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## Casco Bay Weekly : 9 December 1993

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# Casco Bay Weekly



## Brush with reality

Artist Brett Bigbee's surreal clarity uncovers the life beneath the surface. See page 17.

DEC 9, 1993



"OK, so no one in the room has a dog.... Well, how about Boston. Anyone here ever been to Boston?" Self-described "King of Suburbia" Chris Kast tries to warm up a cold room.

## Stand-up or fall down, it ain't as easy as it looks

■ By Chris Kast  
■ Photos by Toney Harbert

My palms are wet, my mouth is dry and a bead of sweat is creeping down my spine to deposit itself at my belt line. I'm standing on a stage no larger than a Jeep Cherokee, and 100 pairs of eyes are staring at me. They're waiting. It's 8:15 Saturday night, and these people have come to the Comedy Connection in Portland to laugh. So what the hell am I doing up here?

A woman in the back coughs nervously and interrupts the painful silence. Then a voice — one that sounds an awful lot like mine — punctures the quiet. "Hi kids, I'm Chris Kast, and I'm here to give you the lowdown on tonight's funny festivities." Some guy who's suffering from Thanksgiving aftershock burps and then mutters something about getting on with it. Oh boy, there's a rocket scientist in the audience. "OK, so I'm a subliminal comic," I say. "You might not laugh now, but later, in the middle of the night, you'll wake up in hysterics and not know why."

That does it. I get a laugh and immediately know that these people are mine. I'm wielding the mighty microphone of ultimate power, and these people have to listen. To me.

I'm still not sure I know how I got here. Just two hours ago I was stuffed in a Japanese station wagon with a wife and two kids, returning from the overeating marathon that is commonly known as Thanksgiving. The ride home had all the usual trap-pings — whining about the trials of family politics, listening to bad radio and singing "Wheels on the Bus" for the 53rd time. So being up on stage in front of people who paid good money to laugh was just about the furthest thing from my mind, but somehow I got here. I pulled into the driveway, unloaded the car, put the kids away, kissed my luggage goodbye and sped from Cape Elizabeth into Portland.

And now here I am in front of the waiting masses, standing in high-intensity light, feeling like some kind of genetically mastered hybrid — sort of a cross between a suspected felon in a line-up and a scared deer caught in the headlights of an oncoming car. Whoo-wee.

And so another foray into the world of stand-up comedy begins.

continued on page 8

SEE AND BE SEEN AT THE PORTLAND ART SCENE. PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 29.

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Frank Long (right, in striped sweater): "We're septuagenarians. One lady asked if that was a disease. We said, 'No, but there ain't no cure for it.'"

## A conversation with Frank Long

Frank Long, 76, of Portland heads a band of five blind musicians known to most as Frank Long and the Boys. (They've also played as the Blind Bombshells and the Grateful Living.) Long, who is not blind, is a retired Unum employee. The Boys are (pictured left to right above) Leo Nichols (71 years old), Charlie McDuffie (83), Oliver Nichols (59), John "J.J." Lee (24) and Jim Conley (73).

The group, which has been together for 11 years, plays mostly at nursing homes around Portland, sometimes doing as many as six gigs a week.

### What instrument do you play?

I don't. I'm the driver and the MC. I tell stale jokes. I say, "The jokes are stale but the music is fresh." That's a good line. That gets them going. I say to the boys, "How about some country? How about 'Golden Slippers'?" And I set up the program. I call

the nursing homes and arrange the dates. I drive a Volkswagen Golf. I put three in back and one in front, and the instruments in the trunk. When we have all five playing, Oliver's wife, Hilda, drives her van.

### What are your most requested songs?

"When Irish Eyes are Smiling," "Beer Barrel Polka," "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "It's a Grand Old Flag," "Give My Regards to Broadway" and "Harrigan." And religious music — "Amazing Grace." And we do "Red Roses For a Blue Lady," and "Please Release Me."

### Do the nursing home residents dance?

Sometimes — the ones who are ambulatory. And they stamp their feet and they smile and they have some expression. Some of these people don't communicate at all during the week, but when we do this '30s and '40s music I see their lips moving.

### What songs get the biggest response?

Polkas and jigs and reels. We have a polka where they contribute. It's called "The Okey Dokey Polka," and what they do is they sing, "Okey dokey, okey dokey, la la la la la," and the boys fill in music in between the okey dokeys, and then when we're ready for the okey dokeys, we give them the signal.

### Anything else in your program?

I tell jokes, too. Whenever we think it's appropriate, we throw in a joke. We always come up with that old one about, "We are a union group. To prove that we're all wearing our union suits." That's 60 years old, but they like that one. Oh, I know one. "The band is a little over the hill. Last night it took a half hour to play the 'Minute Waltz.'" Kind of corny but they like that one.

Sometimes people hear the jokes and they want to leave, and I say, "Hang around. We have music, too."

By Wendy Keeler; photo by Toney Harbert

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# news&views

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## newsreal

A review of the top news stories affecting Greater Portland December 1 through 7

**A Portland lawmaker is being investigated** for illegally filling wetlands. State Rep. Annette Hoglund paid the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) \$1,000 Nov. 29 for violating wetlands regulations, but now Hoglund is the subject of a probe by the Army Corps of Engineers for similar violations.

Hoglund might also face an investigation for proposing a law in 1992 that would have exempted developers like herself from wetlands regulations. Hoglund later withdrew the bill and claimed she was not guilty of any conflict of interest. State officials have declined to comment on whether Hoglund's bill amounted to an ethics violation.

Deputy Attorney General Cab Howard, the state's expert in ethics violations, said he couldn't comment on the case. "It's conceivable it might be the subject of an investigation by the [ethics] commission... [and] even the existence of a possible investigation makes it a crime to talk about [the case]," Howard explained.

DEP Commissioner Dean Marriott also said that Hoglund tried to intimidate members of his staff working on the case. "She called them several times and reminded them of her position in the Legislature... and the fact that she writes the laws that affect our department," Marriott said. "After all these arguments and finger-waving, I said this person is not going to intimidate us and we're not going to back down."

The case centers on a subdivision in Portland's Riverton neighborhood developed by Euclid Ambler Associates. The company is currently run by Hoglund's husband and son, but Hoglund listed the company as a source of her income on a 1993 financial report she filed with the state. She was also described as the company's president in an Oct. 14 letter ordering her to appear in Portland District Court for failing to pay the \$1,000 fine. Hoglund had signed a consent decree Aug. 16, admitting that she had violated wetlands regulations.

The Army Corps of Engineers is now investigating whether more wetlands were filled prior to 1988, when the federal government — not the DEP — had jurisdiction over wetlands protection.

### New Leadership '94 couldn't find any.

A group formed to endorse a progressive candidate for governor next year couldn't reach agreement, so it disbanded. New Leadership '94 — a group of almost 200 liberal activists — interviewed seven candidates over the last year, but remained divided over whom to support.

New Leadership's breakup was a blow to Dick Barringer, a founder of the group and self-proclaimed "progressive, environmental" candidate. Meanwhile, Joe Brennan emerged a winner because the group was viewed as an "Anybody-But-Joe" movement, and it failed to unite behind a rival of Brennan's, said Portland state Rep. Herb Adams (who was not part of the group and is not yet aligned with any of the candidates).

Tom Allen was the first candidate, however, to claim dividends from the group's demise. Allen announced Dec. 7 that five members of New Leadership's steering committee were backing his candidacy.

Ironically, the group was created because progressive Democrats were divided among candidates in the 1992 presidential primary, and New Leadership hoped to unite them behind a single gubernatorial candidate.

"It would have been great to see everyone go in one direction, but no one was surprised that the group might not find common ground," said political consultant Alan Caron, a New Leadership founder.

**Portland received more green for greenery.** The city announced Dec. 6 that it was awarded a \$368,000 federal grant to design and build a shoreline park and trail along the Eastern Promenade. (The city had already garnered a \$1.2 million federal grant to purchase a 30-acre parcel for the trail.)

Alix Hopkins, executive director of Portland Trails, said initial design of the project has already been started by a Yarmouth firm. The design will include bike and pedestrian paths, lighting and benches. Eventually the design will be reviewed by a committee of citizens appointed by the city, Hopkins added. She predicted that construction of the trail will commence by early next summer.

**Workers were back in full force** at Maine's first employee-owned company on Dec. 6. Less than half of the 175 employees at John Roberts Ltd., a Biddeford clothes manufacturer, had worked the previous week because the company didn't have enough money to meet its payroll. But the company filed for bankruptcy protection against its creditors on Dec. 2 and received \$150,000 in loans, enabling it to resume operations.

The company is now negotiating with investors who aim to put another \$500,000 into the business, according to Mike Cavanaugh, regional director of the Clothing and Textile Workers Union. "We hope to come out of [the negotiations] with a business that has enough working capital... to give it a good shot at making it," Cavanaugh said.

The company's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing "enables the new loans and investments to go toward current operating expenses rather than debts," Cavanaugh explained. The company remains employee-owned and no cutbacks in its workforce are anticipated, he added.

### Portlanders will vote to save the balconies

in City Hall Auditorium, if the committee charged with renovating the 81-year-old facility has its way. The committee voted Dec. 6 to adopt a \$8.2 million plan to renovate the hall. But that amount is \$2 million more than what was allotted by a city bond and private donations. So the committee wants voters to approve an additional \$1.5 million for renovations — in a referendum next May — and private donors to pony up an extra \$500,000. Unlike the original \$6.2 million plan, the new plan would save the auditorium's two balconies.

Walter Gallant of the Portland Taxpayer Association opposed the new plan, arguing that the city's taxpayers did their share for the auditorium when they approved a \$3 million bond in 1990. But City Councilor Dick Paulson stressed that another bond might not cost taxpayers anything. Paulson said the committee wants to fund additional renovations through an industrial revenue bond. The burden of repaying such a bond would fall on concertgoers, who would pay a \$1 surcharge on their tickets.

### Gays addressed students in Portland for the first time

since a public flap followed a talk two lesbians gave at Deering High School's Diversity Day in April. Three gay youths spoke to about 70 students at Portland High on Nov. 30, recounting the abuse they endured in Maine high schools. The sometimes violent taunts of classmates led two of the youths to drop out of school, and the third escaped some harassment by graduating early.

The speakers were members of Outright Portland, a group that promotes tolerance of gay people. The group isn't affiliated with the women who addressed Deering High students. And Outright speakers don't discuss sex — like the women did — said advisor James Light.

The Nov. 30 assembly was peaceful, but the weeks leading up to it were not. Parents and administrators argued over a policy Superintendent Tom Edwards developed after the Diversity Day row. "Controversial" discussions, Edwards' policy states, should be "balanced." Some parents said that meant speakers opposed to homosexuality should counter the Outright presenters. But Chuck Morrison, Portland schools' sex education coordinator, said administrators finally "decided that the Outright presentation... was by itself an attempt at balance."

**Sunday River set up train service** from Portland to Bethel. Les Otten, the ski resort's president, said Dec. 1 that the first "Sunday River Express" will leave from the Chapman Industrial Park on Presumpscot Street at 6:45 a.m. on Dec. 26. The train's \$15 round-trip fee will include parking in the 100-car lot and the short bus ride from the Bethel station to the slopes.

Sunday River has an agreement to lease or buy the train from the Indiana Railroad. The train — which will include three passenger coaches, two dining cars, a lounge car and a baggage car — can accommodate 400 passengers.

### weird news

The Los Angeles Times reported that the Novel Café in Santa Monica recently offered Kopi Luwak, the Sumatran coffee reputed to be the most expensive in the world, at \$130 per pound. According to the café's owners, a kangaroo-like animal eats only the "ripest, best" coffee cherries, digests them and excretes them. Then natives pick the beans and wash and process them into Kopi Luwak.

Reported by Bob Young, Stephane Fitch and The Associated Press; illustrated by John Bowdren.



# Maine Ski Express

Vol. 1, No. 5

A Port Sports, Inc. Publication

## X-C is Back

As well as being fun and enjoyable, cross-country skiing has been rated as the number one aerobic exercise in the world. With winter on the way to this region perfect for winter sport, we suggest you get set up with some X-C skiing equipment. Why not enjoy that cold Maine winter?

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## Layering: Winter Dress Code for the 90's

The temperature drops, the snow flies, the wind blows and the sun doesn't shine nearly enough. Maine's cold dark winter is upon us.

So what are you going to do? Hide inside, week after week, cursing each new snowfall. No way!

Get dressed for the occasion. Fight back the gales with winter clothing that works. The concept is called, as most of you are aware, "layering".

There are three key layers: outer, thermal, and under. The outer layer should be a jacket or shell which will repel water and also breath out water vapor (sweat). Entrant, Gore-Tex and wool are examples of materials which are time and weather tested. Look for

a jacket with taped seams, a feature which is standard in the higher tech garments.

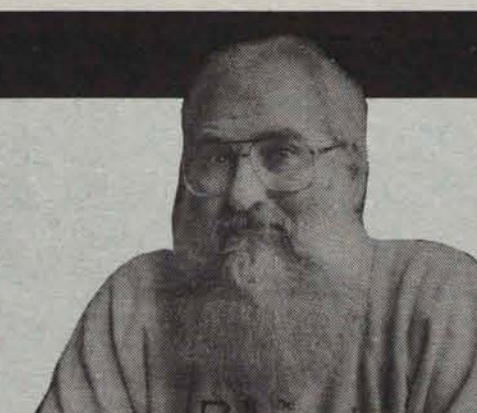
Thermal layers are like the insulation in your house. The key is putting thin insulation only where you need it. Fleece works well because it wicks moisture, dries quickly, and is lightweight.

Finally, the underlayer critical for your comfort and enjoyment. Technical underwear has to be able to transport moisture away from your skin. It also needs to provide a warm, quick drying layer so you stay dry.

So, if you layer up, and get out there, you just might start to like those 20 below days with 30 mile per hour northlies!

## politics & other mistakes

By Al Diamon



### Not fade away

Joe Brannigan is calling it quits. The veteran Democratic state senator from Portland announced this week he won't seek re-election in 1994. But don't count on Brannigan vanishing from politics.

Brannigan will have spent 16 years in the Legislature, including an agonizing stint as chairman of the Appropriations Committee during the worst of the state budget crisis. He made an unsuccessful bid for the Senate presidency last year.

Brannigan said his decision to retire was not a result of the term limits referendum voters approved last month. That measure, which becomes effective in 1996, would have made his next term his last. "Now's the time for me to make a change," he said. "I'd probably have made the same decision even if term limits hadn't passed."

Brannigan said he's leaving because he wants to put more time into his real-world job as director of Shalom House, which runs halfway houses and apartments for the mentally ill. "As a legislator I had to hold back in advocating for mental health services to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest," he said. "Now I can get a lot more involved."

He also intends to stay active politically as a volunteer on Portland City Councilor Tom Allen's gubernatorial campaign. If Allen winds up in the Blaine House, is it likely we'd see Brannigan as his commissioner of mental health or in another key human services position? "I'm not aiming for a job in the next administration," he said. "It's not in my plans."

But quitting wasn't in his plans either. Brannigan vigorously denied rumors that floated around last spring and summer that he'd give up his seat after his current term. He told other Democrats interested in running for the Senate to wait until '96. Now they'll have to change their schedules.

Former Democratic state Rep. Merle Nelson of Falmouth is the most likely candidate. Nelson has run for the state Senate twice without success, but redistricting gives her much friendlier territory to work. Portland City Councilor John McDonough, a Democrat, inquired about the job earlier this year, but after Brannigan said he wasn't budging, McDonough turned his attention to challenging state Rep. Eliza Townsend instead. Whether he'd rather switch back to the Senate remains to be seen.

Democratic state Rep. Annette Hoglund has long lusted after Brannigan's seat, but her recent legal problems may have dampened her ardor. She and her husband recently admitted illegally filling wetlands so they could build houses, but failed to pay a \$1,000 fine until threatened with arrest. She also introduced a bill that would have made what she did legal, but it didn't pass. Some Department of Environmental Protection officials have hinted she tried to use political

pressure to beat the rap. That ought to be enough baggage to render a Senate bid unfeasible and make her re-election to the House far from certain.

### NKOTB

Another person from away wants to represent Munjoy Hill on the Portland City Council. Michael Keever is a 27-year-old advertising salesman for the Guy Gannett Newspapers. Keever is a native of upstate New York and moved to Portland three years ago. He joins law student Alan Stearns, who's from Old Town, in seeking the 1st District seat being given up by Councilor Peter O'Donnell.

Keever lives on the fringe of the district on Commercial Street. That could be a problem for him in winning over voters who have traditionally elected only longtime Hill residents. In the 1960s, some hard-core Hillites wouldn't support Councilor Harold Loring, a lifelong resident, because he lived just below Washington Avenue, an area they didn't consider a true part of their neighborhood.

The Hill also has a tradition of voting for candidates blessed by organized labor. Keever will have to sell more than newspaper ads to convince union members to support somebody who says, "I'd like to see the business community backed more by the council. They ignore the Old Port Restaurant Association and the lack of parking in the Old Port."

That may go over well on Exchange Street, but in the eastern end of town, blue collar voters want to know what can be done to revive Bath Iron Works' Portland facility and increase fishing and shipping. Keever's answer: "Back your businesses and they create jobs."

### Wrong 'em Boyo

The 1993 award for shortest political memory goes to Gov. John McKernan for the statement issued by his office in late November after he was elected chairman of the Republican Governors Association. McKernan predicted the GOP would make major gains in the 1994 elections because, "President Clinton has pushed through the largest tax increase in our nation's history and has failed to deliver on many of his campaign promises."

It may have slipped Jock's mind, but his signature is on the second-largest tax hike in Maine history, a tax hike that came after the 1990 election in which he repeatedly stated the state budget was in good shape and would not need additional revenue.

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Paul Kozlowski winds up on Saturday night at the Comedy Connection: "I was at the dentist the other day.... Anyone here have teeth?"

## The Kinks of Comedy

continued from front page

These adventures as a stand-up comic started as one of those "ok-the-winter's-getting-boring-and-I-need-to-break-this-cycle-of-snowy-monotony-or-I'll-become-a-mass-murderer-in-a-post-office" kind of feelings. Know what I mean?

Actually, I always wanted to try it — not mass murder, stupid, stand-up comedy. I was a borderline class clown and serious loudmouth, so I figured I had the basic skills down pat. It was the getting up in front of people thing that I had to work on. You see, it always struck me that comedians had one of the easiest and coolest jobs you could have on this here big blue marble. How hard could it be to tell a few jokes? I mean Robin Williams makes it look so easy.

Boy, was I in for a very rude awakening. I quickly found out that I was only half-right. Being a comic is definitely a cool job. But it sure ain't easy.

### Man walks into a bar...

I learned that lesson the first time I took the stage and told what I thought was a joke. I got stares. Blank, pale-faced, what-the-hell-are-you-talking-about-chump stares. From a whole roomful of people, one of whom was called Tank. I thought, now what? Should I lead a sing-along of favorite TV show theme songs? Tap dance? Or just run screaming into the night and hide in the woods until the whole thing blows over. Of course, I did what any sane person would have done in a situation like that — I kept telling jokes. And you know what? It got worse. Not only were my jokes falling flatter than tortillas, I was getting heckled. I think I heard someone in the audience say something about tar and feathers and not quitting my day job.

Well now that's a fine kettle of fish, isn't it? There I was sweating bullets, and all these folks could do was make fun of my hard work. Didn't they understand that my joke about how aliens who look like Elvis were found on Mars by a million-dollar space probe was a funny bit?

Not long after the first heckle, I finished my set and said good night. The room was quiet, it was so quiet that you could have heard a pin drop — in South Dakota. How humili-

ating. How maddening. I had to try more.

Yes, I was on the hook. Even though I didn't get any laughs on that first journey into the land of the late-night jokers, I wanted to do more. I wanted to work on material that would actually get laughs. It had to be some kind of latent sadomasochistic complex I was suffering, but I had to explore, to see where the search for the laugh would take me. So I wrote material and made contacts at Catch A Rising Star, a well-known comedy club in Cambridge. I didn't realize at the time that Portland's comedy scene was just getting off the ground and I could have cut the two-hour drive down to about two minutes by doing comedy in Portland.

So I called and wrote and called and wrote the manager of Catch until the hours of nagging paid off and he finally said, "OK, be here next Tuesday at eight o'clock and I'll get you on." Whoa. Ladies and gentlemen, the Eagle had landed. With a wave of his magic telephone receiver, the Catch A Rising Star manager made me one of the few and ever-so-privileged "open-mikers," a person who, for a few minutes of unpaid stage time, will drop everything and head off into the night and the unknown. Was I nervous? Is the Pope gun shy? I was scared shitless. But then I realized since the club was in Cambridge, my chances of knowing anyone in the audience were very slim. So who would care if I made a complete fool of myself? I'd just do my time, and no matter what happened, I'd come back home and tell everyone I killed 'em. Yeah, that's it, I thought.

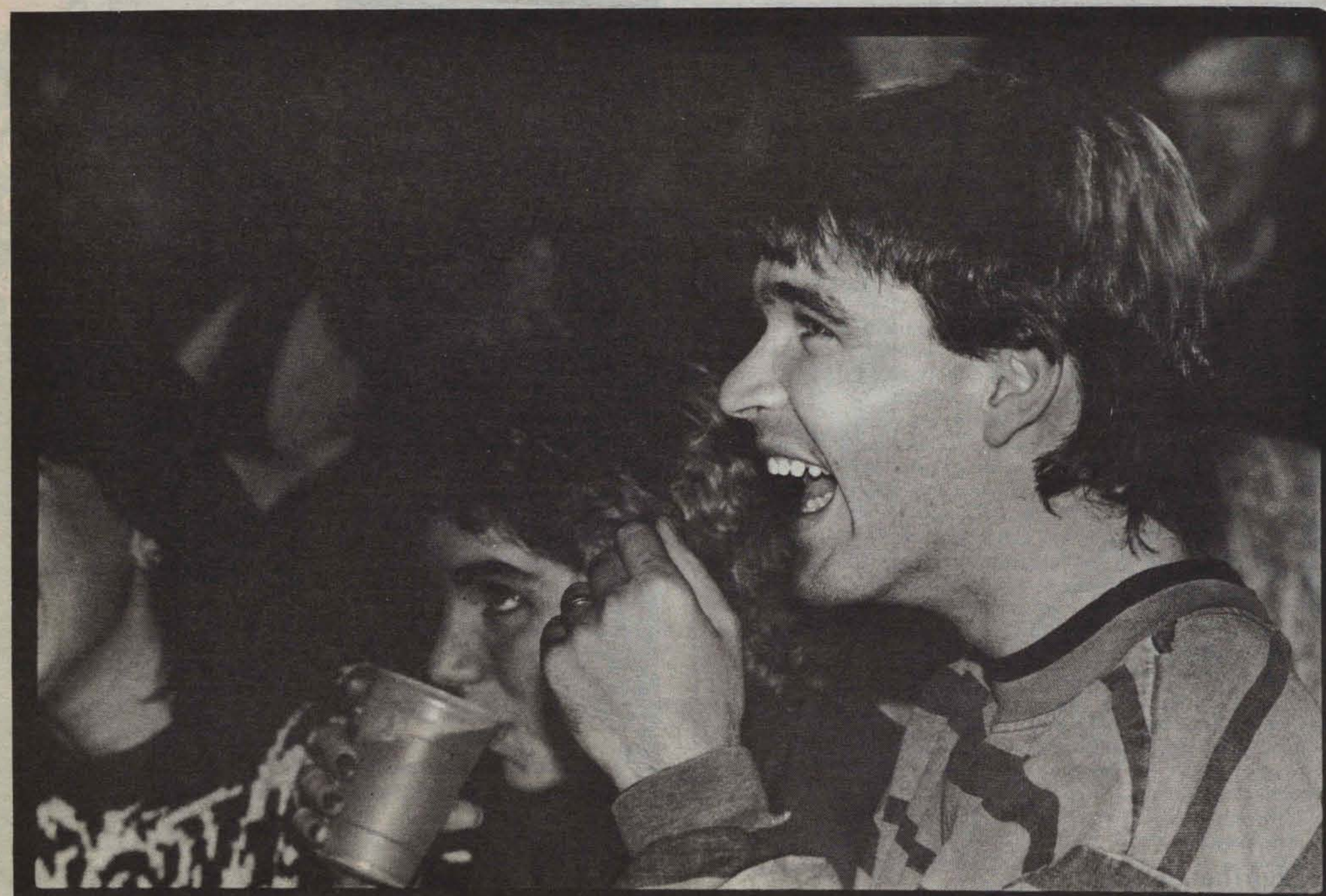
But being a bigmouth, I kinda sort of let it slip to my friends in Boston that I was going to do that comedy thing at Catch. Of course they had to see the debacle. My friends wanted to see me tell jokes. They were fascinated with the prospects of watching me fall flat on my face on stage. A

morbid curiosity — it's kind of like looking at road kill — you don't really want to see it but you can't help looking at it. I, of course, just wanted to add to the difficulty factor of doing comedy in a big city.

I was placed on a bill that featured eight or nine other aspiring comics and given four minutes of stage time. Not a lot of time when you see it on paper, but when you're standing on stage with your



An expansive Bob Marley surveys his domain after a show at the State Theatre.



A patron indicates that he does.

knees shaking, four minutes seems like an eternity. And I was driving four hours just to do those four minutes. What a lunatic. But something odd happened. I got laughs, and much to my surprise, I was asked back. So I started thinking that maybe I had something — or maybe the people in Cambridge like to see people from Maine make fools of themselves.

I must admit that first night at Catch A Rising Star was a strange experience. It made me realize there are thousands of other so-called comics in the area who are itching for that shot at the brass ring: the paying gigs that allow you to make a living as a comic and say sayonara to your day job. There they were, a bunch of comics — men and women — sitting around waiting to be seen and noticed by the club owners, so they could pick up stage time. It's an odd reality to be part of. And I wasn't sure if I had the stomach for the comic posturing — hanging around, making the connections, being animated, making false friends. All in the name of the mighty laugh.

But then it happens. You get an intro and run up on stage to face the angry masses in an attempt to make them laugh. (They may not really be angry, but I tell you, when you're looking at a crowd from up on stage, those folks look mighty pissed.) That's when you realize that all the baggage associated with the scene is crap. Being up there pitching your best jokes and hearing the laughter is what it's about.

But like I said, it's not an easy thing. No matter how funny you think you are or may actually be, it takes a lot to make it as a comic. It's an odd mixture of luck, tenacity, guts and commitment. You've got to be ready to give up your life as you know it and concentrate on getting time. It's not something that can be taken lightly. There are too many struggling comics out there to enter into the arena with a cavalier attitude.

From Catch A Rising Star, I went on to Nick's Comedy Stop in Boston and fell flat on my face. Big room, no laughs. But it didn't stop me from keeping the ball rolling. I hooked up with Portland comics Bob Marley and George Hamm and would occasionally work a room that one or the other was running. I'd get laughs and, much to my delight, get paid. Not a lot of money — usually just enough for gas and a beer — but it made me a professional. And that's a laugh right there because the minute you tell someone that you're a comic they say, "OK, say something funny." Please. When you find out someone's a plastic surgeon, do you ask for an on-the-spot nose job?

But anyway, as I was working I'd also be watching. I'd watch and listen to the other comics and see something in them that I was not sure was in me: the passion and desire to

chuck it all for the shot at the brass ring. Sure, the rush of the stage and the laughter made me think that, just maybe, I had the spark. But then rational reality would kick into the picture. No matter how much I adjusted my dial, there it was. A life. My life. One I enjoyed very much. So the question then became, was the sacrifice worth the fleeting shot at fame? The way I looked at it, my chances for fame and fortune were about the same as my winning the Megabucks — slim to none. Which made the decision for me somewhat obvious. No, it was not worth it. Not at that point.

### No, but seriously folks...

And so I let the comedy muse fall by the wayside and concentrated on being the King of Suburbia. It's always tough to let a dream go. Maybe I'm too old to be a dreamer. Or maybe too tired. Who knows what the real answer is, but I kind of gave up on the spotlight. And now I watch the progress of the comics I know. I see them working around town — at the Comedy Connection and other lesser known ha ha hot spots and hope for the best for them. In fact, I know that both Bob and George are well on their way to being somebodies someday. You can feel it when you see them on stage. They have the spark. A clear fire in the belly that burns and the big "maybe I'm the one" thoughts.

I had been out of touch with my funny self and the local scene for awhile and had retreated back into the real world. But getting back on stage again put me in touch with my friends on the comedy scene and what was happening with them. And things are happening. Marley has moved to Boston and is now a full-time, all-the-time paid comic. He's a funny guy. And as for George, time will tell.

But tonight, here I am at the Comedy Connection, lights beating down on me, eyes staring up at me. You see, I've wangled a few minutes of stage time out of the manager, and my job is to tell people to keep quiet during the show and to be certain to tip the waitstaff. And, me being me, I can't resist a chance at making it funny. So I twist the speech in a giggly manner — I tell the subliminal comic joke and add in the one about how tipping isn't the capital of Hong Kong — and I get a few laughs. And I realize I have that feeling again: the rush that makes you forget the nerves, the stony silences and the competition, the rush that boggles your mind and your life.

So maybe the dream isn't dead... but is it redundant to quit your day job, if you're self-employed?

Chris Kast is a copywriter who lives in Cape Elizabeth.

I was placed on a bill that featured eight or nine other aspiring comics and given four minutes of stage time. Not a lot of time when you see it on paper, but when you're standing on stage with your knees shaking, four minutes seems like an eternity.



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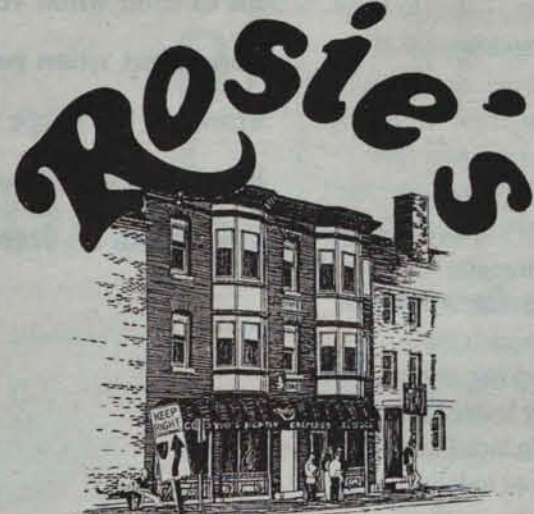
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# Funny business LaughingStock Comedy Company: not in it just for yucks

By J. Barry Mothes

The first sign that Lesley Abrams, Tim Ferrell and Dean Steeves mean business with their comedy is their proposal to set up a 9 a.m. interview. In today's wanna-be-rock-star-famous world of stand-up comedians, that's generally considered the middle of the sleep cycle. You know, time for the working stiffs of the world to start their mundane days.

Then there's their walk-up, loft-style office on Congress Street, which is neat and vaguely professional, like a small graphic design studio or maverick ad agency. There are hardwood floors and generous streams of natural light pouring in. It's a modest office, but it's an office. A comedy office. Says so on the nameplate directory inside the front door just before you climb the carpeted stairs — LaughingStock Comedy Company.

Abrams, Ferrell and Steeves — a trio with deep backgrounds in comedy and comic acting — are working a relatively new sliver of the comedy boom, which started innocently enough in the early '80s with a stand-up renaissance and now so saturates daily life that you can hardly find a conversation without a lifted joke in it somewhere. While the three have loosely collaborated over the last 10 or so years, they officially hooked up last summer to start a full-time comedy company. Their product is humor, but mostly for corporate hire: company outings, annual seminars, sales meetings — hell, even bank closings.

"You can go to New York and labor in clubs doing stand-up and hope someone in the audience [like a producer or

Secretaries. They've traveled throughout New England and New York; they've been flown to Arizona and Florida. Their first job in 1994 is a five-day gig at the Compaq Computer/Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas; and in March, there's a show for Amoco in Orlando.

"We wanted to position ourselves as a different kind of comedy," says Abrams, one of the state's best-known performers, comedy or otherwise, in the 1980s, who co-founded the improvisational comedy team of Abrams and Anderson. "We look at ourselves as a full-service comedy business. We'll wash your windows, check your oil, whatever."

Abrams, who along with Steeves does most of the marketing for the group, has been doing comedy for business audiences off and on for years. She says there's no better time to be trying to sell comedy and humor to businesses and business associations.

"A corporate message delivered with humor is memorable, and I think that's why more and more comedy companies are springing up doing what we're doing," says Abrams. "You have to cut through all the e-mail, the company mission statement, the voice mail... You've got to find ways to cut through it, and I think it's cathartic for people to look at their jobs with a little balance."

LaughingStock is one of a small number of full-time comedy companies in the country who specialize in performing for business clients. While such well-respected groups as Second City in Chicago and the Groundlings do some work for corporate clients, LaughingStock is one of the few companies whose main focus is business audiences.

"What we do is very unusual and unique," says Ferrell, who has been active in improvisational comedy as a performer, director and teacher in Portland for the past four years after working in and around New York. He's been involved in Portland productions like "Big-Breasted Chain-Smoking Girls," "Henry IV, Part I" and weekly comedy series at Little Willie's and The Cave. He's also taught stand-up comedy and improvisational workshops in Portland.

"They [the corporate audiences] have never seen what we do before. They've had the motivational speaker or the hypnotist, but not this kind of comedy. We get them involved. We understand their language, their work culture. We do research about the company and talk to people about their jobs, their bosses, the company's goals. We have all this ammo."

And LaughingStock specializes in using this "ammo" to customize their shows to the client. Weeks or even months before a performance at a meeting or seminar, LaughingStock asks the client for information about themselves — its customers, the company's physical environment, its product, its philosophy. They also make phone calls to managers and employees to get a sense of what's going on at the company and what might be a good source for skits, prompts and one-liners.



Dean Steeves, Tim Ferrell and Lesley Abrams (left to right) of LaughingStock wait for their bus to come in.

director] sees you," says Abrams. "But at this point in my life, I don't want to work clubs where I have to listen to a few drunks talk about my tits. With the business audiences there's a level of appreciation and smartness... and the best thing an improvisational audience can have is a level of smartness."

While hundreds and thousands of aspiring stand-up comedians in Maine and the rest of the country sweat through open-mike nights and comedy laff-off competitions, dreaming of a chance of headlining on weekends and TV and movie appearances, Abrams, Ferrell and Steeves are traveling comedy's version of executive class. No more shows in lousy, smoky side rooms at suburban Chinese restaurants turned into weekend "Komedu Kabarets." They now work partitioned function rooms at resort hotels and arena-sized convention centers. The typical LaughingStock audiences, in suits, office wear or primly casual, are wide-eyed, fluffy and appreciative compared with the hecklers and armchair comics dribbling into most urban comedy clubs.

## And boy, are my arms tired...

Since their August debut at the Maine Festival of the Arts, Abrams, Ferrell and Steeves have performed approximately 30 shows at corporate meetings, conventions and trade shows for companies like Bass Shoe, L.L. Bean, the Massachusetts Lodging Association, the Maine Marine Trade Association and the American Society of Corporate

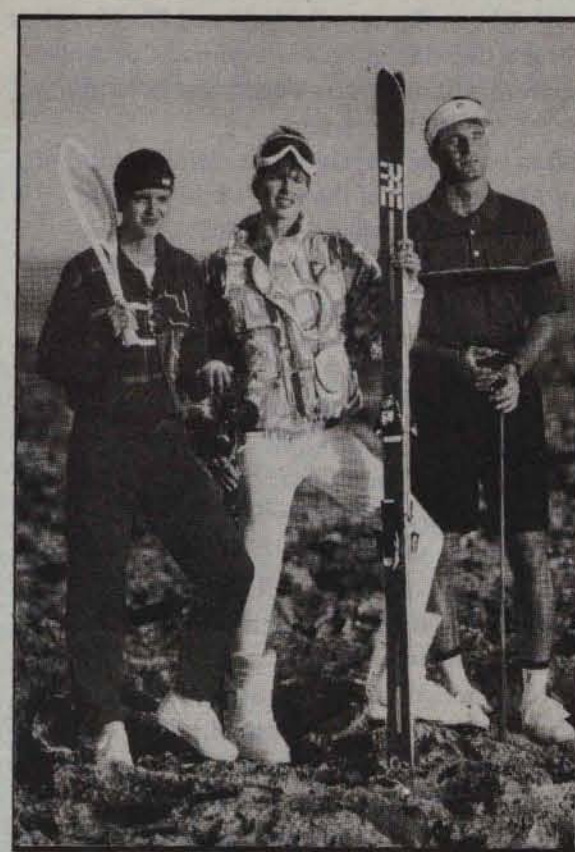
## A funny thing happened on the way to the office...

At larger jobs like the upcoming Compaq show, Abrams, Ferrell and Steeves will perform for three to five minutes as many as 15 times a day on the floor of a massive convention center. They'll pose as a local TV news crew, run game shows, pass themselves off as salespeople or product reps. For smaller one-day shows, they usually perform for 45 minutes after a banquet dinner. In either case, they're working from client and audience input.

"With stand-up comedy, the material is the presentation," says Steeves. "When we do our shows, we explain to our audience we don't know what we're going to do, that we'll create scenes based on their suggestions. Improv ebbs and flows. It's hot and it's not. I think people like to see you try to pull it off."

Abrams, Ferrell and Steeves seem to have found a niche for themselves for now, an important thing in the entertainment business. They've found a way to do spontaneous, goal-oriented, intelligent, "clean" humor (they stay away from sexual material most of the time and rely on profanity even less). With the corporate world being a typically humorless place lacking empathy or a sense of irony, there is a seemingly endless well of raw material and potential clients. "The only things this doesn't lead to," says Abrams, "are fame and TV." CBW





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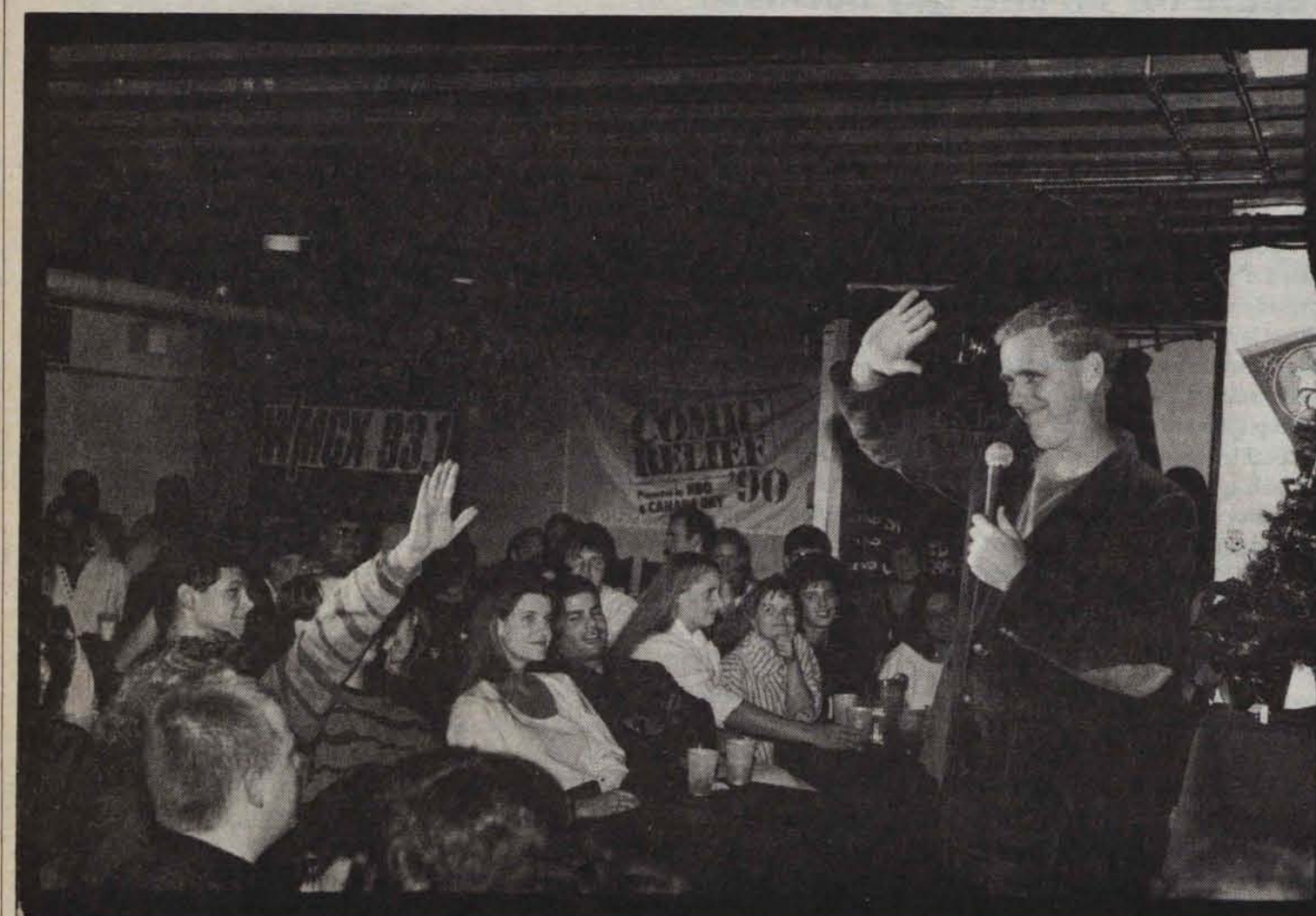
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Boston-based comic Bill Campbell wonders if anyone has ever pondered the lyrics to "I Touch Myself."

## So... anybody here from Portland? Will Portland support a comedy club?

By Wayne Curtis

It's Saturday night at the Comedy Connection in the Old Port, and comic Paul Kozlowski is making interesting noises with his mouth, wrestling with a small Christmas tree, razzing the audience for being so unresponsive ("I'm having more fun than you guys!") and talking about a tractor pull he saw at the Portland Coliseum.

The Portland Coliseum? OK, well, Kozlowski's not a Portland comic. He's from Boston, as are the two other comics on the bill tonight. Like Bill Campbell and Tony Moschetto, he just dropped in to collect a few laughs, earn a few bucks and lure out a crowd on a drizzly, cold night.

There's a formula for a successful comedy club, and it's pretty much the same nationwide. It involves a microphone, a brick wall and three or four name-brand comics appearing Friday and Saturday nights. (It apparently also requires at least two of them to make comments about body hair and penises.)

Portland's Comedy Connection, which opened last May on Wharf Street, has pretty much followed this formula for success. The name and notion was imported from Boston by Oliver Keithly, a 29-year-old entrepreneur who worked eight years at Boston's Comedy Connection, most recently as operations manager. (This granddaddy of New England comedy rooms was established 16 years ago and now has affiliated clubs in Springfield and Weymouth, Mass., and Providence, R.I.) Keithly and his wife, Elizabeth, obtained the rights to the club's name in the state of Maine, and after two years of looking, found just the right spot for their shows: a 120-seat room off the downstairs bar of the Baker's Table.

Keithly says that Portland is a gamble. Cover prices are lower here than in larger cities (admission is \$6 on Thursdays, \$7.50 on weekends), a snowstorm can kill a weekend and many professional comics view Maine as a state populated by humorless puritans who only like comedians who say "ayuh." But so far so good, and judging by the weekend crowds, the club has found a comfortable, prosperous niche.

While comedians with television and film credits bring out the crowds that pay the bills, the Keithlys are also hoping to nurture aspiring local comics by offering them a place to hone their skills. Thursdays are showcase nights, a time for locals (and some visiting Boston comics) to try out new material in front of a paying audience. Showcase nights are usually hosted and run by local-comic-gone-to-Boston Bob Marley. When he's unavailable, the showcase is hosted by George Hamm, another local comic who's starting to appear in Boston clubs.

Marley, who just turned 26, says he learned the art of humor the old-fashioned way: by getting heckled in out-of-

the-way places like Rumford, Presque Isle and Lewiston. For more than a year, the University of Maine at Farmington graduate and three friends—George Hamm, Lisa Karahalios and the late Reno Libby—made cold calls to virtually anybody in the state who had access to a stage, offering to set up a comedy night. About 30 bar, club and campus center managers took them up, and their careers were launched.

"Maine is one of the best places to learn," says Marley. "You can go and give it your best shot, and if you fail, so what? Five guys in Naples don't like you. And after getting stuck in a basement in Lewiston with people yelling and screaming at you, the Boston clubs are a cakewalk." Marley moved to Boston last February and figures he'll have 400 shows under his belt by the end of the year.

With up-and-coming comics fleeing to Boston, will Portland be able to sustain a full-fledged comedy scene? "Everyone is holding their breath to see how the Comedy Connection does," says Tim Ferrell, a comic who reversed the usual migration by abandoning New York for Portland five years ago. "Portland is a very fickle market, there's limited disposable income and there's a lot [of entertainment] to choose from. And if something doesn't go right, the word gets out fast and you'll be playing to an empty house quickly."

But Ferrell insists that Portland has a funny bone. When he first came to town, he advertised an improvisation workshop, a class he had taught in New York. "I figured I would get two people—a work-release person and one other." Instead, he had to turn students away. He's taught some 20 improv workshops and 15 stand-up classes since and says Portland has some talented people.

Portland's whims notwithstanding, a full-time comedy club has to fight a number of other battles—including one against cable television. "There's a comedy club in every tiny city in America because of cable," says Ferrell. "And cable is going to be [comedy's] demise as well." He cites the recent closings of Catch a Rising Star and The Improv in New York as fatalities of cable, which has oversaturated the market with cheap-to-produce comedy, both good and bad.

Marley agrees that too much comedy is bad for business. "You get so many of these comedy shows on cable and guys sitting at home and watching think anyone can do it," he says. "It's not that easy."

But he says the future isn't as bleak as all that and is confident that good comics will always be in demand, even in a place like Portland. "I'm really optimistic," Marley says. "When I started, there was nothing. We were like gypsies. But now we've got a club. And that's a start." **CW**

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## Equal rights activists prepare for an anti-gay backlash

# Facing a hostile climate

"Those who stand up get hit, and with the Clinton Administration we've all stood up. And we're going to get a shellacking."

So said writer and activist John Preston at a Matlovich Society talk last February, shortly after Clinton was inaugurated. Preston was suggesting what the future might hold for gays following a presidential campaign in which gay rights advocates had played their most public role to date.

In the months since, the question of whether Clinton has fully reneged on his campaign promises to gays has been a lively subject for debate. Is don't-ask-don't-tell a step forward or a step back? But at the state and local levels, there's no debate: It's clear that a backlash against gays is underway. And how the majority of Americans respond to this backlash will determine how bad the shellacking.

The rising tide of intolerance is documented in "Hostile Climate," a report released last month by People for the American Way, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest group. Researchers for the group ignored the high-profile national fights over gay rights and focused instead on the anti-gay activities taking place relatively quietly in city halls and statehouses across the nation. And their results? Some 132 state and local battles were documented in 41 states.

Some of the report's findings of intolerance and ignorance cross into the absurd:

■ Rev. Fred Phelps of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., protested the funerals of those who've died from AIDS, picketing them with a sign reading, "God Hates Fags."

■ In Michigan, a state Senate candidate pushed for a statewide anti-gay initiative similar to that passed by Colorado last year. "Somebody has to stop the queers," he explained. "I believe they molest kids eventually... [and] I'm going to stick it to them."

■ The mayor of Melbourne, Iowa, returned home from a gay rights march in Washington, D.C., to find his home vandalized and covered with graffiti. Among the slogans: "No faggots" and "Queers aren't welcome."

■ A dean at the University of New Mexico opposed a gay rights bill by sending out a letter that claimed, "Since the homosexuals cannot reproduce, they must out of necessity recruit... my grandchildren and yours."

Such displays of intimidation are relatively few and far between in the

report. We've at least that to be thankful for. But it's the organized right — not the wild-eyed crazies — who demand more serious attention. Shellac, it turns out, comes in different forms.

State legislatures were among the most popular forums for ballot initiatives restricting gay rights. Nine states — including Maine — are facing drives by anti-gay forces to place restrictive measures on state ballots this year, up from only two in 1992. These lunatic measures aren't attacking sodomites and their brethren. Rather, opponents of gay rights eschew the crude gay-bashing of the movement's early days and opt for a more sophisticated "special rights" strategy.

This strategy involves pointedly avoiding any mention of gays, and instead, comes at the gay rights issue obliquely. Opponents of gay rights have sought a moratorium on all future efforts to protect any group in their proposed amendment, "An Act to Limit Protected Class Status Under Maine Law," for which they are now getting signatures to place it on the November ballot. As CBW News Editor Bob Young suggested in our most recent voter's guide ("Who is Carolyn Cosby?" 10.28.93), such an approach might be termed "anti-gay lite."

The report suggests that Maine isn't the only state to adopt that chilling approach. Floridians may vote on a constitutional amendment next November that will offer protected status based on race, religion, age, marital status and a handful of other characteristics — but not on sexual preference. (One state legislator wondered of gay rights legislation, "What's going to happen next? Is the Ku Klux Klan going to go and ask for special rights?") If passed, the law will overturn existing municipal measures that protect gay rights, just as Maine's law would do here.

How to combat this growing backlash against equal rights? People for the American Way offers a couple of suggestions. The first is for gay rights advocates to cobble together a diverse coalition of supporters, from local police chiefs to the clergy to a broad array of politicians. The second is to appeal to most people's fundamental desire for fairness and tolerance.

Bold and innovative suggestions? Hardly. In fact both were put to good use in Portland's campaign last year to prevent an overturn of our own human rights measure. But it's worth keeping the focus on these simple methods as Maine's campaign heats up in the coming months. Stooping to the nasty lies and mean-spirited tactics employed by anti-gay activists won't advance the cause. (WC)

# When the system works

■ By Andrew Hosch

The opening credits of "Late Show with David Letterman" scrolled across the screen when someone down the hall yelled, "Fire!"

I muted Letterman. Smoke detectors yelped and in the hallway voices cried, "Get out!" I didn't smell any smoke. Was this a joke? Amanda, my fiancée, opened the door to see what was going on. Clouds of black smoke greeted her. "It's for real," she said.

Shirt. Pants. Shoes. No time for socks. Coat. House keys. What about my wallet, that unfinished novel or the turkey soup simmering on the stove? Never mind.

"Let's go," Amanda yelled. One-eleven State Street is a wood Victorian, seasoned for burning. No telling how close the fire was or how quickly it might spread.

People filed out the front door and we followed. Outside, half-dressed tenants on the front lawn watched orange and red embers blow over the roof. Someone said the Portland Fire Department was on the way.

I ran around to the back and saw my Honda, its plastic trim bubbling, not much more than a yard from a burning garbage bin. I picked out the key, made a dash and drove the car clear of the fire.

In the time I'd moved the car, flames had spread to the building's roof and had engulfed the entire back of the building. The fire worked on

three stories of vinyl siding, consuming the wood walls and supports underneath.

Within seconds a hook-and-ladder truck pulled into the parking lot, and firemen set up a hose and began to douse the flames. They ran a second hose from a Spring Street hydrant and a third from State Street through the burning building's hallway and to the back. Firemen appeared on the roof, wearing their oxygen masks.

Most of the flames were quenched within 20 minutes, but smoke continued to billow into the clear night sky. The firemen ripped boards and siding off to reach and put out the remaining embers. The excitement of the evening wound down. We wondered about the soup left on the electric stove; our next door neighbor worried about her kitten. The firemen kept us out of the house because they didn't know if it was still structurally sound.

Then our situation began to sink in. I had no socks, no thermals. In a matter of minutes my entire inventory of worldly possessions was reduced to a T-shirt, jeans and a coat. Most of the other tenants were in similar predicaments.

As the fire smoldered, a chaplain with the fire department, Rev. John R. Hilbelink, took tenants' names and asked if they had a place to stay. Amanda and I didn't. Hilbelink said he'd call the American Red Cross.

This was a surprise. The Red Cross always crops up in news accounts helping victims of

catastrophic events like hurricanes and floods. But a simple apartment fire? I didn't know minor disasters qualified for aid.

A man named Timothy (I never learned his last name) soon arrived in a Red Cross van. We imagined being ferried to a cot in a shelter. But he offered to put us up in a hotel, for a week if necessary. And, he told us, we'd get three free meals a day at Denny's.

By 2:00 a.m., less than three hours after the first cry of fire, a family of four, three other tenants and Amanda and I were in the Susse Chalet on Park Avenue. We were registered for seven days, compliments of the American Red Cross.

Sitting in the hotel, the questions piled up. When would we be able to get back in to our apartment? What about my wallet? Timothy gave us a booklet that detailed what to do for the next week. The answers were there, from getting clothing to canceling credit cards. He promised to do a follow-up later in the week to see how we were doing.

It was 3:30 a.m. Exhausted, Amanda and I took our vouchers to Denny's. And we commented on one thing: During the whole episode no one had used the words "victim" or "hero." Everyone did their job. The system worked.

Andrew Hosch moved to Portland from New Orleans two months ago.

## Photo insensitive

I am writing in response to the J.L. Coombs ad in your newspaper (11.18.93). It features a photograph of a toddler wearing boots and a grin — and nothing else.

Aren't there legal constraints against exposing a child's genitals in the media? The photo would have had the same impact if the child wore a droopy diaper. Why was it necessary to expose his penis?

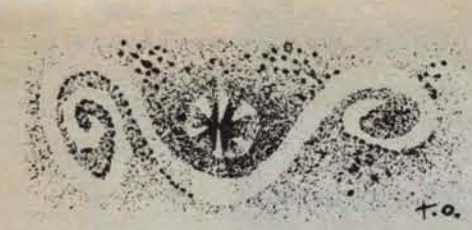
Many of us are healing from the effects of childhood sexual abuse. The news is full of stories of children who have been raped. Victims of child abuse are taught that it's not okay to say no to adults and that their bodies

do not belong to them. And this photo shows that society condones these messages.

Sure, the picture would be cute in a family album. All of us have a bathtub photo of ourselves that our parents insist on showing to all their friends or to our potential spouses. But I think it's totally inappropriate for a weekly paper, especially CBW. CBW is a newspaper that speaks out about the homeless and disadvantaged, gay rights and discrimination, people on welfare and battered women. So I'm surprised and disappointed that you ran an ad that exploits a child this way.

I hope that you will pull the ad. Any money you or J.L. Coombs make on it is dirty money.

Kathleen M. Bailey  
Kathleen M. Bailey  
Portland



## Ad perpetuates abuse

I am writing in response to a recent advertisement by J.L. Coombs in your Nov. 18 issue.

With all the recent discussion around child abuse, I am appalled that your publication deems it proper to expose a young child in a naked frontal view. I am sure your intention was to show a cute child playing with an adult's shoes.

I believe the human body is a beautiful creation, in particular that of a child. However, that nakedness should be the right of the individual to display as they see fit. You and I can choose to be naked whenever we wish, with whom we wish and wherever we wish, good taste and social mores notwithstanding.

While this ad portrays a beautiful young child, I am disappointed that you chose to perpetuate the kind of abuse that currently prevails in our society. I hope that this was an oversight on your part and not a decision that this ad was proper and will continue to run. A written response in your publication would be appropriate.

Nick Alfiero  
Nick Alfiero  
Cape Elizabeth



## Conversion plan naive

Your "welfare for welders" editorial ("Welfare for welders is better than arms exports," 11.25.93) touches all of the issues, but shallowly. You imply that choosing to build a warship for export somehow delays conversion efforts. Should we then, in order to convert even faster, also decide to stop building warships for the United States? In fact, long- and short-term goals are not mutually exclusive. Deciding to build one more ship need deter no conversion effort.

Your "real solution" for transition to nonmilitary production is the same incredibly naive suggestion put forward by Tom Andrews. We should tell (you say demand) all of the successful commercial shipbuilding countries to stop their subsidies. They are supposed to do it our way (which has not been so successful) because we want them to. They would like us to stop our government subsidies on tobacco production, which exports cheap bad health to the world. They would also appreciate removal of sugar, honey and many other subsidies. Will they stop theirs any faster than we do ours?

Most of BIW's production has been 100 percent government subsidized. After paying for a warship, we pay for its operation, fuel, maintenance and staffing for its life. Would it really be a bad idea to pay a much smaller commercial ship subsidy, which might be phased down as we became competitive? Such a use of funds is probably the best conversion plan.

A decision is a choice between alternatives. The alternatives were to support building a military ship here for export, or not to. The choice not to did nothing to forward conversion, or to stop the ship being built. It will simply go elsewhere along with the jobs and profits. Andrews' position is high minded and laudable. The specific decision is naive and accomplishes nothing positive.

Hugh Nazor  
Hugh Nazor  
Portland

## Wearing fur's pathetic

Calling all Neanderthal Women! This is exactly the image Jane Sperlazzi projects — in reference to her repulsive photograph (Talk 11.11.93).

From a male's perspective, I cannot believe any modern-day woman would demean herself by wearing fur. Today's woman does not need to "look expensive" in order to affirm her success, nor is she dependent on vanity symbols, nor is her purpose in life in pleasing a man's egotism by wearing fur for "him."

Indeed, women no longer need lavish attachments to cling to for recognition; moreover, fur only cheapens the image of women. It is compassion of the heart that counts,

along with the intelligence to see that fur is a sad relic of the past, when men used fur to stamp their women with ownership and possession. Truly, wearing fur is an ugly vestige of women's dependence upon men.

Furthermore, "cruelty-free" is in vogue today; just imagine an animal suffering and slowly dying in a leg-hold trap so Jane, and women like her, could flaunt her ostentation — how pathetic.

Ruth Ellen  
Robert Allen  
Cumberland

## Getting pelted

Jane Sperlazzi apparently did not have all her "facts" straight for your interviewer (11.11.93). Aretha Franklin received quite a bit of flack for wearing a sable coat during the January 1993 inaugural festivities. Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the other hand, had the sensitivity not to wear fur.

Ms. Sperlazzi also claims fur is environmentally friendly. In fact, fur factory farmers use precious natural resources to feed, kill, transport and "process" the animals they raise in crowded, filthy cages. All the energy that goes into raising, killing and processing animals adds up, resulting in a fur coat that takes more than 7 million British thermal units (BTUs) to make, whereas a fake fur garment requires under 200,000 BTUs.

The dyes and other solutions used in the production of fur coats can be toxic. The Environmental Protection Agency fined six firms over \$2 million for hazardous waste violations.

Furriers can spout off all the rationalizations they can think of, but there is really no excuse for wearing fur.

Christine Jackson  
Christine Jackson  
People for the Ethical Treatment  
of Animals



## Censorship in public radio & TV

William Kennedy's letter criticizing the National Public Radio (NPR) broadcasts of the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) World News (11.11.93) and the two answering letters defending them (11.25.93) all miss the point that both the so-called "free" U.S. media and the censored BBC are full of self-censorship. No one who listens to NPR — either "Morning Edition," "All Things Considered" or the BBC "World News" — should think they are getting the "whole" story just because the pieces are longer than they are in the corporate-owned commercial media. (However, Gale Ross' dig at U.S. chauvinism about our political system is on target.)

Listeners could ask themselves from whose point of view the news report is being made. Is it from a pro-industry, pro-Western "democracy," pro-European Community point of view? Do we get to hear about what goes on in the world apart from how it affects or might affect "our" strategic interests?

The corporate-owned major U.S. media and the corporate-supported public radio and public television (Maine Yankee and Blue Cross/Blue Shield on public radio; General Electric on public television, among other energy, "health," and weapons-producing companies) do not allow that kind of questioning. Journalists, if they haven't already stopped thinking up "dangerous" (read: uncomfortable for business) questions, become adept at self-censorship.

Why do we hear only now about the U.S. arms dealing to Iraq? Why are the U.S.-funded atrocities in El Salvador a new story? Why has the establishment media not let on that NAFTA would be a windfall for business owners while weakening workers' safety and wages and harming the environment? Well, it's just not in our (corporate America's) interest to be told. Journalists who value their paychecks will go along.

Ruth Elkin  
Ruth Elkin  
Portland

## Stop walking to Sugarloaf

I loved your attention to winter (Winter Handbook 11.18.93), but you really ought to stop walking to Sugarloaf. It only takes but a mere two hours and 15 minutes from Portland curbside to the Loaf's slopeside in a law-abiding car. Pull out your gazetteer and take your pick. There are all sorts of golden roads leading to the mountain.

Jim Ahearne  
Jim Ahearne  
Portland

## A sorry affair

I'd like to ditto Mr. White's thoughts on the frightening outcome of café no (Letters 11.18.93) and its stature as the best cultural center Portland has to offer.

One reason I feel why the no couldn't economically survive (I've heard several complaints about this) was that its dark outside location was foreboding. Second, the empty parking lot on Danforth, west of the no, in the feigned spirit of democracy was off limits to public access. Both points ought, no doubt, to reanimate the sorry psychological affair this country is ruttin' in.

Randall Green  
Randall Green  
Portland



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please limit your thoughts to 300 words, include a daytime phone number and address to: Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 551A Congress St., Portland, ME 04101

Casco Bay  
Weekly

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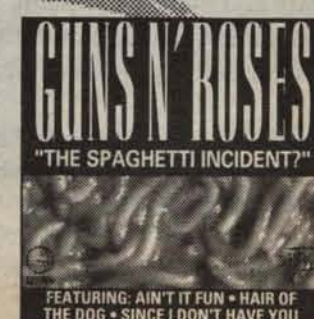
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# art & soul

silver screen 20  
"The Piano" 21  
10-day calendar 22  
"Twelfth Night" 25  
clubs 26

*Perspectives  
in reality*



"Foreside" (oil on canvas, 48 1/4" x 43 1/4", 1993).

*The mystical  
world of artist  
Brett Bigbee*

■ By Margot Brown McWilliams  
■ Photos by Bernard C. Meyers

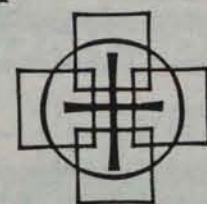
The scene you see before you, lying mutely on a stretched piece of canvas, is unnerving. It rattles because it belies the truth of its existence. Logic informs you that the scene consists of pigment applied, by means of a brush, onto a large piece of canvas that's hanging on the wall of an art museum. Therefore, it must be a painting — merely a painting.

Yet the hairs at the nape of your neck prick. For the eyes that stare solemnly into yours are the eyes of someone real. They convey — at the same time that they conceal — real thoughts, real emotions and hints of the subject's real history. You are not looking at the eyes in a painting; you're looking into the eyes of a person.



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Art & Soul continued from page 17

## Perspectives in reality

The drawings and paintings of Portland artist Brett Bigbee are equally unnerving for their paradoxical unreality. For layered behind the apparently mundane settings — a room with a window and a plant, a room with an outside view, a balcony with a landscape behind it, a grassy park with a blanket spread out for a nap — are indecipherable worlds of dreams and magic. Through your peripheral psychic vision, you catch glimpses of these worlds but never quite get a fix on them. So you wander from painting to drawing to painting, uneasily conscious of the fact that there's something you're not getting.

Achieving this psychic point of fulcrum doesn't happen by accident. Which is another paradox. You'd think that stream-of-consciousness paintings would result from a stream-of-consciousness approach to creating those paintings. Like the approach James Joyce — who apparently drank a lot of Irish whiskey — took to writing: He sat down and let the pen run the hand, his mind resting contentedly in an abstracted dream-state, thereby creating works of sheer freaking genius.

Or that of abstract painters who dunk their brush in paint and, guided by emotion and instinct, "let the painting create itself," according to one abstract painter.

"I'd go crazy if I were an abstract painter," Bigbee confessed. "There are too many choices and no restrictions to abstract work. It's a free form. Elements in the painting don't have to 'work' in the same way that realist paintings do [adhering to and accurately representing the real physical laws of space, perspective and gravity]."

Far from letting the painting paint itself, Bigbee is, from the first glimmer of an idea to the last invisible touch of his brush, absolutely in control. The image is born in his mind. Then it's jotted down as a thumbnail sketch. And that, he said, is where the problems begin.

"The little sketched image," he said, "is essentially expressionistic and is apt to have a lot of life to it. But when translating that idea to a full-blown painted image, there's always the danger of losing that life. The sketched ideas don't always work in a fully developed painting. So the struggle," he said, "is to keep the essence of the sketch in the developed work. To not lose anything. And it's important to me that the spirit and personality of the subject come across. Even objects in a still life have personalities."

In the drawing stage, Bigbee works out the compositional problems — scale, proportion, perspective, gesture and light. "It all has to make sense," he said. "So I'll have to shift something slightly here, a gesture there." By the time the drawing is completed, he has a good idea what the painting will look like by its completion.

Further adjustments are made in the work on the painting itself. "The sense of mystery that a figure might have," he said, "is all achieved through subtle manipulation of lighting, gesture, composition, color



"Plants" (oil on canvas, 18 1/8" x 25 1/4", 1991-92).

and small details." So endless fine adjustments are made in the painting stage as well.

"When I paint, I look at things myopically," said Bigbee. "I tend to record more information than is generally seen, so it takes the image a step beyond reality. It's reality, but more finely tuned than what you normally experience in life."

Bigbee's attention to minute detail is well illustrated in "Foreside," a self-portrait and his most recent work. In this painting, he stands in front of a window, holding a dried rosehip twig. There's a mantelpiece to his right, and on it a vase with more dried rosehip sprigs. Outside are two young, leafless trees, starkly awaiting the approach of winter. Bigbee is wearing an army-drab coat and a red beret.

Every element in the painting functions with every other element to make the whole work. The dried branches, for example, echo one another, making a oneness of all three focal points of the painting (interior, figure, exterior).

And the beret that he's wearing does several things. It makes an interesting shape around the face, giving the eye a vehicle for traveling around the painting. It also adds to the face a slight mystery. Its vermilion color fulfills the range of warm, earthy tones inside the room and contrasts them to the paler, colder hues of the winter sky outside. The curve of the hat echoes the curve of the wires outside the window and of the vase on the mantelpiece. And finally, an outdoor garment being worn indoors places the figure in both realms. It too creates a oneness of all three points of interest.

There is nary a brush stroke to be discerned on the surfaces of Bigbee's paintings. All that exists there are skin, cloth, ceramic, wood, plaster, leaves and twigs and psychic, spiritual, human mystery. The realism is magical. If you want to — and dare — you can count to three, pass through the canvas and enter his mystical world. CBW

## Portrait of a still life

By Elizabeth Peavey

Ann Binder lies.

She also sits, stands, poses and reposes. No, she's not Barbie's slothful sister; she's wife of and model for artist Brett Bigbee. And how does she pass all this time of stasis? "On good days, I nap," she says.

Ann Binder, when she is not copy editing or writing pithy Silver Screen listings for these pages, spends much of her idle (idle being the operative word) time posing. One might think this to be a glamorous, Mona Lisa-ish way to bide one's time, but the sitting life is not all its cracked down to be, according to Binder.

"One always hopes for a reclining position," she says. "I inherited a wonderful gift from my father — the moment I become horizontal, I fall asleep. I'm also developing an ability to fall asleep sitting, which is quite fortunate." Things get trickier, however, if she can't snooze.

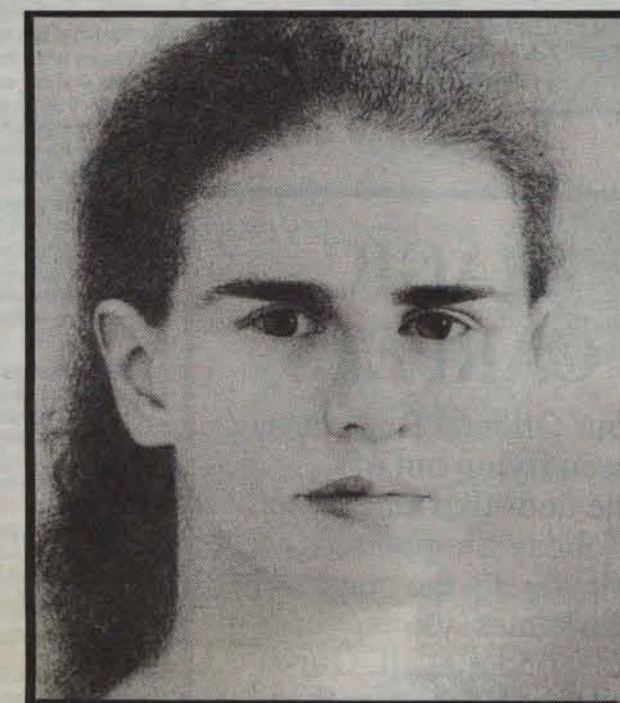
"If he's painting me from the waist down — my feet for example — that's fine because I'm able to amuse myself... I can read or play with my hair or talk on the phone." If she must stay absolutely still, things grow more problematic.

"If you're happy, remaining still is difficult because you want to caper around," says Binder (although I personally have never once seen her caper; this must be a leisure activity she enjoys outside the office). "If you're anxious about something, you have nothing to do but fixate on the problem until it grows and you suddenly burst out in a hysterical crying fit." But even if the emotional climate is stable, there are still drawbacks. "I have developed an acute sense of my internal organs. I am now convinced I can feel my pancreas working."

In order to allay some of these problems, she has found books-on-tape to be helpful. Binder recommends mysteries, nothing too literary, nothing that takes too much concentration. When she is able to view the painting, she can become absorbed in watching the work take shape. But when all these things fail, she resorts to counting. "When I pose in a non-sleeping position, I can only go for about 20 minutes between breaks, so I count, trying to figure out how many seconds there are until the next break." She pauses and then adds, "which is a lovely way to spend an afternoon."

Binder has been posing for Bigbee for 13 years, since their initial meeting in Philadelphia. She herself had been training to be a painter, when she decided to give up the art life and get a degree in something more marketable. It was at that time she met Bigbee, who would sketch her while she studied. "It was very heady," says Binder, but the romantic novelty soon wore off.

Although one might conjure images of Camille Claudel running through the streets of Paris keening "Rodin, Rodin!" there is not a great deal of romance in posing — at intervals ranging from the 20-minute stints to daylong sit-a-thons. "Ordinarily,



Detail of "Ann with Plant" (graphite on paper, 53" x 42", 1990-91).

I look forward to winter," says Binder, "because the days are shorter, and there are less hours of light [ergo less sitting time]. Unfortunately, the painting I am currently posing for is a night scene, which means I can pose from morning to bedtime" — a not-wholly satisfactory turn of events for the model.

But one must wonder if she derives any personal satisfaction from seeing herself depicted in Bigbee's paintings and drawings. "Of course, I find being a part of the creative process rewarding," she says, "or I wouldn't pose. But by the time a work is done, I feel dissociated from the woman in the painting." She explains that while, yes, her features are represented in the work, it is the artist's vision — Bigbee's sense of calm and control (qualities, she confesses, she sometimes lacks) — that she sees. "In fact, when I refer to any work I'm in," says Binder, "I always refer to it as 'the painting of her.' This could be in part a self-defense mechanism. Distancing myself makes walking into a gallery where I am hanging nude on the walls a little easier to take."

And being the subject of these highly imaginative works of art can lead to confusion. A friend of Binder's in New York received an invitation to Bigbee's opening at the Fischbach Gallery there in October. The invitation included a list of works to be shown, one of which is titled "Pregnant Ann" (Binder was not — and never has been — pregnant). Still, her friend Martha did not quite make it over that quantum leap of imagination. "I saw the invitation," she told Binder, who thought her friend was merely going to comment on its beauty. Instead, the friend continued hesitantly, "Was there a... tragedy?" (I guess she could consider herself fortunate that Bigbee wasn't inspired to do a Pietà. Then she'd really have a whole lotta 'splainin' to do.)

In fact, "Where's the baby?" is a query Binder hears frequently from people who have seen the drawing, to whom she must explain, "There is no baby. I just had to stick my stomach out a lot while I posed." CBW



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screen

**Addams Family Values** The last time we saw "The Addams Family," Morticia Addams was knitting something very, very small. The sequel begins with her giving birth to Pubert, a darling albeit hirsute baby boy whose ceaseless crying is disturbing the already disturbed family. But who will take care of the fuzzy new addition to the strange brood? Enter blond and sugary sweet Debbie (Joan Cusack), a nanny with a fondness for rich men and a string of rich, dead husbands behind her. Also stars Raul Julia and Christopher Lloyd. Barry Sonnenfeld reprises as director.

**The Age of Innocence** This time Martin Scorsese explores the mean parlor of New York in his adaptation of Edith Wharton's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the lives and mores of the upper class. Newland Archer, a New York aristocrat (Daniel Day-Lewis), is about to be married. However, before his engagement is officially announced, Archer is reacquainted with his fiancée's cousin (Michelle Pfeiffer), a countess who's just left her philandering husband in Europe. In the process of defending the countess against high society's brutal social code, Archer falls passionately and obsessively in love with her. Also stars Winona Ryder.

**A Bronx Tale** Robert De Niro directs his first film, starring as a hard-working Sicilian bus driver in the Bronx — a bus driver, not a taxi driver — trying to keep his son from becoming a "wiseguy." The saga begins when the boy witnesses a murder when he's just 9 years old, and follows his life as he comes under the influence of a mobster named Little Johnny (Chazz Palminteri) and his violent world. The film is based on Palminteri's semi-autobiographical, one-act play about growing up in the Bronx.

**Carlito's Way** Ten years after "Scarface," Brian De Palma and Al Pacino reunite for another mobster movie. This time Pacino stars as Carlito Brigante, a bigshot gangster who tries to go straight after five years in the slammer. Sean Penn came out of self-imposed acting retirement to play the mobster's lawyer.

**Cool Runnings** Based loosely on the real-life story of the Jamaican bobsled team that participated in the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary, this comedy stars John Candy as a coach who steers his ragtag team — a reggae singer, a helicopter pilot and a sprinter — to the big show. Directed by Jon Turteltaub ("3 Ninjas"), the film also stars rapper Doug E. Doug. The team's bobsled ended up flipping over and crashing; one can only guess what will happen to the movie.

**Dazed and Confused** Richard Linklater ("Slacker") in his \$6 million studio debut zooms in on a bunch of angst-ridden teenagers on the last day of school in 1976. All are out to lose themselves in sex and drugs and, of course, rock and roll. With period music by such "legends" as Ted Nugent, Black Sabbath, Peter Frampton, Aerosmith, Alice Cooper, Kiss, ZZ Top and Foghat.

**Especially on Sunday** Tonino Guerra (screenwriter for "Blow-up," "Amarcord" and "The Night of the Shooting Stars") penned three short films, which are directed by three different directors, Giuseppe Tornatore ("Cinema Paradiso"), Giuseppe Bertolucci and Marco Tullio Giordana. In "The Blue Dog," Philippe Noiret plays a cranky old shoemaker/barber whose mundane existence is upended when he's adopted by a brown stray dog with a blue paint splotch on its head. "Especially on Sunday," tells of a middle-aged man (Bruno Ganz) who finds himself drawn to a mysterious young woman who looks after a handsome childlike man she claims is her emotionally disturbed brother. In "Snow on Fire," Maria Maddalena Felli (Federico's sister in her acting debut) plays a widow, who overhears her son and his new bride making love. The sounds bring back memories of the passion of her own youth, and through a hole in her floor, she begins to spy on the young couple. When her daughter-in-law discovers her — well, you better see the movie.

**The Firm** Tom Cruise stars as Mitch McDeere, a Harvard Law School grad who joins a small but cash-rich law firm in Memphis. Within weeks of accepting the position, he's approached by an FBI agent who tells him the firm is laundering money for the Mob and his own life may be in danger. Mitch realizes he's trapped. The FBI will bust him if he doesn't cooperate, and the firm will kill him if he does. Also stars Gene Hackman.

**Geronimo: An American Legend** Wes Studi ("Last of the Mohicans") stars as the Apache warrior who refused to go along with the U.S. government's plans to sequester Native Americans on reservations. Also stars Gene Hackman, Robert Duvall and Jason Patric doing a wonderful impersonation of Clutch Cargo.

**Gettysburg** This 4 1/2 hour Civil War epic recounts the pivotal Civil War battle in which over 50,000 Americans were killed, the highest U.S. casualty total for a single battle. The movie was originally planned as a miniseries for Ted Turner's cable channel TNT, but Turner decided the story was too big for the small screen. Four hours of bad beads.

**Into the West** Two motherless boys in Ireland live in misery in a state-owned apartment complex. Then, one day, a white horse appears outside their window. Is it real or imaginary? No matter. The boys gallop off to a mythical land across the river where cowboys and Indians live; their dad and his girlfriend (husband and wife actors Gabriel Byrne and Ellen Barkin) pursue. The film's screenplay was written by Jim Sheridan ("My Left Foot").

**Johnny Stecchino** While a double-crossing mobster lays low in Palermo, his beautiful wife finds a man who could be his twin in Rome. She sets the double up for a mob hit, intending to make an easy getaway with her husband to Argentina. Writer/director Roberto Benigni (Roman cab driver in "Night on Earth" and also "son" in "Son of the Pink Panther") plays both the men.

**Jurassic Park** Entrepreneur John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) finances the creation of genetically engineered dinosaurs in hopes of opening the ultimate amusement park. Who wouldn't want to spend the day with a bunch of huge reptiles? The thrills and chills become a bit much when *Tyrannosaurus rex* et al. break out of their carefully constructed environment and run amok, as dinosaurs are wont to do. Stars Sam Neill, Laura Dern and Jeff Goldblum. Directed by Steven Spielberg.

**My Life** Michael Keaton plays a Beverly Hills PR man who discovers he's dying of cancer and sets out to make an autobiographical video for his unborn child. Also stars Nicole Kidman.



**Mrs. Doubtfire** Robin Williams stars as an out-of-work voice-over artist who loses custody of his children during a divorce. Hoping to ingratiate himself back into the family, he disguises himself as a kindly 65-year-old English housekeeper. Sally Field plays his estranged wife. Directed by Chris Columbus ("Home Alone" and "Home Alone 2").

**Nightmare Before Christmas** Tim Burton's twisted animated fantasy about Jack the Pumpkin King, a manic-depressive skeleton who wreaks havoc when he kidnaps Santa and tries to take over Christmas. The stars are all puppets filmed in stop-motion a la Gumby and King Kong. Not your typical holiday fare. According to Burton, "If we can disturb just one child, it will have been worth it." Music and lyrics by Danny Elfman.

**A Perfect World** A perfect world for Warner Bros., that is, getting both Clint and Kevin in the same film. Clint Eastwood directs and stars as a Southern lawman hot on the trail of an escaped convict (Kevin Costner) who's taken an 8-year-old Jehovah's Witness hostage.



**The Piano** A mute unmarried Scotswoman (Holly Hunter) travels deep into the New Zealand bush for an arranged marriage, bringing with her a young daughter and a piano. After her new husband (Sam Neill) refuses to transport the piano to her new home, she falls for another man — an illiterate tattooed settler (Harvey Keitel) who purchases the piano. The film, which was written and directed by Jane Campion ("Sweetie" and "An Angel at My Table") won the Palme d'or at Cannes.

**The Remains of the Day** A devoted butler (Anthony Hopkins) reflects on his 30 years of service to an English lord — service that required him to subjugate all his own desires, including his love for the head housekeeper (Emma Thompson). Another Merchant-Ivory ("Howards End," "Room with a View") production, this one based on Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker Prize-winning novel.

**Sister Act 2** The nuns leave the drab convent and head for St. Francis High. Their mission — to teach juvenile delinquents. Not getting anywhere with the kids, they put out a call for Vegas lounge singer and almost-nun Deloris Van Cartier (Whoopi Goldberg). Also stars Kathy Najimy.

**Sleepless in Seattle** A widower's son calls a national radio shrink and describes how badly his father (Tom Hanks) needs a new wife. Annie Reed (Meg Ryan), an already affianced reporter, is touched by his story and begins a campaign to track the man down.

**The Three Musketeers** Another remake of Alexandre Dumas' tale of three musketeers (i.e., loyal servants to King Louis XIII who like to wear voluminous capes and hats with rakish feathers) and a musketeer wannabe. This latest Hollywood incarnation stars Charlie Sheen, Kiefer Sutherland, Chris O'Donnell and Tim Curry. Directed by Stephen Herek ("Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure").

**Wayne's World 2** Mike Meyers and Dana Carvey reprise their roles as the two heavy metal teens who front a cable access TV show in Aurora, Ill. This time Wayne and Garth stage a Waynestock concert. Garth finally lands a babe and Cassandra (Tia Carrere) records with a smarmy record-industry weasel (Christopher Walken). Also stars Kim Basinger, Drew Barrymore and Charlton Heston.

**We're Back: A Dinosaur's Story** Dinosaur travel through time to present-day New York City. Features the vocal talents of John Goodman, John Malkovich, Jay Leno, Martin Short, Julia Child and Walter Cronkite. Directed by Steven Spielberg.

**Why has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?** A zen fable that follows the lives of three generations of monks living in a remote monastery in Korea.

## where

Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, movie goers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

## General Cinemas

Maine Mall  
Maine Mall Road, S. Portland  
774-1022

Dates effective Dec 10-16

**The Remains of the Day (PG)**

1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:45

**The Three Musketeers (PG)**

1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10

**Addams Family Values (PG-13)**

12:30, 2:45, 4:55, 7:10, 9:20

**Mrs. Doubtfire (PG-13)**

1:30, 1:50, 4:15, 4:40, 7, 7:25, 9:35, 10

**Dazed and Confused (R)**

12:45, 2:50, 5, 7:10, 9:20

**Cool Runnings (PG)**

1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

## Hoyts Clark's Pond

333 Clark's Rd., S. Portland  
879-1511

Dates effective Dec 10-16

Into the West plays Sat only

The 4:20 show of We're Back: A

Dinosaur's Story plays Sat & Sun only

**The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG)**

2:20, 4:10, 6

**My Life (PG-13)**

2, 7:40, 10:10

**Carlito's Way (R)**

7:35, 10:20

**We're Back: A Dinosaur's Story (G)**

12:15, 4:20

**A Perfect World (PG-13)**

12:35, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

**The Piano (R)**

12:55, 3:50, 7:30, 10

**Geronimo: An American Legend (PG-13)**

1:25, 4, 7:25, 9:50

**Wayne's World 2 (PG-13)**

1:05, 3:20, 7, 9:20

**Sister Act 2 (PG)**

12:45, 1:15, 3:10, 3:40, 6:45, 7:15, 9:10, 9:40

**Into the West (PG)**

12

## The Movies

10 Exchange St., Portland  
772-9600

**Matinee Sat & Sun**

**Why has Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?**

Dec 8-14

Wed-Fri 6:30, 9; Sat-Sun 1, 7; Mon-Tues 6:30

**Johnny Stecchino (R)**

Dec 11-14

Sat-Sun 3:30, 9:30; Mon-Tues 9

**Especially on Sunday (R)**

Dec 15-21

Mon-Fri 5:15, 7, 9; Sat-Sun 1:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7, 9

**Nickelodeon**

Temple and Middle streets, Portland

772-9751

Dates effective Dec 10-16

\*Second shows Sat-Sun only

**The Firm (R)**

12:20, 3:20\*, 6:30, 9:30

**Sleepless in Seattle (PG)**

1:10, 4\*, 7:20, 10

**Jurassic Park (PG-13)**

12:40, 3:40\*, 6:50, 9:40

**Age of Innocence (PG)**

12:30, 3:30\*, 6:40, 9:20

**Gettysburg (NR)**

1, 7

**A Bronx Tale (R)**

12:50, 3:50\*, 7:10, 9:50

## Ron vs. Cannes

"The Piano" strikes the wrong chords



Holly Hunter waiting for that pesky United Van Lines man in "The Piano."

■ By Ron Zuba

Hardly a day goes by when I'm not asked this same dumb question: "Do you think Mike Brady ever accidentally walked into Alice's room and saw her naked?"

So, before I get to this week's review, let me first put this question to bed once and for all. The answer: Yes. And the proof can be found in one of "The Brady Bunch"'s seldom-seen, "lost" episodes. It's the one where Mike, feeling like a neglected husband, looks for and finds comfort in the arms of his virginal, middle-aged housekeeper.

However, all hell breaks loose when Sam the butcher discovers Alice's infidelity and strikes back in the only way he knows how: by secretly lacing the Brady's ground beef order with the E. coli bacteria, causing them to experience the worst case of "the squirts" this side of Tijuana.

Well, a sordid love triangle is also at the heart of New Zealand's highly touted export, "The Piano," a loosely based treatment of Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved "Little House in the Rainforest" series.

Holly Hunter stars as Ada, a 19th-century mute who's sent Down Under for an arranged marriage to a man she's never met. (Note: This is long before the days of video dating services, which now protect attractive young women from falling prey to short, skeezy insurance executives whose idea of foreplay is to take the plastic wrap off their newly arrived issue of *Throb* magazine.)

Anyway, Ada meets her new hubby, Stewart (Sam Neill), who, as near as I could tell, is some hotshot sales manager for the Kiwi Shoe Polish Co. But fancy titles aside, Ada's still spooked by him — and for obvious reasons. This is the same guy who played the antichrist in the third "Omen" movie.

Stewart doesn't do much to help his cause either. Aside from being cold and creepy, he opts to leave his new bride's prized piano on the beach instead of hauling it back to the house. This could only lead to one thing: a real sucky honeymoon — figuratively speaking. See, this piano isn't just a musical instrument. It's Ada's voice. It's her way of speaking to the outside world. (It's also eerily similar to how

Davy Jones of The Monkees used to feel about his tambourine.)

Meanwhile, a tattoo-faced settler named Baines (Harvey Keitel) offers

Stewart a corner lot of swampland in exchange for the piano. Stewart agrees. And, to even up the trade, he sends Ada over to provide a few free piano lessons.

Dumb move, Stew. Why? 'Cause this Baines character hasn't seen a good-lookin' woman in God knows how long. Heck, he's so hard-up for female companionship that he'd even hit on chicks who've joined the Rotary Club.

Before you know it, Baines and Ada are doin' the deed. And, not surprisingly, they get caught doin' it too. (It's just so hard to keep an affair secret in a town that's crawling with aborigines. You know how those people love to gossip.)

"The Piano" was the top award-winner at Cannes this year, earning the festival's prestigious Le Big d'Eal. So with that going for it, how could it help but not blow? I mean, if foreign films were any good, they'd be in English — or, in this case, minus the Aussie accents.

I don't want to be too hard on writer/director Jane Campion, whose previous film credits include "Sweetie," "An Angel at My Table" and, if I'm not mistaken, one of the "Friday the 13th" movies. Even though "The Piano" is slow, plodding and almost completely devoid of any entertainment value, Campion still offers up a lot of pretty pictures and some truly nifty performances.

As for Ms. Hunter, she's golden. She's got this mute thing down cold. And since Oscar loves mutes, her chances of picking up a statuette in the spring look good. (Thanks to those nude scenes, her chances of getting picked up in a bar don't look too bad either.)

We have a split decision on the two male leads, though. While Keitel's good, Neill's amazing — and I don't mean his acting. Rather, it's amazing how someone who can barely fog up a mirror can keep getting hired for major movie roles. Maybe this antichrist thing is worth checking out, huh? **CBW**

## screen

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# 10~day calendar

Be informed, get involved & stay amused.

## thursday 9

Mirth at the manse: "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year," said that famed 19th-century reformed holiday-hater E. Scrooge. (Of course, he changed his tune only after he had the bejezus scared out of him.)

Well, for those who love to indulge in lacy and lavender Victorian sentiments, the Victoria Society of Maine heralds in the holiday season with "THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS," at the Victoria Mansion, 109 Danforth St., by celebrating the arts and culture of the reign of the great monarch who let Prince Albert out of the can and kept ladies' bustles bedoomed. The society's unsurpassed collections of Victorianiana transform the Italianate-style villa (which retains its original furnishings) into a wildly popular holiday spectacle. Public hours: Dec. 9-12, 1-7 p.m. Admission: \$5 (kids under 12, \$2). 772-4841.

## friday 10

Joyful noise: Tonight's opening of the Portland Symphony Orchestra's 1993 "MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS" marks the 14th year and the 106th performance of this favorite holiday family concert (and that's a lot of fa-la-las).

The event, which includes some 220 performers, combines traditional Christmas music with both holiday

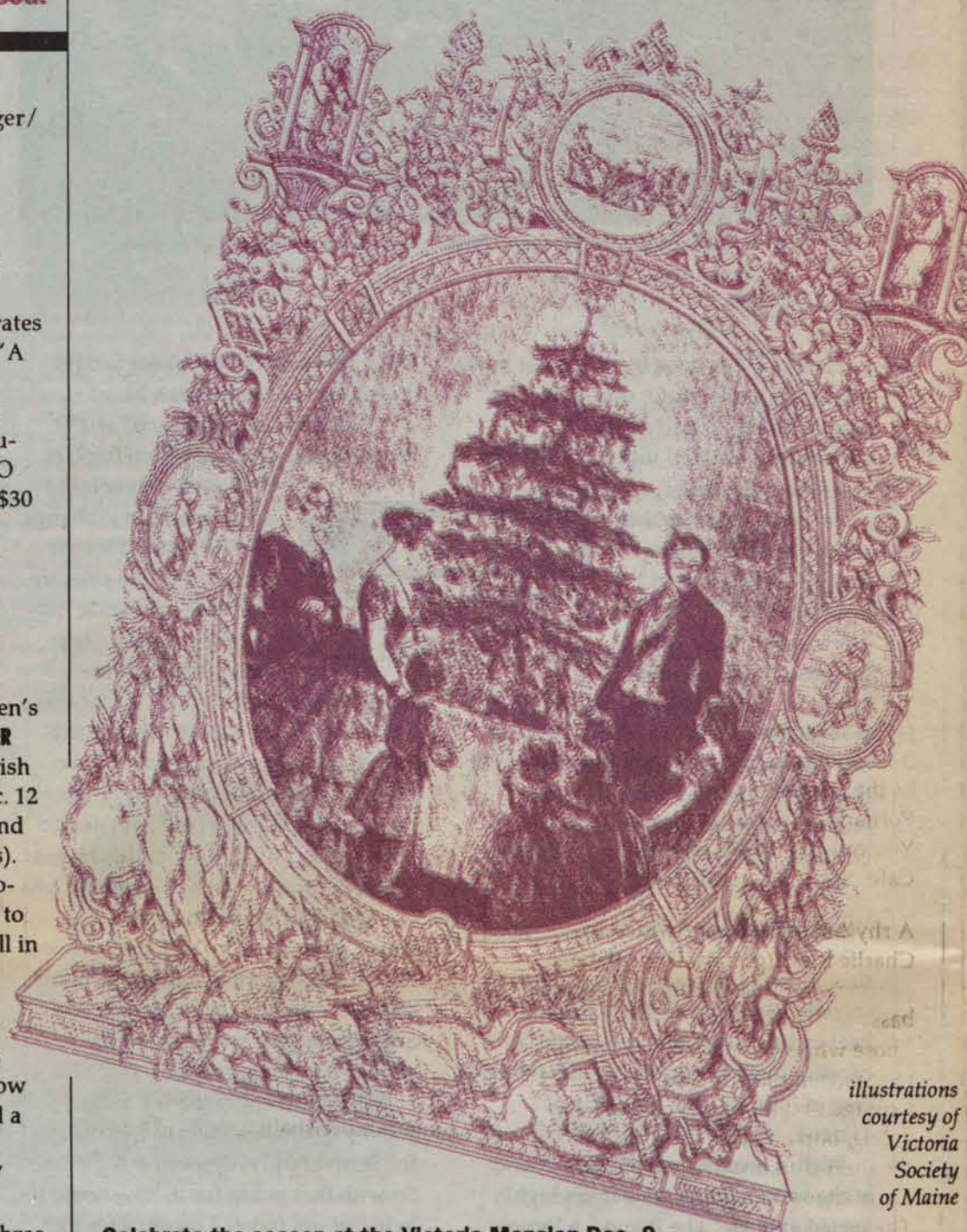
and pops classics and features singer/dancer/actress Lynn Torgove, organist Ray Cornils, The Parish Ringers (and their little bells), The Magic of Christmas Chorus and narration by Children's Theater of Maine Executive Director Lisa DiFranza. The program also celebrates the 150th anniversary of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and the 175th anniversary of "Silent Night" (and that's a lot of candles). All this brouhaha is under the able baton of PSO conductor Toshi Shimada. Tix: \$9-\$30 (discounts for kids, seniors and groups of 10 or more). 773-8191 or 1-800-639-2309.

## saturday 11

Winter consort: The Maine Gay Men's Chorus (MGMC) presents "A WINTER SERENADE" at 8 p.m. at The First Parish Church, 425 Congress St. (also Dec. 12 in Portsmouth and again in Portland on Dec. 19; see Concerts for details). The concert runs the gamut of emotional expressions—from parody to eulogy, and much in between—all in the spirit of the holiday season.

There are festive pieces, works dedicated to the family, gay carols (beyond, one assumes, "don we now out you-know-what apparel") and a sing-along. The principal work highlighted, "A Winter Serenade," was scored by MGMC member Conrad Sousa and is based upon three poems by H.W. Longfellow (the poet

laureate of State and Congo). The event will be signed for the hearing impaired. Tix: \$10 (\$8 seniors and students). 883-8099.



Celebrate the season at the Victoria Mansion Dec. 9. BYOFF (Bring your own figgy pudding.)

## sunday 12

Jingle blues: The Southern Maine Blues Society (SMBS) presents two shows with renowned JAZZ CLARINETIST BRAD TERRY at The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., at 3 p.m., and at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 8 p.m.

The matinee show is a warm-up for the evening's performance, which will

feature two sets of blues, the first of which is shared with local jazz guitarist Tony Gaboury, who has played frequently with Terry. The second set includes Terry, Gaboury, plus a band assembled by SMBS. With any luck, Terry will blow your socks off with his famed jazz whistling abilities. (Just put your lips together and blow.) Jim Junkins, a Texas-style blues guitar player, opens. Raoul's tix are \$5 (\$4 in advance). 773-6886.

## monday 13

Seeing-double feature: Roberto Benigni ("Night on Earth") wrote, directed and stars in "JOHNNY STECCHINO," a wacky Italian tale of mistaken identity, playing at The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 9 p.m.

A double-crossing mobster hides out in Palermo, while his spittin'-image double innocently drives a school bus in Rome. Unfortunately for the hapless driver, the mafioso's bella wife spots him and lures him to Sicily in hopes of getting him rubbed out in her husband's stead. Meanwhile, the driver believes the theft of a banana has turned all of Palermo against him. Zany events ensue—kind of a "Patty Duke Show" meets the mob. The film is the highest-grossing ever in Italy. 772-9600.

## tuesday 14

Java jive: When café no closed its doors not so long ago, many took it to be the last nail in the coffin of jazz in Portland. Well, it ain't necessarily so. You can catch OPEN-JAM JAZZ at BeBop's Cafe, 548 Congress St.

A rhythm section is provided by Charlie Rizzi (guitar), Chris Palmer (drums) and Ross Grafman (acoustic bass)—all of The Jazz Connotations. Those who sit in range from students to seasoned players from New York, Chicago and all over; you can hear swing, pop and jazz standards, plus the thump-thump-thump of your heart after your fifth or so espresso. The joint jumps between 8 and 11 p.m. every Tuesday night. It's chem-free,

smoke-free (jazz ain't what it used to be...) and free and open to all ages. 828-6551.

## wednesday 15

Christmas choke you up? Well, now's the time to attend a STANDARD FIRST AID TRAINING PROGRAM sponsored by the Portland Chapter of the American Red Cross, 524 Forest Ave., from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The course, which offers adult CPR skills and general first aid, meets OSHA requirements and includes certification in adult CPR. The Red Cross offers a number of training courses—that can often mean the difference between life and death—throughout December. Advance registration is required. The fee for the standard first aid class is \$36. In the meantime, chew your sugarplums carefully. 874-1192.

## thursday 16

Spirit of giving: Area musicians and businesses have joined forces to present a CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE HOMELESS at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Proceeds go to McAuley House, a transitional housing and support program for women alone or with children, and Friendship House, which provides transitional housing for men. Both programs are in need of funds, particularly during this holiday season.

Participating musicians include Michael Danahy, Steve Gerlach, Killer Greens, Rob Young and members of the band Cattle Call. A free shuttle bus is provided from two USM locations (645 Congo at 7:15 p.m. and the Campus Center at 7:25 p.m.); the shuttle leaves Raoul's at midnight. Admission is \$4, or \$2 with any donation to the centers' wish list, which includes canned goods, paper products, dish or laundry soap and other nonperishable items. 874-2690 or 775-0926.

Submissions for Art & Soul must be received in writing on the Thursday prior to publication. Send your Calendar and Listings information to Elizabeth Peavey, Casco Bay Weekly, 551A Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



Why do rock guys always pose with cars? Ask these boys Dec. 17.

## friday 17

New old wave: Dig out those pointy shoes and grab a handful of safety pins from your sewing basket—THE PAUL COLLINS BAND, members of whom were on the cutting edge of the new wave scene in the late '70s, are at Granny Killam's, 55 Market St., at 9:30 p.m.

Collins himself led The Beat, which toured with The Police, Joe Jackson and The Jam. Billy Fica and his band Television pioneered the NYC new wave scene along with Blondie, Talking Heads and The Ramones. (Legend has it Television built the stage at CBGB's and was the first band to perform there.) The band also includes bassist Rick Wagner (The Silos), drummer Will Rigby and Arthur Levin on guitar and vocals. And today? "My point of view hasn't changed much from the '70s," says Collins. "I still want to play real music for real people." Sounds beefy. 761-2787.

## saturday 18

Indian givers: If you were a 16th-century Mexican, Aztec Two-Step meant dancing away from Cortés and his Spanish invasion (or it could've meant you got a bad batch of frijoles). If, however, you followed the folk/soft rock scene over the last 20 years, AZTEC TWO-STEP means the singing/songwriting team of Rex Fowler and Neal Schulman. (Don't play dumb with me. Go look between the Dan Fogelberg and Jonathan Edwards albums in the back of your closet.)

This duo, which has performed together since 1971, is on tour promoting their ninth and latest release, "of age," and can be seen at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. The two reportedly have come back in good form—"of age" is being touted as "their finest [album] since their 1972 debut on Elektra Records." Tix: \$8. 773-6886.

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Art &amp; Soul continued from page 24

## stage

**"Tuscaloosa"** Dinner theater featuring New York stories set to music at Dos Locos Mexican Restaurant, India and Fore streets, Portland. Shows every Tues at 8 pm through Dec 28. Tix: \$8. 775-6267.

**"Twelfth Night"** American Renaissance Theater presents a romantic comedy about mistaken identity and misplaced affection Dec 9-12 — Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 3 & 8 pm — at Oak Street Theatre, Oak Street, Portland. Tix: \$10, \$8 seniors and students with ID. 871-9325.

## auditions

**Community Orchestra of the Portland Symphony** invites string players to its Wednesday evening rehearsals. Locations vary. 883-2460.

**Schoolhouse Arts Center** auditions for "Snoopy, the Musical" Dec 9 at 7 pm. One dancer, three males and 3 females are needed. Schoolhouse Arts Center at Sebago Lake, Rt 114, Sebago Lake Village. 642-3743.

## concerts

### thursday 9

**Herb Pomeroy** (jazz) 8 pm, Corthell Concert Hall, USM/Gorham. Tix: \$5, \$3 seniors and students with ID. 780-5555.

### friday 10

**Tony Barrand, John Roberts, Fred Brunjig and Andy Davis** (holiday music) 7:30 pm, The Center for The Arts at The Chocolate Church, 804 Washington St. Bath. 442-8627.

**Herb Pomeroy** (jazz) 8 pm, Corthell Concert Hall, USM/Gorham. Tix: \$5, \$3 seniors and students with ID. 780-5555.

**Portland Symphony Orchestra** ("Magic of Christmas") 7:30 pm, Portland City Hall Auditorium, 30 Myrtle St., Portland. Tix: \$9-\$30, 773-8191 or 1-800-639-2309.

**USM Jazz Ensemble** (jazz) 8 pm, Corthell Concert Hall, USM/Gorham. Tix: \$3, \$1 seniors and students with ID. 780-5555.

### saturday 11

**Casco Bay Concert Band** (holiday concert) 7 pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland. Tix: \$6 adults, \$3 seniors and kids, \$12 families. 799-8836.

**The Maine Gay Men's Chorus** ("A Winter Serenade") 8 pm, First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Tix: \$10, \$8 seniors and students with ID. 883-8099.

**Portland Symphony Orchestra** ("Magic of Christmas") 2 & 7:30 pm, Portland City Hall Auditorium, 30 Myrtle St., Portland. Tix: \$9-\$30, 773-8191 or 1-800-639-2309.

### sunday 12

**The Kartell Ensemble** (a capella/folk and liturgical music from Russia) 2 pm, Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church, Allen Avenue, Portland. Tix: \$6, \$2 kids and teens. 797-7240.

**Stephen Kocakemethy & William Picher** (violin and organ) 3 pm, St. Joseph's Church, 695 Stevens Ave., Portland. Admission by donation. 774-0654.

**Limerick Community Choral** (Handel's "Messiah") 4 pm, Limerick Congregational Church, Maplewood Road, West Newfield. Donations accepted. 793-4122.

**The Maine Gay Men's Chorus** ("A Winter Serenade") 3 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church Portsmouth, NH. Tix: \$10, \$8 seniors and students with ID. 883-8099.

**Portland Symphony Orchestra** ("Magic of Christmas") 2 & 7:30 pm, Portland City Hall Auditorium, 30 Myrtle St., Portland. Tix: \$9-\$30, 773-8191 or 1-800-639-2309.

**Saco River Singers Community Chorus and guest trios and quartets** — music for kids ages 3-7 9, 10, and 11 am, Burns School, Middle Street, Saco. Tix: \$2. 282-4446.

### monday 13

**Portland Symphony Orchestra Brass Ensemble** (concerts — music for kids ages 3-7) 9, 10, and 11 am, Burns School, Middle Street, Saco. Tix: \$2. 282-4446.

### upcoming

**Catie Call, Michael Danahy, Steve Gerlach, The Killer Greens, Rob Young** 12/16/93 (benefit for the

homeless) 8 pm, Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. Tix: \$4 or \$2 with practical donations. 874-2690.

**Portland Symphony Orchestra** 12/16-19/93 ("Magic of Christmas") various times, Portland City Hall Auditorium, 30 Myrtle St., Portland. Tix: \$9-\$30, 773-8191 or 1-800-639-2309.

**Northfield Mount Harmon Choirs and Orchestras** 12/17/93 (holiday music by students at Mass. boarding school) 7:30 pm, Woodford Congregational Church, Portland. Donations accepted. 767-4198.

**Rick Charette, Devon Square, Malinda Liberty, Tim Sample** 12/18-19/93 ("Christmas in Maine") 2 & 8 pm (Sat), 2 pm (Sun) at the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland. Tix: \$8.50-\$10.50, 773-5540.

**Portland Early Music Consort** 12/18/93 ("Medieval/Renaissance Noel") 8 pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland. Tix: \$10, \$5 seniors and students. 773-0942.

**Sweet Honey In The Rock** 12/18/93 (a capella blues/gospel/jazz) 6:30 and 9:00 pm, State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland. Tix: \$18 adults, \$10 for kids. 774-0465.

**"Celebration of Christmas"** 12/19/93 (recital of Suzuki violin and piano students) 2 pm, Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Free. 929-6472.

**The Maine Gay Men's Chorus** 12/19/93 ("A Winter Serenade") 2 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, Forest Avenue and Coyle Street, Portland. Tix: \$10, \$8 seniors and students with ID. 883-8099.

**Harold Stover** 12/19/93 (organ) 3 pm, Woodford Congregational Church, Woodford Street, Portland. Admission by donation. 774-0654.

## clubs

### thursday 9

**Jazz Connotations** (jazz lunch) Bebo's Café, 548 Congress St., Portland. 828-6551.

**U-the-Man** (R&B/blues) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**Airbus** (airheads unite) Brian Boru, 57 Center St., Portland. 780-1506.

**Dave Fitzgerald, Justin McKinney and The Beatles Comedy Team** (comedy) The Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St., Portland. 774-5554.

**Stone Hut** (hard rock) Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland. 772-7891.

**The Barmies and the Roarclucians** Granny Killam's Industrial Drinkhouse, 55 Market St., Portland. 761-2787.

**Loose Cannons** (rock) Moose Alley, 46 Market St., Portland. 774-5246.

**Bicycle Thieves** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**Screaming Cheetah Wheelies** (rock & blues) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**Rockin' Rusty** (karaoke) Spring Point Café, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

**Jenny Woodman** (rock) T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland. 773-8040.

**TBA Seamen's Club Restaurant**, 1 Exchange Street. 772-7311.

**TBA Shamrock**, 436 Fore St., Portland. 780-1111.

**Rockin' Rusty** (karaoke) Spring Point Café, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

**Greg Powers** (laser karaoke) Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Portland. 775-6161.

**Deejay Andy** (heavy dance) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

**Open Mic with B.A.R.T.**, featuring members of **Skeleton Crew** (acoustic) The Wrong Brothers' Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-1944.

**John Minahann & the Ultimate '70s Trash Disco Video Show** (dance) Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

**friday 10**

**Jazz Connotations** (jazz lunch) Bebo's Café, 548 Congress St., Portland. 828-6551.

**Jimmy & the Soul Cats Blues Revue** The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**TBA Brian Boru**, 57 Center St., Portland. 780-1506.

**Dave Fitzgerald, Justin McKinney and The Beatles Comedy Team** (comedy) The Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St., Portland. 774-5554.

**Thrill Cat and Ben Phillips** (cross between Squeeze and REM) Dos Locos Restaurant, 31 India St., Portland. 775-6267.

**The Amazing Cherubs**, with **Charles Hall and secret guests** (garage and grunge) Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland. 772-7891.

**Thumper and friends** Granny Killam's Industrial Drinkhouse, 55 Market St., Portland. 761-2787.

**Twin Towers** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**The Story** (contemporary folk) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**TBA** (pop) Seamen's Club Restaurant, 1 Exchange Street. 772-7311.

**TBA Shamrock**, 436 Fore St., Portland. 780-1111.

**Blind Addiction** (rock) Spring Point Café, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

**Jenny Woodman** (rock) T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland. 773-8040.

**Curt Besette** (pop) Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Portland. 775-6161.

**Joe at the piano and Deejay Ken Currier** (popular music/heavy dance) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

**Transation** (original metal) The Wrong Brothers' Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-1944.

**All Ages Vertigo** (alternative dance) Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

**saturday 11**

**Jazz Connotations** (jazz lunch) Bebo's Café, 548 Congress St., Portland. 828-6551.

**Jimmy & the Soul Cats Blues Revue** The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**TBA Brian Boru**, 57 Center St., Portland. 780-1506.

**Dave Fitzgerald, Justin McKinney and The Beatles Comedy Team** The Comedy Connection, 434 Fore St., Portland. 774-5554.

**Thrill Cat and Ben Phillips** (cross between Squeeze and REM) Dos Locos Restaurant, 31 India St., Portland. 775-6267.

**Nicotine Snease and Hollywood Squares** (garage and grunge) Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland. 772-7891.

**Shockra** (jazzy psychedelic funk) Granny Killam's Industrial Drinkhouse, 55 Market St., Portland. 761-2787.

**Amongst Ourselves, Outward and Rye** (alternative) L-beez, 939 Congress St., Portland. 879-0525.

**TBA Moose Alley**, 46 Market St., Portland. 774-5246.

**Twin Towers** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**Port City All-Stars** (R&B) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**TBA Seamen's Club Restaurant**, 1 Exchange Street. 772-7311.

**TBA Shamrock**, 436 Fore St., Portland. 780-1111.

**Blind Addiction** (rock) Spring Point Café, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

**Broken Men, Jiggle the Handle and the Kind** (psychedelic dance party) T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland. 773-8040.

**Shadow Play** (pop) Tipperary Pub, Sheraton Tara Hotel, S. Portland. 775-6161.

**Deejay Ken Currier** (heavy dance) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

**Transation** (original metal) The Wrong Brothers' Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-1944.

**Soul Kiss and Daddy Black Boots** (rock) Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

**sunday 12**

**Brad Terry** (blues at 3) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**From Good Homes** (rock) Granny Killam's Industrial Drinkhouse, 55 Market St., Portland. 761-2787.

**Dany Gravas** (piano bar) Gritty McDuff's, 396 Fore St., Portland. 772-2739.

**Tricycles for Hire** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**Brad Terry** (jazz meets the blues society) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**National Headliner comedy with Billy Martin T-Birds**, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland. 773-8040.

**Live karaoke and dancing** (no cover) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

**Jim Duffy** (acoustic) Wharfs End, 52 Wharf St., Portland. 773-0093.

**Deejay Bob Look** (request night/no cover) Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

**monday 13**

**Laser Karaoke** The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**Tricycles for Hire** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**SoMe Blues Society** (meeting and jam) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**Open Mic with Ken Grimsley** (acoustic) Wharfs End, 52 Wharf St., Portland. 773-0093.

**tuesday 14**

**Open Blues Jam** (b.y.o. — drum set available) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**Open Jazz Jam** Bebo's Café, 548 Congress St., Portland. 828-6551.

**State Street Traditional Jazz Band** (New Orleans jazz) Parker's Restaurant, 1339 Washington Ave. 878-3339.

**Tuscaloosa** (musical comedy) Dos Locos Restaurant, 31 India St., Portland. 775-6267.

**Memphis Mafia** (rockabilly) Gritty McDuff's, 396 Fore St., Portland. 772-2739.

**Bob Jr Project** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**Writers' Open Mic with Anni Clark and special guests** (any originals) Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**Open Mic with Peter Gleason** (b.y.o. jam) Spring Point Café, 175 Pickett St., S. Portland. 767-4627.

**Joe at the piano** (popular tunes) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

**Solstice** (acoustic & electric) Wharfs End, 52 Wharf St., Portland. 773-0093.

## wednesday 15

**The Red Light Revue** (R&B/blues/soul) The Big Easy, 416 Fore St., Portland. 780-1207.

**PAL** (acoustic) Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland. 772-7891.

**Bachelors' Night** (topless) Moose Alley, 46 Market St., Portland. 774-5246.

**Bob Jr Project** (rock) Old Port Tavern, 11 Moulton St., Portland. 774-0444.

**Joan Baby & the Chicago Blues Revue** Raoul's Roadside Attraction, 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-6886.

**Irish Night with Mic O'Brien** (Irish folk) Shamrock, 436 Fore St., Portland. 780-1111.

**Rock Night with Damien, Graff-x and guests** (the Caruso of hard rock) T-Birds, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland. 773-8040.

**Deejay Stormin' Norman** (laser karaoke) The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

**Electric Open Mic with 'Til It's Bone** (b.y.o. jam) The Wrong Brothers' Pub at Port Billiards, 39 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-1944.

**Zootz Pirate Radio Night** (alternative dance) Zootz, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

## dancing

**Cotta Dance, Inc.**, 657 Congress St., Portland. Smoke- and chem-free dances with swing, Latin & ballroom music Fridays from 9-12 pm. \$5. Free parking. 773-3558.

**Maine Ballroom**, 614 Congress St., Portland. Every Sat 9-midnight. Cost: \$5. No reservations required. 773-0002.

**The Moon**, 427 Fore St., Portland. Open nightly, 8 pm on... Naked Thursdays; no cover, drinks \$1.25 & drafts 25¢. 772-1983.

**Salutes**, 20 Milk St., Portland. Open nightly until 1 am. No cover. 774-4200.

**T-Bird's**, 126 N. Boyd St., Portland. Sun: comedy night; weekdays: special events; Fri & Sat: rock & roll, dance. 773-8040.

**The Underground**, 3 Spring St., Portland. Open nightly until 1 a.m. Thurs-Sun: heavy dance (no cover on Fri); Wed & Sun laser karaoke; Fri & Tues piano bar. 773-3315.

**Zootz**, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. Techno, rave, trance and progressive open house with Deejay Dale Charles on Thursdays. Request night (no cover) with Deejay Bob Look on Sundays. 773-8187.

## art

### opening

**Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Portland Region** 145 Middle St., Portland. Opening reception Dec 9 from 5-7 pm for watercolors by Mary Lawson and 3 oils by Steve Sechak. Shows through Dec 31 in chamber offices 9-5 Mon-Fri. 772-2811.

**Gleason Fine Art** 3 Milk St., Portland. Opening reception Dec 11 from 12-5 for a group show featuring new works by Elizabeth Knox and gallery artists. Shows through Jan 18. Works by Greg Parker show through Dec 11. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat 10-6, 879-0919.

**June Fitzpatrick Gallery** 112 High St., Portland. Opening reception Dec 9 from 6-8 for "Holiday Exhibit — Painted Objects and Furnishings," works by Pat Hardy, Susan Amors, Angela Adams, Rick Rudolph and others. Shows through Dec 30. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat 12-5, Thurs 12-8. 772-1961.

### around town

**African Imports and New England Arts** 1 Union St., Portland. "Recent Acquisitions/New Dimensions," traditional African arts, works by modern artists from Nigeria and New England and rare carvings. Hours: 10-9 Mon-Sat, 12-6 Sun. 772-9505.

**The AIDS Project** 22 Monument Square, 5th Floor. "Photopositive: Living With HIV — a Photographic Journal," photos by Tom Antonik. Shows through Jan 7. 774-6877.

**AREA Gallery** Campus Center, USM/Portland. "Photographs of People: Findhorn, Scotland, and Portland, Maine," photography exhibit by Charles Melcher. Shows through Dec 18. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 7-10, Sat-Sun 10-7. 780-4090.

**The Art Gallery at Six Deering Street** 6 Deering St., Portland. Watercolors by Milton Christianson through Dec 22. Gallery hours: 11-5 daily. 772-9605.



## The Family

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## WINTER COURSE SCHEDULE

Classes Begin January 24, 1994

**DAYS**  
 Period I (8:15-9:35)  
**AC 221** Cost Accounting II  
**CS 230** Cobol I  
**CS 235** Business Systems  
**GE 110** Business Writing  
**GM 164** Pharmacology  
**LS 192** Introduction to Sociology  
**LS 193** Introduction to Economics  
**LS 194** Law  
**LS 195** Psychology of Personal Dynamics  
**MS 181** Medical Science I  
**PL 261** Law of Business Organization

Period II (10:15-11:35)  
**AC 122** Principles of Accounting III  
**BA 108** Organizational Behavior  
**CS 135** Introduction to Microcomputers  
**CS 136** Introduction to Microcomputers  
**LS 196** Communication Skills  
**LS 257** Environmental Sciences  
**MS 162** Clinical Procedures I  
**PL 264** Debtor and Creditor Law  
**SS 150** Basic Keyboarding  
**SS 168** Word Processing Theory  
**SS 280** Medical Office Procedures I

Period III (11:45-1:05)  
**AC 120** Principles of Accounting I  
**BA 216** Entrepreneurship  
**CS 135** Introduction to Microcomputers  
**EN 170** Basic Writing  
**LS 191** Contemporary Problems  
**MS 162** Clinical Procedures I  
**PL 163** Real Estate Law  
**SS 150** Basic Keyboarding  
**SS 168** Word Processing Theory  
**SS 288** Word Processing Applications

**EVENINGS**  
 Period I (5:30-7:15)  
**AC 120** Principles of Accounting I  
**CS 135** Introduction to Microcomputers  
**GE 110** Business Writing  
**LS 191** Contemporary Problems  
**LS 193** Introduction to Economics  
**LS 195** Psychology of Personal Dynamics  
**LS 196** Communication Skills  
**MS 181** Medical Science I  
**MS 184** Clinical Procedures II  
**PL 160** Legal Research and Writing  
**SS 150** Basic Keyboarding  
**SS 288** Word Processing Applications

Period II (8:05-10:30)  
**AC 122** Principles of Accounting III  
**AC 222** Intermediate Accounting I  
**CS 135** Introduction to Microcomputers  
**CS 136** Introduction to Microcomputers  
**CS 230** Cobol I  
**EN 170** Basic Writing  
**GE 110** Business Writing  
**LS 192** Introduction to Sociology  
**MS 181** Medical Science I  
**MS 184** Clinical Procedures II  
**PL 164** Family Law  
**SS 155** Systems Functions in Records Management  
**SS 168** Word Processing Theory  
 \* Indicates a course with a (\$75) lab fee.

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1-800-273-8835

Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 8AM - 6PM, Sat. 8AM-6PM

Art & Soul continued from page 27

## art

**Danforth Gallery** The Maine Artists' Space, 34 Danforth St., Portland. "The Maine Contemporary Landscape," winners and selected works from a show juried by Martha Severens. Shows through Dec. 10. "Paper Prayers," a collaborative art installation that incorporates painted strips of paper as prayers to sustain good health and to cure the sick. Shows through Dec. 10. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat 11-5. 775-6245.

**Exchange Street Gallery** 7 Exchange St., Portland. Portland and coastal scenes and new works by John Holub and R.N. Cohen show through Dec. 30. Gallery hours: 10-6 daily. 772-0633.

**Frost Gully Gallery** 411 Congress St., Portland. Paintings of Theophil Groell through Dec. 11. Group show of gallery artists follows. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat 12-7, or by appointment. 773-2555.

**Greenhut Galleries** 146 Middle St., Portland. Reception launching original limited edition poster commemorating the Portland String Quartet's 25th anniversary Dec. 12, 24. Paintings celebrating sculpted details in Maine architecture by C. Michael Lewis. Show and sale through Dec. 24. Group show of gallery artists through Dec. 31. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10-5:30, Sat 10-5. 772-2693.

**Jewelers Work** 30 Exchange St., third floor, Portland. Cooperative showroom of original, contemporary jewelry designs by nationally exhibited artists. Hours: 10-6 daily. 773-6824.

**Jewell Gallery** 345 Fore St., Portland. Works by gallery artists, including Bill Jewell and Cynthia McMullin currently show. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat 10-5, or by appointment. 773-3334.

**Katahdin Restaurant** 106 High St., Portland. Acrylic relief paintings on canvas by David Cedrone show through Dec. 15. Closing reception Dec. 12 from 7-9. Hours: Mon-Thurs. 5-10, Fri-Sat 5-11. 774-1740.

**Lewis Gallery** Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland. Recent works by Richard L. Garrigus. Shows through December. 871-1758.

**Maine History Gallery** 489 Congress St., Portland. "Urban Evolution: Maine's Downtowns in Transition" and "Flora, Fauna and Stuffed Birds: A Look Back at the Portland Society of Natural History" show through March 5. Hours: Wed-Sat 12-4. 879-0427.

**Maine Potters Market** 376 Fore St., Portland. Special display of menorahs shows through the end of the holiday season. Hours: 10-6 daily. 774-1633.

**Nancy Margolis Gallery** 367 Fore St., Portland. "Menorahs," an exhibition of contemporary menorahs by 30 American craftspeople, shows through Dec. 31. "Fiber," a collection of handmade wearables by over 15 fiber artists, shows through Dec. 31. "Recent Work," colorful jewelry by Kim Ellwood, Mike Abbott, Esther Ward and Ann Finlay and wool and scarves by Wallace Sewell and Susie Freeman, shows Dec. 15-31. Gallery hours: Mon-Wed 10-6, Thurs-Sat 10-9, Sun 11-6. 775-3822.

**Meander Gallery** 40 Pleasant St., Portland. "Dream Weavers: rugs, baskets and paintings from Aboriginal Australia," shows through Dec. 31. Gallery hours: Tues-Sat 12-6, or by appointment. 871-1078.

**Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers** 415 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Exhibition of angel imagery including photography, wax, resist paintings, stained glass and carvings, shows through Jan. 15. Hours: Mon-Sat 9-5. 774-3791.

**Naturally Maine** 5 1/2 Moulton St., Portland. Watercolors by William Denicco, earth visions by Andrew Ruel, photos by Christine Gallant and watercolor prints by John Dimillo. Hours: Sun-Thurs 10-6, Fri-Sat 10-9. 774-0808.

**The New Art Gallery** 121 Center St., Portland. "Casco Bay Revisited," paintings by Gomez Ricker. Ongoing. Hours: 11-10 daily. 874-2844.

**Photography Co-op** 547-A Congress St., Portland. "Familiar Photos," new work by Jay York through Jan. 4. Hours: Tues & Thurs 12-7, Sat 12-5, or by appointment. 761-2113 or 773-8830.

**The Photo Gallery** Maine College of Art, 619 Congress St., Portland. "Works by Richard Langham" shows through Dec. 17. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 9-5. 775-5154.

**Pinetree Shop and Bayview Gallery** 75 Market St., Portland. "Prints-a-Plenty," a broad selection of prints, shows through Dec. 31. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat 9:30-5:30. 773-3007.

**Portland Museum of Art** Seven Congress Square, Portland. Hours: Wed-Fri 10-4, Sat 10-5, Sun 12-5. Admission: adults \$4, senior citizens and students with ID \$3, youth 6-18 \$1, children 6 and under are free. Museum admission is free 10-noon the first Saturday of the month and 4-6 on the first Thursday of the month. 773-2787.

**Perspectives: Brett Bigbee: Paintings and Drawings 1989-1993** Paintings and drawings by Portland resident Brett Bigbee show Dec. 11-Feb. 13. The artist will speak about his work in a gallery talk Dec. 11, 3-5 pm.

**With Piercing Eye: The Work of Waldo Peirce** Oil paintings and watercolors illustrating Peirce's great love of family and the state of Maine. Collection includes envelopes personalized with outlandish caricatures and whimsically illustrated children's books. Shows Sept 21-Jan 21.

**McLellan-Sweat House Tours and Tea** Museum docents guide tours of this historic home Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 2 pm. Free with paid museum admission. Tours limited to 15 people. Christmas tea Dec. 15 from 3-6 pm. \$10 donation.

**Makers '93: A Biennial Exhibition of Maine Crafts** A juried exhibition of metalwork, ceramics, woodworking, quilts and woven objects by members of the Maine Crafts Association. Shows through Jan. 30.

**From Courbet to Motherwell: 19th and 20th-Century European and American Art** Paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Matisse and other masters of the past two centuries. Ongoing.

**The Scott M. Black Collection** A sampling from Scott Black's 19th- and 20th-century paintings and sculptures, including works by Chagall and Toulouse-Lautrec. Ongoing.

**Vincent's Journey** A porcelain life mask sculpture by Paul Rodrigue commemorating the struggles of people living with AIDS. Ongoing.

**Raffles Cafe Bookstore** 355 Congress St., Portland. "Folk Art Images," painted furniture by Three Fish Guild, shows through Jan. 9. "Designs for the Mind," the work of Zao Cain through Dec. 31. Hours: Sun 12-5, Mon-Tues & Fri 9:15-5:30, Wed-Thurs 9:15-8, 761-3930.

**Renaissance Antiques and Fine Art** 37 Wharf St., Portland. Nineteenth-century paintings, marine antiques, 18th- and 19th-century Oriental furnishings, sterling silver and paintings by Terry Wolf and John Dehlinger. 879-0789.

**The Stein Gallery** 20 Milk St., Portland. Works by 65 nationally recognized and emerging contemporary American studio glass artists including Peter Andres, Rick Eckerd, Melanie Guernsey, Robert Mickelsen, Thomas Scoon, Robert Willson and Leah Wingfield. Gallery hours: Mon-Sat 11-6, Sun 11-5. 772-9072.

**Stillwood Books** 19 Pleasant St., Portland. Polaroid photographs by Tom Marino currently show. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-6. 871-0480.

**Victory Doll & Bakeshop** One Portland Square, Monument Square, Portland. Fantasy pastels by Marie S.W.B. Croteau show through Dec. 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 7-8, Sat-Sun 8:30-8. 772-7299.

## out of town

**Bowdoin College Museum of Art** Walker Art Building, Bowdoin College, Brunswick. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5, Sun 2-5. 725-3275.

**The Legacy of James Bowdoin III** An exhibit of James Bowdoin's 1811 bequest of paintings, drawings, books and mineralogical specimens show Oct 15-June 26.

**Crosscurrents** Works originating from Africa, Asia, the ancient Greek world and the Americas that represent the cultural diversity of the museum's collection show Oct 15-June 26.

**Drawing on Basics: Selections from Drawings and Watercolors at Bowdoin College** The oldest collection of drawings in America, bequeathed to the college in 1811 by James Bowdoin III, shows Oct 15-Dec 19.

**Other Places, Other Times: The Photographer's View** Images made by photographers working outside their native milieu. Through Dec. 22.

**Cry of the Loon Art Gallery** Route 302, S. Casco. "Old Friends...New Faces," affordable art for the holidays, shows through Dec. 24. Gallery hours: daily 9:30-5:30, December hours: 655-5060.

**Icon Contemporary Art** 19 Mason St., Brunswick. Paintings and drawings by Seaver Leslie through Jan. 8. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5, Sat 1-4. 725-8157.

**Kristina's Restaurant** 160 Center St., Bath. Recent oils by Maine painter J. Day Mason show through Jan. 3. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-9, Sat 9-9, Sun 9-2. 442-8577.

**Maine Maritime Museum** Maritime History Bldg, 243 Washington St., Bath. Gallery hours: daily 9:30-5. 443-1316.

**Shipwreck** Oil and watercolor paintings and photographs review the perils of the sea in the days before modern radio communication. On view through January 1994.

**One Earth Imports** 140 Main St., Freeport. "Born of Dreams and Whimsy," works by the mastercarvers of the Oaxaca Valley. Shows through Dec. 17. Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30-6, Fri-Sat 9:30-8, Sun 11-6. 865-3255.

**Praxis** 184 Lower Main St., Freeport. Crafts by Dianne Morgan, Warner Whitefield and other artists through December. Hours: Mon-Sun 10-6, open until 8 on Dec 16-18 and 20-23. 865-6201.

**Sabbathday Lake Shaker Museum** Route 26, New Gloucester. An exhibit of Shaker furniture is currently featured. Hours: Mon-Sat 10-4, 30-26-4597.

**University of Southern Maine Art Gallery** USM/Gorham. Faculty exhibition shows through Dec. 14. Gallery hours: Sun-Thurs 12-4. 780-5409.

## other

**Benefit Print Sale** The Maine Children's Cancer Program is selling limited edition prints of "Reflections, Portland, Maine" by local watercolorist David W. Clough. Proceeds from the sale of the first 300 prints (in a 500-piece run) will be donated to the program. Prints are available at the program offices in Shop 'n Save Plaza, 295 Forest Ave., Portland. 775-5481.

**Bookbinding** Susan Holland offers weekend workshops and individual instruction in the craft of bookbinding and box making at the Holland Bindery, 20 Danforth St., Studio #201, Portland. "Decorated Papers" workshop Dec. 11 using paste paper & stampering techniques to make a variety of decorative papers and wrapping paper. Cost: \$50. 874-0909.

**Creative Arts Program** Portland Recreation offers classes in drawing and painting for senior adults Tues and Fri from 9:30 am-12:30 pm at Northfield Green Community Room, 147 Allen Ave., Portland. 874-8793.

**Donations Requested** Greater Portland Landmarks needs you to clean out your attics and basements and give them a call! They're collecting architectural bits and pieces for a fundraiser auction and garage sale. Requested items include knobs, latches, door knockers, sinks, tubs, toilets, faucets, woodwork, stoves, ceramic tiles, furniture, windows, doors, arbors, slate shingles, books, tools and any other items that may be of value to someone working with an older home. 773-1756 or 774-6680.

Art & Soul continued on page 30

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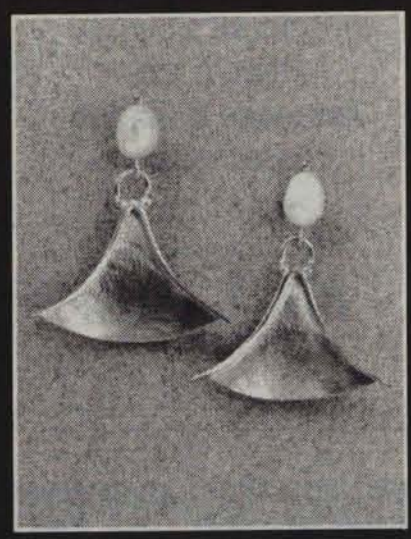
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Art &amp; Soul continued from page 29

## art

**Gift-Making Workshop** Judy Faust helps you create original jewelry, cards, ornaments and decorative containers from beads, papers, fabrics and other supplies at an old-fashioned gift-making workshop Dec 12 from 1-3 pm at the Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave, Portland. Registration, 772-8277.

**Holiday Exhibit and Sale** Sawyer Street Studio and Gallery invite you to attend its very special holiday exhibit and sale Dec 12 from 10 am-5 pm at 131 Sawyer St, So. Portland. The exhibit features the ceramic work of guest artists Lucy Breslin and Paul Heroux as well as nine of the ceramic artists who regularly exhibit at the studio. 767-7113.

**Learn to Use Your Camera** L. Murray Jamison offers basic technical and aesthetic instruction to improve your skill as a photographer. Small classes and weekend workshops. Individually tailored. 871-8244.

**MECA Holiday Art Sale** Students, staff, alumni and friends offer handmade items for sale Dec 11-12 from 9 am-5 pm at the former Porteous Department Store, 522 Congress St. Portland. 773-1546.

**Open Slide Night** The Union of Maine Visual Artists (UMVA) invites artists, craftspeople and anyone interested in the UMVA to attend an open slide night the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at Jay York Affordable Photo, 58 Wilmot St, Portland. Artists are encouraged to bring slides for discussion/feedback. 773-3434.

**Outdoor Painting Class** Freeport Art Club's resident artist Eric Glass offers outdoor painting classes for beginners using any medium. Cost: \$30, \$25 members. 865-3024.

**Meet the Artist** Meet Portland artist Brett Bigbee at an artist's reception Dec 11 from 3-5 pm at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland. 775-6148.

**Portland Camera Club** meets Mon at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway, S. Portland. Monthly events include B&W, color print and color slide competition.

**Portland Chamber of Commerce** is looking for Maine artists to share their work. 772-2811, ext. 223.



## sense

**Bookbinding Lecture** Martin Antonetti, librarian for the Greater Club of New York, speaks on "Robert Hoe and American Fine Bookbinding at the Turn of the Century" Dec 11 at 9 pm at Alexander Hall, Westbrook College, Stevens Avenue, Portland. Co-sponsored by the Baxter Society and the Maine Humanities Council. 892-7900.

**Fiction Workshop** Kristina Nelhouse offers an ongoing weekly writing workshop concerning anything from sudden to short fiction, starting out or works in progress. Cost: \$10 per session. 874-2949.

**Find Your Voice** Singer-songwriting group now forming. Holistic approach to expressing oneself through original songs performed solo acoustic, solo electric, with keyboard or a cappella. Will incorporate performances at open mike nights or song swaps. Meets Mondays from 7-9 pm. Cost: \$20 for two-hour session. 774-8666.

**Lending Library** USM's Portland Women's Center seeks donations of women's literature, both fiction and nonfiction, to stock their lending library. Donations may be made Mon-Fri from 8 am-2 pm at the center in Room 40, Payson Smith, Falmouth Street. 780-4696.

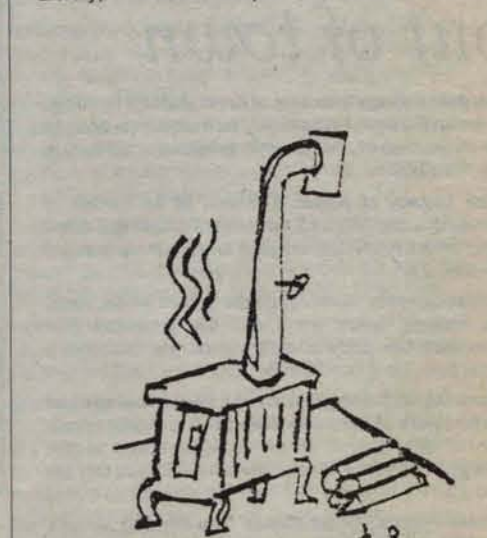
**Lotus/IBM Learning Centers** The Small Business Development Center at the University of Southern Maine has two Lotus/IBM Learning Centers available to help people in business learn how to use Lotus 123, One-Write Plus, Lotus Works and WordPerfect 5.1 software. Learning centers are available Mon-Fri. Free. 780-4420.

**Perceptions of the North** The Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum and Arctic Studies Center in Hubbard Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, has opened an exhibit examining major themes in Arctic exploration from 1880-1910. Museum hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3416.

**Poetry Reading and Book Signing** Maine author and teacher Wes McNair reads from his newly published book "My Brother Running" Dec 9 at 7:30 pm at Raffles Café Bookstore, 555 Congress St, Portland. 761-3930.

**The Theater Project** seeks new, unproduced plays (one-acts with small casts, minimal sets, props, costumes) and individual performance projects. Winners will be produced as part of their 1994 season. Please send entries to NewWorks, The Theater Project, 14 School St, Brunswick, ME 04011. Include SASE for script return and results. Winners notified March 1, 1994. 729-8584.

**"Twiced Bless: Growing Up Jewish and Gay"** Members of Am Chofshi, Maine's lesbian and gay social group, celebrate Hanukkah and discuss what's it like being Jewish and gay in a predominantly Christian culture at the meeting of the Matlovich Society Dec 9 from 7:30-9 pm in the Rines Room, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland. 773-1309.



## wellness

**Adult Screening Clinic** on the last Wed of every month for blood pressure and testing for sugar, anemia and cholesterol, from 11:30 am-1 pm at the Peoples United Methodist Church, 310 Broadway, S. Portland. Fee for services. 767-3326.

**Aikido** is a martial art used to increase flexibility, stamina and promote a sense of well-being. Adult classes: Mon and Wed, 5:30-6:15 pm and 6:30-7:30 pm; Fri, 6:30-7:30 pm; Sat, 2:30-3:30 pm and 3:45-4:45 pm. Children's classes: Sat, 11:15-12:15 pm. Classes held at Portland Aikido, 25A Forest Ave, Portland. 772-1524.

**Buddhist-Oriented Meditation** Group meets every Sun from 10-11 am at 1040 Broadway, S. Portland. Small donation. 839-4897.

**Chemical Dependency Program** The Department of Veterans Affairs offers outpatient substance abuse treatment for veterans. They will provide community outreach, individual care, education, evaluation, referral and support. 780-3577 or 780-3578.

**Child Health Clinic** Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of So. Portland offer a well child clinic for kids age two months to two years the first Friday of every month from 8:30 am-noon at First Congregational Church, Cottage Road, So. Portland. Services include immunizations, lead tests and physicals. Medicaid accepted. By appointment only. 767-3326.

**Chiropractic Discussions** Dr. Roger Nadeau presents chiropractic health care discussions Tues from 1:30 pm and Thurs from 7:30-8 pm at Saco Island, Suite 1214, Saco. Free. 284-7760.

**Concerned About Lead?** To learn about lead and the risk it poses to your family, request a lead fact sheet prepared by the U Maine Cooperative Extension Services. 1-800-287-1471 or 780-4205. For information about childhood risk and screening, call 287-3259.

**Cosmic Cycles of Time** Vedic astrology is the authentic science of prediction. Learn the influence of these cycles of time on your life and the practical benefits of knowing them in advance at a free introductory lecture at the Maharishi School of Vedic Science, 575 Forest Ave, Portland. 774-1108.

**Flocking** Expressive therapist Diana Sorus leads a playful creative movement group enhancing empathy, relationships and nonverbal communication the first and third Thurs of each month from 6:15-8 pm at the United Methodist Church, 168 Elm St, So. Portland. Sliding scale. 828-3908.

**Free Meditations** Every Sunday at 7 pm at The Yoga Center, 137 Preble St, Portland. 799-4449.

**Friends of the Western Buddhist Order** invite all interested individuals to a period of meditation and study of Buddhist concepts and practice. Meetings are on Mon eves, from 7:15-9:15 pm. 642-2128.

**Hatha Yoga for People with AIDS** is available every Wed and Fri from 12:45-2 pm at 22 Monument Square, Portland. Cost: \$1, for those who can afford it. 797-5684.

**Heartline Cardiac Rehabilitation** USM Lifeline offers an exercise program for people who have had a heart attack, angina, bypass surgery or angioplasty or are at risk for heart disease. Classes are ongoing Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30 am and 6 pm at Portland Campus Gym, Falmouth St, Portland. 780-4649.

**Homeopathic Study Group** Learn about an alternative medicine that works! Study group meets one Sunday afternoon each month from 2-4:30 pm. Small donation welcome. Call 865-9220 or 725-0408 for info.

**Men Moving Men** An eight-week interactive workshop designed to help you move your self, emotions, body and mind starts soon on Fri afternoons from 5-6:30 pm. 865-6027 or 828-1182.

**My Choice Pregnancy Resource Ctr** offers counseling, referrals and housing for women and teens experiencing an untimely pregnancy. Counseling focuses on the options of parenting or adoption. A birth mother support group is offered to any woman who surrendered a child for adoption or is considering doing so. 772-7555.

**Natural Foods Solutions** Learn all about the purchase and preparation of whole foods vegetarian meals in your home. Classes, presentations and consultations are also available. 774-8889.

**Ninjitsu** Learn realistic self defense, physical fitness and body and mind awareness. Beginning classes starting soon. Call 767-5077 or stop by 10 Exchange St, Suite 202, Portland, Sundays at 2:30 or 4:30.

**Noonday Sun Center for Radiant Wellness** offers several ongoing classes. Polarity Yoga/Energy Exercise (breathing techniques, warm-ups, visualization, balance and more); The Art of Healing Touch (massage and polarity therapy); Support Group for Polarity Therapists (share, swap, learn, uplift and more). The center is located at 510 Main St, Gorham. 839-LIFE.

**Planned Parenthood** has a new health center located at 970 Forest Ave, Portland. HIV testing is now available for women and men in addition to annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control information and supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for STDs and infections, menopause services and more. Handicapped accessible, confidential and affordable. Medicaid is welcomed. 874-1095.

**Pulmonary Rehabilitation** USM Lifeline offers a program designed for individuals with various lung diseases Tues and Thurs from 11:15 am-noon at the USM Portland Campus Gym, Falmouth St. 780-4170.

**Reiki Workshop** Learn to use Reiki, a gentle, hands-on healing technique that helps restore vital energy, maintain good health and prevent illness. Colleen Jones-Turner offers first and second degree classes in Portland. 773-1644.

**Sitting Meditations in the Tibetan Tradition** Meditation practitioners are invited to join in regular sitting sessions Sunday mornings from 9 am-noon in the Shrine Room of the Dharma Study Group, 98 Maine St, Brunswick. Open to the public. Meditation instruction available. Free. 871-0566.

**Somatic Integration** Craig Williamson offers a different kind of exercise class for pain relief, relaxation, improved posture and injury prevention. Small group classes held at On Balance, 4 Milk St, Portland. Call 799-5749 for fall schedule.

**Spirituality Awareness** Become one with the creator, "You." Come join the gathering with spiritualist Magda Adrian. 774-9036.

**Standard First Aid and CPR** The Portland Chapter of the American Red Cross offers several programs in first aid, adult, child, and infant CPR during the month of December. Fees and times available by calling 874-1192 on Wednesdays.

**Stretching The Spirit** Ongoing open class of basic Hatha yoga including breathing and deep relaxation Tues from 6-7 pm at the Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave, Portland. Wear loose clothing and bring a mat or blanket. Cost: \$3 donation. 772-8277.

**Sufi Meditation** Join the Portland Sufi Order for meditation sessions based on the works of Hazrat Inayat Khan and Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan. Experienced teachers offer sessions working with creative visualization, breath, sound, light and divine qualities. Sessions ongoing and open to all; no experience necessary. Bring a meditation pillow or bench if desired. No fee, but donations accepted. Sessions at Expressive Therapy Center, 150 St. John St, Portland. 774-1203.

**T'ai Chi Ch'uan** is an ancient Chinese martial art based on mental and physical balance. Excellent for spiritual growth, radiant physical health and reducing the effect of stress and tension. Beginners through advanced classes ongoing. 772-9039.

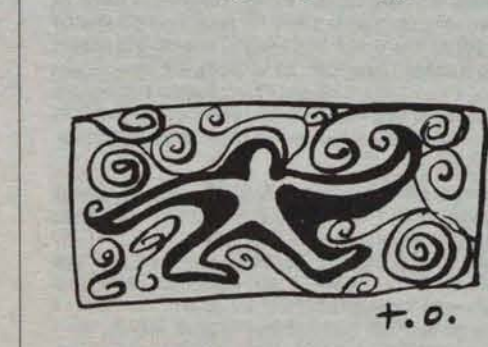
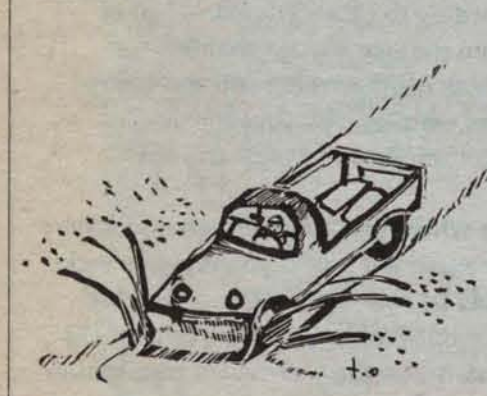
**The Teen/Young Adult Clinic** is a place to go if you have a health concern or medical problem, need a sports/school physical done, or have birth control issues to deal with. Open to anyone 13-21, every Monday from 4-8 pm, at Maine Medical Center, 22 Bramhall St, Portland. Walk-ins seen if they arrive by 7 pm. 871-2763.

**Transcendental Meditation Program** Develop full mental potential, consciousness and perfect health as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at an introductory lecture every Wed at 7 pm at 575 Forest Avenue, Portland. Free. 774-1108.

**Vison USA** The Maine Project provides free eye examinations to low-income, uninsured Mainers and their families. Eligibility requirements. Contact the Maine Optometric Association for info. 268-2031.

**Women's Meditation Workshop** Learn to listen to your inner voice. 767-1315.

**Women Over 50** A support group facilitated by Louise Bennett will explore this vital time of life and those that follow. 772-1910.



## family

**Aerobics for Kids** Children ages 7-11 can learn funky new steps and get great exercise each Wed from 5:15-6 pm at the Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Portland. Cost: \$12 first month, \$10 each month thereafter. 874-8873.

**Children's Museum of Maine** invites kids to enjoy the upcoming programs. Ongoing activities: Learn how and why people use maps at "Maps" Nov 30-Dec 13; computer workshops for school-age and preschool kids; join local firefighters to learn about fire prevention at "Meet the Firefighters" every other Wed at 10 am & 2 pm; build simple machines using gears, levers and pulleys at the Dada Lego Club, which meets every Tues from 3:30-5 pm through Dec 31; make weekly explorations into the world of the unknown at Young Scientists Club, which meets every Tues from 3:30-4:45 pm through Dec 31; Star Science Club offered every Sat at 11 am (ages five to six), 1:30-3 pm (ages seven to nine), and 11:30 am-1 pm (ages 10-12); Art-based workshops with Annie Boyden every Wed at 10 am, 1 pm & 3 pm. The museum's located at 142 Free Street, Portland. Admission's \$3.75. Pre-registration required for some activities. 828-1234.

**Counseling** North Creek Ministries offers counseling to individuals, couples or families based on a sliding fee scale. Located at 137 Park St, Portland. 780-0204.

**Creative Resource Center** offers fun activities for kids. Upcoming programs include: card making demonstration (all ages) Dec 12 from 12-3 pm; Events are free! The center's located at 1103 Forest Ave, Portland. 797-9543.

**Discovery Room** at Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm offers exploratory activities and interactive displays focusing on the natural history of the farm. Open year-round Sat from 10 am-4 pm and Sun from 1-4 pm. Gilsland Farm's located at 118 U.S. Route One, Falmouth. Cost: \$1, \$5.50 kids. 781-2330.

**Family Counseling** A Center for the Awareness of Pattern offers counseling to people and their families on a sliding fee scale. Call 865-3396 or write PO Box 407, Freeport, ME 04032.

**Family Night** The Greater Portland YMCA hosts Friday Night Family Night every Fri from 6:30-9 pm at 70 Forest Ave, Portland. Enjoy swimming, open gym, game room, weight room and walleymall. Cost: \$5 per family, free for YMCA members. 874-1111.

**Fun-Filled Fridays** The Greater Portland YMCA offers free child care the last Fri of each month from 6:30-8:30 pm for kids ages three to five. Registration required. 874-1111.

**Friday Night Special** Portland Recreation offers organized gym programs for middle school children at Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland. 774-1108.

**Gorham PTA** holds open business meetings the 3rd Thurs of each month at 7 pm at Shaw Jr. High School Library, 75 South St, Gorham. Hear committee reports, discuss goals and share information. The PTA also sponsors Bingo every Wed at 6:30 pm at the Warren Memorial Library, 479 Main St, Westbrook. Free. 854-5891.

**Gym & Swim** Portland YMCA offers gym & swim for preschoolers to develop beginner dance, gymnastic and swimming skills through guided discovery and play. The YMCA is located at 70 Forest Ave, Portland. 874-1111.

**Holiday Showcase of Young Talent** The Warren Performing Arts Kids perform songs, dances and skits in the holiday spirit Dec 11 at 2 pm at the Warren Memorial Library, 479 Main St, Westbrook. Free. 854-5891.

**Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum** Videos and memorabilia provide an educational look at the history of Maine's unique two-footers (miniature trains, not large hot dogs). Volunteers welcome. 58 Fore St, Portland. Open daily 10 am-4 pm. 828-0814.

**Music for Kids** Starbird Music Shoppe offers programs for kids in keyboard, expressive singing, note and rhythm reading and movement and dancing. Available for preschoolers and three year olds. 775-2733 or 1-800-322 SONG.

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Fri. Dec. 10	THE STORY
Sat. Dec. 11	PORT CITY ALLSTARS
Sun. Dec. 12	BRAD TERRY with THE BLUES SOCIETY
Mon. Dec. 13	SOUTHERN MAINE BLUES SOCIETY meeting + jam
Tues Dec. 14	WRITERS' OPEN MIC hosted by Anni Clark featuring Cindy Bullens

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Art &amp; Soul continued on page 32



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Art & Soul continued from page 31

## family

**Parenting Classes** Portland YMCA presents a series of parenting classes on the last Friday of the month from 6:30-7:30 pm at 70 Forest Ave, Portland. Free for YMCA members; \$2 per family for non-members. 874-1111.

**Piggy Bank Shop** The Portland YMCA hosts its annual Piggy Bank Shop Dec 11 from 10 am-12 pm at 87 Spring St, Portland. The fair is a holiday shopping fair for kids under 12 years of age. Most gifts are priced under \$1. Mrs. Santa Claus will be there to greet the kids and Santa's elves will be on hand to help shop! Free admission. 874-1130.

**Portland Public Library** invites children to enjoy its upcoming programs: Tales for Twos Dec 10 and 17 at 10:30 am; Children's Theater of Maine presents "Rootabaga Tales" Dec 11 at 3 pm; Preschool Story Time Dec 13 at 10:30 am; Finger Fun for Babies Dec 15 at 9:30 am; Family Story Time Dec 18 at 10:30 am. The library is located at 5 Monument Square, Portland. 871-1700.

**Riverton Library** invites children to enjoy its upcoming programs: Toddler Time (kids ages one and two) including games, stories and songs, Wed at 10:30 am & Fri at 9:30 am; Creation Art with Phyllis (kids ages six to 12) Wed at 1 pm; Preschool Story Time (kids ages three to five) Fri at 10:30 am. The library is located at 1600 Forest Ave, Portland. 797-2915.

**Story Hour** Munjoy Branch Library invites children age 3-5 to its story hour each Tues at 10:30 am. The library is located at 44 Moody St, Portland. 772-4581.

**Teen Open Gym** Teens ages 13-18 play basketball, floor hockey and more at Portland gyms and community centers. King Gym: Tues 6-8 pm (middle school age), Thurs 6-8 pm (high school age). Jack Gym: Tues & Thurs 6:15-8 pm. Peaks Island Community Center: Tues & Thurs 6-8 pm. Cummings Community Center: Mon-Thurs 6-8 pm. Reiche Community Center: Mon & Wed 5:15-7 pm. Riverton Community Center: Mon & Wed 6-9 pm, Fri 7:30-9 pm, Fri 6-7:30 pm (for grades 6-8). Cost: \$5. 874-8873.

**Youth Indoor Soccer Program** at Portland YMCA for children 6-11 years of age. Registration is ongoing. 874-1111.

**YMCA Clubs** The Greater Portland YMCA invites kids ages eight to 13 to check out its Youth Membership Club Mon-Fri from 3-6 pm. Teens ages 13-18 can have fun and learn skills and services at the Teen Leaders Club. 874-1111.

## sweat

**Aerobics** Ongoing classes Tues & Thurs from 5:15-6:15 pm at Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Portland. \$4 drop in. 797-0484.

**Aerobics Plus** USM Lifeline offers a 10-week session of aerobics plus starting Dec 20. Classes are held Mon, Wed and Fri from 6:15-7:15 am, 4:30-5:30 pm and 5:30-6:30 pm in the Campus Gym, USM/Portland. Register by Dec 10. 780-4170.

**Aquatic Fitness & Aqua Aerobics** USM Lifeline offers a 10-week session of aqua aerobics and aquatic fitness starting Dec 20. Aquatic fitness classes take place at the Riverton Pool (1600 Forest Ave, Portland) at 6 am and at the S. Portland Municipal Pool at 6 pm Mon, Wed and Fri. Aqua aerobics are held at the Riverton Pool at 6:45 am on Mon, Wed and Fri. Register by Dec 10. 780-4170.

**Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program** Portland YMCA offers an aquatic program developed by the Arthritis Foundation and the YMCA designed to help relieve the pain and stiffness caused by arthritis. Classes are held Nov 29-Dec 22 and meet Mon-Wed-Fri from 1:15-2 pm at 87 Spring St, Portland. 874-1130.

**Basketball for Adults** Pickup games every Mon & Wed from 7-9 pm at Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Portland. Cost: \$2. 874-8873.

**Bodyshop Program** USM Lifeline offers a bodyshop program with fitness evaluation and personal orientation and training. Equipment includes Lifecycles, Lifesport, Concept II and Lifeworx treadmills, Nordic Track, Schwinn AirDyne and Universal and free weights. Ongoing registration. 780-4170 for info and brochure.

**Boomerang Club** meets every Sunday the sun shines at 10:30 am at Payson Park, near the basketball court. 775-0411.

**Casco Bay Bicycle Club** meets every third Tues at 7 pm at the Walker Library, Maine Street, Westbrook. Call 892-8257.

**Contact Improvisation** and movement jam every Wednesday from 6-8 pm at United Methodist Church Dance Studio, 168 Elm Street, off Broadway, S. Portland. 775-4981.

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

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



## You are what you eat

It's Sunday afternoon, and the kids are bored and whining, demanding that you find them something to do. No problem — it's Owl Pellets Day at Maine Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm!

Owl pellets are the matter that owls spit up after eating a fine meal. It seems owls eat their live prey (small rodents) whole but cannot digest bones and fur. Therefore, their digestive systems create, according to Lisa Silverman-Gent of Maine Audubon, "harmless little bundles about the size of your thumb." Naturalist Helen Cromer will lead the workshop, during which you and yours will actually get to dissect the pellets. For those who are a bit squeamish, Silverman-Gent assures that the pellets are "not smelly, not yucky and not disease-ridden."

From your investigations, you can discover where the birds live, what foods are available to them and how they adapt to their surroundings. If you're really lucky, you might find a skull in the pellet and possibly be able to reconstruct the little critter that was the main course. So for a raptor-ous Sunday, visit the farm at 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. The program runs from 1-2:30 pm. Advanced registration is recommended. Cost: \$3-\$4. 781-2330.

**Dance From the Inside Out** Expressive movement for dancers and non-dancers to discover your body's innate wisdom. Five ongoing classes meet weekly. Cost: \$7 and \$9. 772-7549 or 883-1035 for info and schedule.

**Energy Lacking?** Try moving with ENERJOY! Community classes held in Portland, South Portland, Falmouth, Gray and Yarmouth on evenings and week-ends. Try your first class free. Drop in \$4. 797-0484.

**Fifty-Five & Fit** The Greater Portland YMCA offers fitness classes and programs for active older adults who love to get involved and treasure their independence. 874-1111 for more info.

**First Step and Beyond** USM Lifeline offers a personal fitness evaluation for the first-time exerciser through to the performance athlete. Program includes body fat composition, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance. 780-4649 for info & brochure.

**Fitness Classes** Greater Portland YMCA offers a variety of fitness classes including step aerobics, body shaping and aerobic fitness. Beginner, intermediate and advanced classes available. Stop by the YMCA at 70 Forest Ave, Portland, for details or call 874-1111.

**Holiday Dinner and Dance** The Gorham Dance Club invites everyone to a holiday buffet and dinner dance (in place of its usual Saturday ballroom party and social) Dec 11 at 7:30 pm at the Center of Movement School of Performing Arts, 19 State St, Gorham. Regular ballroom party and social takes place Thursdays from 8-11 pm, with free dance lesson at 7:30 pm. Chem-free. Cost: \$5. 839-DANS.

**Learn to Ski Free** Key Bank Learn to Ski Free Week takes place Dec 13-19 at several Maine ski areas. Newcomers to the slopes receive free lesson, limited-access lift ticket and equipment rentals. 761-3774.

**Maine Outdoor Adventure Club** brings together people who enjoy the outdoors. MOAC offers trips and events to people of all skill levels, beginner to expert. Upcoming events: Jan 8-9 Moosehead Lake (772-2311). Weekly walk around Back Cove every Tues & Thurs at 6 pm (meet in Payson Park). For updated trip info, call the Outdoor Hotline at 828-0918. For club and membership information call 774-3886.

**Martial Arts for Seniors** Master's Self-Defense Center offers a martial arts program designed for those over 50 years of age. Program includes fitness, weight control, relaxation and self-defense. The center is located at Union Station Plaza on St. John Street, Portland. 761-0114.

**Pool Hours** Portland Rec announces its winter pool hours. Riverton Pool, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland: Adults 12:15-1:15 pm Mon-Fri; 12:30-1:30 pm Sat; 6:15-7:30 pm Mon-Wed-Fri. Open swims 7:30-8:45 pm Mon & Wed; 6:15-8 pm Tues; 1:30-3:30 pm Sat (874-8456). Reiche Pool, 166 Brackett St, Portland: Adults 12:15-1:15 pm Tues & Thurs; 4:30-6 pm Mon-Wed & Fri; 4:30-6:30 pm Thurs. Open swims 6:30-8 pm Thurs (874-8874).

**Row Row Row** Learn how slide seat rowing can keep you fit for life. Call Casco Bay Rowing Center at 846-5139.

**Saturday Dance** Dance the night away every Saturday at Maine Ballroom Dance, 614a Congress St, Portland. Dancing for beginners from 8-9 pm, all others dance from 9-12 pm. Cost: \$5, \$3 for beginners dance. 773-0002.

**Scuba Lessons** Portland Recreation offers ongoing lessons at Riverton Pool, 1600 Forest Ave, Portland. 799-7990.

**Senior Fitness for Men & Women 55+** USM Lifeline offers classes Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10:30-11:15 am at the USM Portland campus gym on Falmouth Street. Program consists of progressive exercises. Registration is ongoing. 780-4170.

**Senior Stretch & Step** S. Portland Parks & Recreation offers stretch & step exercise classes on Mondays and Fridays. Call 767-7650 for details.

**So, Me, Sea Kayaking Network** People of all skill levels are invited to join the network for paddling fun. Call the newsletter at 874-2640 for updates and membership information.

**Sports of All Sorts** The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Portland offers a variety of activities including swimming, basketball and volleyball at 277 Cumberland Ave, Portland. 874-1070.

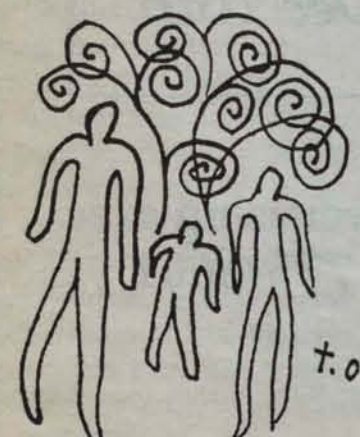
**Volksmarch** A year-round Volksmarch, a free and non-competitive walk open to everyone, is held every day of the year. The walk starts at the Ramada Inn at 1230 Congress St, Portland and offers a six-mile tour of Portland. 797-8726.

**Volleyball** Pickup games every Tues & Thurs from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Wed 7-9 pm at Peaks Island Community Center, Peaks Island. Cost: \$2 residents, \$3 non-residents. Call 874-8793.

**Walk/Jog/Aerobics** USM Lifeline offers a ten-week session of walk/jog/aerobics starting Dec 20 at a variety of times and locations. Register by Dec 10. 780-4170.

**Wallyball** Casco Bay Bike Club hosts informal wallyball games every Thurs at 6:30 pm at the Racket and Fitness Center, Outer Congress Street, Portland. Cost: \$5. 772-8465.

**Women's Rugby** The Portland women's rugby club welcomes new and old players. Call 865-4419 or 929-5984 for more information.



## our towns

**Bean Supper** The Highland Lake Grange offers the classic menu in full force: beans, hot dogs, potato salad, slaw, bread and pies Dec 11 with seatings at 5 and 6 pm, Route 302 and Hardy Road, Westbrook. Cost: \$4 adults, \$2 kids under 12.

**Booney Rat Donations** Help benefit Maine's vets and the local community by donating your working electronics, kitchen ware, furniture and tools to The Booney Rat, 239 Congress St, Portland. Open 10 am-5 pm daily.

**Chanukah Celebration** The Jewish Community Center hosts a "Night of Gifts," including a family supper, gift exchanges and entertainment Dec 12 at 5:30 pm at the Jewish Community Center, 57 Ashmont St, Portland. Reservations required by Dec 9. Admission fees vary. 772-1959.

**Children's Fun Pass** Need a perfect gift idea for a special young person? How about the Children's Fun Pass. Designed for kids aged 12 and under, the pass allows free admission to 50 great family attractions, including Funtown, Aquaboggan, Palaces Playland and more, when accompanied by a paying adult. Value up to \$800. Cost: \$15. All proceeds benefit The American Lung Association. 1-800-458-6472 or 621-4058.

**Christmas at Victoria Mansion** The Victoria Mansion celebrates "The Queen's Christmas," honoring the arts and culture of the reign of the great Queen (1839-1902), Dec 9-12. Designers, florists and architects have transformed the mansion into a Victorian Christmas spectacle. Hours are 1-7 pm Dec 2-5 and 9-12. Admission for tours: \$5, \$4 members, \$2 kids under 12. 772-4841.

**Christmas Gift Wrap Event** Bring your packages to the American Cancer Society's gift wrap booth located outside of Jordan Marsh in the Maine Mall and let the volunteers wrap them for you! Donations are gratefully accepted. Volunteers are still needed. 729-3339.

**Christmas Parable** A program of music, drama and art presented Dec 12 at 4 pm by the choir of the Washington Avenue United Methodist Church, 618 Washington Ave, Portland. 797-6633.

**Christmas Pageant and Potluck** The children of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, present "Twas the Night Before Christmas" Dec 12 at 5 pm, followed by a potluck dinner, at the church, 301 Cottage Road, S. Portland. Free. Call for reservations. 799-3361.

**Christmas Tree Auction** Charities and organizations from the Greater Portland area are decorating cultured trees donated by Lucas Tree for an auction Dec 11 at 3 pm at Lucas Tree, 636 Riverside St, Portland. All proceeds benefit the Bruce Roberts Santa Fund. 797-7294.

**Craft Fair Central** Now's the time to finish your holiday shopping. Most fairs feature hand-made crafts and plenty of food. The following fairs are coming soon to a location near you:

\*Christmas Fair, Potluck, and Performance Dec 11 at the Shoestring Theater, 155 Brackett St, Portland. Fair from 9 am-5 pm featuring handpuppets, hats, banners, masks, stilt, Potluck dinner at 6 pm, followed by a 7 pm performance of "A Christmas Carol," adapted by Peter Parker for the West End Neighborhood Children's Theater. Admission 25 cents. 774-1502.

\*Holiday Craft Fair Dec 11 from 9 am-3 pm, and Dec 12 from 10 am-2 pm at 17 Bishop St, Morrill's Corner, Portland. Shaker/country-style furniture, crafts, baked goods, jewelry, raffle, refreshments.

\*Holiday Fair Dec 12 from 12:30-3 pm at Scarborough Public Library, 48 Gorham Road, Scarborough, featuring crafts and gifts, home-baked food, white elephant party, kid's corner, gingerbread house raffle. 883-0132.

\*United Maine Craftsmen's Holiday Craft Show Dec 11 & 12 from 10 am-5 pm both days at the USM Campus Gym, USM/Portland. Over 30 exhibitors participating. Cost: \$1 admission. 621-2818.

**Firefighters for Salvation Army** The South Portland firefighters — Local 1476 — will be at the Maine Mall Sat, Dec 18 from 10 am-10 pm, to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Christmas Kettle near the gazebo. 799-3314.

**Foster Grandparent Program** seeks adults ages 60 and older for a volunteer training program starting in December. Volunteers are needed to work one-on-one with kids in special needs in child care, Headstart, public school, classrooms and at home. 774-0202.

**Goodwill Drop Sites** New Goodwill donation boxes are located at 353 Cumberland Avenue in Portland and Pond Cove Plaza on Ocean House Road in Cape Elizabeth. Attended donation centers are located at Northgate Shopping Plaza in Portland and behind Hansen Chrysler on Waterman Drive in South Portland. Clothing, shoes and hard good items are accepted. Furniture must be donated at the Portland Goodwill Store, 353 Cumberland Avenue, Portland. Larger donations may be picked up. 774-6323.

**Holiday Cards** The Maine Children's Cancer Program is selling holiday cards designed by one of their young leukemia patients. Cards are available at all 97 Key Bank branches across the state and at the Maine Children's Cancer Program, 295 Forest Ave, Portland. Cost: package of eight cards for \$4 or three packages for \$10. Proceeds benefit the Maine Children's Cancer Program. Available through Dec 775-5481.

**Morsels Cookbook** St. Joseph's Manor has published "More Morsels," a cookbook containing 374 recipes from the facility's best cooks. The cookbooks cost \$10 and are available at St. Joseph's Manor, 1133 Washington Avenue, Portland. Proceeds benefit the manor's patio renovation project. 797-0600.

## 775-1234 SURE SELL CLASSIFIEDS

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Art & Soul continued on page 35



Short stories sought for *Casco Bay Weekly's*

# Fiction Slam



*Casco Bay Weekly* is looking for original, unpublished short stories that reflect life in the Casco Bay region. The most lively and compelling stories will be showcased in *CBW's* Fiction issue next February.

While literary merit is a plus, we're looking mostly for strong voices that say something about life as we know (or don't know) it. Shock us, inspire us, amuse us, compel us to think (we dare you!) — but show us your Portland in all its vibrant detail.

**Play by the rules:** Double-spaced manuscripts of 3,000 words or less will be accepted until 5 p.m. Jan. 3, 1994.

The author's name, address and phone number must appear only on the cover page of the manuscript. Subsequent pages should be identified by story titles

and page numbers only. Proofread your stories carefully. Neatness counts. No works-in-progress, please. One entry per contestant. Only manuscripts accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned.

A panel of three judges will choose the winning stories based on originality, insight and zip. Selected authors will each receive 50 bucks, and their stories will be published in the Feb. 17 issue of *Casco Bay Weekly*. Wait — there's more! The authors will also be invited to attend a gala awards dinner with the judges and *CBW* editors at a local dining establishment.

Send your manuscript by Jan. 3 to: *Casco Bay Weekly* Fiction Slam  
551A Congress Street  
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Art &amp; Soul continued from page 33

## our towns

**Pageant and Festival** St. Ansgar Lutheran Church ushers in the Christmas season with a Saint Lucia Pageant and Festival Dec. 12 at 7 pm at the church at 515 Woodford St., Portland. The public is invited to enjoy traditional Swedish music, cookies and coffee. 774-8740.

**Peace on Earth Potluck Dance Party** The festivities, sponsored by Southern Maine Vegetarians and Portland Friends, take place Dec. 18 at 6 pm at the Portland Friends Meetinghouse, 1837 Forest Ave., Portland. Feast on a vegetarian potluck dinner and then celebrate the season with music, singing and dancing. Bring music tapes, instruments and food. Chem free. No charge. 773-6132.

**PMA Holiday Festival** The Portland Museum of Art invites you to enjoy the holiday season at the museum with holiday caroling from Dec. 22-19 in the Great Hall at lunch time featuring local choruses. Members of Portland Ballet perform scenes from "The Nutcracker Suite" followed by a visit from Santa Claus Dec. 4 at noon. No admission charge for performances. The museum's located at 7 Congress Square, Portland. 775-6148.

**Portland Observatory** opens on Saturdays from 10 am-4 pm and Sundays from 1-4 pm through Christmas week weather permitting. The observatory will also be open for at least one snowfall in December. Watch for the flags on weekends and after the first snowfall. The observatory's open when the flags are flying! 774-5561.

**Portland Pirates Gift Drive** Toys collected by the hockey team will be distributed to local children through the Toys for Tots program in time for Christmas. Bring unwrapped toys to the collection boxes at the main entrance of the Cumberland County Civic Center during the Pirates' Dec. 11 & 17 home games, or drop them off at the team's office at the Spring Street entrance to the arena. 828-4665.

**Retired Service Volunteer Program** finds meaningful opportunities for people 60 and older. A concert association is looking for people to usher, distribute posters and do office work. A local Westbrook agency needs assistance in history and landmark research. 775-6503.

**Riding Center Seeks Volunteers** The Flying Changes Therapeutic Riding Center in Durham is looking for new volunteers to walk alongside disabled riders or lead gentle therapy horses. 729-6044 or 443-5804.

**So. Maine Area Agency on Aging** Agency volunteers will again deliver Christmas meals this year to people ages 60 and older in their Cumberland and York County homes between 11 am and 12:30 pm on Christmas Day. Call 283-2472 or 1-800-400-6325 by Dec. 18 to make a meal referral or reservation. The agency also offers a trained advocate in Portland, at 307 Cumberland Ave., Portland, every Friday from 10 am-1 pm, to assist older residents and their concerned family members and friends with questions about Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, housing, social services, consumer issues and others. Funding is available through the home based care program for care management and other services to help older people remain living independently. 775-6503 or 800-427-7411.

**The Queen's Christmas** A celebration of the arts and culture of the reign of Queen Victoria sponsored by the Victoria Society of Maine Dec. 9-12 from 1-7 pm at Victoria Mansion, 109 Danforth St., Portland. Cost: \$5 adults, \$2 kids 6-12, free for kids under 6. 772-4841.

**Used Book and Bake Sale** Enjoy coffee and freshly baked treats as you browse through used books Dec. 11 from 9 am-2 pm at the Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave., Portland. Books by the bag and holiday baked goods. 772-8277.

**Victorian Holiday** Portland's downtown area offers a variety of festive activities to celebrate the holiday season this year. The "Victorian Holiday" theme will feature music, food, performances and window watching. Look for Victorian-garbed characters, carolers, banners and free hayrides the first two weekends in December. Also, Father Christmas will be greeting kids in the former Loring, Short and Harmon building on Monument Square during weekends. Don't miss it! 772-6828.

**Volunteer Center** The Maine Children's Cancer Program needs 20-30 volunteers to sell holiday cards at various locations in Southern Maine. Each school system in Southern Maine needs a Reading Champs Program Coordinator to encourage children to read. Portland Trails needs a computer programmer to fine tune a database and share knowledge. The Maine Handicapped Skiing Program at Sunday River seeks volunteer instructors for its ski program. Sweetser Children's Services needs a volunteer to play keyboard and help with the kids' Christmas show Thurs from 4-5 pm through Dec. 23. 874-1000.

**X-Mas Decorations** The Scarborough Lions are currently selling their annual tree ornament featuring historical buildings in Scarborough. This year's ornament features Winslow Homer's Studio in Neck and are available at several local locations, including Flaherty Farms, Package Plus, Cumberland Farms, Town Hall, Pleasant Hill Gardens and Dottie's Place. Cost: \$6. 883-1427.

Art &amp; Soul continued on page 36



## Westward ho, ho, ho

Eat, drink and spend money Dec. 11, when Shoestring Theater holds its fifth annual Christmas fair and potluck dinner. It's a great time to do your Christmas shopping, meet members of your community and explore the inner workings of the non-profit West End theater.

The fair runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 155 Brackett St., Portland, and features all sorts of unique items, most of them made by Nance Parker, the director of the theater. There'll be handpuppets, rave hats, banners, masks, stilts, children's chairs, gingerbread houses and, according to rumor, much, much more. Says Parker, "Everything's handmade and very funky. It's perfect if you want it to look like Santa and the elves made your gifts."

Later, at the same location, there'll be a pot luck dinner. So make one of your specialties, then plan to show up at 5:30 p.m. and eat like a glutton. A performance of "A Christmas Carol" follows at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the theater. 774-1502.

## Personal Injury Law

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**Casco Bay Weekly**

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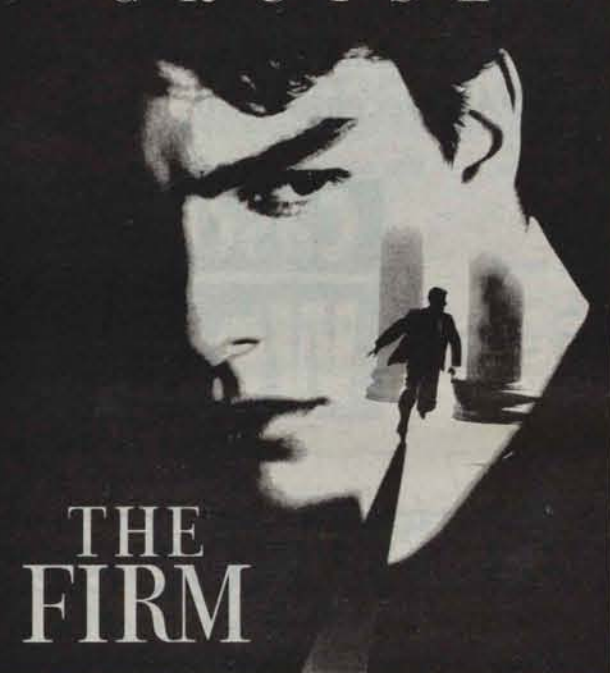
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Art & Soul continued from page 35

## etc

**Accent Improvement Classes** for adults wishing to reduce foreign or regional accents start this fall. Offered by speech/language pathologist. 879-1886.

**ACT UP/Maine (AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power)** is a diverse group committed to nonviolent, direct action to end the AIDS crisis. Our goals include the establishment of a Maine AIDS Resource Center and the self-empowerment of People Living with AIDS Community. For more info write ACT UP/Maine, P.O. Box 5267, Portland ME 04101 or call 774-5082.

**ACT UP/Portland** Join us in the fight for universal rights! Get active on local, state and national issues of education, discrimination, access to health care, and AIDS services. Straight or queer, boy or girl, HIV-positive or negative, black, brown or white — act on your beliefs in a dynamic, non-violent grassroots organization dedicated to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. Meetings every Sunday at 7 pm at the YMCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland. Wheelchair accessible. Drop by our workspace on Mondays from 6-8 pm at 142 High St., #222, Portland, ME 04101. 828-0566.

**Amnesty International** In recognition of Human Rights Day, the Portland chapter will hold a candlelight vigil Dec. 10 at 5 pm at Monument Square, Portland, immediately followed by a letter-writing session on behalf of victims of human rights violations at the Pilgrimage Interfaith Bookstore, 441 Congress St., Portland. 773-3392. The Bath/Brunswick chapter is recruiting letter writers Dec. 11 at 10 am at the Tontine Mall, Main Street, Brunswick. Writing materials provided, donations requested for postage. Participants receive a voucher for a free cookie and cup of coffee at the Wild Oats Bakery. 729-7714.

**At the Planetarium** Southworth Planetarium presents "Christmas Around the World," a look at different cultures' celebrations, possible explanations for the Christmas Star and a holiday laser light waltz finale. Shows through Jan. 1. The planetarium also offers several other weekly shows. Astronomy shows Fri and Sat at 7 pm; children's shows Sat at 3 pm; laser light concerts Fri and Sat at 8:30 pm. The planetarium is located on the USM/Portland campus. 780-4249.

**Bertha Capen Reynolds Society** meets the first Thurs evening of each month at Masterson Hall, Room 311, USM/Portland. Business meeting from 6:15-6:45. Discussion from 7-8 pm.

**Book Signings** Loretta Turner, author of "Bideford in Old Photographs," signs copies of her book Dec. 11 at 1:30 pm at Bookland, Saco Valley Shopping Center, Saco (282-2638). Nature photographer Bill Silliker Jr. signs copies of his book, "Maine Moose Watcher's Guide," Dec. 18 at 10 am; author Agnes Wiggins signs copies of her latest book, "Yesterdays of Long Ago 1920-1929" Dec. 18 at 1 pm; and author Will Anderson signs copies of his new book "Good Old Maine" Dec. 18 at 2:30 pm at Bookland, Saco Valley Shopping Center. 282-2638.

**Breakfast with Bay and Bob** Gather on Sundays at 8:30 am with other divorced and widowed people at Fiddlehead Farm Restaurant, Lower Main Street, Freeport. No meeting Dec. 26. 729-8984 or 725-8346.

**Casco Bay Culinary Association** meets the second Monday of each month. Call David Gildred for locations. 799-2234 or 774-3308.

**Christmas Tea** The Portland Museum of Art Guild hosts the traditional McLeann-Sweet House Christmas Tea and Tour Dec. 15 from 3-6 pm. The house will be decorated in the traditional Federal style. High tea refreshments include fruits, finger sandwiches, cookies and tarts. The "Maine Collection Cookbook" will be on sale. Cost: \$10 at door (meet at Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland). The house will also be open for tours Dec. 11-12 & 18-19 from 2-3 pm (paid museum admission required). 775-6148.

**Come Blow Your Horn** The Casco Bay Concert Band, an adult wind ensemble, invite all those who pursue music professionally or semi-professionally as well as those who just enjoy playing to their weekly rehearsals Monday evenings from 7-9:30 pm at Memorial Middle School, 120 Westcott Road, South Portland. No auditions. 799-8836.

**Cookbook Signing** Contributors to the "Maine Collection Cookbook," a cookbook by the Portland Museum of Art Guild, sign copies of the book and give out cooking samples from recipes Dec. 11 from 2-4 pm at Bookland, Northgate Shopping Center, Portland; Dec. 11 from 2-4 pm at Bookland, Windham Mall, North Windham; Dec. 15 from 12-2 pm at Bookland, 1 Monument Way, Portland; Dec. 18 from 12-2 pm at Bookland, Mall Plaza, South Portland; Dec. 18 from 12-2 pm at Bookland, Cook's Corner Shopping Center, Brunswick.

**Dances of Universal Peace** Simple song and movement (soft dancing) celebrating the unity of all life takes place the second Sat of each month from 7-9 pm at Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave., Portland. 879-6151.

**Divorce Perspectives** Support group for people facing problems in divorce meets year-round Weds at 7:30 pm in Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords St., Portland. Donation of \$1.50 requested. 774-HELP.

**Drumming Classes** Learn the rhythms and songs of Afro-Caribbean music with percussionist Michael Wingfield. Ongoing classes Sunday nights at The Expressive Therapy Center, 150 St. John St., Portland. Newcomers' warmup begins at 6:30 pm, ongoing class continues from 7:30-9:30 pm. Cost: \$15/single class, \$50/four week session. 871-0509 for registration.

**Enriched Golden Age Center** invites men and women 60 and over to daily luncheons at 297 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Meal at noon. The following programs are offered at 12:30 pm: Salvation Army celebration of music with brass band and guitars Dec. 15; Rotary Christmas dinner (reservations necessary) Dec. 22; December birthdays with music by Beau & Mike Dec. 29. Line dancing every Monday at 10 am. Donation: \$2.50. 774-6974.

**Fight Discrimination** The Maine Civil Liberties Union is interested in hearing from any Portland resident who feels that she or he has been illegally discriminated against in housing, employment or credit on the basis of sexual orientation. 774-5444.

**Friends of the Maine Youth Center** are interested in meeting with others who are concerned about the effects of budget cuts on the center. 854-9872.

**Gililand Farm Programs** Maine Audubon Society's Gililand Farm offers weekend activities at the farm at 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Upcoming programs include: see, feel and smell the changes around us as winter approaches at "Nature Walk" Dec. 11; "Owl Pellets" Dec. 12; "Nature Art with Evergreens" Dec. 18; "Winter Solstice" Dec. 19. All programs run from 12:30 pm. Advanced registration recommended. Cost: \$3-4. 781-2330.

**"History of South Portland"** In case you missed it last year, copies of "History of South Portland" are available at the South Portland Memorial Library, 482 Broadway, So. Portland. Cost: \$5. 767-7660.

**Leads Club Forming** The Leads Club offers professional businesswomen an opportunity to meet weekly and expand their leads and referrals. Women's chapter presently forming in the Portland area. 1-800-447-9356.

**Literacy Services Project LINK** links you to the people and programs that can help you do what you want with your life. The service offers free information, referrals and support to all Cumberland County residents in reading, math, job skills and higher education. For more information call 874-1140 or 1-800-698-4959 X341.

**Magic Drum** The Swedenborgian Church invites you to an evening of drumming, singing, chanting and dance the first Thurs of each month at 302 Stevens Ave., Portland. Bring drums, shakers, bells, rattles and other instruments for making sacred sounds; and readings, songs and meditations to share. Cost: \$5 donation. 799-9269.

**Maine Gay Men's Chorus** is a volunteer community chorus bringing men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative musical entertainment. For more info, call 839-4506 or write P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

**Music Swaps** Portland Folk Club invites you to share a song or a story in a supportive atmosphere every first and third Tues at 7:30 pm at Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave. Cost: \$1 donation. 773-9549.

**Mystery Writer Appears** Mystery writer Katherine Hall Page, author of "Body in the Vestibule," appears Dec. 11 from 12-2 pm at Bookland, Cooks Corner, Brunswick. 725-2313.

**Names Project/AIDS Memorial Quilt** holds a panel-making workshop the first and third Sun of each month. 871-1641.

**Peace Thru Power** A personal defense program created especially for women to eliminate "victim behavior" starts the first Tues of each month in Brunswick. 725-9463.

**Pomeroy Residency** Acclaimed Boston flugelhornist/bandleader Herb Pomeroy presents a two-day residency at USM Dec. 9-10. Events include lecture by Pomeroy on Duke Ellington's arranging techniques Dec. 9 from 3:30-4:45 pm in Room 303, Corbett Concert Hall; concert Dec. 10 at 8 pm at Corbett Concert Hall, USM/Gorham (tik: \$5, \$3 seniors and students with ID). 780-5555.

**Portland Juggling Club** meets Sun from 5-7 pm in Deering Oaks Park, Portland. All levels welcome.

**Puppy Raisers Wanted** The New England Assistance Dog Service seeks puppy raisers to open their homes to foster puppies in the assistance program. The organization trains and provides dogs to physically disabled people. If interested, call 934-1963 or write P.O. Box 604, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064.

**SCORE Service Corps of Retired Executives**, a volunteer organization supporting small business, holds seminars each month. "How to Really Start Your Own Business" is the topic Dec. 14. Seminars are from 1-4 pm at 66 Pearl St., Room 210, Portland. Cost: \$20. 772-1147.

**Seashore Trolley Museum** 'Tis the season to be jolly at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport. 967-712.

**Single Harmony** All single adults are welcome to a forum for fun and friendship with positive interaction in an atmosphere of acceptance every Monday at 7 pm at the United Methodist Church, Church Road, Brunswick. 725-2185.

**Social Seniors** is a senior adult program encompassing activities, contemporary classes and events for men and women 55 and older at the Jewish Community Center, 57 Ashmont St., Portland. 772-2234 for info.

**Spruce Street Solree** Be a part of a convivial gathering to discuss books and share insights and inspirations. 774-6254.

**Sweet Adelines** invite interested women to weekly rehearsals Thurs at 7:30 pm at the Frank Harrison Middle School, McCartney Street, Yarmouth. 846-4726.

**Three Score Plus Club** is a social meeting group for So. Portland senior citizens age sixty and older. The club offers weekly bingo, monthly luncheons and occasional trips. Meets at So. Portland Rec Center, 21 Nelson Road, So. Portland, every Monday. 767-7650.

**Woodford's Toastmasters Club** Learn how to improve public speaking and leadership skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Woodford's Toastmaster's Club meets every Thurs at 7:30 pm at the West Falmouth Baptist Church, 18 Mountain Road, West Falmouth. All are welcome. 797-4915.

**Yarmouth Radio Club** meets the third Sunday of the month at 1 pm at the Yarmouth Community House, East Main Street, Yarmouth. 846-0700.

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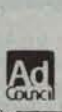
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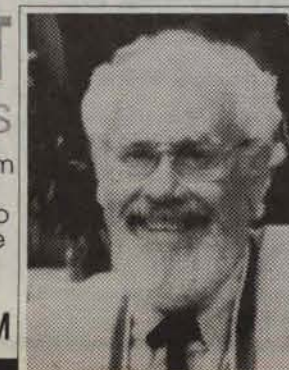
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SUGARLOAF/USA

Sugarloaf Mountain Hotel  
RR 1, Box 2299 • Carrabassett Valley Maine 04947

Our grand mountain lodge is right at the lifts and in the village at Sugarloaf/USA. Everything is at your doorstep! And after skiing a great mountain, enjoy our spacious rooms, private spa, and dining and nightlife in the Hotel and village.

Our Early Season Ski and Stay Packages start at \$60 ppo per night, through December 23

Sugarloaf's finest liftside lodging!

1-800-527-9879

from the US & Canada



## VideoEXPO

Portland's Largest  
Adult Entertainment Center!

Offering a huge selection of videos,  
magazines and toys for the  
discriminating adult...

VIDEOS  
BEGINNING AT  
\$4.99  
At These Prices  
Why Rent?!



"We Have  
What You're  
Searching For...  
And Then Some!"

PORTLAND  
VIDEO EXPO

666 Congress St  
774-1377

Open M-Thur 9:30 am-11 pm  
Fri & Sat 9:30 am-Midnight  
Sunday 11am-11pm

Also in KITTY  
VIDEO EXPO

Route 236  
439-6285

Open M-Th 10am-11pm  
Fri-Sat 10am-Midnight  
Sun. 12pm-10pm



# THE SURE SELL Classifieds

A SERVICE OF CASCO BAY WEEKLY AND THE PENNYSAVER NEWSPAPERS

## bulletin board

**ADOPTION IS A GIFT OF LOVE**—Our wish for you: Peace of mind, for your baby; secure, loving home for us; baby to love & cherish. Please call Stephanie and Michael, 1(800)959-5133, at home.

**CREDIT REPORTS REPAIRED**—Repos, bankruptcies, late payments, etc. Guaranteed. Call 1(800)am-900pm. C.F. Agency, 1-800-395-6665.

**FREE CLASSIFIEDS?** That's right... Every purchase of three weeks of The Sure Sell Classifieds gets you the fourth week FREE! Call 775-1234 for more details.

**INTERVIEW SUCCESSFULLY!** Proven prep, hidden job market. \$7 each, both \$10 (specify). ISB, P.O. Box 9715-339, Portland, ME 04104.

**LIVE PUPPET SHOW**  
A HOLIDAY TRADITION  
TO RE-ASSURE



\*Parties \*Birthdays  
\*Special Events  
Cliff Island Hand Puppets  
776-2684

## bulletin board

**MEN Disgusted With Injustice?**  
**MUST YOU LOSE**  
**Your Rights, Your Children, Your Money?**  
**FED UP WITH**  
**The Double Standard in the System?**  
**WE ARE TOO!!! CALL MR 797-3424**

## OVER 100,000 READERS

### categories

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bulletin board         | <input type="checkbox"/> body & soul       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lost & found (free)    | <input type="checkbox"/> business services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rideshare (free)       | <input type="checkbox"/> financial         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> help wanted            | <input type="checkbox"/> stuff for sale    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> business opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> garage/yard sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> positions wanted       | <input type="checkbox"/> give away (free)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> child care             | <input type="checkbox"/> wanted            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> roommates              | <input type="checkbox"/> arts & crafts     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> apts/rent              | <input type="checkbox"/> theatre arts      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> houses/rent            | <input type="checkbox"/> fairs & festivals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seasonal/rent          | <input type="checkbox"/> music             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> offices/rent           | <input type="checkbox"/> wheels            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art studios/rent       | <input type="checkbox"/> boats             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> business rental        | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rentals wanted         | <input type="checkbox"/> campgrounds       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> real estate            | <input type="checkbox"/> learning          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> land for sale          | <input type="checkbox"/> publications      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mobile homes           | <input type="checkbox"/> animals           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> auctions               | <input type="checkbox"/> legal notices     |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> dating services   |

### get it to us

By Phone: 775-1234; or for long distance  
1-800-286-6601 (visa/mc)

By FAX: 775-1615

By Mail: The Sure Sell, 551A Congress St.  
Portland, ME 04101

By Hand: 73 Oak St., Portland  
Off Congress, behind the Magic Muffin, or  
153 U.S. Rt. 1, across from Scarborough  
Marketplace

### fine print

Classified ads must be paid for in advance with cash, personal check, money  
order, Visa or Mastercard. Lost & Found items listed free. Classified ads are  
non-refundable. CBW and not be liable for any typographical errors, omissions,  
or changes in the ad which do not affect the value or content or substantially  
change the meaning of the ad. Credit will be issued when visible error has been  
determined within one week of publication.

**THE SURE SELL**  
**Yes**

### deadline

Monday, 6PM, pre-paid

## business opps

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS!** Terrific opportunity w/  
this gourmet catering business. Great area &  
well established business. Turn-key opera-  
tion. Only \$99,000. Call Alan B. Peoples, ERA  
Home Sellers. 774-5766.

**EARN \$\$\$ AT HOME**—Free information send  
self-addressed stamped envelope to: Brandy,  
197-B Aubion Rd., Windham, ME 04062.

**HAIRSTYLING WITH CLIENTELE**—Booth rental,  
first month rent-free. Near new State Theater  
and art district. 774-1893.

**NEW GLOUCESTER -> CASH CORNER**, Dec.  
thru March, Weds./Thurs. One-way round-trip.  
Share or gas money. 926-4255 eves. after  
6pm.

**EVER WANTED TO WORK** on an adult phone  
fantasy line? Work at home. Have fun! Great  
pay! (515)270-6629.

**FULL-TIME CHILD CARE NEEDED**—Mary  
Poppins wanted to care for 6m o. daugh-  
ter in Scarborough home. 4-5 days/wk,  
7:30am-5:15pm. Need to be patient, kind and  
experienced. Call 883-1954, days/eves.

**JANITORIAL SERVICE** seeking applicants in  
Scarborough/So. Portland/Damariscotta areas.  
Part-time permanent positions. 3rd shift as  
well as early morning hours. For details and  
application, call 1-872-9042, Mon-Fri. Mon-  
Fri.

**SALES OPPORTUNITY FOR LICENSED ACCI-  
DENT AND HEALTH AGENTS**—Are you willing  
to work for a guaranteed income with rapid  
advancement to management according to  
your abilities? \$20,000-\$35,000 income first  
year. Please send resume and phone number  
to: Sales Director, 45 Schooner Ridge Rd.,  
Cumberland Foreside, ME 04110. Positions  
available in your locale.

**FAMILY HELPER NEEDED**  
Help driving kids and running errands  
every other Tuesday from  
3:30pm-6:30pm  
Must have Car  
\$25. (\$8.33 per hour)  
Call 828-1489

**THE SURE SELL**  
Willow Bend of  
Maine, Inc.

**Help Wanted**  
Earn \$20 - \$50 every Saturday!

Help deliver Maine's newest newspaper, the Express  
Line, each Saturday in your neighborhood. Carriers  
must be available for a minimum of 2 hours on  
Saturday. Routes now available in:

Biddeford, Biddeford Pool, Cape Elizabeth, Old Orchard Beach, Saco,  
Scarborough, Gorham, Windham, Cumberland, Cumberland Center,  
Freeport, South Freeport, Portland and Yarmouth.

For more information, call us at:  
**1-800-355-5518**

**THE EXPRESS**  
LINE

**Casco Bay Weekly**  
551A Congress St.,  
Portland, ME 04101  
Attn: Tricia Bohner  
Production Manager

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## roommates

**BEAUTIFUL SOUTH PORTLAND APT**—Quiet  
building, gas heat, female, N/S. \$227.50/mo.  
+utils. Laundry, parking. 799-0941, LM.

**BRIGHTON MEDICAL AREA**—Roommate male,  
furnished 2BR. Parking, W/D. \$275/mo. In-  
cludes all. Available 1/1/94. Terry 772-4254.

**BUSY PROFESSIONAL** seeks quiet S/GM. GF  
to share house, South Portland. \$275/mo. +1/2  
utils. 774-1693.

**DEERING H.S. AREA**—MF/Child seeking room-  
mate to share large house. Avail. immed. N/S.  
pet ok. W/D. \$200/mo. +1/2utils. 761-4054.

**EAST END**—Female roommate. Sunny apt.,  
hardwood floors, parking, storage. Great place!  
\$200/mo. +1/3 utils. 879-1817.

**FEMALE N/S** wanted to share large apt. W/D,  
parking, must like cats. \$320/mo. inclusive.  
773-7701.

**FREEPORT AREA**—Seeking N/S, responsible,  
female or GF. 30+, to share house on ocean.  
Deck, W/D, no pets. \$285/mo. +1/2 utils. 865-  
4577.

**FREEPORT**—22yr. old professional seeks male,  
N/S. 21-25, to share 2BR condo. \$325 + 1/2  
utils. 865-4180.

**GM seeking N/S** roommate to share 2BR  
Brackett St. apt. w/deck. \$305/mo. includes  
heat/HW. 761-0852.

**HANG YOUR STOCKING** by the fireplace of  
this safe Western Prom area household. Fur-  
nished room, available short or long-term for  
working or studying female. \$50/wk. includes  
all. 772-1402.

**MF/N/S TO SHARE HOUSE** in W. Scarborough.  
Own room, parking, LR, DR, kitchen, indoor  
pool, large yard. \$225/mo. +1/4 utils., sec. dep.  
Call Terry, eves. 883-6635.

**WEST END**—Sunny, spacious 3BR, hardwood  
floors, oil heat, parking, storage. \$170/mo. +  
utils. Available 12/15. 879-8946.

**WASHINGTON AVE.**—2 roommates wanted,  
MT, pleasant neighborhood, parking, W/D.  
2nd floor. \$225/mo. +1/3 utils, sec. dep. 879-  
6088. Avail. 1/94.

**MUNJOY HILL**—101 North St. 2BR, quiet,  
parking, N/S. \$435/mo. heated. Available im-  
mediately. 772-6005.

**MUNJOY HILL**—Large, sunny 2BR apt., newly  
renovated Victorian 3-unit, \$550/mo. includes  
heat, water, parking. Available end Nov. 773-  
9549.

**MUNJOY HILL**—2BR, 3rd floor, remodeled,  
clean, views, gas heat (cheap), porch. \$460/  
mo. + utils. Oliver 772-4739.

**SCARBOROUGH AREA**—\$293/mo. +1/2 utils.  
Seeking N/S, responsible, intelligent female to  
share furnished house. Sunny, hardwood  
floors, quiet neighborhood, parking, W/D, glass  
porch, cheap heating. \$260/mo. +1/3 utils. No  
couch potatoes! Available 1/1/94. 797-9424.

**ROOM FOR RENT WILLARD BEACH/SMC**  
area—Kitchen & laundry priv., shared bath.  
\$75/wk. Female pref. 799-8626/799-1955.

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## apts/rent

**13 MORNING STREET**—Spacious 3BR apart-  
ment, water views, laundry, parking for two  
cars. \$825/mo plus utilities. 774-3427 after  
6PM.

**BACK BAY AREA**—Water views, gas heat, newly  
renovated, hardwood floors, 2BR, off-street  
parking. \$465/mo. + utils. 767-4279.

**DEERING OAKS AREA**—Perfect for student, 4-  
room modern basement apt., gas heat. Lease  
terms negotiable. \$350/mo. Call 874-0275 for  
details.

**DEERING OAKS**—Unique 1BR in professional  
building. Skylights, parking, storage. \$415/  
mo. Call 892-7024.

**DOWNTOWN APARTMENTS** w/kitchen, bath,  
living space, yards. \$40-\$75/wk. includes utils.  
874-0986 or 797-6148 LM.

**LIMINGTON**—Sunny, quiet, cozy country set-  
ting, 1BR, large LR, dining area and kitchen.  
\$375/mo. +utils. Sec. dep. and references re-  
quired. 727-3332.

**MUNJOY HILL**—101 North St. 2BR, quiet,  
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**BACK BAY AREA**—Water views, gas heat, newly  
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# The Best of Real Estate

**Tour Boat Business**



Located in Southern Maine with excellent reputation.  
**\$120,000.**  
**Richard Dodge**  
774-5766  
ERA HomeSellers

**\$59,900**  
3 BR with hardwood floors.  
**EXCELLENT CONDITION**  
**Richard Dodge**  
774-5766  
ERA HomeSellers

**OWNER FINANCING • \$75,000**  
Near Hadlock Field, Portland.  
1st floor is established restaurant (tenant).  
2nd, 3rd floors are a 4 br apt.  
**JEFF DAVIS • 772-2127**  
MULKIN ASSOCIATES

Updated & perfectly charming interior.  
Living room with fireplace, hardwood floors.  
Solid quality older home in wonderful condition. Many built-ins & track lighting. New deck, 2-car garage. \$94,500.  
**Joyce Coughlan, GRI**  
Mark Simson Realtors  
OR: 781-4220, ext. 231.

**Your Ad Here....**

## apts/rent

NORTH YARMOUTH-1 BR apt., \$475/mo. includes all. 829-5932.

PARK AVE.-Small 1BR, skylights, hardwood floors. \$415/mo. heated. Quiet N/S. 767-2844, 780-4642.

ST. LAWRENCE STREET-Large, 3BR apt. Attractive, recently renovated. City water views. Former owners unit. \$660/mo. + utils. 773-7002.

WEST END-2BR, clean, sunny, Rannal gas heat, loft, attic storage, parking. WD. \$550/mo. + utils. 666-8457.

WEST END-Large, clean 1BR, sunny, yard, parking. \$500/mo. includes heat. Deposit required. 865-1128, Fred.

WILLARD BEACH AREA-Sunny, large, 2BR, apt. Hardwood floors, W/D hookup, parking, storage, walk to beach, on bus route. \$600/mo. 799-7696.

WINDHAM LAKE FRONT-2BR apartment in private house. Spacious, view and frontage on little Sebago. 25min to Portland \$550/mo. 892-1417, L.M.

WOODFORD-1BR & 2BR, large yard, quiet street, parking. \$325/mo. & \$460/mo., heat included. 761-0152.

## houses/rent

NORTH DEERING COLONIAL needs caretaker/couple. ASAP. Cheap rent for right person(s). Mostly furnished, busline, W/D, sunroom, family room, ample parking. Call Bruce, 878-2312.

PEAKS ISLAND-Cozy 1BR cottage, gas heat, quiet area, close to ferry and beaches. \$450/mo. + utils. Will consider a pet. 772-6992, Ralph.

PINE POINT-Year round near beach. Small 2BR, furnished, nice yard. \$450/mo. + utils. 883-9400.

SD-PORLAND. THORNTON HEIGHTS-Classic 2BR bungalow, gas heat, washer, hardwood floors, yard, N/S, Nipets. \$650 or offer. 781-4220, Joyce Coughlan, M.S.A.

## art studios/rent

OVERSIZE ART STUDIO-One of Portland's best. Large, picture windows look down Congress St. Light airy/high ceilings. Includes utility room/dormer. \$400/mo. + utils. Art only building. 799-7890.

STUDIOS-ARTISTS ONLY building. All inclusive, tin ceilings, artists sinks, high energy environment. Darkrooms/suites w/ovens. \$95-\$275/mo. 799-4759.

## business rental

PORTLAND, 311 Cumberland Ave., corner of Elm St. Heavy traffic. 800sq.ft. store/office, heat included, parking available. 772-6527.

THERAPISTS WANTED-Share bright, sunny, newly renovated office space. Professional building, furnished, easy parking. 51 Ocean, Portland. \$10/hr. Dr. Robinson 773-5573.

## rentals wanted

OFFICE SPACE FOR THERAPY NEEDED-Group and individual. Room to move & yell. Immediate, spacious, well-lit. Carpeting preferred. 829-4522.

## real estate

FORECLOSED AND REPOSSESSED Homes and properties! HUD, IRS, DEA, and other government agencies. Listings for your area. Call toll free! (800)436-5867, ext. F-1553.

HAVE YOU SOLD PROPERTY? Won the lottery? Receiving payments? We pay cash for mortgages/annuities. (800)859-9299.

WILLARD BEACH-By owner. Wonderful house! 3BR, 2 baths, fireplace, hardwood floors, heated studio/garage. \$122,000. 767-5792.

## land for sale

OWNER LIQUIDATION AT \$5,000 EACH - 40min. from Portland, 20min. from Saco. Waterboro, Lake Arrowhead, 8 house lots, soil tested, septic design, water & elect., year round club houses, windground pool, weight rm. Deeded access to lake beaches. Realtors, individuals welcome to buy one or all. Again, only \$5,000 each. First come, first choice. Nice pine lots. 767-0208.

## mobile homes

\$15,995, BRAND NEW 1994 MODEL, 70 3BR or \$1,599 down, \$150 for 172 months. Built so well they have factory 1 year/5 year warranty! 2BR, \$13,995. 786-4016, daily 9-5 (closed Tuesday). Sunday 12-5. Luv homes (1 mile from turnpike), 1049 Washington St., Auburn, ME.

\$6,000 OFF LIST \$29,195, NOW \$23,195-New Champion 80 3BR, 2 baths, 44x28, finished sheetrock, skylights, solid oak cabinets, super insulated. 786-4016, Luv Homes, open daily 9-5 (closed Tuesday). Sunday 12-5. 1049 Washington St., Auburn (1 mile from turnpike).

1993 CHAMPION DOUBLE-WIDE, \$7,000 off list, \$36,995, now \$29,995. 3BR, 2 bath, 44x28, finished sheetrock, skylights, solid oak cabinets, super insulated. 786-4016, Luv Homes, open daily 9-5 (closed Tuesday). Sunday 12-5. 1049 Washington St., Auburn (1 mile from turnpike).

## auctions

**1993-1994 BATH ANTIQUES SHOW**  
Sunday, December 12  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Bath Jr. High School  
Bath, Maine  
(Exit U.S. 1 at Congress Ave.)  
ADM \$2.50 • w/ad \$2.00  
P.T. Promotions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 333  
Bath, Maine 04530  
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## body & soul

HIGHER GROUND MASSAGE-Release stress. Safe, fun, nurturing. Keith Brane, certified. 761-1924.

MASSAGE WORKS! Enjoy a soothing massage or Shiatsu. Lisa Bouchard, 834-0442, AORTA, Saco/Portland offices.

MEN'S GROUP-THURSDAY MORNINGS. Rick Lynch 874-0681 for information.

MEN'S THERAPY GROUP-Relationships, career, parent/child, recovery issues. Denis Noonan, 775-5022; Dan Hodgson, 774-8243. Wednesday mornings, 7-8am.

MONTHLY DREAM SEMINAR- Begins January 19th; Weekly Groups- Mon, Tues, Wed. From Surviving to Thriving. Begins week of January 24th; Residential Weekend- Beyond The Prison of Fear, January 21-23. For information call Dwinell & Hall at 799-1024.

PSYCHIC ASTROLOGICAL READINGS- Predictions, private parties by appt. You're here NOW! 1993-1994. Call Maria, 775-3805.

PSYCHIC PREDICTIONS by DORA- Unravel the secret mystery of psychic phenomena. 35 years experience. 874-1942.

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ADDITIONS, DECKS, FENCES-Interior/exterior renovations and repairs. Yard cleaning, tree work, hauling and seasonal residential maintenance. 892-2957.

BOOKKEEPING-Experienced, service-oriented accountant. Confidential & reasonable. I'll do it, or teach you ONE-WRITE PLUS. DAD EASY! Call 767-5114, ask for Gena.

CLEANING HOME OR OFFICE. Reasonable rates, great references. Holiday Gift Certificates available! Vickie 878-9992.

EXPERIENCED MOVER- Small/Large loads. Locally, long distance. Garages, basements, attics cleaned. Excellent references. Low rates. 774-2159.

EXPERIENCED PAPERHANGER AND PAINTER- Specialist in hanging vinyls, wallpapers, murals, grasscloths, etc. Call Jim, 773-0496.

FRANK IS FUSSY! Painting, paperhanging, Frank Siciliano: Painter. Free estimates. Call 773-0496.

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LEGAL RESEARCH TAX INC.- Specializing in personal and small business tax preparation. Reasonable rates. 774-TAXX.

NEED ELECTRICAL WORK DONE? Best deals on service changes. "Fuses to Breakers". 100 AMP. \$375-\$425. Ceiling fans- you buy, I assemble and hang. Anything electrical, no job too big or small. Quality work at very reasonable rates. Free estimates. Master Electrician, insured. Gerry's Electric, 773-5897.

ODD JOBS, REPAIRS- CAN'T DO? No time? Just don't want to? Retired! Make a list. Then, call me! 865-3009, Dave.

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PHOTOGRAPHY/Special occasions. Creative black & white portraits. Head shots. Call David at Courtney Pictures 781-0256.

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TAPE PLAYER-Harmon Kardon, value \$400, selling for \$150. TURNABLE-Bang & Olufsen, value \$600, selling for \$225. KLIPSCH-HORNES \$2,000 value, selling for \$2,100. 883-8548.

TIRES: 4 MOUNTED and balanced Summer 75R15. New condition, were on Jeep. White rims. 5 lugs. \$250. 883-1945.

USED APPLIANCES- Clean & Guaranteed. Delivery available. We service what we sell. McLaughlin Appliance, 761-4468.

VERTEX II UNIVERSAL WEIGHT MACHINE- Newly assembled, \$900 value, sacrifice for \$400. Call after 6pm, 761-0329.

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Private Professional Instruction  
Jazz • Blues • Rock • Theory  
Beginner to Professional  
18 Years Teaching Experience.  
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Portland 773-8444  
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SEAMSTRESS- 24hr. service for minor repairs and alterations. Other seamstress work available. Reasonable. 799-9672.

TUCKER'S LIGHT TRUCKING, maintenance & professional moving. Painting, house-cleaning, landscaping, tree work, rubbish removal, handywork. Cleaning attics, basements. Free estimates, low rates. 761-0193.

FREE HARDWOOD PALLETS- Great for firewood or can easily be repurposed. Call Craig or Mike, 883-1300 between 6am-5pm.

HEY CRAZY CATS AND GROOVY CHICKS! Outrigger from the Outposters and Memphis Mafia is now taking students for Blues or Rockabilly lessons. Way cool Daddy-O! Matthew Robbins 773-5822.

PIANO SERVICE- Professional, registered technician- Joseph's Piano Service. Joseph Bacica, PPT. MTG Member. 883-0010/1, 800-924-9085.

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BUICK REGAL, 1978- 95K, rebuilt transmission & engine. Chevy 305 engine. Will sacrifice. \$550. 761-2726.

CHEVY CAMARO, 1985- Maroon, 305-auto, V6, new brakes, rotor, tires. Good condition. 88K. \$2,200. 761-3806.

CHEVY CORSCIA, 1989- Maroon, 78K highway miles. 5-sp. 6-cylinder, A/C, garaged, immaculate. \$3,500. 767-5184.

CHEVY MONTE CARLO SS 1983. 305-V8, garaged winters. Must see to appreciate. \$3,900. 800-839-3295.

CHEVY S-10 SPORT 1984-Runs but needs work. Body fair. \$600. 800-846-6721.

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DOUG CHARGER SE, 1977- 57K miles. Am/Fm stereo, rear defrost. Needs work. \$500. B.O. Call 282-6985.

DOGE COLT DL-WAGON, 1988- 74K, Am/Fm cassette, great condition. 1 owner, sticker. \$3,200. 799-5846/770-4004.

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ESORTLX 1990- One owner, exc. condition. \$1,995. Suzuki GS501 1985- Engine, sprocket, chain and frame. \$195. 883-5708.

FIAT PRIDE 2000, 1980- 20K original miles. Needs front-end body work. No rust. \$500. B.O. 442-0822 after 7pm.

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HONDA ACCORD EX COUPE, 1991- 5-speed, loaded, 55K, full, moonroof, excellent condition. Must sell \$11,700. 761-1812 eyes.

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