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DEC 4, 1997

DECEMBER 4, 1997 ■ VOL IX, NO 49 ■ GREATER PORTLAND'S WEEKLY JOURNAL OF NEWS, ARTS AND OPINION ■ FREE

Casco Bay Weekly

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Getting AND spending

If you shop,
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Shopping Congress
Street for bargains

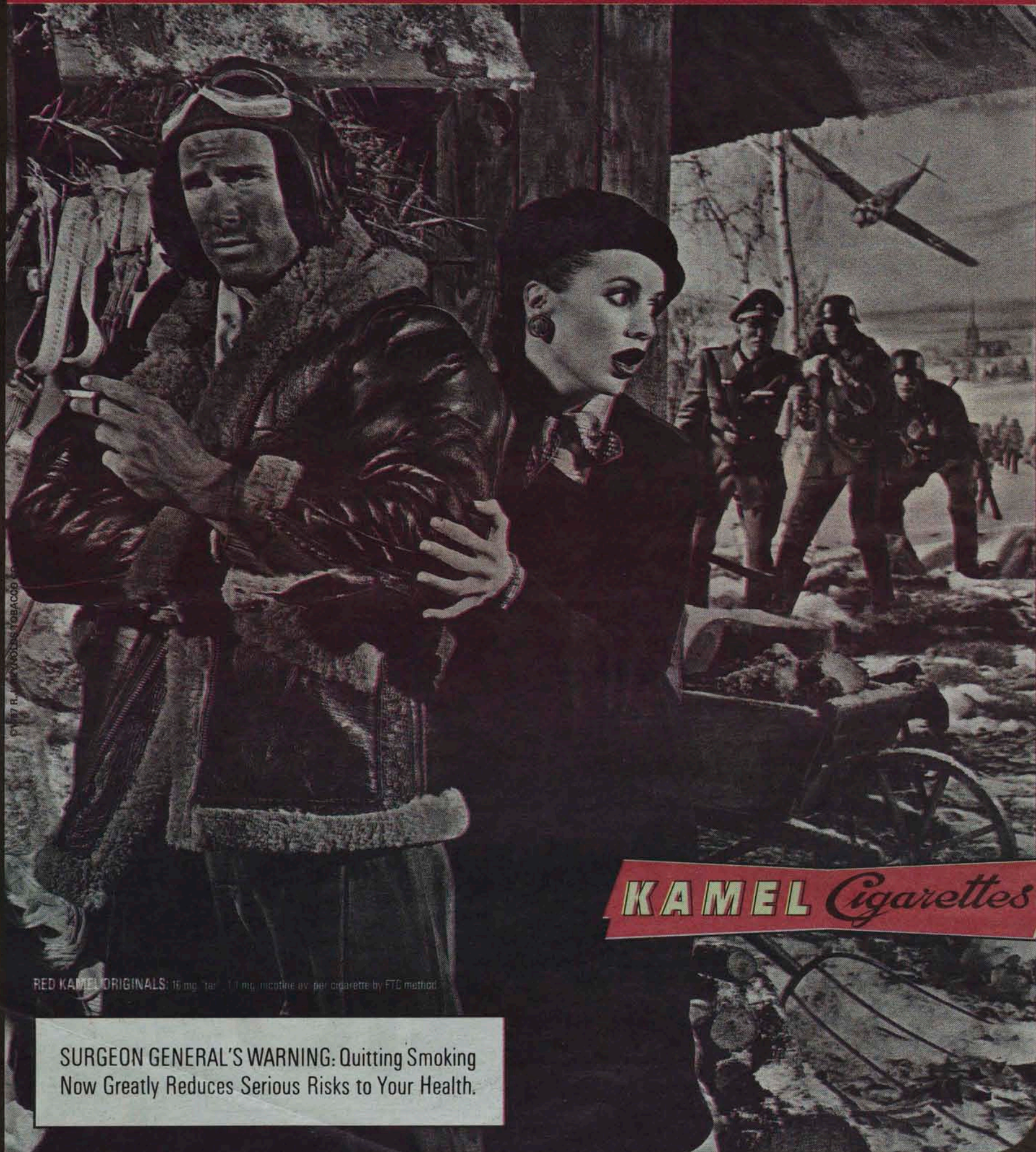
How corporations
exploit child labor to
make your Xmas gifts

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TALK A CONVERSATION WITH BRANDAN HANSHCHE



"I like to be comfortable in my clothes even if my laundry is not done or I'm tired; you can make anything work."

Brandon Hansche is the dining room manager at the Free Street Taverna. He is originally from the farmland of Delaware, transplanted by way of New York City and a romantic entanglement to the hipster Portland scene, where he has become the quintessence of style.

Brandon, we all notice that you always look, well, fabulous, and marvelously color-coordinated.

Thank you.

Is it a self-conscious thing?

I think a certain part of it is self-conscious. There may be a vest that I just bought, or something I focus on, or maybe I just feel 'brown.' The rest just happens.

Do you consider yourself stylish? Do you think this brings people closer to you?

(pause) Yes... Yes I do. And I think it does bring people closer to me, not 100 percent, but it is what people see first.

Do you do anything special with your laundry?

I drop it off and get a rum bowl at Jan Mee.

What are the underpinnings of your style?

Oh! Articulation, vocabulary.... My posture. I think it's my posture. With good posture you automatically look better, and you feel better. There is this waitress here at the Taverna, Tanya. She has great posture. It's almost intimidating. I sometimes just sit battling. She doesn't know, but I silently battle.

Does your posture indicate self-confidence?

Well, you know, I don't leave the house with a great amount of self-confidence, no. At first I sort have these blinders on — just looking straight ahead. But I feel eyes on me, following me as I walk along; as I walk and notice these people watching me, my confidence in the way I look builds. By the time I get to Coffee By Design, the blinders come off and I feel self-assured. Then I'm ready to see people and talk to them.

Do you want to help people with bad style?

Not at all. I want to talk to them. Something's going on there and I want to find out what it is. It's very interesting to me. How they let themselves leave the house. I'm not mocking them, though. I'm just interested.

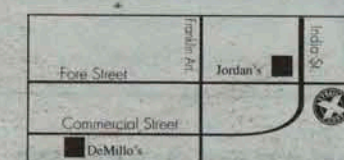
Interview by Doug Birgfeld; photo by Colin Malakie



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Some of what the Production Department listened to while getting this week's paper out:
New York Rock & Soul Revue, "Live at the Beacon" • The Cure, "Mixed Up" • The Chieftains, "Bells of Dublin" • Soundtrack from "Philadelphia"

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Wrong number

Annette Hoglund needs a math lesson. It remains to be seen if the state Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices has the guts — or the brains — to give it to her.

Hoglund is a former Democratic state representative from Portland. She was bounced from office in 1994, after she and her husband were convicted of violating environmental laws, amid allegations she tried to use her position to thwart enforcement of those laws. In 1996, Hoglund attempted a comeback, employing an unusual financing scheme. She put on bingo games, and raised a cool million dollars.

There's nothing illegal about a candidate using bingo to pay the bills (although Hoglund's take from the games is the most cash ever raised for a legislative race and more than 300 times the average amount spent on such races), so long as the politician reports how much was raised and who contributed it. But Hoglund did neither. Between July 1996 and June 1997, the Committee to Elect Annette M. Hoglund claimed it collected \$66,944, virtually all of it from bingo. But a report prepared by the state auditor shows the committee actually took in a little more: \$1,059,000.

Hoglund explained the discrepancy by claiming she only had to notify the ethics commission of her profits, not her expenses associated with raising the money. She also insisted there was no need for her to keep track of who contributed all that cash.

The staff of the ethics commission disagreed. "There is no precedent in either Maine case law or in a Commission ruling to support the notion that legal requirements can be satisfied by reporting the profits from a fundraiser," said the staff's report. "[N]owhere in [the law dealing with contributions] does the statute say — either expressly or by inference — that overhead expenses may be deducted from the total amount received by a candidate in reporting campaign receipts."

The staff report goes on to point out that if candidates could limit their reports to the profits, they could, in effect, decide which contributions to report and which ones to keep secret. If, for instance, a candidate spent \$1,000 on refreshments for a fundraiser that grossed \$2,000, he or she could — under the Hoglund rules — decide the public didn't need to know that half the money raised came from Sleazoids, Inc.

Hoglund's lawyer, Bill Cote, came up with another creative argument for avoiding public disclosure. Cote claims the money people paid to play bingo is not a political contribution at all. "A contribution is defined by the donor's intent," he said. "When someone goes to play bingo, they're not going to influence the outcome of an election. They're going to win prizes."

Set aside for a moment the fact that Hoglund stated in her bingo application to the state Department of Public Safety that the purpose of her games was to raise money for her campaign. Ignore the fact that she put up campaign signs in the hall where the games were held. Forget about the fact the bingo tickets stated the proceeds were benefiting her campaign committee. According to Cote, all that matters is the intent of the person paying the money.

By that standard, the president of Sleazoids, Inc. could write a large check to state Sen. Scumbucket to be used strictly for the legislator's personal pleasure — yachts, booze, sex, cheeseburgers — and since the donor's purpose was not to influence the outcome of an election, there'd be no reason to mention it on the campaign finance reporting form.

To prevent that from happening, all the five members of the ethics commission have to do at their next meeting on Dec. 17 is require Hoglund to disclose the total amount of cash she raked in and the names of any donors who contributed \$50 or more. That might seem simple enough to you, but not to the commissioners.

"There's still quite a bit of information that's unclear," said commission member Linda Cronkhite of Brunswick. "We need to know what really needs to be reported." Commissioner Merle Nelson of Falmouth said the issue of requiring full disclosure is "so tricky" that she couldn't even express an opinion. Asked if she had concerns about the Hoglund case, Nelson said, "I don't think it's appropriate for me to answer that."

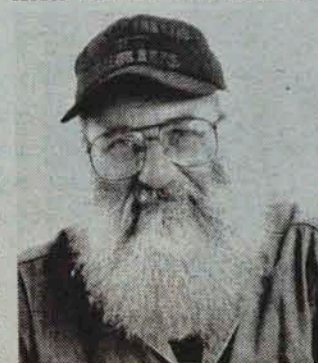
Commission chairman Peter Webster, a Portland lawyer, admitted there was a question "as to the propriety of these activities," but said "the statutes are not clear" as to their legality.

Meanwhile, Hoglund continues to raise money at bingo games she runs at a Portland bingo hall owned in part by her family (which means she's profiting from the games in two different ways). After the commission decided earlier this year to investigate her activities, she began attaching more information to her finance reports, including forms showing her gross receipts, but not who gave the money. Hoglund has also registered as a candidate, stating she plans to run for the state House or Senate in "1998 or 2000."

As usual, her numbers are a little vague.

Add to our sum of knowledge by writing us, care of CBW, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Subtract the cost of postage by faxing 775-1615. Multiply your concerns by e-mailing ishmael@ghi.net. Or start a rumor in hopes it'll divide and conquer.

politics and other mistakes



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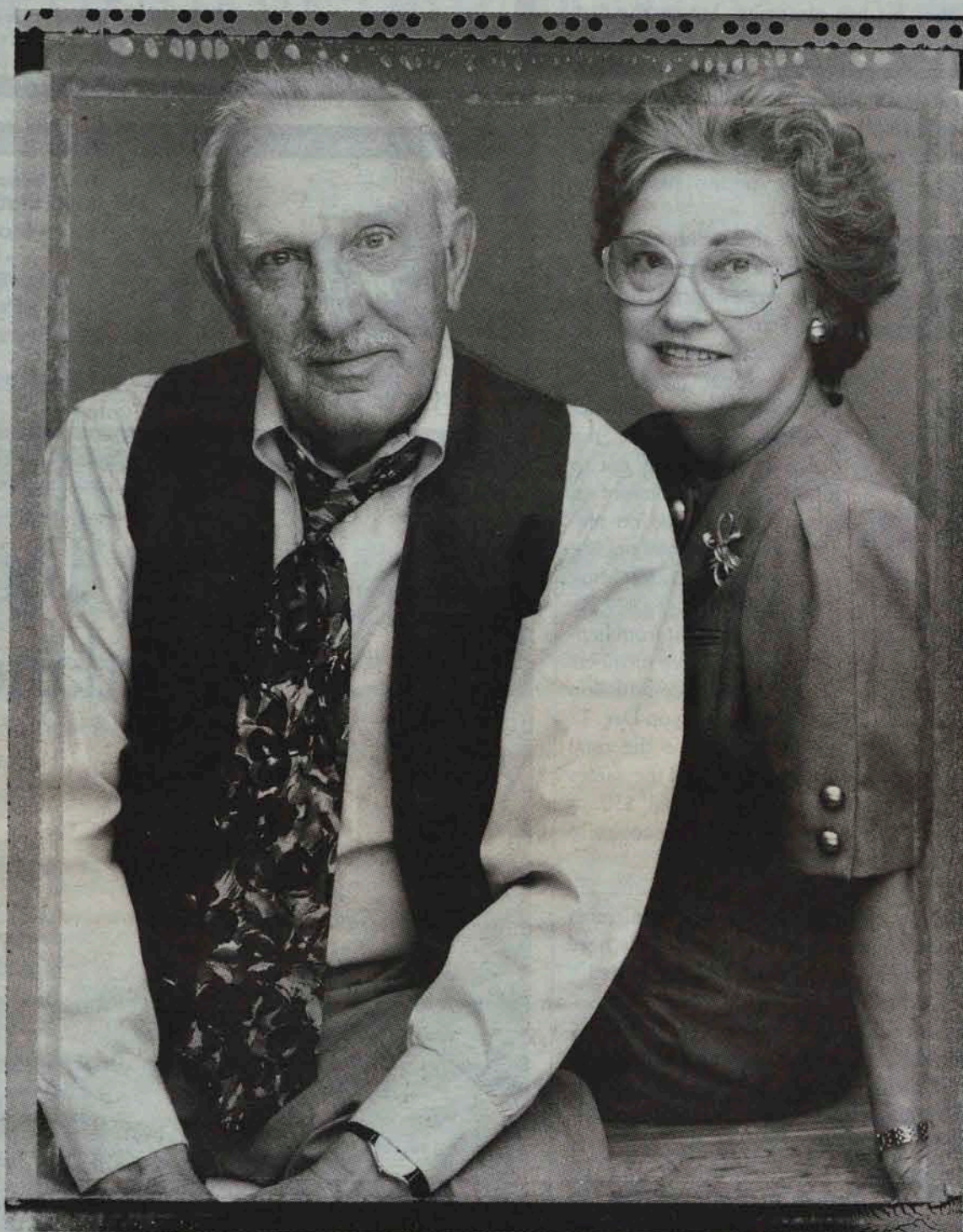
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Surviv[e]ing the season

If you happened to notice a black lump waddling down Congress Street on the evening of Nov. 14, that lump was me.

Not-so-quiet desperation put me there. Lest you have forgotten, Nov. 14 heralded in the first snowstorm of the season, and I was caught off guard. At first, I was buoyed by being snowbound. My car was safely tucked away in my garage (ha-ha-ha-ha, I've got a garage, and you-ooo do-on't), and there were all sorts of writerly and domestic tasks I could tend to: finish novel, start novel, file expenses for the last six months, organize clips, answer mail, return phone calls, practice witty repartee for my inevitable book tour, clean the black gook off my computer keys with my fingernail, make soup — the list rambled on.

Of course, I had no intention of doing any of these things, but the mere mention of soup activated my food alarm. I charged to my larder-ette, which contained nothing but a two-year-old box of organic oatmeal and a can of tomatillos. One lone beer crouched in the back of my refrigerator beside something fuzzy and biologically experimental in nature. It was at once clear that if I did not act, dinner would be a slim affair.

Even though it was only early afternoon, I started to panic. Cars were fishtailing and sliding erratically on the gentle grade outside my window. Driving was out of the question. Sure, a Taco Bell meat 'n' cheese-food soft-shell taco was only a few minutes' walk away, but that wasn't the point. I was trapped on the Hill without my own provisions. Visions of my emaciated corpse curled under my desk flashed in my brain, along with my *Portland Press Herald* obituary: "Elizabeth Peavey, enjoyed beer, sitting around doing nothing." Suddenly, I was starving, ravenous. I paced like a caged beast. I checked my cupboards again. I gazed into the vacant maw of my freezer. I even probed the fuzzy thing in my refrigerator to see if it could be rendered edible. All options exhausted, I did what any slacking pioneer might do in said situation: I napped.

I think I would not have made a good frontierswoman: "Well, dang, darlin', I know it's harvest time, but I left all them durn canning jars on the other side of the Missouri so I could stretch out in the wagon. Can't we just call out for Thai food for the next six months?"

My fear of winter's privations are not new. I recently found a third-grade essay I wrote about the Pilgrims titled, "Surviving [sic] In The Winter." In these few lines resides the groundwork for the writer I was to become, including morbid preoccupations and lapses of thought, judgment, spelling and grammar: "Long ago an eight year old girl was thinking about her grandmother when she died in the winter. She

was thinking if she would die. She was very sad and she was thinking that it would snow and be very cold. They only had one blanket and she new that her family would die too. In a few days it snowed and they were very cold. The next day her mother died. She looked at her mother and she cried very bitterly. Her father made her stop. In a few weeks spring came and by that time she forgot about her mother. She went out to play. She made it feel better. The little chipmunk always went around with her. The End."

(Parents everywhere, listen up. While you're worrying about the growth and developmental percentiles, the over- or underachievement of your child, just fall to your knees and thank the good Lord that the stork did not drop a bundle of angst like me on your doorstep.)

When I awoke later that afternoon, dusk had fallen. The snow continued to swirl. Though my radiators chugged and hissed, I was bone cold. The prospect of supping on stewed manuscripts and curling up in the pile of unread newspapers beside my desk stirred in me my most primal survival instincts. "I want to live!" I cried — but not bitterly. I phoned a friend across town and whined until I wrangled a dinner invitation. The walk from the East to the West End was but a minor detail.

Now, I'm no fan of winter, but the knowledge I soon would be fed imbued my crossing-the-tundra odyssey with delight. I smiled sympathetically at the girls in heels slip-sliding up Munjoy Hill. I paused to hear the lonely clank of metal against the flagpole outside Key Bank. I saw through storefront windows clerks chatting with each other. I overheard a kid outside CVS complain, "Goddammit, I just got a tattoo," and felt his pain.

But as I walked, I also saw huddled figures braced against the cold, who clearly were not newly tattooed or en route to a friend's house for dinner. Some I recognized as Congress Street regulars. The pot of chili and good company that awaited me on the other side of the peninsula had turned my bare-cupboards ordeal into an adventure.

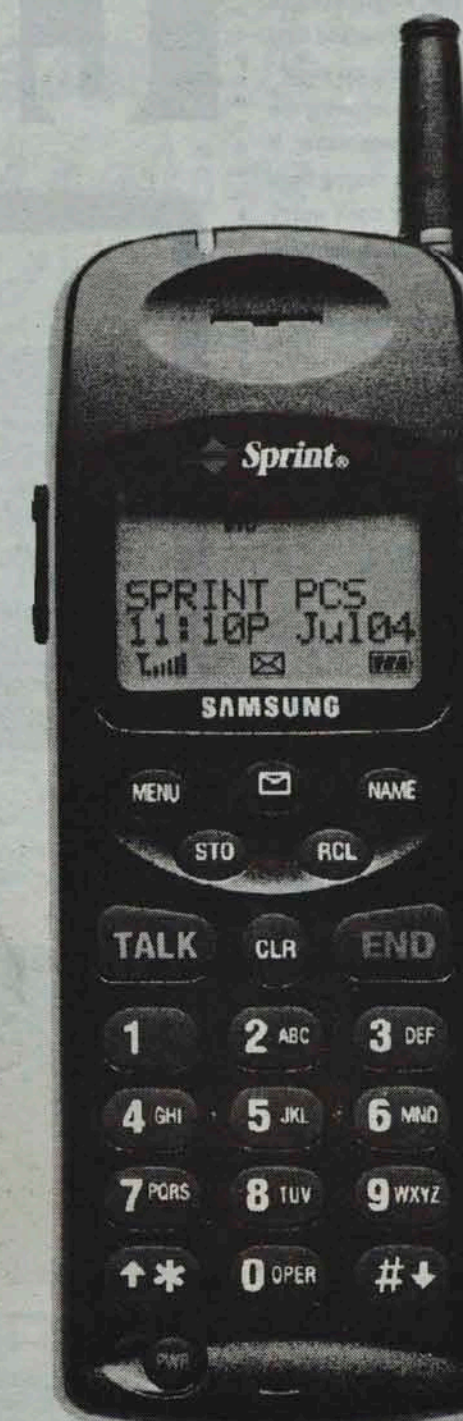
Not everyone, I was reminded, has such luxury.

Elizabeth Peavey, whose column runs biweekly, would like to inform readers that the Preble Street Resource Center is conducting its annual fundraising campaign. The Center, which provides services and offers meals to over 300 people each day, is hoping to raise \$38,000 to continue its innovative and effective community work. Send your contribution to P.O. Box 1459, Portland, 04104 or call the Center at 775-0026 to learn more. Because being hungry ain't no joke.

outta my way



■ ELIZABETH PEAVEY



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OK panhandlers, listen up. Before you hit the streets, you need to review the **new regulations on begging** passed by the Portland City Council on Dec. 1. From now on, no swearing at people. No touching. No following the assholes. And don't threaten them, either. If you do, you'll be subject to fines ranging from

news-o-rama



\$25-\$150. But don't worry about that plan to ban panhandling at bus stops, ATMs and parking garages. Even though Councilors Jack Dawson and Cheryl Leeman argued that people feel "vulnerable" at those

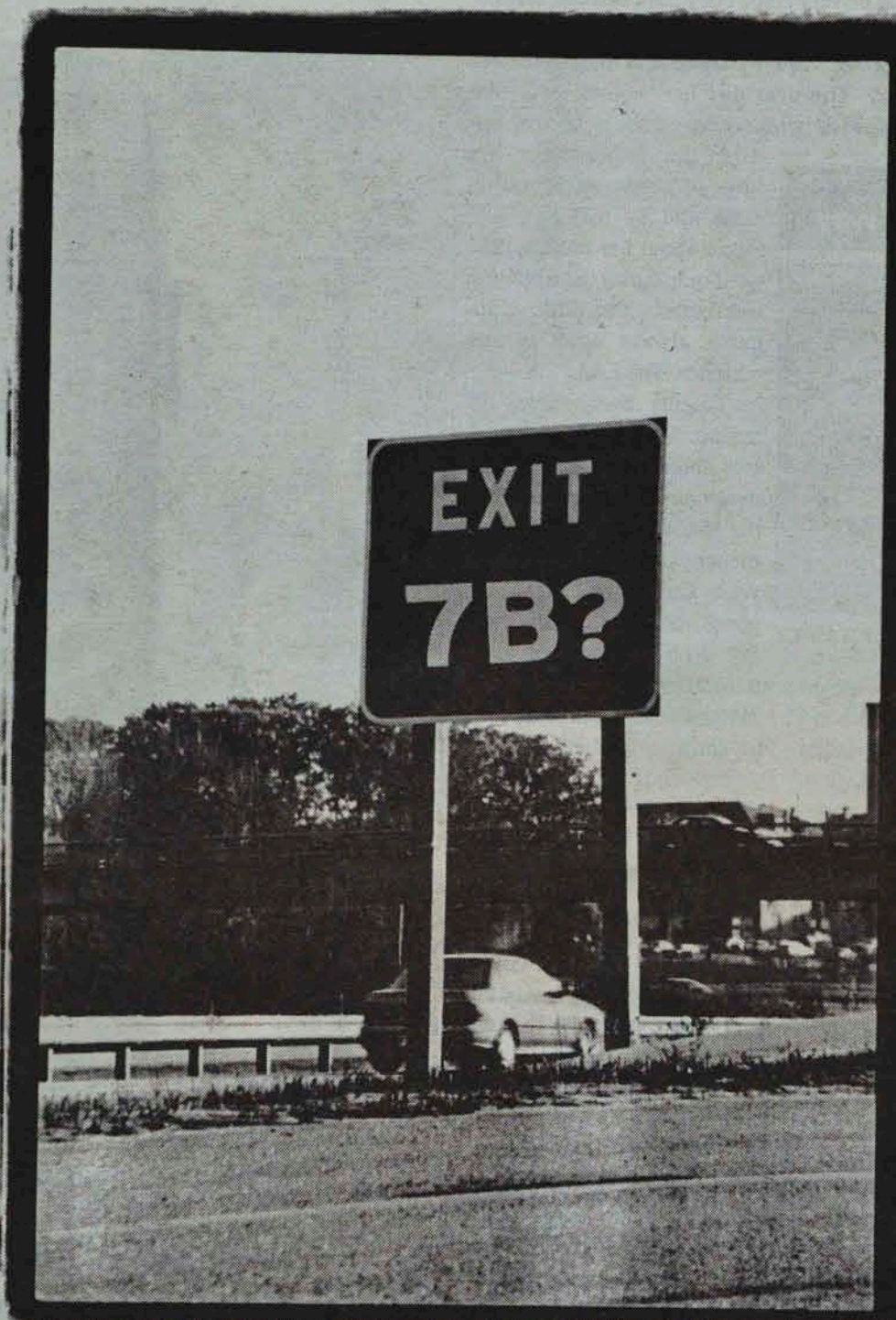
locations (after waiting 45 minutes for a Metro bus, you'd feel vulnerable too), most of the Council said those restrictions were overly intrusive. Now get out there and cage those coins.

■ OK, voters, listen up. Gov. Angus King has set Feb. 10 as the date of the **special election on gay rights**. Sure, the weather is probably going to be lousy. Sure, the turnout is probably going to be miserable. Sure, the homophobes are probably going to be using out-of-context quotes from the Bible and lies about "special rights." You've still got to go to the polls. The religious right forced this election by gathering enough signatures to stop the civil rights law passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor from taking effect. Now only your vote can stop them from winning the battle.

■ OK, bigots, listen up. You're about to get your chance to tell the U.S. Supreme Court why it's all right to **discriminate against people with HIV**. The nation's highest court agreed on Nov. 26 to hear the case of Randon Bragdon, a Bangor dentist who refused to treat a woman with HIV in his office. Instead, Bragdon offered to perform dental surgery on Abbott in a hospital, while charging her a higher price for the procedure. A lower court ruled Bragdon's actions were discriminatory, but the American Dental Association supported efforts to get his case to the Supreme Court, in order to clarify the legal requirements for treating people with HIV.

■ OK, Regional Waste Systems, listen up. A task force investigating the **debt-plagued waste incinerator** delivered its report to the Portland City Council on Dec. 1, a report critical of RWS' efforts in hiring consultants and recycling. The task force found RWS is tanking on recycling — Portland recycles less than 15 percent of its trash — and the city's policy should be revamped to include pay-per-bag and curbside pickup of recyclables. The RWS board should also open up the process by which it hires high-priced lawyers and consultants to allow competing bids. "Frankly, they're nervous about alternatives," said task force chairman Orlando Delogu. "They're comfortable with the way they're doing things ... I'm saying, and the task force is saying, 'Get over it.'" **CBW**

CITY



Coming soon to a turnpike near you: more traffic, more development.

Zone defense Portland City Councilor Tom Kane wants planners to study an endangered neighborhood — before it disappears

■ LAURA CONAWAY

Portland City Councilor Tom Kane wants the Portland Planning Board to study the rapid growth of commercial development threatening neighborhoods not far from Exit 8 of the Maine Turnpike. Entrepreneurs have been snapping up property along Brighton Avenue, between Rand Road and Capisic Street, since the Maine Turnpike Authority began seeking environmental approval for a proposed new interchange, Exit 7B, behind the Pine Tree Shopping Center.

Planning board chairman Cyrus

Hagge said he would be happy to carry out Kane's request for a study of that area. Hagge has watched as development overwhelmed homeowners who live near Exit 8 "The secret life of Exit 8," 11.6.97. Formerly residential areas on Warren Avenue and Riverside Drive have become so built up in recent years that some planning board members argue developers should buy up the remaining houses and pave them over for commercial strips.

Hagge said he wouldn't want residents near the proposed Exit 7B to suffer a sim-

ilar fate. "It's safe to say the city is maturing, and there's a lot of pressure from people looking at the edges of the city," he said. "For some of those neighborhoods out by Exit 8, toward Warren Avenue, the best use is going to be when somebody comes along to buy them out. But the Rand Road area is worth protecting."

If the planning board does in fact undertake a study of the area, the effort will likely be led by John Carroll, who is expected to become board chairman when Hagge's one-year term as chief expires this month. Carroll has recently voted against zone changes near the proposed Exit 7B, even when the majority of the board favored them. He welcomed the opportunity to examine the overall pattern of development. "With the number of [requests for] zone changes we're receiving, it would give us a little better focus," he said. "If someone said, 'I want to rezone this property,' we could look at a long-range plan for the area and see if it was appropriate, as opposed to doing it on an ad hoc basis."

Exit 7B, which could open as soon as 2001, would handle thousands of cars each day — bringing a steady stream of customers to an already congested commercial district. At least five businesses are planned close to homes, and some are nearly complete. The appetite for land is so great that developers have even tried to buy houses so they could build stores on the lots.

"Is this the direction we want to go in?" Kane said. "What is the total environmental impact? What is the total infrastructure cost to the area? I don't want each individual project to go through and then we have to spend a jillion dollars on sewers or something."

For residents near the proposed interchange, the environmental and quality-of-life costs are clear. "They're just letting too much business in," said Caroline Curtis, who has lived on Webb Street, a block from the Pine Tree Shopping Center, since 1973. "They've gotta say no somewhere. They're running us all out of here. Pretty soon, there's not going to be a Webb Street."

City planners say Portland safeguards its neighborhoods more now than it did 10 years ago, but officials continue to grant requests for changes in zoning. Last month, the City Council approved a proposal to build two commercial buildings on Webb Street, on land that had been designated for residential use only. "We're trapped because everybody's asking for a zoning change," Hagge said. "Everybody's got a use that doesn't fit anywhere."

Those zone changes are squeezing out businesses as well as residents. Rite Aid, for one, wants permission to build a

store, complete with a drive-through window, on Brighton, where a handful of local retailers thrive. "One large business displaces a bunch of others," said Joy Knight, owner of Paint Design Unlimited. "This corner has a bunch of small businesses that provide a wide variety of services, where Rite Aid's going to come along and provide one service."

"There's a part of me that feels I don't have any power," Knight added. "They've got big bucks behind them. Having looked around Portland for places to be, this is a great little plaza. It's got parking, it's got visibility, it's got the signal light. No wonder Rite Aid wants to be here."

"They're just letting too much business in. They've gotta say no somewhere. They're running us all out of here. Pretty soon, there's not going to be a Webb Street."
— Caroline Curtis, Webb Street resident

The pharmacy chain may have a difficult time winning the zone change it needs to build a drive-through window. Planning board members privately say they've become wary of tossing out locally owned businesses situated within walking distance of homes, and replacing them with yet another superstore. The board had been scheduled to consider the request Dec. 9, but the developers asked that the matter be tabled indefinitely after residents started a protest petition.

Meanwhile, area residents say they wonder whether officials listen when neighbors protest applications for development or zone changes. Marion and John Murphy bought their home on Levia Street in 1968, only to have Forest City Chevrolet build a dealership a block away on Brighton. Then the public works department installed a mammoth culvert between the Murphys' backyard brook and what would later become the Pine Tree Industrial Park next door. In recent months, noise from the construction of Super City, a 300-vehicle used car lot, has rattled their house. Dirt from the project is piled mere feet from the back doors of Webb Street homes.

The Murphys and their neighbors say they didn't know until recently that the turnpike was planning to build an interchange a few hundred yards from their houses. "I don't know whether it does any good to speak out," said Marion Murphy. "It seems like it's all cut and dry, no matter how you voice your opinion. You wind up with a headache."

Environmentalists are also concerned about the proposed Exit 7B and the commercial development it would spawn. The new exit would be close to the Maine Audubon Society's 88-acre Fore

River Sanctuary, a popular area for hiking and birdwatching. According to a city report, the enclosed saltwater marsh and surrounding woods are home to waterfowl, shorebirds, mink, muskrats, deer, fox, raptors and warblers.

Much of the property where the proposed interchange would go either borders wetlands or is actually wet. One map shows toll booths placed in the heart of a marshy strip. "Runoff, noise, development — those are all going to have an impact on the environment," said Bill Hancock of Audubon told *CBW* in November. "It's a pocket of wilderness surrounded by Portland. You can't create those anymore."

Kane said he hoped the planning board could present a report by early spring.

Medicaid

Dubious charges

The state juvenile corrections system gets health care bucks without providing any health care

Your kid gets caught stealing or smoking a joint or committing some other nonviolent offense. Whether or not he gets arrested, you're made to fill out what's called a "Notice of Interview Form," required by the state Department of Corrections. As you fill in the blanks about family background and your child's past misconduct, you may notice something a bit odd: The state wants your kid's Medicaid number.

Medicaid? That's the state health care program, funded with state and federal dollars, for poor people. The corrections department does not offer any health care. What gives?

"I have no idea," said Dan Harfoush, regional correctional administrator in Portland. "I have no idea of how it [Medicaid reimbursement to corrections] works. I send it to central office and I don't know where it goes after that."

Where it goes, said Mary Ann Saar, associate commissioner for juvenile corrections, is to the state Medicaid office. Saar said Medicaid reimburses her department for "a small portion of the time" juvenile caseworkers spend supervising clients. It also pays some of the tab for training caseworkers and private consultants who work with kids who have been charged with an offense.

And if a child does not have Medicaid? "We will try to get them eligible," said Saar. The state doesn't ask for private insurance information because, unlike Medicaid, private insurers will not reimburse the corrections department.

Saar said federal regulations allow her department to charge Medicaid, but could not explain why. Calls to the state Medicaid office requesting an explanation were not returned by *CBW*'s deadline.

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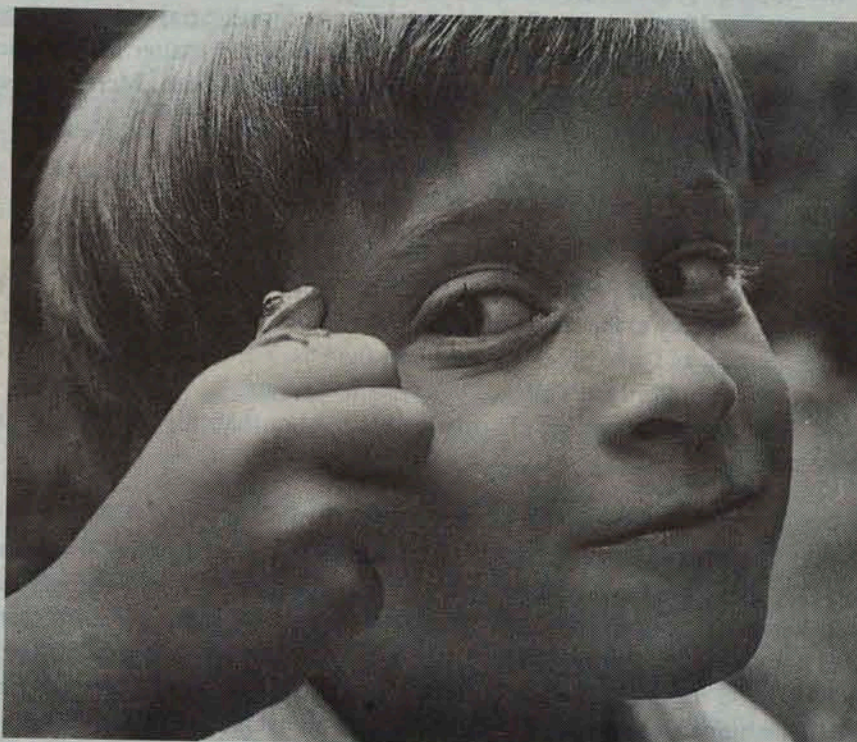
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The Mall vs. the Old Port: A shopping taste test

■ WYATT MITCHELL

BEFORE you set out to turn that shopping list into reality, you've got a very important decision to make: Do you take that list to the Maine Mall or around town? Which of the two options will yield the greatest shopping list success? Which is better for freestyle shopping? Which will reward you, the shopper, with the most beneficial experience?

Just as important is the cultural significance of the two shopping venues. Is the Mall really the better mousetrap, providing, via the power of capital, a competitive market and more efficient shopping? Or is it just another parking lot on the once-great American landscape, peddling shoddy goods to credit-card-wielding zombies? Is the Old Port a unique and special place to help out Kris Kringle — a place reflecting genuine community spirit and holiday cheer? Or is it an overrated tourist trap with ripoff prices? Strangely, the answer is all of the above. When researching the matter I found the true path to holiday bliss is not one or the other, but a little bit of both. Merry Christmas, Greater Portland!

The setting

TRANSPORTATION

The Mall: One dollar will get you on the number 4 or 5 bus, which will drop you off squarely in front of Macy's, the single most expensive store I went to. The bus ride took a long-ass time. Seeing as I was the only person on the bus, I'm guessing you all have cars and aren't interested in Portland's alleged bus system, anyway.

The Old Port: As advertised on TV, free parking. After that, it's all trooping around the cobbled streets.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

The Mall: The Mall has one thing the Old Port doesn't. A nod, if just that, to a little diversity. No, there are no Kwanzaa decorations, but there is a surprisingly tasteful attempt at acknowledging Hanukkah. "Hanukkah's candles stand for spirit, courage, justice and hope," says the written supplement to the scenario beheld by mall goers. I was thinking how good this all was when a curious boy came and peered over the display's fence. Then the little shit reached in and tried to steal an oversized dreidel. "Hey!" I said. "Just where do you think you're going with that dreidel?"

The Old Port: Lights and wreaths deck the street lamps, horse-drawn carriage rides leave from Monument Square, people are out and about looking all rosy-cheeked and, yo, let's not front on that fat-assed Christmas tree! Forget Fifth Avenue, I'll take the Old Port.

The product

FRIENDS AND SIBLINGS

The Mall: I'm assuming you're on a \$20 budget in this category. For that price, the best bet at the mall is the Warner Brothers Studio Store, where they've got Bugs Bunny coffee mugs (\$10), Tom and Jerry bath towels (\$15 for a set) and, best of all, Marvin's Body Moisturizing Modulator (\$8.50). Also, Daffy Duck bathtub duckies (\$5) are darn cute.

The Old Port: For the health-conscious smoker (right!) in your life, you can get a carton of American Spirits from Seaport Tobacco. A little over \$20, but well worth it! At Videoport, you'll find "Fargo" paperweights packaged with the soon-to-be classic. Big fun, \$20. And if I'm on your list, you can splurge: Amadeus Music has the Aretha Franklin "Queen of Soul" box set for \$50.

LOVERS

The Mall: The banal boyfriend will undoubtedly drop in to Victoria's Secret to get something he would like to see his girlfriend wear. They have a good deal on assorted cotton panties — four for \$25. Everybody likes underwear!

The Old Port: Look out, y'all! My coveted "Flyest most pimpinest" gift award goes out to Portland Hot Tubs, where you can get your special somebody a gift certificate for a

In which our intrepid reporter randomly surveys Portland's holiday shopping nerve centers



hot tub room rental — \$30 for an hour. Swing by your local corner store for a bottle of Boone's Farm Strawberry Hill (approximately \$2.15) and get yourself hot in the hot tub! Yeah!

TIME OUT!

The Mall: Whoa! All this shopping can really tucker a consumer out! Benches are thoughtfully provided for your break at the Mall. I sat on one and evaluated the experience. I didn't like it. Malls are kind of creepy. Though you won't catch me eating that death on a plastic tray, six to eight bucks will get you all the fat and grease your stomach can handle at the Food Court.

The Old Port: Hey, let's face it ... eet's code out der! You must choose wisely on a break from Old Port shopping. There are lots of nice restaurants and cafés to choose from, but an even better idea is to smuggle some Colt 45 into the Nick for a teen exploitation matinee. "Good Burger" is no longer playing, but something else is. Five bucks even.

THE FOLKS

The Mall: Though you can't go wrong with The Body Shop, which also gets an A for stocking stuffers, both the Mall and downtown have a good old CVS pharmacy. A little Primo (an imitation Giorgio fragrance) for the Moms will run you a slim \$12.49. Armani cologne is \$44.99! Yikes! But Impressions of Obsession? A mere \$7.99!

The Old Port: There are enough pottery, glassware and schlock slingers down there to sink an Old Port battleship. If you can't get with that, I can't help you.

BRATS

The Mall: I didn't see any Beanie Babies while I was at the Mall, but I'm sure there are plenty, and parents seem to have built-in detectors for them. For the young teen on your list, the Mall, catching on quick, is fully stocked with big pants. Contempo Casuals might do the trick at about \$40 a pop.

The Old Port: OK, it's not in the Old Port, but it's cool. With more authentic big pants and big-pants accessories, Terra Firma will run you a bit more than the Mall. But hey — quality costs! It also has a nice selection of funky footwear.

...

Hope that helps, and good luck on all your holiday shopping! I'll leave you with a quote from disgruntled Mall-goer Scott Keyser, commenting on his shopping experience: "It's boring."

Wyatt Mitchell didn't get you anything for Christmas.

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 1
This story is told as gospel truth at L.L. Bean, though no one knows for certain when — or even if — it really happened: An elderly woman bought a dog bed from Bean's winter catalog. Two weeks after receiving it, she called the customer service line with a question. "Muffy loves her new dog bed, but I have just one concern," the woman said. "I'm afraid if I zip it up all the way, Muffy won't be able to breathe."

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 2
L.L. Bean spokeswoman Jolene McGowan says this tale is true, but she isn't sure when the incident occurred. "We sell these fresh balsam firs for Christmas trees," McGowan says. "In fact, the trees are so fresh that one recipient of a Christmas tree opened her box and out came a live Maine squirrel. As far as we know, that squirrel has found a new tree in Central Park and is a happy little Maine squirrel in New York."

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 3
In her work at the Maine Mall Information counter, Annie Deveau gets a lot of unusual requests. Deveau says shoppers expect her to know such far-flung oddities as the per-pound cost of shipping freight to England and the current temperature at Hampton Beach. One customer, though, demanded more personal service. "This lady wanted us to go into Filene's and find out what kind of pajamas they had," says Deveau, who politely declined the request.

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 4
This bit of apocrypha hails from Bull Moose Music: "The weirdest thing that ever happened," says employee Chris Brown, "was when Al Diamon called up asking about Barry Manilow."

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 5
For weeks, a shopper peppered clerks at the Bull Moose Music shop in Brunswick with requests for the worst tunes they could dredge up. "Finally we got something awful enough for him," says store owner Brett Wickard, who couldn't remember which CD fit the bill. "One day I asked him why he wanted such terrible music. He said, 'I work for the Brunswick Naval Air Station. We have a top-secret facility. We have to play this music so no one will hang around outside.'"

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 6
Bull Moose Music has attracted a host of unusual shoppers, like the man who wanted help selecting CDs for his strip routine, or the Kias fan in Portland who likes to sing along with his glam-rock heroes. "He comes in and plays their albums and sings to them," says Wickard. "It's his one bit of performance art. He makes mournful noises. He grunts along as he hears it."

CUSTOMER SERVICE LEGEND 7
Swedish disco stars Abba stopped making music long ago, but the group has at least one gonzo fan in Portland. Bull Moose Music employees report the man snaps up every Abba product in sight, be it import, box set, outtake or remix. "He always buys three of every one," says Wickard. "One to play, one to store away and one just in case."

EVERY morning in America, children awake in warm sheeted beds, changing from pajamas into clothes before they grab their knapsacks and head out the door for school. Chances are that at least one of those items — sheets, clothing, knapsack — is emblazoned with a picture from a children's story or fairy tale they love.

The mythic sagas of good and evil in which children and the forces of good often triumph were first translated to the movie screen by Walt Disney and his early band of animators, giving children images to carry out of the movie theaters and mentally hug at night when the dark got just too dark.

But this is the 1997 holiday season. Today, children in other countries, such as Haiti, labor in dark, dank conditions — often behind metal gates and barbed wire, overseen by armed guards — making "101 Dalmatians" and "Pocahontas" toys and clothes for American kids, whose parents routinely pay \$20 for such items. These young workers received 6¢ an hour in Haiti to produce goods for a company under contract with the Disney Corporation. After public exposure of the sweatshop there, the company relocated to China, where workers make an average of 13¢ an hour, according to Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor Committee, the group spearheading "The Holiday Season of Conscience" during this year's holiday shopping frenzy.

Already, the national campaign to educate and motivate American consumers not to buy sweatshop products has produced petition drives, some led by high school and college students demanding that their schools not purchase sweatshop items, and activities around the country such as candlelight vigils, "no-sweat" Santas and public sewing of economic justice banners.

According to the latest figures from the International Labor Organization (ILO), nearly 120 million children under the age of 14 spend their young lives working full-time. Another 125 million kids are part-time workers. Globally, nearly 61 percent of all child workers reside in Asia; about 80 million, or 32 percent, are in Africa; and about 7 percent, or 17.5 million, are in Latin America.

Over 150,000 adult American workers have lost their jobs in the clothing industry in recent years, as U.S. companies relocated to parts of the world where governments both welcome and protect corporations that profit off the backs of the countries' youngest citizens. According to the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, 60 percent of the \$184 billion spent each year by Americans on apparel purchases is for imports.

Over the last 15 years, free-trade zones have become an increasingly popular economic mechanism for America's multinational corporations to manufacture goods elsewhere and then ship them back to the United States for sale, often paying little or no tariffs in the manufacturing country or for importing back into the United States.

According to a 1995 report on textiles manufacturing in El Salvador, "Free trade zones are areas constructed with the express goal of providing an attractive investment package to national and foreign export companies. Investors are provided the necessary infrastructure (warehouses, electricity, water, transportation, etc.) for a successful enterprise. Companies in free trade zones in El Salvador enjoy a plethora of benefits including exemption from taxes on imports, property and assets."

That same report notes, "Most of the companies in El Salvador's free-trade zones are U.S. or Southeast Asian-owned textile companies. According to the Central Reserve Bank, textile exports grew by almost 50 percent in 1994 (totaling \$431 million), 92 percent of which went to the U.S."

Little wonder the United States now enjoys major debtor status. And while American workers are rendered jobless or underemployed, company executives are benefiting from increased profit margins. In the last 23 years, the average pay of corporate executives has jumped from 34 times the average American worker's salary to 180 times that wage, according to Jeff Faux, president of the Economic Policy Institute.

Corporations such as Nike, Wal-Mart, J.C. Penney, the Gap, Disney, Liz Claiborne and Levi Strauss reap millions in profits from global maneuvering. "It's like checkers, you chase them around the board," said the Rev. David Dyson, who founded the NLC in 1981 and now heads "People of Faith," which represents anti-sweatshop religious groups and consumer organizations.

Many of the free trade zones, particularly in Asia and Central America, have created sweatshop conditions that embody the worst historical business practices. "If a product was made in a free trade zone, it's likely to be a sweatshop product," said Ellen Braune of the National Labor Committee.

Santa's little sweatshop

■ MARIANNE SALCETTI

A lot of the things on the American gift list were made by children in other countries working in unspeakable conditions.



"Retailers and manufacturers at the top of the pyramid dictate how much workers earn in wages by controlling the contract price given to the contractor," according to the group Sweatshop Watch. "With these prices declining each year by as much as 25 percent, contractors are forced to 'sweat' a profit from garment workers by working them long hours at low wages."

Approximate hourly wages of garment workers:	
Burma, 18¢	Indonesia, 34¢
China, 68¢	Mexico, \$1.08
El Salvador, \$1.38	Nicaragua, 76¢
Haiti, 49¢	Vietnam, 26¢
Honduras, \$1.31	

A global economy has resulted in global production and price competition. And children make such a disposable and pliable workforce. According to a recent report, "By the Sweat and Toil," by

the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), "research shows that many children are hired because they are more easily exploited than adults. Employers prefer children because they are docile, incapable of collective bargaining and willing to work to support their families or simply to survive."

In February, Tony Vento, a Cleveland-based anti-sweatshop activist and member of the Inter Religious Task Force on Central America, visited El Salvador with a group of Clevelanders. There they found young female workers, most of whom were under the

Nearly 120 million children under the age of 14 spend their young lives working full-time. Another 125 million kids are part-time workers.

age of 18, toiling in garment factories. "Eighty-five percent of the young workers were the sole breadwinner for their families," he said. "For the average family of five, their monthly food budget for rice, beans, coffee, sugar and oil is \$132 a month. The average salary there for work weeks of up to 60 hours is \$129."

Kernaghan of the National Labor Committee argued, "Living wages must be tied to the basic cost of living in the societies. Companies can't hide behind some minimum wage. There's no way getting paid 15¢ an hour in Nicaragua or 30¢ an hour in Honduras is a living wage. No one can live on this." A factory life of low wages and long hours is producing whole societies in which "children are dying. There is malnourishment, dysentery, women are aging," said Ellen Braune of the NLC.

Often, young workers experience kidney problems because they are forbidden to go to the bathroom, said Rev. Dyson. "There is a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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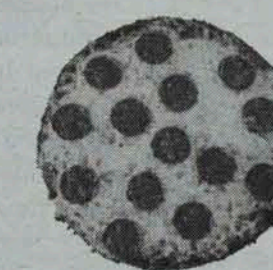


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Santa's little sweatshop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

tremendous amount of sexual harassment. They whack the girls with the garments if they make a mistake. We see these very young girls who can sew, who have forced overtime with regular shifts of 10 hours and when a big order comes in, they will have to work two shifts."

It was the public spotlighting of abuse of young girls producing her Wal-Mart clothing line at a Honduran sweatshop called Global Fashion that moved television host Kathie Lee Gifford, whose show is owned by Disney, to tears in 1996. "Don't cry for me, Kathie Lee Gifford," said Dyson flatly. "For an afternoon's work of approving sketches, OKing Wal-Mart and the smiling face label, she was getting \$10 million."

Dyson emphasized it was only after several human rights groups threatened Gifford with the legal action of discovery, which would have forced public disclosure of her label's business practices, that she was willing to meet with anti-sweatshop activists.

At the time, a joint statement was issued indicating Gifford's expectation that Wal-Mart would ensure that Global Fashion executives establish independent human rights monitoring at the Honduran plant. Instead, according to a recent NLC report, Wal-Mart pulled up stakes in Honduras and subcontracted work for its "Faded Glory" garments to several factories in Nicaragua.

A recent "Hard Copy" investigation reported that Wal-Mart, along with J.C. Penney and Kmart, now has operations in Nicaragua, where workers are paid a base wage of 15¢ an hour, compared to the base rate of 31¢ an hour at Gifford's production line in Honduras. Documented in that report were workers' living conditions, housing made of huts with fabric doors, tin or thatched roofs and cardboard walls. Also reported was the common problem of corporate environmental pollution. According to a release, "Bleaches, solvents and dyes are washed into outdoor, open pits. Workers also complain that they burn their hands with the bleach and chemicals used to make stone-washed jeans."

In November, Kernaghan was fielding calls concerning reports from Nicaragua that workers were being abused and harassed in that Nicaraguan factory zone because of the television report.

One way to keep the spotlight on corporate conduct is through the use of independent monitors, comprised of local religious and human rights leaders who are known and trusted by an area's workers. Both Dyson and Kernaghan point with pride to the agreement struck in 1995 with The Gap Corporation's Taiwanese-owned Mandarin factory in El Salvador, even though according to an NLC report, The Gap has nearly 20 contractors in Honduras, whose plants

are not open to external monitoring. The Gap does business with over 1,000 contractors in 50 countries.

However, it is The Gap agreement that anti-sweatshop activists cite as an example of a successful application of corporate codes of conduct tied to external monitoring by religious and human rights groups there. In 1995, workers at The Gap factory were revealed, through paycheck stubs and time cards, as being underage and working long hours in substandard conditions for subsistent wages. "We conducted a nine-month campaign

The bad guys

According to the National Labor Committee in Support of Worker and Human Rights, these companies are still using sweatshop labor to manufacture their products:

Wal-Mart	J.C. Penney
Guess	Esprit
Walt Disney Co.	May Co.
Nike	Victoria's Secret/ Limited
Kmart	

If you're interested in participating in the "Holiday Season of Conscience" campaign to end child labor and sweatshop abuses, call the National Labor Committee at (212)242-3002.

there," said Dyson. "Because this was a coalition of church and human rights groups, The Gap could not call us a 'special interest,' as they were calling labor groups."

It is the goal of the Holiday Season of Conscience, said Kernaghan, to motivate American consumers to vocalize their concerns about American corporations doing business in international sweatshops staffed with child labor. "We don't call for boycotts, we don't want to hurt these companies financially," said Kernaghan. "We're asking people to sign the petition and challenge these companies to do the right thing that we as consumers don't want child labor in sweatshops."

The petition drive started on Oct. 4, the NLC's "National Day of Conscience," to kick off the holiday shopping awareness campaign. Since then, Kernaghan said, the five-member NLC office has been overwhelmed by Americans' response. "Hundreds of petitions are showing up every day. It's almost too big for us," he said.

Several anti-child labor activists interviewed said the sweatshop campaign is crucial not only to heighten the visibility of child sweatshops during the profitable shopping season, but also to leverage consumer pressure on the Apparel Industry Partnership, which was formed April 14 by President Clinton in response to media coverage and public outcry regarding Kathie Lee Gifford's fracas and The Gap's business practices in El Salvador. The 18-member

association is composed of representatives from groups such as the National Consumers League, The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, The International Labor Rights Fund and America's textile workers' union — Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), along with many of the nation's top apparel executives.

The partnership's voluntary guidelines for the "Workplace Code of Conduct" issued by the group last spring have been derided by many anti-child labor advocates because the recommendations are not binding and do not tie a living wage and non-use of child labor to external monitoring by independent human rights groups. The agreement's current language states: "No person shall be employed at an age younger than 15 (or 14 where the law of the country of manufacture allows)."

The group is to report to Clinton by Dec. 31 on a final agreement, which will be the first effort to establish industry-wide human rights standards, according to NLC literature. As opposed to requiring a living wage be paid to overseas workers employed or subcontracted by American corporations, the current Workplace Codes encourage a minimum industry-mandated wage. "Codes of conduct won't mean anything if they are not strengthened by a living wage in those countries," said Kernaghan.

According to the group Sweatshop Watch, in Indonesia, the government itself has admitted that at the country's minimum wage of \$2.50 per day, a family could not meet its basic needs. But, last spring, when nearly 5,000 Nike workers in Indonesia were asking for a minimum wage of \$2.50 a day, a Nike spokesman complained that with these demands, "Indonesia could be reaching a point where it's pricing itself out of the market."

Corporate representatives on the task force include Gifford, Philip Knight from Nike and employees from Liz Claiborne, L.L. Bean Inc., Reebok International and Phillips-Van Heusen. While the task force calls for external monitoring, the language of its agreement makes corporate participation voluntary.

For the anti-child labor supporters, the Holiday Season of Conscience provides U.S. consumers with an opportunity to take a position on products made for children, by children. "Once the discussion involves human rights, the truth always wins," said Kernaghan. "People have real power. We're the biggest market in the world."

This story originally appeared in the Cleveland Free Times.



Start at Our Lady of Victories. Proceed to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Bring cash.



Shopping The Cong

SARAH GOODYEAR

I AM A terrible Christmas shopper. I usually find myself buying presents on Dec. 23 or so, in a terrific rush, with not many dollars set aside for the task. In some cities, this would be a disastrous strategy. But I have found that in Portland, it is possible for me to accomplish all my Christmas shopping by taking a brisk walk from Monument Square to Longfellow Square, stopping at certain key locations along the way. This can be done as late as Dec. 24, and, if you're a quick decisionmaker, you can have the whole process over quickly and relatively painlessly. It's kind of like ripping a Band-Aid off. Every year I have lived here, the retail choices on The Cong, as my friends and I like to call our city's main thoroughfare, have increased, making the task easier still. Here are the high points to hit if, like me, you're shopping-impaired. And hey, why not buy recycled or locally made products when you can?

A good place to start is the **Steamer Trunk**, formerly of Exchange Street and now happily relocated to a spacious shop right on Monument Square. Let the sparkle draw you to the jewelry case, where a large variety of rhinestones awaits the glamour queen in your life. It's got a great selection of high-quality antique mirrors, as well.

Next stop, **Material Objects**. If you're shopping for someone who likes to play dress-up, head for the back of the store, where there are all sorts of dramatic antique frocks (an entire wardrobe of exquisite kimonos that caught my eye a few weeks back seems to have been snapped up). Also good scarves, gloves and hats for your buddies.

At **Levin'sky's**, there are some beautiful Woolrich-plaid flannel shirts (the very best) at a decent price. Impress someone by buying American-made, for a change.

Quick, duck into **CVS** for wrapping paper.

Now go into **L.L. Bean**. If Bean's preppy fashions have never turned you on, keep an open mind. A recent trip revealed some deeply discounted camouflage items that any true hipster would be able to make a statement with. Check out the white snow-camo fuzzy baseball caps, for instance.

Who says you can't dream a little? At the **Portland Piano Exchange & Violin Shop**, you can find an 1890s-vintage ebony grand piano for a mere \$15,000. They deliver.

Things get serious as you reach the corner of Oak Street. At **Clay City**, they've got everything from hats made by Tibetan exiles to Peruvian folk charms. You'll be able to knock quite a few folks off the list here. The shop's own brilliantly decorated white stoneware is good for your urban-type friends, and the smallest pieces, tiny striped bowls, are just three bucks. More rustic sensibilities will appreciate the Monroe Saltworks pottery, decorated with moose and the like. And surely at least one person you're shopping for would like to find a soft-porn Mexican comic book under the tree.

Cross Congress to hit the double whammy of **The Bear's Lair** and **A Maharani's Closet**. These are antique shops for people without thousands to spend. The Bear's Lair has some beautiful vases from the '40s and '50s, while Maharani's Closet stocks everything from '60s costume jewelry to a wooden mah-jongg set. The prices can't be beat.

You're sprinting now. The end is almost in sight. **Drop Me A Line** has some great candle holders and candles. Everybody goes for those these days. At **Coffee By Design**, there are nice handpainted mirrors by Lisa Ruhman, really good loose teas and twisty drinking straws with the Tasmanian Devil on them. And **Sun Oriental Market** carries cool chopsticks, tea sets and ginseng.

Sent out your Christmas cards yet? The **post office** has stamps for you.

There he is. It's Longfellow. You've done it. Pick up some snacks at **Joe's Smoke Shop**, head for home and start wrapping. And relax. You won't have to do this again for a whole year. **CBW**

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the holidays at...



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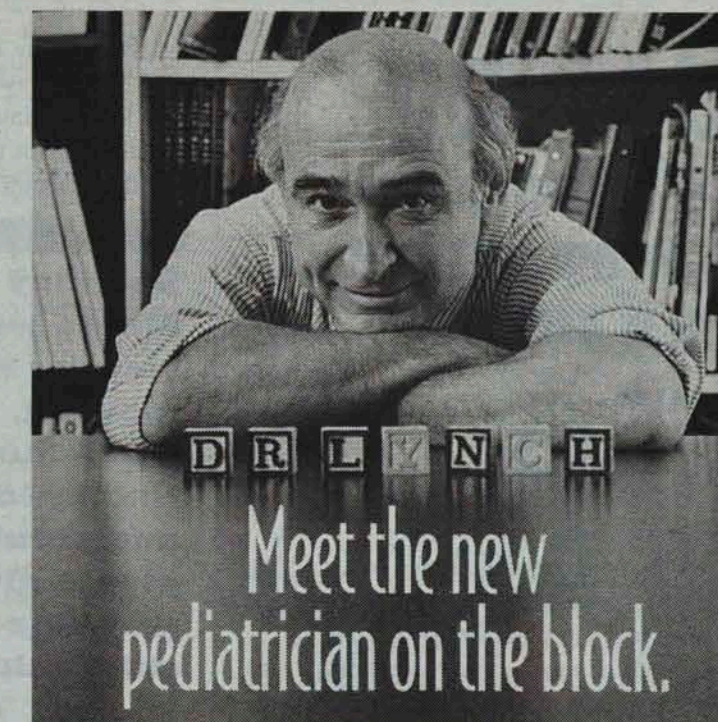
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INTERMED

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comment

No sweat

In this week's issue, along with some silly articles about the holiday shopping season, we include a very serious story about international labor exploitation, "Santa's little sweatshop" (page 11). All around the world, young women and children are being exploited by huge corporations to produce the goods that we pull off the shelves all year, but especially at Christmastime.

Some of the horror stories collected by the National Labor Council (NLC):

- In 1996, Michael Eisner, CEO of the Walt Disney Co., made \$189.7 million. A Haitian woman sewing Disney garments would need to work for 156 years to earn \$102,000, the amount Eisner clears in an hour.

- Some Nike workers in China make as little as \$6.92 a week.

- Women in the Dominican Republic who sew panties for Victoria's Secret earn \$5.68 a day. (The panties are similar to those that caught the innocent eye of Wyatt Mitchell, whom we sent to the Maine Mall to find gift ideas in "The Mall vs. the Old Port," page 10.) The panties they make retail for as much as \$12 apiece. The women make 3¢ for every pair they produce.

We're all shocked and outraged when we hear these stories, but what can we do about it? It's difficult to find any clothing store in the United States where the garments are sewn exclusively by American union workers. Recently, I bought a pair of Levi's jeans without even looking at the tag, because I had such a strong image of Levi's as being an all-American

company. When I took the time to check, I saw the pants had been assembled in Honduras. And some families can't afford to pay the higher prices that American-made goods command.

But there's no need to despair, even if some of the items you encounter in the stores were made by companies with unfair labor practices. The political and economic pressure that can be exerted by American consumers is tremendous. The NLC does not advocate boycotts. The organization instead urges consumers to participate in letter-writing campaigns and petition drives.

To find out more, you can call the NLC at (212) 242-3002; write them at 275 Fifth Avenue, 15th floor, New York, N.Y. 10001; or visit their website at www.nlcn.org.

Corrections

Well, we wish we could say that the editor was on vacation last week, because we had an impressive number of mistakes in our 11.27.97 issue. But she was right here in her office. Here go the corrections: The byline on our cover story on local TV news ("Live, local and kinda loopy"), which was omitted, should have been Laura Conaway's; the Channel 6 newsmen pictured in the story was Pat Callaghan, not Rob Caldwell; accused rapist Jon Dyer, mentioned in the same story, is from North Yarmouth, not Yarmouth; the last line of Al Diamon's review of "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" was omitted, along with his byline; and you spell the state's top-grossing crustacean ("White space") *lobsters*, not *lobstrers*. Ouch.

SARAH GOODYEAR

ESSAY

Wild thing

Can't we improve the Eastern Prom without changing it utterly?

■ BERRY MANTER

With the partial completion of the Eastern Promenade trail, it would appear that Portland has recently rediscovered the lower perimeter of the Eastern Prom. And this has not been entirely welcome news to all Portlanders — those of us who prefer our walking places wild rather than developed.

Not that anyone would hesitate to say this part of the waterfront was in need of some sort of attention. It was once one of the busiest points of land in the state, connecting the great American railway to canvas-rigged schooners from all over the world. Only a few heavy timbers from the last of the long wooden piers now remain, washed aground on the rocks of Fish Point. I like to note how carefully the wood was cut and joined, and how the hand-forged iron nails still hold the pieces together.

There are a lot of things I have liked about that point of land, and I lament that some of them have changed remarkably since the development of the trail. For over eight years I have hiked that piece of shoreline, admiring the endless rhythms of the seasons and the constant bounty of flowers, wild berries, birds and

waterfowl. In June, wild roses bloom profusely. In July, wild strawberries, purple vetch, common daisies and Indian paintbrush can be found. Brilliant goldfinch were abundant this year, and a pair of cardinals staked out their territory for yet another season. August brings

So many wonderful native plants were uprooted to make way for lawns that need mowing, a few flowering trees, juniper and some small, finicky-looking rose bushes and shrubs. The imported plants give the land a generic park-like look — like an unruly child reluctantly dressed up.

the black-eyed Susans, the goldenrod, the purple aster. In November the garnet torches of the staghorn sumac and the delicate orange and gold tendrils of the bittersweet appear. I once watched a kestrel make a meal of a pigeon while walking here. This is the real beauty of the Prom.

I question just what sort of thinking has gone into the Eastern Prom trail, with a swath of blacktop so wide as to resemble a highway lane gone astray, and big, fancy green lamps with expensive underground cables. So many wonderful native plants were uprooted to make way for the trail's lawns (that now need mowing), a few flowering trees, juniper and some

small, finicky-looking rosebushes and shrubs. The imported plants give the land a generic park-like look — like an unruly child reluctantly dressed up. Even the mixed-flower seedling that managed to produce a confetti-colored field of blooms looked bizarrely like a landscape out of the "Wizard of Oz," and not the coast of Maine.

I'm not much for the narrow-gauge train, either. Its thick oily plume of black smoke fills the air with a sulfurous burning tire stench, and the hoarse wail of its whistle penetrates homes all over the Hill, as well as the ears of trail walkers. I find the train, beyond being an historical curiosity, fails to add value to this landscape.

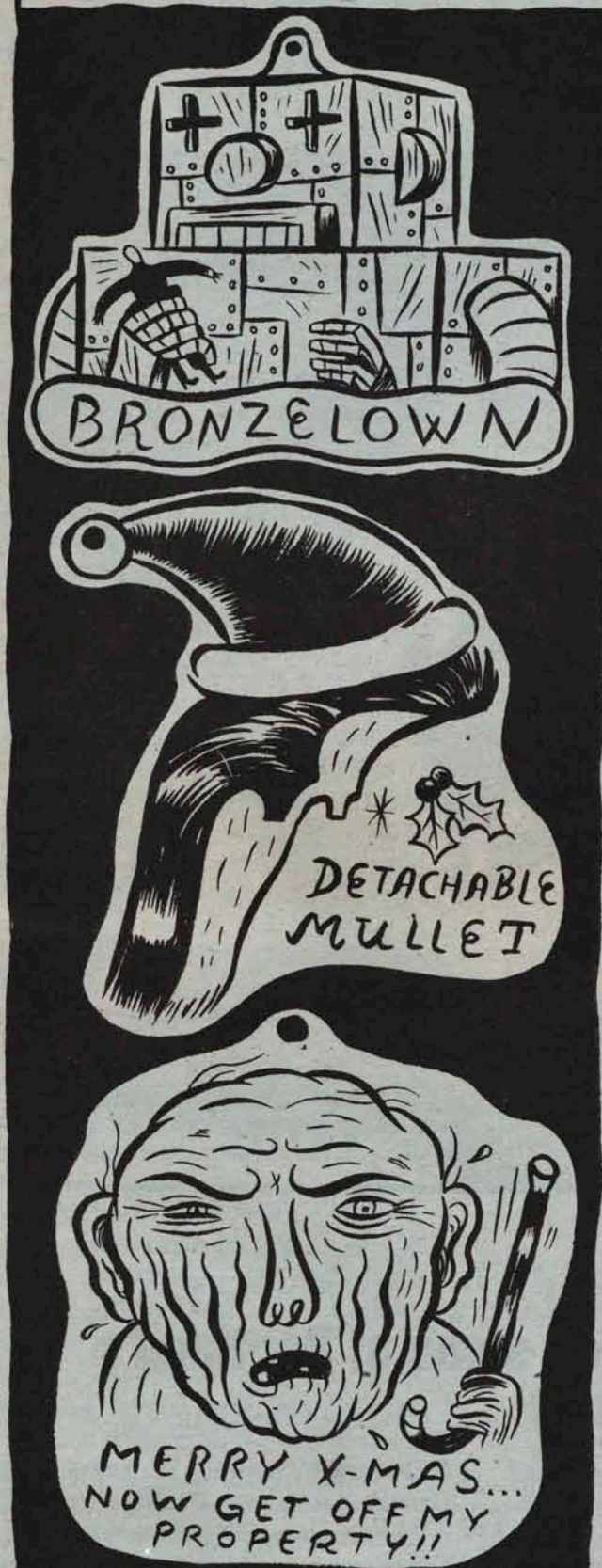
This past Halloween, bigger-than-life displays of over a million lights began to arrive — tacky white wire cartoons festooned with bulbs like constellations in a holiday horror show. How ironic that a million lights with a million miles of extension cords requiring no small number of twinkling kilowatts will provide a foreground to the view of the smoldering smokestack of Central Maine Power's Cousins Island facility.

Funny how people see things so differently. I would have liked to see the Eastern Prom trail project become an act of nurturing rather than transformation — for reasons of both cost and aesthetics.

I am not a Grinch, and I'm not against the goodwill of the Portland Rotary. It's just that in these contemporary times, it seems we could conserve and appreciate what nature provides on her own, with us humans offering only minimal assistance as caring stewards. This prize of Portland should not be turned into an attraction on an urban midway.

Berry Manter lives on the Eastern Promenade.

DEBRIS PATRICK © 1997
THE OFFICIAL HOLIDAY ORNAMENT
GIFT-PAK... MY GIFT TO YOU!
CUT 'EM OUT, COLORE'EM IN.



CBW

Who was the first European to visit Maine?

The first documented visitor from away was Giovanni da Verrazano. Historians believe he landed near present-day Ogunquit in May of 1524. Verrazano dubbed Maine "the land of the bad people" due to the rude reception he got here. According to Maine: The Pine Tree State from Prehistory to the Present (University of Maine Press, 1995), "The Maine natives refused to allow the ship's crew to approach them ... they passed the items they saw fit to trade to Verrazano's crew using a rope, and accepted only a few items in return. 'We found no courtesy in them,' Verrazano complained, 'and when we had nothing more to exchange ... the men made all the signs of scorn of shame that any brute creature would make ... such as showing their buttocks and laughing immoderately.'"

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.

LETTERS



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

Bad news

The sad state of local news should come as no shock to anyone ("Live, local and kinda loopy," 11.27.97). The reasons for such poorly produced newscasts should be just as obvious.

In the first place, television stations are driven by advertising dollars. Anything (including negative stories about an advertiser) that does not enhance advertising revenue will not get airtime. The goal of the station, after all, is to maximize advertising revenue.

Secondly, reporters need bureaucratic and political sources. Stories that decry the foibles of local politicians can destroy years of contacts meticulously cultivated.

Thirdly, since advertising revenue is such a driving force, newscasts are nothing more than another opportunity to air commercials. The next time any of your readers watches a news program, have them make note of how much actual time is spent relating news, and how much is spent on commercials or shameless self-promotion. When 10 minutes of every 30 is spent on commercials, it is no wonder that the average "news" story can only be spared 20 or 30 seconds.

Richard Siteman
Portland

Points north

Having just read your publication's interpretation of the local TV news coverage, and without commenting on it, I must take the opportunity to point out that you have made one of the common errors that each of the local TV news reporters also made.

Accused rapist Jon Dyer is a resident of NORTH YARMOUTH!!!! Not Yarmouth!

The proximity of each municipality to the other and the similarity of names is no excuse for making such an error. I would feel the same if you were reporting about Portland and South Portland. I doubt, however, that you would make such a mistake.

Peter R. Allen
Yarmouth

Hardworking aides

This letter is in response to Sharon Bass' recent article regarding the number of people being too easily certified for the distribution of medications to the mentally ill patients in Maine group homes ("Bad medicine," 11.20.97).

The majority of these described doling out medications in corporate, privately owned group homes, financed by taxpayers, are exactly the opposite of what sources in the article would have readers believe — undereducated, drug-stealing dummies. The majority of these workers are very hard-working, single parents who are not on welfare, and are being paid an average of \$6 per hour (that is for the 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shift). They are responsible for managing patients too ill to be dumped on the streets of Portland by the state of Maine after the closing of the Pineland Center.

It is usual for writers to depict both sides of a story. That was not the case in Bass' article.

C. Tibbetts
Gorham

Sinister, not sporting

I, too, agree with T. Bennett, when she or he said "killing a moose with a .44 caliber weapon is sinister" (referring to Abby Holman, in the 11.13.97 "Talk"). I've been living on Rt. 302 in Raymond for 25 years and have seen moose up close. A few months ago, I actually helped a moose cross Rt. 302 — we had to stop traffic so he could cross without incident! I was 5 feet away from him. That's got to tell you how sporting killing a moose is.

Joyce Mastro

Joyce Mastro
Raymond

Extreme disgruntlement

I was just reading the latest issue of CBW, and I hate to sound critical, but this town is nothing but a one-horse town. Plain and simple. Ever since I have lived here I've had to put up with the lame City Council. Someone obviously wants ideas on what to do about the problem with people loitering on the city streets. Here's the solution: Why not designate a special place that says, in no uncertain terms, "Beggars' Corner," in big lit-up letters — something that really stands out and puts that person to shame.

Now admittedly, I'm not one for shaming people that much, but if you really want to put a stop to the problem, just do what was done in the olden days: Make a public place where a person has to go to experience ridicule. That is exactly what the City Council does to its ordinary citizens — ridicules them at the taxpayers' expense. And once the Beggars' Corner of Portland has finally been built, maybe, just maybe, I won't have to hear how much of a problem beggars are to the city of Portland.

First the benches were removed from well-traveled areas. Then cold slabs were put in so that I have to freeze my buns off every time I sit down to eat a burrito. Then the police came along and made me feel terrorized in my own town — not that the police aren't trying to do a good job of policing some of the citizens — and then the City Council got stuck on the issue of bums loitering (since when is standing around and having fun against the law?) and I've got to read about it in a lame weekly newspaper ("Begging the question," 11.20.97) that is lax on ideas.

Give me a break. I am an intelligent reader looking for an exciting city to live in, not one with a bunch of sniveling, bored, disgruntled adults who forgot what it is like to be a child and still live as a mature, outstanding citizen of society. Maybe, just maybe, I am asking for too much here, and I ought to go and join the City Council as one of its fine and outstanding members who really has something to say and who really has ideas that shape up a little city like Portland, because personally, I've had enough of small-minded people with nothing better to do.

But who am I, who am I anyway ... just another disgruntled citizen with big ideas for a small planet. Now, about that election problem.

Ashley Lenartson

Ashley Lenartson
Portland

Paper tiger: Channel 8's "Political Insider" is now a real political insider. WMTW-TV political reporter **Jeff Toorish** left the station Dec. 3 to take a job as chief lobbyist for the paper industry. In his new capacity as president of the Maine Pulp and Paper Association, Toorish will be using the government contacts he developed as a journalist to promote the big landowners' lines on clear-cutting, dioxin discharges and land-use regulations.

Toorish, who was bumped from the Channel 8 anchor desk six months ago, denied that move had anything to do with his departure from the station. "I was leaving

ear to the pavement



anyway," he said. "It was time to do something different with my life." Toorish said he wasn't worried about losing credibility as a result of his shift from nominally objective reporter to

industry apologist. "I don't expect any flak from that," he said. "[The paper companies] are comfortable with it. I'm comfortable with it." Actually, there were a few people who weren't entirely comfortable with Toorish's role as a journalist. His wife, Maribeth Stewart, works for Democratic state Senate President Mark Lawrence, handling press relations. Toorish said Channel 8 didn't believe that constituted a conflict of interest. "She doesn't work on policy stuff," he said. "[Republican legislators] say I'm one of the guys who are the fairest of anybody."

Ironically, Lawrence was one of the guests on Toorish's final Sunday public affairs show on Nov. 30. "I thought there'd be some tough questions," one admittedly Republican viewer told us, "but it was a real love-fest."

■ Cut and paste: "I wish I could do this all day," was the prevailing sentiment the afternoon of Dec. 1 at "Re-Newing," a three-day public art event at MECA presided over by New York artist Mierle Laderman Ukeles. The usually stark entry to the MECA Building at 522 Congress St. had been transformed into something resembling a kindergarten classroom. Remnants of ribbon, wallpaper, felt, twigs, nuts and bolts and construction paper covered the tables where a mix of art students and civilians between the ages of 24 and 70 worked on small art pieces. The goal: "Flow Thru Out," a work that, when finished, will include hundreds of works, made by everyone from elementary school students to shoppers who've wandered in off the street. You can spend your day at "Re-Newing" Dec. 4, from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For more info, call 879-5742.

■ Clubland: **The Penguin**, a Fore Street bar, has new owners. Matilda and Norman Sunderland of Braintree, Mass., bought the club from former owner Dan Roberts, who was forced to close after losing his liquor license in October. Matilda Sunderland said she and her husband have never owned a bar, don't have a permanent manager and don't know what kind of clientele they'll attract. "We hope to operate in a very fashionable and responsible manner," she said. The Portland City Council approved the Sunderlands' license Dec. 1. **CBW**

edge

RAW MEAT — HEAVENLY VOICES —
CYCLING THROUGH — THE BIG BEAT — ON THE ROCKS



ILLUSTRATION/MIKKI NYLUND AND MARK KNOTT

Celebrate this Christmas isn't a universal holiday. For some of Portland's Jews and Muslims, it's just another day

■ **SHARON BASS**

When I was a kid, I desperately wanted to celebrate Christmas. Not for the religious stuff, mind you; I barely knew who Christ was. No, what I yearned for was the tree, the lights, the shiny-packed gifts, the carols, the big family get-togethers. And probably most of all, I just wanted to fit in, not feel like such an outcast. But being Jews, we did the eight days of Hanukkah instead, and drab it was. There were no big dinners or decorations, no special visitors. Just a lone menorah, one extra candle lit each night followed by the perfunctory gift. Hanukkah was like any other time for me. I really envied the Christian kids.

I grew up in suburban New York where there were more Jews than almost anywhere in the world outside of Israel, yet I still felt left out. So I was surprised when I talked to a couple of families in Portland — one Jewish, one Muslim — who say they don't care about Christmas,

they prefer their holidays, despite living in an overwhelmingly Christian community.

While the Peisners, who live in a comfortable, two-story home in North Deering, seem to adore Hanukkah and want no part of Christmas, they do have a yuletide gripe: Wherever they go this time of year, the sights and sounds of Christmas are in their faces. Signs of Hanukkah, on the other hand, are hard to find. "In the Maine Mall or just CVS or just any store," says Sam Peisner, 11, the eldest of three brown-haired, blue-eyed boys, "you just walk in and you see all these Christmas decorations and you don't see one Star of David." That makes Sam visibly angry. "You see green and red and gold together, but you don't see blue and white." Those are the colors of Hanukkah.

Sam also kvetches about what goes on — and doesn't go on — in school during the holidays. As a fifth-grader at Lyseth

Elementary School, he hears few Hanukkah songs — "Usually only two" — but there's no shortage of Christmas and winter tunes. "I've had to live with that for six years," he says with a sigh. Out of 120 fifth-graders, he says only four are Jewish. Oy, veh.

The rest of Sam's family feel pretty much the same way. His mother, Barbara, who stays at home with her kids, says if she goes into a store and sees only Christmas decorations she'll voice her grievance. "I just try to sensitize people," says Barbara. "You start feeling sort of invisible."

"You, invisible?" Sam shoots back. "That's impossible." He says this because he's seen his mother correct supermarket cashiers who ask her sons what Santa is bringing them, talk to store managers about putting up a few Hanukkah decorations, and confront clerks at the Maine Mall's gift-wrapping counter who have no Hanukkah wrap on

display.

Hanukkah is a full and festive celebration for the Peisners — very different from my childhood experience. Barbara fries the traditional latkes (potato pancakes), the family says Hebrew prayers during the menorah lighting and plays the dreidel game. (Dreidels are small wooden pieces shaped like tops with a Hebrew letter on each side. They are spun, and depending on what letter is shown, a certain amount of money is won or lost.) The Peisners adorn their home with wall-hangings, a Happy Hanukkah sign and put an electric menorah in the window. And the kids understand the somewhat arcane story behind Hanukkah, except for 4-year-old Jeffrey. But he's learning. "We don't celebrate Christmas," says Jeffrey, running around the house clutching a yellow-limbed action figure. "We celebrate Hanukkah."

Barbara and her husband, Michael, a Portland attorney, had similar holiday experiences as kids. Barbara grew up in a suburb in Pennsylvania where she says about half the kids were Jewish. "I don't remember feeling like I missed out that much during Christmas," she says. "I grew up so secure in my Judaism."

Michael was raised in a Detroit neighborhood similarly concentrated with Jews. But unlike his wife, he says he did feel like an outsider during the Christmas season. "Christmas is a time when you feel different," he says. "The rest of the year your religion doesn't matter as much. But during Christmas, you feel a little bit out of the mainstream."

Their son Aaron, 8, agrees. "I feel sort of left out in the really, really big celebrations in the city and in the stores," he says, snuggling up against his mother on the living-room couch. For instance, he recently looked for a book of Hanukkah music at the Starbird Music Mall, where he takes piano lessons. "A tiny fraction, maybe a quarter of a quarter" of the holiday music books were of Hanukkah songs, he says. Aaron jumps off the couch and retrieves the book he bought, which was sitting on top of the piano. Before he can say anything, Sam grabs the thin book, quickly flips through its pages and sarcastically says, "See how big it is?"

Says Barbara, "I was relieved that they had any. I thought we would have to special order it for him."

Across town, at the Kennedy Park housing project off Cumberland Avenue, another family talks about the richness of their holiday, Eed. The family, headed by Asli Dirie, escaped Somalia in 1994, but holds tenaciously to its Islamic roots. Christmas, Asli and her children say, doesn't faze them. "I don't feel anything [during Christmas]," says Asli. "I miss my country, my friends, but I don't feel bad at Christmas."

In fact, the family has little to say about the Christian holiday. Live and let live seems to be the attitude shared by Asli, her daughters Hamdi Ali, 9, Iman Ali, 19, and cousin Khadija Suleiman,

18. Five-year-old daughter Muna Ali is still forming an opinion.

From their sparsely furnished home — a table with two chairs is pushed against a wall of the otherwise empty dining area; an old orange couch and a 19-inch TV in a black-and-glass cabinet furnish the living room — Asli and the girls talked matter-of-factly about their holiday.

"Christmas is a time when you feel different. The rest of the year your religion doesn't matter as much. But during Christmas, you feel a little bit out of the mainstream."
— Michael Peisner

It all starts in January with Ramadan, when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset for one month. They can eat and drink only at night. Then, in February, the fast is broken with Eed, a three-day celebration. On the first day there's group prayer, usually in a mosque. But since there are no buildings dedicated as mosques in Portland, the family and other Muslims have been gathering in a space at the University of Southern Maine. Afterward, they return home for a feast where they eat, among other things, goats and "big cows," says Khadija.

Asli decorates her home with wall-hangings depicting nature scenes and puts up new curtains. The gifts given at Eed, unlike those given at Christmas and Hanukkah, are unwrapped — mostly clothes — and go predominantly to children.

All the girls but Muna fondly remember many Eeds in Somalia. Because of that, they say they don't care about Christmas or feel left out, even if they are inundated by the Christian holiday at school and around town.

"Christmas, I don't feel anything," says Iman, who is a senior at Portland High School. "I get more rest at home because there's vacation. But I love my holiday, Eed. When I was young, I'd get new clothing."

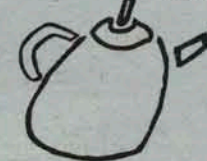
Channel-surfing with her coveted remote control — reportedly she rarely relinquishes it — Muna finally joins in the conversation. Coily, she announces, "I can make a snowman all by myself."

When asked what she'd like to get for Eed, the little girl picks up a Rite Aid sales circular from the floor and points to a Christmas tree, several Barbie dolls and some stuffed animals and blurts out, "I like Christmas!" Her mother turns to her and softly, yet sternly, says something in Somali. While the words are not understandable to someone who doesn't know the language, it is clear Muna is being corrected. **CBW**

TEA

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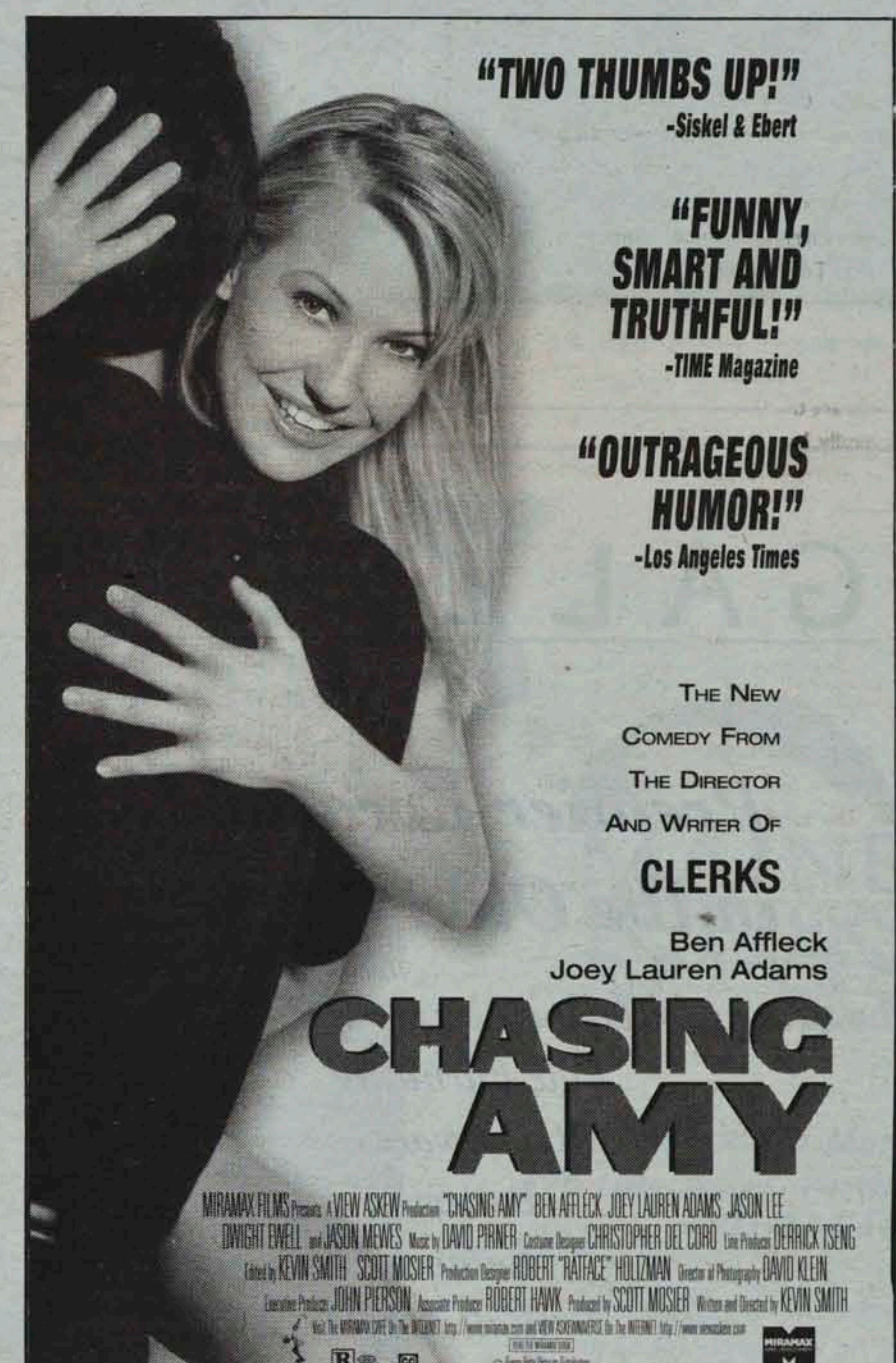
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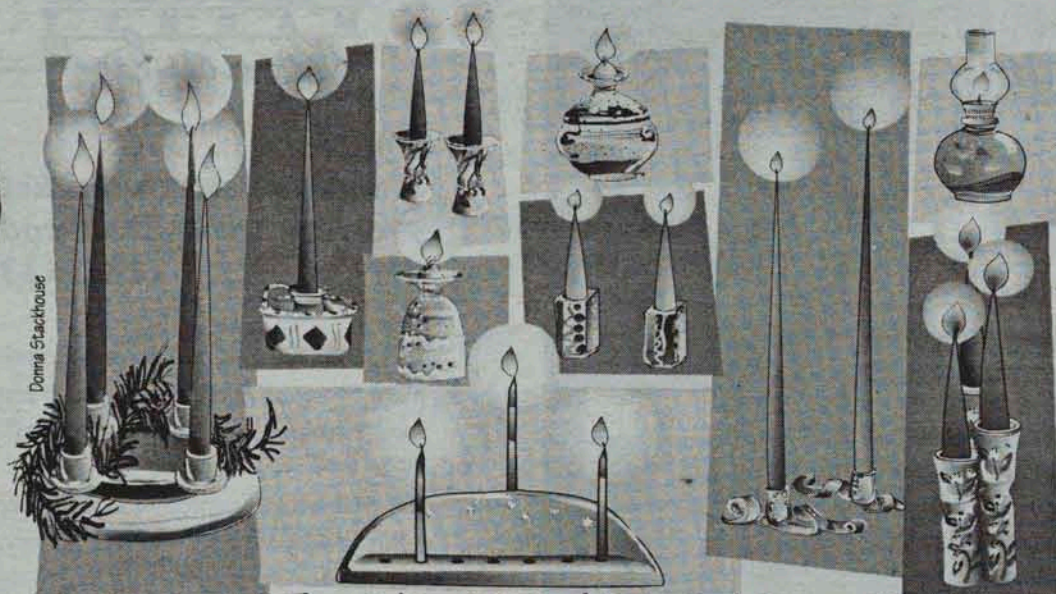
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ArtWorks, a student and alumni sales gallery at the Maine College of Art...

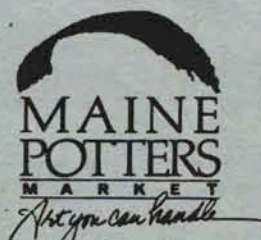
sells fabulous pieces of jewelry, wood work, painting, ceramics, photography and other art pieces by MECA people, with selected work from the Maine Crafts Association. Tues-Sat., 11am-5:30pm, Thursdays until 8pm. 522 Congress Street, Portland. 879-5743 ext. 283.



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Holiday Events at the Museum!

The Lighting of the Copper Beech Tree Family Festival

Friday, December 5, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Free admission!

A festival of holiday fun: artmaking activities for the whole family; visits with Santa Claus, Captain Cannonball of the Portland Pirates, and performances by the Bellamy Jazz Band, Freeport Middle School Choir, and Portland Ballet Company. An outdoor sing-along by candlelight will precede the official lighting of the tree at 7 p.m.



Holiday Festival of Music

Thursday, December 4 - Sunday, December 21

Daily caroling and instrumental performances by schoolchildren and community groups. Tue.-Fri., noon & 12:30 p.m.; Thu. and Fri., 6 & 6:30 p.m.; Sat., noon, 12:30, & 1 p.m.; Sun, 12:30, 1, & 1:30 p.m. Call the Museum for a full schedule of performances. Free admission for concerts.

Solstice Tree

Thursday, December 4-Friday, January 2

This two-story evergreen will be decorated with objects—some favorites from years past, some new this year—contributed by contemporary artists from around the world.

PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART

Portland Museum of Art • Seven Congress Square • Portland, ME 04101 • 775-6148



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We have mechanical tin toys, stuffed animals, kazooes, Felix the Cat stuff, accordions, shake a nose, magic plastic, Czech garage bike bells, Muybridge, Flip Books, great world religion light bulbs, unusual and affordable jewelry, moose menorah, picture frames, square candles, cheapest tapers & votive candles in town. Tiles.

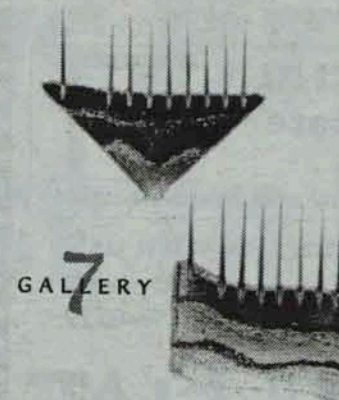


Beautiful unusual tree ornaments candle holders, compost pails, tiffins, scrubbers. Pails from Estonia, exquisite note pads, address books, hand-made scissors and pad locks, pill boxes, thread scissors, Indian chicken toy, soap stone soap dishes, art books, strange books, racey Mexican comics, handprinted textiles, Latin American curios, Milagros, Just Say No boxes, zen boards, Bolivian ski masks, I'm running out of room, you'll have to come in to see what I haven't gotten to yet.

We also feature a wide and varied selection of beautiful, unusual and unique things from all over the world, things for the home, the table, the kids, the adults, the others. Lots of stuff under \$5. Great for stocking or small gifts for people who aren't worth much more, or buyers on limited budget. Amaze your friends, impress your relatives, shop at Clay City and you'll have more fun, less anxiety and a better chance at personal redemption.

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GALLERY 7

Menorahs by Glasslight Hand-Made Glass

Museum Shop

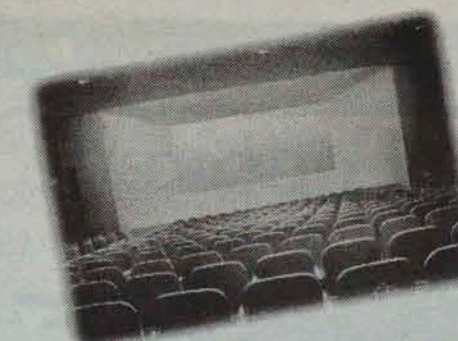
Create a lasting impression this year with unique and special gifts from the Museum Shop. Choose from one-of-a-kind jewelry, hand-crafted ceramics, and contemporary glass, all perfect gifts for the holidays. Delight children of all ages with craft kits, toys, puzzles and art supplies.



Seeking unique, unusual, one-of-a-kind gifts?

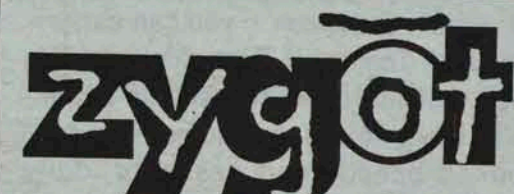
For special people on your holiday list? Making your list for Santa? Gallery 7 is your answer. We feature beautiful, hand-crafted home accessories, fine furniture, glassware, pottery, lamps, wall art and sculpture, jewelry and jewelry boxes and exclusive gifts. Visit us today!

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"As nature replenishes the Earth with essential elements like sunlight and rain, our bodies and souls must also replenish."

Debbie Elliott dreamed of a salon that would stress the health of the mind as well as that of the body. A place to heal and rejuvenate not only the outer person but the inner person. A beautiful, luxurious place to set aside stress, worry, and cares of the day.

In 1992 that dream was realized with the Debbie Elliott Salon and Day Spa. Men and women alike come to her Day Spa to be refreshed, nurtured and healed.

Debbie and her talented professional staff work closely with their clients, seeking client input in regard to individual lifestyles, as well as their likes and dislikes in terms of health and beauty. The staff, working as a team, then use their expertise to design a program specific to each client.

Services are manifold. They include not only hair styling and manicures, but massage and body work, facials, waxing and tinting, scalp and neck treatment to reduce stress, makeup application with chart, and makeup lessons. Debbie is very proud of her extensive line of products, which allows the client to have a choice of brand name, fragrance, etc.



Massage and bodywraps are important parts of the regimen at the Day Spa. Massages range from a one hour relaxing massage, to a quick and easy, 30 minute partial massage, or a refreshing massage combining meditation, chakra balancing, and affirmation.

The staff at the Day Spa all have very advanced training, and will do their utmost to make each client's visit an enjoyable overall experience.

Debbie Elliott has been in the business since 1981. She has trained at the Dada Academy in New York City, as well as the Dessange Academy. She took advanced training in Europe including Vidal Sassoon, London; and currently teaches for Goldwell as a Master Colorist for TV, major motion pictures, and stage.

Debbie and her staff encourage you to explore your needs and desires, to find your connection to the world at Debbie Elliott Salon and Day Spa.

The Holidays Bring Out The Best In Us.



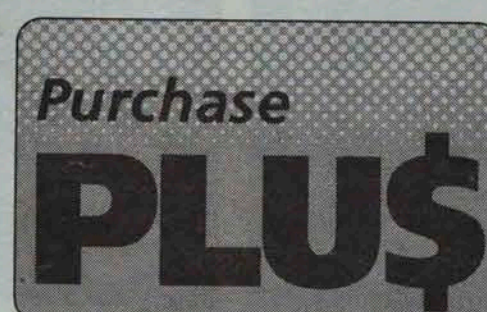
Concierge Service Our Concierge staff will be on hand to provide mall information, umbrella service, package assistance and answer any questions you might have. You'll find them conveniently located at three main mall entrances, Thursday through Sunday.



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Shoppers Rest Area/Coat & Package Check Our customers deserve a break. And our Shoppers Rest Area is the perfect place to take one. You can check your coat and packages and relax with comfortable couches, big screen TVs and tables, and catch your breath before tackling the rest of your shopping list.



Purchase Plus Program Get more value for your holiday shopping dollar. As a member you'll earn valuable points redeemable for exciting rewards every time you shop. Rewards that include great gifts, trips and services. Best of all membership is free.

Annabelle's Wish

The Maine Mall is the official headquarters for Annabelle's Wish—a classic animated holiday story about a lovable calf, whose unselfish wish brings happiness to the little boy she loves. Annabelle activities at the mall during the holiday season will benefit the Maine Make-A-Wish Foundation. For details, visit our Customer Service Center.

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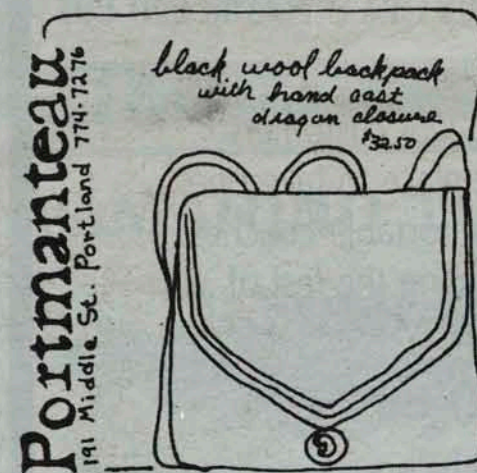


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calendar

THURSDAY 4

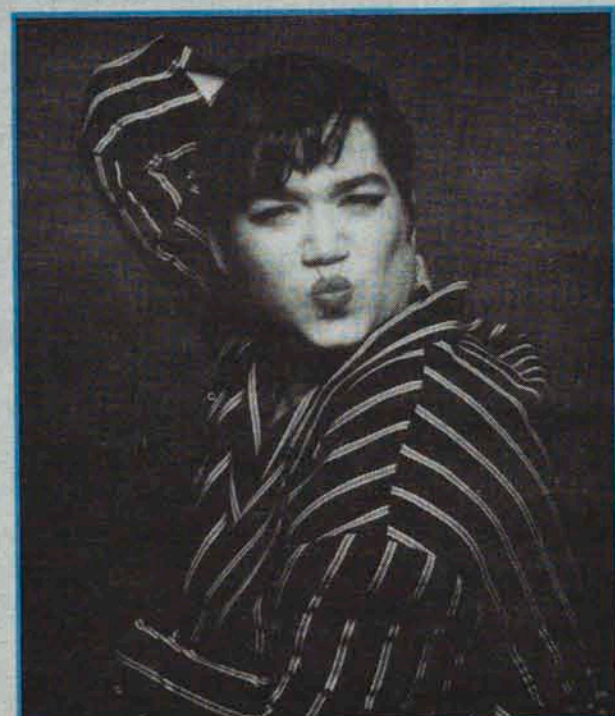
ORIGINAL STUDENT ONE-ACTS

All families have a least two things in common: love (no matter how contorted) and secrets. These themes pervade "Brady" and "Family Values," two student-penned one-act plays presented by USM's Department of Theater. In "Brady," by Sam Carner, a boy's discovery that his 100-year-old grandfather was a short-lived baseball hero sets off a scheme that may damage their relationship, while Carolyn R. Padula's "Family Values" shows how a family faces the impending death of its father by scrambling to reveal and rectify past hurts. William Steele and Thomas Power direct. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., at 7:30 p.m. Also Dec. 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. Tix: \$8 (\$6 seniors and staff/\$4 students). 780-5151.

FRIDAY 5

PEREGRINE PRESS OPEN HOUSE AND MECA ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE

Minimize the stress and boredom of haggling for gifts by fusing holiday shopping with the noble pursuit of gawking at local art. The artists of Peregrine Press, a local fine arts printmaking group, are on hand to explain the techniques behind their etchings, monoprints and woodcuts at Peregrine's annual open house and sale. At the Bakery Building, 61 Pleasant St., from 5-8 p.m. Also Dec. 6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 773-3006. Afterward, mosey on over to Maine College of Art's annual holiday craft sale, where you'll find scads of work by students and alumni. At MECA, 522 Congress St., from 5-8 p.m. Also Dec. 6 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 879-5742.



Queen of sass, Lea Delaria at the
Holiday Inn By the Bay, Dec. 7



SATURDAY 6

"A HOLIDAY MUSICAL CELEBRATION"

Why celebrate only one holiday when you can hit the three biggies — Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa — in one night of music and merriment? Unity Productions offers up ground-shaking gospel from the Atlanta-based all-female trio D'Vine, as well as joyous song and instrumentation by local favorites the BeBop Jazz Ensemble and the Casco Bay Tumblers. At the State Street Church, 159 State St., at 7 p.m. Tix: \$20 (\$10 kids). 883-3708.



Big, bad and beefcakey: WWF's Stone Cold Steve Austin and The Undertaker
at the Civic Center, Dec. 8

SUNDAY 7

"THE MISCHIEF OF CHRISTMAS: HOMO FOR THE HOLIDAYS"

One thing you'd never call lesbian comic, singer and actress Lea Delaria is shy. Since her comedy career began in 1982, Delaria has knocked out audiences with her brash antics and full-volume personality — winning spots on TV and film and her latest gig in the off-Broadway revival of "On the Town." Now Delaria spices up the holidays with a cabaret night of comedy, song and dance, while the Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents a sneak preview of "Christmas Can Be a Drag!" Hosted by Martin Swinger. At the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., at 7 p.m. Tix: \$20-\$24. 773-6974.

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoë S. Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



Divine intervention: gospel trio D'Vine
at State Street Church, Dec. 6

MONDAY 8

THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS

The latest release from The Fabulous Thunderbirds, "High Water" — an offering of songs that blend Southern soul, hip-hop, ska and Memphis blues — is really the fruit of vocalist/harp player Kim Wilson's labors. The collaboration between multi-instrumentalist Steve Jordan, guitarist Danny "Kootch" Kortchmar and Wilson began as Wilson's side project, but took the FT moniker when the crew realized the songs were too darn good not to lay down. To take the show on the road, Wilson put together a revamped lineup of The Fabulous Thunderbirds, featuring guitarist Kid Ramos, bassist Willie J. Campbell, keyboardist Gene Taylor and drummer Jimi Bott. Count on some nostalgia mixed in with the new stuff at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$24 (\$20 advance). 773-6886.

"RAW IS WAR"

When life gets to be too much, a good irony check is the best medicine. Thankfully, the World Wrestling Federation is here to do the trick with "RAW IS WAR," a star-studded night of body slams and tough-talking men in tights featuring an eight-man tag team match. See the buffness of the Undertaker, Stone Cold Steve Austin, Animal and Hawk pitted against the brawn of Faarooq, Rocky Maivia, D'Lo Brown and Kama Mustafa. It may be barbaric and juvenile, but it soothes the soul. At the Civic Center, at 7:45 p.m. Tix: \$9-\$18. 775-3458 or 775-3331.

QUICK PICKS

DEC 4 AND 6

From big band swing to moody ballads, you'll hear it at the USM Jazz Combos Concerts. On Dec. 4, hear USM's 18-member big band, The USM Jazz Ensemble, perform works ranging from the swing era to John Coltrane's late period. The Hard Bop Legacy Septet, a three-horn jazz combo, will play works by Art Blakey, while The Bob Thompson Combo plays guitar-driven jazz. Then on Dec. 6, catch two six-piece ensembles with programs highlighting the work of student composers and arrangers within each group. At Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$4 (\$2 seniors/students). 780-5555.

DEC 5

There'll be plenty to make you feel cozy at Portland Museum of Art's Lighting of the Copper Beech Tree, a family festival featuring performances by the Bellamy Jazz Band, the Freeport Middle School Choir and the Portland Ballet Company, visits with Santa, a sing-along and snacks. At the PMA, 7 Congress Sq., from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. 775-6148.

DEC 5-13

Take a chance on new blood in the Portland theater scene with "Duets," a trio of short Samuel Beckett plays — "Footfalls," "Not I" and "Ohio Impromptu" — presented by artists from Portland and Boston. The performance promises glimpses into the fear and mortality that haunt human relationships. At Agape, 656 Congress St., at 7:30 p.m. Also Dec. 6 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$6 (\$5 students). 780-0610.

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PCA/Great Performances
Quartetto Gelato
Friday, December 5, 7:30 PM
Maine State Ballet
Nutcracker
Saturday & Sunday, December 6-7, 1:30 PM, 7:30 PM
Maine State Ballet
Nutcracker
Friday, December 12, 3:00 PM & 8:00 PM
PSO
Magic of Christmas

For tickets or ticket information, please call the PortTix Box Office at (207) 842-0800. PortTix is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 AM to 6:00 PM. Events are subject to change. For additional information call the Public Assembly Facilities Division, City of Portland, (207) 874-8200.

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Mon 12.8
the FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
featuring Kim Wilson
9pm • \$20 adv. / \$25 DOS

Wed 12.10
PETER MULVEY 8pm
\$6

Fri 12.12
TAB BENOIT 9pm
\$15

Tickets available at: Strawberries, CD Authority & Amadeus

clubs



Prime cut
Girl germs prevail in Boston's The American Measles, a guitar rock trio fronted by one Julie Chadwick, a woman whose gritty vocals and take-no-shit attitude have earned the band comparisons to L7 and Hole. The band's debut, "Shover the Cupcake," runs the gamut from the bike theft lament "God Stole My Bike" to the haughty taunt of "The Z" ("I hate radio losers complaining about making it big/Are you really punk rock, Mr. indie cock, does it frighten you?"). Find out what all the fuss is about Dec 6 at The Bitter End, 446 Fore St, Portland, at 9 pm. Tix: \$1. The Shogs open. 874-1933.

thursday 4

Asylum
11 Night 1A DJ from WCYY spins the latest modern rock tracks until 2 am/18+ (no cover)

The Barking Squirrel
Dead Thursday (Grateful Dead and friends 7:30 pm/no cover)

The Basement
Two Ton Shoe (9:30 pm)

The Big Easy
Call ahead

The Bitter End
Dance night (techno, dance and hip hop/10 pm/no cover)

Club 100
11 The DJ spins top 40 (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Comedy Connection
Butch Bradley's Comedy Showcase presenting six New England comics (8:30 pm/\$5)

Free Street Taverna
Dave Roberts (acoustic/10 pm/no cover)

Geno's
Men's night

The Moon
College night with DJ Dale "Da Dredd" Dorsett (Top 40 dance/8 pm/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Hot Cherry Pie (10 pm/no cover)

Silver House Tavern
Ken Grimsey and Friends (classic rock)

Sisters On the Edge
Dance until 3 am

The Underground
DJ Bob Look's All Request Night (70's, 80's, 90's)

Zootz
WMPG benefit featuring Vicious Circle, Rotors to Rust and Broken Clown (9 pm/21+/85)

thursday 4

The Big Easy
Call ahead

The Bitter End
Call ahead

The Comedy Connection
Chris McGuire (8:30 pm/\$8)

Free Street Taverna
PCP (rock/10 pm/\$2)

Geno's
Crowd and Comellus (9 pm/\$4)

Gill 36
The Tom Ambrose Trio (jazz/8:30 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Industry
College night (DJ Derrick spins hip hop and dance/18+ 10 pm-3 am/\$3, 21+/85, 18+)

Metropolis
Club Karma (chem-free/rotating DJs play techno, ambient and more/9 pm-1 am/\$3 — 19+ \$5 after 1 am)

The Moon
House party (DJ Dale "Da Dredd" Dorsett/8 pm-2 am/\$3 after midnight)

Club 100
11 The DJ spins dance and hip hop (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Hot Cherry Pie (10 pm/no cover)

Raul's
Eddie Kirkland (blues/9 pm/\$5)

Sisters On the Edge
Drag show in honor of Kassey's birthday (10:30 pm/\$3)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
New Yoo Doo and Petting Zoo (9:30 pm)

The Underground
Andy's weekend party (9 pm-1:30 am)

Venillo's
Chameleon (Top 40/9 pm/no cover)

Zootz
Bounce (with DJ Lane Love/10 pm-3 am/\$5/all ages)

friday 5

Asylum
DJ Jayce (dance until 2 am/\$3)

The Barking Squirrel
Jim Gallant (guitar/8:30 pm)

The Basement
The Beatroots (9:30 pm)

friday 5

The Big Easy
Call ahead

The Bitter End
Call ahead

The Comedy Connection
Chris McGuire (7:45 pm & 9:45 pm/\$8)

Free Street Taverna
Ten Killer Lake (rock 'n' roll/10 pm/\$2)

Geno's
Moon Dog Biscuit

Gill 36
The Tom Ambrose Trio (jazz/8:30 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Industry
DJ Mix spins Top 40, hip hop and techno (18+ 10 pm-3 am/\$3, 21+/88, 18+)

Metropolis
70s disco explosion ladies' night (9 pm-1 am/19+/83/ladies free)

The Moon
Portland's best dance party (hip hop to slow jams/8 pm-3 am)

Old Port Tavern
Hot Cherry Pie (10 pm/no cover)

O'Rourke's
Call ahead

The Pavilion
DJ Shane Staples (Top 40 dance hits/\$3)

Raul's
Pappa Chubby (rockin' blues/9 pm/\$12/\$12 advance)

Sisters On the Edge
Guest DJ (dance until 1 am)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Fat Bag (hip hop/funk/9:30 pm)

saturday 6

Asylum
Beal Street DJ Dale "Da Dredd" Dorsett spins the hottest sounds from East NYC and the West Coast (dance until 2 am/\$3)

The Barking Squirrel
Peter Albert (classical guitar/11 am)

The Basement
SHU (9:30 pm)

The Big Easy
Call ahead

The Bitter End
The American Measles and The Shogs (9 pm/\$1)

Club 100
11 The DJ spins dance and hip hop (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Comedy Connection
Chris McGuire (7:45 pm & 9:45 pm/\$8)

Free Street Taverna
Ten Killer Lake (rock 'n' roll/10 pm/\$2)

Geno's
Moon Dog Biscuit

Gill 36
The Tom Ambrose Trio (jazz/8:30 pm-1 am/no cover)

The Industry
DJ Mix spins Top 40, hip hop and techno (18+ 10 pm-3 am/\$3, 21+/88, 18+)

Metropolis
70s disco explosion ladies' night (9 pm-1 am/19+/83/ladies free)

The Moon
Portland's best dance party (hip hop to slow jams/8 pm-3 am)

Old Port Tavern
Hot Cherry Pie (10 pm/no cover)

O'Rourke's
Call ahead

The Pavilion
DJ Shane Staples (Top 40 dance hits/\$3)

Raul's
Pappa Chubby (rockin' blues/9 pm/\$12/\$12 advance)

Sisters On the Edge
Guest DJ (dance until 1 am)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Fat Bag (hip hop/funk/9:30 pm)

saturday 6

The Underground
Andy's Weekend Party (9 pm-1:30 am)

Venillo's
Chameleon (Top 40/9 pm/no cover)

Zootz
The Hi Hats and Kicked in the Head (ska/all ages/\$5); Decades of Dance (70s, 80s, 90s dance with DJ FX/9 pm-3 am/no cover before 11 pm)

sunday 7
Angie's Ken Grimsey and Friends (classic rock)

Brian Boni
An Orian Irish traditional/3:30 pm/no cover)

The Comedy Connection
George Ham's Comedy Showcase (8 pm/\$5)

Free Street Taverna
Dead Airborne Goat (10 pm/no cover)

Gitty McDuff's
Zen Lunatic (8 pm/midnight/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Dancin' Don Corran (10 pm/no cover)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
The Jerry Barry Jazz Quartet (jazz brunch/11 am-2:30 pm)

The Underground
Andy's weekend party (9 pm-1:30 am)

Zootz
Sam Black Church and Controlled Aggression (hardcore/all ages/\$7); All Request Night (with DJ Moshé/9 pm-3 am/21+/no cover before 11 pm)

monday 8
The Big Easy
Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog

The Forge
Open mic night with Ken Grimsey

Free Street Taverna
Open mic (10 pm/no cover)

the next BIG things

Tab Benoit
Raoul's,
12/12

Aerosmith
Civic Center,
1/7

B.B. King
Merrill Auditorium,
1/25

Billy Joel
SOLD OUT
Civic Center,
1/27

wednesday 10

Old Port Tavern
Karaoke with Dancin' Don Corran (10 pm/no cover)

The Pavilion
Shawn Colvin, Edwin McCain, Samantha Cole and Kim Richey (acoustic folk/8 pm)

Raul's
The Fabulous Thunderbirds (blues/9 pm/\$25/\$20 advance)

The Underground
All-day happy hour

Zootz
Dominate the Species (gothic dance night/9 pm-1 am/\$2; open mic in the Rec Room (9 pm/no cover)

tuesday 9

The Big Easy
Open blues jam hosted by Big Chief

Free Street Taverna
Big World (jazz/10 pm/no cover)

Gitty McDuff's
The Fitz (8 pm/midnight/no cover)

Old Port Tavern
Steve Ellis and Kathleen Oliver (10 pm/no cover)

Stone Coast Brewing Company
Petting Zoo (9:30 pm/\$1)

The Underground
Nickel and dime night

Zootz
Rec Room (9 pm-1 am/no cover)

club directory

Angie's 121 Commercial St., Portland. 773-8593.

Asylum 121 Center St., Portland. 772-8274.

The Barking Squirrel 94 Maine St., Brunswick. 721-9662.

The Barking Squirrel Deering Oaks, Portland. 774-5514.

The Basement 416 Fore St., Portland. 828-1111.

The Bitter End 446 Fore St., Portland. 874-1933.

Club 100 100 Gray, 758-2374.

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

The Forge 42 Wharf St., Portland. 773-9685.

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

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

Gill 36 36 Market St., Portland. 772-6099.

Gitty McDuff's 396 Fore St., Portland. 772-2739.

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

Jones Landing Peaks Island, Portland. 766-5542.

Metropolis 1037 Forest Ave., Portland. 797-3781.

Millennium 27 India St., Portland. 773-5700.

The Moon 427 Fore St., Portland. 772-1983.

Old Port Tavern 11 Moulton St., Portland.

O'Rourke's Landing 175 Pickett St., So. Portland. 767-3611.

Pete and Larry's Doubletree Hotel, 1230 Congress St., Portland. 774-5611.

Raul's 865 Forest Ave., Portland. 772-6886.

Silver House Tavern 340 Fore St., Portland. 772-9885.

Sisters On the Edge 45 Danforth St., Portland. 774-1505.

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

Tippinay Pub Sheraton Tara Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Rd., So. Portland. 775-6161.

Top of the East Radisson Hotel, 157 High St., Portland. 775-5411.

The Underground 3 Spring St., Portland. 773-3315.

Venillo's 155 Riverside St., Portland. 775-6536.

Zootz 31 Forest Ave., Portland. 773-8187.

Unless otherwise noted, clubs require that entrants are 21 years or older.

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Fri. Dec. 5 21+

Fat Bag
Sat. Dec. 6 21+

Chronic Funk
Tues. Dec. 9 21+
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Wed. Dec. 10 21+

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Thurs. Dec. 11 21+

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Fri. Dec. 12 21+

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Personals

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12/10 ----- MARK MILLER
12/14 ----- ARLO WEST
12/16 ----- TBA
12/17 ----- TRUFFLE
12/21 ----- CATTLE CALL
12/23 ----- WILD OATS
12/28 ----- PAM BAKER
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LIVE EVENTS

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EMISSIONS ■ ZOE S. MILLER

Jazz revival?

Portland has never been a big jazz town, but — jazz enthusiasts being what they are — people keep trying to create a jazz scene here. The latest effort is a regular weekend Series at Grill 36 on Market Street.

Like most little cities, what's a big deal nationally, alternative rock for instance, will play here on a regular basis only because it's splattered all over the mainstream press. Jazz falls through the cracks in Portland's small population of cultural consumers, and lessons like that of Danforth Street's ill-fated café no — where jazz was the main attraction, but little money was spent — are perennial. We may have jazz lovers, but their numbers are small and their pockets are mostly shallow. Sure people turn out in respectable numbers for the likes of The Jazz Messengers at Merrill Auditorium, but those concert-goers — largely non-bar-going adults and musical teens and college students — aren't the types who populate nightclubs. Thus, the dream of taking in live jazz that's more than just background music for brunch is just that, a dream.

It's encouraging then, that jazz has become a Friday and Saturday night fixture at Grill 36. The restaurant itself may have prohibitively high prices, but the downstairs lounge is approachably low-key, and there's no cover charge. The decor is appropriate for a restaurant lounge — simple wooden tables and chairs, a dark, inconspicuous color scheme and a square bar in the room's center with stools on all sides. The only aspect that distinguishes the Grill 36 lounge from others are the pen-and-ink-style train station murals on the walls. The bartender Steve Lonergan, is efficient and, according to a couple I know, makes the best whiskey sour in town.

Still, I'm not sure I would ever have descended the stairs there if it weren't for the promise of a live jazz band. Last Friday night (Nov. 28), local guitarist Nick Ludington led a quartet that included stand-up bass, trumpet and drums. They played straight-

ahead jazz that was neither terribly moody nor very upbeat, but had an enjoyable, undemanding sound. No, the place wasn't packed and the band was not the center of everyone's attention, but the simple fact that an option like **Grill 36 is a welcome addition to my socializing options. Now, if I'm tuckered out but I still want to leave the house, I can go and listen to young jazz musicians who have free rein to play the music they like.**

Grill 36 exists on a weekend night is refreshing. Especially since the music doesn't shut off at some 13-year-old's bedtime, but goes on from 8:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Grill 36 is a welcome addition to my socializing options. Now, if I'm tuckered out but I still want to leave the house, I can go and listen to young jazz musicians who have free rein to play the music they like. My friends and I can chat without screaming, and I don't feel quite as conspicuous as I would in a bar holding a club soda instead of a beer.

Despite the noble efforts of the musicians themselves, I'd be dishonest if I didn't point out that Grill 36 relegates the music to the background. Volume is the main culprit, but the unfortunate result is that the jazz fails to energize its listeners. Of course, Grill 36 isn't a jazz club. Even though my friends and I are drawn in by the jazz, the fact remains that music is not in a starring role here. Not that we're looking for a place where talking is scorned, but it wouldn't be bad to hear a steaming trumpet solo that compels you to jump to your feet and cheer, or a complicated drum line that sends a hush over the audience.

At least one other person in town feels this way too. And, unlike me, drummer Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest has the resources to create such a place. His hope is to use a biweekly series of jazz gigs at the Free Street Taverna, both as a forum for local musicians to play together live and as a means to cultivate a jazz community in Portland. That's a tall order, but the first and less arduous part of his plan, the series itself, is set to have its inaugural session Dec. 10 from 8-10:30 p.m. That will be the sole gig in December, but two more Wednesday nights are already planned for January. Van Voorst van Beest will play in a quartet that includes saxophonist Jason St. Pierre, bassist Jim Lyden and guitarist Ludington. The harder task of generating interest and getting people to actually show is one van Voorst van Beest has been tackling by talking the idea up to everyone who seems mildly interested in jazz. "We don't have a jazz community here in Portland," he says. "I want people to come to this and support each other." He defines community as both musicians and listeners, teachers and students, and hopes USM faculty will lend both their talent and their ears. The prospect of such a regular event is exciting, especially since it could mean an opportunity to hear promising young musicians playing alongside seasoned jazz instructors in an atmosphere that will put music first. Maybe this time, Portlanders will get into the swing.

Zoe S. Miller encourages you to get off your butt and take in some quality jazz.

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DEC. 19: 3 & 8PM
DEC. 20: 2 & 7:30PM
DEC. 21: 2 & 7:30PM
DEC. 22: 7:30PM

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thursday 4

music
Holiday Festival of Music
The Portland Museum of Art features daily caroling and instrumental performances by area schoolchildren and community groups. At PMA, 7 Congress St., Portland, at 6 pm and 8:30 pm. Tues-Sat at noon and 12:30 pm. Thurs and Fri 6 pm and 6:30 pm. Sun 12:30 pm and 1 pm. Free. For a full schedule, call 775-6148.

Holiday Bizare WCVY presents a holiday show featuring Barenaked Ladies, Tara McLean and Rustic Overtones. At the State Theatre, 609 Congress St., Portland, 7:30 pm. Tix: SOLD OUT. 1-888-767-NEXT.

USM Youth Ensembles The Portland Youth Orchestra, the Portland Youth Wind Ensemble and the Portland Young People's String Consort perform at the Gorham Performing Arts Center, Gorham High School, 41 Morrill Ave., Gorham, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$3 (\$2 seniors/students). 780-5555.

USM Jazz Combos The USM Department of Music presents a performance by the USM Jazz Ensemble (USM's 18-member big band performs works ranging from the swing era to late works by John Coltrane), the Hard Bop Legacy Sextet (the 3-horn jazz combo plays works by Art Blakey) and the Bob Thompson Combo. At

Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$4 (\$2 seniors/students). 780-5555.

Mark Thomas The Portland Conservatory of Music presents organist Mark Thomas performing Bach's "Prelude & Fugue in B Minor" as well as his own work, "Translucence." At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, at 12:15 pm. Free. 775-3356.

"A Christmas Carol" Portland Stage Company presents Charles Dickens' classic tale of selfishness and redemption. At Portland Performing Arts Center, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Also Dec 5-24, Tues-Fri 7:30 pm (except Dec 9 and 16), Sat 5 pm (also Dec 6 at 9 pm), Sun 2 pm (also Dec 7 at 7:30 pm). Matinees: Dec 9-11 and 17-18 at 10 am. Additional shows: Dec 16, 23 and 24 at 2 pm and Dec 20 at 1 pm. Tix: Tues-Fri \$23, Sat \$24-\$29 (\$18 seniors). Dec 7 is pay-what-you-can night. Post-performance discussions Dec 7 and 14. 774-0465.

"The Nutcracker" The Maine State Ballet performs the ever-popular ballet of snow, sugar plums, dolls and soldiers. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Sat at 1:30 pm and

"Duets" An independent presentation of a trio of short plays by Samuel Beckett: "Footfalls," "Not" and "Ohio Impromptu." At Agape, 656 Congress St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Also Dec 5 and 6 at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm and Dec 12 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$5 students). 780-0610.

Original Student One-Acts The USM Department of Theater presents two student playwrights and their work: "Brady" by Sam Carner and "Family Values" by Carolyn R. Padula. Directed by William Steele and Thomas Power. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Also Dec 5 and 6 at 7:30 pm and Dec 7 at 5 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$6 seniors and staff/\$4 students). 780-5151.

"The Little Prince" The Deering Players presents the classic story, adapted by Deering High School student Elise Adams. At Deering High School, 370 Stevens Ave., Portland, at 7 pm. Also Dec 5 at 7:30 pm and Dec 6 at 3 pm and 7:30 pm and Dec 7 at 3 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$5 seniors/students). 874-8260.

Friday 5
dance
"The Nutcracker" The Maine State Ballet performs the ever-popular ballet of snow, sugar plums, dolls and soldiers. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Sat at 1:30 pm and

7:30 pm. Sun at 1:30 pm. Tix: \$10-\$30. 856-1663.

music
Holiday Festival of Music 6 pm and 8:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

theater
"Amorous Flea" The Portland Lyric Theatre presents a musical adaptation of Molière's "School for Wives," a play of misplaced intentions where youth and love conquer all. At the Portland Lyric Theatre, 176 Sawyer St., South Portland, at 8 pm. Sat at 8 pm, Sun matinee at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$14 (\$11 seniors/students). 799-1421.

"But I Really Did Have An Audience With The Pope!" The Arts Conservatory Theater and Studio presents Margie Greene's comedic play about Lillian LeMarquand, an ex-Hollywood movie star from the '40s living in obscurity in a Florida trailer park, who struggles over whether to write her memoirs or just enjoy her new life. At ACTS, 341 Cumberland Ave., Portland, at 8 pm. Also Dec 6-14, Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$8 seniors/students). Group rates available. 763-2465.

"Peter Pan" The Theater Project presents James Barrie's timeless tale of adventure and eternal youth. At The Theater Project, 14 School Street, Brunswick, at 7:30 pm. Also Dec 6-21, Fri 7:30 pm, Sat

3 pm and 7:30 pm. Sun 3 pm. Tix: \$6. 729-8584.

"Steel Magnolias" The Portland Players present Robert Harling's semi-autobiographical play, which introduces us to six sassy Southern women who gather at a beauty salon to swap gossip and get their hair done. At Portland Players, 420 Cottage Rd., South Portland, at 8 pm. Also Dec 6-13, Sat at 8 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13. 799-7337.

"A Christmas Carol" 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

Original Student One-Acts 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

"The Little Prince" 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

music
"A Christmas Carol" 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

theater
"Amorous Flea" 8 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

"But I Really Did Have An Audience With The Pope!" 8 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

"A Christmas Carol" 5 pm and 9 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

"Peter Pan" 3 pm and 7:30 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

"Steel Magnolias" 8 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

"The Little Prince" 3 pm and 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

Holidays Comic singer and actress Lea Delaria performs a lesbian and gay show with her cabaret trio, joined by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus presenting a sneak preview of "Christmas Can Be A Drag!" Hosted by Martin Swinger. At the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, at 7 pm. Tix: \$20-\$24. Tix available at Drop Me A Line, 611 Congress St., Portland, or by calling 773-6974.

"Plaf Pour Noel" Reindeer Theatre Company holds its holiday fundraiser featuring a program of French and holiday songs performed by Louis-Philippe with accompanist Delmar Small. At Starbird Recital Hall, 525 Forest Ave., Portland, at 2 pm. By donation. Reservations advised. 874-9002.

Portland Conservatory of Music Student Recitals At PCM, 44 Oak St., Portland, at 3 pm. Free. 775-3356.

"The Sounds of the Season" The Portland Community Chorus presents a Christmas concert at the First Lutheran Church, 132 Auburn St., Portland, at 2 pm. Tix: \$6, \$20 max per family. 797-2525.

USM Collegium Musicum Under the direction of Olaf Chris Henriksen, the group reconstructs a sequence of 17th-century music. "Lord Hayes Masque." At Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$4 (\$2 seniors/students). 780-5555.

"Christmas at the Cathedral" 2:30 and 7 pm. (See Dec 6 for info.)

Holiday Festival of Music 12:30 pm and 1 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

theater
"Amorous Flea" 2:30 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

"But I Really Did Have An Audience With The Pope!" 2 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

"A Christmas Carol" 2 pm and 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

Original Student One-Acts 5 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

"Peter Pan" 3 pm. (See Dec 5 for info.)

theater
"A Christmas Carol" 10 am and 7:30 pm. (See Dec 4 for info.)

upcoming
"Idiot" Dec 11-14. A new work performed by Esdras Mariscal and his dance-theater troupe. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$10 (\$25 Dec 13). Limited seating. 775-5103.

music
Beethoven Birthday Bash Dec 16. The Portland Conservatory of Music presents a holiday concert celebrating the 227th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven, featuring seven conductors from Southern and Western Maine conducting an orchestra of students, amateurs and professionals. At One City Center, Portland, from 3-8 pm. Free. 775-3356.

The Boy Singers of Maine Dec 14. The boys' choir, including the concert choir, preparatory choir and young men's chorus, "The Lower Octave," performs holiday songs with special guests the Stadtpfeifer Brass Quintet and Musica de Fili. At Chestnut Street Church, 17 Chestnut St., Portland, at 4 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$4 kids/\$20 family max). 829-3871.

Richard Christy Christmas Concert Dec 13. The children's singer/songwriter performs at Greely High Auditorium, Main St., Cumberland, at 2 pm. Tix: \$6 (\$4 kids 10 and under). 829-5455 or 829-3702.

Choral Art Camarata Dec 11. The Portland Conservatory of Music presents the local singing group conducted by Robert Russell. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, at 12:15 pm. Free. 775-3356.

"Christmas Can Be a Drag" Dec 12-14. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents its holiday concert of traditional favorites and new gems like "I'm Wishing You a Drag Queen Christmas" and "Three Fagirls." At Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland, Dec 12-13 at 8 pm, Dec 14 at 3 pm. Tix: \$10. 772-1384.

Christmas Concert with David Goulet and Friends Dec 12. New England opera, oratorio and musical theater performer David Goulet performs holiday music with pianist Beth Barefoot-Jones and friends. At Trinity Episcopal Church, 113 Copley St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$10 (\$8 students). Profits benefit the Opportunity Farm for Boys in New Gloucester. 773-1121.

"A Galant Noel" Dec 12. Ensemble Galant, a Portland-based early music sextet, performs works by

Teleman, Naudot, Inbarren and Playford, as well as carols and Christmas ballads from the 16th-18th centuries. At St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$5. 721-3040.

"Magic of Christmas" Dec 12-22. The Portland Symphony Orchestra performs its 18th annual Yuletide concert, featuring soprano Lynn Torgove, organist Ray Conilly and the Magic of Christmas Chorus. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland, Dec 12 and 19 at 3 pm and 8 pm. Dec 13-14 and 20-21 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm. Dec 18 and 22 at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$14-\$39. 842-0800.

Odetta Dec 13. The folk blues singer performs a concert, "It's a Mighty World — In The Spirit of the Season," with guests the Green Memorial Mass Choir conducted by the Rev. Margaret Lawson. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$17-\$20. Canned goods for the Free Street Resource Center will be collected at the door. 773-6974.

Portland Conservatory of Music Ensemble Recital Dec 12. At PCM, 44 Oak St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Free. 775-3356.

The Southern Maine Youth Chorus Dec 11. The Chorus performs at Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 7:30 pm. Free. 780-5555.

The Woodford Ringers Handbell Choir Dec 14. A concert for bells featuring singers Jan Berlin and Adlyn Connelly, obolists Roberta Barker, organist Harold Stover and church choir members. At Woodford Congregation Church, 202 Woodford St., Portland, at 4 pm. Suggested donation: \$5. 774-8243.

theater
Amal and the Night Visitors Dec 12-14. The Children's Theatre of Maine presents Gian-Carlo Menotti's one-act opera, about a poor young boy and how wonder, imagination and miracles change his life, in celebration of the holidays. At Thornton Heights United Methodist Church, 100 Westbrook St., So. Portland, Dec 12 at 7 pm, Dec 13 at 2 pm and 7 pm and Dec 14 at 2 pm. Tix: \$8 (\$5 kids/seniors). 874-0371.

"A Christmas Carol" Dec 12-14. The Public Theatre presents Christopher Schario's adaptation of the classic Dickens tale. At The Public Theatre, 31 Maple St., Lewiston, Dec 12 and 13 at 4 pm, Dec 14 at 1 pm and 4 pm. Tix: \$12.50 (\$10 seniors and students/\$8 kids). 782-3200.

"Murder Most Medieval: Who Killed the King?" Dec 12. Mystery Cafe/Maine Theater Ensemble presents a night of dinner and sleuthing. At the Village Cafe Restaurant, 112 Newbury St., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$22.95. Reservations advised. 772-5320.

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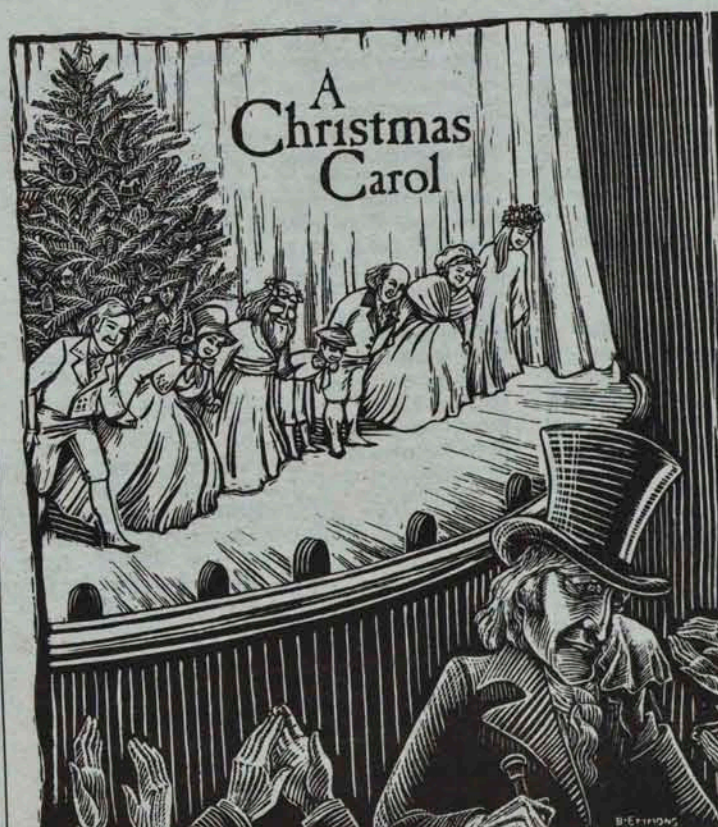
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visual Arts



"Walking with G-d," gouche on paper by Eva Rose Goetz, at Davidson & Daughters

openings

Blue Rabbit Gallery
11 Exchange St., Studio 3A, Portland. Opening reception for "Resurrection of Lost Objects," sculpture by Stephen Pullan IV, Dec 9 from 6-8 pm. Shows through Dec 31. Call for hours. 774-0969.

Christine's Gallery
50 Market St., Mill Creek Shopping Center, South Portland. Opening reception for recent oil paintings by Chris Nielsen, Dec 6 from 6-10 pm. Shows through Dec 31. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-6 pm, 767-1095.

Coffee by Design
620 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Cool Hand Painted Stuff" by Lisa Ruhman, Dec 5 from 6-8 pm. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7 am-8 pm, Fri 7 am-9 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm. 772-5533. Also at Coffee by Design, Monument Square, Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-6 pm, 761-2424.

How in the Wall
Stedelijk Museum 302, Raymond. Annual open house and opening reception for "Art You Can Give," artwork and handcrafts by gallery artists, Dec 6-7 from

10 am-6 pm. Shows through Jan 31. Hours: 9:30 am-6 pm daily, 655-4952.

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620 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Cool Hand Painted Stuff" by Lisa Ruhman, Dec 5 from 6-8 pm. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7 am-8 pm, Fri 7 am-9 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm, Sun 8 am-6 pm. 772-5533. Also at Coffee by Design, Monument Square, Portland. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-6 pm, 761-2424.

How in the Wall
Stedelijk Museum 302, Raymond. Annual open house and opening reception for "Art You Can Give," artwork and handcrafts by gallery artists, Dec 6-7 from

10 am-6 pm. Shows through Jan 31. Hours: 9:30 am-6 pm daily, 655-4952.

Institute of Contemporary Art at MECA
522 Congress St., Portland. Opening reception for "Resurrection of Lost Objects," sculpture by Stephen Pullan IV, Dec 9 from 6-8 pm. Shows through Dec 31. Call for hours. 774-0969.

Christine's Gallery
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review

"Same Journey, Different Path" shows through Dec. 28 at Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, 148 High St., Portland. 780-0766. Last summer, I went to Chicago's Gospel Fest. A woman onstage said that if you say the name Jesus enough times, "something will happen. You'll feel it in your heart." She closed her eyes and repeated the name calmly and very sincerely at a hypnotic rhythm. The audience gradually joined in, speaking in the same mellow, conviction-filled tone. Being nonreligious and a bit too uptight, I didn't join in, but I did feel a change in the atmosphere. Through repetition, the name Jesus became a metaphor for personal freedom, producing a genuine feeling of joy.

I'm not sure if the three artists in "Same Journey, Different Path," Richard Lee, Eva Rose Goetz and Bob Gottlieb, were going for the same kind of transformation achieved by the Jesus-chanting crowd. They do have a prayerful approach to their art, though, using symbol-ridden and spiritual motifs that, through repetition, are intended to take on a new significance. Whether they do or not is questionable.

Gottlieb's chosen symbol is the traditional Jewish prayer shawl, called a tallit. His contribution to the show is a series of tallits remade with a new punch line each time — from comics pages, money, X-rays. Yet the most compelling thing to look at in the gallery was a traditional tallit the artist brought back from a trip to Israel. It is well-crafted and simple, which allows one to appreciate its form — a form in itself more meaningful than the gimmick affixed to it each time by the artist. With the exception of "White Oxford Shirt with Pocket/Pen," I couldn't see the resonance of that form in Gottlieb's work, even though the pieces took the shape of the tallit. After reading a lengthy explanation of the artist's goals and the history of the prayer shawl, I was all the more convinced that the gimmick was unnecessary.

Eva Rose Goetz borrows from an Eastern aesthetic with Indian-tapestry style narratives, although I suspect that her sensibilities are originally Western. There's a long tradition of Westerners looking to the East for inspiration, but Goetz' appropriations are different from those of artists like Mary Cassatt, James Whistler, Vincent Van Gogh and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. I gleaned from the poetry that went along with her images that she believes the path to wisdom is an autonomous one. However, I found her too entrenched in the clichés of the spiritual genre — the hackneyed symbols, the tarot card/palm reader look. The previously mentioned modernists who looked to the East were interested in how a different experience in looking affected theirs. Goetz ends up with what reads as imitation rather than reference.

Richard Lee makes "temple hangings" from handmade paper. He says his work "compels the viewer to interact with his own feelings, intuitions, and paths." The viewer may or may not. The ambiguity of Lee's work does afford him more license in the spiritual arena than the other two artists in the show. He's right that his work, through simplicity, does not impose on the viewer, allowing us a certain freedom. But there is baggage in his hangings — symbols and justifications that erode the potential of simplicity.

Spirituality is tough subject matter, and artists are not called on it enough. "Oh, it's spiritual," people tend to say. Fact is, I didn't catch the Holy Ghost in the gallery space. Maybe it's because the artists set out so explicitly to affect the audience, rather than concentrating on their work. I'll tell you when I did get that spiritual feeling, though. It was at a Cezanne retrospective. His challenge to himself is what inspires, not a preconceived truth brought to the viewer's attention. WYATT MITCHELL

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Center Bates Mill Enterprise Arts Center, 4th floor, 59 Canal St., Lewiston. "Trips Back Home," photographs by Jan Pieter van Voort van Beest, shows through Dec 5. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5 pm. 775-1304.

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863 Broadway, So. Portland. "Painted Furniture Pieces," works by Deb Lockhart, shows through Dec 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, 799-2286.

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Greenhut Galleries
146 Middle St., Portland. "Artists Care, Greenhut Cares," works by Mary Bourke

Listings

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

happenings

Portland Pirates Games Dec 13: Against Kentucky at 7:30 pm. Dec 14: Against Kentucky at 5 pm. Dec 17: Against Worcester at 7 pm. Dec 20: Against Springfield at 7:30 pm. Dec 21: Against Hershey at 5 pm. Dec 27: Against Springfield at 2 pm. Dec 31: Against Worcester at 4 pm. At the Civic Center, Portland. Tix: \$9-\$13 (\$5 kids/47 seniors).

Open Mic Night at USM Eclectic lounge pianist Tom O'Donnell hosts an open mic night with weekly guests. Dec 4: Acoustic rockers The Mute Stones. Dec 11: Tom Acousti. (Last show until Jan 22). At USM's Campus Center, Portland, at 8 pm.

Book Readings and Signings Dec 4: Betsy Shall reads from her newest book, "Don't Explain," from 7:30-9 pm. Dec 5: Lincoln Palms signs copies of his book, "Ships of the World: An Historical Encyclopedia," from 5-7 pm. At Books Etc., 38 Exchange St., Portland. Free. 774-0626.

Sesame Street Live! — "Let's Play School" Dec 4: Sesame Street Live! presents Big Bird, Elmo and Zoe and other Sesame Street friends in a musical production. At the Civic Center, Portland. Dec 4 at 7 pm. Dec 5 at 10:30 am and 7 pm. Dec 6 at 1 pm and 4:30 pm. Tix: \$9-\$14 (kids 10 and under save \$1.50 except on Dec 4 at 7 pm). 775-3458 or 775-3331.

"Love, Death, Anne Frank and Arizona" — A Poetry Reading Dec 6. Local writers Jesse Loesberg and Kim Vallias read at The Daily Fix, 182 Middle St., Portland, at 8 pm. Free. 772-2362.

Oak Street Theatre and Mad Horse Theatre Party Dec 7. The two theatre companies invite the public to a holiday party to say thank you to their volunteers. Board and staff are on hand to discuss how volunteers can get involved with both companies. Refreshments served. At the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, from 1-3 pm. Free. 775-5103.

"RAW IS WAR" Dec 8. World Wrestling Federation wrestlers compete in an eight-man tag team match with The Undertaker, Stone Cold Steve Austin, Animal and Hawk vs. Faarooq, Rocky Maivia, D'Lo Brown and Kama Mustafa. At the Civic Center, Portland, at 7:45 pm. Tix: \$9-\$18. 775-3458 or 775-3331.

Booksigning Dec 9. Neil Rolde signs his new book, "The Baxters of Maine" at Bookland, Mill Creek Shopping Center, So. Portland, at 7 pm. 582-1899.

"Travels in Mayaland" Dec 10. The Children's Museum of Maine's "Lunch and Learn" series presents a discussion and slide show by traveler Pam Plumb on her Guatemala experiences. At the Children's Museum of Maine, 142 Free St., at 12:30 pm. Free. 828-1234.

Peace Vigil at BW The Peace & Justice Center of Southern Maine sponsors a vigil every Wednesday at Bath Iron Works, Commercial St., Portland, from noon-1 pm. Rain or shine. 772-1442.

100th Birthday Party for Children's Services Dec 13. The Portland Public Library invites people of all ages to celebrate in the Children's Room at PPL, 5 Monument Sq., Portland, from 2-4 pm. 871-1758.

USM Gorham Ice Arena Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Dec 13 at 4 pm. The ribbon cutting ceremony is followed by a hockey game against UMass-Dartmouth. Free. 780-5430.

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performing arts

auditions

Actors/Dancers Wanted for a February performance of "Restless Nights," an original performance based on the short stories of Dino Buzzati. Call Louis Frederick for audition information. 874-0285.

The Bath Municipal Band is seeking new members, especially trumpets and trombones. The band is now rehearsing for the fall concert season Wednesdays at 7:30 pm. For more info, call 443-2803 or 443-9143.

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holiday events

Animal Refuge League Holiday Open House Dec 13. At the Animal Refuge League, 449 Stroudwater St., Westbrook, from noon-3 pm. Refreshments served. 854-9771.

"A Bride's Christmas at the Wadsworth-Longfellow House" The Maine Historical Society presents the opening reception for its holiday exhibition, a Christmas wedding circa 1893, Dec 4 from 4:30-6:30 pm. The exhibition shows through Dec 21. At 489 Congress St., Portland. Suggested donation: \$5. Hours: Sat 10 am-4 pm, Fri and Sun noon-4 pm. 774-1822.

Candlelight Carol Parade Dec 5. WMGX hosts a carol parade down Congress Street. Meets in the 15th and 18th centuries, seeks tenors and basses. The choir's 1998 concert season includes a fall program devoted to the music of Mantuan Jewish composer Salomone Rossi, a Renaissance Christmas performance and a spring concert of French love songs. To set up an audition, call Henry Bronshtits at 721-3040.

Women's Barbershop Quartet The Casco Bay Chapter of the Sweet Adelines sings a variety of Christmas songs. To set up an audition, call Henry Bronshtits at 721-3040.

Christmas Fair Dec 14. Craft sale, baked goods sale, silent auction, raffle and face painting. At the Warren Memorial Library Auditorium, 479 Main St., Westbrook, from 10 am-3 pm. 854-5499.

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"Joy Through the World" Dec 6. Portland Public Library presents a multicultural holiday celebration featuring games, dances, food and cultural traditions from around the world. At the PPL, the Rines Room, 5 Monument Sq., Portland, from 10 am-2 pm. Free. 871-1758.

Lighting of the Copper Beech Tree Dec 5. The Portland Museum of Art celebrates the annual tree lighting with a family festival featuring performances by the Bellamy Jazz Band, the Freeport Middle School Choir and the Portland Ballet Company, visits with Santa, a sing-along and snacks. At the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., Portland, from 5:30 pm-7 pm. 775-6148.

Maine Audubon Holiday Bazaar Dec 6. The Maine Audubon Society presents a craft fair and raffle to benefit the Audubon Society's wildlife and habitat programs. At the Portland Expo, 239 Park Ave., Portland. Tix: \$1 (children free). 781-2330.

"Merry Christmas Bells! A Victorian Holiday Gala" Dec 5. USM's Department of Music presents its annual holiday benefit gala, featuring a handbell choir concert, the USM Chamber Singers and pianist Matthew Wright. With a Victorian feast from Black Tie Catering and a raffle for two tickets to Europe. At the Pavilion, 188 Middle St., Portland, from 6-11 pm. Tix: \$60. For more info, call 780-5003.

Mill Creek Park Christmas Lighting Ceremony Dec 5. South Portland Parks & Recreation presents the 15th annual holiday event with caroling and refreshments. At the Bandstand, Mill Creek Park, So. Portland, at 7 pm. 767-7650.

Mini Santa Village Dec 5-10. A visit with Santa Claus at his Christmas village. Free candy canes. At Foye's Carpet, 28 Stroudwater St., Westbrook, from 4 pm-7 pm. Free. 854-8447.

Old-Fashioned Christmas Fair Dec 6. Features antiques, wreaths and greens, crafts, doll clothes, ornaments, baked goods, jewelry and more. A fish chowder luncheon begins at 11:30 am. At the Trinity Episcopal Church, the corner of Coyle St. and Forest Ave., Portland, from 9 am-3 pm. 772-7421.

Peaceful Planet Toy Fair Dec 13. The Conflict Resolution Project of Peace Action Maine sponsors its 3rd annual fair. At USM's Campus Center, Portland, from 9 am-3 pm. 772-0680.

USM Children's Holiday Party Dec 6. USM presents a day of caroling, crafts, games, entertainment and an appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Claus. At USM's Sullivan Gym, Portland, from 1-3 pm. Free. 780-5773.

Williston-West Christmas Fair Dec 6. Jewelry, crafts, baked goods, woodworking and a silent auction. At Williston-West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland, from 9 am-3 pm. 774-4060.

Winter Fest Portland Dec 31. A holiday lights event hosted by the Narrow Gauge Railroad and the Rotary Club of Portland. Hours: Wed-Sun 4:30-9 pm, starting Dec 17 4:30-9 pm daily. Admission: \$6 (4 kids), \$42-1808.

"Yo Ho Yo Yo Challenge" Dec 5. Bring your yo-yo and compete for prizes totaling \$500, or for the grand prize, a Tom Coon Silver Bullet yo-yo. At Joker's Family Fun Center, 510 Warren Ave., Portland, from 6-9 pm. Pre-register at Northern Sky Toys and receive 5 yo-yo strings at the contest. 828-0811.

YWCA Children's Piggy Bank Fair Dec 13. The Portland YWCA hosts its annual fair for kids 12 and under, with all gifts priced under \$2. Gifts made by YWCA's volunteer craft group. Shopping for adults also. At the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, from 10 am-noon. Free. 874-1130.

Designing Women Show and Sale Dec 13. 23 women artists and craft artists exhibit and sell pottery, glass, ornaments, soft sculpture, weaving, cards, jewelry, photography, quilting, fine art and mixed media. At Trinity Episcopal Church, 113 Coyle St., Portland, from 10 am-4 pm. Suggested donation: \$2 (benefits the McAuley Residence for women in crisis). 828-0653.

10K Downtown Holiday Volksmarch Dec 13. Portland's Downtown District hosts a walk to view the holiday lights. Begins at 3 pm. 774-6306.

Excerpt of "The Nutcracker" Dec 5. A special presentation by the Portland School of Ballet at the Children's Museum of Maine. Call for time. 828-1234.

Falmouth Republican Town Committee holds its Christmas party Dec 9 at the Portland Athletic Club, 196 Route 1, Falmouth, at 7 pm. Admission: \$5. 781-2260.

Feliz Navidad de Puerto Rico Dec 13. Portland Performing Arts' Big Sounds From All Over series presents a Latino holiday festival with New England and regional Puerto Rican dance stars Jorge Ace, Victor "Papo" Sterling, Freddie Moreno, Ariene Ayala & Lidia Cruz and Victor Osorio & Los Trovadores de la Montana. At State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, at 8 pm. Workshop at 4:30 pm, potluck supper at 6 pm, concert at 7:30 pm, dance follows. Tix: \$15. 761-1545.

Festival of Trees & Light Dec 6. A holiday gift sale to benefit Volunteers of America with trees decorated by local businesses. At One City Center, Portland, from 1-5 pm. 781-2862.

First Parish Holiday Bazaar Dec 5-7. Featuring crafts, baked goods and mini history tours. Kids can make holiday crafts or visit the play area. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, from noon-5 pm.

Friendly Village Crafts Fair Dec 6. Christmas crafts and other handmade items. At the Friendly Village Clubhouse, 300 Ash Dr., Gorham, from 9 am-4 pm.

Holiday Fair Dec 6. Includes children's craft room, baskets, crafts, wreaths, handmade ornaments and lots of cookies. At Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church, 524 Allen Ave., Portland, from 10 am-2 pm. 799-3696.

Holiday Herbal Bazaar Dec 13. A holiday gathering of local herbalists, crafters and food vendors. At Agape, 657 Congress St., Portland, from 10 am-5 pm. Free. 780-1500.

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mo Vies

"The Ice Storm" is the saddest movie I've ever seen. It defrosts a uniquely cold, rotten moment in American history — 1973, when the stench from the decay of Richard Nixon's presidency was wafting into every living room in the nation, when empty sexual promiscuity was being promoted as fun and easy, when women groomed for marriage were being told marriage was meaningless, when divorce was a fad and children were expected to pick up the pieces of their parents' broken lives.

Sad, yes. But don't let that stop you from seeing it. Because "The Ice Storm," directed by Ang Lee ("Eat Drink Man Woman"), is moviemaking at its subtle and artful best.

The story is set in the pricy suburb of New Canaan, Conn., where an alcoholic Ben Hood (Kevin Kline) and his brittle wife, Elena (Joan Allen), are ignoring their clever, cynical teenage daughter Wendy (Christina Ricci), while their son, Paul (Tobey Maguire), is off smoking pot at a tony prep school. Ben is boffing his bitchy next-door neighbor Janey Carver (the supremely frosty Sigourney Weaver), whose clueless husband, Jim (Janey Sheridan), is oblivious to her infidelity and to his two sons, both of whom are enthralled by the sexually ripe Wendy.

This is a sterile, prosperous, chillingly carnal world, where right and wrong have been jettisoned and all the moral compasses are spinning out of control. The men have those anonymous corporate jobs that require them to get on the train with thousands of other men like them every day; the women are like tightly clenched fists, squeezing their anger and loneliness into attractive shells.

Ben is tethered to the sexual thrill of his affair with Janey — it's all he really has going on — but she seems to get as much pleasure from being cruel to her lover as from sleeping with him. ("I already have a husband," she remarks coolly, when he tries to talk to her after sex. "I don't par-

Cold comfort: Sigourney Weaver and Kevin Kline make war, not love

Review

"The Ice Storm," directed by Ang Lee. Rated R. At Keystone Theatre Cafe, 504 Congress St., Portland, 871-5500, and Hoyts Falmouth 10, 206 Route 1, Falmouth, 781-5616.

ticularly feel the need for another."

While Ben flails around in his underwear, his wife — demure and fragile in her crocheted vest — is eyeing a longhair weirdo religious leader as a potential lover. She envies her daughter's youth and freedom, even tries to play the teenager herself for a day. But, like all the other adults in the movie, she is unable to undertake anything with a sense of conviction. The grownups are utterly amoral, spinning out of control in their self-indulgent world.

It falls to the children in the movie to provide any sense of reality. Ricci steals the show as the painfully aware Wendy. She's the only one in the movie who cares at all about the Watergate fiasco, or anything else outside of her own skin. But we can see her freshness being frozen into cynicism even as the movie progresses.

The film culminates with a hideous, drunken "key party" in which the Carvers, the Hoods and their smiling, cheerless neighbors put all their car keys into a bowl. The women then select keys from the assortment and go home with whatever man is attached to them. Outside, the bleak fall Connecticut landscape is being swept by an ice storm. You know something really, really bad is going to happen, but the film (faithfully adapted from the novel by Rick Moody) keeps you in suspense as to just what it will be.

Lee has done a brilliant job of recreating the grotesque 1970s milieu, but, unlike other recent '70s nostalgia movies — "Boogie Nights," for instance — "The Ice Storm" is much more about the

essence of the era than its surface. The ensemble cast is brilliant, the dialogue is darkly funny, and the emotional truth of the story is painfully present in every frame. This is indeed a sad, sad movie. It is also, like any great work of art, strangely inspiring at the same time.

SARAH GOODYEAR

now playing

NEW THIS WEEK

ANNIE HALL The romantic comedy that put Woody Allen on the map, "Annie Hall" follows the mishaps of two neurotic young lovers (Allen and Diane Keaton) as they go about falling in love and questioning every detail of their lives.

The Movies
EYES BAYOU A young girl discovers her father's affair and must deal with the adult complexities in this family melodrama set in the deep South. With Samuel L. Jackson and Lynn Whitfield.

Hoyts Clark's Pond
HOME ALONE 3 Macaulay Culkin has been replaced by 5-year-old Alex D. Linz for yet another installment of the young-abandoned-by-uncle action-hero scenario. This time, Alex Pruitt is home with the chicken pox when some international thieves come knocking. Guess who pre-

Keystone Theatre Cafe
THE KING OF HEARTS The classic movie about a young Scottish soldier fighting in WWI who stumbles upon an abandoned French town where the only inhabitants are escapees from a nearby insane asylum. Lighthearted and funny despite the heavy subject matter.

The Movies
SCROOGE Albert Finney sings his way through this 1970s musical version of the Dickens classic. **Keystone Theatre Cafe**

SOME LIKE IT HOT After witnessing the St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago, two out of work musicians (Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis) disguise themselves as women and flee to Miami with an all-female band. What follows is copious amounts of slapstick and mix-ups. With Marilyn Monroe. **The Movies**

ALSO SHOWING

ALIEN RESURRECTION The real Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) may have killed herself in "Alien," but thanks to cloning she's back on the scene for another chapter. Unfortunately, so are the evil beasts that her death was intended to erase. With Winona Ryder. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinemas**

ANASTASIA This animated musical — the first cartoon feature from the Fox studios — features the voice of Meg Ryan as an orphan girl searching for her past, only to discover that she may be the missing link in one of the greatest mysteries of all time. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Hoyts Clark's Pond**

BEAN British comedian Rowan Atkinson unearths his first movie playing the lightheart-

ed "Mr. Bean," this time in the role of a lazy museum guard who gets transferred to America and mistaken for an art scholar. **Maine Mall Cinemas**

BOOGIE NIGHTS An idealistic movie producer (Burt Reynolds) dreams of elevating his adult-entertainment industry craft into an art form by turning a glibbie kid, Eddie Adams (Mark Wahlberg), into porn star Dirk Diggler, who thinks that it's exciting to be a star, no matter what the cost. Reviewed 11/6/97. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

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

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE A slick young Southern attorney (Keanu Reeves) gets hired by the New York City law firm of his dreams — or so he thinks. He's barely had time to unpack his paperwork when things start getting screwy, thanks to his suspiciously evil mentor (Al Pacino). With Charlize Theron. **Keystone Theatre Cafe**

FAIRY TALE: A TRUE STORY The true story of two girls who sneak into a garden and emerge with photographs of fairies who live there, thereby setting off a chain of events neither they nor the great minds of their time can stop. **Nickelodeon**

FIRE Set in modern day New Delhi, "Fire" is the erotic and impassioned tale of two brothers' wives who, imprisoned by their stifling arranged marriages, find refuge and renewal in one another. **The Movies**

FLUBBER Robin Williams plays a kooky professor who tries to keep control his amazing discovery — a translucent, bouncing green goo with a mischievous agenda — in this remake of the 1962 film one of the most enjoyably intelligent feel-good movies in years. Reviewed 10/2/97. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Keystone Theatre Cafe**

THE GAME Bored to death by his uneventful life, a rich San Francisco businessman (Michael Douglas) finds himself the recipient of a strange and exciting gift — membership in a twisted game in which he becomes the perpetrator, and all the victims of, modern America's most nightmarish crimes. With Sean Penn. **Nickelodeon**

GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE Brendan Fraser reprises the wild man routine he mastered for "Encino Man" in this screen version of the 1960's cartoon. Slapstick appears to be the film's leading asset, along with animatronic effects by the folks who brought us "Babe" — look for a wise old ape with the voice of John Cleese. **Nickelodeon**

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER Four high school buddies (including Jennifer Love Hewitt) try to hide a serious crime, but somebody won't let them forget. From the people who brought us "Scream." **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

THE JACKAL Richard Gere co-stars as an IRA gunman who is released from jail to track down an assassin known as the Jackal (Bruce Willis). Sidney Poller plays the FBI director in this remake of a 1973 film based on Frederick Forsyth's novel "The Day of the Jackal." **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Maine Mall Cinemas**

KISS THE GIRLS Morgan Freeman goes into "Seven" mode as a forensic psychologist trying desperately to find his missing niece. He teams up with a young doctor (Ashley Judd) who has just escaped from the clutches of a woman-collecting pervert. **Nickelodeon**

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL A look at the world of police corruption in Los Angeles circa 1950, based on a novel by James Ellroy, Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce star as rival cops investigating a mass homicide. With Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito and Kim Basinger. **Keystone Theatre Cafe**

MAD CITY A pushy network TV journalist (Dustin Hoffman) is banished to small-town California after an on-air blunder, but happens to be at the right place at the right time when a lad-off security guard (John Travolta) flips a biscuit and proposes a police standoff. Reviewed 11/13/97. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE Wallace Rife (Bill Murray), a naive video store clerk from Iowa, travels to London to celebrate his birthday with his wealthy brother James (Peter Gallagher), who gives him two tickets to a participatory theater experience which leads mistakenly into a case of international espionage. Wallace finds himself in a world of defense ministers and hitmen, all the while believing that the whole thing's a performance, and all the world's a stage. Sneak preview. **Maine Mall Cinemas**

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL Based on the bestseller by John Berendt, this

southern gothic features a Savannah socialite (Kevin Spacey) who is accused of murdering his lover (Jude Law). A magazine writer (John Cusack), entranced with all the genteel wealth and voodoo, knowingly becomes involved with a scandal he should have left alone. Reviewed 11/27/97. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

MONDO "MONDO" follows a mirthful, homeless oddball through the streets of Nice, France where a magician, a fisherman, a mailman, a troupe of immigrant street performers, a baker and an older woman become his surrogate family. In French. **The Movies**

MORTAL KOMBAT: ANNIHILATION More adventure unfolds where the original left off. A group of courageous heroes (Brian Thompson, Robert Shou, Talia Soto and Irina Pantavea) have to survive the most difficult series of challenges they have ever encountered, taking on another pesky unscrupulous warrior in another bid to control the planet earth. **Hoyts Clark's Pond**

THE PEACEMAKER Nicole Kidman and George Clooney travel to the frozen wasteland formerly known as the Soviet Union to recover a shipment of hijacked nuclear weapons. **Nickelodeon**

THE RAINMAKER Matt Damon plays an inexperienced lawyer pitted against a powerful insurance company in Francis Ford Coppola's courtroom drama based on John Grisham's novel. Claire Danes is his love interest and Danny DeVito adds some sizzle to the mix as his colleague. **Hoyts Clark's Pond, Hoyts Falmouth 10**

RED CORNER Savvy entertainment lawyer Jack Moore (Richard Gere) comes to China to celebrate a multimillion dollar TV deal, but finds himself trapped and fighting for his life in the labyrinthine Chinese legal system, facing imminent execution for murder unless he can convince his attorney of his innocence. **Nickelodeon**

STARSHIP TROOPERS Directed by Paul Verhoeven, this is the latest slimy-alien movie to grace our planet. A Casanova (Casper Van Dien) joins the military to fight the space insects who are busy colonizing a corner of the galaxy, but finds himself involved in interspecies warfare and a sticky love triangle. Reviewed 11/20/97. **Hoyts Falmouth 10, Hoyts Clark's Pond**

WINGS OF THE DOVE Based on the Henry James novel, this romantic drama stars Helena Bonham Carter and Steven Evans in the story of an American heiress abroad who falls in love with a man who secretly loves another woman. **Maine Mall Cinemas**

times starting friday

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, DEC 5-11. Owing to scheduling changes after CBW goes to press, moviegoers are advised to confirm times with theaters.

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

FLUBBER (G) 1, 1:25, 3, 3:25, 5, 5:25, 7, 7:25, 9, 9:25+SAT-SUN MAT 11, 11:20

ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) 1:20, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40

THE ICE STORM (R) 1:05, 4:15, 9:45

ANASTASIA (G) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30+SAT-SUN MAT 11:30+NO 5:30

SHOW ON SUN

THE JACKAL (R) 1:15, 4, 7-10, 9:45

THE RAINMAKER (PG-13) 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 9:35

BEAN (PG-13) 12:55, 3:10, 7:30, 9:20

STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) 9:50

THE FULL MONTY (R) 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:10

BOOGIE NIGHTS (R) 12:45, 3:40, 6:40, 9:30

HOYTS CLARK'S POND, 333 CLARK'S POND RD., 50, PORTLAND, 774-1022.

HOME ALONE 3 (PG) 5:20+SUN ONLY

EVE'S BAYOU (R) 1:10, 3:40, 7:30, 10

MORTAL KOMBAT: ANNIHILATION (PG-13) 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL 12:10, 3:20, 6:45, 9:55

ANASTASIA 12, 12:40, 2:10, 3, 4:30, 5:10, 7:20, 9:20+NO 5:10

SHOW ON SUN

THE RAINMAKER (PG-13) 12:50, 3:50, 7, 9:50

STARSHIP TROOPERS (R) 6:50, 9:45

MAD CITY (PG-13) 1, 7:10

BOOGIE NIGHTS (R) 12:20, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (R) 4, 10:05

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

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE (R) 9+SAT-SUN MAT 3:30

SCROOGE (G) 6+SAT-SUN MAT 12:45, 3:15

THE FULL MONTY (R) 7:15, 9:30+SAT-SUN MAT 2, 4:15

L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (R) 8:45

THE ICE STORM (R) 6:30+SAT-SUN MAT 1

MAINE MALL CINEMAS, MAINE MALL ROAD, 50, PORTLAND, 774-1022.

ALIEN RESURRECTION (R) 1:30, 4, 7, 9:30

FLUBBER (PG) 12:45, 1:10, 3, 3:25, 5:15, 5:30, 7:25, 7:35, 9:45, 9:50

WINGS OF THE DOVE (R) 1:30, 4, 7:30, 9:40

THE JACKAL (R) 1:25, 4:05, 7:20, 9:55

BEAN (PG-13) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG-13) 1:10, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40

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

MONDO (NR) DEC 3+9+WEB-SAT 5:15, 9+SAT-SUN MAT 1:15+SUNJUES 7

FIRE (NR) DEC 3+9+WEB-SAT 7+SAT-SUN MAT 3+SUNJUES 5, 8:45

THE KING OF HEARTS (NR) DEC 10-14+WEB 5+THURS 9:15+THURS 7:15+SAT 1, 7:30+SUN 1, 8:30

ANNIE HALL (PG) DEC 10-14+WEB 7+THURS 5+THURS 9:15+SAT 3, 5:15

SOME LIKE IT HOT (NR) DEC 10-14+WEB 9+THURS 7+THURS 5+SAT 3, 5:15

NICKELODEON, TEMPLE AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, 772-9751.

FAIRY TALE: A TRUE STORY (PG) 4:10, 7:20, 10+SAT-SUN MAT 1:10

KISS THE GIRLS (R) 4, 7, 9:50+SAT-SUN MAT 1

RED CORNER 3:50, 7:10, 9:40+SAT-SUN MAT 12:50

THE PEACEMAKER 6:40, 9:10

THE GAME (R) 4:40, 6:50, 9:25+SAT-SUN MAT 12:40

CONTACT (PG) 3:30, 6:30, 9:20+SAT-SUN MAT 12:30

GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG) 4:15+SAT-SUN MAT 12:20

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

Contradance Family-style contradances with music by the Sea Slugs and instruction by caller Keith Palmer. Dec 6 at Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Rd, Bar Mills. Cost: \$4 (\$2 kids under 12/\$10 family max). 929-6472.

Mainiac Swing Dance Society presents swing dances. The 1st Fri of every month at Presumpscot Grange, outer Forest Ave across from Tortilla Flats, from 9 pm-midnight (lesson at 8 pm). The 3rd Tues of every month at Maplewood Dance Center, 383 Warren Ave, Portland, at 8 pm (lesson at 7 pm). Cost: \$7 (includes lesson). 828-1795.

Maplewood Dance Center 383 Warren Ave, Portland, is open every night for dancing. Singles Dance Sat from 8 pm-midnight. Ballroom dancing to big band sounds Wed & Fri from 8-11 pm. Ballroom dance lessons Wed & Fri from 7-8 pm. Beginner ballroom lessons Thurs from 7-9 pm. Line dance classes Wed from 12:30-2 pm and Thurs from 10-11:30 am. 797-2891 or 878-0584.

Pine Tree Squares Dance Club holds a mainstream plus dance Dec 13 at the Conglin School, 140 Bridge St, Westbrook, at 7:30 pm. Caller Randy Longobucco. Cuet Pat Brann. 854-5627.

sports

new

Men's Over 30 Basketball League Portland Parks and Recreation offers a league Sundays and Wednesdays starting Dec 8 at 17 Arbor St, Portland at 6 pm. For sign-up and program info, call 874-8793.

One-Day Tennis Clinic Jan 10. USM's women's tennis team teaches a one-day clinic for kids in grades 4-8. At USM's Sullivan Gym, Portland, from 3-4 pm. Cost: \$25. To register, call Coach Wayne St. Peter at 780-5574 or 797-8613.

other

Teen Scene The YWCA offers programs just for middle and high school age students including self-defense classes, step aerobics, yoga, volleyball, street funk aerobics and Nike basketball for girls. For more info, call Lauretta at 874-1130 x3010.

Aquatic Programs Greater Portland YMCA, 70 Forest Ave, Portland, offers a series of swimming programs — including lessons for infants, kids and adults, a competitive swim team, a lifeguard certification course and an active adults program. Costs and times vary. 874-1111.

Drop-In Sports The YWCA offers drop-in women's volleyball Sun from 7-10 pm (\$4/\$3 members); and drop-in basketball for men, women and students Tues & Thurs noon-1:30 pm and 6-8 pm. (\$4/\$3 members). At the YWCA, 87 Spring St, Portland, 874-1130.

Lap Swims at the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St, Portland, offer great exercise in a light-filled pool warmed to 83 degrees. Fees include lockers, showers, towels and saunas. Cost: \$3 per swim for YWCA members, \$4 per swim for nonmembers. 874-1130.

Open Gym for Teens Evening teen programs: Jack Gym, 414 Eastern Prom, Portland, Tues & Thurs 6-8 pm (high school age); King Gym, 92 Deering Ave, Portland, Tues 6-8 pm (middle school age), Thurs 6-8 pm (high school age); Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Portland, Tues & Thurs 5:30-7 pm (middle school age), Mon & Wed 5:15-6:45 pm (high school age). Fee: \$5.00. 874-8793.

Maine Table Tennis Club offers open play Mondays from 5-9 pm and Thursdays from 6-9 pm at Portland Athletic Club, Route 1, Falmouth. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome. Coaching can be arranged. Cost: \$5 per person, balls provided. 823-8231.

Open Gym for Teens Evening teen programs: Jack Gym, 414 Eastern Prom, Portland, Tues & Thurs 6-8 pm (high school age); King Gym, 92 Deering Ave, Portland, Tues 6-8 pm (middle school age), Thurs 6-8 pm (high school age); Reiche Community Center, 166 Brackett St, Portland, Tues & Thurs 5:30-7 pm (middle school age), Mon & Wed 5:15-6:45 pm (high school age). Fee: \$5.00. 874-8793.

WINGS OF THE DOVE (R) 1:30, 4, 7:30, 9:40

THE JACKAL (R) 1:25, 4:05, 7:20, 9:55

BEAN (PG-13) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO LITTLE (PG-13) 1:10, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40

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

MONDO (NR) DEC 3+9+WEB-SAT 5:15, 9+SAT-SUN MAT 1:15+SUNJUES 7

FIRE (NR) DEC 3+9+WEB-SAT 7+SAT-SUN MAT 3+SUNJUES 5, 8:45

THE KING OF HEARTS (NR) DEC 10-14+WEB 5+THURS 9:15+THURS 7:15+SAT 1, 7:30+SUN 1, 8:30

ANNIE HALL (PG) DEC 10-14+WEB 7+THURS 5+THURS 9:15+SAT 3, 5:15

SOME LIKE IT HOT (NR) DEC 10-14+WEB 9+THURS 7+THURS 5+SAT 3, 5:15

NICKELODEON, TEMPLE AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, 772-9751.

FAIRY TALE: A TRUE STORY (PG) 4:10, 7:20, 10+SAT-SUN MAT 1:10

KISS THE GIRLS (R) 4, 7, 9:50+SAT-SUN MAT 1

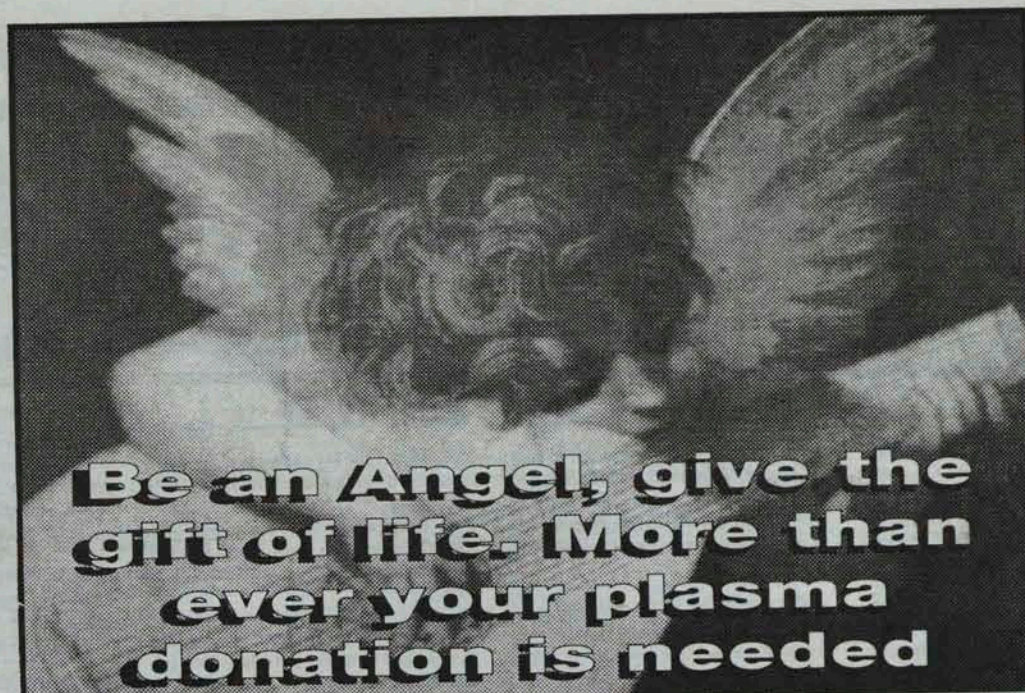
RED CORNER 3:50, 7:10, 9:40+SAT-SUN MAT 12:50

THE PEACEMAKER 6:40, 9:10

THE GAME (R) 4:40, 6:50, 9:25+SAT-SUN MAT 12:40

CONTACT (PG) 3:30, 6:30, 9:20+SAT-SUN MAT 12:30

GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE (PG) 4:15+SAT-SUN MAT 12:20



Donate plasma and earn up to \$150/mth

Ask about our new donor programs (or if you haven't donated in six months)

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WOMEN & MEN

ARE YOU A LARGER VERSION OF TIM THE TOOL MAN? Flannel shirt & jeans in your closet? Larger than life DWF, late 40's, ISO SM. Wise sense of humor for "Light Hearted" fun. #4759.

BE MY CUDDLY TEDDY BEAR! Portland, Me. Area SWF, 37, 5'7", lg. build, enjoys dining out, dancing, movies, quiet evenings, walks on the beach, reading, music and being with someone special. Desires S/DWM, 28-40 for friendship/LTR. Med. to lg. build. #4699.

BEAUTIFUL WOMAN: bright, sensitive, passionate, driven, fit, attractive, 27, B/B, SWP, Jewish, ISO beautiful man between 26-36, tremendous character and spirit, who is communicative, moral, NS, of healthy mind, body and soul. Looking to share friendship, passion, and LTR. #4695.

BEAUTIFUL, SENSUAL, LOVING & CARING Chinese beauty with brains seeks successful, kind, intelligent, mature gentleman for friendship, lasting relationship and possible marriage. I would like your handwritten letters with a photo please! #4698.

DF, I JUST WANT A MAN, who can help with the damn mortgage and buy me a car. #4648.

DO YOU TAKE INITIATIVE? I say what I mean and mean what I say. No second guessing here. I'm independent, impatient and easily bored. I don't take friendship or commitment lightly. Looking for independent, confident, secure S/DWM. Seek partner, not baby, between 34-45. #4701.

FEMALE CHRISTIAN SEEKING SPIRITUAL MAN, DWF 40's, looking for walks on beach, music, dining, reading. Are you a cross between King David and Jesus? No games, serious replies only please. No head games, NS men 35+ Fellowship and running the race... #4650.

FIVE FOOT TWO, EYES ARE BLUE, 45, petite, DWF, NS, SD, likes to be treated like a lady, enjoys laughing, music, dancing, dining, movies, cooking, would travel, like to laugh and have a sense of humor, let's get together. #4820.

I'M FREE. ARE YOU FREE? So if we hit it off what will that make us? No wonder we're all so involved about this stuff. DWF, 44, bright, busy, crunchy, conflicted, seeking someone to work it out with...maybe. #4758.

IN SEARCH OF ROMANCE. ND, NS, DWF, late 30's, (no kids) blonde hair, blue eyes. Seeks 30-45 with SOH, and family oriented for steady dating/LTR. Marriage minded a plus. No mind game players please. Greater Portland area preferred. #4759.

INTELLIGENT, GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, tall, slender, SWF, 24, ISO, SWM, 6'2"-6'4", 220-230 lb, emotionally and financially secure, intelligent, funny, enjoys dancing, romantic times & must be fit. #4811, possible LTR. #4837.

IT'S NOT HOW BIG IT IS, IT'S HOW YOU USE IT. (Your brain, silly, who'd ya think I meant?) 29y.o. WPH, B/B, fit not a fanatic; likes hiking, books, alt. rock, ISO kind, intelligent S/DW; friends first, possible LTR. #4837.

LET'S GET TOGETHER... For movies, dancing, dining out or in, taking walks, holding hands and being with each other. Me: SWF, 38 WSOH, You: S/DWM, 28-40, for friendship/LTR. Portland area. #4801.

LOOK NO FURTHER! 31 yrs. young, DWF, NS, SD, wants to be treated like a lady. Enjoys life, great sense of humor, family is important, caring, honest, loves dancing, boating, dining out, traveling, music & movies. Let's get together. #4827.

LOOKING FOR THE "MAN" IN ROMANTIC. Seeking couples in love everywhere. Tired of seeing, want to be. Take me back to a place where love is the relationship. 38y.o. ISO S/DWM under 32 with LTR in mind. #4702.

MEDITATIVE EXPLORER, SPIRITUALLY ATTENTIVE, ready for loving relationship and domestic life. Portland area SWP, late 40's, slender, tall, amused, awake, educated, continuing growth work, seeks similarly centered and relaxed friend, 50's, NS, to share belief in hidden potential, walks, tea, x-c skiing, movies, skating, brunch, Sunday papers, maybe LTR. #4723. Personal Advertiser #519, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104.

MY REALITY AT 45: He watched her, she turned these are the mysteries I watch and read. Activities: Musicals, and educated playthings, quiet times, and excitement like watching a storm on the beach, or a man taking his shirt off slowly. Children are grown, call me! #4809.

NEW TO THE AREA. SWF seeks SWM 40-50 yrs old. Powerful, independent, fun, easy-going, creative, passionate, sincere, brutally honest. Not impressed w/ligarettes, alcohol, drugs or material possessions. Love nature & life itself. Do you dare? #4748.

SWF SEARCHING FOR A REAL MAN. SWF, 36y.o. is in search of a really good man who can enjoy a woman's company and friendship as well. All calls answered. I'm worth the call. #4860.

WAITING TO BE WOODED. Attractive, SWF, 29, 5'8", WPH, B/B, with a joie de vivre and a great smile. ISO tall, attractive S/DWPM, 26-36, NS, intelligent, clean-cut type preferred for friendship and possible LTR. #4810.

WHERE IS THE MISSING PUZZLE. DWF, Italian, self-employed, enjoys music, dancing, weekends away, walks, sports, beach, flea markets, drives in the country. Looking for nice looking man, honest, affectionate, sense of humor, under 6 ft., 200 lb, lat 50's to late 60's. For friends first. #4802.

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MEN & WOMEN

"YOU WILL..." purr like a kitten, howl like a wolf, laugh like a hyena, soar like an eagle. "Not to mention rabbits" and that's no lion. NS, 41, 6'2", 190lb, athletic, sincere, DWM, with sense of humor, ISO NS, 30 something, active, honest, attractive, fun-loving female. #4706.

ACCOMPLISHED, HANDSOME, TEACHER, feminist, avid reader, gardener, mediator, SWM, 51, active & fit, seeks a wise, witty, well educated and spirited woman. Portland-Brunswick. #4709.

ARE YOU PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE, really honest, happy just because, emotionally generous, an able listener, unquestionably worthy, like yourself, playful, fit, curious and childlike? 30-40? You are rare and precious & I'm a great date. SWM, 41, #4747.

ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR LOVE TOO? SWM, 37, 5'11", 180lb, large frame/physically fit, NS, and self employed. Enjoys travel, hiking, beach and hockey. Tired of bar scene, seeking attractive slender, NS, S/DWF, 27-32 for serious relationship leading to marriage/children. No games please. #4767.

ARTSDIOT SM 41 y.o. A little rumpled, kind of 30's. Passionate about good whiskey, fine food, the sky, the sea, etc. My life is in Maine but lately home seems to be somewhere on I-95. I used to know how to touch & be touched. Can you help me remember? #4849.

DO YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE? DWM, 42, a man of means by no means by no means, survive. Don't thrive. 5'6 WPH+ NS, I drink a bit, fit, ISO conversation, possibly ice skating seeking a mature woman. #4727.

DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK OF DAY, I'm a nocturnal woman. Seeking SWF to share light of day. I'm 46, SWM, who enjoys pleasant walks, travel and the unknown. Let's meet and discover some of life's challenges together. #4756.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE! CALL SWM, 32, spontaneous, confident, enjoys hiking, camping, canoeing, ocean, live music, dancing, motorcycles. Seeking fit, attractive, outgoing, outdoorsy, professional, S.F. who is looking for a friendship first that may lead to relationship. SOH is a must. #4808.

DOUBLE AQUARIAN WITH LEO RSN! Seeking wonderful companion 39-59. Outdoor enthusiast (country skiing, biking, hiking). Music lover, good wholesome homecooked food, and other earthly delights. Spiritually inclined, sensual hopeful romantic. Gemini's, Leo's, Sagittarius' welcome. Red hair a big plus. #4840.

I RESPECT A WOMAN AS AN EQUAL. D/P/B/M, 60 looks 50, NS, ND, likes body building, watching movies, dancing, quiet dinners, jazz, early R&R. Seeking S/DW, 45-55, NS, LD O.K. Greater Portland area. #4752.

ONE NICE GUY, DWM early 60's - semi new to area, seeking relationship with a sincere female who likes dancing (including CMW), walks, music, lots of time together, hugs & kisses, holding hands. I am a romantic. NS, ND. Be honest please, no head games. #4844.

ONE ON ONE. Male, 50, tall, athletic, looking for woman for fun times. Little, this, little that, quiet times, enjoy Greek culture and massage, NS, ND. #4797.

PWM, 42, BUSINESS & OPEN-MINDED, discreet, non-committal type. I enjoy challenges & complex problems. I'm too busy for a steady girlfriend, therefore would like to have a monogamous affair-type relationship with older female with similar interests. Days, evenings. #4836.

SEEKING CHRISTIAN FEMALE. Attractive, sincere, easy going, 5'9" nice build, brown hair, blue eyes, 31, likes outdoors, movies, bicycling, reading. Seeking Christian, 30-45, weight unimportant, in Greater Portland area. ND, NS. I hope losing my drivers licence doesn't matter. #4768.

SWM, 28, 5'6", 170lb, FIT, INTELLIGENT, seeking someone special, self-assured not self-absorbed, intelligent not manipulative, sense of humor not sociopathic, self-contained not controlling, child-like not childish. #4717.

SWM, 5'10", MUSCULAR, 33, self-employed, spontaneous, cook, walk, read, bike, weekend road-trips, seeking not into bar scene, smoker. LD, non-professional, 24-35, no baggage, earthy type. Looks not important. #4754.

THE ARTIST-GENTLEMAN has no family in Maine. Seeking nice laid back lady to spend the holidays with. Dinner is my treat on Christmas or New Years. I am 6'7", 190lb, independent, self-employed artist, good looking, athletic. We can go out or entertain at my home. #4834.

THIS IS A PERSONAL NOT A CONTEST. WM, 48, creative seeks healthy, fit woman quiet, fun, solitude, outward and inner reflecting, laughable movie/television, spiritual, relaxed. Portland area. #4806.

TRY NOT TO LOOK SO PRETTY... I'll try not to be a fool. SWM, 40, seeks female counterpart. Enjoy all musics, dancing, hiking, movies, most of all romance. If you teach me the two-step, I'll massage your feet after the dance. #4805.

UNCOMMON GUY SEEKS ADVENTURER. Honest, highly creative, strong willed SM 37, loves dogs, ferrets & inspired people, enjoys mix of traditional and alternative, looking for F adventurer wanting to play #4855

UNUSUAL AD, UNUSUAL GUY. Secure, responsible, SWM, seeks young family for repeat performance and LTR. This guy is 5'8", 155lb, hopeless romantic years for Saturday nights out with soul mate and midweek challenges and joys of family life. Be positive, honest, outgoing, and SOH. #4812.

LOOKING FOR A MACHO MAN TO HOUSE BREAK? A bad boy to change just a little? A Greek god with a large disposable income? Don't answer this add! DWM, 50yrs., Merin seeking Morgan S/DWF, 30's to 50's into living life. #4807.

LOOKING FOR EWE! Wolf in sheep's clothing, mid-40's and very fit looking to snatch the tasty picnic lunch from Red Riding Hood. If you're interested in a Big Bad Wolf who doesn't run with the pack, just put your lips together and blow! #4716.

MR RIGHT ISO MS RIGHT. I'm the guy you've been thinking are all taken, but still look for. You're the woman I keep wanting to meet but haven't come across yet. Honest, loving, fit, 6'2", 190lb, 41, DWM w/SOH, ISO 30-something similar S/DW. Call now - only one left! #4854.

WINNERS OF THE PERSONAL OF THE WEEK receive a gift certificate courtesy of Harmon's & Barton's. All Casco Bay Weekly personals are entered. Send your personal ad to: Casco Bay Weekly Personals, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104.

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Box # 349160 First Timer
I can't seem to meet a guy worth a second date. Every guy that I meet always tries to get me into bed after the date is over. Don't get me wrong. I love sex. I could have sex 10 times a day with the right guy, but I haven't found the right man yet. My name is Connie and I am 35 yrs old. I have blond hair with hazel eyes. My measurements are 34-24-34. So if your tired of meeting the wrong girl leave me a message and maybe I will work for the both of us.

Box # 349168 very hot
Attractive 33yr old Redhead ISO man 25-40 for sexual hot times. I feel that I'm the total package. I'm well built 36d (for real) with large nipples, 140 lbs nice legs and butt and enjoy mutual sex with the right partner. I also have the sexiest voice that you ever heard just call my message and see for yourself. I like being oral, and also like viewing adult movies. Mornings are best because I don't get off work until 1:30 am. I work as a dancer you can stop by & see me in a private booth.

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