WOMAN BREAKS INTO PRISON FOR LOVER

(The Washington Blade) - Britain - The Manchester Evening News on January 20 reported a woman broke into a prison in order to spend the night with her incarcerated Lesbian Lover, according to the Reuters news service.

According to Reuters, a hole was found in the fence at the Styal women's prison in Cheshire a month ago, and authorities suspected an escape. But a roll call check revealed all prisoners were present.

A woman who was an inmate at Styal at the time told the Manchester Evening News that the intruder hid under her lover's bed during a night security check. It was also reported that the intruder was a former inmate at Styal.

"Those allegations cannot be proved," said a prison spokesperson who was not identified by Reuters. "But obviously, while he (the prison governor) was unable to prove them, he has acted to ensure security is better in the future.

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BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

6° Fat Kills (p. 8)
6° Brave Boys Released (p. 4)
6° Bigots Driven Out (p. 2)
6° Thighmaster Tells All (p. 12)

"JUST SAY KNOW" - A Game You Can Play With Yourself

Portland, Maine area students observed Valentine's Day by handing out roses and pink-foiled condoms, and by playing the "Just Say Know" game in Monument Square. The objects of the game are (1) a reality-based education which will teach students to make responsible, informed and healthy choices, and (2) an end to AIDS. Each contestant is posed an HIV/AIDS-related statement such as: You can-

not get AIDS through oral sex (false), You can contract AIDS through sharing razors (true), Cassanova used condoms (true), three million teens contract STDs every year (true). After answering correctly, the player throws the die (see photo on page 7) and follows the directions on each space of the path. Players hope to avoid landing on Square #6 (You're Homophobic-Start Over) and Square #12 (School Board Votes No - Start Over). The goal is Square #13 (Responsible Educated Youth - You're a Winner!). The game isn't over until all the players are educated.

Valentine's Day also saw students from Thornton, Scarborough and South Portland High Schools install homemade condom dispensers in their school bathrooms.

The students belong to school-based activist organizations that are part of FATE (Fight AIDS Transform Education), which is affiliated with ACT UP/Portland. Look for future activities sponsored by FATE, which is also expanding north of Portland.

photo by Annette Dragon
An Open Letter to Lenore E. Walker

Dear Ms. Walker:

Although you have no idea who I am, I feel compelled to write to you. I have been familiar with your writing since 1980, and until recently had the utmost respect for your work. Now, however, I am confused and enraged by your behavior and cannot remain silent.

This letter is not about the O.J. Simpson trial, nor is it about what I presume to be his guilt or innocence. The way the press has acted with this case has been so distasteful that I have avoided all the publicity about it until a recent conversation with a friend. "Have you been following the O.J. trial?" she asked. I told her that I had not. "You might want to start, really. One of the experts on battered women is going to testify for the defense." Not surprising, I thought. "What's amazing though is that she is testifying for the defense." So this is what too much CNN does to the brain, I thought. We think we are becoming better informed but instead our brains are becoming addled. "For the what?" "The defense, you know, the guys who are saying he didn't do it." Of course, by now I know what my friend was telling me was true. Lenore E. Walker, expert on the effects of battering on womyn has been requested by an old friend to testify on behalf of a man charged with murdering his wife. On behalf of a man who admits to brutally beating this womyn he is now accused of killing. Lenore E. Walker, feminist (?) writer, and presumed expert on the politics and ramifications of domestic violence, now you are going to court to testify that just because he beat the shit out of her repeatedly, he was not necessarily apt to kill her.

This is certainly a new approach. Battered womin's shelters all across the country will be thrown into a tailspin if this spil is to be believed, won't they? "No ma'am, not to worry now, just because he's been seen savagely assaulting you, and heard threatening you does not mean he is any more apt to murder you than any other angry man in the city. You're as safe there with him as anywhere else you might come into contact with an angry man, have a nice day and make sure you don't overcook the spaghetti again dear." How could you? How can you? You who wrote on page 75 of The Battered Woman "Awareness of death potential - Battered women all stated that they were aware their batterers could kill them. They knew the threats of violence were not idle and that the batterers were capable of killing the women and/or themselves."

It feels like a betrayal that you would even consider testifying for the defense of an admitted batterer. This is certainly not to say that he does not deserve a fair trial, nor is it to say that someone else might not be justified in testifying in his defense. Why you, Lenore? Why a womyn who has written about mars LETERS...
THE WORD OF LIFE UPRISING

By Theodore Bohn

Ted Bohn, Maine gay activist emeritus, recalls the momentous 1978 battle between local queers and a homophobic church group from upstate New York. Today, Ted practices law in New York City.

I read the interview of Peter Prizer, Susan Henderson and Stan Fortuna by Annette Dragon in the last issue of APEX about the history of the lesbian and gay rights movement in Maine. The interview itself was brilliant - Annette had clearly read back issues of Mainely Gay, and her questions were incredibly honed. And Peter, Susan, and Stan all remain as unequivocal as they were 20 years ago when they assisted the movement in Maine. After I read it, Peter and I talked, and relived a lot of the old days, including a major chapter - the Word of Life events of 1978. Peter asked me to write something about that time. I will always be indebted to Peter and Susan for their political genius and their commitment - and Stan too - though he’d taken a hiatus from Maine for the few years that I was in Portland. But Susan and Peter operated Mainely Gay out of a spare bedroom for years - Gestetners, typewriters, printing machines, stencil machines, lots of ink, lots of cats stepping in ink - and someone always in the kitchen cooking for the rest. Peter and Susan often reached into their own pockets to keep the magazine alive. These were not deep pockets. Peter and Susan offered nothing but support during those years.

THE MENACE

Then came Winter of 1978. Anita Bryant was still quite active. It was the first post-Stonewall major national confrontation about the rights of gay people, and it was a fight which straight people had provoked. America was mostly hostile, and gay people knew it. There weren’t a whole lot of choices: go back in the closet, or come out fighting.

I had just moved to Portland from the West Coast with my boyfriend, the year before. We found an incredibly cheap floor-through, which I spent weeks painting. Then we broke up, and I moved out. He got the apartment.

I wasn’t having an easy time without him, but I couldn’t live with him another minute either. Besides, we were still mired in a Maine winter, which, to the uninitiated, wasn’t helping matters any. I was in a bad mood.

I moved into another, huge floor-through on Congress Street near Deering Oaks Park. Although I was only 22, gay activism was my life and it always had been. But doing this in Maine was another story.

I had my priorities in order: I got out of bed, lit a cigarette, and began opening the mail - Gay Community News from Boston, first. I remember reading a short blurb, only a few sentences really - buried somewhere, that an organization called Word of Life International was planning a “God, Country, and Decency Rally” in City Hall Auditorium in Portland over Mother’s Day weekend (May 1978). They were from Schroon Lake, NY, the blurb said.

I lit another cigarette at my kitchen table and thought about this for a minute. Then I picked up the phone and started making some calls.

I called Peter and Susan, with whom I’d been working on Mainely Gay. I can’t recall ever being so impressed with the political skills of any two people - Peter for his amazing political knowledge and insight, and Susan for her ability to take the political pulse and articu-
IF THERE IS A GOD (HE’S A QUEEN)
Romanovsky & Phillips Release Brave Boys

Fresh Fruit Records is pleased to announce the release of Brave Boys - The Best & More of Romanovsky & Phillips, a compilation of greatest hits, and more, by America’s Ambassadors of Homosexuality. The 18 songs on Brave Boys include selections from Romanovsky & Phillips’ first four releases, two cuts from Ron Romanovsky’s solo work, plus five never-before-released tracks, including a cut from their upcoming live album, to be released in the Spring of 1995.

Unlike many artists, whose “best of” albums might more appropriately be titled “Stalling For Time,” Romanovsky & Phillips have gone the distance and put together over 70 minutes of music that will appeal to old and new fans alike. They’ve carefully selected the most popular songs from over 10 years of recordings, seasoned them with several updated versions of R&P classics, and tossed in several new tunes to create a wildly entertaining musical feast. As with previous R&P albums, Brave Boys runs the gamut from hilarious to heartwarming and contains a multitude of musical styles from doo-wop to calypso to folk and funk. There’s even a polka included!

Brave Boys is a remarkable testimony to the enduring quality of the music of Romanovsky & Phillips, two artists who were queer long before it was hip, and marks the beginning of their second decade at the forefront of gay cultural expression. Live updated versions of classics like “Don’t Use Your Penis (For A Brain),” “What Kind of Self-Respecting Faggot/ Politically Correct Lesbian Am I?,” and “The Prince Charming Tango” showcase the timelessness of R&P’s material, while the straightforward rock of the title song, the New Jack street sounds of “Ho Ho Homophobia,” and the outrageous “If There is A God (He’s A Queen)” are harbingers of what’s to come from these two pioneers of gay entertainment. Referring to “Ho Ho Homophobia” in the August issue of Billboard magazine, reviewer Larry Flick wrote “Venerable gay male duo leaves its standard cabaret sound behind in favor of a kicky funk/dance beat. Empowering lyrics on the prejudice the queer community faces daily are forceful without being heavy-handed. ‘Ho Ho Homophobia’ gives the listener a Romanovsky & Phillips never heard before.”

Interestingly, the release of Brave Boys had been delayed several times due to two printers and a color separator who refused to print the artwork after initially accepting the job. But, as always, Romanovsky & Phillips have triumphed and Brave Boys - The Best & More of Romanovsky & Phillips is now available on CD and cassette where Quality Queer Culture is sold, including gay/lesbian/alternative bookstores and finer record stores everywhere.

You can also order directly from Fresh Fruit Records by calling 1-800-473-7848 and using your VISA or MasterCard.
OUT OF THE COURTROOM, INTO THE STREETS

We tried negotiating with the City, which told us that Word of Life had the right to use the City's Auditorium just as any other group did. We already knew that we wanted to know whether WOL was going to charge an admission fee or raise funds there. The City told us that WOL was renting the auditorium as a non-profit entity for, I think, about $250.00, and was prohibited from collecting fees or donations of any sort in exchange for that rate. We didn't believe it. We got a lawyer. We sued the City.

Although we lost, the events of that May were front-page news in the Portland Press Herald (and indeed, in some regional newspapers) for weeks. Although I remember doing most of the organizing work, Peter and Susan had the contacts necessary to publicize it.

We organized a march and candle-light vigil. On the Saturday before Mother's Day, a group of about 40-60 very courageous lesbians and gay men assembled across from the Post Office at Deering Oaks Park at, I think, about 8pm. It was very dark - of course it would be at 8pm, but I mean it was very dark. We were going to march to City Hall. A friend I'd made, who was a teacher, showed up with a paper bag over his head. He wasn't an activist by nature, but he knew the Word of Lifers and their supporters were hate-mongers, and he found the courage within himself to show up - even if it was with a paper bag over his head. And he brought the woman who shared his flat with him, who was straight. She also wore a paper bag over her head.

The Portland Police Department was everywhere. They weren't happy that we were marching, but they were also acutely aware that we weren't going away. And they seemed to appreciate the very real danger that we were in that night - it was Selma Downeast.

We stepped off and marched up State Street, cameras filming and flashing. We walked two-by-two. Peter and his boyfriend were in the lead. I was right behind them. My mother had traveled by Greyhound all night on Friday to get there on Saturday morning. She was behind me.

When we reached Cumberland Avenue and turned left, the streets were electric - bigots, lots of them, in cars were waiting and yelling - faggots, homos, queers, dykes! Car horns honking. Nothing new. But they were loud and rowdy, and I remember being concerned for my mother if things were to get even slightly worse. I suggested she might want to go back to the apartment, but she decided to keep marching. We were seriously outnumbered, and I started to feel guilty that maybe I'd underestimated and placed friends and family in danger by dragging them there. But no one even flinched. Somehow, we all tapped into a lot of courage inside of ourselves.

Although the march began in a somber, quiet way, I remember that as we were walking up State Street, and we could hear the bigots at the corner of Cumberland Avenue, Susan wasn't happy with things. Although the march would have had a profound impact even if we'd marched the entire route in silence, Susan realized the danger to our morale posed by our silence as we marched into streets filled with vocal opponents. As they shouted epithets, Susan began a chant: "First the Jews, then the Blacks, now the Gays, Get Off Our Backs!" It took.

All of chanted in unison. We were loud, too. And angry. We weren't ever going back again. We knew it, and so did they. Better still, so did the many young lesbian and gay people all over the State. We weren't afraid anymore. We were changed on the inside.
VICTORIA DELFINO, C.P.A., M.S.T.

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ROBERT’S RULES - small town grill
by Shelly Roberts

When I’m out doing book promotion, I get scheduled as a guest-by-telephone on some radio stations in villages not even big enough to have their own map dot. And this one was no exception. In fact it was so small...

GROUP RESPONSE: ...Hooowww smaaaaal was it??!! ...that the host’s hopes for a call to his program were dashed twice when he asked the first callers if they wanted to talk to his guest, and both replied, “No. I’m looking for the ad department.” Seems the station only had two telephone lines, and I was already on one of them, so the show and the business office had to share. Now that’s small.

A lot of people have asked me why I bother with these stations, because appearing on them doesn’t sell many books, which after all, is, theoretically the whole point. I do them because in some of these towns I believe there are gay and lesbian people who have no contact with the rest of us. Isolated folks who wouldn’t even know where to send for a publication like this, much less have a local place to buy it. My imaginary friend - and you thought I was too old for that - wanna meet my 6 ft rabbit buddy, as long as we’re on the subject? Oh, never mind. - has probably only had exposure to bullying pulpits which shout his or her name with expletives attached, and has never heard a GPWA. (That’s Gay Person With Attitude.) before. Much less an LPWA like me.

It had happened for me a long time ago, hearing a RGPGA (Radio Gay Person etc.), and that singular seminal (ovular?) incident etched an attitude-adjustment in my soul. For the first time I heard a gay person neither defending, nor being defensive. What a radical concept. Sure, with each other we could do that, I knew. But I’d never seen it modeled in a Gay/Non-Gay interaction before. It sounded so gooo-oo-ood, it instantly changed how I related to the rest of the world. Naturally, it seemed only fair to turnabout. So now that I get chances to be East Dinkwater’s (Pop 6543) biennial encourager with a real, live <<whisper>>, lesbian, I do it every chance I get.

And I don’t whisper, I say the L-word right out loud. Repeatedly. On the radio! Omigosh! I do the shows with as much Attitude as I can muster while simultaneously being bombarded with both bibles and Darwin, an odd metaphysical concurrence, doncha think? (Imagine! Leviticus and “Natural Law” coming out of the same mouths.)

Besides, it never hurts for everybody else, even the ones merely looking for the ad department, to hear somebody say that being one, you know, isn’t such a terrible thing. That it’s not the end of the earth if you’re a parent. That, no, Mama and Da didn’t cause it. And that the reason so many non-gay people have thought so badly about us for such a long time is that so far we’ve just had really lousy PR.

Usually it gets at least a grudging grin.

This day it brought a real call in, which was thrilling for the host that someone actually meant to call, and not someone inquiring about the 30-second ad rate for touting their combination cream separator-grain thrasher. I, frankly wasn’t so thrilled.

I’d heard this lady before. She, and her clones, often call in a quavery voice designed to conceal her true identify: Mephistopheles’ Mother, wanting to give my patience a try. This Lucifer in old lace said “...pervert” to me, and “disgrace to the community” to the show host. After the sermonette, she asked me if I ever read the bible, then hung up, not, I thought, listening to my response.

Forget the Judge Not That Ye Be Not Judged stuff - much too weak ammunition for this dowager who, speaking of judgmental, could have replaced the entire Supreme Court in a heartbeat, (and probably would have liked to.) I went straight (Oops. Gaily forward) to the counter-admonition that if she were going to use Leviticus against me, she ought to read the rest of it. (Including the part that would put Sears and K-Mart out of business. The passage that prohibits the wearing of mixed cloth. Like, oh, say, uh, for example, rayon, or nylon. Or anything J.C. Penny might whip up in a dacron/poly-cotton to wear to the Grange meeting.) Don’t worry, I said it nicely, thanks for your concern. Usually, it defuses.

Apparently, instead, it rankled. Because two minutes later she cranked the handle and asked Central to put her through to the station again. This time the connection was even worse. I could only hear one word clearly. The word used by people who wear leisure suits for a living and their wives. The dreaded B-word: “Bestiality.”
I patiently explained that as far as I knew such incidents usually involved a heterosexual male and a female animal, - this was farm country after all - so that this really wasn’t our problem.

But I have to tell you, this bestiality thing gets thrown up way too often when I speak to a non-gay audience. I’m really tired of having to defend the rest of us from its accusation. I know it isn’t you. Or anybody you know. And it certainly isn’t me or anybody I am even loosely acquainted with. But, frankly, I swear if I ever find that gay guy who’s doing it with a chicken...so help me, Hannah, I am going to feed him to the ducks or have Rocco and Vinnie perform anesthetic-free surgery on his kneecaps.

And don’t even get me started on NAMBLA.

Anyway, we parted amicable company, my Smallville radio host and I, having enlightened the rural masses for as far as the crow could fly. I’ll do it again the next time North Oshgosh or West Anywhere calls. For all the people who need to hear a little attitude. Ours and theirs. Including my favorite radio phone-in LOL (that’s Laughably Overbearing Looneytoon), from outside Atlanta, who accused me of being “...nothing but a...a...a...SHAAAMELESS LESBIAN!”

“Yes,” I responded, after an endless 10-second wait.

“So, uh, ...what’s your point?”

Here’s me sending you a radio wave.

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More NEWS from page 1

BURNTON CLERK GIVES LESBIANS MARRIAGE LICENSE
(The Washington Blade) - Burlington, VT - A city clerk issued a marriage license to a Lesbian couple last August, but city officials refuse to legally record the marriage.

Patricia Rivers-McMahon told the Blade in a Feb. 6 interview that she brought the certificate home to her partner, Penny Rivers-McMahon, but the celebration lasted only 10 minutes before city officials called to demand it back.

The couple refused to return the certificate. Instead, they followed the same procedure that many heterosexuals follow when they marry. A minister, the Rev. Gary Kowalski of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Burlington, signed the license after a private church ceremony. He returned it to the city by registered mail. According to a Burlington Free Press report, records show the license was received but never registered as legal.

Patricia Rivers-McMahon said the couple is prepared to sue the state in order to be recognized as a legal couple.

“We want to let the state know this is not just a passing whim,” she told the Blade. “We’re a family and want to be recognized as a family.”

In the meantime, the couple is trying to finalize a cross-adoption of Penny’s seven-year-old son Joel and Patricia’s nine-year-old son Ian. The court date is March 10. They are currently lining up legal paperwork, such as signing wills and powers of attorney.

Same-sex couples in Vermont have unsuccessfully attempted to obtain marriage licenses since the early 1970s, according to the Free Press.

South Burlington city attorney Steven Stitzel told the Free Press the marriage will not be registered because same-sex marriages are not legal in Vermont.

Patricia, a labor and delivery nurse at a local hospital, said that she still feels “very positive” about the prospects for her family.

Although she had been concerned how her patients and colleagues would react to the local news report, Patricia said she received more support than she expected and has even received kind letters from patients she took care of two years ago.
I don't like doctors. I don't know many fat women who do. My sister had cervical cancer and didn't go back for her post-op checkup for over 10 years.

"Why?" I asked her. "Don't you know this is dangerous stuff?"

"They're just going to tell me I'm too fat. I don't want to hear it. If I die, I die," she said. My sister works in a hospital.

Because of a persistent cough, I sought out a new doctor. After a series of referrals, I ended up with this very young, very thin female doctor, obviously a jogger by the way she dressed.

At first it seemed as if this might be okay. She didn't hesitate to touch my body, and her touch was gentle.

When the exam was finished, she said to me, with a smile, "Well, what are we going to do about you losing weight?"

"We're not going to do anything," I said. "I'm here because I can't get rid of this cough."

She smiled, shook her head, and ordered X-rays and tests. I thought, "Okay, fair enough."

The next time I saw her she gave me a handful of weight-loss pamphlets, everything from Weight Watchers and Nutri-System to plain old calorie counting.

She said to me, "You should pick one. They're all pretty good."

"I told you, I don't intend to lose weight," I said. "I'm here because of a cough."

"Don't you know that fat kills?" she said.

"I don't believe that," I said. "And I don't care anyway because I don't believe these diets work. These diets kill. Fat or thin, we are all going to die eventually, anyway."

"If you're depressed I can refer you to psychiatry," she said.

"No thank you. Just tell me about the X-rays," I said.

"Oh, the X-rays!" she said. "We have found an abnormality on your lung. It could be one of many things, including cancer."

By then I knew I needed a new doctor, but I couldn't change in the middle of this. It had taken me months to find this doctor.

I went back for more test results. The woman walked into the room with even more weight-loss pamphlets.

"Forget it," I said. "I have told you many times now that I am not interested in dieting."

She threw the pamphlets down on the desk, turned and put her hands on her hips, and looked at me with disgusted disbelief.

"Well, I just don't even know why you bother to come here if you're not going to listen to what I say," she said.

"I came to find out if I have lung cancer," I said through clenched teeth.

"Oh," she said. You could tell she had forgotten. I did not have lung cancer.

I fantasize that I am a depressed fat woman, dying from unnoticed, untreated cancer, but intending to kill myself first. I will jump from the top floor of a high-rise apartment building when this doctor jogs by underneath my balcony. I will time my jump so that I land right on top of her. The headlines will scream, FAT KILLS!

From the zine FatSo? (No. 1). Subscriptions: $12/yr. (4 issues) from FatSo?, Box 423464, San Francisco, CA 94142. Back issues: $3.50 from same address.
KARAOKE FINALS
AT BLACKSTONES

Winners from twelve weeks of qualifying rounds of Wednesday night karaoke gathered at Blackstones January 25 for a club sing-off. Capturing the top prize was Ellen Faulkner, who will compete in a regional contest. The regional winners will compete March 25 in the National Karaoke Finals in Las Vegas.

(Clockwise from top left) Ellen Faulkner, 1st place winner; Wanda Smith, contestant; Martin Lescault, 3rd place winner; Tony Vance, 2nd place winner.

photos by Annette Dragon.
CALENDAR

CALENDAR LISTINGS ARE FREE TO GROUPS SPONSORING COMMUNITY EVENTS. THOSE WHO CHARGE FOR PRODUCTS/SERVICES ARE INVITED TO CONTACT PHOENIX PRESS REGARDING DISPLAY ADVERTISING.

FRI.-SUN. 3/3-5
Second Annual Women’s Film and Video Festival, featuring work by women from Portland, Maine, New England, the U.S., and Canada, including an academy award-winning documentary, films by Portland-based filmmakers and a 15 minute short film by area children. Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq., Portland, ME. Weekend passes $25; all other program sessions $5. FMI (207) 775-6148.

SATURDAY 3/4
Cross Country Ski (2pm), Amelia’s Mtg (5:30pm) and Potluck after at Mandy’s. FMI (603) 632-7146. An Amelia’s event.

Introduction to Winter Camping, Chesterfield, NH. Sponsored by Women’s Outdoor Challenges. FMI (603) 763-5400.

Libby Roderick, at the University of Maine in Augusta, ME. FMI (207) 621-3205.

MONDAY 3/6
Seacoast Gay Men Potluck. UU Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH 7-9pm.

WEDNESDAY 3/8
P-FLAG Meeting, 7pm, Hanover, NH. FMI Jeanette (603) 643-8079.

THURSDAY 3/9
How can we walk a spiritual path in a homophobic world? Come hear members of the clergy discuss “Places of Peace: Sources of Spirituality.” 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking. FMI (207) 773-1209.

SATURDAY 3/11
Women Meeting Women General Meeting, UU Church, Nashua, NH. FMI POB 621, Hollis, NH 03049.

Women Meeting Women Dance, St. Stan’s Hall, Nashua, NH. FMI Barbara (603) 881-4268.

XC Ski the Smarts Pond trails at Waterville Valley, Campton, NH. Sponsored by Women’s Outdoor Adventure Cooperative. FMI (603) 483-8704.

Journal Writing Workshop at Safe Space for Women 1-4pm, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI (207) 725-7632.

SUNDAY 3/12

MONDAY 3/13

WEDNESDAY 3/15
Safe Space for Women Fundraising Meeting, 7:30-9pm, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI (207) 725-7632.

FRIDAY 3/17
Places in the Heart - No Room for Shame. Parenting our gay and lesbian children in the ‘90s. Presented by Andy Valley of P-FLAG, Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME, 7:30pm, Free.

Women’s Telemark Ski Clinic, Bretton Woods, NH, sponsored by Women’s Outdoor Challenges. FMI (603) 763-5400.

SATURDAY 3/18
Ann Reed Performs at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, ME. Tickets: $13.50/adv. $15/day of show. Gen. adm. FMI write Wild Iris Productions, POB 17, W. Buxton, ME 04093.

Crafts and Fun at Safe Space for Women, 7-9pm, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI (207) 725-7632.

THURSDAY 3/23
Lisa Keen, Senior Editor of The Washington Blade analyzes “The National Political Scene: What’s Happening and What It Means to Our Community.” 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking. FMI (207) 773-1209.

FRIDAY 3/24
Lavendar Land Utopia, a musical comedy presented by the Furies, Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland, ME. Fri. 3/24 at 8pm, Sat. 3/25 at 10pm, Fri. 3/31 at 10pm. Tickets $10/doors. FMI (207)773-4698. Presented as part of Oak Street Theatre’s Women’s Theatre Festival in honor of Women’s History Month.

SATURDAY 3/25
Lavendar Land Utopia (see 3/24)

FRIDAY 3/31
Winter’s End Auction to benefit the Railroad Square Cinema (snow date 4/1) at Dana Hall, Colby College, Waterville, ME. 7pm. Please support them, they certainly have supported the community in the past.

Lavendar Land Utopia (see 3/24)

NOTICES
“We Won’t Go Back!” Rally on the Mall in Washington, DC against violence Sunday 4/9. Buses leaving from several Maine locations $70/RT. FMI Kate (207) 774-9827 or NOW (207) 797-8508. Sponsored by NOW.

7th Gulf Coast Women’s Festival 4/13-16, 1995. This is an annual fundraiser for Camp Sister Spirit. 500 participants will provide us with enough funds to build a library and support our work for an entire year. The right-wing religious zealots have tried to stop us from gathering. We are standing our ground and are working for civil rights for all of us. FMI (601) 344-2005 & (601) 344-1411. GCWF, POB 12, Ovett, MS 39464.
More UPRISING from page 5

I think it was the Rev. Jack Wyrtzen of WOL who began the rally, castigating this and that. Although about 40 or 50 of us stood along the walls of the auditorium, we did so quietly. It was tense.

When he attacked abortion, a very large woman got up out of a seat on the other side of the auditorium, walked to the well in front of the stage and unfurled a sign that read “Keep your laws off my body.” That was it.

The rest of us moved forward. In another second, he started talking about homosexuals. We were sinners. We were damned. Holding the bible up with one arm, he bellowed: “What other book could have had such an impact on the world?” In the split second of silence which followed the question, I yelled with all of the volume I could muster: “Mein Kampf.”

My comment brought shouts from the audience: Shut up. Go home. Someone said to me “You’re a disgrace.” I answered back. She looked shocked - homosexuals were supposed to be docile and polite, she thought, even when attacked.

A man in the second row stood and shook his crutches at us.

The dykes and fags were out in force.

More than anything else, about that day, it was empowering to know that all of the young people who had been dragged to this rally by their parents to hear the indoctrinating word of God, were instead seeing and hearing with their own eyes and ears what could no longer be hidden - gay people weren’t afraid anymore - if you came to town to trash us, we’d crash your party. We’d silence you right back. We might not be able to do very much nationally or globally, but you weren’t coming to Maine to work evil - at least not with our complicity. It brings to mind Audre Lorde’s observation: “Your silence won’t protect you.”

The preacher was concerned, but he kept trashing us. Abomination. Sin. Hell. Words like that there. And each time we yelled back, “Go home,” “Fuck you.” Words like that there.

After what seemed like a good 45 minutes of serious chaos, the police quickly moved in and showed us the door.

We stayed long enough to see the Word of Life Choir passing large buckets for donations. My teacher friend, who was also an outstanding artist, had designed pink triangle armbands. We’d all been wearing them, and we took them off and put them in the collection buckets.

It was a day that signaled a beginning for me because I knew that things had changed inside all of us. Especially the young people in the auditorium who now understood that we weren’t about to go silently. And, I know, especially for young gay men and lesbians in that auditorium who understood for the first time that they weren’t alone, and that gay people could fight.

Word of Life never came back, although we’d heard that they’d been coming to Portland for years before 1978.

The Word of Life confrontation was a very important chapter in the maturation of the lesbian and gay rights movement in Maine. It was still early. As I look back on the 17 years that have intervened, I remember it as one of the most decisive victories in which I’ve ever been involved. The experience was about self-respect. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to do a lot of the organizing work for the rally, and to have the guidance of Peter and Susan in the process. I wish we could all still be in the back bedroom in cutoffs printing Mainely Gay.▼
ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

I am an "out"spoken queer boy with radical politics who is finding it exceedingly difficult to find a man. Where do I find "the" one, who can meet my needs for political/intellectual sparring but also deal with any and possibly all bedroom antics? A man who does not need to play "those" roles in and OUT of the bedroom/society? Must I keep my politics in a place of silent solidarity? Where are the radical fags?

Politics vs. Hormones/ Hormones vs. Politics

Dear Hormones,

If Thighmaster were a feminist of the "endless waterfall," "welcome to the wonderful community of healing spiritflowers" kind, you'd be being chastised right now - in the most nurturing way, of course - for thinking that political solidarity involved that sparring thing. If Thighmaster were a nun of the devil. If you are a disbeliever, you may simply note Thighmaster's extensive use of them. Or, better yet, reread your letter, and see that nobody but the big red one could have dragged you down the sinful path of unclarity. What do you mean by "those" roles? The standard stuff, like fem/butch, top/bottom, cheerleader/quarterback, Brandon/Dylan? Or is it political roles to which you refer? Perhaps you've been dallying with boys who want to play "I'm a California racist, you look like an "alien," and have I got a proposition for you: you can't get health care (in the underfunded clinic) unless you service me in just the right 187 ways." Or maybe you've encountered the craze that's sweeping the nation: "I'm the newly elected (fill in just about any elected office) from (fill in just about any location) and you're very, very hungry, and I'm going to take away your food stamps unless...." Or it could be the newest game in town: "I'm the Lewiston, Maine School Board and you're a high school student, and if you think your freedom of speech was violated when we banned "lewd" t-shirts, wait til you see what gets violated next."

If this is what you're talking about, Thighmaster offers condolences and the following 5-point survival guide for the bad times ahead - called, in the spirit of the times, Contract with Pleasurica. One: Begin to take a stand against the incoherent babble that passes as political logic these days by clarifying your own needs and desires. You don't really want both "no roles" and "any and possibly all bedroom antics." This is a contradiction in terms. You want lovers, Thighmaster deduces, who are open to experimentation but won't force scenes on you that send you screaming in unpleasure to demo-ville. Don't be embarrassed by the fact that your fantasy life is not all-encompassing. Even Thighmaster's isn't. (A glimpse into Thighmaster's mysterious mind, presented for those info-seekers who have been filling Thighmaster's P.O. box with requests for biographical tidbits: Thighmaster can't get into anything that involves eroticizing cold wea-

Drawing by Naomi Falcone
ment needs allies. Politicize those hot guys you’re doing (following guideline three), intersperse some leftlip with your sextalk, and get them moving. Out of the Alleys and into the Streets (with frequent trips back to the alleys for reenergizing, of course).

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

More LETTERS from page 2

what we as winmin can and must do to make our homes, streets and lives safe places to be?
You have recently been quoted as saying you are surprised at the response generated by your upcoming testimony, commenting that you are getting a large number of calls from very upset winmin, winmin like myself. Most of them, you say, have come to understand your position, by the end of their conversation with you. I have not called you Lenore, nor will I. I know already that there is nothing you could say that would decrease my outrage at what you have agreed to do. There are lots of words for it, you call it testifying for the defense. I call it the end of your credibility. No matter what you say when you’re in the courtroom, the fact that you are willing to be there at all says a great deal more. I call it bullshit, Lenore.

Sincerely,
Sherrie Michael Bast

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS

★
Have you or someone you know been a victim?

★
Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of The Attorney General (207) 626-8844

CLASSIFIED

PERSONALS

Dear APEX,
Annette Dragon’s February, ’95 article, “Back to the Future: Roots of Queer Activism and Journalism in Maine” beautifully transported me - ready or not! - to the mid 1970s, a decade largely remembered for loud polyester, platform sneakers (I had a pair) and Elvis comebacks.
Her article about the early years of Queer Activism in Maine, a rather extensive interview of several humanoid remnants, truly captures the enthusiasm, work, dedication and courage of the entire collective of women and men. A full listing of the individuals involved will have to wait for a more exhaustive recounting, as well as a full appreciation for their ground-breaking accomplishments.
Looking back, I’m particularly grateful to have played a part with the early activists whom I admire to this day.
My thanks to Stan Fortuna, Susan Henderson, Annette Dragon and, of course, APEX for allowing a brief glance into a not-so-distant mirror.

In Gay Love,
Peter Prizer

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HOTLINES


DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK - for lesbian/gay/bisexual/questioning youth under 18.

GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE. Caribou Area (207) 498-2088.

GAY INFO LINE. Concord, NH (603) 224-1868. Social, legal, therapeutic & educational referrals.

INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS (207) 774-HELP.

PUBLICATIONS

Out in the Mountains POB 177 Burlington, VT 05402

The Fruits of Our Labors POB 125, Belfast, ME 04915 (207)338-2913. Calendar of events in central coastal ME

POLITICAL

AIDS COALITION TO UNLEASH POWER (ACT UP/Portland) (207) 828-0566 (phone/fax). Sun. 7pm YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME.

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS - Transform Education. A project by ACT UP/Portland to fight HIV, AIDS, and homophobia in all Maine public schools; to form empowering groups for teens and queers and to create a context in which pro-teen, pro-queer groups are able to exist and proliferate in Maine. Straight or queer, boy or girl, HIV+ or negative, black, brown, or white. All welcome. Meets 1st and 3rd Mon. each month, 5:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. Wheelchair accessible. FMI 228-0566 or write ACT UP/Portland, POB 1931, Portland, ME 04104.

MAINE LESBIAN/GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE - statewide, non-partisan org. promotes civil rights in ME.

Involves lesbian & gay community in the political process. Meets in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FMI 1-800-55-MLGPA time/place.

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

EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL

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

THE MAINE GAY VISUAL ARTISTS’ LEAGUE - 3rd Wed. each month. Non-profit, creative, supportive networking for Gay & Lesbian artists in Maine. FMI and meeting place (207) 775-3420.

SOCIAL GROUPS

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

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 35, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from west ME/east NH. Potlucks/activities. FMI (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - Lesbians over 18 in Seacoast NH area. Nonprofit lesbian support and educational group. Meets Mon., 7pm. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. FMI POB 695, Cape Neddick, ME 03902 or (603) 659-2139.

SEACOAST GAY MEN - meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian Church, 229 State St., Portsmouth, NH; POB 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802.

THE PRISCILLA PANEL - discussion group for the lesbian, gay & bisexual community and others meets 2nd week of the month at Stroudwater Books, Rt. 1, Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth, NH, 7pm. 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 11-2pm, 3rd Sun. of the month; York County locations. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news & info. FMI (207) 985-2784.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ANAD (Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders) - support group for Anorexics, Bulimics, their families and friends, meets Thurs. 6:30-8pm, Family Resource Ctr, 13 Crescent St., Biddeford, ME (2nd Cong. Church, UCC). Free. FMI (207) 286-3718.

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP - Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Ctr, 334 Harlow St., Bangor, ME, 1st and 3rd Wed.

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.

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SAFE SPACE WOMEN’S CENTER OF MAINE - 87 Main St., Topsham, ME. Self-help recovery group Mon. 7-9:30pm; open house Fri. 7-9:30pm. FMI (207) 725-7632.

LAVENDER WOMYN - Lesbian & Bisexual Women’s discussion group. Tues. 6:30-8:30pm, 1st Universalist Church, Pleasant St., So. Auburn, ME 04210. FMI (207) 783-0461.

APEX DISTRIBUTION POINTS:

Maine

Gulf of Maine Books, Brunswick
The Square Cafe, Waterville
Papa Joe’s, Augusta
Downeast AIDS Network, Ellsworth
Brewer Inn, Brewer
Raffles Cafe, Bangor
Acadianoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, Lewiston
GLBA, Bates College, Lewiston
Sportmen Athletic Club, Lewiston
Homestead Bed & Breakfast, Bar Harbor
Bookland, Mill Plaza, So. Portland
Mike’s Place, Lewiston
Fin Back Restaurant, Bar Harbor
New Words Books, Cambridge
Rudzak’s, Haverhill

Massachusetts

Codman Senses
Bayou Kitchen
Counseling Center, USM

North Carolina

Women’s Information Service, Lebanon
NH Faminet Health Center, Concord
The Highland’s Inn, Bethlehem
Camp GLB Alliance, UNH, Durham
ALSO, Plymouth State College, Plymouth
Blue Strawberry, Portsmouth

Vermont

Everyone’s Books, Brattleboro
LUNA, St. Johnsbury
Rainbow Coalition, Montpelier

Or delivered to your door by subscription (see form on page 13)!
FOR LOVE AND FOR LIFE - free, educ./rap group for gay/bisexual men in this time of HIV/AIDS. 7pm, at AIDS Response of the Seacoast, 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth, NH. FMI (603) 433-5377.

THE AIDS PROJECT - 22 Monument Sq., 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101. FMI (207) 774-8677: re: support groups in Portland, Auburn/ Lewiston & Brunswick, ME areas.

AIDS RESPONSE - 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801. (603) 433-5377; FAX (603) 431-8520.

ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC) - 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston, ME. Support for HIV + people/loved ones. Tues. 7:30-9pm. FMI (207) 786-4697.

THE BRIDGE AT COLBY - student support and discussion group. FMI Steven (207) 872-3635 (leave msg).

CRONES - for women over 40. POB 242, Winooski, VT 05404.

GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL PARENTS GROUP OF ME - FMI: POB 13, Augusta, ME 04330.

MONADNOCK AREA WOMYN - POB 6345, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 357-5757.

NORTHERN LAMBDA - POB 990, Caribou, ME 04738; (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 - open group each Mon. 7pm, UU Church, Spring St., Auburn.

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. 7:30pm. FMI: Outright, Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, POB 5077, Portland, ME 04101. (207) 774-HELP.

SEACOAST OUTRIGHT - group for lesbian/gay/bi/questioning youth 21 & under. Mtgs Fri., 7-9pm, Unitarian Church annex adjacent to fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI teenline 1-800-639-0905 or write: Seacoast Outright, POB 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL ME - for gay/lesbian and youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. POB 802, Auburn, ME 04212 (207) 774-4042.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE 636 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 (207) 773-8500.

RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP - Mondays at Mexico Congregational 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 FRIENDS - discussion and support group Thurs. 7:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. FMI (207) 799-0287.

WOMEN'S INCENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' GROUP - open support and discussion for women only. Weds. 1-3:30pm. FMI (207) 874-6593 or (207) 774-3613.

FREDERICTON LESBIANS/GAYS PO Box 35, Station A Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2 Canada - (506) 457-2156

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

SPIRITUAL

DELTA PHYRE - Worship the Goddess at monthly Full Moon Circles. Open to winnin (no transsexuals, please). Bring musical instruments. FMI (207) 774-7914.

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.

INTEGRITY/DIGNITY - 3rd Sun. St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel chapel), 5:15 pm. All welcome. Fellowship and potluck follows each service. Ministering to the lesbian, gay community. FMI write POB 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

CIRCLES OF HOPE - an inclusive Christian community based on Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. FMI MCC, POB 1677, Portland, ME 04104. Mtgs 4pm 156 High St., Portland, ME each Sat.

MCC IN THE MOUNTAINS - Gay Christian church group. Sun. 1pm, Hanover, NH UCC (white church by the green). FMI (603) 448-3754.

MUSIC

MAINE GAY MEN'S CHORUS - community chorus. FMI write M.G.M.C., POB 10391, Portland, ME 04104.
As lesbians and gays, we can come out every day of our lives, and not just on October 11. Maybe you know how Amanda feels: exhilarated, empowered and confident. A feeling about coming out that lasts all year long.

Remember, you don’t have to wait until next October 11 to take your next step.

National Coming Out Day wishes to thank Amanda Bearse, our national spokesperson, our official sponsors, and each of you whose next step made National Coming Out Day 1994 the most successful ever.

National Coming Out Day is a non-profit educational project of the HRCF Foundation. For more information, please call 1-800-888-6263.