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## Future of technology at center stage

By CAROLYN MARSH,  
CHRIS THOMPSON and  
SUSAN MUSTAPICH

CAMDEN The message from a star-studded array of telecommunications gurus and moguls over the weekend was that while a wired world is on the way, it is still in its infancy, and its full impact and potential are yet to be determined.

Billed as a forum on "Reshaping American Communities," the Camden Conference on Communications, the progeny of the 10-year-old Camden Conference on Foreign Affairs, paid less attention to the future of America's communities than to the future of technology. And the importance of that industry to the country's economy was nowhere more evident than in the fact that of the five richest Americans whose combined holdings shrank by nearly \$4 billion in Monday's plunging market, four founded or headed up telecommunications megacorporations.

Bell Atlantic CEO Ray Smith and Gov. Angus King used their joint speech Friday to help usher the information age into Maine.

"The major growth in the Maine economy is occurring in call centers, bio-tech companies and semiconductors, not lobsters and potatoes," King said in a focus on how telecommunications are shaping communities and, more specifically, the impact telecommunications will have on Maine.

"Maine is a special place with wonderful people whose historical economic disadvantage is location," King said. "Telecommunications will change that disadvantage dramatically. The main industry in Belfast was plucking chickens, and when that industry died, Belfast almost died with it. But now MBNA has moved in, and Belfast has come alive."

Telecommunications has allowed large companies like J.L. Bean and MBNA to thrive in the state, King said. It has opened the door for jobs that would never have made it to the state just a few years ago.

If someone files a work-related injury report with Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Minnesota, the report is processed in Maine.

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During his terminal keynote address at the Camden Conference on Telecommunications and at a subsequent press conference, Bob Metcalfe took aim at Bell Atlantic, modems and Microsoft.  
CAROLYN MARSH

## Market ride has big bark but little bite

By CAROLYN MARSH

Behind three days of blaring headlines about a plummeting stock market is a relatively simple phenomenon called "pull-back." Jim Jenkins, vice president of investments at PaineWebber in Rockland, said Wednesday.

"Over a hundred-year period, the stock market pulls back by 10 percent or more on an average of every 3.1 years," Jenkins said. "We've skipped that during the past seven years, so this event was not altogether unexpected, though we were taken aback by the swiftness with which it arrived."

On Monday, the stock market plunged 554 points in the biggest drop in its history, closing at 7,161 on a record volume of 685 million shares traded.

The recovery started Tuesday, when the market closed at 7,498,

up 337 in the biggest rise in history on trading of more than 1 billion shares. By 10:20 a.m. Wednesday it was at 7,571, up more than 70 points in less than an hour after opening.

The catalyst for the adjustment was "currency turmoil" in the Far East, Jenkins said, where massive selloffs were fueled by fears that local currencies would continue to be devalued.

Assurances by the Chinese that they would not devalue their currency did not allay those fears, Jenkins said. "There is an deflationary environment in the Far East. These are adolescent economies, and there is a feeling that the frantic growth rate of recent years can't be sustained. We're in a global economy, and

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**DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY** — The Grim Reaper, played by Haley Viehman, 9, of Camden, tested her prowess at the bean bag toss while Spider, also known as Ben Hersey, 4, of Rockport, took in all the different games to play at the Camden Area YMCA's annual Family Time Halloween Party Saturday. CAROLYN MARSH



## Election '97

# Forest compact heads state ballot

*Editor's note: The Nov. 4 state ballot includes one carry-over measure, three bond issues, a constitutional amendment and a referendum. This article addresses Questions 1, 2 and 4. Questions 3, 5 and 6 were discussed last week.*

Question No. 1 on the Nov. 4 statewide referendum ballot is actually a carry-over from last year's contentious three-way vote on forestry practices.

That runoff followed a petition drive that placed a proposal on the 1996 referendum that, if approved, would have imposed strict limits on clear-cutting and other timber

harvesting practices in Maine's unorganized territories. The drive was headed up by Jonathan Carter, an environmental activist and unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1994 and the Second Congressional seat in 1992 on the Green party ticket.

After Carter's group secured a place for their "Ban Clear-cutting" initiative on the ballot, Gov. Angus King convened a coalition of forestry experts and representatives of both paper companies and mainstream environmental groups to develop an alternative measure.

That option, the so-called Forestry Compact, appeared on

the November 1996 ballot as Question 2B. Constitutional guidelines dictated that a "None of the above" option be included as Question 2C.

The Ban Clear-cutting initiative, Question 2A, was supported by about 29 percent of the electorate. The compact, 2B, received about 47 percent and 2C garnered about 23 percent of voting. Since neither the compact or the Ban Clear-cutting initiative secured more than half the votes, the compact, as the top vote-getter, was carried forward to this year.

King and paper companies, along with environmental groups

like the Natural Resources Council and Maine Audubon Society, say the compact represents a compromise between banning clear-cutting altogether and having no regulation at all. The compact applies to all of Maine, not just the unorganized territories.

A key component of the compact, along with limiting clear-cutting to 75 acres, is the auditing of forest practices by an independent firm. King says it will create incentives for landowners to meet higher standards and will "reward

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## UMCC distributes record amount

Directors of United Mid-Coast Charities, the name by which the former United Camden-Rockport Charities is now known, voted at their recent annual meeting to dis-

tribute \$150,700 to local agencies, a new record of giving.

The UMCC was founded in 1942. The change to United Mid-Coast Charities (UMCC) more accurately reflects the geographical area served by the charity. Funds this year are being allocated to agencies in Rockland and Belfast, and many of them serve the entire region.

According to President Charlton Ames, the mission remains the same: to support charities that provide social services and care to the most deserving, including med-

ical, physical, social or community educational services.

Russell W. Brace, first vice president and treasurer, described UMCC as "unique and very different from others."

Every dollar contributed is distributed in the community. We are a 100 percent volunteer group. Expenses are covered by a separate endowment set up for this purpose."

There are 31 directors, soon to

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## Contingency fund sought for town project

ROCKPORT — A contingency fund for construction of the new town office building will go to voters Tuesday.

If approved, the article will establish a \$19,000 account to cover any unforeseen costs for the \$450,000 project. Monies would be drawn from town surplus, pending approvals by selectmen and the building committee, and would not raise property taxes.

The article was added to several others just prior to an Oct. 14 public hearing on the warrant.

Additional warrant items include parking limits on Central Street; an amendment to the pier, wharf and bulkhead ordinance; and adding two roads to the town's public ways.

## Vote could change county government makeup

Voters countywide will decide Nov. 4 whether Knox County should be realigned into five districts and the number of county commissioners increased to five from three.

The county ballot is the result of legislation sponsored by Rep. Christine Savage, R-Union.

If the item passes, actual redistricting will take place after the year 2003, when counties will be

apportioned based on population. In 2003, a state commission will review counties using the year 2000 census as the basis for apportionment.

The committee will also designate initial terms of office for each commissioner, creating two districts with two-year terms and three districts with four-year terms. Subsequent terms would be at four years.



**Polls are open Nov. 4 as follows:**

**Camden:** 8 a.m.-8 p.m., fire station.  
**Rockport:** 10 a.m.-8 p.m., fire station.  
**Lincolnville:** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., town office.  
**Hope:** 10 a.m.-8 p.m., town office.  
**Appleton:** 10 a.m.-8 p.m., town office.