Greetings from Portland, city of the '80s

Who cares if we are a little behind the times? Cinch up your skinny tie and grab a glass of bubbly, cuz tonight we're gonna party like it's 1985!

Your guide to the city of the '80s begins on page 8

Spin mistress  8  Election results  4  Hip check  14
Congress Street Minutes  25  Portland  31
**Veteran's Day Weekend**

**Ski & Snowboard Super Sale**

**FREE LIFT TICKET**

With any Downhill Ski Package Purchase this weekend!

**Ski Packages starting @ $799/!!**

- *Rossignol, Salomon, Atomic, K2, Elan*
- *Rossetignol VSC (complete pkg) $249*
- *Atomic MegaCarvX (complete pkg) $299*
- *Rossignol 4S (complete pkg) $479*
- *Junior Ski Packages starting @ $170*
- *Junior Helmets starting @ $70*

**SNOWBOARDS**

- *Burton, Morrow, K2, Rossginol, Oxygen, Sims*
- *Morrow Model T w/Bindings $349*
- *Riton A Board $249*
- *Burton Customs Board $399*
- *K2 Fathob Board $349*

**Snowboard Boots**

- *Burton, Airwalk, Shimano, K2, Vans*
- *Cleekar Bindings Systems*

**Super Select Ski**

- *They're in and All on Sale*
- *K2 Four, Rossginol Cut, Salomon, axendo, Atomic MegaCarvX*

**X-Country Ski Packages starting @ $150!**

**Stone Grind Tune-Up**

- *30.99*
- *(reg. $25.99)*

**Joe Jones**

Professional Sales & Service

Your Ski & Snowboard Superstore

Payne Rd. Plaza • Opposite Walmart • Scarborough • 885-5635/885-JOEJ

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**A CONVERSATION WITH DOT GOOGINS**

**November 7, 1996**

**DOT GOOGINS**

Gandhi is said to have remarked that everyone should spin for at least two hours a day because it "levels a person out." It has been said that the simple approach to anything that needs sorting out is the best approach.

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**Is spinning relaxing for you?**

Yes. This is my time. We've all got something, or we'd never make it — some private relaxing hobby that rejuvenates us for that other life we have to live. It's a good problem-solving time. When I spin, I find the simple and direct approach to anything that needs sorting out.

**What are you spinning?**

I've been working on a keeshond — a Dutch breed of dog. It will be plied with sheep wool to make a sweater.

**Why would anyone want anything made from a dog?**

It's a way of immortalizing a pet. This way, you have something that endures. It's the enduring, collected over a few years' time whatever the animal was given. What I'm doing here is actually the best and right thing to do. There is a rhythm there, a slowing-down. Conversation here is quiet and easy.

**What can you make from a black bear?**

Socks, mittens. We use the soft, fluffy undercoat. Cougar also makes a good pair of mittens. Most all animals have wool if they live in a cold climate. There's no hurting the animal. We use what the animal drops when they shed.

**Will you spin forever?**

Always. In ancient times, women were buried with their drop spindles.

By Deb Dalfonso; photo by Tonee Harbert

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**Stone Coast**

**Professional Sales & Service**

**Your Ski & Snowboard Superstore**

Payne Rd. Plaza • Opposite Walmart • Scarborough • 885-5635/885-JOEJ

---

**Grill the Tuna**

**Fish & Chips**

**Great Sandwiches**

**Fresh Grilled Tuna**

**Blackened Swordfish**

**Sunday Live Jazz Brunch**

**The Best Beer in the Universe**

---

**J.B. Brown Ale**

**5 Points E.S.B.**

**Harvest Wheat Ale**

**Black Bear Porter**

**Old Port "Hophead" Pils**

**773-Beer**

---

**420 I.R.A.**

**Brewery & Restaurant**

**Stone Coast**

**A Conversation with Dot Googins**

**It's a wonderful break from the real world.**

---

**Payne Rd. Plaza • Opposite Walmart • Scarborough • 885-5635/885-JOEJ**
Bridge under construction
How Greater Portland voted

LAURA CORKERY

Before democracy to Maine could
...
acon P. 13
There were a few key words out of the text... In the middle, you"ll have to excuse me, but I think
People have been some of the most common. Everyone tells me "The Cold," but I don’t believe them. There’s always "The Cold," around. Can you remember the last time you said that you felt like you were coming down with or had something and someone didn’t say “Oh, that’s going around,” or “I had that?” People get competitive about how bad The Cold is, or we will. I don’t join their misery games, though, because I’m a Yankee, and Yankees never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, even...
No Scott Sutherland

City of the '80s

The 1980s were a time of economic and cultural change. The decade was marked by a growing concern for the environment, a rise in the popularity of personal computers, and a shift in the focus of corporate America from efficiency to innovation. The decade also saw a growth in the arts, with many regions embracing their own local arts districts.

In Cincinnati, the Forest City, there was a sense of pride in being a part of the national arts scene. The city was a hub for artists and cultural organizations, with the Mapplethorpe brouhaha in 1988 highlighting the city's commitment to free speech and artistic expression. Carolyn Cosby, founder of the anti-gay group Concerned Marian Family Values, was a vocal opponent of the art world, arguing that it was a threat to traditional values.

According to Troy Andrews, general manager of the Portsmouth Patriots, the team's success was a result of the city's vibrant corporate culture. The team's financial troubles had a lot more to do with the failure of McClure's Shockers than with the team's performance on the court.

McClure took over the Mountain Cats in May 1996 and would have to end the season without a win. The team's massive debt was a result of McClure's lack of financial management. The team's troubles had a lot more to do with McClure's lack of financial management than with the team's performance on the court.

The great thing about being a decade off the '80s is that everybody else gets to make the mistakes for us. We'll do the '80s our way.
The '97's are in! Have some fun this Christmas.

10 Cinnamon Artisans
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

The '97's are in! Have some fun this Christmas.

Saturday, November 9 - Monday, November 11

Newfields Christmas Shop, the local entry to the summer's United States Basketball League (now "Everywhere tour to the world"), turned out to be a pleasant surprise. The squad went 18-12, finished third in the league, averaged 100 points a game — and didn't suffer the services of Steve Ball, the former NBA player who at one point was trades as the team's Mad Hatter. Sadly, Minet played a key role in the Cats, when told of his latest opportunity in Portland, he thought it meant he was traded to the Portland Trail Blazers. Of more immediate immediate interest to many Portlanders: When will the new home that will become of the Portland City Sitter?

HAPPY people: Tailgate at the Rent on the Bay Club.

Launching the show. It's far too hot for this stuff and they're dreary, it's been so long since I've heard that. Of course, boobies would say there's a reason for shorter, hotter days...•

The '97's are in! Have some fun this Christmas.

Many of the times Raymond plays continue the radio station of the Island of Misfit Toys, but they season a certain happy-go-lucky chrysalis drawing from much of today's product. "The '97's are a great place for me — it's a little easier to start, there was all this innovation going on and it was just fun. Music was a concern and had a groove tree..."

Raymond describes most of his show's listeners as "most fans of '97 music," festively doting in one show in hopes of catching something of their flavor by Wowy Chang. Maybe Steve White Won's "Stay Right Here" is waiting to come out, but they're introduced by Portland's latent rock & roll classics as well, he says. "They might learn to love, but they will need to know..."

Signs of the times
It was money that got everybody good and painted in the Age of Avarice, but if you really wanted to get off you did a good job. And then, of course, you did a little more.

While the drug world eventually disappeared of much of cheaper, even more powerful higher highs, Portland maintained a loyal regard for coke. "Cocaine in Portland is still as popular as it ever was," says Roger M. Stricker, director of the Portland-based Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. "There don't think we're going to see a decrease until the numbers of the drug's use are up"...\n
Imagine earning Holiday cash for a pinprick at Portland Biologicals...

Smarest, easiest thing you ever heard of... I get cash for a good deed. $130 a month. $1560 cash a year, all mine. Donating, I sit or just dream, in a place filled with friends. 60 min. later I'm up and away, smiling, cash in hand.

Come In...it's that easy!
Hours M, F 8-4 T, Th 9-6 & Sat 8-3

\n
THE AIDS PROJECT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS BIOLOGIST BRIAN MARCOTIE, PH.D.

"What will become of the Portland City Sitter?"

Do you really want to hurt me?

Biddle biddies, bewitched bennies, mega-taped mega-mongers — such was Portland's electronic abbreviation Westwood Bank of the University of New England, on one, there was mid-Depp playing on between Maine Medical Center and on two years ago, Maine Medical Bank tried to absorb both Hispanic Medical Center and Mercy through an oft-repeated merger, but Mercy wouldn't play. Now the joint metamorphic Maine Medical is seeking state approval for an expansion, complete with its headquarters in the Portland Pavilion.

PORTLAND AID PROJECT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTS BIOLOGIST BRIAN MARCOTIE, PH.D.

PATHOLOGIST!!

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Back in August, we published a story about the family of a man named Ibrahim Shire Hirsi ("Heavy metal Huss," 8.22.96). Ibrahim, a refugee from Somalia who arrived in Portland in January with his wife and nine children, discovered last summer that his two youngest daughters, Hamdi and Sirad, had elevated levels of lead in their blood. An inspection of the family’s apartment by city and state officials revealed that the source of the poisoning— which could permanently damage the nervous systems of the young girls— was the very apartment in which they were living.

Well, some stories have happy endings, and Ibrahim recently showed up at our offices with good news. Not long after our story was published, he and his family were offered a two-bedroom apartment by the Portland Housing Authority. The family, which had been crammed into a small two-bedroom apartment on Cumberland Avenue, now has a decent, lead-free place to live. Already, Hamdi and Sirad’s blood lead levels are dropping.

We also note from the Portland Public Health Department saying that as a result of our story, there had been an increase in calls from people who wanted to know more about lead poisoning. Many of them had been unaware that lead is a real and present danger in Portland’s aging housing stock. 

Ibrahim’s family is already facing a new round of uncertainty, however. He still has not been able to find a job, despite a good education and fluent English, and he is worried about what welfare reform will mean for his family.

Remember when?

As I read your article "No Mercy!" (10.17.96) regarding the Maine Medical Center and Mercy Hospital, I wondered how many Portland residents are aware of the closing of the "life" Children’s Hospital at the corner of High and Cumberland Streets.

This was the hospital where my child was born, and where my own mother was born. I was born in 1941.

The last board meeting where Dr. Harold Flagg spoke with the last blood test was all official, and Dr. Flagg was last. He went back to his Columbus home, and he is dead at 90.

"Children’s Hospital" was a great place to work, with dedicated professionals in pediatrics.

I have not been able to come up with the number who donated funds to the Maine General Medical Center for the new Children’s Hospital, which was expected to be ready by 1942.

"Children’s Hospital" was at the corner of High and Cumberland. Its address was 255 Cumberland Avenue.

Remember when?

In reviewing your review, I was impressed with the enthusiasm and the enthusiasm of the readers of your review. However, I have some questions about the review.

First, I was impressed with the enthusiasm and the enthusiasm of the readers of your review. However, I have some questions about the review.

1. What was the review about?
2. What did you think of the book?
3. Did you enjoy the book?
4. Did you find the book inspiring?
5. What was your favorite part of the book?
6. What did you not like about the book?
7. Would you recommend the book to others?
8. What other books have you read recently?
9. Did you have any questions or comments about the review?
10. What did you learn from the review?

Remember when?

I have been reading your paper now for about three years, and I have been eagerly awaiting every issue for years, sent to my mother in Arizona.

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edGe

Ping-Pong Madness ... Good Eats at Zygote ... Piano man
PCC MORE HUGS FOR THE YE ... PING PONG MAKES THE TEMPO ... NEW STORE AT BAM ISLAND ... THE NOSE WORLD OF PLAYWRIGHTS

I, trendsetter
A right-this-very-minute, clogs-to-martini's guide to what's hip and hot in Portland

Ellen Mccllister
Do you want to be the hippest, most happening guy crossing the streets of Portland? Do you know what's going down before it actually happens? Then have you been to a clog store? There is a clog store, from America to Australia to Europe, that is hitting our city square with a brand new twist. It's called "Hogtown Boots," and it's where you can find the latest and greatest in clog fashion. This store is not just about selling clogs; it's about revolutionizing how we look at footwear.

If white rock isn't your cup of tea, head to Top of the East in the Radisson. Top of the East, prided for its menu and its location downtown, is a quiet corner that draws business and downtown warriors. And it just so happens, in a little gem found in a quiet spot, that its location downtown is a gem worth stopping for.

For those who enjoy a bit of a challenge, the Portland State University's Big Sounds From the Midwest is a must-see. This event is a celebration of the diversity and talent of the local music scene. From the heart of the Midwest, this event brings together musicians from all over the region, showcasing their unique sounds and styles.

If you're a fan of jazz, then you can't miss the piano man's performance at the Portland Performing Arts' Big Sounds From the Midwest. This event features a variety of performers, including the legendary jazz artist, who will be playing a set filled with his signature tunes. Don't miss out on this amazing experience.
Prime cut
Variety blues guitarist EDDIE KIRKLAND has worked at the forefront of so many exciting musical trends over the years — he was playing with John Lee Hooker during the birth of electric blues and R&B and working with Otis Redding for two decades before the People of Soul — that you can’t help wondering how he manages to keep working. But he does. You can catch up on the由 way he motivates the energy to keep working.

Earth Crisis, One King Down

Cayo, App. Bar, Portland

The Comedy Connection
Comedian Connection Feature (7 pm), Comedy Connection Open Mic (10 pm), Portland, 772-2339.

Free Street Tavern

Top of the Wall & Cigar Room
Open Mic (7 pm), Portland, 772-5554.

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Greg Powers, 11pm
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Open Mic (7 pm), Portland, 772-5554.

The Comedy Connection
Comedian Connection Feature (7 pm), Comedy Connection Open Mic (10 pm), Portland, 772-2339.
Not by bread alone

Does Portland really need another cafe, you may ask yourself? The answer is definitely yes when the new cafe serves not only coffee and breakfast, but also such delicacies as grape noodles with fresh mango, lime, cilantro, sesame seeds and tofu sauce.

The cafe, Zygot Bookworks & Cafe, located at 43 Pleasant St in Portland, aims to create a cozy, creative atmosphere.

The cafe is open Mon-Fri from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sat-Sun from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The menu includes breakfast items such as oatmeal with fresh fruit, eggs benedict, and a variety of sandwiches and wraps. For lunch, there are salads, sandwiches, and soups. The cafe also offers a selection of pastries and baked goods.

The venue also hosts various events and workshops, including book readings, poetry slams, and writing workshops. Visitors can enjoy a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate while engaging in creative activities.

Zygot Bookworks & Cafe is open to the public, and the cafe encourages rooters to purchase gift certificates for friends and family.

Opening reception for "Genius Loci: A Sense of Place.", an exhibition of works by six painters reflecting the importance of memory and personal connection. The event takes place on October 8 at 4-6 p.m.

Winbury Comics is located at 200 Maine Mall Road, across from the Maine Mall, adjacent to Ainsley Pointe. The store is open Mon-Fri from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sat-Sun from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Winbury Comics is a popular destination for comic book enthusiasts, offering a vast selection of graphic novels, trade paperbacks, and specialty items.

Winbury Comics is known for its knowledgeable staff, who can assist customers in finding the perfect gift for a comic book lover.

Winbury Comics is an important part of the local community, hosting events such as signings, workshops, and Meet & Greets with comic book artists and writers.

Winbury Comics provides a safe and welcoming environment for all ages, encouraging a love for reading and storytelling.

Winbury Comics is the perfect place for both casual and dedicated comic book enthusiasts to gather, discover new titles, and connect with like-minded individuals.
calendart

If you're in the mood for freebies, veggies and punch, then put on your best duds and check out two new art exhibitions:

the Danforth Gallery's "An American Collection," paintings and other works by artists with disabilities from across the country and The Buxton Gallery's "Garboid: A Series of Prints," works by six printmakers reflecting the importance of memory and personal connection to the world around us. At the Danforth Gallery, 60 Congress St., from 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday and the Buxton Gallery, 14 Danforth St., 4:7 p.m. Thursday.

Friday 8

The memory may be deceiving, but temperatures will be on the rise when Portland Opera Company presents "Hansel and Gretel" an evening of contemporary dance in memory of Harriet Lobert, former company member, dancer, choreographer and voice artist. Among the works to be performed are "An Antidote" Christy Cooper, "A Dance in the Rain" Harriet Lobert, "Franky" and "Birthday Cake" Tracey Ziolek. At Portland Opera Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 8 p.m. Also Nov. 15. For tickets (773-2316, 773-2356), Saturday 9

There's been a lot of talk this election year about the impact of the mother's vote. How strong is that in your community? Find out at Portland High School Auditorium, 284 Cumberland Ave., at 8 p.m. Also Nov. 9.

Friday 9

Nights at the Opera are no longer limited to the traditional tenor and soprano voices. We've thrown open the doors to a whole world of voices in Portland Opera Company's "Sorrows of Isabella Mustphera," sung in Latin. At Portland Opera Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 8 p.m. For tickets (773-2316, 773-2356), Saturday 10

The Portland Stage Company presents "A View from the Bridge" by Arthur Miller, set in the 1940s in Brooklyn, where a man (John P. Collins) is reunited with his wife (Sandra Hill) and their young daughter (Alexandra Rafferty) only to discover that the young woman (Christina Christiano) is living with a man (Trevor Killian) who is secretly her brother. At the Portland Stage Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 8 p.m. Also Saturday, 11 a.m. Also Sunday.

"The Barber of Seville" by Rossini, sung in Italian. At the Portland Opera Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 2 p.m. Also Nov. 15.

Saturday 11

Portland Opera Company presents "La Traviata," sung in Italian. At the Portland Opera Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 6 p.m. Also Saturday, 7 p.m.

The Portland Stage Company presents "The Matchmaker," set in the 1930s in a small town in the Midwest, where a young woman (Ariana Margolis) is reunited with her ex-fiancé (Mark L. Frei) only to discover that the young man (David Lourie) is secretly her brother. At the Portland Stage Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 2 p.m. Also Saturday, 7 p.m.

"The Barber of Seville" by Rossini, sung in Italian. At the Portland Opera Company, 128 Cumberland Ave., at 2 p.m. Also Nov. 15.
From Russia with love
A couple of Saturdays ago, my significant other and I were wandering around the Old Port when we came upon two men painting a bright red lobster on foam core in Post Office Park. The work was done to the beat of Russian music, bongos on the ground, in entreating tones.

As we set up a victory lunch to catch the final rays of lingering sun while we sipped our coffees, I heard one of the men speak fluent Russian. As it turned out, the men weren’t just any passers — they were Dmitri Tuzles and Evgeni Novoselov, artists in their 20’s from Archangel, Russia, who were part of the ongoing cultural exchange between Portland and its sister city, Abby Huntoon, a Portland artist who works with clay and who visited Archangel last June, handed the color and some Russian chocolate wafers. Marina Klasavlch, a beautiful blonde who is a former Archangel resident but has lived in Portland for the past six years, acted as translator and video camera operater.

Abby and I chased as we watched the LT. WBL.M do quick acrylic color to their work, which began to look more and more like a cubist-style interpretation of a lobster. Dmitri, the more garrulous of the two, conversed with Marina in a steady stream of rapid, lyrical Russian, as well as creating outlines and shapes directly with the tubes. The artists were in town for eight days, having arrived at the height of our most recent snowstorm. During their stay, they had been doing an art exhibit in the Falconwood woods, the Portland Museum of Art, and were pleased to see the PMA’s cubism exhibit of Russian art.

Dmitri drew watercolor illustrations for children’s books; he does pastel and oil paintings, and makes video and work as well as paintings. Evgeni creates wood and paper cut work, as well as a panel. In the park, both of them painted with great intent for their work, energetically filling in swatches of color by brush as well as creating outlines and shapes directly with the tubes.

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“People are good everywhere, I enjoy different people,” said Dmitri. “But artists are the best people. Therefore, more artists make for a better country.”

In Archangel, Dmitri draws watercolor illustrations for children’s books; he does pastel and oil paintings, and makes video and work as well as paintings. Evgeni creates wood and paper cut work, as well as a panel. In the park, both of them painted with great intent for their work, energetically filling in swatches of color by brush as well as creating outlines and shapes directly with the tubes.

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Dmitri, the more garrulous of the two, conversed with Marina in a steady stream of rapid, lyrical Russian as he painted. Congenial and animated, he wore a blue work shirt and a tiny gold cross around his neck. Evgeni was quieter than Dmitri, but good-natured. He had a merry sparkle in his eye and a professional look about him, with his beard, glasses and his handsome green suit.

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The work they were doing in Post Office Park (which, incidentally, contains bright orange Japanese mailboxes donated by Portland’s other sister city, Shinagawa, Japan) was to be a gift to the city of Portland. Abby wasn’t sure exactly where the work would be displayed, but Portland City Hall, Maine State House, and the Civic Center were among the possibilities. When asked what they would do with the work, Dmitri came up with the appropriate title: “Red Lobster From Portland.”

Through Marina, I asked Dmitri what impressed him most about Portland. “Everything is wonderful,” he said. “And I would find the lobster more impressive, except that they are living beings which are cooked alive.” He followed that comment offensively, “If you’re interested in becoming involved in or making donations to the Archangel Exchange Programs, write to: The Archangel Committee, P.O. Box 186, Portland, ME 04102.

Annie Zekonia is a local writer and Slavophile.
Rock 'n' farce
Moliere meets East Village youth culture in a "Scapin" for the '90s

MARY STAMATEL
Portland Stage Company's new artistic director, Anita Stewart and Christopher Alford, have taken Moliere's classic farce, "Scapin," and set it in the heart of East Village new age culture.

The story is classical farce. The servant Scapin (Johnny Garcia) must help (Mark Fish) persuade their Octave (Drew McVety) and Leandre (Adam LeRoy) as they please. The fathers, Argante (Jordan Lund) and Geronte (Ron Botting), have other, more lucrative unions in the purse strings shut immediately upon hearing of their sons' disobedience. Scapin enlists another servant (Richard Topol) to work the old area into appearing of the fathers as they have chosen.

Scapin easily colors the entire play, with the traditional farcical elements of slapstick and buffoonery. The players rely on both physical and verbal humor to buoy the play, and most of the verbal humor is contemporary. At one point, the audience is led to believe that Scapin is a stock actor with chameleonic skills, and both his parents are in on the game for the sack, which makes for a humorous scene in which Scapin tries to get his parents to help him out of a jam.

Garcia, meanwhile, makes a slick, high-voltage Scapin. He plays it like the small guy whose best punches come from his brain via his mouth. Scapin is the character that bridges the pop culture and the classics, the free between audiences and period footlights. His character is a comic who, through both his words and his playing, makes the audience laugh. The cast is solid, with the exception of the father figures, who are less than convincing. The production is a triumph of physical comedy and verbal wit, and the audience is left laughing and wondering what the future holds for this cast.

The story is about love, family, and the struggle between the generations. It is a classic farce, and the audience is left laughing and wondering what the future holds for this cast. The production is a triumph of physical comedy and verbal wit, and the audience is left laughing and wondering what the future holds for this cast.

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