

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

# Community Pride Reporter

*The newspaper for the lesbian, gay, bisexual  
and transgender community of Maine.*

**VOL. 1, Number 1**

**\$1.00**

**JULY, 1993**



Back Row: Owners, Roger Mayo and Jim Neal

Front Row: (Left to right) Kathy Baker, Linda Bradley, Scott Furrow, Diana Jordan, Vance Jewel

Photo by Paul T. Bernard

**DR0P ME A LINE. . .**



**HAPPY-HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



## Community Pride Reporter

142 HIGH ST., SUITE #634  
PORTLAND, ME 04101  
(207) 879-1342

**Winnie Weir**  
Publishing Editor

### OUR PURPOSE

The **COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER** will serve as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas, and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people of Maine and the seacoast of the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area. We will strive to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word *community* with renewed meaning and vitality.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

CPR considers all material that contributes in positive ways to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people of our coverage area. Views and opinions appearing are those of the authors only. CPR does not endorse any candidacies for public office. We will, however, present political information and opinion to assist our readers in making informed choices. Guest editorials from readers are encouraged.

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

All material submitted for publication must be signed and include an address and/or telephone number for verification. CPR reserves the right to edit material as necessary. Contact names are required on all articles requested to run anonymously.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The cost of CPR is \$1.00 per issue. Subscriptions are \$20 per year which covers the purchase price of the paper plus mailing in a plain envelope via first class mail. Send your complete mailing address and phone number, along with your check made payable to Community Pride Reporter to 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101. Subscriber mailing lists or information will not be used for purposes other than mailing the CPR or other information originating from the CPR office.

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## In my opinion . . .

Dear Editor:

I read with anger that Governor "Veto" McKernan had decided that the gay and lesbian population of Maine didn't deserve equality. I was so outraged that I called his office. The assistant who answered my call listened as I told her to tell the Governor that I was writing letters to the National Gay/Lesbian publications suggesting that people reconsider their travel plans to our state. I also expressed my disappointment in the fact that the Governor had proven what a bigot he really is. The assistant ended my call by very sarcastically telling me to have myself a rainbow day. Have myself a rainbow day! How dare she say something like that to me in a tone basically saying, "Thank you and fuck you!" I was so angered, I called City Counsellor, Tom Allen and Attorney General Mike Carpenter. Mr. Allen was very concerned and agreed she had no right to address a tax-paying resident that way. The AG's office of Hate Crimes called me back and wanted all the details. It's time we claimed OUR rights as citizens. If anyone, especially in state or local government insults you over your sexuality, call the AG's office and let them know. They ARE concerned.

Ken Constant, Portland

Dear Editor:

I just learned about CPR, and I think we, up here in Aroostook County, could surely use some community spirit. I think being together and voicing our opinions and thoughts, both lesbians and gays, is a must and is healthy for all of us in our move to becoming a more open society. One of the questions that has come up in my mind is: Do we stereotype among ourselves? The answer, of course, is yes. Many of us would recognize this factor and, hopefully, we can work together to break down some of our own barriers. I would really like to know the whole truth about where we fall short in our own tolerance, people we perceive to be different. The image of the activist often comes to my mind. What is the activist? Is it someone who dresses outrageously, indecently in public to demonstrate freedom? Is it someone who carries signs and banners and chants, "We are gentle, loving people"? Is it a bare-chested woman who walks bravely through the streets of metropolitan cities just to say, "I am"? Is it a guitar-pickin' folksinger who lulls the world or inflames the world with song? Is it the person who works quietly behind closed doors and just does his/her part? People don't understand activists. They don't understand pacifists. I haven't made up my mind yet what I'd like to be, but I'd like to know what other people think and why they act the way they do, and understand.

L.M. Craig, Presque Isle

## FIGHTING AIDS ...

### ... one step at a time.

The Maine AIDS Alliance recently announced the date of the 4th Annual Maine AIDS Walk. On Sunday, October 3rd., walkers will step off their marks in ten locations in Maine to raise much needed funds for Maine's community-based AIDS service organizations. Your participation in this event is vital to the continuation of this work.. Call the location nearest you for sponsor sheets and other information on how you can help.

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**Brunswick - 725-4995** - Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services  
**Bridgton - 583-6608** - Community Task Force on AIDS  
**Portland - 774-6877** - The AIDS Project AIDS Lodging House, PWA Coalition, Names Project  
**Rumford - 823-4170** - Community AIDS Awareness Program  
**Lewiston - 786-4697** - Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition  
**Waterville - 626-3432** - Dayspring  
**Ellsworth - 667-3506** - Down East AIDS Network  
**Oxford Hills - 743-7451** - Oxford Hills

Equal Protection Lewiston is a collective effort of concerned persons acting to protect Lewiston citizens from discrimination and promoting fair treatment of all persons regardless of actual or preceived sexual orientation.

We invite you to join us at our meeting, July 12th at the Multipurpose Center, Lewiston. Donations, volunteers and inquires are welcome.

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# EDITORIAL

## COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER WELCOMES YOU!

WELCOME to the pages of the COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER, the newest publication in Maine to present news, articles, information, feature stories, and advertisements with YOU in mind. "YOU" has become an increasingly more inclusive word to me as I have worked to develop the format and define the scope of CPR. I have spoken with many people about my vision for this paper, and I am grateful for their input and suggestions.

Now it is time for me to speak with you, the readers, about my vision and about who I am. To begin that process, I am going to tell you about an incident that happened to me recently. It's a long story, so get yourself a cool drink and make yourself comfortable. (If you're not interested, skip to page 3.)

It's Friday morning, June 18th. I'm sitting here at my desk in the CPR office waiting for a call back from the Assistant General Manager of the Portland Metro system. I am feeling angry, violated, powerless, and my breathing is shallow, my heart pounding. I've had a FIRST! I've been verbally violated as a gay woman, and am I pissed! I have a new understanding. I thought I had an understanding of what it was like to be harassed, laughed at, and the recipient of ignorant anger. I was so wrong. What also makes me angry is that I was unable to intervene. I was invisible yet again. I can't stop shaking and the tears are welling up.

The bus driver and passenger didn't know I am a lesbian. What's more, they

didn't care. I wanted to say something. I wanted to be an educator, a coalition builder. What I wanted perhaps more than anything at that moment was to beat the hell out of them verbally and probably physically as well. I'm wondering who the hell I think I am attempting to publish a paper for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered people when I can't speak up for myself.

The passenger boarded the #5 bus at 8:45 a.m. on the corner of St. John and Park. I was already on it. The driver knew her and they began chatting. She said she was beginning her vacation as of 3:30 that afternoon. The driver asked if she was going to be around to see the President. She asked where he was going to be. When the driver said, "Deering Oaks," she said, "Yeah, it figures. He's going to be with his pals in the Oaks." It didn't take a rocket scientist to know what she meant. With that they both laughed. The driver made a comment I did not hear. The passenger's response was, "Well, I don't have to worry about losing my job for what I say. Just nod your head." More laughter and nodding of heads.

Then she went on to say that she was going to have a letter to the editor published soon about the "Deering diversity thing" and that he should watch the paper next week. She went on to say that "they" talk about tolerance and acceptance on one hand and then want to teach experimentation, sex, and the bar scene. There was agreement from the driver. Then they went on to verbally assault President Clinton and Senator Mitchell. It was the longest bus ride and the shortest bus ride I've ever been on. Walking to the office, I actually debated with myself about what

to do next. Complain? Let it go? Chalk it up to ignorance on their part? After all, the passenger can't be complained against. The driver is a very polite man. They don't know any better, ...blah, blah, blah. It's for just those reasons that I needed to do something.

John Tibbets, the Assistant General Manager of Portland Metro, just called back. I explained what happened. I told him that it was unacceptable behavior on the part of his driver. He agreed. He asked for particulars so he could identify the driver. He assured me that he would be called into the office to talk about the gravity of this matter. Mr. Tibbets acknowledged that this must have been difficult for me, and voluntarily said he would put out a memorandum to all drivers, cautioning them against this type of interaction with passengers. I told him that I, and others in the gay community would be glad to lead a workshop on diversity for Metro staff, or that the National Coalition Building Institute, an organization I belong to, which does diversity and prejudice reduction training, would be glad to conduct such a program also. He seemed genuinely interested and somewhat surprised that such resources were available.

I wasn't looking for this today. I'm feeling overwhelmed with the deadline for the July issue fast approaching, but this encounter brings me back to one of the reasons I decided to publish a paper for US. We are a *REALITY* not an aberration. We need *VISIBILITY*, not invisibility. Obviously, I have a way to go yet. I took a deeply personal step today.

So, what does that say about me? Simply, that I, like you, struggle to live in this generally homophobic society with integrity and dignity. Some days are better than others. I can use all the support I can get, and I have a hunch that holds true for most of us. One of my goals for CPR is that it will offer support by reporting the news that affects us, carrying articles of interest, providing a forum for letters and articles from readers, and finding those businesses who support us in advertising. Even though we know we are not the only lesbian, bi-sexual, gay, or transgendered person out there, it helps to be reminded of that.

Another goal of mine revolves around an organization I belong to called The National Coalition Building Institute, (NCBI). I have been active in NCBI for eight months. Its mission is prejudice reduction and coalition building through on-going training of chapter members. We are encouraged to use this training in our places of employment and in our daily lives. I want to utilize CPR as a vehicle for building bridges in the lesbian, bi-sexual, gay, and transgendered community. I feel that the word *community* has little or no meaning among us. Given the continued, and intensified assaults on our civil rights, I view it as paramount that the word *community* be infused with revitalized meaning! Blame, name-calling, and finger-pointing need to stop. We need to come to a place where we not only *can*, but in reality *do* honor the diversity of each woman and man in our community. I am willing to work through the paper toward this end, to build a level of trust with my readers, both to be honest and to expect honesty, to use "I" statements and to listen to the "I" in you.

*I know what needs to change  
I'm not sure how  
... but I'm ready to try*

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## A DAUGHTER'S LOVE

*The following speech was given at NH Pride Rally on June 18th. The young woman giving the speech was introduced to the assembled crowd by her mother. It was a memorable moment.*

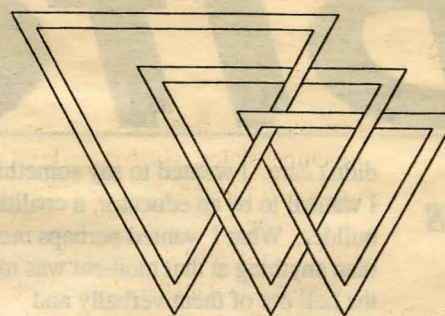
My name is Alison Higgs and I will turn 19 in July. Two summers ago I learned that my parents were about to get divorced - but I already knew they were going to. The big news came when my mother told me that she was a lesbian. What she did not realize was that I already knew. That summer she had completely changed her image. She got her ears pierced, she lost fifty pounds, she started doing more things for herself, and she bought new clothes, something I had never seen her do before. In all, she was a much happier person. If knowing that she was a lesbian helped her be happy, I was happy for her.

What we are here today to do is help other people have the right to change their way of life. New Hampshire's motto is "live free or die", insinuating that our biggest issues are our citizens' rights of free speech, free religion, and right to happiness. Yet we are in a State that does not have a complete Human Rights bill. We are in a State where it is illegal to discriminate against smokers, but one can discriminate against homosexuals. It is time for this discrepancy to end. Governor Merrill and our State legislators must focus on the Constitutional aspect of homosexuality - not their own moral views. It should be illegal to discriminate against homosexuals in New Hampshire because homosexuals are people too.

So why are so many people objecting to a homosexual's rights? People are afraid of homosexuals because of what they think they stand for. The only homosexuals they see on TV are child molesters, rapists, and murderers. Homosexuals are sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles. They are teachers, construction workers, business executives, computer technical writers, and students. It is time for the media to focus on the positive things homosexuals do for this country.

People are afraid of homosexuals because they are not educated to know that homosexuals are as normal as anyone. The only difference is that homosexuals like members of their own sex. Homosexuality is 90% emotional and 10% physical. I have heard many people say that they do not mind homosexuals; they just do not want them flaunting their sexuality in public. Well, I say if heterosexuals can flaunt it on TV and in public, and if they can talk about it anytime they want to, then why can't a homosexual?

I am lucky because I have grown up in a family which has taught me that it is OK to be different. I have learned that the differences that people have make the United States unique, and the world a special place. What our goal is now, is to teach other people - young and old - that differences are a necessary part of life because each person needs something different to make them happy. I pray that the New Hampshire legislature votes to add homosexual rights to the Human Rights Bill.



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\*\*\* PHOTOCOPY AND SEND ALONG TO FRIENDS \*\*\*

### BOOK REVIEW

### EXPERIENCE THE FILM... BY READING THE BOOK

#### Claire of the Moon

by Nicole Conn, Naiad Press,  
\$10.95

It seems we spend most of our lives surrounded by intimacy. We are either smothered by it, dancing around it, or comforted by it. It is no wonder a romantic novelist uses intimacy as the major vehicle to move the reader.

Claire has lost herself and is no longer in touch with her feelings or needs. She has spent too many nights with men she barely knows. The one night stands tend to keep a very small, slow fire burning in her heart. It's been just enough to get by on, but nothing to fill a journal with. Frustrated and lonely, Claire heads to the brooding Oregon coast for a writers retreat, where she meets her roommate, Dr. Noel Benedict. Noel is a therapist, writer and expert on intimacy; that is, all but her own.

The retreat is run by a lesbian couple, BJ and Maggie. Here we find our stereotypes; BJ is out, outspoken and ready to challenge anyone. Maggie spends most of her time keeping BJ in line.

Claire doesn't have much patience for the group, and she spends many evenings in the local brothel, coming home late, waking late and disturbing the hard working, illustrious Dr. Benedict. Sparks fly, doors slam and alcohol is consumed in order to avoid any kind of a connection.

BJ is no help to long time friend Noel, and Claire finds no comfort in the arms of another male stranger.

Conn lights a fire and keeps it going. You can feel the emotions and sense the tension. Conn has a firm grip on the emotions that intimacy can play with. She drags you along, whether or not you want to follow, right to the last page.

This book has someone in it for almost every woman to identify with. It does not contain many good plugs for men, but if that is not too offensive to you, this is a must read. The movie has also just been released. If you find yourself near a theater that runs it, treat yourself.

--BJM --Triangle Books

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# PORTLAND PROUD

By Michael Rosetti

At a meeting of the Heritage of Pride Organization, New York reported its 23rd pride event: 130,000 people, with a parade route of 4 miles, mega-rally the night before. Boston reported its 18th pride event, 80,000 people, with a 2 mile route, and money making festival after the parade, followed by block parties. New Hampshire reported 2,000 people at the festival, parade the day before, speakers, bands, balloons. All monied, all supported, all staffed. I stood up proudly and said: "7th Portland Pride celebration, 45 minutes for 4 blocks, \$800 in debt, 16 of the minimum 24 marshals short up until 5 minutes before the march, no paid speakers, no band, no balloons, no supporters, but with all the pitfalls still 400 faithful marchers and major TV coverage!" The Heritage of Pride members in Albany, N.Y. marveled at the significant accomplishment of Portland Pride, done with so little, but I doubt that Portlanders can appreciate it. Few people have any idea in Portland, what goes into a simple 45 minute demonstration. Contrary to common perception, you don't just call the police and say you're going to march three hundred plus people down Congress Street. This article is to meant to build that appreciation.

What's the point of other cities sharing the anniversary of Stonewall with Pride Days? To celebrate the liberation that gay and lesbian people started, and continue to motivate people on a course for equal civil rights. Most US cities try to time their celebrations prior to New York or San Francisco, leaving celebrants the option to get to these big events. This will

be the case with the Heritage of Pride member states, which include all the New England committees. There are countless examples as proof of how motivated people are to come out or to get involved locally, when they've experienced one of the mega-city marches. That's what we will be doing in Maine next year.

How is all this networked? There is a bi-annual national meeting of Pride co-ordinators. New England, New York and some mid-Atlantic states belong to Heritage of Pride, a regional co-ordinating organization. This July, the next national meeting will be in Milwaukee. Portland Pride will be there as a permanent steering committee member for the upcoming Stonewall 25 celebration and International March on the United Nations in New York in 1994.

So, why is Portland's celebration so minor? The answer is simple: You. That's right, you are the reason. Have you made a donation, or pledged a few hours of work, attended a committee meeting. I personally know that you haven't. Portland has operated without a budget, because support is so scanty. Portland needs to have at least 24 trained marshalls a week before the celebration, but seldom has more than a dozen during the actual March. Portland needs to have the word get out, yet there is no mechanism that doesn't cost money. Bangor experiences similar problems and, at this writing, has no one to carry out its second Pride celebration and may have to skip a year. It's easy to complain, as often people do, but its far more productive to give your time to this effort. Here's how to help:

1-Get involved early enough. Portland's 1994 event is tied into the

International March on the United Nations, Stonewall 25, next year. Our 1994 date is set at June 12, Sunday, the day after Boston Pride.

2- Conclude, early, a basic plan on what the event will be.

3- Help get the word out. If you know a "Free" source of information distribution, help us use it. If you can put up a poster, volunteer. Needed is a person who can get to every group to explain the plan and participation. Also needed, is someone to see that every business that benefits from gay and lesbian patronage backs up their profiting by allowing a poster for Pride in their window.

This year's Pride committee will be issuing an occasional newsletter featuring a calendar of New England events, announcements, updates on Stonewall 25: the International March for Human Rights to the United Nations, updates on the Gay Games in NYC the week prior, some history, and contacts (and instigation) for local Pride around Maine. The newsletter, and regional June '94 Pride Guide is currently available for \$3 donation to cover printing of 4 mailings before June of '94, by writing to Portland Pride, POBox 11502, Portland, 04104. The Gay and Lesbian Information Line is also in the directory for Portland, and serves as a personal contact for any and all community information at 871-0432.

4- Help cover the costs. In 1993 we spent roughly \$800. \$422 was for insurance required by Portland to use the streets. We are charged \$80 for each of three officers, for a four hour shift, to serve as escort. There are incidentals of printing, etc. Total donations were \$420. The rest

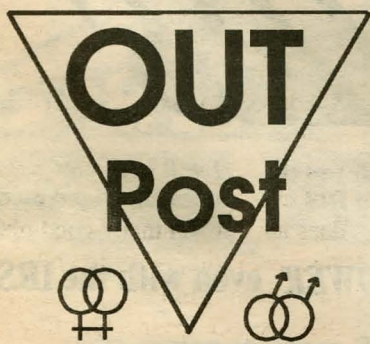
came out of my pocket (or at least my credit). In 1994, Portland Pride we will be a real business. We currently have three types of T-shirts being printed, "Maine" rainbow flags for sale, buttons and a coupon book planned for the Spring of '94. Information for all these will be distributed by the volunteers associated with solution number three, above.

What will Portland be doing in 1994? Whatever you want. As always, any voice, any group, any agenda, is welcome. We could have a die in right on Congress Street if we raised enough cash for the proper insurance or got enough volunteers to take the whole of the street and alleviate City requirements so as not to threaten future celebrations. We could promote your political ambitions or your greeting card business. It all up to the support level. But right now for 1994, expect a March from Congress Square to Monument square, with a true festival following. (That's bands, eats, information, crafts and, maybe, even pie throwing)

Planning is underway now to get people from Maine to New York City in 1994. Maine's planning is specifically for low cost accommodations and transportation, not only for the March but for the Gay Games, the week leading up to the March. Community volunteers for Pride and volunteers from outside the Greater Portland area are needed to help with outreach and planning that best suits their own locale. (Imagine, people from Greenville, Maine shoulder to shoulder with rights activists from South Africa or Panama.) We, also, need help to serve those who will participate in the civil disobedience action during that week against US immigration policy. You could

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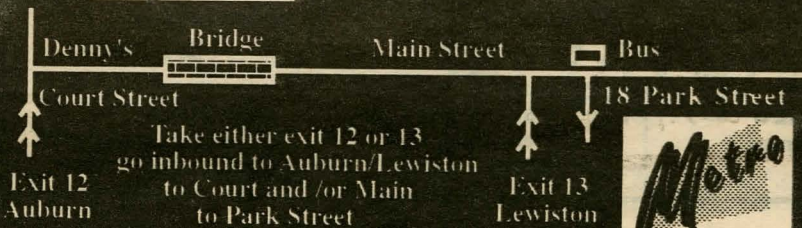
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## THE SECRET ...ssshhh

by Ken Constant

You aren't really looking for anyone. That's the way it always seems to happen. He's standing there talking to some of his friends, but his eyes connect and penetrate yours. They are warm, friendly, inviting. But, there is something else there in those eyes. Just what you can't tell.

You take another gulp of the liquid courage so wonderfully bottled by BUD, and walk over to say, "hi, how's it going?" Small talk, not your forte, is always the worst part of the cruising ritual. Bobby is his name, and no, he isn't seeing anyone; and yes, he'd love to have dinner with you tomorrow night. The man is perfect. He's handsome... a word that hardly describes him...and it makes you feel so good just to be standing there with him.

He's two years younger than you, and just moved here from Boston.. He tells you about his job, his family, his college years and his HIV. Right there, right up front, a matter of fact. He tested positive a year ago, but luckily, he hasn't been sick.

So, there it is, the secret in his eyes. The one that says, "I like you, I want to get to know you, I want to make love to you. But when I tell you, will you politely excuse yourself and go running like so many others have?"

"Well," you say, "I'm not infected, but I'm also not afraid of you." You explain that the only real difference between him and the other men in the bar is that you know his status because he told you. The guy you were with last week might have been HIV positive, but doesn't tell anyone. And more likely, there have been others. You tell him that's what safer sex is all about. He's still the same wonderful guy he was a minue ago. He's just more

honest than others.

If you'd go home with someone who's HIV status you don't know, then why not with someone whose status you do know? So, you'll take some extra precautions--you should do that anyway. If you walk away from that man because of his honesty, just what is it you want? There are many warm, loving, wonderful men out there. HIV is just one more burden of being gay. Don't walk away from what might be the man (or woman) with whom you were meant to spend the rest of your - or his-life.

## ACT UP PORTLAND

### NEEDS LIST - WISH LIST

ACT UP/PORTLAND is Maine's fierce, grassroots organization dedicated to fighting for what you deserve. ACT UP/PORTLAND has a needs list that includes desk with drawers, file cabinet, shelving, office supplies, prop supplies, furniture, your time, your experience, your voice. A wish list includes a Mac computer and a desktop Xerox (type) copier. Call our office and leave a message if you are able to help us fulfill any of the above. Call 828-0566.

## \$\$ MONEY TALK \$\$

By Doug Dunton

Welcome to Money Talk. We are pleased to offer readers the opportunity to learn about various financial matters. This column will be an interactive, two-way forum in which readers may ask questions. In addition, we can act as a clearing house of information. Along with answering questions, we will explore a variety of financial topics that are of interest to us all. Above all, how to keep a sense of humor where money is concerned. Future columns will explore such subjects as:

- ~ Business services provided by and for the gay/lesbian community.
- ~ Spending plans and Budgeting.
- ~ How to choose a bank & why.
- ~ Individual Retirement Accts.
- ~ Financial expertise from community professionals and more.

We encourage readers to send in questions of all kinds. When necessary, we will contact experts and other outside sources to insure precise and accurate information. Throughout this process we will all increase our awareness of money in general, and the choices we have in our own money matters.

*Doug Dunton is owner of The Alan Company, a Bookkeeping, and Accounting firm for small businesses. Send questions to Money Talk c/o CPR.*

## CHEW ON THIS

By Rose Mary Denman


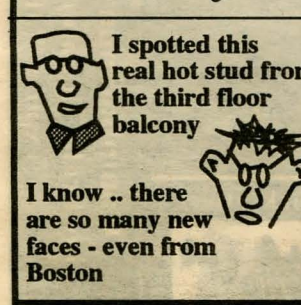
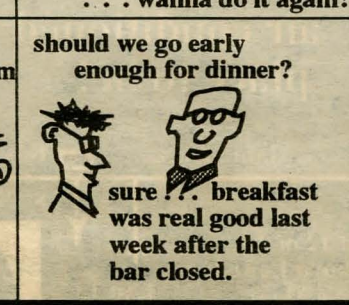
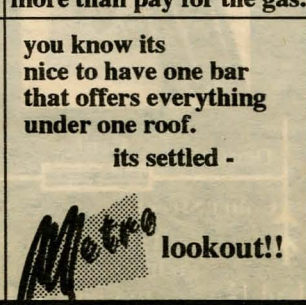
Welcome to CHEW ON THIS, our nutritional news column. Each month we will have an article dealing with a particular aspect of nutrition. In the coming months, we will be covering such issues as: the use of sugar in a healthy diet; making a gradual transition from known foods to more healthy known foods; making a gradual transition from healthy known foods to lesser known, but more healthy foods; how to transition from eating meat to becoming a vegetarian; and how to substitute for eggs, dairy and sugar without giving up some of your favorite foods.

As each topic is discussed, at least one recipe will be provided. We will try to introduce recipes that simply make already familiar fare more healthful, as well as try to tempt you into experimenting with some new kinds of main course menus, side dishes and even desserts!

We welcome any questions you may have about good nutrition, as well as any suggestions you may have about topics you would like to see covered in future issues. Simply mail your questions and suggestions to CHEW ON THIS, care of this paper.

Until next month, here are a few food facts you may want to consider as you roam the local supermarket aisles:~

~~FAT contains 9 calories per gram. If you choose something that has 75 calories per serving, and boasts of

	<p>hey there! whats up for the weekend girl?</p>  <p>well sister, The Metro was HOT last weekend! ... wanna do it again?</p>	<p>Ohhhh.... but it's in Lewiston..</p>  <p>girlfriend the money we save on drinks will more than pay for the gas.</p>
 <p>I spotted this real hot stud from the third floor balcony</p> <p>I know .. there are so many new faces - even from Boston</p>	<p>should we go early enough for dinner?</p>  <p>sure .. breakfast was real good last week after the bar closed.</p>	<p>you know its nice to have one bar that offers everything under one roof. its settled -</p> 

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## CHEW ON THIS - continued

having ONLY 4 grams of fat per serving, 36 of the 75 calories comes from fat. That's nearly half! Not a very low fat choice after all. So, if you are looking to keep your fat intake within healthy boundaries, consider that the American Heart Association suggests that we keep our total fat intake under 30% of our total calories. Reading labels, seeing what the total calorie count is per serving, multiplying the grams of fat per serving by 9, and noting just how many of those calories per serving really come from fat is a good way to begin to lower our daily fat consumption. If the fat calories per serving exceed 30% of the total calories per serving, you can be sure that "low fat" goodie isn't so low fat after all.

(If you eat meat, try to purchase the most lean cuts you can afford. If money is a real issue, then you can still help your heart by trimming off all visible fat before you cook it.).

~~Cook chicken and turkey without the skin. This helps to dramatically cut down on total fat calories.

~~Whenever possible, broil rather than bake; steam rather than boil; bake rather than fry. In fact, the day you throw out your frying pan will be the day you take a giant step toward health conscious eating.

~~Substitute chicken and turkey products for beef products. A casual walk down the meat counter section will help you to see that you can continue to enjoy "hamburgers", meatballs, chilli, meatloaf, and many other favorites. Ground turkey, turkey cutlets, turkey hotdogs and turkey Italian sausage are just a few of the alternatives to beef available at most stores. Try using these when following an old standby recipe that calls for beef. You'll be surprised at how good it tastes!

Rose Mary is an instructor at SMTC, teaching English and Psychology. She is completing course work toward a degree in Nutrition. In addition, she has read widely on the subject of healthy eating and alternative diets that still please the palette.

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Portland Proud... continued from page 5

be the answer, and you can exercise your imagination and skill to help the very best happen, rather than stay home.

Equal Protection campaigns sometimes seem to have an aversion to blatantly gay and lesbian happenings as evidenced by their less than obvious presence in any substantial way in Portland Pride. It's not their fault. That's the nature of politics with objectives to win that hinge on inclusion of heterosexual society. We as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, must not be expected to live our lives in silence for that objective. Isn't that what the opposition wants? The simple truth is that legislation, even when good, will not build our community. The real changes in our lives are due to the resulting community coherence from those campaigns of legislative efforts, something Portland in particular needs to encourage. That's what Pride events are all about.

For those just coming out and for those out, we can provide the positive opportunity to celebrate our community and thereby further generate strength, whether it's the financial boost of someone selling all their T-shirts and jewelry, or allowing a less heard voice a soap-box. Next year, we will substantially expand the scope of human rights on an international level at the doorstep of the United Nations in New York to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people everywhere. So, you see, you are the answer to connecting, not only, with other Mainers through Pride celebrations, but with the rest of America, and in June of 1994, the rest of the world.

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# HERE TO STAY

*The following is an interview with the owners of DROP ME A LINE, a gay owned and operated store about to celebrate its 3rd birthday! The store is located at 144 High Street, Portland. The owners are Jim Neil and Roger Mayo. The interview was conducted by B. Luca Balboni.*

B.L.B: So, where are you from?

Roger: Mexico, Maine.

B.L.B. How did you come to live here? Why Portland?

Roger: I had spent the summer in Ogunquit and I was at the bus station with my suitcase and the Portland bus came before the Boston bus and here I am. (laughter)

B.L.B: So just by that coincidence?

Roger: Yeah, one or the other. I didn't care at that point.

B.L.B: You wanted to go to Boston but ...

Roger: Well, no. I wanted to go anywhere. There was nothing tying me. I didn't have to go anywhere in particular, so I just went to the bus station. I told my friend, when she dropped me off, that whichever bus came first, that's where she could find me.

B.L.B: What kind of work did you do when you first got here?

Roger: I worked as a waiter at the Eastland Hotel which is now the Sonesta Hotel, and I worked as a cocktail waitress at the Phoenix.

B.L.B: What's the Phoenix?

Roger: The Phoenix was a discotheque. It was the first discotheque in Maine. It was located in a church, an abandoned church, over on Oak Street, and it was THE place to be gay!

B.L.B: When you say "waitress" you mean you were....

Roger: No, I was a waiter actually. (laughter)

B.L.B: Okay. Jim, what brought you from Galesburg, Illinois?

Jim: I wanted to get to, well, living in the mid-west, I decided I wanted to live on the coast. For whatever reason, I was more drawn to the east coast than the west coast. And I had studied art with an artist in NH during the month of August and part of September. Then I came to Portland because a woman that I went to high school with was living here. And, umm, I more or less came to visit with her. I had packed when I left to study

with this artist in NH. My car was loaded. I was packed to move. I didn't know where I was going to settle on the east coast, but I wasn't coming back.

B.L.B: What did you study with this artist...painting?

Jim: Yeah, painting, you know and drawing.

In response to a question about his retailing experience, Jim responded that he really had none and that Roger was the one with the retailing background. "I just came along for the ride or for the adventure" said Jim with a smile. He arrived in Portland 12 years ago with car trouble and a low cash reserve. A friend gave him a place to stay until he could save enough money to "hit the road again and go on with the trip." Jim got a job at a restaurant and began saving, but it was November, and starting to get cold.

Says Jim, "I had really grown to like Portland, so I just decided, well, what the heck, I'm just gonna stay here. So, I'll use the money I saved to travel with and move out and get a place of my own.. Portland was growing and changing at that time. I mean, the Old Port was on the up 'n' up, but it was still not established. It wasn't the status quo of Portland."

B.L.B: I'm probably jumping ahead but I wanted to ask how you got together, how you met...

Roger: That's scandalous .... (laughing)

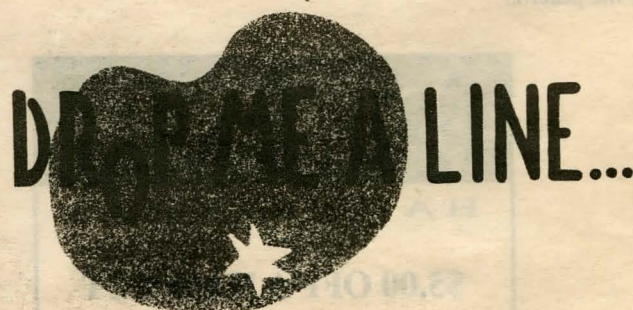
B.L.B: Your business partners as well as life partners. So I'm wondering if the business partnership came first or ...

Roger replied that the life partnership came first and that he and Jim have been together for almost nine years. They met through Danny Peters, who was Roger's roommate and a chef at 34 Exchange where Jim was a waiter. They hit it off immediately and the rest is history. As life has a way of moving on, so did Roger and Jim. In 1984 Roger was assistant manager of Waterbeds East in Brunswick, following his retail career. Jim was working maintenance at the Portland Museum of Art where he remained until 1990, becoming the building manager prior to leaving. Roger, at this point was working at the Magic Garden, a flower and gift store, where he again brought his retailing expertise.

"I started going to work for different retailers," said Roger, "and could always see, no matter who I worked for, I could always see that I could do better at this than they do. I know more about this than these people seem to know, and I know I can do better."



Photo by Paul T. Bernard





They had some money saved for a house, and one night, "over dinner we just looked at each other and said, 'maybe we oughtta just spend our money and open a business.' " A month later they opened! "We didn't even think about it, we just did it," says Roger.

B.L.B: But when you made that decision, did you know that it was going to be the kind of business it is now--cards? gifts?

Roger: Uh huh, because when I was working at the Magic Garden I was the giftware buyer... I enjoyed it. I like, love cards.

B.L.B: Are you able to categorize the store now? Like, giftshop or notions?

Roger: No, it's just Drop Me A Line, it's a total experience. There is so much stuff in such a small space. Anything will work in our store. There are no rules.

Jim: We have tarot cards sharing the shelf with erotic mugs!

It became apparent during the interview just how wide a variety of merchandise Drop Me A Line carries; books, buttons, cards (but of course!), wonderfully original jewelry, many artistic T-shirts, rubber stamps, posters, calendars and date books, giftwrap, and magazines. In addition, Jim designs and creates stunning cards.

"When we finally arrived at the name, Drop Me A Line, we immediately decided that, me being the artistic end of it, I would design the business card and the typeface and logo..." says Jim. "A week or two passed and Roger said, 'Jim, you know, where's the logo design?' And of course I said I haven't got it done yet. He said, 'Well, you know, we're running a business here, we cannot wait for artistic inspiration!' It's like, right! I know that" says Jim, laughing uproariously.

We talked about the special appeal of the area in which the store is located. Jim and Roger see the neighborhood as the "in" place for the local people with the School of Art, Terra Firma, the old record shop, Tangents, Artifacts, and the new Children's Museum. Roger added the Maine Historical Society to the list, and also mentioned the State Theater opening in the fall and the Performing Arts Center around the corner. More and more diverse people moving into the area.

B.L.B: Is there any particular hardship you've faced as gay men in business together?

Jim & Roger: No, we've never ever...

Roger: Even the banker who gave us our first loan knew we were lovers and we've never had a problem. If anyone had a problem with it, it would be immediate ...

Jim: ...and then we would've gone...

Jim and Roger discussed the stresses of being partners in business and also partners in life. They appear to have achieved a balance even though both still hold additional jobs to the store demands. They look to a future when they can buy a home and not have to think twice about

buying something or going somewhere. But for now, they are doing what they want to do.

B.L.B: Let me shift gears slightly on the subject of censorship. I wonder if you have to deal with it in a face-to-face way in terms of what you put in your window...

Roger: The only things we don't display are female nudity, and that's because our friends ask us not to, and male frontal nudity. Other than that, we put things of a political nature and whatever we feel like putting in.

B.L.B: How do you handle gay vs. straight merchandise?

Roger: We've always integrated everything in the store. The gay and the straight stuff has always been mixed together ... and that's because that's how life should be...

Our discussion turned to how the store provides service as a clearinghouse of information about what's happening in Portland's gay community. Roger referred to it as "Information Central" and noted that they like the fact that this has happened. He attributes it to the media attention they received after the store opened. "Whenever a "gay" was needed, we were asked for an interview" he said. "People moving to the city come in to find out what's going on in Portland and what it's like to live here" says Jim. "People want to know about the health care situation," says Roger. "It's just one of those things that you don't want to worry about, but you have to. They're always interested in the network."

We then talked about civic responsibilities and how, as a business, Drop Me A Line supports the community. In addition to co-sponsoring the Maine In Pink Guide three years ago that publicized a gay network in Maine, Drop Me A Line donates its window to organizations to get their message across. They sell fund raising T-Shirts for the Matlovich Society, the Names Project, and Act Up and donate all the money received from the sales back to the organizations.

"We act as ticket agents for any event. We're educational, too," points out Roger. "When we started selling pink triangles, zillions of heterosexual people came in the store and said 'What is this pink triangle anyway?' and so we go to explain the whole thing... The rainbow flag is going through the same thing now. It's like, 'What is that rainbow flag anyway?' Jim responds by pointing out that "those people that are asking us in the store are asking us because the store is very non-threatening."

It is obvious that Jim and Roger love their work and their community. It would be well worth the trip to their store to browse among the unique items and ask them to tell you some of their favorite stories, such as the Porn Shop vs The Pawn Shop, Furniture Bonding and the call to them about fishing equipment.

B.L.B: One last question. Do you think there's cruising going on in your store?

Roger & Jim: OH YEAH! There's definitely a social aspect to our store. We'd love to know if there are any couples out there who have met in our store. Anyone???



Photo by Paul T. Bernard

Mr. B. Luca Balboni is a free-lance writer and teacher from Boston. He is new to Portland but not to Maine. A Boston native, he has lived in Europe, New York City and Los Angeles. He has a varied background.



## OUT! OF TOWN

By Paul T. Bernard

What is gay and lesbian travel? In one respect, it is no different than 'straight' travel, but in another respect, it is different. Most gays and lesbians want to travel to the same places straight people want to visit. The difference lies in the fact that most gays and lesbians want to travel to places where they feel safe - and with people who make them feel safe. For instance, most of us would love to take a romantic cruise in the Caribbean with that special someone. But how many of us would feel comfortable on a cruise ship with Pat Robertson or Jerry Falwell?

Travel can be divided into categories: 'straight' travel, 'modified straight' travel, and 'fully Gay/Lesbian' travel.

Straight travel is where you are just another tourist amongst the millions. An example of this would be taking a week-long trip to Disney World or to Paris or to China. You basically become a 'straight' traveller who does all of the 'normal' tourist things like riding all of the rides at the Magic Kingdom or visiting the Eiffel Tower, or climbing the Great Wall. You may also 'tour' by day, but sample the local gay/lesbian scene at night.

Modified straight travel is primarily where you are one of a group of gay men and/or lesbians travelling together. These are group tours that are marketed to gay and lesbian audiences by gay/lesbian owned or operated tour companies. The tours can be to the same 'straight' destinations as above, but the group atmosphere adds its own elements of comfort and safety. Although this type of travel is primarily group oriented, a number of tour companies are now offering the same types of packages, but aimed at individual

travellers - what we in the industry call 'FITS' - Fully Independent Travellers.

Fully gay/lesbian travel are the annual pilgrimages to Key West, Provincetown, Fire Island, etc. destinations that are primarily known as gay/lesbian destinations.

So how do you go about investigating gay/lesbian travel? The easiest way is to develop a good working relationship with a travel agent who knows about, and is sensitive to, the needs of a gay/lesbian traveller. A good place to start would be to call the International Gay Travel Association, 800-448-8550. Currently, there are over 500 travel agencies across the country that are members of this association. Although the agents who are members of the association may not deal exclusively with a gay/lesbian clientele, they are aware of all of the different types and varieties of gay/lesbian travel available. A second place to gather information would be to subscribe to **OUT and ABOUT**, a monthly newsletter/magazine designed expressly for the gay or lesbian traveller. This publication provides spotlights on various destinations in each issue, along with in-depth articles about gay/lesbian travel. The current issue contained 32 pages of information without advertising. You can subscribe by calling 800-929-2268.

In future columns, I will try to spotlight various destinations, both gay and straight, along with various cruises or tours available. I will also try to answer any questions you may have about gay/lesbian travel. Please mail your questions to CPR, attention OUT! OF TOWN.

*Paul T. Bernard is the owner of Adventure Travel, Inc. located in Scarborough, Me.*

## MATLOVICH SOCIETY ANNOUNCES EVENTS

**July 8 through September 23**

The Matlovich Society, an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gays and their friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment, released their summer schedule of events recently.

Having just celebrated their second anniversary, the Board of Directors is continuing to present programs that are both timely and timeless, challenging and recreational. Unless otherwise noted, all gatherings are held at the Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The facility is wheel chair accessible. You do not have to be a member to attend.

### JULY 8TH:

Marty Whitehead, Lt. Col., US Air Force (ret.) discusses her twenty-two years of military service, including two tours in Vietnam. Hear her speak on **"Lesbian in the Military -- Surviving the Witchhunts: A Personal Odyssey."**

### JULY 22ND:

Stanwyn Clough, M.A. candidate at USM presents an illustrated lecture on **"The Queer Frontier: Native Americans, Cowboys and Pioneer Women."**

### AUGUST 12TH:

**Watch the sun go down over Portland**

**Harbor: Matlovich Throws a**

**Lawn Party!** We'll supply beverages and a grill, you bring your favorite dish to share with the group. The fun begins at 7:00 p.m. at 235 High Street, So. Portland. (August CPR will include directions).

### AUGUST 26TH:

Betsy Sweet, political activist and President of Moose Ridge Associates Consulting Firm, and Steve Wessler, Head of the Civil Rights Unit of the Attorney General's Office, speaking on **"Does Hate Begin in Kindergarten? Combating Discrimination in Maine's Public Schools."**

### SEPTEMBER 9TH:

Professor Bill Coogan of USM's Political Science Department, and Representatives of Equal Protection Portland, Equal Protection Lewiston, and The Open Door Coalition - Portsmouth, discuss **"The Challenges of Grass-Roots Organizing."**

### SEPTEMBER 23RD:

Dr. Robert McCardle, Brighton Medical Center, leads a discussion on **"AIDS and Sexuality: Reducing the Risks."**

In addition, a "special event" is being planned.

## ART AUCTION RAISES \$60,000 FOR AIDS

By Kathy Mills

On Saturday, June 12, Spring for Life, the 7th annual Visual AID art auction, raised \$60,000 to support the AIDS Project. Over 650 people attended the event, held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. This year's benefit included a silent auction, featuring more than 80 works of art. Over 180 works were auctioned on the live floor by Rob Elowitch of Barridoff Galleries. More than 100 volunteers staffed the event.

"Again this year, the outpouring of support from the community was overwhelming, said Michael Quint, Auction Committee Chair. "It is truly wonderful to see people and art come together to support an organization that is addressing so many human needs in the AIDS epi-

demic." Other Auction Committee members were Mary Anderson, Becky Bearden, Judi and Ed Mansing, Kathy Mills, Della Parker, Pat Pinto, Crandall Toothaker and Roberta Wright.

Advance publicity for the auction included radio spots done by Abrams & Anderson and two television spots on WGME-Channel 13 which featured Toni Wolfe and Dana Johnson, both contributing artists. Off-site previews of art work were displayed at Drop Me A Line, Sonesta Hotel Portland, Harmon's and Barton's Flowers, Steamer Trunk and the former location of Loring, Short & Harmon.

This year's auction was rescheduled from its original March 13 date due to the "blizzard of the century." June 12 was the next available date at the Holiday Inn, which donated space for the event. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine was the corporate sponsor of Spring for Life and

produced all written promotional materials for the event, including the poster and auction catalogue. Other major donors included BAMICO (parking), Confidential Records (art storage), Harmon's and Barton's (flowers), Mansing & Company (public relations), Sentinel Security (on site security), and Transformat, Inc. (fabric art).

The live auction was preceded by a Celebration Hour to meet the artists, which hosted over 250 people. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages were donated by dozens of area restaurants and distributors. The hotel space was completely transformed by dramatic fabric art and flower arrangements.

Proceeds from the auction will support The AIDS Project's programs in HIV care and prevention. The AIDS Project (TAP) is Maine's largest AIDS service organization, with offices in Portland and Lewiston.

TAP provides case management and support services to people living with HIV in Cumberland, York, Androscoggin and Oxford counties. It conducts prevention programs and special outreach in local communities. It is one of the 10 anonymous HIV testing sites in Maine. It also operates Maine's toll-free, state-wide AIDS information hotline.



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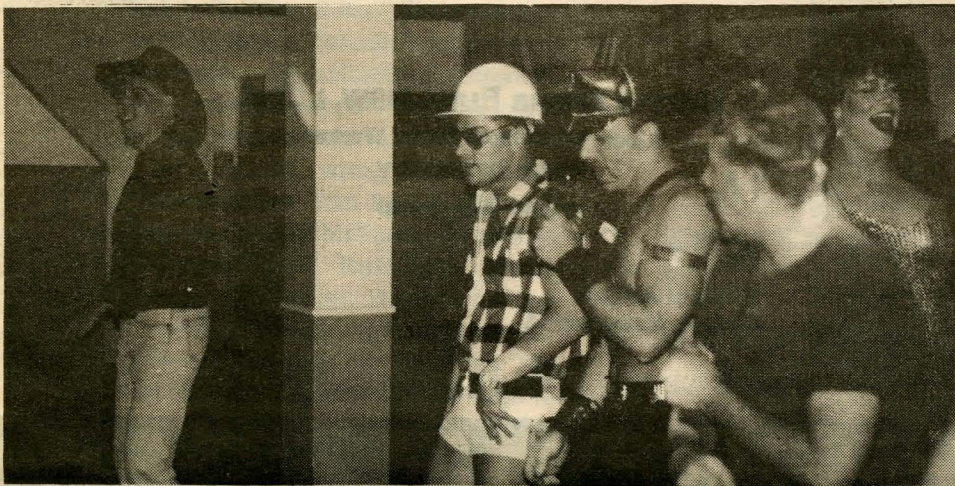


## LOCAL "STARS" RAISE \$\$\$ FOR AIDS GROUPS

The Metro of Lewiston sponsored a Gay Masquerade Ball as part of the L-A Pride '93 weekend.. The night was to benefit AVAC, (Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition). The night was truly a "gay-la" event, complete with cash prizes for Best Drag, Most Comical, and Most Original costumes.

The entertainment included "Miss Gay Maine", Lexie Love; "Miss METRO", Roxie Chanel; and "Miss Cherries", Ms. G. A special performance was given that evening by the METRO Dancers. Five hot men performed (in character) as the Village People doing "Macho Man."

Representatives from the PWA Coalition were in attendance, pinning red ribbons to patrons. One speaker representing AVAC, Charlie Wynott, praised the attendees for their outstanding support, while Don Michaud urged people to dig deep into their pockets for whatever they could give to help support the work of these organizations. Over \$600 was raised for AVAC and the PWA Coalition. Everyone was a star that night!



## NACHAS!

By Rita M. Kissen

( *NACHAS*: a Yiddish word meaning "pride," pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, which rhymes with "Bach.")

Greetings and welcome back to former *Our Paper*/Gay Lesbian Times readers, and welcome to all new readers! The title of this column, NACHAS, is a Yiddish word that connotes the special pleasure we take in the accomplishments of our loved ones, especially our children. Traditionally, *nachas* is what parents feel at their children's graduations, weddings, baby showers and job promotions. For us, the parents of lesbian and gay children, *nachas* means something closer to "pride": seeing our children live their lives with dignity, supporting them as they confront prejudice and homophobia, and applauding their struggle to

be out in the world in a way that is the most authentic for them.

All of these feelings were in my heart as my daughter and I marched down Pennsylvania Avenue with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) on April 25. Like everyone else who went to Washington, I returned with a set of mental photographs as vivid as those on my three rolls of film.

There was the young man who stood in the middle of the P-FLAG pre-march assembly area with his sign, "WISH MOM AND DAD WERE HERE." He had come to the right place; dozens of moms and dads stopped to give him a hug. "We wish they were here too," we said.

There was the grey-haired couple who carried a banner that read "STRAIGHT MAR-

*continued on page*



photo by Geoff Higgs

Remember when . . .  
you couldn't buy a pink triangle  
button in Maine?

That changed on July 1, 1990  
when **DRÖP ME A LINE...** opened.

Proudly celebrating our 3rd Anniversary!

JOIN US FOR  
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**QUEER** as a **3** dollar  
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SUBURBAN SQUARES FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS," and the middle-aged woman whose sign declared: "I LOVE MY SON AND HIS HUSBAND!" And all along the procession to the Mall, there were the crowds who cheered, clapped, blew us kisses, and flashed the "I Love You" sign, borrowed from American Sign Language, as we marched slowly by. The moment that moved me most was one which I didn't actually see, but heard about from a friend. A young woman who had been thrown out of her home when she came out to her family burst into tears at the sight of so many parents expressing sentiments she had never heard from her own. Seeing her, one of our P-FLAG moms left the line of march, ran over to the young woman, and embraced her. I suspect that they cried together.

We parents who marched in Washington were overwhelmed by mixed emotions. The tears in our eyes were tears of love for the one million proud lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people who filled the city; but they were also tears of sadness. The intensity of the crowd's response to us was a poignant reminder that in a culture permeated with homophobia and rejection, simply loving one's children can seem remarkable. Activist/journalist Bee Bell said it well in her June column in the *Maine Progressive*: "Some of us had mixed feelings: why should straight people get so much credit just for declaring themselves to be in our families and not to hate us?" Why indeed.

Mixed feelings or not, we straight relatives and allies need to keep speaking out. Shortly after I returned from Washington, Gov. McKernan vetoed LD 246, the controversy over Deering High School's Diversity Day erupted (stay tuned for more

details in a future column), a state referendum became a real possibility, and Equal Protection/Lewiston moved into higher gear with the realization that their November election has now once again taken on crucial importance. Recently, I asked a parent of a gay child if she planned to get involved in any of this. "I'm not political," she said. Because we were on our way to somewhere else, there was no time to continue the conversation, but what I would have liked to say to her, and to all the other parents, friends and relatives who still hesitate to speak out publicly, is this: Silence, too, is political. Not all of us want to go on marches or make speeches. But only when all of us tell our families, friends and neighbors that we love and support our lesbian and gay children, will the rest of the world learn what we have known all along: that, in the words of P-FLAG's favorite motto, our children are fine just the way they are.

## CELEBRATION

Reprint from  
"Our Paper", March 1992

### SPERM DONOR NEEDED!

I am a financially secure, 30+ years old Lesbian who has always wanted to parent; always wanted to be pregnant. If you have ever thought about being a biological father or more, please write to ...

### UPDATE & CELEBRATE

We would like to share with you the long awaited arrival of "Annie" into our hearts and families. Annie was born June 15, 1993, 11:02AM weighing 7lbs., 11oz.

Are you a parent or would you like to be? Would you like contact with other Gay people in similar circumstances? I, Annie's mom, am interested in establishing a reference and referral network in Maine. For further information send a legal sized SASE to Community Pride Reporter, Box #3, 142 High St. Suite 634, Portland, 0410. Anonymity guaranteed!

## COMMUNITY DIALOGUE...

*Editor's Note: This space is made available to persons or organizations who wish to publicly engage in debate around specific issues. Submissions should be kept to 200-250 words. All submissions are subject to Advisory Committee review and stated policies of the Community Pride Reporter.*

To: Howard Solomon, Program Chair  
The Matlovich Society  
From: Alexander Wallace,  
Chair, Pro-Temp  
The Apollo Society

June 21, 1993

Dear Howard:

Your rude and undignified response to my recent letter to you beggars the imagination!

We challenge you and The Matlovich Society to invite to speak to a regularly scheduled, well-publicized public meeting of The Matlovich Society, a nationally-known, Lesbian or

Gay or Straight Atheist, Free Thinker, Ethical Humanist or Hellene, amenable to both of us.

We can, of course, supply you with the names of many representatives from the various national Lesbian and Gay or Straight Atheist, Free-Thinker, Ethical Humanist or Hellenic organizations who would be pleased to pay their own way to Portland to speak to The Matlovich Society.

Should you NOT choose to accept this opportunity to demonstrate free-speech principles, it would then be only ethical and moral for The Matlovich Society to stop pretending and/or advertising itself as speaking for the entire Lesbian and Gay Maine Community, open to all voices or as anything but a rigidly controlled, discriminatory, private membership club, pushing a Judeo-Christian Gay mind set. The declining attendance at Matlovich Society Meetings should indicate to you that SOMETHING'S WRONG!

Sincerely,  
(signed) A. Wallace

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE CELEBRATES 6TH ANNUAL GAY PRIDE EVENT by Lyn Higgs

New Hampshire's gay community continued to increase its visibility as it celebrated two days of gay pride in June.

On the evening of June 18th the NH Lesbian and Gay Pride March and Rally drew a crowd of over 700 to the State Capital. This was nearly double previous NH Pride March participation. Included in the marchers were supporters from area churches and a number of other gay-positive organizations.

The march and rally followed the international theme of "A Family of Pride", with speeches from Betsy Janeway of NH Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) and Alison Higgs, the daughter of NH Pride member Lyn Higgs (see accompanying story). There were also speeches by representatives of the Boston and NYC Pride organizations, there to support their NH neighbors and friends, and to begin spreading the word about next year's Stonewall 25 March.

Rick Trombly, the Democratic leader of the NH House of Representatives, gave the keynote speech as he publicly acknowledged that next fall legislation will be introduced to extend the existing NH

civil rights law to include "sexual orientation." He was joined on the podium by a number of other legislators, including Don Gorman, the Libertarian leader of the House. Mr. Gorman introduced one of the rally's youngest participants, the infant son of two of his gay constituents, declaring that it is for him and all other children that this legislation must be enacted.

The Rally concluded with the music of Leah Zacari, a classically trained guitarist who has tossed aside propriety to sing her own blend of poignant and humorous songs. Her themes include love, politics, and contemporary issues specific to women, gays and lesbians.

The New Hampshire Pride Day Celebration on Saturday, June 19th, drew an enthusiastic crowd who enjoyed the first dry Pride Day in the six year history of NH Pride. Despite cloudy skies that threatened a re-enactment of past rainy Pride Days, a large crowd gathered at the foot of Pat's Peak ski area to join together in a day long celebration.

Nearly 50 vendors offered their wares, which ranged from shirts and buttons, to books, arts and crafts, and home cooking.

Represented among the vendors were Maine's own Barb and Sam, owners of Triangles.

On hand also were organizations such as the Portsmouth Open Door City Coalition, continuing their fight for a city ordinance prohibiting discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual residents, and the Coalition to End Discrimination, who are organizing support for a statewide bill. Among the other organizations represented were Friends of the Quilt, NH P-FLAG, NH NOW, and the Unitarian Universalist Church.

The day included both morning and afternoon workshops on issues as diverse as *The Non-Traditional Family and Other Alternative Life-Style Concerns* and *How to be a Buddy and Make an AIDS Quilt Panel*. The Wedding, and the Pre-commitment workshop preceding it, were conducted by Portland resident, Rose Mar United Methodist Minister who was put on trial by the church in 1987 for being a practicing lesbian. Her book, *Let My People In*, was published by William Morrow in 1990.

The afternoon program featured speakers and music. The NH band, J. Walker and the Pedestrians, kicked off the festivities with renditions of music by the Indigo Girls, the Pretenders, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. They were followed by speeches by Martin Hiraga of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force, and Franklin Fry from Stonewall 25.

The speakers were followed by a performance by the Washington Sisters with Melanie Monsur. Their music rocks with a mixture of jazz, swing, blues, gospel, and island rhythms. They were followed on stage by a trio of extraordinary musicians - Sue Fink, Suede, and Laura Berkson. The women joined voices in songs they have each written and recorded, bringing a richness and depth to songs like Laura Berkson's "We're Gonna Rise", and a Suede rendition of "Sister", a song featured in *The Color Purple*.

Concluding the afternoon was Will Kollinz, a singer and dancer, whose show features an uncanny impersonation of the incomparable Liberace. Will's stunning costumes are patterned on the costumes of the famous musician, and he carries them in a trunk once owned by the maestro.

The NH gay and lesbian community rounded out the day with a swinging dance to the music of DJs Carol Deveau and Nancy Harriman of DCN & Co., who have become familiar to gay blades of NH.

The New Hampshire Pride Committee plans a week of recuperation and then will be back at work, reviewing this year's Pride event, and planning for next year with the upcoming Summer Sizzler Dance to be held later this summer at Pat's Peak.

**GOOD COOKIN'**  
**KATAHDIN**

*We would like to welcome the*

**"Community Pride Reporter"**

*to the community.*

**GOOD LUCK!**

*Watch for our ads!*

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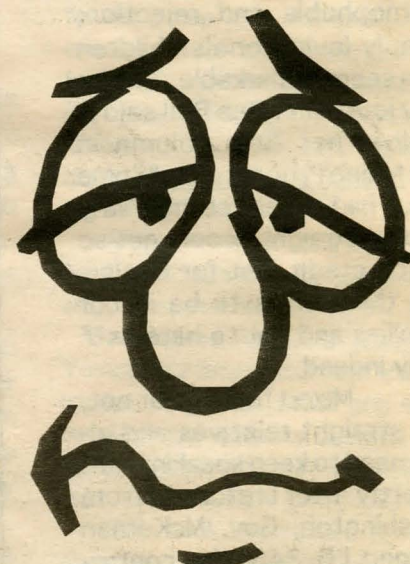
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## WE ARE FAMILY

Being a daughter of a gay parent is mainly the same as having a straight parent. Sometimes, though there are differences, like homophobia from other people such as the government by making only heterosexual marriages legal and recognized, and the obvious difference that my dad's partners are men, not women. I hate homophobia and all other prejudices. But it is my dad's choice whether he wants to date men or women. I am not in any way saying it is his choice to be gay, just that he has the choice to date whomever he wants. Dad has had three partners that I know of and remember. My mom, Robin, (a man), and Fred. I'll talk about them in order.

My dad met my mom when they were both 22. They got married the very next year. I was born seven years later. I don't remember much about the time my mom and dad spent together since they got a divorce when I was only five. What I tend to remember most about those years was the house itself and less the actual events of daily life. After my parents got divorced, I moved out of the house with my mom and lived with her until I was nine. That year she died from cancer. Then I moved back to live with my dad. I had seen him throughout all these years on weekends, holidays, and summer time, so I knew my dad, but not very well. My mom was angry with him throughout the time I lived with her. She would tell me, and everyone else close to her, terrible things about dad. I didn't know who to believe, and after mom

died, I didn't want to leave my home. When I first came to live with my dad, I didn't trust him or know which parent was telling the truth about dad. After the years, I learned to trust him, and then to love him. During this time dad came out to me. I had already guessed as much, but had not put a name to it until he said he was "gay."

Dad met Robin when I was five and they became partners the next year. I don't remember ever meeting Robin for the first time. Very few of my memories go back that far, but what I do remember is all the years I spent with Robin and Dad. The best times of all were spent with Robin's daughters Emily, Meg, and Robin. Each one of us had an unusual relationship with the others. Emily and I are best friends. Meg was so kind to everyone that you couldn't help but like her and sometimes envy her. Robin and I had a love/hate relationship. We loved each other, but since she was the youngest, and so the baby of the house, and I had been an only child, we fought like cats and dogs! Even though we fought a whole bunch, I was still very close to all three of them and their father. One day we decided that since we liked each other so much and our dads were partners, that we would find out what relation we had to each other. I went to my dad and asked him what relation we were to each other. To my surprise and sadness, he said "None, other than friends." This just astonished me; that even though dad and Robin were partners and had that relation to each other, we had none, absolutely none! I decided right then that we would be related if I had to make us. We were going to be something to

each other even if I had to invent it. So I did. Since my dad was little Robin's godfather, that made us godsisters and as an abbreviation, we took off the "god" and called each other sisters! Emily, Meg and Robin were sisters. After all, it was just adding me. They agreed. Emily, Meg, Robin and I still keep in touch even though our dads are not partners anymore. The separation wasn't easy for any of us, especially because we kids had no say in it. Dad and Robin are friends and I am still close to my sisters and Robin. Emily was very angry at my dad and disliked him for a long time. Things got easier as time went on. About a year after Robin and dad broke up, Dad got together with Fred.

In the same way I wanted Mom and Dad to get back together after the divorce, I now wanted Robin and Dad back together. Fred and Dad got together anyway. Gay parents do not always have it easy but, neither do their kids. People all around you can be very cruel, teasing and tormenting you because your parent happens to be gay. Sometimes they won't even acknowledge that you're there. Yet sometimes the meanest people of all can be your parents and their partners. Before I go on, I want to make sure you understand what I am going to say is purely my opinion. It may be biased, but I will try to be as neutral as possible and not bash Fred or Dad unfairly, or without pointing out my faults too. I did not like Fred from the beginning. He treated me like I was a little child. I was twelve but he made me feel like a four year old. The only reason I wasn't mean to him from the start was that he was just visiting.

Unfortunately, visiting turned to a partnership. Whenever Fred was around, Dad ignored me. I was hurt and angry. I tried telling Dad that he was not paying any attention to me and that I did not like it, but it never sank in. I started to do mean things to Fred and bother him whenever I could. Months later, Fred and Dad broke up. I recently talked with my Dad and my therapist about how my dad and I felt concerning the time he spent with Fred. We talked and agreed that he needed to pay attention to me and include me in his life both when he was in and out of relationships. We also agreed that I needed to not get revenge on dad or his partner, but to try to get the message through by talking. Dad said he would listen to me. Now dad is single and we get along pretty well. I am hoping that dad will find a new partner, but I am not pressing him. Life is semi-normal and I think we are both happy.

*The author, Beverly Ellison, is a fourteen year old pagan-feminist who likes cats, Mary Daly, Margot Alder, and Robin Morgan. She likes Portland because it's busy, has great shopping, and best of all it has Equal Protection Portland! She will be going into ninth grade in the fall term at Wayneleste School.*

*CPR is making this space available monthly to young people who have gay parent(s). We hope young people will contribute articles around the struggles and the joys of growing up in a lesbian/gay/bi/transgender household. It helps to know you are not alone. Reader response to Beverly's article may be directed to her in care of CPR or in a letter to the editor.*

## Panty Check

### GENDER POLICE ARE ALIVE AND WELL AT MICHIGAN

By Nancy Burkholder

Nancy Burkholder was expelled from the 1991 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival on Tuesday morning at approximately 12:45 a.m. While waiting at the main gate for a friend arriving on the chartered bus, Nancy was talking with a group of women around a fire pit. One member of this group informed a security woman that Nancy had said something that made her suspect Nancy was a transsexual. Nancy was approached by security

woman and showed them her picture ID driver's license. One of them asked if she was a transsexual. Nancy wanted to know why she was being questioned. The woman replied that transsexuals were not permitted at the festival because the festival was for "natural, women-born women" only. Nancy pointed out that nowhere in any festival literature was that policy stated, and asked the security woman to verify it. Festival producers, Lisa Vogel and Boo Price, were called and verified that transsexuals were not permitted to attend by festival policy. They reportedly refused to speak to Nancy, having designated the security woman

their spokesperson. Security women asked Nancy whether she had had a sex-change operation. Nancy replied that her medical history was none of their business but that she was willing to submit to a genital examination to satisfy their concerns about her sex. Security women declined, saying they would not feel comfortable doing that. Nancy requested proof to substantiate the security women's allegations that she was transsexual. They said they didn't need proof, that they "were empowered to expel anyone from the land for any reason that we feel appropriate." Nancy was told she had to leave the festival at once, was not allowed to return to her campsite to collect her belongings, and once expelled, had to find transportation home at her own expense.

In 1992, the MWMF brochure contained wording ("MWMF is a gathering of mothers and daughters for all womyn born womyn...") meant to exclude transsexuals. That year several women went to MWMF to inform participants about gender issues and discuss their concerns. A survey showed that participants favored transsexual inclusion by more than 3 to 1. Survey results were sent to festival producers, who have not responded. The 1993 brochure ... contains the same anti-transsexual sentence. This summer a contingent of women will again attend the festival to raise consciousness about gender. We do not debate the legal right of the festival to exclude transsexuals, but we ask them to do so in plain language. We do debate their moral right to exclude any woman on grounds other than her behavior at the festival, especially when such action is clearly against the will of the majority.



## ONGOING SUPPORT

*Community Pride Reporter is anxious to publish information about support group meeting times and places FREE. Please send your information to us at 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, Maine 04101.*

**THE AIDS LINE:** 800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat.9:00a.m.-5:00p.m., Mon.&Wed. evenings 'til 7:30p.m. Anonymous always.

**DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK:** For lesbian, gay, bisexual & questioning youth under 19 yrs.

**GAY-LESBIAN PHONELINE:** Caribou area, Wed. evening 7:00-9:00p.m. Call 498-2088.

**INGRAHAM VOLUNTEERS:** Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

**THE AIDS PROJECT:** 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor, Portland 04101. Call 774-6877 FMI re: support group mtgs. Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

**ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY AIDS COALITION (AVAC):** 70 Court St., 2nd floor, Auburn. Support for people with HIV & their families & friends. Thurs. 7:00p.m. FMI call 786-4697.

**MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK:** POB 10818, Portland, ME. 04104. Our purpose is to affirm in ourselves and others the positive nature of bisexuality and to work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referrals available.

**MERRYMEETING AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES:** POB 57, Brunswick, ME. 04011-0057. AIDS & HIV support group services. Call: 725-4955.

**NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD:** POB 990, Caribou, ME. 04736. Call: 498-2088. Serving Aroostook Cty. & New Brunswick towns. Sponsors socials, discussion groups, speakers bureau, monthly newsletter & cal.

**OUT FOR GOOD:** Lesbian discussion & support group. Thurs. 7:00-9:00p.m., 445 Main St., Biddeford. Topics selected by the group for discussion. Free/\$1.00 donation for room rental. Confidential, non-smoking. Call Bobbi, 247-3461 FMI.

**RUMFORD/MEXICO AREA AIDS SUPPORT GROUP/PHONELINE:** Mon.-7:00-8:30p.m. at Mexico Congregational Church, Main St. Call 364-8603 FMI. or call Community AIDS Awareness Project (CAAP) and leave voice mail message, 823-4170. Your call will be returned.

## RELIGIOUS GROUPS

**INTEGRITY/DIGNITY:** Meets first & third Sundays. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland (In Emmanuel Chapel), at 5:15p.m. All are welcome. Integrity/Dignity ministers to the gay and lesbian community. Fellowship follows each service with a vegetarian pot luck on the third Sun. FMI write POB 8113, Portland 04104.

## YOUR GROUP

## COULD BE

## LISTED HERE!

## ACTION GROUPS

**ACT UP/Portland:** Join us in the fight for universal rights! Get active on local, state and national issues of education, discrimination, access to health care, and AIDS services. Straight or queer, boy or girl, HIV-positive or negative, black, brown, or white - act on your beliefs in a dynamic, non-violent grassroots organization dedicated to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. Meetings every Sunday at 7:00p.m. at the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible. Drop by our workspace on Mondays from 6:00-8:00p.m. at 142 High St. #222, Portland. Call: 828-0566

## CLASSIFIEDS

**LEAN ON ME:** If you're a gay man looking for support and a place to find out more about yourself in a safe, trusting environment, join our gay men's support group. Explore heterosexism, homophobia, gay pride, empowerment, relationships. Sliding scale fee. A group is forming now. Call Fred Wolf, S. T. D., M. Div. and Chris Behan, M.S.W., 879-0757.

## CALENDAR OF JULY EVENTS

**JULY 8, 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.**  
Marty Whitehead, Lt. Col., US Air Force (ret.) discusses her 22 years of military service. *"Lesbian in the Military -- Surviving the Witchhunts: A Personal Odyssey."* Sponsored by: The Matlovich Society, Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq. Wheelchair accessible.

**JULY 18, INTEGRITY/DIGNITY**  
Barbecue Potluck cookout at Two Lights State Park. Michael Dwinell speaks on his book *Fire Bearer*.

**JULY 22, 7:30 - 9:00 P.M.**  
Stanwyn Clough, M.A. candidate, USM presents illustrated lecture on *"The Queer Frontier: Native Americans, Cowboys and Pioneer Women."* Sponsored by The Matlovich Society, at Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq. Wheelchair accessible

**JULY 25-AUGUST 1**  
Dignity Convention in New Orleans, LA

**Send your activities to be**

**listed in CPR Calendar**

**at no charge to you.**

## PERSONAL

You left me in heat ... You were at the Underground, Saturday, June 19th. You were in a muscle shirt (well fitted) with a CHAPS logo on it. Our eyes connected several times. I was with friends and couldn't break away. I'm always at the Metro on Fridays. Your looks and body are what I want -- come, put out my fire!

## SPACE TO SHARE

Non-smoking female-spacious 5 1/2 room apartment, 2 bedrms., dining room, large livingroom, kitchen, finished basement with washer/dryer. Ample storage, parking, small porch & yard. One block from private beach, near Ft. Williams. 10 mins. to downtown Portland. \$275 mo. plus utilities. 799-4734.

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