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## Morning Sentinel

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### Halperin gives up fight to regain medical license

By CHRISTINE KUKKA  
Guy Gannett Service

AUGUSTA — A Belgrade man who was convicted three years ago of sexually abusing three boys has surrendered his 18-month battle to win back his license to practice medicine in Maine.

On Monday, David C. Halperin notified the state board that licenses physicians that he was withdrawing his second application for reinstatement. The board rejected his first request a year ago.

"I have concluded after agonizing consideration that to endure this charade would serve no useful purpose," he wrote the Maine Board of Registration in Medicine. "I acknowledge I have wounded my own family deeply. Recent events have made it evident that to pursue this process further would deepen those wounds."

In an unrelated case before the board at 1 p.m. Tuesday, members will consider whether to relicense a York County psychiatrist who violated state law and medical ethics when he had sex with a patient.

Robert G. Kammerman's license was revoked in September 1986 after he admitted to having sex with a patient and giving her liquor and marijuana.

Kammerman asked the board in November 1986 to reinstate his license after his psychiatrist gave him a clean bill of health. The board asked for a second psychiatric evaluation of Kammerman before making a decision.

Halperin's application for reinstatement has been opposed by his son, who was one of his father's victims. Joshua Halperin recently filed a civil suit against the former pediatric surgeon for damages resulting from the sexual abuse.

"It is clear to me that those individuals (opposed to my relicensing) will stop at nothing, including the destruction of my family that I have tried for so

hard to mend, to prevent me from resuming my practice," wrote the former Augusta physician.

Joshua Halperin, 22, who was adopted, has indicated that his father plans to sell his Belgrade home and move to Mexico.

Halperin, 50, pleaded guilty in 1984 to three charges of unlawful sexual contact. When he was convicted, he voluntarily relinquished his medical license.

He served seven months in jail with two years probation. He was also required to provide medical care in another country for six months as a public service. He fulfilled that requirement at a rural Mexican hospital. When he returned in the summer of 1986, he applied to have his license reinstated.

"I have no doubt I have been found sorely lacking in my personal life and relationships, but I have never been impaired in my professional life by those shortcomings," he wrote.

"The board must surely understand that fact: While forces opposing my relicensing have corrupted this administrative process with innuendo, half truths and outright lies, they have never produced one shred of evidence to suggest that my conduct as a physician has been anything other than exemplary," he added.

Psychiatrists have given Halperin a clean bill of health, but following a 13-hour public hearing, the board hesitated to reissue Halperin a license to practice in Maine.

Halperin's attorney, Peter J. DeTroy III, contends the board and the public have problems measuring the recovery of a person charged with the "unthinkable" crime of child abuse.

"We can talk about recovery of drunk doctors and we believe we have the means to measure recovery, but we are in a new area here," DeTroy said. Society lacks the measure or experience to determine when a former abuser has recovered, he added.

"Maybe some day that will happen," he said. "But I think we will look back at this as the dark ages, the same way we look at the (ineffectual) ways we used to treat drug abusers and alcoholics."

Halperin's reinstatement application had been scheduled to be considered Tuesday.



HALPERIN

**[Dr. David Carlos] Halperin gives up fight to regain medical license.**

# Maine/Local

## Thaw

### Balmy temperatures follow bone-chilling cold

By TED COHEN  
Guy Gannett Service

PORTLAND — After a balmy, record-breaking New Year's Day that was followed by several days of downright bone-chilling cold and traffic-stalling snow, 1988 is bringing warmer days our way.

On Tuesday in Portland the temperatures should reach the mid-30s and Wednesday they might hit 40 — along with rain.

"The thaw we're going to have this week is too early to be called a January thaw, even though it is January and even though it is a thaw," said Tony Barnston of the Federal Climate Analysis Center in Camp Springs, Md.

A typical January thaw, officials said, usually occurs in the third week, when temperatures top the freezing point for a week.

Actually a January thaw is a well-documented period of above-freezing weather, usually in the third week, said John LaCorte, National Weather Service meteorologist in Portland. "What you would classify as a classic January thaw, this isn't."

The responsible element: Southwest winds ushering in warmer air from the Mid-Atlantic. "It'll be no big heat wave but it'll definitely be warmer than it has been," LaCorte said.

Temperatures so far this month — other than Jan. 1's record-breaker spike — have been very below normal.

From Jan. 3 through Jan. 8 it was 3 degrees below normal. Jan. 9 was 1 degree below normal and Jan. 10 it was 2 below normal.

The normal high for January is 32. It was 17 degrees below that — or 3 degrees — on Jan. 8.

"It's actually been very cold," LaCorte said.

Typical January thaws usually occur Jan. 23-29 and last the week. "No one knows why it hap-

### January highs

1977 — 41 on Jan. 28.  
1978 — 54 on Jan. 26.  
1979 — 43 on Jan. 21.  
1980 — 45 on Jan. 27.  
1981 — 46 on Jan. 27.  
1982 — 33 on Jan. 28.  
1983 — 45 on Jan. 25.  
1984 — 47 on Jan. 25.  
1985 — 35 on Jan. 23.  
1986 — 32 on Jan. 27.  
1987 — 35 on Jan. 23.  
1988 — 34 on Jan. 1.  
Record January high:  
64 on Jan. 4 and Jan. 26, 1950.

### The winter so far

December — Warmer than usual. Averaged 30.2 degrees, compared to normal of 29.8.

January — Colder than usual. Averaged 17.4 so far compared to normal of 22.

Snow — More than usual: 2 inches above normal. Expected 50 inches more this year if it's average winter.

"They don't occur every January," Barnston said. "But if you take the average of the last 30 to 50 years, you do find a so-called January thaw."

"As far as a physical explanation for January thaws, we don't really know the basic cause," Barnston said. "But we know the overall global circulation patterns that accompanies them."

Thaws are usually preceded by the formation of low pressures over Hudson's Bay in eastern-central Canada and enhanced westerly circulation patterns over the northern and central parts of the U.S.

"That brings in Pacific air masses instead of Arctic air masses and they're much milder in temperature," Barnston said.



Brighter days here again: A warming sun peeks out from the clouds Tuesday morning, shining its rays over the Waterville area.

## Ski theft a hard crime for police to solve

By STEVE CARTWRIGHT  
Guy Gannett Service

CARRABASSETT VALLEY — Stealing skis is one of the more frustrating crimes for police and resort security. Very few culprits are caught, officials concede, and very few pairs of skis returned to their owners.

A thief dressed as a skier can walk up to some skis, casually take them from the rack, and walk away without looking the slightest bit suspicious.

The best effort is aimed at prevention. This is done through a complete description of the equipment, and engraving of a name, serial number, or social security number.

The hitching of skis is so easy that one once observed a "thefted" pair of skis on a Sugarloaf ski resort rack, and when an official's view

was momentarily interrupted, even the bait disappeared. They were real beauties, too, police said.

Maine State Police spokesman Randy Nichols said this week that "it's another big year for ski theft."

"This is a recurring problem. This type of crime is extremely difficult to solve," he said.

Ski owners often make the thief's job easier, Nichols said that "a lot of owners don't even know very clearly what their skis look like, and relatively few use ski locks. It's vitally important to have an identification number and complete description" on record, he said.

"Anything people do to really personalize their skis will help," he said, pointing out that a thief is less likely to grab skis easily recognized by their true owner.

## Defense challenges dismissal of concealed weapons charge

By GARY J. REMAL  
Guy Gannett Service

AUGUSTA — A lawyer for Scott A. Antworth says he doesn't want prosecutors to dismiss a charge of carrying a concealed weapon against the murder suspect unless they promise the charge won't re-surface.

The charge is important to Antworth's prosecution on murder and armed robbery charges because he was arrested and held by police for about two hours on the concealed weapon charge before he was booked for murder.

The .40-caliber automatic pistol police discovered in his possession has been identified by police technicians as the gun that killed Augusta convenience store clerk George Siraque on Dec. 1.

Augusta attorney Paul L. Bourget had challenged the procedure police used when they seized the gun. If successful, that challenge could prevent prosecutors from using the gun as evidence in either Antworth's trial on the concealed weapon charge or in his murder trial.

Now he claims prosecutors from District Attorney David W. Crook's office improperly dismissed the weapon charge before he had an opportunity to bring the issue before a court.

"I don't get two cracks at it anymore," the Augusta defense attorney said.

Bourget said he'll object to the dismissal and demand that prosecutors either dismiss the charges permanently or be ready for trial on April 7.

As the concealed weapon charge had not been consolidated with the murder and robbery charges pending against Antworth, Bourget might have had two opportunities to convince judges to bar prosecutors' use of the gun as evidence against his client.

Dismissing the misdemeanor

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