

LESBIANS BARRED FROM U.N. CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

(Outlines) New York - China and the Vatican are blocking women's groups they disapprove of - including lesbian organizations - from attending a major U.N. conference on women slated for later this year. Hundreds of delegates and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) met at U.N. headquarters in New York in March, reviewing the credentials of delegates to the conference to be held in Beijing in September. China has used its position as host of the conference to deny credentials to women's groups from Taiwan and Tibet - neither of which China recognizes as independent nations. The Vatican also raised objections in an effort to exclude women's groups that don't agree with the Catholic Church's positions on abortion, birth-control and homosexuality. Delegates from China seconded the Vatican's objections to lesbian groups, citing its own laws against homosexuality.

In drafting the platform, which governments at the conference will be asked to accept, the committee clashed over the word "gender," which conservative nations have taken as a sign that they may be asked to recognize homosexuality, abortion and sex education. The platform calls on governments to plan their development programs "from a gender perspective."

VISIBLE AND PROUD! - Portland Pride '95

by Gabrielle Saralyn Sigel

On June 17, in a raucous day of festivities that drew the largest turnout for Southern Maine Pride Parade ever, over 1500 people from all over New England assembled near Pine St. on Longfellow Square to assert their own value as queer people and rally Portland citizen support for queer rights on downtown streets. The vibrant and colorful display of FLAM-boyanance included a drag float, a squadron of dykes on bikes, and local Bagelworks manager Zephyr Paquette, who dyed her hair in the colors of the rainbow flag with a pink triangle at the base of her head in honor of the occasion.

Out-of-staters, who were possibly so eager to attend Portland's Pride Parade because of the evil shadow of Carolyn Cosby and Henchmen (no politically correct terms for them here!) hovering like advancing thunderstorms over Maine's thinking population, included the Lesbian, gay, bisexual Freedom Trail Band of Boston, who were also featured at this year's Pride March in Concord, N.H., and the fab-u-lous Flirtations. Steve Langley of the Flirtations, when asked why his group chose to perform at Portland's Pride Parade, replied enthusiastically that "It's always great to meet other gays and Lesbians who are comfortable with themselves or are coming to grips with who they are...we hope that our music entertains and enlightens people and that it encourages them to come out."

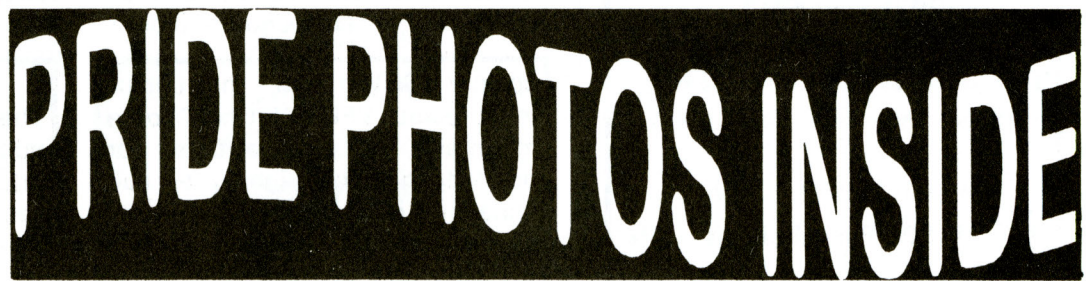
Despite a scarcity of the high extent of racial diversity I experienced when attending queer pride parades in Washington, D.C., I was thrilled at the many faces and varieties of people attending the parade. Two lesbian mothers who recently adopted children from Haiti marched with their children "to give them a sense of family and of their extended (queer community of) family. We want them to begin to take pride in their family." When I asked them what the most important thing they hope their children get out of attending pride, they responded "That being gay is fun." Minister Marvin Ellison stated that he came to pride to assert his belief that "as the queer parent of a queer daughter, I am doubly blessed."

Richard Steinman, who is almost 70, came out 22 years ago, three years after Stonewall. He views events like Portland Pride as crucial to "creating a queer community that is visible to queer young people... This ensures that Cosby's hate campaign doesn't destroy young people's self-esteem, but strengthens it." Steinman described the situation of queer youth before public Pride displays as "lonely and precarious," stressing that "they had no community to turn to and were personally miserable but politically safe. Now they may not be safe from political and other attacks, but generally seem to have a higher sense of self-worth." April Delaware and girlfriend DJ Deb Dufresne, however, commented that "It's great that (the queer youth group) Outright is here

More PRIDE page 7

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

- Ageism
- F.A.T.E.
- Dreaming
- Advice



The Collective

Annette Dragon
Naomi Falcone
Diane Matthews
Madeleine Winter

Contributors

Susan Mariah Breeding
Gabiella Saralyn Sigel
Christina Mason
Thighmaster
Alison Melavalin

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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LETTERS . . .**Are You Afraid - A Reply**

While sitting out the Gay Pride Weekend festivities, I came across Gabriella Saralyn Sigel's cry of pain and rage concerning 'The Community's' ageist attitudes about, prejudices toward and intolerance of, Lesbian and Gay Youth (*APEX*, Vol. 4, No. 5).

Gabriella outlined the oppression of homosexual youth by straight society: gay-bashing that leads to suicide; rejection and prejudicial practices that leave gay kids scarred for life and she explained how the agony is compounded by discriminatory attitudes and practices of homosexuals over 21 who ignore, belittle, disdain and exclude homosexual kids from 'The Community.' I share her pain - and outrage. Try being 59 in a bar full of thirty-somethings: I've had 25 year-olds look at me as though I've committed child-molestation by merely trying to start a conversation. Let me tell you, honey, as someone who's lived in L.A., Atlanta and New York: there ain't no one pretty enough in Portland to look down his nose at me! He should be so lucky! But, unfortunately, discriminatory practices exist within our so-called 'Inclusionist' community that go far beyond discrimination against gay kids and gay seniors.

Our 'leadership' flees in horror from NAMBLA but curries favor with the Catholic Church, which harbors criminal pedophiles and preaches homophobia from the highest pulpits in the land. Try suggesting to said 'leadership' that sucking up to The Church (homo

phobic from its inception in both its Chrestian and Jewish forms) and rimming the rump of a Democratic Party that steals our votes and then dumps on us, is NOT the ONLY way to go! Try getting the Matlovich Society to invite a nationally known Gay Atheist to speak at one of their supposed open forums: I've suggested Gore Vidal but of course, he's too...whatever and: OLD! And he might just say something that would 'offend' a gay Judeo-Chrestian! Try getting 'the leadership' to include Atheism as an alternative and acceptable Gay-Lesbian lifestyle in conferences, AIDS memorial services and seminars. I saw more inclusion of Gay Atheism in Atlanta, the 'Buckle of the Bigot-Bible Belt' than I've found in supposedly liberal Portland.

The Lesbian and Gay 'Community' is a microcosm of the larger straight society but it doesn't simply mirror the problems of the larger community, it compresses, intensifies and magnifies those problems. Bigotry and prejudice exist within both the larger and the smaller communities: however, in the smaller, there's less room, less lee-way, we're rats-in-a-trap; it's more compressed and frantic. The hypocrisy is, unfortunately, greater too: Gays and Lesbians preach inclusivity, but, by Ralph, you'd better be wearing the right Izod! In a community which PRIDES itself on inclusivity, EXCLUSIONARY practices OF ANY KIND are all the more insidious, vile, galling and self-defeating. And, unfortunately, power corrupts and no-where does it cor-

apex\ 'a-peks\ n. 1 a: the uppermost point: VERTEX (the ~ of a mountain) b: the narrowed or pointed end: 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.

CASINO NIGHT A WINNER!

The *APEX* collective thanks all those involved in the success of our first fundraiser: the staff and management of CITI, Deb Stevens (the hottest blackjack dealer in the East), Dale Rand Printing, all the businesses that donated services and prizes, Anita Landino for her fabulous confections (especially the lemon squares), and all the players who gambled on *APEX*.

We especially thank Gabrielle Sigel, the creative spirit and catalyst for the benefit.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



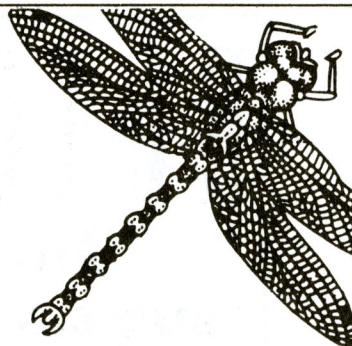
rupt more quickly and more thoroughly than in the pressure-cooker of Lesbian-Gay 'leadership.' Just try suggesting to any of our would-be Barney Franks that there's another way and you are excluded, but fast. The enemy is not just Newt Gingrich - it's our own power-mad and power-greedy.

Gabriella asked, at the end of her piece, ARE YOU AFRAID OF GAY YOUTH? Our non-community and its leadership are so terrified of being wrong that they cannot see that they just may not be right. Like lemmings, the 'community' and its leadership are goose-stepping right behind the faded, reactionary liberals of the Old Left who still haven't gotten 'It.' The oven doors are open: attracted by the heat, they'll burn with a prayer on their lips.

It would never dawn on an atheist or Hellene to discriminate against its youth. But then, post-Constantinian western society, straight AND gay, is still paternalistic and still god-driven. That means EXCLUSIONARY. It's the basis of The Bible. And it's not very democratic. Time for a BIG change.

The 'community' and its leadership's fear of its own youth is simply symptomatic of a greater fear - it's called self-loathing and it runs deep, deep within the animas of people who still believe what the Bible taught them: that they are unnatural and sinful. Until the 'community' and its leadership expunges that illness, we'll never be free of our own prejudices and intolerances. Our shunned youth will continue to grow into fearful, reactionary, exclusionary oldsters.

Alexander Wallace
chair, Apollo Society



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CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

by Susan Mariah Breeding

As an original member of the Maine Gay Task Force, Susan Breeding was invited to Southern Maine Pride '95 as an honored Grand Marshall. Susan now lives in California and was unable to attend the celebration. What follows is a letter she wrote that was read at the Pride Rally on Friday, June 16.

My name is Susan Mariah Breeding. When I was in my early twenties I was lucky enough to live in Maine and be a part of the beginning of the lesbian and gay liberation movement. I now live in California, and found out about this reunion celebration/demonstration just too late to come. Wendy Ashley, my dear dear friend and the woman who introduced me to the perpetual reunion celebration/demonstration that being a lesbian has always been for me, offered, with her typical generosity, to read a few thoughts from me at this gathering.

I'll be brief, understanding how many speakers there must be to celebrate tonight. I wish I were with you.

When I think of what I most cherish about those early days, when I think of what I remember with pride, I remember our pushy, uppity, bold, radical, COLLABORATIVE spirit. We were not only about revolution for ourselves, we were about revolution for everyone, whether part of our identity was reflected in that group's identity or not.

I remember Miriam Dyak & Bruce Palmer & Karen Frank & Michael Rounds withholding their taxes for years to protest the United States' presence in Vietnam.

I remember all of us protesting at the Maine appearance of the so-called bicentennial Freedom Train, not just because there were no gay people honored in its inaccurate, distorting exhibits, but because it lied about slavery in this country, because it hid the genocide of the Native Americans in this country, because it said nothing at all about the dependence of this country's elite wealthy few upon the exploitation of the labor of the vast infinitely poorer "others."

I remember Peter Prizer, in 1972, walking into a McDonald's and de-

manding in the name of environmentalism and the earth, that they serve him his burger absolutely unwrapped, none of those thick swaddlins of styrofoam, slapped naked right in his palm.

I remember Michaele Luisi forcing us to examine our own sexism, Miriam Dyak making us examine our prejudice against bisexuals, and Stanley Fortuna and Steven Leo lovingly, role-breakingly, taking care of Wendy's and my children for weekends at a time!

I remember representing the Maine Gay Task Force at the United Low-Income Alliance of Maine, fighting together for the economic rights and simple human dignity of the poorest among us.

I remember some of us fleeing Maine when Sipsus and Deanna, representing the visionaries of their tribe, told us we needed to leave.

And I remember all of us straggling across the hot summer sidewalk of the Harriet Beecher Stow House in Brunswick, picketing for the waitresses who were summarily

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fired from their jobs so that the owner could hire young college boy waiters and "upgrade" the place.

In certain ways times are even harder now than they were then, back in those beginning days, for all of our bravery and work. The class divide is even greater and more rigid in this country; there are more mostly African-American men in jail in this country than there are anyplace else on earth; affirmative action and the freedom to choose are being threatened/ dismantled daily by the rising religious right; the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere are still being denied and in many places further eliminated.

In the face of such oppression it can often happen that we lose sight of everyone's troubles but our own, that we fight with our scarce and threatened resources for OUR piece of the pie, for only OUR rights, that we fight for inclusion in the system rather than bringing the system down. When I was in the Maine

Lesbian and Gay movement, we were primarily white and primarily lower middle-class; I am imagining that this may still be so, and as a member of that group, as a white,

practices changed and the whole concept of capitalism challenged! It's not that I don't want to see gay people able to marry in Hawaii, I want to see ANY relationship judged as important by its participants, valued as such by the state, whether it involves sexual intimacy or not. And I want to see the state of Hawaii returned to the sovereignty of its native people!!!

As Gay and Lesbian people, our radicalism, our rebellion, our unconventionality is rooted in our love, in the fact that we dare, on a daily and nightly basis, to love the ones we are not supposed to love, to love where we are not allowed to love.

LET US LOVE, EVER MORE BROADLY, EVER MORE INCLUSIVELY, EVER MORE DARINGLY, LET US LOVE AND COLLABORATE WITH ALL THE OTHER UNMENTIONABLE, UNACCEPTABLE, OPPRESSED OTHERS.

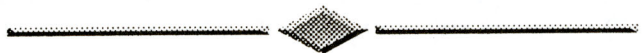
Thank you for your time. My congratulations on your/our work, my joy to your celebration.▼



photo by Annette Dragon

middle-class and now middle-aged and professional person myself (I am now a licensed social worker) I ask us to continue to fight for justice for ALL, for equity for ALL, to challenge our own privileges and prejudices.

It's not that I don't want to see more gay executives in the Bank, I want their discriminatory lending



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F.A.T.E. PROJECT UNDERGOES FACELIFT

by Christina Mason

F.A.T.E. (Fight AIDS-Transform Education) is an organization of youth who are fighting for condom availability in schools as well as increased, more explicit AIDS education that is inclusive of all sexual orientations and sexual behaviors. F.A.T.E. is comprised of student groups in towns state-wide, including Portland, South Portland, Scarborough and Monmouth.

Operating on the principle of direct action, F.A.T.E. members have been vocal in a variety of ways. Students at schools across the state took part in World AIDS Day December 1st by "dying-in" at their respective high schools.

With condom-ridden posters and signs saying "Students are DYING to have unprotected sex. More AIDS education NOW!" and "Honk for safer sex," students lay down, pretending to be dead for the first six minutes of the school day in order to draw attention to the fact that another person dies of AIDS every six minutes. F.A.T.Ers have installed homemade condom machines in their school bathrooms, have handed out safer sex magazines ("zines") with condoms and latex

gloves inside, have spoken at School Committee meetings in favor of condom availability and have distributed condoms outside of area proms.

Since last summer, Richard Freed has been the adult advisor to the F.A.T.E. youth. As a member of ACT UP,

the AIDS activist group with which F.A.T.E is affiliated, Freed has brought many of the ACT UP ideas and philosophies to the group. Although he is older than the F.A.T.E. members and out of high school himself, Freed said that he was able to organize enough students by having interested youth talk it up in the high schools or returning there himself



photo by Annette Dragon

to do so. However, Freed says that interest among young people began to dwindle sometime after February and he felt it would be especially difficult for him to continue his position this summer since schools are no longer in session. As an adult, he says that he is not always able to "travel in the same social circles" as younger people.

Several weeks ago, Richard "resigned" as coordinator. There was some talk about what should become of

More F.A.T.E. page 11

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More PRIDE from page 1

because young people need the most support and our community offers them little and does almost nothing to support them."

Organizations participating in the parade ranged from P-FLAG, the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the queer leather/levi/S/M nautical Harbormasters, the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, and the queer-positive youth group F.A.T.E., Fight Aids Transform Education, to Seacoast Gay Men and Act-Up. Stacy Paradi of Portland MCC Community of Hope echoed common sentiments of the day when she cited visibility as the most important goal of Pride. Paradi marched with her church to prove that "we can be gay and Christian. So many times we are told by the radical right that we can't be gay and Christian, and WE CAN!" Sheryl Lee, producer of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus said she and the chorus "want to send the message of diversity and highlight acceptance within the queer community of other people. I'm a straight female working with a group of gay men, and I've never felt so supported and accepted in my life." Sue, the only full-charter member of the controversial Harbor-masters believes her group in particular will benefit from its presence in the parade because "I think we need visibility for all facets of the gay community, including leatherfolk, and we need to win and defeat Cosby's refer-

endum. We (Harbormasters) need visibility to show others that it's okay to be in the leather lifestyle...If you can't be yourself you will be living a lie..." After a pause, she looked me in the eye and said firmly, "I will not live a lie."

Many straight friends-of-the-queer-community also marched proudly beside us. Rita Kissen of P-FLAG Portland brought her contagious energy to the parade, proclaiming that "We're here because we love our kids. We're gonna win because we have so much love...Homophobia effects everybody...I love my Lesbian daughter and I don't want to live in a world where people are discriminated against." Then she added with a grin, "And we are the real family values!" F.A.T.E. volunteer coordinator Christina Mason voiced similar thoughts. "I just wanted to come to show my support for the gay community. Unfortunately, a lot of gay people don't feel safe enough to be here today, so I want to add my face in place of someone who couldn't come. I am here at Pride because recognition of gay rights is not a battle that gay people should have to fight alone. I believe that all human beings have a moral obligation to get involved."

Local celebrity Michael Wormwood described this year's event as "much bigger than last year...It's about coming together as a community, recognizing that we are all sexual beings, and getting rid of all the

divisive issues." As to his personal feelings on the day, he gave one of the trademark smiles that have earned him status as the most drop-dead-gorgeous, sought-after-by-dykes-for-miles-around men, and purred, "Don't hate me because I'm beautiful because I wake up in the morning as a man."

I was very pleasantly surprised to find the mood of participants similar to that of picnickers frolicking in the sun on a warm Sunday afternoon. However, I wanted to remind everyone that we are in the middle of a war zone. While it is a tribute to our unending queer ability to dance and play while we must continue to fight for even the right to equal employment, I felt myself becoming nostalgic for the impromptu displays of defiant activism and militant zest which ran rampant at queer rallies I attended in D.C. and New York City. Leslie Johnson, the second person to test Portland's anti-discrimination law, summed up what I consider the most crucial reason to attend pride. "If we aren't here, who do (straight and closeted gay) people have to compare with Caroline Cosby's image?" Anyone who witnessed Pride will have mothers, lawyers, grandparents, clergy, teens, long-term couples, and, in the words of one participant, "lots of happy, healthy homosexuals" to contrast with the big black lies of Cosby and her ignorant stupidity. We, unlike her, have both honor and pride.▼

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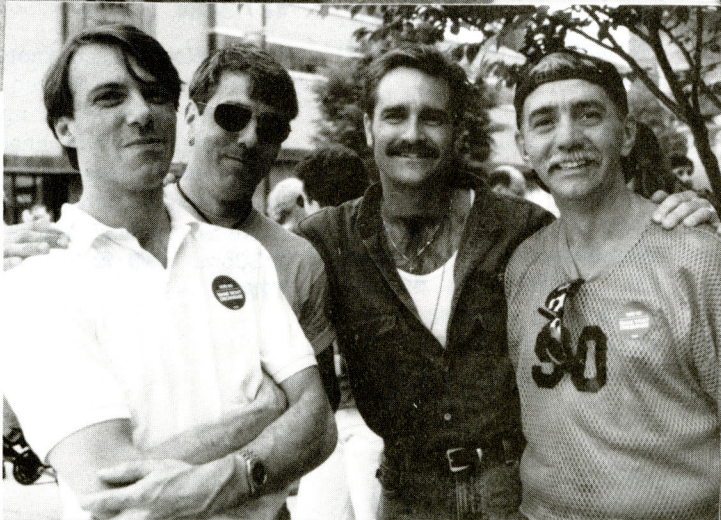
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PORTLAND PRIDE '95

photos by Annette Dragon





CALENDAR

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SAT.-FRI. 7/1-7

Sappho's Sisters, a conference of Lesbian, Bi, and Transgendered women at the Ferry Beach Conference Ctr. FMI and register ☎ (207) 282-4489.

SATURDAY 7/1

Martin Swinger at Slaters Evening Dinner, Hallowell, 7-10pm. FMI ☎ (207) 622-9575.

MONDAY 7/3

Seacoast Gay Men Annual Picnic at Agamenticus. FMI ☎ (603) 430-4052.

TUESDAY 7/4

Martin Swinger at the Turner Public Library, 4th Annual Festival, 12:30-1:30pm. FMI ☎ (207) 225-2030.

THURSDAY 7/6

Drop-in Facilitated Support Group for Advocates and Supporters of Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights. Free. Womenspace Counseling Center, 236 Park Ave., Portland, ME. FMI ☎ Vivian (207) 774-2403 or Joanne (207) 871-0377.

FRIDAY 7/7

Sandra Bernhard at the State Theater, Portland, ME. FMI and tickets ☎ (207) 879-1112.

SATURDAY 7/8

Bangor 3rd Annual Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade and Festival. 11am in front of the Fleet Bldg. on Exchange St. Festival at Paul Bunyan Park, noon. FMI ☎ (207) 989-6944 (Sean Weber).

Women's Party to learn about Maine Won't Discriminate and celebrate. 8-10pm, West Rockport. FMI ☎ (207) 354-8023 or (207) 763-4169. Bring your dancing shoes and your wallet.

MON.-WED. 7/10-12

Planned Parenthood presents 6th annual Advanced Sexuality Institute. 9am-5pm, Kennebunk, ME. FMI ☎ 1-800-488-9638.

MONDAY 7/10

The Search for the Ultimate Cafe au Lait in the various coffee shops in downtown Portsmouth, NH. Meet 7pm in front of UU Church. FMI ☎ (603) 430-4052.

THURSDAY 7/13

The Life and Times of Harvey Milk, a documentary about the man from San Francisco who helped change the course of gay politics during the 70s in the US. 7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME, accessible and parking. FMI ☎ (207) 761-4380.

FRI.-SUN. 7/14-16

6th Annual Northampton Lesbian Festival. FMI ☎ 1-800-THE-TICK or write to: Northampton Box Office,

150 Main St., 2nd Floor, Northampton, MA 01060.

SATURDAY 7/15

10th Annual Full Moon Gathering at Nellie's Place in Swanville. 5pm potluck, 7pm ritual fire circle. FMI ☎ Nan (207) 338-5559.

MONDAY 7/17

Seacoast Gay Men Sunset Harbor Cruise on the Heritage with potluck on board (cold foods only please). Cash bar on boat. 7pm, \$10., reserve early. FMI ☎ (603) 430-4052.

SATURDAY 7/22

Change the World and Improve your public speaking skills in a fun and interesting setting. Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights is sponsoring a training session in Augusta for people who are interested in speaking to groups in their communities about the referendum. FMI ☎ (207) 879-0480.

Libby Roderick at the Left Bank Cafe in Blue Hill, ME. FMI and res. ☎ (207) 374-2201.

WED.-THURS. 7/26-27

Cheryl Wheeler at the Left Bank Cafe in Blue Hill, ME. FMI and res. ☎ (207) 374-2201.

THURSDAY 7/27

Self-Care in the Face of Hatred, Vivian Wadas of Womenspace Counseling Ctr., facilitates a program about living with the chronic stress of homophobia and ways to alleviate that stress.

7:30-9pm, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, ME, accessible and parking. FMI ☎ (207) 761-4380.

SATURDAY 7/29

Change the World and Improve your public speaking skills in a fun and interesting setting. Maine Speakout Project for Equal Rights is sponsoring a training session in Bangor, Portland, and York County for people who are interested in speaking to groups in their communities about the referendum. FMI ☎ (207) 879-0480.

MONDAY 7/31

Lucy Blue Tremblay at the Left Bank Cafe in Blue Hill, ME. FMI and res. ☎ (207) 374-2201.

NOTICES

PAWS Karaoke Aid '95 Sunset Harbor Cruise on Casco Bay, Sat., 8/5, 7:30-10:30pm. FMI ☎ (207) 775-PAWS.

Maine-ly For You Womens', Campout 8/24-27, Western Maine. FMI ☎ (207) 583-6980.

8th Annual Provincetown Harbor Swim for Life & Mermaid Brunch AIDS Benefit, Sat. 9/9. FMI ☎ (508) 487-3684.

Maine Won't Discriminate is a statewide broad-based coalition to defend civil rights in Maine. Portland chapter meets every other Monday at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland, ME, 6:30-8:30pm. FMI ☎ (207) 761-1788.

More F.A.T.E. from page 6

F.A.T.E. There was still money left in the grant from Haymarket People's Fund and those involved with the grantwriting agreed that they did not want to give back the money when there was still so much that could be done.

A meeting was held with the F.A.T.E. bigwigs and I (Christina Mason, 18) took Richard's place as F.A.T.E. advisor. According to Richard, the F.A.T.E. grant was written with the original intention that the coordinator should be a young person of high school age.

Even so, this change in coordinators is a big transition for F.A.T.E. in many ways. Not only will I be the shortest coordinator inch-wise, I will also be the shortest-lived coordinator. This is a temporary arrangement until I leave for college in New York at the end of August. After that time, F.A.T.E. will have to make a decision about what will become of it. Besides the year that I just spent doing work with F.A.T.E., I have never been involved with ACT UP. I have been an advocate for sexuality education and condom availability over the past few years, but I come from a very different background than my two F.A.T.E. predecessors. For the past two years, I have been a student representative to Portland's Family Living & Human Sexuality Advisory Board and its Sexually Transmitted Diseases Subcommittee which created the soon to be implemented proposal for increased sexuality education and clinic services in the Portland schools. I have also been a Planned Parenthood volunteer and attended various AIDS conferences as a participant or a presenter.

Although I'm usually considered an extremist by the general populace, my philosophies are actually a bit conservative when compared with many ACT UP ideas and actions. Of course, there will always be a sizable population of individuals who will disagree with or will be offended by any call for increased HIV education. However, I usually try to get my point across in a way which will not be too offensive to mainstream America, because I feel this is often the only way political and social progress can be made. Also, as F.A.T.E.'s first straight advisor, I had many initial concerns. ACT UP, with which F.A.T.E. is affiliated, is a mainly gay organization. Although I have been vocal and active in gay rights issues, I wondered if it was for me, as a straight person with no first hand knowledge of the hurt and hatred one must encounter growing up gay, to "take over" one of the few roles in this world that have not been consistently filled by heterosexuals. I wondered if I would be too conservative, too "straight" and out of touch with the needs of gay youth to do the job justice. Then I thought about it. Me, conservative?? God, no. I took the job.

Before organizing too many F.A.T.E. "actions," I hope to meet with members to discuss the change and

find out what they would like to see happen with F.A.T.E. this summer. In the meantime, F.A.T.E. is still keeping active. On June 8th, Deering High School students and several gay youth from the community participated in an anti-harassment demonstration outside of Deering. The demonstration was organized in support of Sage Hylton-Lemons, a Deering freshman, who has been harassed by students throughout the year because he is openly gay.

Lemons says that he has been pushed into lockers, intimidated in the halls, threatened and called a "fag." He says that he spoke with the administration on several occasions about the harassment and the involved students' parents were called and the security guard was given a copy of his schedule. However, Lemons feels that this was not enough. He would like to see a mandatory 10 day suspension for any student who harasses another for any reason including HIV status, ethnic background, disabilities or sexual orientation. He would also like to see more school-wide assemblies like Deering High School's May 17th Human Dignity Day which are aimed at ending harassment and prejudice which leads up to it. Lemons also hopes that students like himself who are being harassed will be granted excused absences should they choose not to

More F.A.T.E. page 13



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ASK THIGHMASTER - advice with holes

Dear Thighmaster,

I picked up *Apex* in Portsmouth last week. This is the 3rd time I've read your column, and I hope you can help me with my problem, even though it isn't sexual.

I have lived with Sue for 6 years. We've been best friends for years and now that friendship is strained. I think Sue is depressed. She broke up with her lover a few months ago and since then she seems to have lost interest in just about everything. Except for a part-time job, she barely goes out. She used to be socially active and politically involved but now she just mopes. I thought this would disappear after a mourning period, but on it goes. It's driving me crazy because my life is non-stop full, too full sometimes. Thighmaster, I love Sue very much and want to see her happy. Is there any way to jump-start her life again?

Help!

Sue's Best Friend

P.S. I think your column should go national.

Dear Best,

Thighmaster has one question: What could possibly have possessed you to get your Psych Manual out of that new Drew Barrymore horror show, *Mad Love*? For those readers who were smarter than Thighmaster and managed to get clued in to the Drewtheme of '95 before shelling out another 7 bucks, *Mad Love* is the second Drewflick in a row where the big sicko message is that men in power who want to lock you up are right. Well, actually, *Boys on the Side* had another bad message too: you only get to have sex if you're straight and white (bad news for Whoopi once again and for that hot butch chyk she never quite gets to do) and HIV negative. But equally bad is the whole deal where Drew goes to jail because her cop boyfriend turns her in for accidentally killing her abusive ex when really she'd

only meant to tie him up, tease him a little, and split for safety (what's the crime here?). Then, she not only forgives the guy but decides that his "ethics" are endearing and marries him. Bad mov(i)e or what? *Mad Love* trades the jail for a mental institution. Here viewers "learn" that the evil control-freak dad was right to root for incarceration; he just should have coerced Drew into signing her own



drawing by Naomi Falcone

lock-up papers rather than being so crude as to use brute force. And what is her illness? According to mom, "clinical depression," although you'd never recognize it from the movie since it's hard to signal depression and to produce, simultaneously, a high-energy hit-the-road lovefest with a snappy teen-friendly soundtrack. And why incarceration? *Mad Love* tells us that it's because there is no other conceivable way for a doctor to monitor anti-depressant medication. (Apparently, "outpatient" is a concept that appears and disappears these days at the will of the bad guys. Medicaid, which just kicked hundreds of elderly Maine advanced-stage Alzheimer's patients out of nursing homes, throws it around like toxic confetti - unless it's what you really do need in which case you probably will not be considered sick enough to qualify.

In *Mad Love*, courtesy of dad and the doctors, it vanishes into thin air.)

OK, so how does Thighmaster know you got your depression tips from this movie? Not because you've misdiagnosed the symptoms. Sue does sound depressed to Thighmaster, and Thighmaster gives you credit for NOT coming out of Hoyt's Multiplex with the idea that the primary symptom of depression is pulling the fire alarm during SATs. No, Thighmaster thinks *Mad Love* worked its evil in a much more subtle way. It got you to churn out some mishmash of half-expressed thoughts about convoluted dynamics combined with this weird notion that the word "depression" is the key to getting it all to make sense. But guess what? It doesn't. Thighmaster needs more information. You say over and over that you want to help Sue, but your big problem seems to be, as you say at the end, that she driving you "crazy." (Is this crazy talk from *Mad Love*, too?) What's going on? You never explained what your workload has to do with it. Are you really pissed off about your own life? Or jealous of her free time? Or tired of the gloomvibes filling your apartment when you do get to be home? Or is the point exactly what you said it isn't? Could it be, pardon Thighmaster's predictability here, that your problem is really about sex? Like maybe you want to re-enact that recent porn gem in *Bad Attitude*, which requires fucking her - and a few other things - in each room of the house, and you want to do these things without an audience, and Sue never leaves the house for long enough to give you privacy.

Whatever it is, you'll never get anywhere until you stop analyzing Sue and get serious about figuring out your own needs and problems in this situation.

Then talk to Sue about how her situation is affecting you. Tell her what you can do to support her, and what you can't. Ask her if what you've done so far has really helped. Maybe she'd prefer a kick in the ass from you to the kid-gloves treatment she's been getting. Maybe she'll be moved to jump-start her own life, or at least take her blues to the mall once in a while, if she knows that keeping you as a roommate depends on it. Don't feel like it's selfish or callous to call her out on these matters. It would be worse to sit around quietly seething until you walk out the door before she even knows there was something to work on.

Oh, and one more thing concerning your flattering P.S. about how Thighmaster should go national: When you've read more col-

umns, you'll realize that you don't need flattery or other tricks to get into Thighmaster's dark chambers. Thighmaster is so fucking easy that Drew, by comparison, looks like the poster chyk for anatomical super-glue.▼



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



CLASSIFIED

R-U-A Concerned Maine Fairy?
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If you have a use for 70 egg cartons, a bag of assorted plastic tubs with lids, a small box of wooden beads, used Christmas cards, back issues of *Reader's Digest*, a half dozen old window shades, assorted clothes (no children's sizes), or a large floor plant (about 3 cubic ft of area needed) and can pick them up from the Saco, ME area, please call me at (207) 282-8091.

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when we bought our house. Also available one almost new water heater, \$75 and basketball hoop, backboard and pole \$75. Will consider any reasonable offers. (207) 642-2015.



More F.A.T.E. from page 11

come to school for a reasonable period of time due to harrassment which they encounter. The June 8th rally which was masterminded and largely organized by Lemons himself took place from 7:30 am - 8:00 am outside of the school, receiving quite a bit of attention from passersby and the local media.

F.A.T.E. was active again a short time later. Sporting condom paraphernalia and tossing condoms to onlookers, they had their own float in Portland's June 17th gay pride parade. When participants and onlookers gathered on Exchange street for the after-parade festivities, F.A.T.E. set up a booth alongside The Community Pride Reporter, Apex, Peabody House and Maine Won't Discriminate. Members distributed the safer sex zines which they had made the night before as well as flyers announcing the upcoming F.A.T.E. Candlelight Vigil for HIV Education. The vigil will take place July 2nd from 8pm-9pm in Monument Square. Join us!▼

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THE AIDS LINE: 1-800-851-AIDS or (207) 775-1267. Questions re: HIV/AIDS? Call Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm, Mon./Wed. eve. to 7:30pm. Always anonymous.

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 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) 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. Straight or queer, boy or girl, HIV+ or negative, black, brown, or white. All welcome. Meets 1st and 3rd Fri. each month, 5:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland, ME. Wheelchair accessible. FMI write ACT UP/Portland, POB1931, 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. Mtgs in Augusta 3rd Sat. of month. FMI ☎ 1-800-55-MLGPA time/place.

CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR GAY & LESBIAN RIGHTS (CAGLR) - NH's oldest progressive gay/lesbian civil rights organization, welcomes all to weekly meetings, programs, socials and other events. Newsletter. FMI ☎ (603) 224-1686 or write POB 730, Concord, NH 03302.

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 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

MEN'S SUPPORT groups forming in So. NH & So. ME to discuss dating, intimacy, and safer sex. FMI ☎ Gerry, AIDS Response Seacoast (603) 433-5377.

OUT ON MDI - For gays, lesbians, bis and friends. Active support grp. Meets Tues., 7pm. Newcomers welcome. FMI ☎ (207) 288-2502 or write, POB 367, SW Harbor, ME 04679.

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

MOUNTAIN VALLEY MEN - Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813. Social group for gay men from west ME/east NH. Potlucks/activities. FMI ☎ (207) 925-1034 (Paul).

OUT AND ABOUT - Lesbian support and educational group. Meets Mon. 7pm, United Methodist Church, 129 Miller Ave., Portsmouth, NH. FMI ☎ (603) 433-8729 or write POB 695, Cape Neddick, ME 03902.

SEACOAST GAY MEN - meets Mon. 7pm, Unitarian Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH; POB 1394, Portsmouth, NH 03802.

OUTDOORS

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.

MAINE FRONTRUNNERS - gay/lesbian running club. Meet wkly at the beginning of Back Cove Walkway (Baxter Blvd. & Preble St. Ext., Prtlnd, ME), Sat. 9am. FMI ☎ Jim (207) 761-2059 or John at (207) 828-4896.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ANAD (Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders) - support grp for Anorexics, Bulimics, families/friends, Thurs. 6:30-8pm, Family Resource Ctr, 19 Crescent St., Biddeford, ME (2nd Cong. Church) Free. FMI ☎ (207) 286-3718.

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

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PETS ARE WONDERFUL SUPPORT (PAWS/MAINE) - 22 Monument Sq., 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101, (207) 871-9109; FAX (207) 879-0761.

THE AIDS PROJECT - 22 Monument Sq., 5th Fl., Portland, ME 04101. FMI ☎ (207) 774-6877 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/discussion group. FMI ☎ Steven (207) 872-3635

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

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

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

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

GAY/LESBIAN/BI/FRIENDS ALLIANCE - meets semi-monthly, noon, usually on Fri., UNE, 11 Hills Beach Rd., Biddeford, ME. FMI ☎ (207) 283-0171, x2198 or x2475.

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

OUTRIGHT/PORTLAND - wklly support mtg, info, fun/ special events for gay/lesbian/bi/ques-

tioning youth under age 22. 7:30-9:30pm, Fri., People's Bldg, 155 Brackett St., side door, Portland, ME. 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 1-800-639-6095 or write: Seacoast Outright, POB 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

OUTRIGHT/CENTRAL ME - for lesbian/gay youth 22 & under, meets Fri. 7:30pm, 1st Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. POB 802, Auburn, ME 04212 ☎ 1-800-339-4042.

PWA COALITION OF MAINE 696 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 (207) 773-8500.

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

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

OUT AMONG FRIENDS - discussion/support grp Thurs. 7-8:30pm, YWCA, 87 Spring St., 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) 774-3613.

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

APOLLO SOCIETY - Gay/lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists, Hellenists. 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 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.

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

INTEGRITY - St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union St., Hallowell, ME. 1st Fri. each month, 7pm. FMI ☎ (207) 622-6631.

FRIDAY NIGHT CHURCH SERVICES State St. Church, 159 State St., Portland, ME. Inter-

denominational service. 7pm, accessible and child care. FMI ☎ (207) 774-6396.

CIRCLE OF HOPE - an inclusive Christian community based on Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. FMI MCC, POB 1671, Portland, ME 04104. Mtgs 4pm 156 High St., Portland, ME 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.



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