



February, 2001

On and off the Street

A warm February on Newbury, and elsewhere

BY CHRISTOPHER MILLIS

BEFORE THE MONTH is out and we trade in our groundhogs for lions and lambs, check out Chris Komater's photographs at the Bernard Toale Gallery. Komater takes pictures of body parts of men — and not just any men or any body parts. He arranges hirsute fractions of middle-aged guys' bodies and creates disarming grids. From a distance, the repeating images form mosaics that look like flowers; up close, the constituent petals turn out to be backs and behinds and armpits. Like Schneider and Coplans, Komater sets up a sharp dissonance between attraction and repulsion. Out of that dissonance comes a reluctant admission of beauty.