



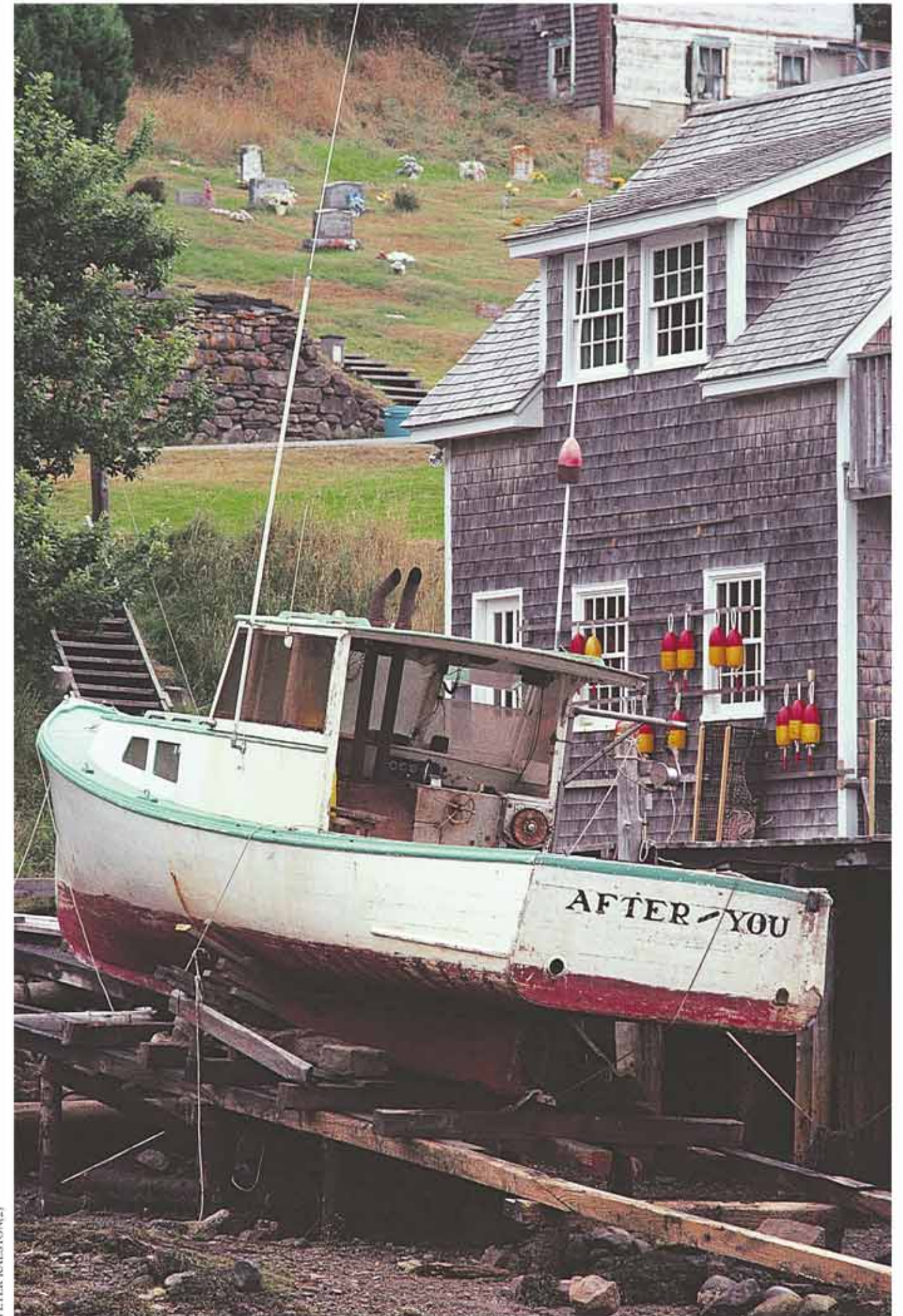
When You Live on an Island

Dean Lunt

There was no great revelation to move off of Frenchboro: I just went to college and went after a job. But I loved it there. I still do. I never felt the suffocation or the desperation to get off the way some kids from islands felt. I'd love to go back there if I could make a living. But even now, I haven't accomplished all I want to do....

You gain or inherit a sense of community when you live on an island. A lot of towns don't have that anymore. You gain an identity from an island. Each one's different. But you always have that unique identity to draw on. There's also a sense of security on an island — very few outside forces affect the community. Frenchboro has one harbor and most of the houses ring the harbor. If a boat comes into the harbor, you know it: you know who's coming and going. It's safe. On the island, I never had any boundaries from the time I could walk....

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PETER RALSTON(2)