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Bike lanes for Portland

Last chance to vote for the "Best of Portland"

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Pulling strings on "The Odyssey"

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Ticket sales are down and money is tight, but Maine Arts is determined to survive

Nick Bloom, director of Maine Arts, masterminds New Year's Portland and the Maine Festival. He says he's working on a plan to overcome flagging attendance and shoo up the gravy'sousse.
**An Evening with...**

**STRANGEFOLK**

State Theater
667 Congress St. Portland
Sat., Feb 6th. 8 PM

Tickets available at State Theater Box Office, Portland, Me., or by calling 207/775-6301.

**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!!**

Get your tickets at Cumberland County Civic Center Box Office, all locations, or call 207/775-3458 or 207/775-3331.

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**TALK**

**DAN ELDERT**

“I’m not a suit-and-tie kind of guy.”

Even “shady” Elder is a 28-year-old DJ from Portland who supports the persona for scoring the sounds of the soulful with a day job at Anthony’s Italian Kitchen, slinging pizza.

Do you see a connection between scoring pizza and playing records?

They’re both round. Vinyl and pizza? That’s perfect.

Ever get them mixed up?

No, Vinyl doesn’t taste too good.

You’re always at the restaurant. When do you DJ?

Every Friday on the radio from 1 to 3 in the afternoon, WMPG. I do a reggae show with a little bit of funk added in.

I’ve also got some old-school hip-hop every now and then. Jazz, too, but mostly reggae.

What kind of music do you play when you’re making pies?

Only what Tony lets us play. We get a little Connie Francis, a little Jerry Vale. It’s all good. I grew up with that stuff.

Who’s your favorite artist?

James Brown. Godfather of the groove. Godfather of soul, man. It’s his inspiration that lets the soul loose and I identify with that.

If you could meet anyone you play on your show, who would it be?

Probably Bunny Wailer. He’s a mystical kind of guy and he doesn’t play many gigs. He’s obviously close with Bob [Marley] and has this kind of mysticism thing about him. I’d like to get to know him and see what it’s like.

What was your first DJ job like?

It was in high school. I had all the good tapes, all the good records, wanted to hear them. It was new. Wowy, get a full of pre-pubescent adolescents, it smelled like teen spirit to me.

It wasn’t a disaster, unlike some of the weddings I’ve done.

Describe your weirdest wedding.

Well, I don’t know if it’s weird, but the first wedding I did last summer was an Irish Protestant kind of wedding. This 85-year-old guy got up and started playing accordion and singing old songs. Everybody started jigging and I don’t think I played any albums for about an hour. They did all the music and guitar and accordion and singing, all the old bang-your-beer-on-the-table songs.

How did you fall in love with music?

My mother was very musical. She was listening to Aretha Franklin, Elvis Presley, Jerry Vale, and all the old Italian music.

My best memory was when I was about seven. My mother would take my brother and me, turn the lights off in the living room at night and play ‘Hot August Night’ by Neil Diamond. With the congas and everything, that just fascinated me. Live music. With the vibe, the congas and everything.

Interview by Connie Padua; photo by Gary Green

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**Cumberland County Civic Center**

**RUSTED ROOT**

Portland Expo
330 Park Avenue Portland ME Feb 21st. 7:30 PM

Tickets available at East Maine Music, Portland or by calling 207/862-6666.

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**EVEN CLEAR SOUL COUGHING**

Central Maine Civic Center
Saturday, March 9th. 7:30PM

Tickets available at OSE Box Office. Box Office Callares 207/852-0900 or 207/775-3331.

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**A CONVERSATION WITH**

**ALK DAN ELDERT**

February 4, 1999

**ALK DAN ELDERT**

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Interview by Connie Padua; photo by Gary Green

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Portland, Maine

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Murder in my heart for the judge

I'm not accusing state Rep. Libby Martin (D-Lower) of introducing the stopgap bill in the current legislative session.

Legislation of Martin's could compare for the dance cap against state Rep. Roger Fedders (R-Carrabassett Valley) prepared to change the name of the Department of Education to the Department of Schooling. Not in Martin's work as much of Rep. Henry's Jr.'s. Fundraising bill would include failure to supply licenses before granting their sports. Martin is out of the running when it comes to name Enf. Jim Libby's (R-Lower) bill to exempt horses from the sales tax (a proposal that prompted a Bangor Daily News editorial writer to wonder, "...just how much staff does he have?"). Probably, she's not a bad object between Martin and Rep. Christina Baker (D-Newfane), who was named vice chairman of the official state party.

In fact, most of Martin's efforts make more sense than Gov. Angus King's education budget.

Nevertheless, in the competition to best human senses from any state House. Martin doens at least an honorable name for sponsoring "An Act Providing for a Year of Confidence Before a Judge is Eligible for Reappointment." At first glance, the bill allowing the public to see judicial ratings of all judges that they're not allowed to see in office doesn't seem like such a bad idea. Actually, nobody in state government is more impatient than judges — but even Martin, Jr. has to face the voters every two years. Members of the judiciary are nominated by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate to serve part time, during which they are not accountable to no one. They can perform their duties with all the competence of a Business Democrat on a vaudeville stage. They can ignore public opinion, logic and law. They can act exactly like the president of the United States, only with fewer personal consequences.

There's little a government over named a chaise lounge in the beach, just use of any tenor would require. Nothing, but even one mentioned how unusual it was for a judicial candidate to offer to pick nose and lice height. "No, no, not even added, "it was much appreciated."

In short, while a potential justice makes an all-out effort to publicize the fact that he or she is a total bare-brains, confirmation in a forgotten column.

The playing reform, the Maine State Bar Association polled lawyers in 1998 on the quality of judges' legal abilities, impartiality and integrity. The results should have given average citizens valuable information on judicial performance — except the bar association decided not to make those results public. "Are we uniquely suited to have an account?" "Kettner Carrothers, chair of the association's evaluation committee, told Gazette Weekly, "it is our responsibility to share it." No.

Obviously, Carrothers has the arrogance it takes to be a judge. Instead, the survey were turned over to the governor, who's under no obligation to any attentions to do so, as this resolution of a secret meeting between the state's chief executive and a member of the judiciary shows.

Governor: I'm afraid your ratings are very low.

Judge Bonzo: Want me to pick that louse out of your hair?

Governor: I'm afraid your ratings are very low.

Judge Bond: I put it, why are you picking out your ear of your own.

Governor: Thank you for your congratulations on your renomination.

We were a perfectly as usual, Martha's receiving recent postcard. Particulars mentioned that their budgets should be seen a bit of a punishment of a career.

Most people have no idea how well a judge is performing. As a result, they might cast uninformed ballots. More likely, they'd cast no ballots at all. The only voters sure to visit the polls would be the few judges against judges, making the most influential special interest group to judicial elections national barn and local in those cases.

To communicate that judges would be forced to solicit political donations and be all too easily found by their direct votes, many lines of judges against judges, making the most influential special interest group to judicial elections national barn and local in those cases.

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* Some Hits: Music, Movie, and Dance

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Swords like teen spirit

There are only a few good reporters in the world who are willing to say things that may offend or upset the powerful. Perhaps this is what será the true journalism of the 21st century. Few people today are willing to do this. The Media is afraid of the power of the internet and the ability to reach a global audience. This is why there are so few good reporters. They are afraid of the consequences of speaking the truth.

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This Valentine's Day...
Line drive

Bicyclists say it's time Portland added bike lanes to streets. But some city officials are leery of the project.

The proposal to create more bike lanes in Portland could win some and confound the rest. ROB RICH

Connie Faccoli

Cheryl Oliver is a hard-core bicyclist, but sometimes when riding on the streets of Portland, even she gets scared. "I've been hit twice," Oliver said. "One was not even a car-it was a bus." Oliver's worst accident was in June when she was hit by a car on Congress Street. She later said, "My bike lane proposal will end up costing more than it's worth."

Connie Faccoli

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The ART of Staying Alive

Ticket sales are down and money is tight, but Maine Arts is determined to survive.

By Nick Bloom

Maine Arts director Nick Bloom is working on a plan to keep the nonprofit organization afloat.

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Crowded parties

Be nice to your sister

Letters

Debating "Decoy"

COMMENT

Habitat for Portland's humanity

Mississippi and the urban crisis

Last chance for love

Corrections

Letters

Debating "Decoy"

Habitat for Portland's humanity

Be nice to your sister
Break out those pens and pencils and vote for Greater Portland's best coffee shops, dive bars, day care centers and Italian sandwiches - all those things that make our fair city (and fair suburbs) home.

Please confine your nominations to people and places in our Best distribution area (roughly Best Old Port bar - Brunswick to Windham to Best neighborhood bar - Old Orchard Beach). If you have other ideas, we might include your remarks when we write up the winners for the March 12 "Best of Portland" issue.

Send your ballot to the address below, or put it through our convenient Congress Street mail slot.

The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Mail or drop off ballot:
Best of Portland
Casco Bay Weekly
561 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

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**Best local people**
- Best person
- Best TV personality
- Best weather commentator
- Best actor
- Best writer
- Best photographer
- Best water

**Best food and drink**
- Best breakfast joint
- Best doughnuts
- Best lunch
- Best dinner for cheap
- Best dinner if money is no object
- Best place to go if you never drink go to
- Everything restaurant atmosphere
- Best brunch
- Best live music at a happy hour
- Best coffee spot
- Best sidewalk cart

**Best entertainment**
- Best Old Port bar
- Best neighborhood bar
- Best bar outside Portland
- Best pickup bar
- Best jukebox
- Best local band
- Best local solo music artist

**Best services**
- Best club to hear live music
- Best radio station
- Best theatrical production
- Best place to play pool
- Best place to play darts
- Best place to dance
- Best bowling
- Best bowling alley
- Best record store

**Best places**
- Best bar
- Best church
- Best place to get a haircut
- Best place for tattoos and piercings
- Best health club
- Best home
- Best place to shop
- Best store
- Best local school

---

**Best services**
- Best clothing store
- Best bicycle shop
- Best bookstore
- Best place to buy outdoor gear
- Best barbecue
- Best butcher
- Best pizza
- Best local music artist
- Best local band
- Best local solo music artist

**Best places**
- Best beach
- Best park
- Best place to play pool
- Best place to play darts
- Best place to dance
- Best bookstore
- Best tap/CD store
- Best place to get a haircut
- Best place for tattoos and piercings
- Best health club
- Best corner store
- Best florist
- Most honest garage
- Best gas station
- Best pool hall
- Best day care

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**Reader's choice**
Did you think of something we overlooked? Here's your chance to create your own categories and answers.

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**Mail or drop off ballot:**
Best of Portland
Casco Bay Weekly
561 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101

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**Find the advertisers with the following icons in their ads, write down who the advertiser is, and get it to us by Monday, February 15. You'll be eligible to win great prizes! Mail or fax your entry to Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Fax: 207-775-1615.**
January rainstorm. That drained the city's can't be refilled until the pipe is fixed this winter have worked on. The Ice on hold: Plans to keep the pond at the Cook's Corner area.
CLUBS

Prime Cut

Local band the Sean Mooney Swing Combo plays a blend of American music from the '40s and '50s incorporating rock 'n' roll, jazz standards and western swing. All of which plus the group's specialty in step with that latest into punk, swing dancing. Unlike other swing bands -- heroin, for instance -- swing dancing is actually good for you. But that's not to say it's also wholesome. In the Big Easy, 55 Market St., Portland, from 8:30-12:30 a.m., Tu., $3.

Percy Hill

ft. Mark Shock

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday

Two nights per week Mark Shock, lead singer of the Famous Band, performs at Percy Hill, 319 Congress St., Portland. Each night he hosts a different band with himself as the MC. Monday through Wednesday, he hosts Smokin' Grass, a local cowpunk outfit. Thursday and Saturday he hosts a cover band of his own, and on Sunday he hosts Conscious Buddha.

Upcoming

4/10: Tony Rankin, Eddie and the Hot Rods
4/17: Shithead
4/24: Rimbofe, the Old Wax, the Throwaways
4/25: Black Letters, the Bunkr
5/1: Brian Choo Bar
5/2: Shane Staples & The Middle
5/8: John Hooks, the Neckbreakers, the Bandit Bunnies
5/9: Neil Young & Crazy Horse
5/16: The Eyes, the Ferns, the Hard Times
5/23: The Wipers
5/30: Very Bad Boys, Zero"n"1, the Backgrounds
6/6: the BBQ Kings, the Willows, the Blindmen
6/13: John Hooker, the Pizazz
6/20: John Hooker, the Pizazz
6/27: Peter Green, the Firm, the Hard Times
7/11: the Tykes, the Wolves, the Gellials
7/18: the Black Keys, the Box Tops, the Kinks
7/25: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
8/1: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
8/8: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
8/15: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
8/22: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
9/12: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
9/19: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
10/3: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
10/10: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
10/17: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
10/24: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
11/1: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
11/8: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
11/15: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
11/22: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
12/6: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
12/13: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
12/20: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones
12/27: the Monkees, the Searchers, the Rolling Stones

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19:30 pm, no cover!

18:30 Key! Reams! 11-6 pm, no cover!

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19-8 pm, no cover!

The Industry

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879-0865

Free Street Tavern

128 Free Street, Portland
775-3380

Somewhere

1037 Forest Ave., Portland
797-3781

Kings Bar

186 S. 3rd St., Portland
775-0999

The Black Crows

Colby College, 3112 Main St., Waterville
876-2131

FEBRUARY 4, 1999

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Friday, February 12
8 pm

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Jagged Little Pill

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Hotel Slouch

1/11/1999.
Strangefolk in a strange land

F

or all the talk of revolution, jam bands barely occupy their own little corner of the music world, despite by now immense fame. Though far less intense than death metal or new age, it still comes down to whether or not you're on the job. If you don't get the appeal of that guy's trading solo for 20 minutes straight, it's hasteful not to like most jam bands.

Strangefolk is a certified jam band — in fact, the flagship band from the jam scene. In a few years, they've rumbled out of the private, jam-band club. In interviews, many members regularly stress that they're more song-oriented than their jam-band peers. And that seems to be true, if their new CD, "Weightless in Water," with its collection of songs drawn from blues, folk and bluegrass traditions, is any indication.

Unfortunately, many of Strangefolk's songs start well but don't payoff, or worse, just aim for semi-melodic pleasantness. But there are occasional rewards, when hearing the music is almost as good as seeing the players. For instance, their version of an unattributed folk tune, a few more songs as laid-back and charming as "Chinatown," Strangefolk could challenge the three Matthews Band for seven-eights of the jam-band genre.

Strangefolk plays at the State Theater on Feb. 6. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tix: $15, 1-888-767-NEXT.

Pining away

L

ike the jam-band scene, the world of bluegrass is somewhat insulated. Every year or so, if you find yourself wondering just how many banjo solos one can endure, like Strangefolk, members of the Piners attempt to break out of this genre's ghetto by focusing on songs rather than bluegrass. Unlike Strangefolk, the Piners succeed, and wonderfully.

The group's self-titled CD ably demonstrates why it is one of the best-loved local bands on its self-titled CD. Melodies and vocals are what's important here, not the instrumental soloing performed by most traditional bluegrass groups. In 13 songs, both originals and covers, the voices of Haakon Kallweit, Pip Walter and Boo Cowie shine both individually and in the ways they play off each other. The worst that can be said is that at times this music gets a bit sedate.

Either you're a fan or you find yourself wondering just how many banjo solos one can endure, like Strangefolk, members of the Piners attempt to break out of this genre's ghetto by focusing on songs rather than bluegrass. Unlike Strangefolk, the Piners succeed, and wonderfully.

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But with such guest musicians as fiddler Phil Bloch (who co-produced the CD), providing subtle, unobtrusive support and songs by the likes of Butch Hancock, Emmylou Harris and local chums Diesel Doug and the Long Haul Truckers, this is a CD worth your while even if you have only a touch of bluegrass or country music in your blood.

The Piners' self-titled CD is available at local music stores.

Sample this.

F

or a long time, we've wanted a really good local compilation, the type of CD you give someone from out of town that would educate and, more important, impress. The chances are it would be territorially specific — how could Rare Form be on the same CD as Jenny Jumpstart? — or criminally incomplete or both.

The recent "North East Indie New Music Sampler: 18 Songs" isn't that CD, nor, unfortunately, many others over the years. Though incomplete as an overview of the scene, the songs manage somehow to cohere. The most appealing tracks come from Violet Sky, Zootopia and, especially, the Piners.

"North East Indie New Music Sampler: 18 Songs" is available at local music stores.
**CASCO BAY WEEKLY**

**DEADLINE** for submissions for the calendar is Wednesday, March 2 at 4 p.m. For more information, call 207-775-7900, ext. 216. Submit events by going to www.cascobayweekly.com and selecting "submit event." Event information is also accepted by mail or fax to 207-775-7900, ext. 216. The deadline for all other content is Wednesday, March 2 at 4 p.m.

**MONDAY, FEB. 7**

**CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

The Portland Chinese New Year Celebration put us the Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine in 2000. The Year of the Dragon is marked in the Chinese calendar by the meeting of the stars, the dragon, and the lion.

**JOHN GOKHA**

John Gokha was singing folk songs in an aromatic audience of folk. He was being a band with men and start playing together. This will appeal to the audience and be appreciated for the whole song. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the UNH Planetarium, Portland.

**THE GREAT CHIL AND CHOWDER CHALLENGE**

The Portland Chinese New Year Celebration put us the Chinese and American Friendship Association of Maine in 2000. The Year of the Dragon is marked in the Chinese calendar by the meeting of the stars, the dragon, and the lion.

**TUESDAY, FEB. 8**

**ARTS SAMPLER**

Four Wednesdays - Begins Feb 17, 7:00-9:00pm (includes materials) $45

**DEVELOPING HEALING CHARTS**

Two meetings - Feb 22, 7:00-9:00pm AND Feb 23, 7:00-9:00pm $35

**INTUITIVE DRAWING**

Four Thursdays - Begins February 25, 7:00-9:00pm (includes materials) $45

**THERAPY**

Four Wednesdays - Begins February 24, 7:00-9:00pm $20

**MEDITATION BASICS**

Four Mondays - Begins February 8, 7:00-9:00pm $35

**PAST LIFE REGRESSION**

Two meetings - Feb 18, 7:00-9:00pm AND Feb 20, 11:00am-1:00pm $35

**PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT FOR CAREERS**

Two meetings - Feb 25, 7:00-9:00pm AND Feb 27, 9:00am-12noon $25

CALL for more information or to register:

hap:!! maine.edu/llblb news .html

**FRIDAY, FEB. 5**

**COMMANDER CODY AND HIS LOST PLANET ARMEN**

Clay & the Cajun Kings and the Lost Planet Armens will play their "Hot Rod Rockin'" Down to Sound and Songs Again as beauty in the rock n roll outfit with the Commander's father and throw in drums.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 7**

**STUCK ON SOMEONE?**

A presentation of "Son of Corn" by photographer Ray Hraight will be held at the Silver Monkey, 360 Fore Street, Portland. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be open to the public. The event will be held at the Silver Monkey, 360 Fore Street, Portland.
A rock-opera endgame
Portland Players tackles a musical monster with "Chess"

It is often claimed that to write musicals that rival international classics, "Grease," "Singin' in the Rain" and "The Sound of Music"—what the Thalianites call "the threeBs"—is to write musicals. "Chess" is one of the three, a Broadway musical that is often considered one of the best, despite its many revisions and rewrites.

When the musical was first presented in 1983, it was not well received by critics. Some even suggested that the musical was a failure. However, after several revisions, "Chess" was produced again in 1984 and became a hit. It has since been performed in theaters around the world and has been nominated for several awards.

The musical tells the story of two people who are in love, but are separated by a political border. The musical is set in a city where the two people meet and fall in love, but are unable to be together due to the political situation.

The musical features songs such as "One Night in Bangkok," "Morning Has Broken," and "I Know Him Too Well." These songs have become iconic and are still performed today.

"Chess" is a musical that is both unique and timeless. It is a story of love and separation, told through song and dance. It is a musical that is loved by audiences around the world and is a testament to the power of music and art.
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MUSEUMS

Museum of Modern Art Museum, 755 Congress St., Portland

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HUMANITIES LIBRARY 100 Congress St., Portland

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CALLS FOR ARTISTS

ADULT EDUCATION

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PAINTINGS BY PORTLAND ARTIST WILLA

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2/28: FREYBERG ACADEMY
3/17: PORT CITY JAZZ
3/24: PORTLAND HIGH SCHOOL
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The way a baby bird crawled out of its shell and took its first wobbly steps, the ship carrying the doomed soldiers was set to sail. It was a moment of triumph and loss, a symbol of the human spirit's ability to overcome adversity.

The waves of grass on the hillside they were ordered to like it. Suddenly, the ship began to shake. It was a moment of panic, a realization that something was terribly wrong.

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