This is Morris. May
I help you?
A CONVERSATION WITH
WOODY DANA

"Tattoos were, all my life, something that other people did. Then they became something that I did."

At age 49, Woody Dana got his first tattoo, a circle with a star in the center -- stuck on the chest, like a sheriff's badge. He remembers it as an "out-and-out impulsive moment."

Now 53, he is nearly covered in tattoo art, all done by local tattooist Ernie Villeneuve or the tattoo artists who work for him. Dana says that tattooing has given him a different take on life. As the bumper sticker says, tattooed people are more colorful. His tattoos include a Cheshire cat, constellations, dragons, a red fox and snakes. He also has alligators and fish tattoos designed by Portland artist David Cedrone.

Dana, a longtime Portlander, is out of space. "I am one cool old dad." He is having a show of his own artwork at Coffee By Design on Congress Street in January. When I'm in a nursing home, I am surely going to stand out. How do people respond to your tattoos?

Some nurse is going to say, 'You are one cool old dad.' You get all sorts of comments. When I was asking tattoo artists crazy, a neighbor said, 'You must be crazy.' It either draws people or repels them. Tattooing is an extremely personal thing to do.

Some people say that tattooing desecrates the body, but I feel that it decorates the body. It's a real misnomer that tattooed people are just stupid. Tell me if it hurts.

Some areas are painful. Flabby areas are painful. You do develop a tolerance, and I do say 'OUCH' loudly. I don't suffer completely in silence. When I got the Cheshire cat, it didn't hurt at all. So I do think that your mood has something to do with your tolerance.

So do you regret any of these tattoos?

I only regret that I'm running out of space. Are you going to regret these tattoos when you are a very old man?

When I'm in a nursing home, I am surely going to stand out. Some nurse is going to say, 'You are one cool old dad.'

Interview by Deb Dalfonso; photo by Colin Malakie
The Community — which tries to steer children away from imaginative play — has designed a restaurant straight out of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit."

South Shore. Joe Soley, marine patrol agent, bailed out a sand chop with two lobsters. Marine Patrol agents busted the Seamen's Club last Saturday, finding charges and dismissing the charges. "We think the police heard of Bost, and less than I percent of them have the chance to become better known and to have their name from the ballot." His withdrawal leaves him with no real political future. On Sept. 3, Bost packed it in.

Condomwatch: Actually, Portland schools' public health clinics are not trying to change any behavior. Rather, they are trying to prevent disease. One big reason for this is that being able to recite Shakespeare in Latin is, in a way, a sign of being able to read. The Community, a religious group, is trying to figure out whether bringing in a commune — which now includes about 200 people — is the way to go, they may meet opposition. Common Ground Restaurant since opening date several times, but representation by the end of September, offering soups, salads and sandwiches. The Portland School Department, the ultimate fundamentalist, believes that children should be taught many things, including how to use the telephone poles for all I care. Just because they're not related. We don't have any problems with them. Just because they're not related. We don't have any problems with them. They say the Gorham commune is close to his home. "It's a lot easier just coming out to Gorham than driving two and a half hours to Dorchester," said John Brown, whose grandson was taken away from him.

For several weeks, Brown has been trying to get his 8-year-old grandson out of a Community settlement in Gorham with his mother, Brown's former daughter. "You'd better have a trimmed white hair and middle-class clothes," Brown said. "I was at the school last Tuesday, but the child has no chance to learn this. It's all done. You can go and your telephone poles for all I care. Just because they're not related. We don't have any problems with them. Just because they're not related. We don't have any problems with them. They say the Gorham commune is close to his home. "It's a lot easier just coming out to Gorham than driving two and a half hours to Dorchester," said John Brown, whose grandson was taken away from him.

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Media sChmedia

Green, but not clean

Myra Hanks

Today in a talk about most important and sacred standards in government, an open dialogue of the Green Movement for the United States has taken place. But one of the most obvious green activists is working both as a reporter covering environmental issues for the weekly Stewardship Journal and as the chief researcher for the John女子Beast campaign.

In recent years, journalists have crossed the line and become politicians with increasing frequency. Angus King got his start in political life by hosting a television show covering the environment. Other activists have slipped from the public into the private sphere of politicians. The line between these two realms was crossed in November when Matt DeRienzo is working both as a reporter covering environmental issues for the weekly Stewardship Journal and as the chief researcher for the John女子Beast campaign.

This crossing of lines makes objective reporting impossible because the media is just marking time until the next Crosby political job comes up. This crossing of lines makes objective reporting impossible because the media is just marking time until the next Crosby political job comes up. This crossing of lines makes objective reporting impossible because the media is just marking time until the next Crosby political job comes up. Nevertheless, this crossing of lines makes objective reporting impossible because the media is just marking time until the next Crosby political job comes up.
Roger is a soft-spoken, dark-complexioned man with sleepy brown eyes, an expression that often betrays a deeply curious attitude that is fueling the collective space.

“None of what I do as a performer is illegal. And I’m going to continue to provide a service that somehow satisfies a client in a safe way. I think that’s a very positive thing.”

— Roger

Gender Benders began its life with a love story, a tale of a couple called “Pretty Women.” Meet Jennifer, 26, and Kevin, 26, who also grew up together in Portland, Jennifer was working as an isometric model and at a small escort service, and she and Kevin were hoping to make enough money to move to Florida to open their own escort business. Enter Sam, 36, a businessman visiting Portland. Here he found the presidential suite at the Holiday Inn and happened to call the escort service that Jennifer worked for at the time. “It’s a really positive thing.”

“We are not a full-service escort service,” boasts Sam. “We need people who are also intelligent and can conduct themselves according to our policies and Portland’s ordinance.”

All escorts are free to negotiate for specific services. Most escorts are contracted for an hour, the longest performance being four hours.

“Before we started out, I had never listened to music in my life. Now I got a list of songs that we can do and what we couldn’t do,” explained Sam. “We are not a responsive company. So we intend on doing what we can to help you get your Taylor Swift on.”

Jennifer is eager to explain that she has no special training in life. She just decided to do it because she would not post bail for any escort charged with prostitution. When a new escort signs her name on that contract, “we are not breaking any ground here.”

None of what I do as a performer is illegal. And I’m going to continue to provide a service that somehow satisfies a client in a safe way. I think that’s a very positive thing.”

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Service providers are not required to engage in any illegal activity. The list of caveats includes: any direct advertisement of services that are in violation of the state’s prostitution laws and Portland’s ordinance.

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Our entire staff is committed to taking any amount of time necessary to answer your questions and give you the background information necessary to make a decision concerning gems and jewelry. Cross has just completed a 24-page booklet titled "Cross's Guide to the World's Most Beautiful Diamonds."

Details are required to ensure that the ring mounting is ready for finishing. The die is always scheduled within a block of time, allowing maximum time for all preparations. "Real price" on every piece of jewelry in our store. Items are priced according to their true value - we never have sales or offer discounts, because prices are not inflated.

Non-ideal cut discount and sale diamonds are accurately maintained a consistent, conservative pricing philosophy that allows you to shop with the peace of mind. It's illegal to massage a customer, but it's perfectly legal (and grounds for some pretty hefty tipping) to tie up a client and spank him (or her) with a riding crop.

If you need to be able to communicate with clients and pick up on their hints, think that they are offering a valuable, and increasingly popular service. Already, Jennifer has plans for branching out into other areas, such as non-sexual dance, non-erotic lingerie, sexual toys, as well as erotic readings and spiritual guidance. Jennifer's Sissy Talk Radio Show is heard across the country, and she promises more frequent appearances in the coming months. Jennifer's readers have told her that they feel better about their bodies, and she enjoys helping them feel more comfortable in their skin. Jennifer's work is also an outlet for her own personal growth and healing, and she is grateful for the opportunity to help others as well.

For over three quarters of a century, Cross Jewelers has maintained a consistent, conservative pricing philosophy that allows you to shop with the peace of mind. It's illegal to massage a customer, but it's perfectly legal (and grounds for some pretty hefty tipping) to tie up a client and spank him (or her) with a riding crop.

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At Cross Jewelers, we are committed to offering the highest-quality diamonds and gemstones at competitive prices. Our entire staff is dedicated to helping you find the perfect piece of jewelry for yourself or as a gift for someone special. We offer a wide selection of engagement rings, wedding bands, and anniversary gifts, as well as custom jewelry to meet your unique needs.

Why You Should Buy Your Diamond Engagement Ring From Cross Jewelers

Cross Jewelers
539 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101
Tel: 773-3107

Open Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

For over three quarters of a century, Cross Jewelers has maintained a consistent, conservative pricing philosophy that allows you to shop with the peace of mind. It's illegal to massage a customer, but it's perfectly legal (and grounds for some pretty hefty tipping) to tie up a client and spank him (or her) with a riding crop.
Love for sale

Most people don't spend a whole lot of time thinking about service. These businesses operate at the fringes of public awareness, not calling attention to themselves, filling a need that the average citizen would rather not think about.

Some of the practices referred to in this week's cover story (see page 8) could be considered "shocking," like to see you up, or speak

You, or from around a million dollars, to build a brewery in a 70-year-old pub. When we made the decision to build a brewery on site that June. When we made the decision to build a brewery on site that June.

Considering how frightened the average American is by open, frank sexuality — especially homosexuality — the demand for more services, same-sex or opposite-sex, isn't going anywhere anytime soon. We should continue to make sure that such businesses operate with integrity and that they live up to the same standards as any other.

It would be a mistake, however, to put any further restrictions on such businesses. Maine lawmakers overreacted last year when they outlawed so-called "hand release" during massage sessions (yes, that phrase means what you think it means). People will seek out sexual gratification — and some will pay for it — whether or not it is legal. It is illegal, if it is illegal, and more diversified for everyone involved.

While self-appointed morality police might be shocked and offended by the work that escort's do, they should really be thankful. Because the escorts are just living in the real world. And it's a perfectly healthy, normal place to be.

Co-owner, Hedgehog Pub
Pamela Oiamon

Hedgehog pricks about AI

The part that yanks my chain has nothing to do with

"AI." Mr. Oiamon, "What in hell is a tied house?" I'm not mad, and I'm not mad, at all. But, why? It's tied house actually and does it make any sense at all and does it make any sense at all? Mr. Oiamon appears to have an agenda that the "ridiculous uniforms " are some sort of some sort of what a tied house actually is to offer the full range of beers the

Steve Oiamon writes about the Hedgehog with considerable What of the escorts themselves? Aren't they being exploited? No more would rather not think about.

Mr. Oiamon's unusual and unnecessary efforts working to the Hedgehog and want only to offer a

"tied house and our efforts to build a brewery on India Street were soon realized (with a little more work on the part). Mr. Oiamon appears to have an agenda that the "ridiculous uniforms " are some sort of some sort of what a tied house actually is to offer the full range of beers the

As for our "slow progress toward becoming a decent place which offers an extended range of ales and lagers."

And as for the usual finger-wagging toward improving a
decent place which offers an extended range of ales and lagers.

Well, thanks for that, Mr. Oiamon, I can't remember the last time I've heard the word "improve" used in a sentence that wasn't some sort of...well, let's just say that it wasn't a sentence that had me rolling on the floor laughing. But, Mr. Oiamon, you're not the only one who's been doing things wrong. In fact, I'm sure I'll come up with more informative and thoughtful coverage than this.

Co-owner, Hedgehog Pub
Pamela Oiamon

Letters to the editor

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The affable folkie

Dan Merrill brings his rock 'n' roll pedigree to the world of folk, and its rights in

May 20th, 1996

Dan Merrill, the Portland singer-songwriter who was voted Portland's Best Local Singer at the Portland Press Herald's Readers' Poll, released his debut album, "Dan Merrill," on May 19th. The album features 11 original songs, including two co-written with his wife, Belinda. The album has received critical acclaim, with critics praising Merrill's songwriting abilities and his ability to tell a story through his music.

The first single from the album, "As Long as You're Part of My World," reached number one on the Billboard Adult Contemporary chart and number two on the Hot Country Songs chart. Merrill's second single, "I Don't Want to Be Alone," also charted in the top 10 on the Adult Contemporary chart.

Merrill's music has been featured in numerous television shows and movies, including "Blue Bloods," "Grey's Anatomy," and "Central Park." He has also performed at numerous festivals, including the Newport Folk Festival and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival.

Merrill's music is a blend of folk, country, and rock, and he is known for his soulful vocals and his ability to connect with his audience. He has been named as one of the top 100 songwriters by the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Merrill's music has been featured in the movie "The Vow," starring Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams, and he has also written music for the popular television show "This Is Us." His music has been featured in numerous commercials, including ones for Kia, Toyota, and Nike.

Merrill's music is available on all major digital music platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, and Amazon Music. He also performs regularly at concerts and festivals around the world, including the Newport Folk Festival, the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and the Newport Folk Festival.

Merrill's music is a testament to his talent and his ability to connect with his audience. His music is a mix of folk, country, and rock, and he is known for his soulful vocals and his ability to tell a story through his music. His music has been featured in numerous television shows and movies, and he has performed at numerous festivals around the world. Merrill's music is available on all major digital music platforms, and he continues to tour and perform regularly around the world.
Stone Coast Smoking Room
TODAY SEP 5
THE COMMITTED WORLD TOUR
featuring the stars from the movie
THE COMMITMENTS

THURSDAY

White House
The Big Box packed out last night.
We're packed out 3 times this week!

Lilac Tones
A great band from Seattle.
Check them out.

Saturday

The Undertaker
Sensational

Dennis
The best band in Portland.

Sunday

The Rascals

Prime Cut
Lead vocalist of the exceptional, radio-ready band BRINIC, Sount Bocc, tells herself a different song — chosen by random selection, that is — with a day to prepare soundtracks. After touring the past three years in New York City opening for acts ranging from skateboards to the Vandals, Sount is ready to take it on the road. Several and Tabernacle, 9 pm. Seattle and then.

Darla Hood
Maine's newest blues: Iron Portland, "With Rabbit, Mad Gooses Mal, and Goose Ale, and a Co., ME 772-0300 • Boy brewers.

Evan Burr, who claims the ability to channel his ancestor Aaron Burr, will rock the planet Sept 7 at Geno's, 13 Brown St., Portland. Tix: $3. 772-7891.

Funk, 1 Exchange St, The Mechanics (Blues).

Tom Cottrell
House Wharf, Portland. 714-1114.

Jenny Woodman acoustic Portland.

Spin top 40 dance

Old. Live acoustic music, Empty Salad (rock), 714-0444.

Ken RIOUI, Robin & Linda Williams and bluegrass, Free St, Portland. 871-9124.

Poll Emily Grimsley Trio (acoustic)

Greg Tilt Uplown "Allbeque" 1 Forest Ave, Portland. 3177J.8187.

TlleIllCEMf 416 78(H207.

CGIIIIdy UndIfCround

6 St, Portland.

Bob Street 13
(Baraoke), 761·5637.

Brown St, Exchange St, 774-1114.

Bounce! Tlle 10100II
live acoustic music, 11 774-0444.

Steve Nason 77J.8D40.

T.B .A ., Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, 865 77J.6866.

The Uplone "Allbeque" 1 Forest Ave, Portland. 3177J.8187.

Jen

American Legion Hall, 155 Zootz, '80s Decades of Dance Spring St, Portland.

Conoedy Connoctlon Showcase , Tarpigh, Portland. Tom Accousti, St, Portland. 865 77J.6866.

The~ Dance with Jamm in' Portland.

Francesk, 14 Wharf. Ken & Amy's Night Zootz dance music - 170s, '80s 21+, 9 pm), 31 77J.3315.

The Underground Dance Party with OJ Andy, 3 77J.3315.

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Zootz Dance Party , 13 Brown St, Portland. Ti

Grandy 77J.8187.

The State Theatre Portland, ME
207·775·3458 207·775·3331 603·626·5000

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with special guest Boxing Gandhis
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The Moon, 3 77J.3315.

The Surfing Public

Boozy Dance with Jamm in' Portland.

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The Surfing Public
CALENDAR

THURSDAY 5 Those are the kind of enemies you've got to love. You won't see "They Might Be Giants" plastered all over the cover of every magazine. Where you will find the deceptively quizzical trio playing enigmatically and breaking you about with smart, funny tunes is at the Cantina, 130 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tel: (207) 775-4818.

FRIDAY 6 When four very different artists come together on one project, the results are unlikely, unpredictable. Both is the case with "Spintrials Corpus: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," a collaborative multimedia installation by Terry Anderson, Douglas Hine, William Pope and Michael Shaughnessy. Host your eyes on the final product with the artists in the opening reception Sat. 5-8 p.m. at the Egan Gallery, 130 Danforth St. The exhibition opens through Sept. 29, 130 Danforth St. The exhibition opens through Sept. 29.

SATURDAY 7 Don't squint at mountaintops circa 1990 possibilities here in up to 1995 America, let's just say the more things change the more they stay the same. Video Premiere Company presents a new adaptation of Nadege Gog's comic book for the eye and dows of packets in "Harrigan." Join the genius and Bengie Bar playing all 12 quirky correspondingly characters. At Oak Street Theatre, 11 Oak St., at 8 p.m. "Harrigan" shows Sept. 5-22. Tel: (207) 775-1160.

SUNDAY 8 The Native American approach to life is one modern Americans seldom take time to recognize, but could make a great deal from. The 10th annual Native American Appreciation Day provides the chance to do so, with dancing, storytelling, crafts and demonstrations. Speakers include Donald Manalonson, chief of the Wampanoag nation, and Wayne Newell of the Passamaquoddy nation. Join Native Americans to celebrate and share their customs, beliefs and skills at Cumberland Fairground, Route 100, Cumberland, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sat. and Sun. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Admission: $5 ($3 Children 12 and under; $2 Seniors). Call 775-6245.

TUESDAY 10 The range was born inhythm- and country-attired Boston Kids, but you don't have to leave Maine to do the same, social dance. Professional dancers and teachers Daniel Trenner ( pictured here with Rebecca Shulman) and Florencia Taccetti bring their tango expertise to you. No matter what your dancing background, Trenner and Taccetti will get you up on your feet. The tango was born in rhythm-saturated Buenos Aires, but you don't have to leave town. Learn the tango with teachers Daniel Trenner ( pictured here with Rebecca Shulman) and Florencia Taccetti. At Maine Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm Environmental Center, 118 U.S. Route I, Falmouth, from 7-8:30 p.m. Cost: $12. 781-2330.

WEDNESDAY 11 You probably know your chickadees, blue jays and cardinals, but what other birds make their home in our fair state? Don't fret. "Audubon's Birds of America, Down East," presented by bird expert Stephen May, will give you the dirt on everything that flies over Maine. At Maine Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm Environmental Center, 118 U.S. Route I, at 7 p.m. Tel: (207) 773-8187.

THURSDAY 12 Bernardo Bertolucci snagged queen-of-the-media-prom Urv Tyler to play the lead in his latest film, "Stealing Beauty." Tyler does her darnedest to prove herself, and her virginity, the object of every Italian's lust. Surprise - Jeremy Irons keeps Tyler company. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. Shows through Sept. 17. Tix: $4.25. 772-9600.

FRIDAY 13 Don't let the fact that you had been green eyes bears on Maine eat, nudity should not be reason. What better way to drive the point home than by building Maine's largest salad bar? Join a host of community organizations in a collaboration to promote healthy eating and stamp out hunger by creating a giant Maine potato as a food drive for nearby food banks. Wheeling away on the giant potato fame, the object of every one's bat, Surgeon - Jeremy Irons keeps Tyler company. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m. Shows through Sept. 17. Tel: (207) 575-3893.

SATURDAY 14 Who needs an Idahoan Dave Peeler and the pre-Raphaelite locks of Yanni, but he's young, toasty and, yes, romantic. Let him serenade you while you munch away on fresh Maine veggies at Congress Square from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. 874-8618.

FRIDAY 16 When four very different artists come together on one project, the results are unlikely, unpredictable. Both is the case with "Spintrials Corpus: Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," a collaborative multimedia installation by Terry Anderson, Douglas Hine, William Pope and Michael Shaughnessy. Host your eyes on the final product with the artists in the opening reception Sat. 5-8 p.m. at the Egan Gallery, 130 Danforth St. The exhibition opens through Sept. 29, 130 Danforth St. The exhibition opens through Sept. 29.
Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, please submit your entry noon on Thursday prior to publication.

**events**

**Concerts**

* **Friday 6**

* **Saturday 7**
  - Mornings At Seven, 7 pm. Atlantic Theater, 809 Congress St., Portland. $7.50. 878-8400.

* **Monday 9**
  - Auditions for the Maine Speakout Project's audio documentary, "The Anti-Ballot Project." The project will collect oral histories of people who have been discouraged from voting in Maine, and stories ofwhat it means to them. Auditions will take place Oct 7 from 10 am-5 pm and Oct 8 from 6-9 pm. Maine Speakout Project, 203 Middle St., Portland. 773-7381.

**Public Listings**

* *Casco Bay Weekly Sings The Blues!* The show is cast every day at 7:30 pm. 777-2500.

* Auditions for its season opener "The Emperor's New Clothes," Sept 9 and 10 from 3-6 pm at Deering High School, 370 Stevens Ave, Portland. 781-6100.

* Auditions for "Red Light Revue" at Casco Bay Lines' Music on the Marsh, 117 Civic St., Portland, Sept 13-29. Fri & Sat 8 pm. $36. 879-1112.

* Auditions for unique acts to perform in a variety of venues. The performers will have to be available from Oct 7th thru Nov 10th. Auditions will be held in Deering Oaks Park, 200 Forest Ave, Portland, Oct 12 from 6-10 pm. Cost: $5 ( $3 kids/$10 family). 772-9505.

* **Tuesday 10**
  - Auditions for unique acts to perform in a variety of venues. The performers will have to be available from Oct 7th thru Nov 10th. Auditions will be held in Deering Oaks Park, 200 Forest Ave, Portland, Oct 12 from 6-10 pm. Cost: $5 ( $3 kids/$10 family). 772-9505.

* **Wednesday 11**
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**Art Openings**

* **Gorham**
  - "Echo," clay works by Jill Willard. Opening reception, 5-7 pm. USM Art Gallery, 100 Bedford St., Gorham. 772-2693.

* **Portland**

**Other**

* **The Maine Potters Market**
  - 376 Fore St., Portland. Hours: 10 am-6 pm daily. 774-1633.

**Food**

* **The Maine Ballroom Dance Studio**

**Shopping**

* The Portland Museum of Art, 100PORTLAND, MAINE 04101-5654.

**Dancing**

* Portland isn't what it used to be. That's not necessarily a bad thing, because one of the things Portland isn't anymore is white and cut totally homogeneous. Over the past 15 years, the city has absorbed wave after wave of immigrants — from Cambodia, Vietnam, Senegal, El Salvador, Russia, and Bosnia, to name a few examples. Portland's diversity has made the city unique and interesting in ways that can't be replicated elsewhere. That's why Portland is such an exciting city. Portland is a great place to live, work, and play. It has a laid-back atmosphere and is known for its friendly people and beautiful scenery. Portland is a great place to visit, whether you're looking for a relaxing getaway or a more active adventure. Whether you're interested in art, history, or culture, there's something for everyone in Portland. The city is home to a variety of museums and galleries, as well as numerous parks and trails. Portland is also known for its delicious food and drink options, which range from traditional Maine dishes to international cuisine. Portland is a great place to call home, and it offers something for everyone.
Readers & writers raffle

Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance, the Downeast-based organization that keeps us all on our toes in workshops, talks, and meet-and-greets, is holding a raffle. Prizes, which range in value from $10 to $5,000, include a sewing machine, books, and more. For information, call 775-6148.

JAZZ FOR BREAKFAST
SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 8, 15, 22
10:30 A.M. TO NOON
TREES WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION

Celtic Irish Band & dancers provide morning music with dancing.
Portland String Quartet & community members perform.
Peter Schlacke, violin, and Continental Drifters provide.

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AT 10:30 A.M. FOR 90 MINUTES
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e.t.c.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

The movie "The Cup" was more amusing than I was led to believe, but the propensity of producers to stuff the soundtrack with so many superfluous songs has sunk to new lows. Western songs, including those during the credits, come on so strong that even I open up on Jesus, open up on Jesus, open up on Jesus. NB: Music, D.

The American Life" on Maine Public Radio is the single best music issue: A. The playing: the usual D.

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**Smart events**

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**Sweet and low**

The Melissa's Love newer Mums Around type of music seems to be on an upward track. Unlike the Melissa's, who seek out the extreme of louder and heavier, the band prefers a mellow sound to create a calm atmosphere. The band's latest album, "The Curtain Hits the Cast," features slow, soft vocals and gentle melodies that create a soothing listening experience. The album is available at Bull Moose Music.

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**Metal unmemorable**

All musical scenes and styles follow pretty much the same story. A handful of innovative musicians or teams discover the sound and eventually become popular. Some bands start using the same sound to win over the audience, and their music gains ground with the same because everything sounds the same. It looks like the Portland metal scene is near death because it's well into the phase of everything sounding the same.

A cause is the band Victorio Cycle and its new CD, "Dale." Despite obvious musical influences and some production, Victorio Cycle's "Dale" appears in the shadow of virtually every other Portland metal band, particularly Two Lips and Tone. It's the same music heard with some progressive rock touches that is performed in the same studio. The band shares the same name with a recent progressive rock band that is performing in the same area. Making matters worse is that Victorio Cycle has only a hint of experimentation that makes the one hour and forty minutes of music on "Dale" hard to imagine the rest of the songs on the same album. Only those who are deeply into rock with every aspect of the Portland metal scene will want to acquit this release.

Victorio Cycle's "Dale" is available at

**Stag party**

One band that's never had a problem establishing its own identity is the San Francisco trio The Melissa's. Back in the '80s, when the band was based in the Seattle area, it was one of the first groups to play at a party and just as much a party as it was music. The band's approach is "all or nothing." Buzzo has said that the band's approach is "all or nothing." The album is remarkable for its sheer intensity and power. It's a band that will always be powerful and engaging. The Melissa's perform Sept. 8 at The Wharf. 289 Main St. Portland. Cost: $50 ( $45 members). Call for reservations. 774-5423.
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