Portland officials may redevelop the area around Marginal Way — replacing dilapidated warehouses with bright new bookstores, crumbling houses with a sparkling sports arena. Before the planners whitewash the city's ugliest side, we present one man's view of its beauty.
Look Your BEST  
Feel Your BEST

Mercedes

Melissa

Rachel Kadish will read from her debut novel,
"From A Sealed Room," at
BOOKS ETC
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Portland, ME 04101
www.booksetc.com

In this moving debut novel, set in Jerusalem just after the Gulf War, the sealed room in which an In this moving debut novel, set in Jerusalem just after the Gulf War, the sealed room in which an

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Carri~

The Get Down Funnest Bar in Portland

The boys love her because she's funny, she laughs and she takes over.

From A Sealed Room...A Novel

DECEMBER 9, 1998

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GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

DECEMBER 11TH
WINTER BREAK

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Kids 12 and under get FREE lift tickets, perfect Kids programs & rentals, and 50% off child care. Must book 2 nights by calling 1-800-THE-LOAF.

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Desserts of distinction to help celebrate the holiday season. Bubbe de noels, cakes, tarts and pastries as well as a wide variety of colors.

A CONVERSATION WITH
TALK MAGGIE ALLEN

"Whenever young girls are experiencing some of that clone-ness, Xena emerges."

For two years, educator Maggie Allen has used a superhero persona to help teach her fifth-grade class at Portland's Maine's Educational Elementary School in South Portland.

Why did you choose Xena, Warrior Teacher? As your alter ego? Not a comic about one Friday when we had James Day—I wore Xena pants and one of the boys started saying, 'XENA! That was all the prompt I needed, because at that time I was really struggling with the fact that all the girls in my classroom were wearing in hit electrode. Xena has that 'snarkyometimes and they lose their power because girls are taught this idea that they have to do something that is impossible to fit in. Girl power is about being able to connect to your inner power, your uniqueness. Which means you can be your true self without always looking over your shoulder and asking yourself, 'Is she going to stick out? Who is it?' The beauty is, if you look at the happy and successful people, they are the people who do stick out.

What do the boys think about Xena? The boys love her because she's funny, she laughs and she takes over.

Give me an example of Xena at work.

When we came back from our field trip the next day there was a bee in the bus and all of the kids were upset. So I stood up and screamed, 'Xena, Warrior Teacher! I'm going to save you. And I killed it with my bare hands."

How long will you use Xena? I'm sure with time, as Xena is no longer on TV, the kids won't be able to connect to her and I'll find something else. I always try to make a connection with something they know and with a message I want to give them.

What stereotypes does Xena face? Imagine you go up to a boy and you say, 'Roger, you look great today.' A boy would think that's demeaning because it is, but we do that all the time with girls. The message they get is that it's so much more important to appear a certain way than to just be."

Do you ever run into other superheroes in the hall? I have superheroes in my class. Every girl who survives growing up in the '90s is a true superhero.
Mary Had A Little Sherpa. 
(And she never took it off)

John has 2 oranges and is on a train traveling south at 45 MPH.

Jane has 3 apples and is on a train traveling north at 55 MPH.

Ted has 1 orange and 1 apple and is sitting at home.

How long will it take for John, Jane and Ted to
meet?

Find out why the Double Grande Pizza—two delicious 14-
inch topplings for only $13.99—is the answer to everything!

I'm a lover, not a fighter
In the wake of Minnesota's election of a professional wrestler as governor, leaders of Maine's political parties are divided. The state's political landscape is being redefined by a new century and a new way of thinking.

The battle for the governor's mansion is heating up, with candidates from both major parties vying for the top spot. Voters are being presented with a range of options, from traditional politicians to tech-savvy entrepreneurs.

The race is not just about policy, it's about who can connect with voters. Candidates are using social media and other digital tools to reach out to potential voters.

In the end, it's up to the people of Maine to decide who they want as their governor. The choice is yours.

I'm a lover, not a fighter.
Sofa, so good

I thought when the day arrived that I was last able to make this kind of commitment, the house would quiet and weep for me. I required the "Salvation Army." Men need courage. I resolved my mother buying a couch in a stork. Visitors went to all her friends. "He's doing it. She's doing it. Right now. I bought that new couch because it just sounded around the network of people; it would have been the stuff of all Bill Gates' hears. And, unlike from the food, I would not be a bitch. I was too busy to do the math.

The truth is, I think everyone had given up on me. What seemed hopeless to them, however, was just another ploy on my part. I had to be seen. I wasn't going to rush into anything; I had to know the match was right. And after years of yearning and searching and deliberation, I finally did.

I bought a couch.

Big deal, you say. But, geez, reader, probably fished college in dot itours, have been able to hold down a job for longer than 20 minutes. Two houses, are responsible enough to have pets at home and didn't disrupt your life every time you had a broken heart or were bored. Hell, you can probably even accept invitations without a mention of nervous system burning or your armpits.

And you think I've never lived in that kind of house. You have probably never had a real person.

But I have. For me, I have been teaching my ability to act.

In my column of 16, 1982, for example, I wrote, "I need a new couch. I have owned the same one since college. A happy, friendly, familiar thing, with a bit of silly, will help keep me sitting on it to the floor. It's not a very friendly format, but there's been hardly any occasion."

Just how this couch situation grew so desperate, I cannot say for sure. Perhaps it was because that frame, happy thing held a great deal of sentiment for me, and simply stopped swelling its blow. It was the first piece of furniture I ever bought, a year before I met my great, with a white slip-off planter, very right, I thought, for 1982, but I thought my Red River coffee was better. When I moved from my current area from fancy hotel to Daring Street, and two boxes bought the coffee cost up, I knew the situation. My house, however, and Longfellow's statue, I was able to remove. I was proud that I was able to remove it before it was too right.

My couch was reddish. I wanted to put it on my new digs, Rye, New York. That couch was redder. It seemed to me that my mother's idea during my wayfaring years, of being pitched on that Swiss dot back was a close friend covered a broken arm by spreading on it all ointments. Almost every person I knew slept on that until one time, books were read, hair was washed, perhaps were laid and figures published up and pulled over that couch. It would be too much to say that any DNA expert's best hearing.

Then, one day, after years of strain and tears and wear, the fabric on the seat just disintegrated and was gone. Using my only housekeeping way, I covered the seat with a purple sheet. The overall effect was that of a big, stuffed, beaver.

Visitors were not impressed. My friend Tanya — a shopping goddess who clearly does not share my couch or cootie concerns. But be a pal and don't show him.

As for my ex-couch, it has found a new home (and slipcover) with my friend Andy, who wears a mustache of nervous system burning or your armpits.

Still, I could not act. Although I had been dragged, cajoled and tricked into numerous buy one, take one, we sold it, hand in hand, perambulating sofa belonged to me — so proud, one could recall the best. After years of strain and tears and wear, the fabric on the seat just disintegrated and was gone. I was unable to part company with Mr. Foamy.

When I picked up my new digs, perambulating sofa belonged to me — so proud, I requested to be transported upon it to my new digs, Cleopatra-style. The thugs were not game.

Visitors were not impressed. My friend Tanya — a shopping goddess who clearly does not share my couch or cootie concerns. But be a pal and don't show him.

To me.) But when she saw this couch — a sort of late-Empire style, with not too faded brocade upholstery and a carved mahogany frame, and with swan heads curved around the arms and fowl-like legs and feet — I knew the union of couch and girl was meant to be. All my cootie and couch commitment issues dissolved like worn Swiss dot fabric.
Sally Sutton takes stock of the Maine Civil Liberties Union on its 30th anniversary

**CITYV**

Still fighting after all these years

Sally Sutton takes stock of the Maine Civil Liberties Union on its 30th anniversary

**Connie FACILUO**

Next time you walk down the street, talk to the people behind you and ask them what the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) does. Chances are they don't have a clue. They're probably not even aware it exists. How do we go about doing this work? It's not easy.

What do we do? We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization. We represent the interests of citizens who believe in the principles of freedom and justice. We are advocates for those who have no voice in the political process.

What makes us the MCLU? Sutton, executive director of the MCLU, is the truth about the organization's role in protecting civil rights. And that, says Sutton, is who the group's founders were. They believed that freedom is essential to a healthy society.

What is the Maine Civil Liberties Union? Sutton: Our job is to protect and defend people's constitutional rights. We represent clients who have been arrested, convicted, or are facing trial. We provide legal advice and information to the public on a wide range of issues, from free speech to privacy.

What is the MCLU's mission? Sutton: Our job is to protect and defend people's constitutional rights. We are advocates for those who have no voice in the political process.

What is the MCLU's role? Sutton: Our job is to protect and defend people's constitutional rights. We provide legal advice and information to the public on a wide range of issues, from free speech to privacy.

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What is the MCLU's goal? Sutton: Our job is to protect and defend people's constitutional rights. We are advocates for those who have no voice in the political process.
Wipe out
Portland’s Downtown District wants to eliminate graffiti — even if it means eliminating some private property rights as well.

Connie Pacileo
Mike Pizzo, president of Portland’s Downtown District (POD), believes Portland’s problem with graffiti is getting worse. POD has sent letters to city officials asking them to draft an ordinance that would give POD the authority to remove graffiti from privately owned property — even if the owner wants to keep it.

"Graffiti is something you have as one of the first steps is determined," Pacileo said. "We have high levels of graffiti and it was in hard-to-get places. Our question was how could they get on private property."

But forcing landlords to remove graffiti will be unconstitutional, Pacileo said. "We have to ask the Civil Liberties Union," Pacileo said. "We have to say please." Pacileo said the graffiti problem in the Downtown District is getting worse. "The law, drafted to protect the public from graffiti, requires building owners to keep their buildings free from graffiti and ice. If we were to remove the graffiti, the city will do the chore and charge them for it."

On Nov. 9, Mayor rose with Portland City Manager Bob Ganley. He asked Ganley to develop a comprehensive graffiti removal plan similar to the city's current snow removal ordinance. That plan gives an agency carte blanche to remove graffiti and it was in hard-to-get places. "All we can do is say please," Ganley said.

Ganley said he isn’t yet willing to call for ways to help POD get rid of graffiti. But Ganley said city staff will continue to research the issue, and will look for ways to help POD get rid of graffiti. "We have to say please," Ganley said.

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Portland officials may redevelop the area around Marginal Way — replacing dilapidated warehouses with bright new bookstores, crumbling houses with a sparkling sports arena. Before the planners whitewash the city’s ugliest side, we present one man’s view of its beauty.

In the late ’60s, city planners bulldozed thriving Italian and Jewish neighborhoods to build the Franklin Arterial. Three decades later, the area has become a scarred industrial wasteland.

Portland’s Bayside neighborhood provides a landing pad for many of the city’s immigrants. The mingling of cultures has led to racial violence, but it has also fostered love.

From the poverty that surrounds their school, students at Portland High get a crash course in sociology.

Continued on page 15
GET NATURAL

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With a little imagination, the plywood almost seems like concrete. Portland officials gave kids a place to play when they opened a skateboard park on Marginal Way in September. If businesses open nearby, will the skaters still be welcome — or will we see them flipping offies on Middle Street again?

Dream in Rome:
Darren Danahy, a Portland musician, moved away after his Congress Street apartment burned Sept. 11.

Martin Shields is a freelance artist who lives in Portland.
COMMENT

Building a city

Sometimes there's a direct link for community problem. If folks are hungry, give them food. If folks are cold, give them coats. And if you need to spur the growth of small business, give people access to the home-brew equip, and capital they need to realize their dreams.

That's exactly what Portland officials did in September when they opened the Resource Hub, an office at 461 Congress St. that provides free supplies, counseling and computer time to those who want to start companies. Officials are backing that support with low-interest loans. One loan fund — funded largely by the Urban Resource Corporation — targets minority entrepreneurs, and the office makes a point of encouraging immigrants to come in. Across the street window, "Welcome" is painted in many languages.

Portland's aspiring homepeople have gotten the message.

Kathleen Brown, the city's economic development director, said the Resource Hub — which is open six days a week and some evenings — is averaging 200 clients a month, including about 30 new customers. Brown said half the clients are women, and nearly a third of clients are "people of color. "We want to get out into the extras," she said, "and reach groups that don't traditionally come to City Hall."

Not entire who walk into the Hub with a bright idea who will end meeting a profitable business. But a few will survive and join the tiny companies that have proved vital to the growth of Congress Street. From baby manufacturer to clothing designers, small firms have filled downtown office space and provided customers for stores and restaurants. Long after giant corporations pull up stakes and hand jobs elsewhere, locally owned companies will be changing our products and employing workers.

A few questions for Tom Kane

A few questions for Tom Kane

Casco Bay Weekly

Tom Kane's last column was over a year ago. He was a great writer and a real professional. I've always been curious as to what he was doing and why.

I think it's important to know what's going on with our city's future, and I think he has a lot to offer. If he's back, I'll be sure to read his column again.

Eileen Rosenblatt
Portland

Sandbagging 

Sandbagging 101

In a recent column ("Tar the pavement," Nov. 12, 1998), it was implied that Portland Mayor Tom Kane had "sandbagged" some grave issues of a brick building on York Street. It has been known for many years that sandbags were used at this site decades ago, prior to the recent street closure. Sandbags have been used as a precautionary measure in the past, and were used as a temporary measure in this case to prevent water from entering the structure.

Dan Chase
Portland

Why are big overdrafts that run along the South Portland side of the Casco Bay Bridge not on any audit?

Theights on the Casco Bay Bridge are supposed to be triggered by a sensor that turns them on at dusk and off at dawn. Unfortunately, a malfunction caused the lights to remain on all night near where the problem developed, the Maine Department of Transportation contacted contractor and was working for the special power probe yet to arrive to specify how the situation can be fixed.

Letters continued on Page 19
It's Saturday morning.

Rocco Diphilippo is finishing his degree along with his coffee on our small, convenient and refreshingly friendly Portland campus.

You can finish your job, or you can apply for full-time, part-time, or volunteer positions.

Photo: Rocco Diphilippo

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Key decision

With new cheaper competition, Keystone Theatre Café is fighting to fill seats.

Great big disappointment

Those who care about Great Big Sea claim the hardcore music band from Newfoundland is transforming traditional music into something new and old. The band is a collision of folk and pop music, claimed in a time-honored tradition and edgy style, others who claimed the band as New Year's music. The band as Great Big Sea includes lead singer and guitarist of Newfoundland sea-Clyde Best, and one of the original members of concert halls and small venues, including a large-than-life audience. The band's latest album, "The State of Mind," is a mix of traditional and contemporary sounds, blending folk and pop elements.

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CLUBS

Prime Cut

If your watch starts going haywire, your credit cards stop working and your cooler dies, there's a good chance you're under the influence of Mike Field. Portland's hottest house is an increasing dining presence in the area, attracting attention with its away as France shows they really know their wine. Dec. 3; W. Roosevelt, 1212 Center St. Portland, at 9 pm. Tel: $5. 773-6274.

The Jerks Of Grass

EGGBOT

SUN Dec 9

ALACYONE

Duke Daniels/W Glomassing & cover

The Jerks Of Grass

GROOVE DIGGER

THE PIONEER

Loose Moose

DIESEL DOUG

GIAN'S

51 Portland, 773-1505.

SUNDAY, GRITTY

18 pm

1/29

Jenny & the Knees

THE BIG EAGLE

2/12

Mary Lou & the Saints

STATION 45 OAKLAND 51, Portland, 773-3315.

Sunday, Gritty

18 pm

1/29

Mary Lou & the Saints

STATION 45 OAKLAND 51, Portland, 773-3315.

The Jerks Of Grass

DIESEL DOUG

THE PIONEER

18 pm

1/29

Stacy’s Place

51 Portland, 773-1505.

Saturday, Gritty

18 pm

1/29

Regulars

THE PIONEER

18 pm

1/29

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51 Portland, 773-1505.

For more information call 772-2400.

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Jan. 29th, 9:30pm

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Feb. 12th, 8pm

Presented by WMFX 93.1 FM

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Tickets: box office or call Portland at 707.842.0800

nocturnal emissions
"DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU," I begged my friend Carl.

"That's just not fair," he said.

I've always been partial to the idea of using two hands to make a decision.

Heavily influenced by the character of the same name in Star Trek, I decided to follow the advice of my friend, a self-proclaimed expert in the art of conflict resolution.

I approached the situation with an open mind, and after some initial hesitation, I was able to come to a decision.

I chose the option of holding both hands on my left hand.

This decision was met with some surprise from my friend, but ultimately, he agreed with my approach.

We were able to move forward with our plans, and I was grateful for the support of my friend in this matter.

--END--
down with people

Christmas — if only it were / tripsier. Like eggnog faced with / ecstasy. It's down with / people, a night of demented / music by zoning / Anti-Friend / Hut and ex-member of / Spencer 3; Sonic Boom, at / the Fine Arts Theatre, 627 / Congress St., Portland, at 8 p.m. / Tix: $5.772-7662.

Quick picks

Dec. 3

• Remover your rubbers and get / busy digging the paintings, / drawings and prints of the / University of Southern Maine's / Barefoot in the Museum / exhibit of annotated works. A / silent auction of artwork and / footware runs concurrently. / at Woodbury Campus Center, / USM Portland campus, / 7:30-9:30.

Dec. 4

• Be a swinger and swing / partners white step and contra / dancing at the Irish / and Franco-American Communities / Party to benefit Portland / Performing Arts. Bring a / potluck dinner too. At the / St. Maximilian, 150 Black / Point Rd., Scarborough, at / 7:30 p.m. Tix: $10 ($20 family). / 775-0191.

sound bites

• Garlic soups and Mary Jane Lamond / gets Celtic on your aisle. Dec. 5 / at the Fine Arts Theatre (8 p.m./$15).

• Underground hard hitters Skinflower / produce sonic blues Dec. 5 at / Down at the Duck (9 p.m./$15).

• Death metal smirks Morbid Angel, Nile / and Rare Form spread holiday cheer / Dec. 9 at Ayleson 11 p.m./$15 (all ages).

A HO-HO-HO-WHOLE LOTTA / THINGS TO DO


Locally, the Choral Art Society / performs "Christmas at the / Cathedral" at the Cathedral / of the Immaculate Conception, / 307 Congress St., Portland, / 7:30 p.m. Tix: $15 (10/$12 students and seniors). 722-0704. On Dec. / 11, it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 12, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 13, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 14, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 15, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 16, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 17, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 18, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 19, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 20, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 21, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 22, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 23, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 24, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 25, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 26, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 27, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 28, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 29, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 30, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224. On Dec. 31, / it's the "Tate House Christmas: A Quiet Observation" at / 1270 Westbrook St., Portland. Tours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. / (reservations recommended). Tix: $7.50 ($3 kids). 774-0224.
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Friday, Dec. 4, 5 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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December 3, 1998

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- Annual Holiday Downtown Portland
Business After Hours Dec 3. Greater Portland Chambers 01 Commerce event At the Pavilion, 188 Middle St, Portland, from 6-8 pm. Cost: $10/$6 per person. For more info, call 207-773-0002

- Pier Import's
For a change

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Holiday Movies & Music that even the GRINCH on your List Will enjoy!

- LISTINGS

- PERFORMING ARTS

- auditions/submissions
American Repertory Ballet auditions for The Nutcracker Dec 4 and 5. The Nutcracker auditions will be held at the Portland Opera House, 10 St. Lawrence Ave, Portland, from 7-9 pm. Info: 797-1775. For more info, call 797-8247

- The National Library of Poetry's North American Open Poetry Auditions
Open to all writers. Entry fee: $5. 3 poems of any length, may be previously published. Deadline: Dec 1. Info: http://www.poetry.com, 211-6282. For more info, call 1-701-356-2000

-egalitarian Society
Seeking one girl 10-15 years old and one man age 50 or older for an episodic series to air on the subscription cable network. Needs: between December and March. Rehearsals are Wed at the Italian Heritage Center, 1450 Forest Ave, Portland, from 7-9 pm. Info: 774-8029

- Portland Drawing Group meets Thurs from 6-9 pm at Luther Hall, 160 Chester Ave, Portland. Info: 774-1502

- Oregon Children's Choir presents "An Old Fashioned Christmas"
With the Portland Boychoir, Portland Youth Philharmonic, Casco Bay Youth Choir, and the Portland Madrigal Singers. Sunday, Dec 13, 3 pm at the Keller Auditorium, 711 SW Madison St, Portland. Info: 541-634-0111

- December Events at St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Tate House Open House Dec 5 and 12. Open house hosted by the Tate House Committee. At Tate House, 678 Main St, Portland, from 10 am-3 pm. Cost: $5/$3 kids> . 797-6633.

- Portland Ruby Club presents "Wine, Women & Sleigh Bells" Dec 5-6. The Portland Ruby Club will present their annual holiday event, a wine and music fundraiser, held at the Old Port Inn, 302 Commercial St, Portland, from 7-10 pm. Info: 774-1502

- Portland Little Theater presents "The Fantasticks" Dec 4-9. A musical comedy with music by Scott Aronson, book and lyrics by John Weidman. At Portland Little Theater, 305 Fore St, Portland, from 7:30 pm Wed-Sat, 2 pm Sun. Info: 772-5119

- "Bake, Nibble and Savor: At The Cottage Market, 435 Cottage Rd, So. Portland, from 1-3 pm. Nov 30. Info: 774-1502

- Drawn Together to benefit the Portland Museum of Art
A day of interactive classes and workshops for all ages. Live Saturday, Nov 1 from 11 am-5 pm. Info: 774-1502, 207-772-6620

- "The Bellamy Jazz Band and Freeport Village School combo perform at the "Uttle Fair in Portland"
At Mill Creek Park, So. Portland, at 7 pm. Info: 774-1502

- "An Old Fashioned Christmas"
With the Portland Girlchoir, Casco Bay Youth Choir, and the Portland Madrigal Singers. Sunday, Dec 13, 3 pm at the Keller Auditorium, 711 SW Madison St, Portland. Info: 541-634-0111

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Food and fellowship

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seen from the Source of the West. When I go to La Casa Ramirez, owner of La Casa Verde, and place an order for fresh salsa, rice and guacamole, I am able to drink in the sights and sounds of the kitchen, to enjoy the aroma of the food, to savor the flavors, and to appreciate the hospitality of the family. At La Casa Ramirez, I find a place to escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life, to relax and unwind, to connect with others and to share in the joy of cooking.

The peppers are roasted and the rice is steamed, and the guacamole is mixed by hand. The atmosphere is warm and inviting, and the service is friendly and attentive. The kitchen is clean and well-organized, and the ingredients are fresh and high-quality. The food is delicious and satisfying, and the presentation is attractive and appetizing.

La Casa Ramirez is a family-owned and operated business, and the family members take pride in their work. They are dedicated to providing the best possible service and food to their customers. They are also committed to using local and sustainable ingredients, and to supporting the community.

La Casa Ramirez is located at 123 Main Street, Portland, ME 04101. They are open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 9 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. They also offer take-out and delivery services. For more information, please call 281-3535.
The Local Answer Voice mail
http://www.telemessaalna.net
799-4922

The Independent Transportation Network matches volunteer drivers with homebound people, helping with supplies, assisting with the activities of daily living. Volunteers must have a valid driver's license and a vehicle. Call Priscilla at 775-6503.

Habitat for Humanity of greater Portland has volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older. They are seeking to interview adolescents currently living with a parent with depression. Call Rebecca at 283-0170.

Campaign to End Childhood Hunger. The Maine Coalition for Hunger Education at the American Red Cross, 524 Forest Ave, Portland. For more info, call Deborah at 775-5098.

VIVO Dance seeks to interview young people whose parents suffer from depression, UNE Clinical College, Fort Rd, Westbrook, from 5-6 pm. Call Terry Judkins at 774-8740.

Habitat for Humanity of greater Portland has volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older. They are seeking to interview adolescents currently living with a parent with depression. Call Rebecca at 283-0170.

Sexual Assault Response Services seeks people interested in motivating the community to help those in need. Call them at 784-5272.

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Range of volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older. Call Chuck at 773-5437.

Volunteer with the United Way's Senior Corps, help with supplies, assist with the activities of daily living. Call Priscilla at 775-6503.

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