dyer Road, Cape Elizabeth, at 1 pm. Free. 767-3684.

Native American Appreciation Days is a two-day festival and pow-wow featuring drumming, dancing, flute playing, guest speakers, craft demonstrations and more. At the Ossipe

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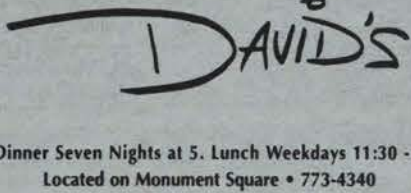
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RUSKIS. Listed by Downeast Magazine as the Place to Go in Portland - Has won #1 Tavern in Portland, #1 Breakfast Spot & others for years. Happy Hour both AM & PM. Full menu all day & night. Smokers welcome. Open Monday-Sat 7am-1am. Sundays 9am-1am. 212 Danforth Street, Portland, 774-7604.
CAFE
BINTLIFF'S AMERICAN CAFE. Serving Brunch Daily 7am-2pm! Featuring... custom omelets, tortillas, specialty benedicts, homemade granola and other American Fusion Cuisine. Full bar and everything is complemented by warm, comfortable Greek Revival surroundings. 98 Portland St (across from the Post Office) 774-0005.
CAFE AT WHARF STREET & THE WINE BAR. Enjoy the popular lobster brie ravioli or pistachio crusted salmon at the Cafe in the historic Old Port. Upstairs, the Wine Bar offers 120 labels on their wine list, with 10 weekly changing wines available by the glass. Open nightly at 5pm. 48 Wharf St. Portland 773-6667.
FRIENDSHIP CAFE. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in a friendly, casual atmosphere. For brunch, over-stuffed omelets, fresh quiche, pancakes and more served all day. Lunch includes a wide variety of soups and sandwiches. Daily lunch and brunch specials are available. Specialty coffee drinks. Rated ***** in Go Magazine. Open Mon-Sat, 7am-2pm, Sun 7:30-2pm. 703 Congress St. in Portland. 871-5005.
MARCUS'S DINER. Serving breakfast & lunch 6-2 daily. Featuring raspberry & choc. chip pancakes, the famous chili & cheese omelet and great burgers. Weekend specials include B.Q. kebabs, Italian sausage & more. Muffins fresh every day. A true Portland diner in the Arts District on the corner of Free & Oak St. 774-9713. Phone orders & take out available.

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BAYOU KITCHEN. Serving cajun and traditional style breakfast & lunch until 2pm daily. Fresh baked biscuits and cornbread go great with a bowl of gumbo or jambalaya. Daily blackboard selections including crawfish or blackened gulf shrimp scrambled into your eggs. See our review at www.foodinportland.com 543 Deering Avenue, Portland. 774-4935.

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ORIENTAL TABLE. Szechuan, Hunan & Cantonese. We will prepare any of our dishes to your liking. We are happy to accommodate your special request; please let us know your preferences. We serve many vegetarian and heart-smart choices. Hrs: Mon-Thu 11:30am-8pm, Fri & Sat 11:30am-9pm, Sunday closed. 106 Exchange St. top of the Old Port Portland Tel: 775-3388. Fax: 772-3388. FOOD *****1/2, SERVICE *****, VALUE FOR THE \$ ***** from Portland Press Herald-Go Cheap Eats, Nov. 2000.
WOK INN. Szechuan, Hunan, Cantonese & Thai. Excellent food, fast and affordable. Choose from more than 150 delicious menu items. Eat in or take out. Delivery to Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gorham, Portland, Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, Yarmouth. Hours: Su-M 11:30am-9:30pm, T-Th 11am-11pm, F-Sa 11am-2am. 1209 Forest Ave., Portland. 797-9052 or 797-9053.

CONTINENTAL
BASIL'S RESTAURANT & LOUNGE. Basil's at the Highlander Inn, features creative continental cuisine as well as an excellent wine selection that offers traditional elegance combined w/ the warmth of home. Whether dining in our glass enclosed veranda, our main dining room, or just enjoying a cocktail in our lounge, you'll be pampered by the friendliness and dedication to excellence in service of our staff. 2 Highlander Way, Manchester, NH. 603.625.6426.


ECLECTIC
BIBO'S MADD APPLE CAFE. Located right next to the Portland Stage Co. at 23 Forest Ave. Bibo's features American Bistro Fare focusing on fresh local ingredients artfully presented. Bibo's also features an extensive eclectic wine list. Serving lunch Wed-Fri 11:30-2, brunch Sun 11:20-3 and dinners Wed-Sat. from 5:30 and Sun. from 4. Rated ***** by Maine Sunday Telegram and 5 plates by foodinportland.com.
BLACK TIE. continues to serve a casual yet intimate lunch Monday through Friday in the Old Port. The take out cafe on Middle St.

offers lunch and dinner, wines, desserts, hostess gifts and more. Try one or all of their locations soon, serving fine fare prepared by Maine's largest catering establishment. Black Tie Cafe - Portland 761-6665; Black Tie To Go - Portland 756-6230.
BROWNE TRADING MARKET. Come to us for all your day to day dining needs! We have an extensive selection of imported and domestic cheeses, including goat and sheep's milk varieties as well as the finest domestic and imported seafood, cut to order, and exquisite caviars. Portland's most extensive wine collection for the thinker, drinker, and collector located on Merrill's Wharf, 262 Commercial St. Portland 775-7560. Open Mon-Sat 10am-6:30pm.
CAFE UFFA. Delicious food served in casual & friendly cafe that features local artists' work. Almond Encrusted Salmon on a Sugar Snap Pea, Vidalia Onion and Butternut Squash Ragout. Beef Tenderloin with Mustard Sauce and Scalloped Potatoes. Asparagus, Wild Mushroom & Corn Risotto. Entrees \$10-\$18. Breakfasts feature creative scrambles and omelets, Maine Blueberry pancakes with real maple syrup, and thick sliced smoked bacon. \$4.50-\$7. Dinners W-Sat 5:30-10pm; Breakfasts Sat. 8am-noon, Sun. 9am-2pm. 190 State St. Portland. 775-3380.
DAVID'S CREATIVE CUISINE. An established Portland favorite, David's offers casual fine dining in a comfortable atmosphere. Featuring nightly specials made with the finest local ingredients, fresh baked bread and professional waitstaff. Extensive wine list, full bar and the best single malt. Scotch selection in Portland. Located on Monument Square across from the Portland Public Library, within walking distance to Merrill Auditorium. Reservations recommended. Lunch 11:30-4 M-F. Dinner 7 nights at 5pm. Sunday night jazz 6-9pm. 773-4340.
GREAT LOST BEAR. Full bar - now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu... sandwiches, soups, salads, platters, lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodlands area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking. 540 Forest Ave. Portland. 772-0300.
PEPPERCLUB. 78 Middle St. Portland. 772-0531. FAX 879-9597. Credit Cards • Free Parking • open 7 nights • chef owned. Changing menu serving world cuisine. Homemade bread and soups. Fresh seafood, organic meat, chicken, vegetarian/vegan - entrees from \$7.95-\$13.95. 18 wines by the glass, organic wine and beer selections. CBD organic coffee, handmade desserts. Now open Sun. & Mon. at 5pm.
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BELLA CUCINA. Alberta's, The Good Egg Cafe, Bella Bella, Zephyr Grill and now Bella Cucina. This one serves "country Italian" whatever that means. Here it means salmon polpettone on shellfish risotto, roasted gnocci with shrimp salad, wood roasted veal chops stuffed with rabbit sausage. Longfellow Square - open every night @ 5pm - free parking behind Joe's Smoke Shop. 100 selection wine list that changes daily, reservations accepted. 653 Congress St. Portland. 828-4033.
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LISTINGS

LISTINGS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27.

parking lot behind Wal-Mart, Route 302, Windham, starting at 8 am. Tix: \$4 (\$3 seniors, \$1 ages 5-12). 892-0065.

Monday, Sept 10

Nature Book Discussion Group Maine Audubon hosts a discussion of late-18th-century nature writer William Bartram's book, "Travels," about his travels throughout the East Coast of the fledgling United States. At Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm, 118 Route 1, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 pm. Free. 781-2330.

Poetry Open Mic The Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance holds an open mic reading featuring Jeri Therault, author of "Corn Dance" and "East of Monhegan." At Local 188, 188 State St, Portland, from 7-9 pm; sign-up starts at 6:30 pm. Free. 729-6333.



Deborah Freedman of the Maine Organization of Storytelling Enthusiasts (MOOSE) tells tall tales at Deering Oaks on Sat, Sept 8 (See listing on page 27).

Tuesday, Sept 11

Open Poetry Reading The Skinny hosts an open mic poetry reading featuring Adam Stone, who reads "poetry for the end of time" before starting a medical experiment in which he will be denied knowledge of the time of day for two months. At the Skinny, 625 Congress St, Portland, at 7:30 pm; sign-up at 7 pm. Tix: \$3 (\$2+). 871-8983.

"Rent Control vs. Increasing the Housing Supply" The Portland Tenants Union sponsors a panel discussion, moderated by Portland City Councilor Tom Kane, on the spiraling cost of rental housing in Portland. At the University of Southern Maine's Campus Center, Bedford Street, Portland, at 7 pm. Free. For more info, call Joe at 874-1140 x319.

Wednesday, Sept 12

Brown Bag Lecture by Jane Hamilton The Wisconsin-based author discusses her fourth novel, "Disobedience," about a lonely high school student in Chicago who accidentally discovers his pianist mother is having an affair with a Ukrainian violinist. At the Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, at noon. Free. 871-1758.

Ongoing

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

Food Not Bombs The group distributes free food to the masses in Monument Square, Portland, every Sun

from 2-4:20 pm. 774-2801.

"Summer Garden Day at Tate House" The 18th-century Tate House offers guided tours of the house and its gardens every Wed through Sept 12. At the Tate House museum, 1270 Westbrook St, Portland. Tours begin at 15 minutes past and 15 minutes before the hour, from 10 am-4 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$4 seniors, \$2 kids). 774-6177.

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

PERFORMING ARTS

auditions/submissions

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

Artists and Writers *Slit*, a magazine focusing on young, feminist and gay issues in and around Portland, seeks submissions from writers and artists based on personal experience. Send to: *Slit*, 88 Cumberland Ave, Apt. 3, Portland, ME 04141, email kzgold@hotmail.com or call 775-5244 or 774-3904.

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

Dancers Esduardo Mariscal is looking for dancers, actors and athletes who are in good shape. No experience necessary. 756-5027.

High School Classical Musicians The Bangor Symphony Orchestra seeks musicians in grades 9-12 for its 20th annual BSO Maine High School Concerto Competition. Cash prizes and a performance with the BSO for the first-place winner. Deadline: Mon, Oct 15. For an application, call 942-5555.

Playwrights The New England Academy of Theatre seeks submissions for the 2002 Short & NEAT One-Act Play Writing Competition. New England residents may submit one play up to 20 minutes in length to: NEAT Administrative Offices, 3013 Dixwell Ave, Hamden, CT 06518, Attn Short & NEAT Y2K. Deadline: Fri, Nov 30, 2001, 203-281-6115 or www.neatct.org.

Poets The Talent Literary Guild holds an amateur poetry contest with a \$1,000 first prize. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 1257 Siskiyew Blvd, PMB 4, Ashland, OR 97520, or visit www.freecontest.com. Deadline: Thurs, Sept 20.

The Quilt While U Can't Collect seeks collaborators and resistors for indecent and political plays. 874-0145.

Red Rocking Chair reading and performance series seeks writers, dancers, musicians and performers for ongoing productions. Send audio or visual recording with SASE to: Speakeasy Productions, PO Box 367, Portland, ME 04112, or e-mail twilton@me.net. 774-8767.

Screenwriters The American Screenwriters Association and *Writer's Digest* hold the 2001 International Screenplay Competition. Grand prize is \$5,000. Open to any English-language script in any genre; writers may submit as many scripts as they wish. Fee: \$50 per script. Deadline: Wed, Oct 31. For more info, visit www.asascreenwriters.com or call Terri Boes at 613-531-2690 x328.

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

Teen-age Actors The Children's Theatre of Maine holds auditions for the Teen Playwrights Contest Ensemble, and for Maine-I-Acts for Teens, on Wed, Sept 12. At the CTM, 317 Marginal Way, Portland, from 6-9 pm. Prepare a short monologue, story or poem. 878-2774.

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

Young Playwrights The Children's Theatre of Maine seeks submissions for its upcoming Young Playwrights Contest (ages 13 and younger) and Teen Playwrights Contest (ages 14-18). Plays may be of any length, but adaptations are not allowed. Plays may be submitted by multiple playwrights. Send to: CTM, P.O. Box 1011, Portland, ME 04104. Deadline: Thurs, Nov 1. 878-2774.

portland PROWLER

CHRIS BUSBY

The forbidding East End Beach

In the three years I've lived within a three-minute walk of Portland's East End Beach, I'd never spent more than three minutes hanging out on its seaweed- and shell-strewn spit of sand.

It's not that I don't like beaches—I love them. I grew up spending a week every Easter at Ocean Isle—a habitable, yet hurricane-battered, sand bar off the North Carolina coast—where I developed my (now considerable) Frisbee skills and got baked. That is, the pesty complexion I emerged with from the womb browned considerably during those family vacations. I'd lighten slightly with subsequent peelings, but Ocean Isle's Easter sun eventually imbued me with a hue others have described as "swarthy," year-round.

In this sense, at least, the beach has made me who I am today. Nevertheless, I avoided East End Beach like a jellyfish.

Because I was afraid of it. For one thing, my fear of broken glass is, for all practical purposes, a full-blown phobia. The "sea glass" I'd seen washed up on the beach still had several thousand washings to go through before it could be considered such to my satisfaction.

Then there's my irrational fear of swimming in the vicinity of what my friend Mike O'Rourke referred to as "finless brown trout." ("Good eatin' on the finless," he'd quip). I feared finless browns would sneak in with storm-sewer overflow or via some secret pipe at the Portland Water District's East End Treatment Facility or through the negligence of some drunken yachtsman ("Man overboard! Har, har, har!"). It happens.

But a few weeks ago, my friend Jacob told me about the great time he'd had hanging out down there. So, the Sunday before Labor Day, I donned my suit, grabbed towel, tapes and a few PBRs and walked down the "other" side of the hill to the water. (Of course, I knew damn well it's illegal to even open an alcoholic beverage in public, but I figured the low-octane PBRs would be better than, say, easily concealed pre-mixed margaritas, which could actually get me drunk and deserving of a ranger's scrutiny.)

Jacob and his wife, Amy, were there, and prepared, when I arrived. They'd brought big blankets, a cooler of beer, spicy sausages and cheese-added brats, a charcoal-fired Smoky Joe grill and too many towels. *CBW* photographer Rachel Sieben brought an enormous boom box with a kitchy Ron Jon surf shop sticker on the side and those big, round paddles people use on the beach. (She'd lost the special little ball. "I thought we could use a rock," she said. We couldn't.)

Jacob and I threw the football around in the water for a while. The bay was a tolerable temperature and, as far as I could tell, free of the dreaded finless. As I dove after the soggy pigskin, making Randy Mossesque catches, I was more concerned with two slimy boulders lurking beneath the surface than anything else. I later realized the rocks were well-exposed during low tide and could easily be removed if the city considered them as much a threat to public safety as, say, open beers.

Making my way back to the blankets, I stepped around the nascent "sea glass," but found the pebbles and mollusk shells equally painful. Somehow, I survived.

Jacob fired up the meat in short order. Fires are not explicitly prohibited on the beach, though, for some odd reason, flotation devices are verboten, as though certain laws of physics must be enforced by human ordinance. As we sprawled on the blankets appreciating the many ways pig-based products were enriching our lives, listening to Lee "Scratch" Perry and semi-surreptitiously swigging beer, I felt as carefree and happy as a kid again. I waved to tourists riding the Narrow Gauge Railroad, and they waved back. I was even at peace with the beach rats that crawled out of the stone wall behind us.

It seemed most of the rest of the city still fears East End Beach the way I once did. The place was all but deserted save for a couple of exhausted kayakers, a few young punks in love, a group of teens with nothing better to do than bury one of their own in sand, and a man with some obvious mental challenges who stood waist-deep in the water for half an hour guffawing in the general direction of nothing in particular.

When I returned to East End Beach a couple nights later, the big board o' rules by the bathrooms had been removed. The season had ended, at least as far as the fuzz was concerned. But as far as I'm concerned, the fun's just begun. *CBW*



No beers, no flotation devices, (almost) no people: A brave soul enjoys East End Beach. PHOTO/RACHEL SIEBEN

MOVIES

"Made"

review

Written and directed by Jon Favreau. Rated R. At Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Temple and Middle Streets, Portland. 772-9751.

Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau, the would-be hipsters from 1996's "Swingers," are back, but this time they're making a decidedly darker scene. The boys try their hands at organized crime in "Made," and two more sorry-assed gangsters you've never seen.

Bobby (Favreau) is a quiet, hard-working guy trying to earn enough money for his stripper girlfriend, Jessica, to quit that line of work. An



Hope and Crosby they ain't. Vince Vaughn (left) and Jon Favreau in "Made."

aspiring boxer, he's also a masochist by day and Jessica's driver/bodyguard by night. His best friend, Ricky (Vaughn), is a loudmouthed deadbeat who screws up everything they do.

The plot kicks in when Bobby punches an overly touchy guy at one of Jessica's bachelor parties, and to pay the resulting dental bills, has to take a money-laundering job for Max (Peter Falk), Jessica's mobster boss. Bobby takes Ricky along, and his friend's big mouth and high-roller pretensions put them both in serious danger.

Max equips the boys with pagers, cash, plane tickets from Los Angeles to New York and strict instructions on whom to contact and how to behave when they get there. Bobby wants to do what they came to do quickly and quietly, and get home safely. Ricky figures they've hit the big time, and proceeds to break every rule Max laid down.

"Made" is a hilarious crime flick that scores on all fronts. Writer/first-time director Favreau's script is on target, every role is well cast, and the comic dynamic between Vaughn and Favreau is priceless. Bobby and Ricky are two painfully ordinary guys way out of their element, and Ricky is among the most overbearing, intolerable characters ever created for the screen.

In fact, Ricky is such a jerk, Bobby's devotion to him is a bit hard to understand, let alone believe. The natural flow of their banter and squabbling rings so true, though, that one can simply accept the relationship at face value. At times they evoke the consummate, bickering married couple, a dynamic vividly driven home in the final moments of the movie.

"Made" is a comedy of manners, with Ricky as the comedic center of the film. Most of the laughs are not slapstick guffaws, but stem from embarrassment humor of the most excruciating kind. I was squirming in my seat as Ricky relentlessly said and did exactly the wrong things at the worst possible times.

Favreau is the ideal, long-suffering straight man. Blessed or cursed with far too much tolerance for Ricky's stupidity, he groans and winces and argues to no avail as his friend spends Max's money like it's going out of style — "This is how we do, and we're doing it all night, baby!" — and strains relations with Max's slick East Coast partner, Ruiz (rapper Sean "Puffy" Combs, in a smoothly executed movie debut).

Ricky goes on to make a shambles of the initial contact with an overseas money-laundering partner, and then becomes convinced Ruiz is setting them up to be killed. Bobby endures heroic levels of embarrassment and anxiety over Ricky's idiotic antics, but finally draws the line, thank heavens, when Ricky insists they need guns.

Favreau keeps the story moving, coaxing excellent performances out of his strong supporting cast. Faizon Love ("Friday"), David O'Hara ("The District" television series) and Vincent Pastore ("The Sopranos") contribute nice bits. The film's climax is stylish and intense.

Throughout, the glue that holds "Made" together is the comic dynamic between the two stars. Vaughn and Favreau are one of the great comic duos of today. It's a pleasure to see them at work.

LENNY SMITH

NEW RELEASES

THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY Jennifer Jason Leigh and Alan Cumming co-direct and star in a film that dissects marriage, friendship and temptation. Occurring over the course of one night, "Anniversary" finds Joe and Sally Therrian celebrating their sixth year of marriage. The pair have invited old friends and recent acquaintances, but an unexpected gift leads to an eruption of painful confessions and dark secrets. **The Movies**

BROTHER Yamamoto, a Japanese mobster, arrives in L.A. to search for his younger brother, only to discover his sibling has become a small-time drug pusher. The two begin establishing a small drug empire of their own, a pursuit that leads to a fateful showdown with the Mafia. **The Movies**

THE CIRCLE Released from prison, seven Iranian women find themselves even more confined by the oppressive rules of the outside world. **The Movies**

ROCK STAR Marky Mark wants to be famous, and this time he doesn't have his mammoth male parts to shoot him to the top. Wahlberg stars as a small-time boy who makes it big as the frontman of an '80s hair band. **Maine Mall Cinema, Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME A woman devises a method for stopping her boyfriend from cheating. **Maine Mall Cinema**

ALSO SHOWING

AMERICAN PIE 2 A year after graduating high school, the libidinous gang from the first film continues its quest for sexual adventure. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB In 1996 guitarist Ry Cooder gathered together some of the greatest names from the history of Cuban music to collaborate on the Grammy-winning album "The Buena Vista Social Club." Cooder's stories of Havana and the musicians hooked director Wim Wenders when the two worked together on Wenders' film "The End of Violence." Essentially a concert film, it also profiles the musicians. Features performances by Ry & Joaquin Cooder, Ibrahim Ferrer, Ruben Gonzales, Eliades Ochoa, Omara Portuondo and Company Segundo. **The Movies**

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN In World War II Greece, the beautiful Pelagia is betrothed to a crass and stinky fisherman. It's a future

she never thought she could escape until meeting Corelli, a handsome Italian soldier with a love for music. But Pelagia's attraction to the charming captain turns to horror when she discovers the military man is really Nicolas Cage, star of "Gone in 60 Seconds." Worse, Pelagia looks into the mirror, only to realize she's Penelope Cruz, star of "Woman on Top." **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6, Maine Mall Cinema**

THE CURSE OF THE JADE SCORPION An insurance investigator (Woody Allen) and a beautiful efficiency expert (Helen Hunt) are hypnotized at an office party, leading the oil-and-water couple to unwittingly begin moonlighting as jewel thieves. **Maine Mall Cinema**

THE DEEP END In Lake Tahoe, a mother tries to cover up a gruesome homicide. Her tangle of lies and deceit is threatened when the murder victim's body suddenly appears. **Maine Mall Cinema**

JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK The two idiosyncratic stars of director Kevin Smith's New Jersey film series including "Clerks," "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma" take center stage as they travel to Hollywood to stop the making of a film based on them. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

LEGALLY BLONDE Though this sounds like the kind of sexist material you'd expect from Harbor Voices, this film actually turns the concept of the ditzy blonde on its head. Reese Witherspoon stars as a sorority girl who gets into Harvard Law School. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

MADE See review this issue. **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

O Its release date held back because of the Columbine shooting, "O" is a modern update of "Othello," directed by Tim Blake Nelson (the droopy-faced member of the Soggy Bottom Boys in "O Brother Where Art Thou?"). The movie's central character, Odin, fights to lead his basketball team to the state championships while preserving his secret relationship with the daughter of the school's headmaster. **Maine Mall Cinema**

THE OTHERS Nicole Kidman is a mother who moves with her children into a "dream home" — an abandoned, peeling domicile so obviously haunted all that's needed is a mail box reading "The Munsters." **Nickelodeon Cinemas 1-6**

THE PRINCESS DIARIES Bubbly high school student Mia discovers she's heir to the throne of a small country. Viewers of the movie discover the reason for hari-kari. **Maine Mall Cinema**

times starting friday

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRI., SEPT. 7, THROUGH THURS., SEPT. 13, EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED. Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

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

TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME (R)
1:10, 3:25, 7:25, 9:35

ROCK STAR (R)
1:20, 4:05, 7:15, 9:50

THE CURSE OF THE JADE SCORPION (PG-13)
1:15, 4:10, 7:30, 9:50

THE DEEP END (R)
1:30, 3:55, 7:25, 9:40

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN (R)
1:30, 3:55, 7:25, 9:40

THE PRINCESS DIARIES (G)
1:20, 4:10, 7:40, 9:40

O (R)
1:25, 3:45, 7:20

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

THE CIRCLE (NR)
SHOWS WED., SEPT. 5-TUES., SEPT. 11
WED.-FRI. 5, 9
SAT.-SUN. 3, 5, 7-MON.-TUES. 5, 7

BROTHER (R)
SHOWS WED., SEPT. 5-TUES., SEPT. 11
WED.-FRI. 7-SAT.-SUN. 1, 9-MON.-TUES. 9

THE ANNIVERSARY PARTY (R)
SHOWS WED., SEPT. 12-TUES., SEPT. 18
WED.-SAT. 5, 7:15, 9:30
SAT.-SUN. MATS 12:30, 2:45
SUN. 7:15, 9:30-MON.-TUES. 5, 7:15, 9:30

BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB (NR)
SHOWS SUN., SEPT. 16 ONLY-5 P.M.

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

ROCK STAR (R)
1:45, 7:10, 9:30

AMERICAN PIE 2 (R)
1:30, 5:20, 9:40

MADE (R)
2, 9

LEGALLY BLONDE (PG-13)
4:30, 6:50

JAY AND SILENT BOB STRIKE BACK (R)
12:50, 3:15, 7:30, 9:45

THE OTHERS (PG-13)
1:45, 4:45, 7:40, 9:50

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN (R)
1:15, 4, 7, 9:35

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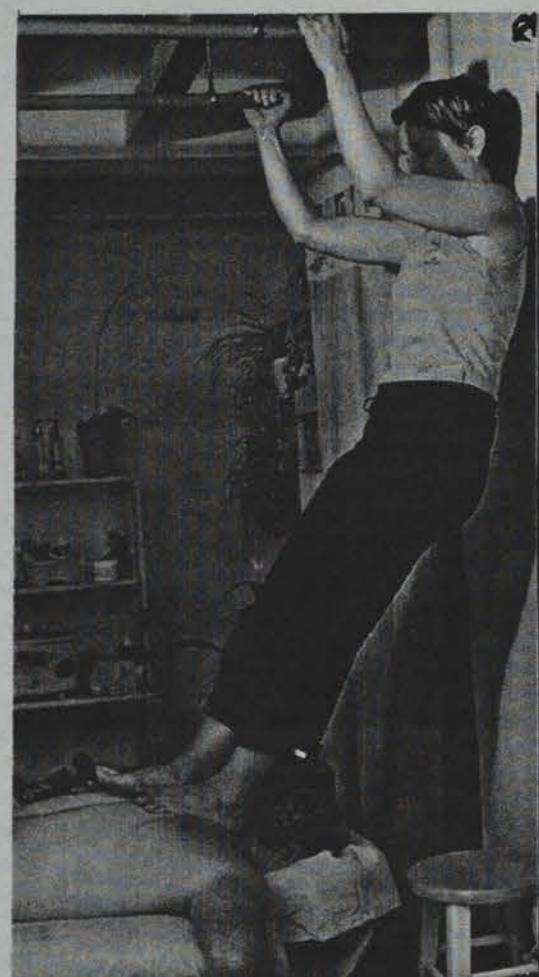
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY - WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6 © 2001

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If I were designing your dream home—which I hope you'll be pushing hard to move into in 2002—I'd be sure to include a two-story master bedroom suite, gym, spa, guest house, swimming pool, gazebo, stereosystem in every room, aquarium, tartan pleyroom, state-of-the-art film theater, terraced garden, and three fountains, all on a lakefront property bordered by cherry trees and a boat dock. But maybe you have a different vision of the sanctuary that would help you feel utterly at home in the world. Aries: Whatever it is, put it in writing and begin fantasizing about it in vivid detail—now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If I were king of the world, I'd banish the archetype of the tormented genius. I'd discourage journalists and biographers from glamorizing the lives of depressed jerks who make great art. Whenever a writer or musician announced that he felt most inspired when miserable, I would unleash the Official Royal Yawn. Unfortunately, I probably won't be king of the world any time soon, so I'll have to pursue a more grassroots approach. Will you Tauruses please help me? You're currently immersed in the most smoothly fertile time of your astrological cycle, so it should come natural. Our patron saint will be singer-songwriter P.J. Harvey. She says: "When I'm contented, I'm more open to receiving a lot of inspiration. I'm most creative when I feel safe and happy."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Right now your life may seem like a loose tangle of disparate threads. But this is merely an illusion designed by God to rouse your passion to create harmony and unity. The proper response to the scattered vibes, then, is not to mourn but to organize. Here's an exercise to get you in the mood. The following five oracles may appear unrelated, but with a little meditation you can weave them together into a web of sweet meaning. 1. More freedom will come from deeper commitment. 2. Don't be a slave to the things you control. 3. Say this as a prayer: "The less I have to prove, the smarter I'll be." 4. A surprising gift will arrive after you give up a supposed asset you don't really need or use. 5. Greater personal power will flow to you as a result of a thoughtful surrender.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sometimes when your future is breaking wide open, it becomes difficult to predict. Now is such a time. I'm almost tempted to believe that you're fate's master, rather than the other way around. Cosmic law seems negotiable in your presence. The dull dictates of conventional wisdom have never been easier to ignore. It's as if you're not quite natural or legal—and yet neither are you a monster or outlaw. It's as if you're primed to violate rules that are morally correct to violate. Under the circumstances, it's a perfect moment to remind you of occultist Aleister Crowley's definition of practical spiritual work: "Magic is the Science and Art of causing Change to occur in conformity with the Will."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): For years I've been an agitator and activist on the left side of the political spectrum. As much I've enjoyed the company of my companions on the quest, I have always been amazed that few of them have mastered the first rule of fomenting revolution. Author Kenneth Eastman sums up it pitifully in his biography of Mahatma Gandhi: "One of the most radical discoveries [Gandhi] was to make in a lifetime of experimentation: in order to transform others, you have to transform yourself." I offer this difficult yet ultimately pleasurable challenge to you, Leo, as you contemplate the innovations you'd love to make in your sphere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Can you thrive as a top dog after all your rehearsals as an underdog? Now that you've finally got an official license to exceed the metaphorical speed limit, will you rashly try to bolt too far, too fast? Given the fact that you've long been in the habit of paying more than your share of dues, is it possible you'll know how to handle your fresh delivery of karmic credit? I pray to the Goddess of Sacred Reversals that you'll come up with the most righteous and robust responses to these questions, Virgo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): To the casual observer, the disproportionate abundance of evil stepmothers in fairy tales is quizzical. Most real stepmothers aren't nasty, scheming, small-minded adversaries, after all. Storyteller Michael Meade provides the best explanation. He says the stepmother is a symbol of the soul's nemesis, and everyone has a nemesis. In fact, everyone "needs" a nemesis to keep them honest, to challenge their assumptions and call their bluffs. That's why I'm pleased that your land of dreams and myth will soon be honored by a visit from a stepmother.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Closing my eyes, I asked my subconscious mind to send me waking dreams that would symbolically portray your astrological aspects for the coming weeks. In the first scene that bubbled up, you were working alone in a laboratory, where you were trying to burn a hole through a huge block of ice with a laser gun. In the second scene, you were performing a fire-eating act while ice skating in front of a large crowd. The third scene showed you inside a large sauna that was surrounded by snow. You were visited there by people from your past and people who I sensed would soon become part of your past. You gave each of them a little speech that resolved your relationship with them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Have you ever considered starting your own religion or think tank or publication? Have you ever dreamed of appearing on all of the televisions in the world simultaneously and delivering a stirring speech translated into 122 languages? Entitled "Be Like Me!" The next few weeks would be a favorable time to get started on an epic scheme like this, or on any other vast, multi-pronged conspiracy that would take many years of careful yet uninhibited planning to carry out. I'm telling you, Sagittarius, your biorhythms are practically begging you to entertain fantasies of wielding fantastic power—especially the kind that would help and inspire many people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The father of my acquaintance Elliot was a professional gambler who figured out an ingenious system, got rich, and retired. For the rest of his life, he spent his fortune hunting down Nazi war criminals and bringing them to trial. Even if you're the kind of person who looks down on gambling as immoral, I bet you'd make an exception in his case. Let this vignette be a seed thought for your meditations, Capricorn. I predict you will soon encounter a comparable challenge to your value system.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider the Greek word "pharmakon." It has several meanings, including poison, scapegoat, recipe, and remedy. All of these happen to be major themes in your life at this time, Aquarius. Oddly enough, they are also interrelated. How? The metaphorical poison you've recently ingested will not, thankfully, hurt you, but will turn out to be a cure for a malady you didn't know you had. And the person who is currently serving as your scapegoat will reveal a valuable recipe for self-transformation if you'll only make yourself a bit more receptive. Hint: The recipe will free the part of your own psyche that feels like a scapegoat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I don't normally like to encourage acquisitive behavior in my readers. However, my reading of the astrological omens suggests you now have cosmic permission to practice a sublime form of grabbiness. I'm almost tempted to call it a spiritually correct greed. Please note that you may not use this as a license to splurge on status symbols. The stuff you amass should be things like fine emotions, uncanny revelations, and exquisite states of awareness. I also encourage you to ask for and gather up colossal amounts of kisses and caresses and love.

Homework: Write a wild rant, lyrical poem, or carefully composed essay on the subject, "What I Learned (and Didn't Learn) This Summer." Write: www.freewillastrology.com.

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

GREAT MOMENTS IN POLITICS: GARY CONDIT MEETS WITH HIS ADVISORS BEFORE THE BIG INTERVIEW...

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GARY--FORGET THE CON-TRITION STUFF! THE VIEWERS WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOU!

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HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

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HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

KEEP IN MIND THAT YOUR CHARISMA AND SUCCESS--NOT TO MENTION YOUR OBVIOUS SEXUAL MAGNETISM--MAY INTIMIDATE VIEWERS! LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE NOT AS PERFECT AS YOU SEEM!

WELL, I'M NOT A PERFECT MAN! I HAVE MADE MISTAKES!

HEY, WHO HASN'T? WE'RE ALL ONLY HUMAN!

HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

HE, UM, DID UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE JOKING, RIGHT?

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TOYOTA CRESSIDA, 1989-4. dr, automatic, 6cyl, 101k original miles. Loaded. California car w/service history. Mint condition. \$3995. 667-2000

TOYOTA TERCEL, 1994-4. speed, 2 door, Blue/Green, 164k miles, CD stereo. Paperwork available. Asking \$2400/B.O. 207-212-6762

VOLVO V70R AND WAGON, 1999-1. top of the line, black, leather, moonroof, winter package, new tires and more. 72k miles, excellent condition. Books \$31,500, selling for \$25,900. 767-1919

VW PASSAT, 1995-6cyl. V6, 5 speed, alloys, moonroof, 6CD, new brakes, bearings, 17 rods. 94K. \$7,500. \$2,800/B.O. 799-4305

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24' SEARAY 220DA. New Mer-cruiser 43XL, 205hp, complete camper canvas, aft cabin, galley, enclosed head, v-berth, new cushions. Great condition, excellent tandem trailer. \$4,500. (207) 633-4959

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women men

"WHERESOEVER SHE WAS, there was Eden." Intelligent, attractive, compassionate Woman, early 40s, seeking life partner. Loves music, dancing, dogs, life! Enjoys moderate outdoor activities. ISO similar Man. If interested in having fun, ready for friendship leading to love, committed LTR, call. #86738

ANTICIPATING NOVELTY. 34-year-old, college-educated, well-traveled, attractive, fit. Successful in my career. Content most days. Seeking Male, 30-43, good looks. Intellect is important. Professional, nonsmoking, mentally/physically fit. Passionate about travel, literature, art, cooking, fun! Ski, don't camp. Love being outside! You? #86845

ARTISTIC, ATTRACTIVE WF, 43, tall, thin, brown hair, brown eyes. Enjoys the arts, outside, dining and the movies. Seeking SWM for relationship, with similar interests. #86761

ATTRACTIVE, SLENDER, athletic, 38-year-old SF, 120 lbs, 5'6", interested in meeting tall, rugged, fit, responsible but capable of craziness, health-conscious, known to occasionally smoke, hardworking and able to play just as hard, passionate personality, does not always have to be predictable. #86762

ATTRACTIVE, FIT, successful, down-to-earth 37-year-old enjoys kids, fitness, hard work, spirituality. Needs a real Man, 35-42, honest, fit, loyal, sensitive, hardworking. Has contracted herpes. No games, call only if you are a Man of class. #86794

ATTRACTIVE, SPORTY Gal would like to play golf with attractive, sporty Fella, 45-55, #86818

BEARDED LADY in a three-ring circus, desires a simple-minded Man to restore a simple life. You: 50+, #86492

BRUNSWICK AREA. 40-year-old, highly affectionate, emotionally/physically fit, enjoys camping, boating, scuba diving and new adventures. You are: in good shape, honest, hardworking, spontaneous, with a great sense of humor, interested in trying new things with a Woman who loves to laugh. #86697

DOMESTIC GODDESS, highly educated, quirky, playful, sensual, artistic, who loves holding the home, cooking and working the land. Seeks enlightened, well-educated, soulful Man, 39-50, to share mutual support, compassion, humor, adventure, forgiveness and cushions for sometimes bumpy journey. #86790

EQUIPMENT LIST: kayak, mountain bike, hiking boots, garden tools, books. DWF, 45, with kids. Seeking active, fit, health-conscious outdoor type for adventure on land or sea. Must be funny, intelligent and playful. #86795

FUN-LOVING SBF, attractive, physically fit, enjoys fine dining, dancing, traveling and long conversations. ISO professional, tall, handsome friend/partner with good sense of humor, financially/emotionally secure and available, race unimportant. #86731

FUN-LOVING SWF, mid-50s, good cook, nice home, likes walking, dancing, movies, dining out, television. Looking for n/s, n/d SWM, mid-50s, with similar interests, for companionship and dating, possible relationship. #86817

I AM seeking a 50-ish to 60-ish, gentle Man who is old enough to know who he is, attractive, intelligent, sensitive, caring, who is able to enjoy the moment and who would appreciate being with a slim, attractive DPF. #86812

ISONUBIAN prince. Honest, fun-loving, 34-year-old, 5'8", 200 lb SWF, red curly hair, big brown eyes, ISO healthy professional SBM who isn't afraid of a relationship with a confident Woman. No games, please. #86810

JUST TURNING 40 and feeling like I'm 20-ish. I'm in reasonably great shape, enjoys all of what the seasons bring. If you're down-to-earth, emotionally/financially secure, enjoy life is a must, let's make some fun happen. #86824

NOT YOUR average SBF. Energetic 32-year-old, domestic traveler. Enjoys loud parties, quiet dinners, active sports, variety of music and learning new things. Seeking n/s SWM, 30-37, with similar interests, positive attitude and good sense of humor. #86837

PASSIONATE, COMPASSIONATE, sensual DWF loves outdoors, meditation, yoga, art, theater, dance, friends. 53, attractive, politically liberal. #86854

PLUS-SIZED DWF, 50, with plus-sized personality, in search of an honest S/DWM, looks and size unimportant, loving heart is. I am very affectionate, hardworking, trustworthy, fun, ready to love and be loved. Enjoy fishing, country rides, music, togetherness, much more. #86621

POET, MYSTIC madwoman constantly seeking love/home with the divine. Constantly frustrated with earthly love yet still searching. #86506

RECIPROCITY. ARE you ready for mature relationship? Elegant, intelligent, focused, creative SB Woman, 36, seeks to develop a monogamous relationship with a n/s, financially independent Man of color, 36-46, who knows what he wants. Is that you? #86711

RETIRE WITH me, eventually to cottage by sea or cabin by lake, to live simply, soulfully, consciously. Intelligent, attractive, petite, active, INFP, awaits compatible, spiritually aware, 60-ish Man willing to risk intimacy, become soulmates, grow old yet stay forever young. #86662

WARM, FIT, fun, attractive DWF seeks professional, available, fearless, patient, monogamous, kind Man, 45-60, to explore uncharted course ahead. Please pack zest for life, positive outlook and willingness to share and risk. #86804

PERSONAL OF THE WEEK

GM, MUSIC LOVER (BROADWAY TO JAZZ) enjoys gardening, yard sales, walks on the beach and theater. Seeking Guy, 45+, smart, talkative, honest and passionate. Personality first, looks secondary. My oceanview I'll share with you. #86814

Winners of PERSONAL OF THE WEEK receive a gift certificate courtesy of Harmon's & Barton's Florist. Certificate must be picked up at 584 Congress St. All personal ads entered. Call in your personal today. 1-800-972-3155

HARMON'S 1-800-SUN-LILY **BARTON'S** 774-5946

SEEKING GENTLEMAN, 50s, who doesn't seek to subordinate Women and who'd be content with one intelligent, educated, musical, intuitive, healthy, spiritually strong, somewhat vegetarian, tall, slender Woman. Non-smoker, nondrinker, no drugs. Essentials: honesty, humor, open communication, forgiveness, mindfulness. #86505

SUN GODDESS, already missing summer. Red/green, fit, 5'8", seeks her soulmate (45-70), writer, compassionate, gardener, into healing, cooking, hiking, belly dancing. You: be a creative artist or musician/carpenter type, be honest, fit, positive, nurturing. #86859

SWF, 24, college-educated, seeking SWM, 25-33, who is educated and emotionally stable. Seeking a meaningful LTR. I enjoy movies, dancing and walks. Looking for someone who is interested in quality time at home or taking off for an unexpected weekend trip. #86618

TIRED OF head games. SWF, 41, large build, seeks fun-loving Man for movies, walks, NASCAR, dancing, cuddling. Desires S/DWM, 38-45, for friendship and LTR. Portland area only. #85762

TRUTH OR dare. Truth: I don't think I would want anybody who might answer this ad. I dare you to prove me wrong. SF, 38, high-energy, quick wit. ISO tall, fit, honest, progressive Man, 35-45, with a fearless heart. #86644

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men women

28-YEAR-OLD SWM in Portland, 6', short dark brown hair, 165 lbs, attractive, creative, nonsmoker. Seeks attractive, caring, stable F for dating. #86825

44-YEAR-OLD SM, 6', healthy, fit, brownish-gray/blue, light drinker, n/s, college graduate. Seeking similar SF for dating, dinner, movies, etc. #86510

45-YEAR-OLD, 5'9", 185 lbs, very romantic, active, athletic DWM, young-acting and young-looking, caring and sensitive. Very passionate in anything I do. Looking for LTR. Looking for someone, 30-45, n/s, who's slim/medium build, attractive and active. #86754

45-YEAR-OLD, 6'1", slim, good-looking, friendly, gentle, seeking slender Female, 20s-30s, ready to have fun inside and outdoors, who can be a little crazy. #86835

48-YEAR-OLD, HIGHLY educated DWM seeks to meet intellectually oriented DPF, 38-45, for friendship first. I'm a gentle, caring and compassionate person with high integrity, looking for a mutually supportive relationship with a Woman who shares these qualities: someone who enjoys the arts, laughing, quiet dinners, good books, Fun-town/Splashtown and stimulating conversations. Shared custody of young children! a plus. #86819

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ARE YOU? intelligent, humorous, witty, adventurous, accepting, left-of-center and fit. Do you question authority and what's normal? If so, then perhaps we should connect. Me: mid-40, fit DWM/ISO of companionship and someone to share this journey with. #86808

ATTRACTIVE 31-YEAR-OLD, blonde/green, 185 lbs, single parent, self-employed in construction. I like honesty, integrity, my children, riding motorcycles, movies, dining. Old Port occasionally. Looking to meet a Woman, 30-42, with children or can't have children. #86840

BACKWARDS Man, around life my turn to and forward move me help to someone for looking. Bounce of lots with, 18-25, Woman a seeking. Conversation good and poetry, museums, theater, art, music enjoys. "Society Poets Dead" in actor the like lot a looks. Fit physically, 180 lbs, 6'2", SWM. Affectionate, poetic, funny, Man backwards. #86752

BEST FRIEND sought by an easygoing SBM, 37, for walks on the beach, movies, dining in/out and quiet times at home. Age, race and looks unimportant. All calls returned. #86699

BLACK LOVE lost, can you find it? SBM, 38, independent, workaholic, very important person, very special person, compassionate, open, love people, nature, a friend, popular, very handsome, big dreamer/thinker. Seeking heavyset WF, 30-45, for travel, getaways, long drives, quiet times, communication. Must be open, aware, true self, honest. #86454

BOYISH WOLF seeks middle-aged Red Riding Hood. WM, 31, attractive, athletic, slim, seeks beautiful, intelligent, shapely, older Woman, 45-55, for no-strings-attached fun. #86441

CHRISTIAN MAN would like to meet a Christian Woman. CM, tall, 49, likes Christian music, the beach, sports, exercise. Would like to meet Christian Woman, same age bracket, York, Cumberland County, who loves the Lord. #86826

CREATIVE LONER. SWM, 38, seeks like-minded companion to build our own private world. N/s, no television, no meat, no God, sharp wit, non-conformity essential. #86687

DJM, YOUTHFUL 60s, fit, active, from Boston, in Portland area two days mid-week, looking for luncheon, museums, sightseeing, walking, companion. #86857

DON'T MISS on this. New to area from Boston, 27-year-old SWM, bleached hair, blue eyes, extremely attractive-looking, loves dining out, dancing, partying on weekends and intimate times at home. Seeking attractive, nice SWF, 21-31, for possible LTR. #86858

DWM, 53, with herpes, creative, affectionate, 5'11", 210 lbs, seeks S/DWF with herpes, smart, affectionate Lady to share life's pleasures, social drinker, n/s, sense of humor, friendship, LTR, conversation, walks, movies, quiet times, biking, outdoor activities. Let's have coffee and talk. #86359

FEMININE GOLF partner, attractive, with romantic inclinations, sought by nice-looking, nice-acting, unconventional Man, 51, home/business owner. Beach and golf vacations South. Greater Portland area south. #86740

HEARD IT through the grapevine that you were looking to meet a tall, handsome, educated, financially secure SWPM, 38, who is miraculously available. Well, here I am home. Pick up the phone and let me come to your emotional rescue. #86856

HEY, YOU! Look no further. SHM, 25, 5'7", 155 lbs, ISO that special person for friendship, maybe more. Enjoys spending time with friends and family or sometimes just likes to sit back at home. If that's you, drop me a line. #86848

HIT I am a 56-year-old Man who likes long walks on the beach, nice country rides. Looking for a wonderful Woman. #86839

PERSONALS

men women

I RESPECT a Woman as an equal. DPBM, 64 looks 54, spiritually centered, n/s, n/d, enjoys body building, walking, listening to music, quiet dinners. Seeking a monogamous relationship with a S/D/F, 45+, n/s, light drinker ok. #86814

I SAW you in a dream. We were living on an island in a house. Only you can make my dreams come true. #86783

I WANT God. I want poetry. I want danger. I want freedom. I want goodness. I want sin. #86785

I'M BACK. 37-year-old SWM, brown/blue, Scorpio, NY native, professional, won't settle for second best, believe in karma, fate and love at first sight. Hate phones and ignorance. Romantic, witty, true and down-to-earth. Dark hair and blues eyes a plus. Looking for partner to share this ride till it ends. #86654

ISO WOMAN with great smile. Likes to laugh. Must have Jeep Wrangler and old hiking boots/mountain bike/kayak/fly rod/backpack/ten/camera/great attitude. One of the above will do. #86833

JUST WONDERING. Working SBM, 5'9", muscular build, would like to confirm a Woman can be trusted while also being mentally stable enough to trust a Man. She would be 23-36, fun-loving, understanding, enjoy cuddling, movies, trying new things. Race unimportant. #86766

LET'S ROCK n' roll. 55 look and act 40. Looking for fit, sincere Lady to date and? DWM, professional. #86718

LOVABLE PRANKSTER, liberal, early 50s, seeks attractive, worldly, intelligent, cultured, fun, slim, spontaneous soul, 35-50, who likes hiking, bicycling, kayaking, traveling, laughing, cuddling, meringue, jazz, salsa, the stars, ethno music and food. Is physically/psychologically well. Let's get together, yah yah yah. #86579

MOUNT DESERT Island bachelor, vigorous, balding, energetic, intuitive, with interests in: art, gardening, Maine history, archaeology, philosophy. Nonsensational lifestyle, self-employed. Enjoys traveling to Europe, museums, beaches, lives in an old farmhouse on the edge of a forest. Seeks girlfriend with similar interests, willing and able to visit Mount Desert Island. Preference for a fit, n/s, dogless vegetarian. #86670

MUSICIAN, SPIRITUAL SWM, 35, 5'9", 150 lbs, brown/green, loves the beach, cooking, romance. Seeking grounded SF, 21-45, n/s, who enjoys all of the above. #86485

NICE GUY seeking nice Gal for a loving committed LTR. 44-year-old, brown/blue, WPM, n/s, honest, trusting, loving, enjoys country music, dancing, dining, movies. You: 33-46, WPM, sense of humor, n/s, have an honest soul, trusting heart, children ok, ready for LTR. #86690

PORTLAND AREA. 35-year-old SWM, 5'9", brown/blue, attractive, easy-going, humorous, enjoys the beach, gardens, etc. Seeking SF, 35+, who is nonsuperficial, for monogamous relationship. #86706

PROCEED to next ad. SWM, early 30s. Mediocre in every conceivable way. Dislikes fresh air, sunlight and proper nutrition. Sensitive to a fault. Too poor to buy your meals or lavish you with useless gifts. Sound good? I dare you. #86838

WE WERE in the jungle. We had access to too much money, too much equipment and little by little, we went insane. Bad chess, worse tennis. Seek W/D/F, 40+. Must believe in myths, metaphor and fairy folk. Peace. #86768

WOMAN OF steel! Be my knight in shining armor and rescue me. If you're happy, funny, smart, attractive, hopeful and able leap tall buildings in a single bound, call me! #86170

WWM FROM Romania, 50, brown/green, n/s, n/d, enjoys romance. Seeking brown-haired Female, 43-45, #86847

PROGRESSIVE SWM, 42, 6'2", 198 lbs, animal rights activist, cyclist, with a good sense of humor. Seeking kind, n/s Woman, 27+, for dinners, movies, long walks, creative outings. Must love dogs. #86757

SEEKING a creative, funny, curious, bright-eyed, wide-smiling Woman, 25-38, I'm 41 look 32, smart, curious, hilarious, an occasional football. Outdoorsy and domestic. Call me, I'm a wonderful companion! #86789

SEEKING LADY, 40s to young 50s, who does not seek to subordinate Men and who will be content with one intelligent, educated, intuitive, healthy, spiritual, somewhat vegetarian Man, n/s, n/d, n/drugs. Essentials: honesty, humor, open communication, forgiveness, mindfulness, monogamous. For friendship. #86550

STRAIGHT-UP ENVIRONMENTAL tech, young SWM, 165 lbs, blue eyes, athletic, like McDuff's Brown, hate Gilligans, college grad. Looking for a fresh Girl with style. Race not an issue. No squares. #86823

SWM, 37, BROWN/BLUE, enjoys swimming, mountain climbing, walking on the beach, watching sunsets/sunrises, seeks SWF, 21-29, smoker ok, n/d, n/drugs. #86806

TALL, ATTRACTIVE fit SWM, 40 independent, articulate, well-educated, seeks a Woman with similar qualities, who, above all, values honesty and integrity. #86748

TANTRIC, INTUITIVE Belfast artist, tall, fit, health-conscious, with eclectic interests, seeks active, slim, emotionally available Female, 38-48. Interests include wine making, travel, outdoor adventures, communication, kayaking and SOH. Let's create some sparks together and experience life's potential. #86834

VERY FUNNY Man seeks independent, fun, funny Woman, 53, 5'9", pretty blue eyes, great smile, excellent attitude, romantic, passionate, happy, healthy. You gotta have a great sense of humor, passion, romance. Not looking for perfect Barbie nor Rosanne. #86683

VESPERTINE: Of or relating to the night. Tall handsome SWPM, 38, financially secure, with varied interests, seeks attractive, vivacious woman to explore the true meaning of love. Take a chance and see what comes your way. #86770

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men men

28-YEAR-OLD SWM, 6'2", 160 lbs, short brown hair, athletic, energetic, fun, outgoing, loves to party. Looking for casual date, possible LTR. #86850

43-YEAR-OLD GM, handsome, sensitive, thinks that reading the Sunday New York Times in bed is romantic. Loves stars at night, the sound of croaking frogs coming through the bedroom window. Seeking Man with passion for romance and life. #86726

51-YEAR-OLD, YOUNG-LOOKING, Brunswick GWM, 5'6", 165 lbs, brown/brown. ISO someone for physical fun and friendship. I'm versatile. Sound good? Call me, I will respond. #85891

BOY-NEXT-DOOR. 25-YEAR-OLD, 6', 150 lbs, brown/blue. Enjoys dining out, dancing, movies. Fun, energetic, spontaneous. Looking for the Boy-next-door with similar interests. #86849

EASYGOING, NICE-LOOKING GWM, 35, 5'6", 140 lbs, looking to meet GM, 20-40, for dating and possible LTR. #86701

I'M a GWM, 29, 5'10", 175 lbs, 32" waist. I am fit, work out three times a week, honest, down-to-earth and good-looking. Looking for long-term relationship. Looking for someone who is fit, good-looking and who is honest. #86743

LOOKING FOR Gay Men to play tennis with. Local to Portland area. All levels welcome. #86599

NEW TO area. 45-year-old, young-looking, active Male seeking same. Let's have lunch. #86841

NEW TO Saco...me. GWM, 39, looking for companionship with Bi/GM. #86518

WANTED: DADDY Bear. GWM, 32, 6'2", black hair, brown eyes. Seeking other GWM, 40-50, for an honest relationship. Hobbies include swimming, working out at the gym, outdoor activities. Seeking someone similar for possible relationship and someone to share good times with. #86502

YOU'LL LIKE me! GWM, 32, brown/blue, 6', 180 lbs, very attractive, healthy, fun, nice personality. Seeks to meet GWM, 24-40, low weight/height, model looks. #86832

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GM, MUSIC lover (broadway to jazz), enjoys gardening, yard sales, walks on the beach and theater. Seeking Guy, 45+, smart, talkative, honest and passionate. Personality first, looks secondary. My oceanview I'll share with you. #86830

GWM, MID-30S, blonde/blue, HIV+, into theater, movies, going out, dinner. Seeking someone who is understanding for dating first, possible LTR if chemistry is right. #86368

GWM, MID-40S, attractive, sensitive, sincere. Loves gardening, swimming, cooking, renovating. ISO GM to build a future with, eventually living rural among our vegetable and flower garden, raspberry and blueberry bushes. Living consciously with our pets, growing old together. #86843

GWM, MID-50S, attractive, slender, seeking Male, 45-60, good physical shape, healthy, who desires a quality life, sharing a homelife centered style with affection, honesty and a variety of activities. Cumberland County or LA area. Definitely no games or obesity. #86681

HONEST, FRIENDLY, attractive GWM, 35, 5'9", 145 lbs, n/s, ISO similar for dating. LTR. Please be 26-42, friendly, attractive, n/s. Prefer Greater Portland, southern Maine but will consider travel. #86655

WE WERE in the jungle. We had access to too much money, too much equipment and little by little, we went insane. Bad chess, worse tennis. Seek W/D/F, 40+. Must believe in myths, metaphor and fairy folk. Peace. #86768

WOMAN OF steel! Be my knight in shining armor and rescue me. If you're happy, funny, smart, attractive, hopeful and able leap tall buildings in a single bound, call me! #86170

WWM FROM Romania, 50, brown/green, n/s, n/d, enjoys romance. Seeking brown-haired Female, 43-45, #86847

friends first

FRIENDSHIP ONLY. SBF, mid-30s, n/s, enjoys fishing, ice skating, bowling. Seeking someone for friendship. #86679

I saw you

SAW YOU at Shop 'n' Save (Backbay) 8/28/01. You: dark long hair, with white top and white jeans, pretty eyes behind glasses. We made eye contact at the express lane. Me: white milk paint shirt and jeans. Could we do coffee? #86851

PASSIONATE, AFFECTIONATE, caring SWM, 49, from Florida, looking for a SF, 18-55, for friendship, possible LTR and possible move to Florida. #17320

ROMANTIC, HANDSOME SWPM, 33, 6'1", dark/dark, sense of humor, enjoys sports, outdoors. Seeks honest S/DWF for dinners, traveling. LTR. (CT) #17317

BE PLEASED and delighted! Sweet, slim, pretty, romantically inclined, gentle SWF seeks intelligent, perceptive Asian or Caucasian SM, 59-69, for friendship, possible romance. Let's meet and see what happens. #17318

COULD we just as well have met at the farmers' market? Vegetarian, 56, with dogs, intelligent, considerate and perceptive. #17345

CUTE SPF, 27, seeks attractive, intelligent SWM for companionship. LTR. Would love to spend days and nights exploring Boston together. #17346

MALE Seeking Female

ALLIED FREE screenings. SWM, 46, seeks progressive, affable SF, 29-57, for summer weekends in western MA. Air-conditioned evenings of Boston cinema and Sunday morning dim sum in Chinatown. #17027

ARMS OPEN. SM, 40s, 5'11", 200 lbs, brown/brown, beard, enjoys camping, music, browsing the mall. Seeking SF, 27-54, for casual, leading to LTR. #17164

FUN-LOVING SWM, 36, never-married, good cook, cool job, nice place. Looking for SWF with same interests. Enjoys music, people watching. #17342

FUNNY, HUMOROUS SBPM, 34, 6'2", seeks S/DWF for friendship, possible LTR. Let's share movies, travel, dining, quiet evenings. #17316

HUMOROUS, HANDSOME, polite, creative, musical SWM, 41, 5'11", 170 lbs, seeks kind, communicative, curvy SWF, 25-49, for mutual smiles. #17351

MASSAGE, ANYONE? Man, 30, with arms and lips, seeks Woman, not possession but a mutual, ongoing, intimate caring between friends. #17330

BOSTON SINGLES

PASSIONATE, AFFECTIONATE, caring SWM, 49, from Florida, looking for a SF, 1

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men seeking

29-YEAR-OLD, MASCULINE, straight-acting B/M, 6', 200 lbs, seeks older 35- to 50-year-old, attractive and educated, dominant B/GW/Couple to show me the ropes. I'm relatively inexperienced but am very eager to try new things. Self-confidence and discretion a must. #90666

32-YEAR-OLD, 5'10", 180 lbs, attractive, clean-cut, straight-acting, smooth, muscular body, seeks slim to well-built, clean-cut, well-endowed Male for oral fun. Drug-free and healthy. Bi Couple welcome. #90710

33-YEAR-OLD M, Married, good-looking, seeking S or Married F for discreet erotic fun, age unimportant. #90491

42-YEAR-OLD, HOT, cute, sexy, attractive, very tall transgender (Male to Female), n/d, n/drugs, n/church, new to Maine. Seeking Male with great personality, for friendship first. #90535

50-YEAR-OLD GWM, top, seeking young, smooth, feminine-acting bottom. Please call. #90684

ARE YOU interested in a different experience? B/MW, 43, nice-looking, healthy, brown/blue, 165 lbs, 5'8", ISO other for mutual physical enjoyment. Absolute discretion a must. Mid-Coast area. #90430

ATTRACTIVE, RESPECTFUL, somewhat older DWM seeks free-spirited, sensual, shy or kinda wild Woman with nice body, share bed/dining, southern beach trip soon. Prior dates, definite mutual click required, physical and otherwise. Plenty of space, time on your own, fun. #90357

ATTRACTIVE, HEALTHY, well-groomed BM, 58, 5'9", 190 lbs, looking for one Male who can give me good oral service! No reciprocity! Just be healthy, well-groomed and know what you're doing. #90663

B/H MAN sought by rugged GWP. Bottom, 6'1", blonde/blue. Gives oral. Steamy fun. Friendship ok. Will travel for right connection. Please call. #90652

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

BIWM LOOKING to join a Couple for intimate fun. I am 5'10", 160 lbs, with athletic build. Very willing to experiment, I love to try new things. #90660

BIWM SEEKING BIF, 25-45, race unimportant. I'm 30s, 5'7", 150 lbs, intelligent, adventurous, attractive, physically fit, healthy, you be, too. Must be W/TH I enjoy outdoors, driving, roller coasters. Looking for a friend and confidant, possibly more. Call if you're curious. #90693

BIWM, 39, 6'1", good-looking, well-endowed and versatile, prefers being bottom. Looking for sexy, fun Guy, 20-40, with good sense of humor, for casual relationship. #90717

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

BIWM, BOTTOM, seeks a well-endowed White or Black top who really gets into being rough and getting and giving long sessions of pleasure. I'm tall, blonde, blue eyes, hairy and well-endowed. Hairy is a plus but well-endowed is a must. #90675

DWM, 43, 6'1", 185 lbs, brown/hazel and beard. Searching for open to sexy times. I'm bi-curious, laid-back. Couples, Bif's, Groups? Always please my partner(s). Look forward to meeting soon, thanks. Drug-free, healthy, you be, too. Can travel. #90668

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

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

LOOKING FOR Single/Married Female for both social and hot sensual companionship. Interests: camping, romantic walks on beach, dining out, movies, auto racing and many more. Me: 5'10", slim build, sense of humor, easygoing. 54-year-old, average looks. You: 25-55, slim to medium build, sense of humor. If you just want to have a good time, be treated good, you should call. All calls will be returned, discreet. Let's talk. #90640

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

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

MID-SUMMER ROMANCE, 31-year-old Guy, 5'7", short brown eyes, blue eyes, good-looking, easygoing, down-to-earth. Looking for fit, attractive Guy who enjoys daytrips, clubs, being spontaneous. No fakes, must be real. #90702

MIDDLE-AGED MALE, tall, athletic, personable, would like to exchange massage with sensual Couple or select Single. Discreet. No strings. #90631

NEVER THOUGHT I would do this. WM, 50, Married, without intimacy, passion or receiving the gentleness of a Woman's touch and open conversation. Although feeling awkward about this, hope to meet a discreet Woman who also seeks occasional shared moments. #90716

NEW TO Portland, Married WM seeks company of good-looking B/M, 25-40, must be healthy and discreet, for friendship, possibly more. #90715

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

men seeking

I'M A hard worker, 35, 5'8", 210 lbs, clean, discreet, smoker, looking for someone to share life's pleasures... what ever happens, happens. Looks are not as important as personality. Must have sense of humor as I like to take life day by day. #90679

ISO LTR. SGWM, 37, 5'9", 160 lbs, versatile top, looking for versatile bottom. Into spontaneous, sexual encounters. Good sense of humor a must. Into working out, good movies, dinner and country rides into the real world. Monogamy a plus. #90634

PASSIONATE, ATTRACTIVE Single 35-year-old, nice body, seeking a romance partner, SF, 21-55. #90718

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

SEEKING COUPLE, Attractive, athletic, straight SWM, 35, business owner, 6', 180 lbs. Interested in meeting attractive, fit, happy Couple or Couple with Female for excellent sexual adventure. Am super healthy and responsive. *blo, you be, too.* #90723

SEEKING DAD to become involved with 44-year-old son in our emotional and physical needs as we pursue unique exciting endeavors of life. #90725

SEEKING FRIENDS, I am a 47-year-old Male looking for easygoing Woman or Couple, n/d, n/drugs, for friendship, fantasy or some nude fun. I am straight but open-minded. #90606

SEPARATED MAN in my 30s, looking for Woman in late 20s to early 30s, in good shape and who likes to have fun in and out of bed. #90669

SINGLES OR Couples who are naturalists. Great-looking, fit WPM, 35, seek other nudist to socialize with. Beach trips, sunbathing, hiking. Sexual preference unimportant, as I am seeking sincere, down-to-earth friend to bare it all with. Let's talk before summer ends. #90687

SWM SEEKING WM for oral pleasures. Would like to share a Man with a Woman. I'm healthy and expect the same. I'm a discreet, straight-acting B/M who would enjoy being with a Male. #90425

SWM, 46, 5'9", 140 lbs, blonde/blue, trying to find dominant Woman to bring out my submissive side. Open-minded, very eager and willing to learn. #90647

SWM, PHYSICALLY fit, healthy, loves outdoors, seeking Female or select Couple for adult pleasure and fun. Must be healthy and open-minded. #90722

SWM, SLIM, fit, nice rear. I have a thing for buxomness as well as long hair. I'd like to meet a Gal for summer fun, possibly more. If you are on the dominant side, it's also good. #90695

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couples seeking

HANDSOME OLDER COUPLE ISO same with whom to share the visual aspects of Hedonism and sexuality. We are normal and fun-loving. He: 6'1", 175 lbs. She: 5'2", 107 lbs. 50+ please, discretion respected and assured. #90706

LET'S MEET and see if friendship along with exciting adult play is for us. I'm a 38-year-old, 5'10", 175 lb, clean-shaven, easygoing Man. Please be similar, discreet Couple. #90726

MARRIED COUPLE looking for Bif or Couple for erotic fun. Male, 34, Female, 31. Healthy and discreet. Not into pain. Pleasure is the goal. Like movies and lingerie, toys, oral. Have a swing. Let's have some fun. #90720

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

MARRIED WHITE COUPLE, bi-curious, ISO Bif/B/Couple to explore fantasies. We are nice people, good-looking, healthy, trim. He: 46, 5'8", 170 lbs, brown/blue, fit, nice body. She: 38, 5'3", 120 lbs, red/blue, nice body. Seeking similar nice people to discreetly play. #90719

MIDDLE-AGED WHITE COUPLE seeks Single/Married Couple, Male for daytime sexual experiences. #90712

MY HUSBAND and I are looking for a neutered. You, too? Be the tick of my life, make me itch! #90724

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

MY WIFE is bi-curious and for her 40th birthday I would like to give her you, along with dinner and a movie. She is 5'2", 110 lbs. I'm seeking a SBWf for an evening out with my wife. #90683

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

SEXY COUPLE, She's 30, 5'5", 115 lbs, blonde/blue, tanned and sexy. He's 40, 6'1", 195 lbs and lots of fun. Looking for other attractive Couples to explore new sexual frontiers. We like anything sexy, wild and fun! Couples only, please! #90690

THREE IS definitely not a crowd, in fact, if you are a Bif looking for a Couple, we are looking for you. #90709

THREESOME, CURIOS! (26) am looking for a 20- to 30-year-old F to join my boyfriend (25) and I for our first threesome experience! Must be discreet and a little naughty. Let's have some fun! #90699

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