10-1994

Apex : A Point of Departure, Vol.3, No.08 (October 1994)

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FIRST GAY PARADE IN JAPAN

Tokyo - (The Washington Blade) Hundreds of people took part in Japan's first-ever Gay Pride parade in Tokyo 8/28 - just weeks after the International Conference on AIDS was held in Yokohama.

The marchers, in 91º heat, took three hours to complete the 3-mile route from Shinjuku, a neighborhood heavily populated by Gays, to Shibuya, an adjacent commercial district. The turnout was estimated between 300 and 1,500. Some participants dressed in drag, while one Lesbian couple wore matching wedding dresses. There were no reports of anti-Gay protests or harassment.

Teishiro Minami, chair of the parade committee, said he had waited 20 years to organize the event.

"Up until now, it was hard to come out and say you're Gay, but changes in our society have made it easier to be open about it." "Japan is not an easy place to live if you're a Lesbian," said another organizer, Akiyo Ohya, "so for me, organizing this was a way of reducing stress."

VISA TARGETED

San Francisco - (The Washington Blade) Anti-Gay televangelist Pat Robertson asked supporters to boycott Visa U.S.A. after it made a $10,000 donation to Gay Games IV. Calls and letters to the company in favor of the donation have outnumbered those against it by about 500 to 25.

Sportswriter to Martina Navratilova: "Martina, are you still a lesbian? Martina to sportswriter: "Are you still the alternative?" Sports Illustrated

REFLECTIONS FROM YOKOHAMA

In August, the 10th International Conference on AIDS was held in Yokohama, Japan. This was the first time the conference was held in Asia, the continent where the disease is spreading fastest.

Several conference scholarships were offered to people with HIV through the National Association of PWAs and the National Institute of Health's Office on AIDS Research. Tom Antonik, Maine educator, photographer, and person with HIV, was one of the forty people out of 600 applicants to receive a scholarship.

Tom spoke with APEX about his reactions to the conference and about his experience of falling very ill in Yokohama.

APEX: How do you intend to use the information you learned in Japan?

Tom: This interview is one way. And there are several schools and universities that I go to pretty regularly. I also speak at Thomaston prison.

I think there's a real difference in hearing a personal story. With students I start in about how long I've been diagnosed and I realize I have everyone's attention and it's great. When I was teaching I wish I could get that sort of attention!

I go out and speak because I hope I can make it real enough so that none of these high school kids have to do what I'm doing a few years down the road.

APEX: What did you expect to get out of the conference?

Tom: I was a little apprehensive at first, because in the first years of these international conferences, they were really set up for an audience of researchers, scientists, physicians. They weren't really for people taking care of PWAs, social workers, or other PWAs.

Although that has changed over the last couple of years, I was still kind of apprehensive that I was going to go there and hear a bunch of mumbo-jumbo and not understand a damn thing that was said and come back and be expected to tell people what happened. And I was a little intimidated by the size of it - there were 11,000 people registered.

I didn't really expect that there were going to be any major breakthroughs announced at the conference, but I did want to hear what direction they were going in prevention,

More YOKOHAMA → page 4
The Collective
Annette Dragon
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Contributors
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Sherrie Bast Jon Piefer
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Logo Design by Grapheteria

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
Phoenix Press is a collectively run organization whose purpose is to build and empower our community by providing positive lesbian/gay images. We will be a forum for the exchange of ideas through debate and discussion. The collective will work to reflect the political and social diversity of our community.

SUBMISSIONS
All submissions should be typed and double-spaced if at all possible. Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions. Your name will be withheld at your request, but any material received without a contact name or number will not be published. If your submission has appeared or will appear in any other publication, we must be notified. Submissions must be received by the 20th of each month. Thank you for your contributions.

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CHAIN-LINK TWILIGHT: FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Linda Evans is a political prisoner, active for nearly 30 years in anti-racist, anti-imperialist and international solidarity movements. She is a lesbian who has struggled throughout her life for the liberation of women, lesbians, and gay men. Linda is serving a 40 year sentence at the women’s federal prison in Pleasanton, California, for her participation in armed actions against United States government and military property.

Linda has continued her activism behind prison walls. She was a founder of PLACE (Pleasanton AIDS Counseling and Education), a model peer program for prison AIDS education. In addition to sponsoring AIDS education programs, PLACE members worked to bring the Names Project Quilt into the prison and constructed two panels for the Quilt, one for AIDS orphans and one for women prisoners who died of AIDS. This fall, Place is sponsoring a walk-a-thon to raise money for homeless PWAs. Linda also acts as a jailhouse lawyer.

Linda is eligible for parole next year after 11 years in prison. She needs people on the outside to support her in her effort to prepare for parole. In anticipation of appearing before the parole board, Linda has sewn a quilt to be raffled off this summer with proceeds going towards Linda’s legal expenses.

"Chain-Link Twilight: From the Inside Out" is a queen-sized quilt combining the traditional double Irish chain pattern with scattered 8-pointed stars. It is made of 100% cotton fabric in turquoise, lavender, and rose-purple. The quilt back is of unbleached muslin, quilted in a white-on-white star inside a diamond design.

Please support Linda by buying raffle tickets ($1 each or 6 for $5), helping to sell raffle tickets, and/or suggesting names of influential people, including legislators, other government officials, famous people, etc.... who might be willing to write letters on behalf of Linda. Raffle tickets are available c/o APEX, POB 4743, Portland, ME 04112.

CONSTRUCTING OUR VISIBILITY

What are the building blocks for a supportive and healthy community? Can distant communities in a rural state like Maine support each other’s development? How does visibility help? How can we encourage it?

On Saturday, October 22 from 10am to 5pm the Pride Committee and Building Inclusive Communities will hold a one-day forum on solving the problems of community visibility (at the AVAC Center, 4 Lafayette Street, Lewiston, Maine). The intent is to produce a basic blueprint for strong gay and lesbian communities around Maine, as well as setting goals for the next year. It will be the first of three forums over five months. The forum is open to all and is free. It will consist of three parts: A morning session to discuss actual communities around the state, an afternoon session of planning objectives for bolstering visibility and support for the coming out process, and a short calendar ‘95 creation workshop.

apex (a-peks) n. 1 a: the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain) b: the narrowed or pointed end: TIP (the ~ of the tongue) 2: the highest or culminating point (the ~ of her career) syn see SUMMIT.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the collective.
CLAIMING MY TRUTH
by Eve Elzenga

1983 was the year I learned the truth. I was a femme and femmes were not welcomed by the Politically Correct (PC) Lesbian Police.

There were rules, and I didn’t know them. But over time, though I would never commit to them, I would hear them all. Sometimes they were hurled at me from across a crowded room from complete strangers who viewed me as the enemy. Sometimes they were whispered in my ear by a woman I was sleeping with who viewed me as the enemy for entirely different reasons.

If she was sleeping with me, was she a traitor too?

I was 30 and I had just come out. And the feminist movement had done their work well within the lesbian culture. The history of the lesbian nation had been obliterated. A revisionist history was hurrying to catch up. Butch/femme had been declared taboo and banished. Pronounced to be an aping of heterosexuals, the women who had lived those relationships with pride, but in constant fear, were forced to comply with the new lesbian order or become invisible. The political line stretched taut around the perimeter of the lesbian community and every component of thought and life was prescribed. What you wore, ate, drove, the music you listened to, and how you made love. Having sex for the sake of having sex was totally off the PC list - too much like men, certainly never with penetration, no S/M.

By the time I entered the scene, battle uniforms were being worn - jeans, flannel shirts, boots, no makeup, short hair, unshaven legs and a sullen expression.

It was the worst of times for a femme.

Strong willed and defiant, I refused to yield my position. Who did these creatures think they were to tell me to give up my true nature? Was this the price I had to pay to love women?

I kept my hats and linen napkins, lipstick and long nails. Here and there I found women who found me an eccentric rarity. Those years were a struggle - strange and lonely - without allies, but always searching. That is until 1988 when I stumbled into an enclave of women who never had adhered to the PC rules. Women on motorcycles. A stronghold of butches - truly outlaws - just waiting for a femme with perfume and a pair of spike heels to walk their way. From the minute I found them, I knew I had come home.

In many ways it didn’t come as a surprise. Almost from the beginning I predicted (at first under the safe guise of a joke) that someday a strong handsome woman would come riding up on her motorcycle and win my heart.

But everyone - gay men, supportive straight friends and other lesbians, refused to hear it. They had fits. It wasn’t what they had in mind for me. Because what they were saying to me, whether they realized it or not, was that they wanted me to pass.

"You’ll meet some nice refined woman, maybe a doctor or lawyer, someone you can really relate to," they’d say. "And she’ll be feminine." "Thanks very much," I’d answer, "but I like butches. They make my heart pound. And we don’t have to fight for the bathroom mirror or closet space. It works for me."

But a piece was missing. I needed the historical background to set the stage, to give me a foothold. I was always searching for other women like me to talk to. Finally in early 1991 I picked up a book (The Lesbian Erotic Dance: Butch, Femme, Androgyny and Other Rhythms, Joann Loulan, Spinster)
education, awareness. I found some great programs different countries had set up.

APEX: Where do you think the U.S. ranks in prevention and education?

Tom: From this and the conference I went to in Paris in 1990, I find there are times I really get upset about where we are and then I hear about what's going on in Brazil or India and Southeast Asia, and then I think about how way ahead we are, with so much. We can talk about condoms and AZT as an economic reality, yet there are some sub-Saharan African countries whose average income is a few hundred dollars a year - to talk about condoms is - C'mon let's get real - let alone talking about AZT. On the other hand I see some countries such as Canada or Australia or the Netherlands doing these wonderful, wonderful awareness programs, using explicit material, talking openly about homosexuality, and I want us to be at that level.

APEX: It's estimated that by the year 2000 there will be 40 million cases of HIV infection worldwide. Three million have been infected during the past year alone. AIDS activist Phill Wilson said about the conference: "Our expectations are lower than they've ever been." Everything I've read is so pessimistic. Did you have that feeling?

Tom: I did, perhaps in two different directions. One, while sort of objectively sitting there, thinking that here we're 10, 12 years into this and there really isn't that much more than there was 5, 6 years ago. Also, on a very, very personal level too - when I was dragging myself to some of those programs I was feeling pretty rotten. I had to leave some of them because I was just too ill to sit through programs that I was very interested in hearing. Listening to them say that there's basically nothing new, and not even being able to sit through to hear that - that was personally very discouraging. And getting deathly ill where almost all the top AIDS experts in the world were - but could I see one of them? No. (laughs).

I went to the clinic or 'care room' they had set up for people with HIV at the conference and they suggested it was dehydration. I knew it was more than that - dehydration doesn't affect just one lung.

APEX: And these are experts telling you that?

Tom: These are Japanese doctors who are supposedly familiar with people with HIV.

So I got some rest, drank lots of fluids. By the next afternoon, it was evident I was not getting any better, so I went back to the care room. If you had a sense of how difficult...
Book Co., 1990) that offered me my first heady words. They were "high femme," and they jumped off the page. Here was a woman describing herself, and me. "I never liked to get dirty, play ball, or fix cars. I loved being a girl and then a woman. And then I loved being a woman who loves women. I've always been a high femme."

My world crystallized. I read on, soaking up the salient points of femme/butch history, searching for yet more information. Unlike the feminist movement, there had been no passing in society when a femme was out in public with her butch. It was a dangerous act for both of them. But it spoke volumes about their love for each other and about their pride for that love.

I got angry. Angry at the feminist movement for imposing their narrow, bigoted, artificial limitations on the lesbian nation. Their new rules were as cruel as the at-large society they were trying to change. Angry at the lesbians who let them get away with it. And angry because I, we - all lesbians - had been cheated out of a birthright.

At a recent function I ran into another femme woman. I only know her in passing (pardon the pun), but I have high regard for her and the decisions she has made for living her life. I had never seen her with her lover before. And here they were together, making my heart leap. There was no mistaking her butch, or the nature of their relationship.

When introduced, the lover, with a charm characteristic of so many butches, managed to check out my ankles. While inspecting that small space of black stocking exposed between the hem of my trousers and my high heels, she maintained a warm and courteous smile.

"Yes," my heart sang, "I've managed to find another couple." Each new connection is an affirmation. We exist. They tried to wipe us out, but we persevered.

In the 10 years since I've been out, there have been so many changes in the lesbian nation - definitely for the better. I ask myself, "has the climate tempered, or have we just gotten older?" Some of each I think.

Several years after I came out, when things had just begun to soften, a successful lesbian with her own business publicly attacked me acrimoniously and without cause. "I suppose you think you're responsible for getting other women in this community to wear dresses?!" It was one of those accusations/insults hurled from across the room at the enemy.

Speechless, I fled. She didn't get it. Her fear was drummed in too deep.

If others choose dresses - or leather, or flannel, or feathers - that is their right. There must be, there is room in the lesbian culture for all of us and our history. But at the time I still didn't have all the words, all the facts, all the attitude, to respond to her.

Today I do.

Be whoever you are. Live it with pride. Don't let anyone whisper lies in your ear.

Don't whisper lies in anyone else's either.
A SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOME
- Maine Organizations Get One of 15 HUD Grants
by Charles Wynott and Jon Piefer

What does $669,000 over three years mean for people living with HIV/AIDS in Maine?
Charles Wynott and Jon Piefer are a couple with HIV/AIDS living at the AIDS Lodging House in Portland.

They now receive assistance from the Shelter Plus Care program, a rental subsidy provided by HUD, with local administration by the AIDS Project and Shalom House. There are currently only two existing slots of this nature available here and Charlie and Jon had to do a lot of foot work to find them. They receive monthly support of $374 to help them pay their rent of $650.

The money, which will become available in the next few months, will be an extension of this program and will mean that up to 100 people a year in Maine will be able to receive rent vouchers and access to The AIDS Project’s case management services, volunteer support services, therapy and other services. This type of assistance reflects a trend in social services, allowing people to remain in their own homes instead of being placed in special facilities unless absolutely necessary for health reasons.

The umbrella name for the project is HAVEN - Housing and Volunteer Enlistment Network - "...an acronym that wasn’t chosen lightly," said Chris Behan, a founding trustee of the Peabody House. HAVEN means safe harbor for those living HIV/AIDS.

Many people with HIV/AIDS become too ill or die before they get rental assistance. "This brings to mind our best friend Donny Plourde who passed away this summer. How would this have changed his life? Without this we could not begin to concentrate on the health issues involved with this disease," say Charlie and Jon.

Maine people with HIV/AIDS critically need rental assistance. Of 221 people on The AIDS Project caseload in May 1994, 175 (79%) had monthly incomes under $500. Half received SSI, SSDI or both.

"I’ve watched people try to live on very low - basically, social security income," said Bill Toth who also lives at the AIDS Lodging House. "Social Security provides about $450 a month. After rent, food and utilities are deducted, most end up with about $25 a week."

In Sanford and Biddeford in York County, people who are homeless have priority for Section 8 existing certificates, but the wait may be at least three months. Portland’s Section 8 waiting list is closed with 1,500 people facing an expected wait of up to nine years. The Maine State Housing Authority’s agent in communities with no public housing authorities, the York-Cumberland Housing Management Corp., has a closed list with 1,123 people waiting three to five years. Charlie and Jon are on a waiting list for Section 8 in Lewiston and have been for over a year now.

The five southern Maine agencies which will receive assistance from HUD (Housing and Urban Development) are:
• The AIDS Project, which will share administration of the project with a full-time housing coordinator, and will also provide 20 housing vouchers of $377 a month.
• The Peabody House, which will hire a part-time volunteer coordinator and receive $25,000 toward the renovation of its building (scheduled to open this fall on Portland’s West End), and will also receive three housing subsidies of $250 a month.
• The AIDS Lodging House, which will receive five vouchers of $377 a month.
• Family Institute of Maine, which will receive money to hire a half-time therapist.
• Shalom House, which will help in the rent administration.

The collaborative approach "is difficult because people have to give up their usual way of operation," said Joseph Brannigan, Executive Director of the Shalom House, which will help administrate.
The Chart Room Saloon

HALLOWEEN

Saturday October 29th
8pm until 1am

Prizes
Best Carved pumpkin
Best Costume

Fourth Anniversary

Saturday November 5th
6pm until 1am

Buffet 7-9pm
Drink Specials
Giveaways

117 Spring Street, Portland, ME
REVIEW - Go Fish
by Sherrie Bast

*Go Fish* played in Portland, Maine at The Movies on Exchange Street recently. Although the sound quality was notably terrible, the story itself was a delight. Described as a love story of the ‘90s, without a political agenda, by the mainstream press, Rose Troche’s film is well worth seeing. The way the issues of lesbianism, romance, friendship and other contemporary matters are handled makes the story worth the telling.

The story line is essentially the tale of five friends, and a sixth ever-changing girlfriend of one of the core five. Three of the friends are invested in getting the remaining two wimmin together. This part of the plot is fun and easy to watch; it is not, however what makes the movie all that it is.

What makes *Go Fish* worth seeing is its honesty. It is the strength of the character Kia, who is articulate, attractive and strong. When she is insulted on the street by a man, she does not hesitate to yell out "Fuck You" and keep on walking. It is the honesty of the character Daria, who is confronted by a number of wimmin in a surrealistic scene, for having slept with a man. This confrontation provides a vehicle for discussing, without defining, what a lesbian is. A second surrealistic scene shows us the character Max, wearing a wedding dress and talking about her fears of waking up one morning, married with children. Her monologue ends with the statement that she is not afraid that she is waiting for a man, but rather that a man is waiting for her.

The combination of surrealism, discussion and interesting camera work make the story an uncommon pleasure to watch.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY OCTOBER 11

Tips for Coming Out Every Day

• Make a commitment every day to tell the truth about yourself to others

• Include your partner in all of your holiday and family events

• Come out in the workplace and encourage your employer to include protections and benefits on the basis of sexual orientation

• Organize a visibility event on National Coming Out Day

• Volunteer with and support local and community organizations

• Support gay and non-gay companies that support the gay community

• Join a national gay and lesbian organization

• Write letters to local and national elected officials urging them to support fairness and equality for lesbians and gays

• Share your coming out story with local school, church or synagogue groups

• Help make the identity of the gay community as diverse as possible by getting involved and being visible - it truly makes a difference
it is for me to ask for help, how I can let things slide until I'm at death's door - I'm not the best person at taking care of myself. So when I'm subjecting myself to Japanese doctors and I have no idea of what's going to happen, I obviously know something's very seriously wrong. I had been running a high fever consistently, so they gave me some antibiotics. I was frightened of admitting how serious it was, and they didn't want to ask. I think they were just hoping that I would live through it and get home - and so was I.

I was afraid I would end up in a hospital there, or I would need to be in a hospital and not be able to get into one.

Not all hospitals in Japan accept people with HIV and if they do not recognize your insurance, you need to pay in advance. And if a breakfast in Japan cost $30, I could just imagine what an X-ray would cost.

Wednesday was the worst day. I was thinking if I could at least get to Hawaii - it was a shorter flight, I know some people there and they could get me into a hospital there. I really was petrified that if I ended up in a hospital in Japan, what happens after everyone else left and I try to manage on my own?

**APEX**: So the antibiotics worked and here you sit.

**Tom**: It was figured out after I got back that the lung had partially collapsed and there was some sort of pneumonia. It was probably brought on by 15 hours in a plane with 'wonderful' air and pressure changes, and it was brutally hot and humid in Japan - the worst in 40 years. Add the stress and lack of sleep and going into air-conditioned conference sites and hotels.

**APEX**: Now that you've been back for a few weeks, what impressions do you have of the conference?

**Tom**: One of the things that I always enjoy at these conferences is speaking with people from around the world who are living with HIV, people who are really on the front lines.

The trip was taxpayers' dollars well-spent.

One of the campaigns that so impressed me was from Australia - the message wasn't really direct AIDS prevention; it was more about being accepted as gay youth. They took out ads in all the teen magazines. One print ad showed an attractive young man and his mom there. The text reads "My mom used to blame herself for my being gay; now she wants to take all the credit!" There were four really wonderful positive ads. Some had response cards and some had phone numbers. They got a really surprising return rate of something like 60% which is unheard of in this sort of work. They focused on issues of self-esteem and being accepted and not feeling alone, of letting people know there were places to get help or information. We're so afraid to do that in this country.

**APEX**: The next conference is going to be in Vancouver (a lot closer) in July of '96. Do you intend to go?

**Tom**: Two years away for a person with HIV is a long time. I'd like to think that I'll be here and well enough to go, but I'd like to go in a real different capacity. One of the things I regret is not having taken more photographs of people with HIV while I was there. One of the things I've been hoping to do is less of the official kinds of AIDS work I've been doing the last couple of years (except for the public speaking at the schools). I got such a positive response from my photo exhibit [at the AIDS Project in 1993] of people seeing that these are real people living with this, and I'd like to continue that. I think if I go back to the next international conference, I'll set my camera up somewhere where I'll let it be known to people with HIV from the beginning that I'd like to take their photograph. I'll come back with images of people throughout the world who are living with this. This is really what it's all about - it's about people!
SAT.-SUN. 10/1-2

SATURDAY 10/1
Fight the Right NOW Conference, sponsored by Maine NOW. Bangor HS, 885 Broadway, Bangor, ME, 10am-4:30pm. FMI (207) 825-3962.

The Lesbian Lounge Lizards & Monica Grant at the 1st Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, ME. 8pm.

Women Meeting Women potluck, Unitarian Church, Nashua, NH. FMI (603) 886-5755.

Circle of Hope, an inclusive Christian community based on the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Comm. Churches has its initial meeting 4pm, the Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI S. Smith, POB 8606, Portland, ME 04104.

Nonviolence or Nonexistence, a conference about strategies for life in the 21st century. Wellesley College, MA. FMI (617) 283-2685.

Fall Foliage BBQ on Clark Pond, Canaan, NH. FMI (603) 632-7146. An Amelia's Event.

Northern Lambda Nord's annual fall membership drive party & dance, 8pm-12:30am at Caribou Country Club, Caribou, ME. $5 (US = CDN). Free if you buy a membership ($15 US = CDN). FMI (207) 498-2088.

SUNDAY 10/2
Lesbians Under Siege - Brenda and Wanda Henson speak at Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Cambridge, MA, 7:30pm. FMI (617) 666-0828.

Mitoulas House, New Hampshire's first safe haven for people with AIDS will be discussed at a special meeting of Seacoast Gay Men, Manchester, NH, 3pm. FMI Al (603) 898-1115.

5th Annual Maine AIDS Walk starting at the gazebo on the Mall, Reg. - 11:30am, opening ceremonies - 12:30pm, walk begins - 1pm rain or shine, Brunswick, ME. FMI Merry-meeting AIDS Support Services (207) 726-4955.

AIDS Walk to benefit Waldoboro AIDS Coalition. Register 12 noon at the Waldo Co. Shrine Club, across from City Park. FMI (207) 338-1427.

TUESDAY 10/4
Womyn and the AIDS Epidemic: Personal Accounts and the Facts! The Gathering, Student Center, USM Portland Campus, 7-9pm. FMI (207) 774-4919.

FRI-SUN. 10/7-9
The Atlantic Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Conference in Halifax N.S. FMI Al, &B6C, c/o 5280 Green St., POB 27043, Halifax NS B3H4M8, Canada or call Gary or James (902) 429-7922.

Acoustic Rock Artist Paul French at Raffles, 7:30pm. FMI (207) 761-3930.

SUNDAY 10/8
Fight the Right Training sponsored by NG/LTF & MLGPA, UU Church, Brunswick, ME, 9am-5pm. FMI (617) 492-6393.

MON.-MON. 10/10-17
Women's Week: Provincetown, MA. FMI (800) 637-8696.

TUESDAY 10/11
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY!
An Election Guide presented by Karen Geraghty and B.J. Broder. The Gathering, Student Center, USM Portland Campus, 7-9pm. FMI (207) 774-4919.

WEDNESDAY 10/12
Facing the L Word: Integrating Lesbian Studies into U of Maine Curriculum, 12:15-1:30pm at UMO, Lunch Series, Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union, Orono, ME.

THURSDAY 10/13
Men and Race: The Color of Fear. Screening and discussion of this film. Matlovich Soc., 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME, accessible, free parking. FMI (207) 773-1209.

FRIDAY 10/14
Conference on Violence in Relationships, Rivier College, Nashua, NH, 8am-noon. Preregistration required, $10. FMI Nashua NOW (603) 888-3298.

Stan Moeller & T.S. Baker at Raffles, 7:30pm. FMI (207) 761-3930.

SATURDAY 10/15
Women, Music & Power - a workshop with Kay Gardner, 2-4pm, Belfast Free Library, Abbott Aud., 46 High St., Belfast, ME. $15-25. To benefit the Women's Center. FMI (207) 338-5889.

Potluck at Dudley's, 5pm. FMI (802) 889-9413. An Amelia's Event.

The Women's Center in Belfast presents Kay Gardner in Concert - The Rainbow Path with Flute Improvisations, 8pm, Belfast Free Library, Abbott Aud., 46 High St., Belfast, ME. $5-10. FMI (207) 338-5889.

Women's Fall Harvest Dance, 8pm-Midnite. Temple Beth El, Deering Ave., Portland, ME. Chem Free.

SUNDAY 10/16
Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting, 1-3pm, Gay-Lesbian Community Services Ctr, 398 S. Main St., Caribou, ME. FMI (207) 498-2088.

MONDAY 10/17
Symposium XXI Planning Meeting 6:30-8:30pm, Gay-Lesbian Community Services Ctr., 398 S. Main St., Caribou, ME. FMI (207) 498-2088.

Stan Clough introduces a monthly discussion of gay writers, starting with Walt Whitman, at Stroudwater Book Store, 775 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI Al (603) 898-1115.

Alternative Conception Workshop for Lesbians and Women without Partners, 6:30pm, Northampton, MA. FMI (413) 256-4470.

TUESDAY 10/19
Artificial Insemination: A Personal Story Laced with the Facts. The Gathering, Student Center, USM Portland Campus, 7-9pm. FMI (207) 774-4919.

FRI-SUN. 10/21-23
Annual Gay Men's Retreat. 3 days of workshops & fellowship in Mid Maine. FMI (207) 338-1427.

FRIDAY 10/21

Michael Danahy's 30th Something B-day Party at Raffles, 7:30pm. FMI (207) 761-3930.
SATURDAY 10/22

Constructing Our Visibility. First of 3 forums on creating community support for being "out" in Maine. 10am-5pm, AVAC Ctr, 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston. Reg.: (207) 772-7325 or (207) 871-9940. Sponsored by the Pride Committee '95.

Potluck and Games with the women of the Lakes/Mountains Connection, E. Rumney, NH. FMI (603) 726-3667.

Go Fish, at Leow's Theatre, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, 7 & 9pm.

Self-Esteem and Assertiveness - Learn to celebrate yourself! Explore techniques to recognize self-defeating behavior & build self-esteem. Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. RSVP (207) 725-7632.

SUNDAY 10/23

Fight the Right Training sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and NH Coalition to End Discrimination. Concord, NH. FMI (603) 224-1686.

MONDAY 10/24

Dara Jane Brennan talks about New Moon Visionaries, psychic consultants, mediums, past lives and Tarot. Seacoast Gay Men, UU Church, Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. FMI (603) 898-1115.

TUESDAY 10/25

Witches, Warlocks, Pagans and Community. The Gathering, Student Center, USM Portland Campus, 7-9pm. FMI (207) 774-4919.

THURSDAY 10/27

Celebrate the Anniversary of Twenty Years of the Gay Press in Maine: enjoy an evening of story-telling and reminiscence with the men and women who helped create Mainely Gay, Maine's first gay newspaper. Matlovich Soc., 7-30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME, accessible, free parking. FMI (207) 773-1209.

FRIDAY 10/28

CAGLR Halloween Dance, Pat's Peak, Henniker, NH. $6, 8pm.

Rob Eberhard-Young at Raffles, 7:30pm. FMI (207)761-3930.

SATURDAY 10/29


Breast Cancer & the Environment, a conference sponsored by the MA Breast Cancer Coalition, 2 Boylston St., Boston, MA. FMI (617) 423-6222.

Northern Lambda Nord Halloween Costume Party, 8pm in Van Buren. Prizes for best and most original costumes, BYO beverage; NLN members free; $2/non-members. FMI (207) 498-2088.

MONDAY 10/30

America's "Stonehenge" hosts Seacoast Gay Men in Salem, NH, 1pm. FMI/directions Al (603) 890-1115.

MEDIA

WMPG'S Women's Music Fest, 90.9 FM 3-5pm Sun.

NOTICES

Equal Protection Maine/Bangor meets 1st Sun. each month. FMI contact EPM, POB 963, Bangor, ME 04402.
ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

Since I began my metamorphosis, also known as "coming out," I have been very critical of the gay community, specifically the male gay community, for its fear of commitment and lack of intimacy. I knew that when I found the "right man" I would be forever faithful, waiting at the door for my man to come home. HOWEVER. Over the course of three years, I have met many men, slept with many men, liked some men, and become involved with a few men. Unfortunately, the story is always the same: I see "Billy" at the bar. I like "Billy." I meet "Billy." I sleep with "Billy." I want "Billy" to commit to me. "Billy" commits to me. I get smothered, so I leave "Billy." NEXT!!!

Thighmaster, please help me stop this vicious, nasty cycle. Why is it that once the chase is over, the excitement is gone? Am I condemned to live the life of a predator - lonely, but on top of the food chain - or can I curb my carnal instincts and find a mate, not a meal?

A Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing

Dear "Billy" Goat,

Stop trashing the "gay male community" and go perpetuate a stereotype: head back to the Gap, and take a good long look in the mirror. It sounds to Thighmaster like you're not a sheep in wolf's clothing, but a clonehead who bought yourself a sheep outfit that doesn't really fit - probably because some fashion fuck-up told you it was going to be the next hot thing in relationshipwear. Face it, you don't really want just one special guy. If you did, you would have figured out by now that "can carry on a conversation" is no passport to foreverland. After all, Clinton can carry on a conversation, but would you ever think of taking "Billy" home for keeps? Of course not, because all that his fast talking will get you is night after night of lying in bed together while he practices refining his conversational skills so that he can do stuff like describing Haiti's political situation in such a way that it looks bad enough to justify U.S. military invasion and simultaneously not bad enough to grant Haitians "political refugee" status. It's a neat trick, certainly, and it has lots of complicated parts that are a wonder to behold: like the disappearing act where the dubious U.S. track record of invade-for-democracy somehow drops out of the picture, along with the embarrassing little secret about U.S. contribution to the current state of affairs and to the thwarting of Aristide's attempt to raise the minimum wage to $3 a day. (Thighmaster recommends Paul Farmer's The Uses of Haiti for the info that's going the way of Billy's ariel visitors.) But it's hardly a trick to come home to - even if those daily jogs do keep Billy's butt muscles in shape.

Exchange your sheep outfit for something that fits better. And while you're at it, return those stupid shades. Clearly, you can't see through them, or you wouldn't be seeing Thighmaster as a curb-your-carnal-instincts flockleader. More importantly, you wouldn't be having so much trouble seeing that the "gay male community" has a lot more mix-and-match in available relationshipwear than your sheep-or-wolf dichotomy would suggest, and that the beacon of truth is right in front of you, at least from 10-11 PM Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Or - fess up - have you been breaking Thighmaster's cardinal rule and missing Nick at Night's daily dose of revolution, also known as the Mary Tyler Moore show? Get with the program, so to speak, and get the big message. It's in the plot line over and over where Mary fucks guy after guy - the vacuous ski teacher, Murray's father, the college kid, Jerry Van Dyke, and the list goes on - while nonetheless making her house a home. It's in the theme song where Mary, the cruise queen who "shows it" nonstop with "each glance and every little movement," learns to "take it" ("it" being euphemistically termed "love" due to network censorship) from "all around." And if that's not enough, it's backed up and reamed down out throats by countless little details. Why, for instance, is Mary always eating pizza on her dates? Thighmaster hates to belabor the obvious, but since you seem to have missed Symbolism 101 in high school - otherwise you wouldn't be reduced to the overused wolf-and-sheep analogy - Thighmaster will decode for you. The pizza, of course, symbolizes the fast food and variety "toppings" that Mary still gets to bring home even when she has one special guy. The open pizza box symbolizes the homey, familiar environment that offers nourishment without restricting the air supply; hence no one is forced to undergo the smothering of which you speak. The boyfriend whom Mary eats (with) from the open and familiar box - "with" is in parentheses here because obviously Mary would just be eating the boyfriend if it weren't for the aforementioned network censorship - represents just what you are looking for: a guy who's both a mate and a meal, and who's more than happy to let in the delivery boy. Now really, if Mary can figure out how to have her pizza, her pizza box, her pizza pal, and her pizza boy without once pointing "fear of commitment and lack of intimacy" fingers at herself or at others, so can you.

Thighmaster eagerly awaits your submissions. No problem too complicated or twisted! Thighmaster, c/o Phoenix Press, PO Box 4743, Portland, ME 04112.
PASSAGES

(San Francisco) - Rikki Streicher, a pioneer in San Francisco’s gay civil rights movement and owner of two of the city’s most famous lesbian bars, has died at 68.

Streicher, who battled cancer for four years, died August 21, 1994 at Garden Sullivan Hospital.

Streicher, who arrived in San Francisco in the '40s, was a butch who was instrumental to the creation of a strong lesbian and gay community. In 1966 she opened Maud’s, which went on to become the country’s oldest continuously running bar for lesbians. The bar closed in 1989, inspiring “Last Call at Maud’s,” an acclaimed documentary that highlighted the bar’s role in the fight for gay and lesbian civil rights. The film premiered in 1993 and played on public television stations across the country.

Streicher also owned Amelia’s, a popular lesbian dance club which opened in 1978.

Streicher was active in helping to organize the Gay Games in San Francisco in 1986 and later helped create the Federation of Gay Games, an organization that oversees the games every four years.

At the Games in New York in June, Streicher was awarded the Tom Waddell Cup for her contributions to gay athletics.

On August 22, San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan ordered flags flown at half-staff in her honor.

* * * * *

Editor’s Note: The first time I walked into Maud’s, I felt like I’d come home. I’d moved to San Francisco soon after coming out seeking community and found it at Maud’s. Rikki always had a smile and a friendly word for everyone who frequented her establishment - it made me feel comfortable and safe. I knew that I’d always find conversation and nonjudgment there. In fact, I met my lover, Naomi, there 10 years ago. Many times I’d go into the bar when things were slow and sit with Rikki and shoot the shit. She did a lot for our community and for me personally - I’ll miss her. Madeleine Winter

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RESOURCE GUIDE

LIST YOUR GROUP! PLEASE SEND INFORMATION AND/OR UPDATES TO PHOENIX PRESS, POB 4743, PORTLAND, ME 04112

HOT-LINES


DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK - for lesbian/gay/bisexual/questioning youth under 19.

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE, Caribou area: (207)498-2088.

GAY INFO LINE, Concord, NH (603)224-1686. Social, legal, therapeutic & educational referrals.

INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS
P.O. Box 177
Burlington, VT 05402

THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS
POB 125, Belfast, ME 04915
(207) 338-2913. Calendar of events for central coastal Maine.

EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL

THE MATLOVICH SOCIETY - Lesbians/bisexuals/gaymen/friends committed to sharing our history & providing affirming presentations/discussions. 2nd/4th Thurs. each month, 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI (207) 773-1209.

SOCIAL GROUPS

AM CHOFSHI - Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish group, meets monthly. FMI (207) 874-2970 (Rheatha).

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03831. Social group for gay men from west, ME/north. Norwegian support & educational group. Meets Mon., 7pm. Newsletter & calendar of local, current events. FMI POB 332, Portland, ME 04302 or (603) 659-2139.

SEACOAST GAY MEN - meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH; POB 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802. FMI (603) 898-1115.

TIME OUT - Outdoor recreation/environmental club for lesbians, gay men & friends. Free newsletter lists events for NH/ME area. FMI (207) 871-9940 or SASE: POB 11502, Portland, ME 04104.

“LET’S DO BRUNCH” POTLUCK social gathering 1-2pm, 3rd Sun. of the month; York County locations. Meet new people, share news & info. FMI (207) 985-2784.

SUPPORT GROUPS

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP - Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Ctr, 334 Harlow St., Bangor, ME, 1st/3rd Wed. monthly, 6:30-8pm. FMI (207) 947-5337. For any woman who identifies as a lesbian. Woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues & affirm our lesbianism. Confidentiality, openmindedness, respect required.

PETS ARE WONDERFUL SUPPORT (PAWS/MAINE) - 22 Monument Square, 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101, (207) 871-9109; FAX (207) 879-0791.

SAFE SPACE WOMEN’S CENTER OF MAINE - 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Self-help recovery group. Mon. 7-9:30pm; open house Fri. 7-9:30pm. FMI (207) 725-7632.

LAVERD WOYMEN - Lesbian/Bisexual Women’s discussion group. Tues. 6:30-8:30pm. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., So. Auburn, ME 04210. FMI (207) 783-0461.

FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE - No cost, educ./rap group for gay/bisexual men in this time of H.I.V. FMI (207) 275-0461.

FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE - No cost, educ./rap group for gay/bisexual men in this time of H.I.V. FIM (207) 725-7632.

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD - POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. Serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; social activities, discussion groups/speakers bureau; monthly newsletter/activities calendar.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Wkly support mtg, info., fun/special events for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth. Bi-monthly, TBD. FMI (207) 275-0461.

SEACOAST OUTRIGHT - group for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth 21 & under. Mtgs Fri., 7-9pm, Unitarian Church annex adjacent to fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI 774-6877 re: support groups in Portland, Auburn/Lewiston & Brunswick, ME areas.

CRONES - for women over 40. FMI (207) 275-0461.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Wkly support mtg, info., fun/special events for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, Williston West Church, upstairs chapel, 32 Thomas St., Portland, ME. Mon. 7-9:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5077, Portland, ME 04101. (207) 774-HELP.

THE BRIDGE AT COLBY - Student support/discussion group. FMI (207) 872-3635 (leave msg).

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD - POB 990, Caribou, ME 04736; (207) 498-2088. Serves Aroostook Co. & New Brunswick towns; social activities, discussion groups/speakers bureau; monthly newsletter/activities calendar.

LEWISTON AUBURN GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP. Weekly open group. Mon. 7pm, UU Church, Spring St., Auburn, ME.

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - Wkly support mtg, info., fun/special events for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth under 22 yrs of age, Williston West Church, upstairs chapel, 32 Thomas St., Portland, ME. Fri. 7-9:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5077, Portland, ME 04101. (207) 774-HELP.

SEACOAST OUTRIGHT - group for gay/lesbian/bi/questioning youth 21 & under. Mtgs Fri., 7-9pm, Unitarian Church annex adjacent to fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI: Outright, POB 842, Portland, ME 03801.

APEX DISTRIBUTION POINTS:

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Gulf of Maine Books, Bar Harbor
The Square Cafe, Waterville
Papa Joe’s, Augusta
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androcoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Lewiston
GLBA, Bates College, Lewiston
Sportman Athletic Club, Lewiston
Homested Bed & Breakfast, Bar Harbor
Bookbuild, Mall Plaza, So. Portland
Mike’s Place, Lewiston
Fin Back Restaurant, Bar Harbor

New Hampshire

Women’s Information Service, Lebanon
NH Feminist Health Center, Concord
The Highland’s Inn, Bethlehem
Campus GLBT Alliance, UNH, Durham
ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
Blue Strawberry, Portsmouth
Members, Portsmouth
Lady iris, Portsmouth

Or delivered to your door by subscription (see form on page 13)
OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL MAINE - For lesbian and gay youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30 pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. POB 802, Auburn, ME 04212 ▶ 1-800-339-4042.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue Portland, ME 04101 (207) 773-8500

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mon. at Mexico Congr. Church (the "Green Church") 7-8:30pm. Main St., Mexico, ME. FMI ▶ (207)369-0259.

LIFESTYLES ALLIANCE - meets Fri. noon at U. New England campus, 11 Hills Beach Rd., Biddeford, ME 04005 FMI ▶ (207)283-0171 x372.

MERRYMEETING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES - POB 57, Brunswick, ME 04011. Support services for AIDS/HIV. FMI ▶ (207)725-4955.

OUT AMONG ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP Thurs. 7-8:30pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Portland, ME. FMI ▶ (207)799-0297.

WOMEN'S INCEST AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP Open support/discussion for women only. Weds. 1-3:30pm. FMI ▶ (207)874-6593 or (207) 774-3813.

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE - Statewide, non-partisan org. promotes civil rights in ME. Involves lesbian/gay community in political process. Mtgs in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FMI ▶ 1-800-55-MLGPA for time/place.

FREDERICTON LESBIANS/GAYS PO Box 1556, Station A Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2 Canada (506) 457-2156

AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER ACT UP/Portland) (207) 828-0598 (phone/fax); Sun. 7pm YWCA (87 Spring St., Portland, ME).

APOLLO SOCIETY - Gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists & Hellenists. FMI ▶ (207) 773-5726 or SASE to POB 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

GREATER PORTLAND NOW c/o YWCA, 87 Spring St., Pld, ME 04101. (207) 879-0877/(207) 871-0618, POB 4012, Portland, ME 04101. Speakers/events for the public 4th Tues. of each month.

SPIRITUAL
DELTA PHYRE: Worship the Goddess at monthly Full Moon Circles. Open to wimmin (no transsexuals, please). Bring musical instruments. FMI ▶ Lady Alaina (207) 676-7914.

SPirit of the Mountains - gay/straight, justice-seeking community meets for worship 2nd & 4th Sun. 5pm, 1st Congregational Church, N. Main St. & Washington St., Concord, NH. Potluck after service. FMI ▶ Jim Bretz (603) 536-4011.


FRIDAY NIGHT CHURCH SERVICES State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, ME. Interdenominational service, Inclusion, love and transformation in contemporary language. 7pm, accessible and child care. FMI ▶ (207) 774-6396.

Circle of Hope, an inclusive Christian community based on the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. FMI S. Smith, POB 8506, Portland, ME 04104. 4pm at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland, ME.

MUSIC
MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS - Community chorus. FMI write M.G.M.C., POB 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

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More HOME from page 6
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