

ISSUE  
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VOLUME  
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# GLT

GAY & LESBIAN TIMES OF MAINE

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Wild Iris-can a man review

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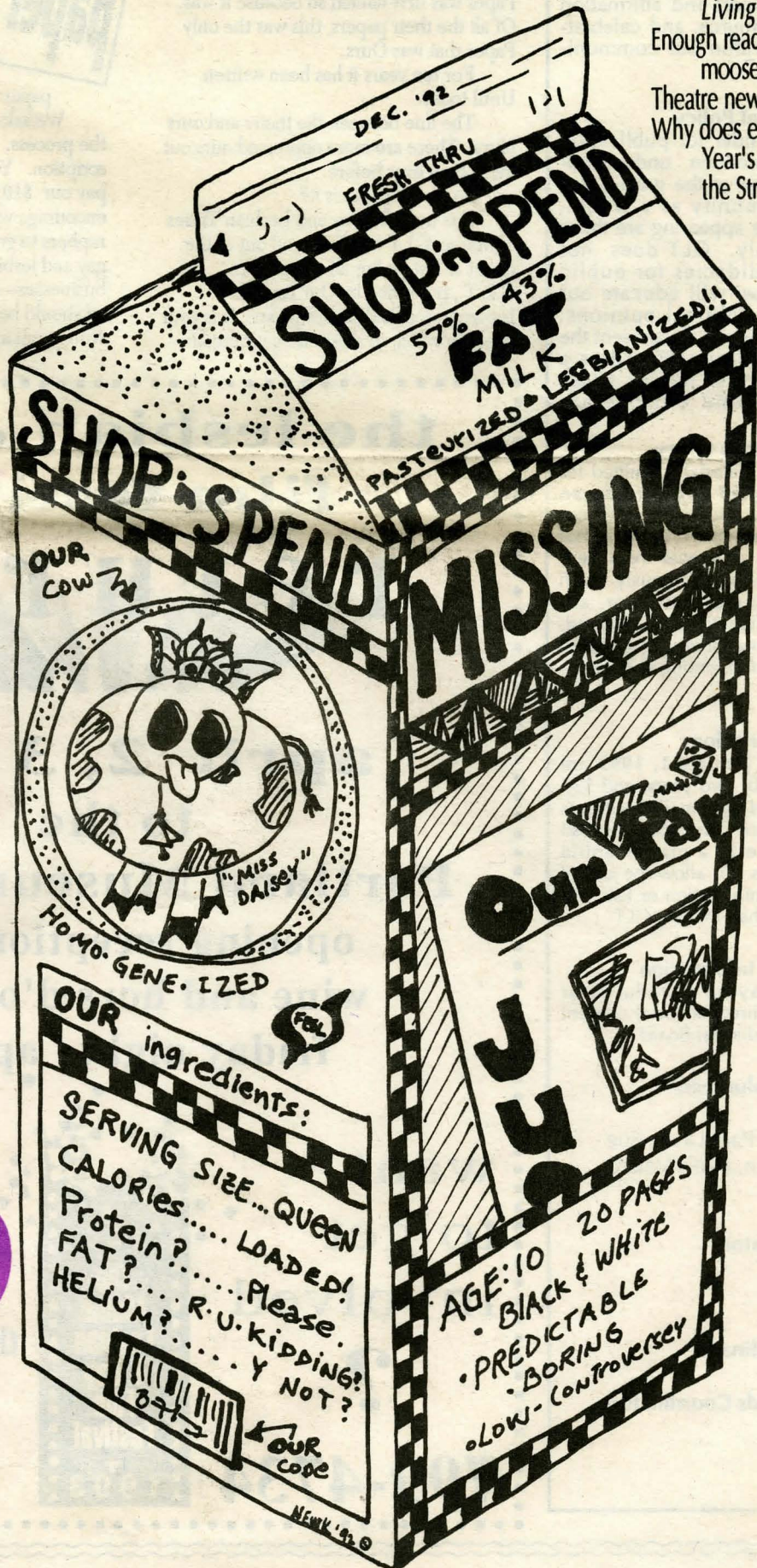
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Oh my  
GOD!  
what  
HAVE  
THEY  
DONE  
to  
OUR  
paper?





GLT

P.O. Box 737  
 PORTLAND, ME 04104  
 (207) 761-0733

## POLICY AND PURPOSE

## Purpose

GLT, *The Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine* is Maine's monthly source of news, information, ideas and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities. Produced completely by volunteers, GLT is produced by Our Paper, Incorporated, and is dedicated to increasing awareness of gay and lesbian issues, offering support and affirmation as a community resource, and celebrating the diversity within our communities.

## Editorial Policy

GLT members consider for publication all materials that broaden understanding, educate, and serve the greater gay and lesbian community as a whole. Views and opinions appearing are those of the authors only. GLT does not endorse any candidacies for public office; however, we will educate our readership to all political opinions. Editorials appearing in GLT represent the opinions of the Editorial Board as a whole unless otherwise noted. Guest editorial from Maine citizens are encouraged.

## Submissions Policy

We request that all material submitted for publication be signed and include an address and/or phone number for verification. We reserve the right to edit material as necessary, unless otherwise instructed. Articles may appear anonymously upon request, contact names, however, are required. Strict confidentiality is observed. We welcome and encourage reader participation in the form of writing and volunteering.

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions as of January 1, 1993 are \$15 annually, \$25 for two years, and \$35 for three years. Send your mailing address and check payable to: Our Paper. Mailed subscriptions arrive in a plain manilla envelope. GLT does not allow the use of subscriber mailing information or lists for any purposes other than mailing GLT.

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GLT  
Editorial

"I work with Our Paper..."

"What paper?"

"Our Paper..."

"Your paper?"

"No. Well, it's my paper...but its Our Paper."

"My Paper?"

"No. No. No. Let me start over..."

This conversation happens all the time—in person, on the phone, everywhere. Like that Lou Reed (or was it Roxy Music?) song that goes, "there's a moon in the sky called the moon," Our Paper was first named so because it was. Of all the their papers, this was the only Paper that was Ours.

For ten years it has been written. Until today.

The line between the theirs and ours blurs. There are more oppressed ours out there than ever before.

So whose paper is it?

It is now the Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine, GLT for short, and out of the closet at last—after all these years. G.L.T., published by Our Paper, Incorporated, is still your paper. It is your paper in which to showcase your creati-

ty, views, opinions, research, letters, and events. It is your paper in which to

**whose  
paper is it anyway?**

adver-  
tise. And it is your  
paper to support.

We ask our readers to get involved in the process. The first step is your subscription. Your \$15 every year helps us pay our \$10,000+ yearly bills. We encourage writers and artists and photographers to get involved as well. To all the gay and lesbian owned and/or friendly businesses—unless you sell closets, your ad should be in here. It's as simple as that. Non-profit and local lesbian/gay agencies,

groups, networks, and clubs should make it a point to get into our calendar section.

I know what you're saying...and it does seem like a lot of work. But that's why we always said, "Our Paper is Your Paper." It is only as good as the people who work together to make it happen. We are now and have always been a non-profit community resource. It's time to realize that a community relationship involves give and take, support, and dedication on both sides. If just half the people who read GLT made a New Year's resolution to subscribe we could produce a full color newspaper every month. It could easily become the best gay/lesbian publication across New England. If just one percent of the people who read GLT volunteered their time and talents to produce the paper we would have, quite easily, the best lesbian/gay publication in the East.

This year, make a New Year's resolution to support the Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine. It is your paper...

the lesbian & gay  
film festival  
**returns**

april 2, 3 & 4  
to the  
**Portland Museum of Art**  
opening reception with  
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friday night • april 2

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to get  
involved

?

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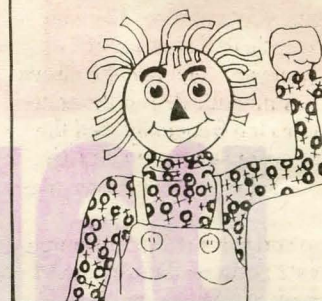


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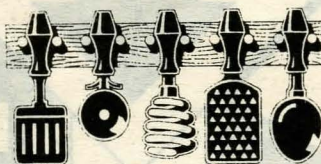
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Type of menu: ☐ Deli Style/Informal  
☐ Hors d'oeuvres  
☐ Formal

**Barbara's**



**Kitchen**

**Simple and Elegant  
Catering for Everyone**



Compiled by News Editor Paul Lavin

## PORTLAND UNITED WAY CUTS OFF FUNDS TO BOY SCOUTS

The Greater Portland United Way voted on December 17 to adopt a non-discrimination policy which prohibits the charity from giving funds to groups that discriminate against people on the basis of sexual orientation. This means that future funding of the Pinetree Council of the Boy Scouts will be stopped.

The board members of the United Way voted 32-0 with one abstention to add the words "sexual orientation" to its policy on discrimination. The board also voted, 26-1, to implement the policy quickly. The board also added language prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability.

The Boy Scouts of America and the Pine Tree Council of Boy Scouts of Maine do not allow gay men and lesbians to be members or volunteers. A spokesperson for the Pinetree Council said there were no plans to change its policy.

The Portland area chapter of the United Way is only the second such chapter to take action against groups that discriminate against gay men and lesbians. Earlier this year the San Francisco chapter adopted a similar policy.

The issue about the Boy Scouts anti-lesbian and gay policy reached its peak here in Portland when the Pinetree Council refused to allow the mother of a Scout to be a den mother because she is a lesbian. Terry, her full legal name, spearheaded a campaign to bring the issue to light both locally and nationally. The Portland Press Herald quoted Terry as saying, "[The decision is] important because the United Way is showing the rest of the world that they need to stand up and support the people, all the people."

The Pinetree Council receives about \$80,000 from the United Way. Its annual budget for 1992-1993 is about \$1.2 million.

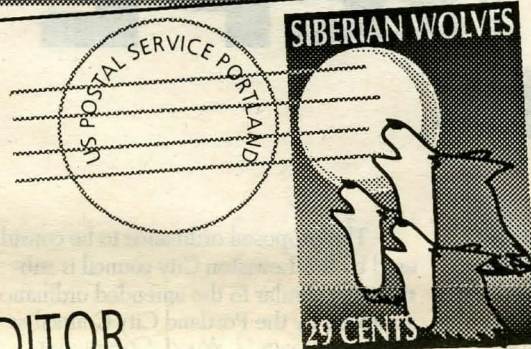
Soon after the United Way's decision was announced, Jasper Wyman of the Maine Christian Civic League called for a boycott of the United Way by 1,500 churches. Wyman and his Christian Civic League have an agenda to make discrimination against gay men and lesbian official state policy in Maine. Wyman with help from national fundamentalist religious organizations tried to repeal Portland's anti-discrimination ordinance passed last May.

A spokesperson for the Pinetree Council rejected the idea of the Christian fundamentalist boycott of

*continued page 4*

# BACK TALK

READERS HAVE THEIR SAY...



GLT - EDITOR  
P.O. BOX 737  
PORTLAND, ME 04104

## THIS ONE CAME WITH THE WARNING:

FOR PUBLICATION...if you dare.  
Letter to the Editor:

Excuse me, but I've had quite enough...enough of the shrill voices, eye-gouging, and back-stabbing which too often fills so much space in Your Paper.

The Rainbow Flag, a symbol of our gay community, is all inclusive! It says that there is room in our family for everyone regardless of our age, race, sex, color, beliefs, etc. If you are gay, you are family, and we welcome you under our Rainbow Flag. Your Paper in its statement of Purpose says that you "celebrate the diversity within our communities". But the editorials and columns too frequently shed the blood of members of our community who differ with Your Paper, your opinions, your views.

I grew up and came out in Pittsburgh. During the years between then and now I lived in Hartford, San Diego, and Los Angeles. Through friends and lovers I also experienced Boston and Providence. And

everywhere I've lived or travelled I have read the local gay papers.

I say that Your Paper in comparison is like a child compared to an adult. It is way past time for Your Paper to grow up. Please stop the bitchiness, become a true source of news to the gay community and truly become OUR PAPER.

Bob Rogers

Bob, I've been in gay politics since 1970 and have seen plenty of division. If in your travels you've seen nothing but harmony and Kum ba yah then you've obviously been wearing that rainbow flag over your eyes.

## WHERE THE GIRLS ARE...

Dear Our Paper,

How about printing a list of clubs/bars for us women out here! Plenty of places for the guys but what about us? Stick to the seacoast/Southern Maine area. Thanks.

K. Johnson

K.J., it might be easier and faster to open your own bar...

## DON'T MOURN, ORGANIZE?

Thank you for your hard work and dedication in contributing to Maine's queer press month after month. I write in appreciation of this effort, but more out of a grave worry over what seems to be the paper's general editorial stance--especially as evidenced by the December issue.

Your depictions of and opinions on the Equal Protection Portland campaign might most generously be summed up by the saying, "Don't mourn, organize," attributed to slain labor organizer Joe Hill. I love this saying and try to live by it. But I think it's crucially important to distinguish between mourning and autopsy, between bitchy complaint and bitchin' analysis.

There was dissent within Equal Protection Portland. ACT UP members and Queer Nationals came in numbers to the earliest summer meetings, but most stopped coming back. Why? We are part of the queer community and a huge part of the strong queer movement in this

See **MO' Letters** page 14

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GLT



the United Way and distanced the Boy Scouts from the efforts of Wyman.

After the Boy Scouts renounced Wyman's boycott, Wyman tried to save face by saying that he never called for a boycott. Nevertheless, he called the boycott off.

## MAINE MAN SUES OHIO HOSPITAL FOR AIDS DISCRIMINATION

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in federal court in Ohio against a hospital in Fremont, Ohio, which refused to treat a man with AIDS who was suffering a severe allergic reaction to his medication.

According to the ACLU, Fred Charon, a 29 year-old Maine man, was driving to Wisconsin when he had an allergic reaction to his medicine. He was suffering from severe diarrhea and fever and he called Memorial Hospital for advice. A doctor, over the phone, told him to get to the emergency room. The emergency room staff, at first treated him. But once a supervising physician learned Charon had AIDS, he called an ambulance and ordered him to be delivered to another hospital.

The ACLU complaint charges that the hospital's actions violate the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination based on HIV infection.

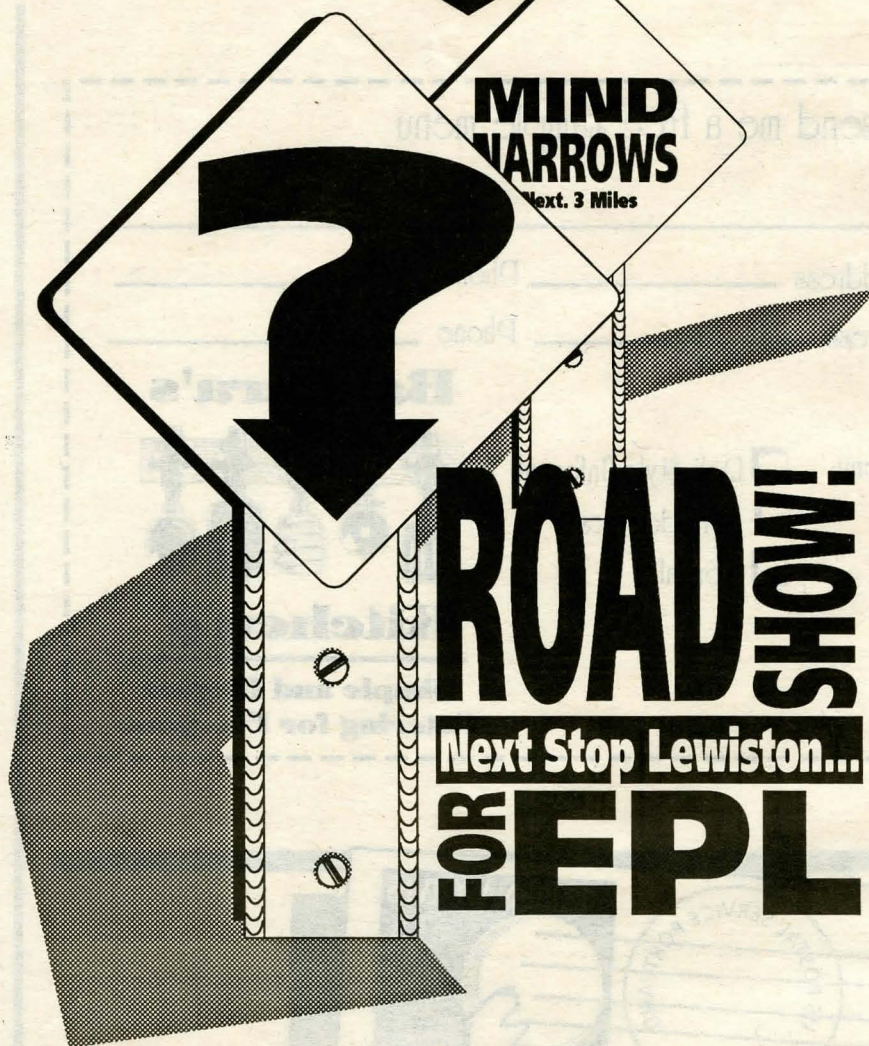
## COLORADO COVERAGE BOYCOTT THE HATE STATE

Gays and lesbians and supporters of gay and lesbian civil rights are mounting a boycott of Colorado which will cost the state millions of dollars in lost revenue and economic loss to businesses located in the state.

Colorado is being singled out because of the passage of a state constitutional amendment which prohibits the state or cities or towns from enacting laws which protect gays and lesbians from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The amendment passed in referendum vote on November 3. The amendment passed by a vote of 812,763 or 53% in favor to 709,560 or 47 % opposed. The law which goes into effect this month requires that Denver, Boulder and Aspen, which have anti-discrimination ordinances, repeal them.

In the days following the election, tourism and government offices took more than 2,200 calls from outraged people in several states who said they were canceling trips in Colorado.

continued next page



**W**ill human rights fly in Catholic Lewiston? City council members look for approval—and another Run for the Referendum, bankrolled, in part, by Jaspar Wyman.

On January 6, 1993, Lewiston city council will hold a public hearing on a proposed law that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, credit, employment, and public accommodation. The new law, if enacted, will provide the same protection as the one recently voted on by the city of Portland.

The bill currently has the support of the Hate and Bias Crimes Task Force; Lewiston Mayor, James Howanice; and Lewiston city Police Chief, Larry Gilbert. The initiative will be put forth with the backing of the newly formed EQUAL PROTECTION LEWISTON group. While the bill has a good chance of winning in city council, a referendum fight is expected.

Provided the ordinance is passed on to the city councilors, the next meeting and vote is on January 19, 1993. If approved then, the final hearing and vote is scheduled for February 2, 1993.

The public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Lewiston Junior High School. For more information please contact Equal Protection Lewiston at P.O. Box 7804, Lewiston, ME 04243, or phone (207) 784-2251.

The proposed ordinance to be considered by the Lewiston City council is substantially similar to the amended ordinance approved by the Portland City Council as written by Gary C. Wood, Corporation Counsel for the City of Portland. It is based on the Maine Human Rights Act (5 M.R.S.A. Subsection 4551-4632) and focuses only on sexual orientation. It does not cover such other grounds for discrimination as race, sex, color, national origin, or age because these grounds are already covered by the Maine Human Rights Act. (Neither the Maine Human Rights Act nor any federal law provides protection for individuals in Maine against discrimination based on sexual orientation.)

If enacted, this ordinance will prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation in the areas of employment, including public employment; housing (including public housing); public accommodations; and in the extension of credit.

Exceptions and exemptions

The ordinance does not:

- (1) require the teaching of any particular subject in the public schools;
- (2) apply to a religious corporation, association, organization; or
- (3) require any form of affirmative action based on sexual orientation.

## Phone Your Rep'! Lewiston City Councilors

Ward 1 Paul J. Poliquin 784-2282  
1501 Main St.

Ward 2 Leona G. Carpentier 786-2093  
40 Fortin Way

Ward 3 Lionel R. Goulet 783-3183  
4 Towle St.

Ward 4 Norman Poulin 783-6674  
2 Carew Ave.

Ward 5 Edouard G. Plourde 782-0194  
25 Coburn St.

Ward 6 Lionel P. Potvin 783-2398  
267 Lincoln St.

Ward 7 Peter Grenier 786-3011  
River Rd.

## What can the gay/lesbian community do?

1. Call your city councilor and ask them to support the ordinance. Mention that you are in their district. If he/she knows you, perhaps you should come out to him/her.
2. Come out to your family and friends and ask them to become involved. Friends and family can also contact the city councilors.
3. If you are interested in offering testimony, contact EPL: (207) 784-2251.
4. EPL also needs volunteers for telephone work, canvassing, and fundraising: (207) 784-2251.

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784-8747





Mayor James Howaniec (end of table) joins the December 16 Hate Crimes Meeting

Just say, "Yes! I want to help end discrimination in Lewiston!" Send your donations to EQUAL PROTECTION LEWISTON, P.O. Box 7804, Lewiston, Maine 04243.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

# attitudes

by Newk



## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### MLGPA:

Portland: MLGPA Legislative Committee Meetings  
The first of Portland's MLGPA legislative meetings for anyone interested in working to support civil rights for lesbians and gay men at the statewide level will begin with an organizational meeting, Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Campus Center C, Portland campus of the University of Southern Maine. There will be a variety of opportunities for involvement and information about the progress of the statewide effort. This is the first in a series of weekly meetings. For more information on subsequent times and dates call the Gay/Lesbian Info Line at 871-0432, or Larry Bliss at 767-4496.

### Gay and Lesbian Bulletin Board

There's a new voice for the lesbian and gay community (and friends) in Southern Maine...it's YOURS! The Gay and Lesbian Bulletin Board is providing live attendants at announced times. For some 6 years the board has provided information that has ranged from "Where are the bars?" to "where can I see legal or emotional help?" The way the service works: a base of volunteers has a monthly meeting at which they agree to set aside specific hours on a specific day during the month to answer their own phone with "GAY AND LESBIAN BULLETIN BOARD." During that period calls going to the board (871-0432) are call forwarded to the volunteers phone. The board is listed with the Portland directory and many national directories. First organizational meeting (coffee) is Tuesday, January 12. Call for details: (207) 871-0432.

### ACT UP/PORTLAND

(AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) Join us! We are the people who have protested George Bush every time he comes to Maine, bring condoms and latex gloves to high schools all over Maine, demonstrate for AIDS-based discrimination, march for universal health care, and lots more. All you have to do to join us is come to a weekly meeting, Sundays at 7 p.m. at the YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. For more details, call (207) 828-0566



Several groups have canceled conventions and meetings, including the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the American Foundation of Law Libraries, the National Organization for Women, and the National Council for Social Studies. The lost business from those cancellations alone could cost the state more than \$10 million dollars in economic benefits.

The Atlanta City Council and the City of Philadelphia have banned official travel to and spending in Colorado, and other cities, such as San Francisco and New York, are taking similar steps.

Several celebrities, including tennis stars Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who live in Aspen, and entertainers Cher and Barbara Streisand have urged the public to help efforts to overturn the amendment. Several Colorado-based corporations, including software giant Quark, have jumped on the boycott bandwagon.

Not all supporters of the repeal of the amendment agree that a boycott of Colorado is the best way to put pressure on the state to get rid of the law. The cities that may be hit the hardest by the boycott are Denver, Aspen and Boulder, the cities that have anti-discrimination ordinances and which voted overwhelming against the amendment. A coalition of private businesses and governmental agencies took a full page ad in the December 10th issue of the New York Times stating that the amendment was "regrettable and wrong" and that they would not follow a law that would require them to discriminate against any human being for whatever reason. The mayor of Denver, Wellington Webb, appeared on the Arsenio Hall Show to discourage boycotts against the state.

In addition to the economic boycott of the state, several lawsuits have been initiated seeking to have the amendment declared unconstitutional. One lawsuit was filed on November 12 in Denver District Court on behalf of several lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, as well as the cities of Denver, Aspen and Boulder. Martina Navratilova is one of the individual plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs' suit argues that the amendment violates several provisions of the United States Constitution, primarily the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

The newly elected House Minority Leader, Sam Williams, is drafting a constitutional amendment to repeal the anti-gay and lesbian





amendment, and said that it may be introduced this month.

Opponents of the amendment have formed a group called Ground Zero to fight the enactment of the amendment and to mount a new challenge against discrimination against gays and lesbians in Colorado.

Breaking its silence after the election, Colorado for Family Values ("CFV") spokesperson, Kevin Tebedo said that CFV will lead the effort to uphold the new law. Tebedo decried the backlash against his group and the law, saying the gay groups are "fanning the fires of hatred" in Colorado with the boycott effort and attacks on the religious right. He went on to say, "The homosexuals have an agenda, and I believe these boycotts will do one of two things: Prove they are a strong special interest group and don't need protection, or that when they don't get their way, they act like children."

CFV is receiving legal assistance from Pat Robertson's National Legal Foundation which may take over the legal challenge to the amendment.

Reports of gay and lesbian bashing in Denver has increased three-fold since the election in November.

### THREE MORE CITIES ENACT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS

Three more cities have joined the many cities nationwide which have laws protecting the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. Cincinnati, Ohio, Arlington, Virginia, and Miami Beach, Florida recently passed laws making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and public accommodation.

The Cincinnati measure was passed by a 7-2 vote by the city council. Unlike the Portland ordinance, the Cincinnati law makes it a misdemeanor for violations.

Councilman Nick Vehr, who voted against the ordinance called it special interest legislation and said, "It represents everything this city hates." One religious right activist, Charles Winburn of the New Wave 2000 coalition, said of the ordinance, "This is a sex ordinance. It's a sex manual, and I don't think it has any place in the chambers of City Hall. It's anti-family, it's anti-business, and it's definitely anti-God."

In a unanimous vote, the Arlington County Board added sex-

# Man on Film!

**AKARI'S LIVING END:  
BY SHAWN TOTH**

**L**ive fast, die young, and leave a beautiful corpse" is the theme for Gregg Akari's latest film *Living End*. It is the most well produced and well written film from this young cinematographer. In an age of severe responsibility and the threat of AIDS hanging on every relationship, Akari decides to go politically incorrect with *The Living End* and turns being HIV positive into battle against the world. The two main characters are handsome gay men both recently diagnosed HIV positive and both dealing with the news in very different ways. Luke, the rebellious blonde, sees his HIV status as a new beginning. To Luke, being HIV positive is his guiltless ticket from all the laws that govern everyday society. He sees his almost guaranteed death as his immunity from all crimes, including larceny and murder. Ask Luke how he can do it all and he'd reply "Fuck the system!". Akari plays Luke to be the tough and somewhat unstable hero out to blame the world while simultaneously fighting to get everything he wants from it at all costs. It is on the run from the murder of a four gay bashers that Luke and Don meet. Don is a freelance writer working on an article titled "The Death of Cinema." He is depressed and confused about just receiving his HIV test and vulnerable to the advances that Luke plays against him. Luke's heir of heavy sexual tension and blatant lunacy keeps Don hopelessly frightened and fascinated. Luke finally takes things to the extreme and one day kills a police officer engulfing Don is his lifestyle on the run. They begin their travels cross-country and upon arriving to each new spot Luke does some out of hand thing to cause them to once again break out to a new town or state. As Don grows sicker he can no longer escape the realization that they must inevitably face the responsibility of their disease. Luke can never accept his HIV status

and would rather attempt death than to show the signs of AIDS. In the end Luke and John must both face their fears.

The *Living End* is definitely a superior film for Akari, but it is not without its bad parts. As Luke can not escape AIDS, the viewer can not escape the subject of death so often apparent in *The Living End*. Akari packs the film with death at every corner; from the title of Don's article, gun battles on T.V., dead fish from the fish tank, newspaper stories about murder, songs on the radio, a fake skeleton in Don's closet, Luke murdering people, and references made to

the stick. Akari tries to show how the sixties got free love but the nineties got AIDS. The appearance of AIDS brought a new onslaught of gay hatred and in addition the new responsibility of risking one's life at having sex. Akari fights back with making *The Living End* a kind of gay Bonnie and Clyde for the nineties. ■

**T**here were many scenes of kissing and passion that sometimes revealed the odd little things that can happen in the bedroom ( Luke spanking a naked man with a tennis racket while crying out "30 LOVE").

the glory of suicide. Even the spark of spontaneity that kept Don and Luke traveling eventually dies to a cruel reality. At times this use of constant death can be effective, but mostly it is so crammed into every scene that one can not help but be distracted by it. One of the very disappointing aspects of the film was the lack of creativity in the direction of the photography. The scenes were filmed at very stagnant angles with many plain and open shots. The film also contained a blue haze which eventually became very annoying. What was lost in camera work was gained in the scenes between Don and Luke. Both men were both hunks you couldn't help but appreciate. There were many scenes of kissing and passion that sometimes revealed the odd little things that can happen in the bedroom ( Luke spanking a naked man with a tennis racket while crying out "30 LOVE"). You could also appreciate Don's frustration with Luke's maniacal acts. The film's message seemed to be more about the younger generation getting stuck with the short end of

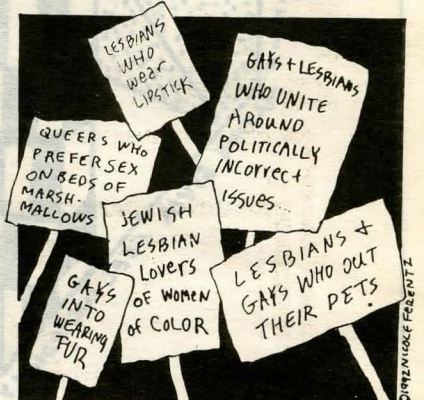
**Man on Film** will be a regular feature in GLT. Watch for movie reviews here! Shawn Toth works with Out and Out Productions on the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival of Maine.

**Washington DC  
APRIL 25, 1993**



**DON'T MISS  
THIS ONE!**

**Washington DC  
APRIL 25, 1993**



**DON'T MISS  
THIS ONE!**

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continued next page

1993



COMPILED BY KEVIN MCLELLAN

# Literally.

## To Tell Her Stories

Who tells the stories  
about whom  
asks  
the questions  
about women  
if not  
Glamour  
or Redbook  
or Vogue  
and then  
the questions  
are questions  
about questions  
like  
"How to please  
your man"  
(but it could  
as easily  
be  
your mother  
-in-law  
or boss  
or kid  
or home)  
but  
the question  
before  
the question  
(and no fact)  
is,  
why  
women are  
expected to  
please.  
Given  
this role.  
Assumptions.  
Why.  
And when  
questions  
become fact,  
our stories  
become myths  
to support,  
to support.  
So who will be  
our storytellers  
if not  
the note-takers  
of our chance  
alliances.  
That is  
of  
individual  
to  
individual  
living within  
the myth,

even  
leaning  
on the forms  
when to  
struggle  
seems futile  
and the  
enemy  
ourselves  
we are told.  
To find  
the first  
story  
is to  
ask  
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the other  
question  
move  
from the  
familiar  
breathe  
the outer  
rhythms  
look hard  
in empty  
spaces  
create  
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Tell  
the stories  
as they  
are known  
tell the  
stories  
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are known  
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stories  
as they  
are known.

Eva Papp

Camus

white first baptist church  
with a picked pristine steeple  
threatens  
dainty snow falling  
leaning west  
like Camus in thought  
not believing.

# It's a Normal thing.

by Alan Stearns

**W**hen I go to the mall, I almost always go by myself for the sole purpose of consuming as much as possible in the shortest period of time. I also try to avoid anyone who might recognize me and make note of my ruling class faux liberal sweater fetish or report back to Portland's numerous ingrown

Suggestions and Inference Committees (SIC)'s the fact that I bought my Christmas cards at Hallmark rather than Drop Me A Line.

I went to the mall today for the first time since the election. I made sure to go to an ATM before leaving Portland's city limits, confident that if I were refused credit I could sue the hell out of Yankee 24 for denying me my newly acquired special rights.

Anyway.

Soon I was in Filene's, pulsing in unison with mobs of Christmas shoppers as we cruised mannequins and lined up at counters for appointments of sample colognes. In a ritualistic trance, the crowds throbbed toward a crescendo of suburban bliss that has no parallel.

The mall has changed for me since the referendum, however. Instead of blending in with the anonymous masses, I found myself nodding toward the salesman who had worked the Equal Protection/Portland phone bank, waving to the boutique manager who had stuffed envelopes once a week with her partner, and grinning as I watched a queen and her royal entourage sweep through the jewelry stores undoubtedly in search of baubles for the next fundraiser.

I also chanced to bump into someone not from Portland ("SNFP"), from some frontier outpost North of Freeport. As he introduced me to his friends, he mentioned to them that I had worked on the equal protection effort in Portland. His friends, two women apparently not up on the latest parlance, stared at me blankly wondering what an equal protection effort might be.

I clarified by explaining that I am an equal protectionist and I worked on a campaign seeking to end discrimination based on equal protectionism.

Upon returning home, after purchasing a fabulous sweater, I decided it may be time to admit that it actually was a gay rights referendum. I decided to forget the past, however, and instead, propose a new paradigmatic approach to neohomogynolinguistic semiotics. Including herein by reference all of the standard disclaimers intended to preempt offense given or taken, I propose an abandonment of all current labels

continued page 15



ual orientation to the county's human rights law. Arlington joins others cities in the area which have similar laws. Washington, D.C., Alexandria, Virginia and Montgomery County, Maryland have anti-discrimination laws providing civil rights protections to the hundreds of thousands of lesbians and gay men who live in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Under the Arlington law, the county's Human Rights Commission would investigate allegations of discrimination and seek the necessary relief from the courts.

After the bitterly fought battle for gay and lesbian civil rights in 1977 led by orange juice queen and would-be diva Anita Bryant, Miami Beach, Florida became the first city in Dade County to pass a human rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The vote was unanimous.

## NEW CATHOLIC CATECHISM: SAME STORY, NEW COVER

In November, the Roman Catholic Church issued its new catechism which is a summary of its teachings and doctrines. The last catechism was written in 1566 during the time of the Protestant Reformation. Not much has changed when it comes to gays and lesbians.

The catechism affirms the church's position against homosexual acts, but says that "the homosexual should be treated with respect, compassion and sensitivity" and not subject to unfair discrimination.

Saying that homosexual acts are "against natural law," the text also says that gays and lesbians "so not choose their homosexual orientation; for most of them it is an ordeal." The document goes on to say that "all manner of unjust discrimination should be avoided with respect to them." There was no indication that the church considered its own role in making "ordeals" of the lives of gay men and lesbians. The Vatican released a letter to American bishops shortly before the November election telling the bishops to actively fight against anti-discrimination laws calling such laws a threat to the family and church.

The catechism urges lesbians and gay men to be "chaste."

The catechism also reaffirmed the Catholic Church's anti-woman stance. It asserts the church's opposition to the ordination of women,

continued next page

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KEITH E. DARLING





# The Straight & narrow

by Holly Valero

abortion and birth control. And it condemns artificial insemination, saying that using donated sperm or eggs or lending the use of the uterus is "gravely dishonest."

So, who was looking for a change anyway?

## U. OF IOWA OFFERS HEALTH BENEFITS TO LESBIAN AND GAY EMPLOYEES

Last October, the Board of Regents of the University of Iowa approved a proposal to extend health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of its lesbian and gay employees. The plan goes into effect this month for a three year trial period. This is the first such benefits package offered by a major university.

To qualify for the plan, which will cover only domestic partners of lesbian and gay employees, the domestic partner must meet several requirements intended to establish that the relationship is a committed one. Usually heterosexual couples merely have to say that they are married without providing any proof of their marriage. During the trial period only the high deductible option for health care coverage may be elected. University officials estimate that around 50 employees of the university's 8000 employees may sign up for the benefits.

Similar types of plans are being considered at other universities such as Harvard and Stanford. Currently a professor at the University of Southern Maine, Maggie Fournier, and Mary Bonauto of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) are challenging USM to apply its non-discrimination policy to gay and lesbian faculty and staff with respect to employee benefits. The reasoning behind Fournier's challenge is simple: Equal pay and equal benefits for equal work.

## HIV FOUND IN PRE-CUM

New findings show that HIV can be present in male pre-ejaculatory fluid ("pre-cum"), but researchers have yet to determine whether the virus can be transmitted through this fluid.

The findings could redefine what is considered to be safer sex. Until now, many people have not used condoms when engaging in sex that does not involve penetration. It was generally believed that unprotected oral sex presents a significant risk of infection only if the active partner

**H**ow did New Year's resolutions get such a bad rap? Whether it's a promise to stop compulsively surfing up and down the radio dial at the first hint of a commercial, or an honest effort to re-fit your Tupperware containers like those Russian dolls to save on cupboard space, people just don't take to resolutions much anymore. No matter how small the change.

In fact, whenever I ask anyone what resolutions they've made (those resolutions that are fit for polite conversation) they usually look at me as if I've just sent them a chain letter—or volunteered them for an IRS audit... Why?

The word "resolution" means: 1. The state or quality of being resolute; firm, determination. 2. A course of action determined or decided upon. 3. An explanation, as of a problem or puzzle; a solution. 4. The action or process of reducing something into its constituent parts: the prismatic resolution of sunlight into its spectral colors.

Sounds pretty good when you put it that way.

Yeah, but we all know that resolutions always mean giving up something we love—like chocolate or cigarettes. In the glow of a champagne-steeped New Year's Eve we publicly announce to friends and family that we are going to eat more leafy-green vegetables, give up the hard stuff, and get to bed by 10:00 p.m. every day—starting next year. The morning—and year—after brings guilt, embarrassment, and the joy of knowing that for the next couple of weeks those present at your public proclamation will call you on the carpet every time they see you leaving a bar at closing time or nibbling junk food.

Rule number one is realizing which resolutions warrant a public announcement

and which should be kept private. For example:

- A. A promise to cut back on your heroin habit
- B. Learning how to ski
- C. Changing religions from mainstream to cult
- D. Telling friends that you are an extra-terrestrial from a distant galaxy
- E. Learning how to cook seafood
- F. Giving up a life of crime

Answers "B" and "E" are public resolutions. Answers "A", "C", and "F" are private resolutions. The trick question is "D". If you find yourself at a Star Trek convention, have at it! At your therapist's office is a maybe... It's amazing how many people will keep a resolution to get out to the movies more often a guarded secret while telling everyone within earshot that they are seriously planning a sex-change. The success or failure of many resolutions begins and ends here.

**I**t's amazing how many people will keep a resolution to get out to the movies more often a guarded secret while telling everyone within earshot that they are seriously planning a sex-change.

Rule number two is to pick resolutions wisely. For example:

### List 1

- Drink more heavily
- Smoke unfiltered cigarettes
- Pirate HBO Cable
- Drive on the left side of the street

### List 2

- Lose 80 pounds
- Take up Olympic gymnastics

Give up television  
Refuse to anything that isn't solar  
Neither list is acceptable. Extremism, illegality, and practicality must be taken into consideration along with quality of life. A better mix might include:

### List 3

- Eat less junk food
- Visit friends more often
- Take a crack at physics
- Improve parallel parking skills

Rule number three is to under-promise and over-deliver. A resolution to cut back to one pack a day is probably more successful than repeated attempts to go cold turkey. Remember, too, that everyone experiences malfunctionous resoluticus. One year I made a private resolution to learn how to ski. Despite the fact that I was over 25, out of shape, and had no natural inclination toward anything more athletic than backgammon, I decided that skiing certainly looked easy, and, therefore, must be something that I could

learn. I really wanted to learn, too. I was up for it! You know, a great winter sport in Maine! However, my one day guaranteed-learn-to-ski adventure at

Sunday River quickly turned from being step one toward my dream of becoming the next Thrill of Victory to a masochistic ritualized form of humiliation and embarrassment that left me covered with dodge-ball sized bruises and curled up in the fetal position by 7:00 p.m. that evening under the covers of our bed. I'm not sure, but I may have even resorted to thumb-sucking. For weeks I would go ashen every time I saw that

continued on page 14

## the mostly unfabulous life of Ethan...



1993

8 JANUARY

continued next page



GLT

# Wild Iris

by Michael Rossetti

**A**s a man I thought I knew how to define what's referred to as "Woman's Music" by subject matter and, maybe, performer. After talking with the women of Wild Iris Productions, I've learned

that "Women's Music" is a much more personal matter. Its the listener that's key to the definition and choice of artists. How a person processes the music is the result of an individual's experiences, aspirations and appreciations. In other words, to identify women's music, it's best to have experienced being a woman. (Male closet listeners will just have to enjoy.)

One other accurate measure is to go to a Wild Iris Productions concert because they have it down. Music by women for women, empowering women, affirming being a woman and/or lesbian is their definition. It's a definition that seems to work. Add the list of truly enjoyable performers and you have "Women's Music" with broad appeal to men as well.

Rita and Beth are the heart and essence of Wild Iris Productions, a source of both mainstream and alternative progressive music for women. Both live in southwestern Maine. Rita is an accountant. Beth has a degree in Forestry from UMO, but works for Rita in her practice. Once lovers back in 1982, now good friends, they no longer live together.

Wild Iris Productions is an outgrowth of the Women's Community Project of the mid-80's, a organization for women which, at one time, had planned to put together a women's center in Portland among other Women's services. One event the Women's Project did with some frequency was "women's performance nights." After the collapse of the Project, Pine Cone Productions took up the Project's work with Women's music. That went on for awhile until too many people dropped out, even-

tually Beth and Rita started up Wild Iris and assumed the producing.

Their primary guideline is accessibility. This means more than accommodating the hearing and physically challenged. Also, it means giving good local artists a chance to do opening gigs, and get some well deserved notice on the coat tails of more prominent performers. Accessibility also means that tickets are priced as low as possible, a sometimes devastating decision. One of the unprofitable performances was held in Biddeford, nothing to do with the performer, just a location that proved to be convenient for some, but too far for many for a profitable showing. Consequently, limited financial resources were severely hurt. On another instance, an attempt at presenting a drum workshop following the performance of Nurdatina, a Women's drummer, didn't draw well and ate into resources. On the other hand, the accessibility factor worked well with several successes. Anne Clark, Wild Ginger, and Inanna to drop a few names. Rita and Beth are not in the production business for profit, just as Pine Cone or the Women's Project were not. As Beth describes, there's motivation in peeking through the curtains during the performance and seeing the smiles of people thoroughly enjoying themselves, and feeling there's a job well done.

The hardest thing about arranging Wild Iris' performances is co-ordinating and getting it to "gel". Some of that includes getting the sound people and equipment, getting the right hall for the type of performance, guessing at the turnout, getting the word word out effectively, praying for no sudden competition or severe storms. Volunteers, too, are a factor. They need to be personable and primarily aware, responding to needs as the set up gets underway. The reward is hearing a great concert, and that's when you know when it's been "right".

Beth and Rita for all their effort have not become part of the music world's jet

set. Far from it, performers arrive a few hours before the concert. Some get dinner or accommodations at a hotel for themselves and their entourage. Some may be more personable, staying at someone's home. Performers are in business, no matter how great they may sound. They require special arrangements that cost the production, the primary contention being liabilities. After the concert, they may want to go out, but usually it's just "a peck on the cheek, maybe a hug, and they're off."

Wild Iris could use some assistance to keep the ball rolling. Primarily, getting the word out and posterage. The mailing list includes some 750, names all going first class. You get on the list by going to a concert and signing, or if you send a check with your address on it. The list also includes most of the places you can find concert announcements: 57 radio stations and such papers as Our Paper, Apex, Casco Bay Weekly, and Maine Progressive, on occasion Sojourner and Maine Times. More main stream publications like the Press Herald, York County Star, or Journal Tribune don't often have listings of Wild Iris concerts and seldom give them coverage.

Music soothes the savage breast, to be sure, but music can do a lot of other things. It can also motivate social change for one. It brings the alienated into movements, empowers, and defines actions and identities. It tells the stories we relate to, and sparks our energies and emotions. Both these women, as well as those whose work preceded them deserve our respect and support. Clearly the most beneficial way is to plan on hearing the a Wild Iris production in '93. ■

does not withdraw before ejaculating.

The new studies warn that HIV might be transmitted even during foreplay. Researchers recommend that it would be "prudent" for men to use condoms during all sexual activity, until further studies determine whether pre-ejaculatory fluid can be infectious.

Two different studies, at Harvard Medical School and at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, independently found detectable amounts of HIV-infected cells in the pre-ejaculate of HIV-infected men. There has been little research into the fluid, and these findings are the first published data on the presence of HIV in pre-ejaculate. The studies appeared in the December issue of The Lancet, a British medical journal.

HIV-infected cells were detected in the fluid of men who had symptoms of infection and those who did not, and they were found in men taking AZT or other anti-viral drugs and those who were not. Other factors, such as age, T-cell count, and previous history of sexually transmitted diseases also appeared to be of no influence.

"The risk is there," said Dr. Jeffrey Pudney, a research associate at Harvard Medical School. "It's potentially infectious fluid, and people should view it accordingly and take measures to address that."

## LESBIAN NEA DIRECTOR CUTS FUNDS FOR GAY FILM FESTS

Even as the Bush Administration is preparing to leave Washington, it is continuing its pronounced anti-gay and lesbian agenda. Anne-Imelda Radice, the head of the National Endowment for the Arts, has vetoed grants to three lesbians and gay film festivals. The festivals received NEA funding last year.

Radice, a lesbian Republican appointed by Bush, cut the funding for film festivals in New York, Los Angeles, and Pittsburgh, even though a NEA advisory panel recommended making grants available to them again this year. Radice would only say that the projects failed to demonstrate "artistic excellence."

Radice has said that she would leave her post before President-elect Bill Clinton takes office on January 20.

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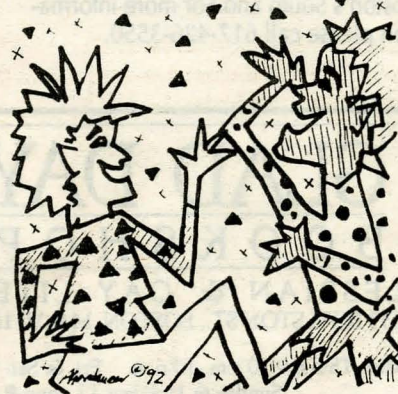
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**Washington DC  
APRIL 25, 1993**



**DON'T MISS  
THIS ONE!**

1993

continued page 13



## JANUARY

December 31

## THURSDAY

THEATRE: LADY BE GOOD, Original Broadway Cast Album of George & Ira Gershwin's Musical Comedy: 7:00 p.m. on WPKM 106.3FM.

January (Ongoing)

## WEDNESDAYS

Do you have a problem with food? An anonymous peer support group meets every Wednesday night from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bellamy Conference Room at Wentworth Douglass Hospital, Central Ave., Dover, N.H.. The group is free (donations encouraged) and is not affiliated with any national organization. For more information, call The Center for Eating Disorders Management at 603-742-0047.

January (Ongoing)

## THURSDAYS

An adult therapy group for bulimics is being offered at the Center For Eating Disorders Management, 466 Central Avenue, Suite 5, Dover, N.H.. This group will be a place where members can explore issues that are of importance to them from both the present and from the past to see how emotions, people, and situations in their lives tie into development, maintenance and recovery from bulimia. This group meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Thursday. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group, please call The Center for more details, 603-742-0047.

January (Ongoing)

## FRIDAYS

The Friday Night Support group at Portsmouth Regional Hospital is open to all persons HIV or AIDS involved, including family and supportive friends. The time has been rescheduled to 7:30-9:30 p.m.. This is a self-help support group following and agreed upon format of meeting.

January (Ongoing)

## THURSDAYS

An eating disorders survivors of sexual abuse therapy group is held on an ongoing basis at The Center For Eating Disorders Management, 466 Central Avenue, Dover, N.H.. The group addresses issues related to the trauma of sexual abuse and its relationship to eating disorders. Led by Mary Jo Martin, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders, the group meets every Thursday at The Center from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

January (Ongoing)

## THURSDAYS

Out for Good, a lesbian discussion/support group, meets each Thursday 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Saco. Topics relevant to Lesbians are discussed weekly. Meetings are non-smoking. A weekly donation of \$1. per person is asked to defray the cost of the room. For directions and more information, call 247-3461 or write P.O. Box 153, E. Waterboro, ME 04031. Holiday meeting schedule will be: Tuesday, December 22nd, 7:00-9:00 p.m., and Tuesday, December 20th, 7:00-9:00 p.m..

January

MUSEUM: ANSEL ADAMS: The Early years; 77 rare photographs by Ansel Adams, at The Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland. Call 773-ARTS.

January

Gay & Lesbian Bulletin Board has a new service and new number: 871-0432.

January 2

## SATURDAY

Shared Times is sponsoring a Dance at the VFW Hall, 190 Plain Street, Lowell, MA. Tickets are \$7.50 and must be purchased in advance by sending a check and SASE to Shared Times, P.O. Box 8822, Lowell, Ma 01853.

January 5-12

THEATRE: HEDDA GABBLER, by Henrik Ibsen. Performed by the Portland Stage Company. Call 774-0465 for more information.

January 6-30

## WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY

THEATRE: ADAM AND THE EXPERTS by Victor Bumbalo, performed by the Triangle Theatre at the Paramount Penthouse theater, 58 Berkley Street, in Boston's South End. For more information please call 617-426-3550.

January 7

## THURSDAY

THEATRE: MARRY ME A LITTLE, Original Broadway Cast Album of Stephen Sondheim's Musical, 7:00 p.m., WPKM 106.3FM.

January 9

## SATURDAY

THEATRE: Devon Square in concert at the Biddeford City Theatre. Call 1-282-0849 for more information.

January 10

## SUNDAY

Auditions for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus will be held at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Society, 425 Congress Street in Portland, Maine at 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.. For more information please call 839-4506.

January 11

## MONDAY

Equal Protection Portland will have a Potluck Supper at the Williston West Church, Portland at 6:30 p.m.. A meeting will follow. The discussion will center on "Where do we go from Here?" For more information call, John at 775-2813.

January 12

## TUESDAY

THEATRE: VAUGHN WILLIAMS, BEETHOVEN AND STRAUSS: THE PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, City Hall Auditorium. Call 773-8191 or 800-639-2309 for more information.

January 14

## THURSDAY

SCHOONER FARE in concert, Biddeford City Theatre. Call 1-282-0849.

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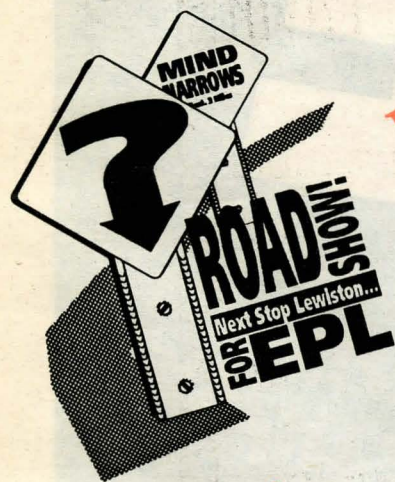
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## CALENDAR



**Washington DC  
APRIL 25, 1993**



**DON'T MISS  
THIS ONE!**

January 14

THURSDAY

The Matlovich Society presents; John Greenberg, Director of Treatment Alternative Project New York City, who will speak on "AIDS, An Open System Approach"; a radical new understanding of AIDS, its content, and treatment. Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m.. Wheel chair accessible.

January 14

THURSDAY

THEATRE: OLIVER! Original Broadway Cast Album of Lionel Bart's Musical Comedy, 7:00 p.m. on WPKM 106.3FM.

January 17

SUNDAY

March on Washington Meeting! There will be a brief meeting on how to organize and get the word out to people about this March. We hope to have at least 10 buses from Maine and to do that we need your help! The meeting will be held at the Matlovich Society's offices at 72 Pine Street, Portland, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.. Remember, Portland may have passed the ordinance but there is still so much to be done on the State and Country level!!!! For more information call John at 775-2813.

January 17

SUNDAY

There will be an exploratory meeting to consider forming a chapter of Integrity, a National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians and their friends at St. Luke's Parish Hall, the Chapter Room, Park Street (entrance,) Portland. Call 773-0191 for time and information.

January 21

THURSDAY

THEATRE: WEST SIDE STORY, Original Broadway Cast Album of Leonard Bernstein's Musical Comedy, 7:00 p.m. on WPKM 106.3FM.

January 22

FRIDAY

THEATRE: NIGHT MUST FALL, a Drama, by Emlyn Williams opens at The Portland Players. Call 799-4393 for more information.

January 23

SATURDAY

THEATRE: NORTHEASTERN WINDS, in concert at the Biddeford City Theatre. Call 282-0849 for more information.

January 24

SUNDAY

The Rape Crisis Center will sponsor a self defense workshop from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Portland Police Station Auditorium, 109 Middle Street, Portland. Workshop leader and Karate instructor, Laurette Gregoire, will cover: sexual assault awareness, personal safety and risk reduction. Self defense and breakaway techniques will be demonstrated and practiced. Pre-registration is \$25; \$35 at the door. Scholarships are available. For more information or to register, please call 879-1821.

January 24

SUNDAY

THEATRE: MUSIC FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH THE PORTLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, City Hall Auditorium. Call 773-8191 or 800-639-2309 for more information.

January 28

THURSDAY

The Matlovich Society presents: Gregory Anderson, Supervisor of Individual Services of SAGE-Senior Action in Gay Environment in NYC, who will lead a discussion on "Youth and Aging in Lesbian and Gay Lives." SAGE is the USA's largest program for senior members of the Lesbian and Gay community. Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m.. Wheel chair accessible.

January 28

THURSDAY

THEATRE: SOUTH PACIFIC, Original Broadway Cast Album of Roger's and Hammerstein's Musical Comedy, 7:00 p.m. on WPKM 106.3FM.

## QUANTUM LEAP!

March 27

SATURDAY

Sweet Honey in the Rock will be performing at the Maine Center for the Arts in Orono, Maine. The concert, sponsored by Spruce Run is in celebration of their 20th Anniversary. Tickets are available from the Maine Center for the Arts and are \$18 plus a \$3 per order processing fee. The concert is at 8:00 p.m. and will be sign language interpreted.

March 27

SATURDAY

The East Coast premiere of Roger Bourland's new cantata, Hidden Legacies will be performed by The Boston Gay Men's Chorus at Jordan Hall at the New England Conservatory. The composer will present a pre-concert discussion of the work and will play bass in the performance. Concert starts at 8:00 p.m.. For more information call 617-247-BGMC.

April 23 & 4

FRIDAY, SATURDAY &

SUNDAY

OUT & OUT Productions brings back The Lesbian & Gay Film Festival! This year the films will be viewed at The Portland Museum of Art. Celebrate being Lesbian & Gay through film and Art!!!

April 23, 24, 25 & 26

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday  
The 1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN, GAY & BI EQUAL RIGHTS and LIBERATION will take place on Sunday, April 25th in Washington, D.C.. On Friday night there will be conferences, banquets and a drag show extravaganza. On Saturday there will be a Wedding/Ceremony of Commitment, historical exhibits the Harvey Milk Memorial unveiling, a motorcycle run, concerts conferences and receptions. On Monday a Direct Action/Civil Disobedience is planned. In 1987, over 650,000 Lesbians, Gays, their friends and relatives went to Washington, D.C. for the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of this Country. The discrimination and violence continues and it's time to March again. Make your reservations now! For more information, please contact: March On Washington, P.O. Box 34607, Washington, D.C. 20043-4607. The telephone number is 202-628-0493.

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# NACHAS!

BY RITA KISSEN

**W**hen I was growing up, I loved to make New Year's resolutions. As a youngster, I vowed to go to bed on time, finish my homework before dinner, and lay out my clothes every night so I wouldn't

drive my mother crazy rushing to get ready for school the next morning. Later, I remember resolving to eat right, exercise regularly, read more serious literature, and answer all correspondence within a week of receipt.

This year we have so many new beginnings that it's almost impossible not to feel as though all our New Year's resolutions, not to mention our fondest wishes, will come true. New president in the White House who has chosen Maya Angelou, one of my favorite African American women writers, to compose the Inaugural Poem. Fresh new faces in Congress, and some fresh old ones as well who are starting a new term. New ordinance on the books in Portland, waiting for the first legal test to prove that things have changed in our city. New format for Our Paper, making us prouder than ever to live in a state with so much lesbian/gay/bisexual creativity. New clothes hanging in my closet, courtesy of my parents' generous birthday check; new 1993 leather-bound agenda in my briefcase, ditto. With all this newness, how can I resist the feeling that everything in

my life, not to mention the world, is ready for a fresh start?

In the early 1980's I was living in a small town in rural northeast Nebraska and teaching at the local state college. My son was routinely taunted at school because he didn't play (or like) football; my daughter was coming out in a place where the only two lesbians we knew were a 50-year-old couple so closeted that no one had ever been inside their home. Within the space of two years, my most beloved friend died in an auto accident, my son decided to spend his last two

years of high school with his dad in

Massachusetts, and my daughter left for the more lesbian-friendly environs of Northampton, Mass., and college. During the bleak January twilights, I used to watch the sky and the winter prairie become the same shade of frozen grey, so that the horizon seemed to disappear. I sometimes wondered if I might disappear too.

Marvelous

things have happened to me in the past few years, but I know they did not begin at the unlikely moment when I met my life-partner, or the rainy day we discov-

ered Peaks Island and decided we wanted to live here. The real beginnings of my new life lie somewhere in those years in Nebraska, when to my surprise, I didn't disappear after all. No matter how homesick I felt, or how much I cried, there I still was, teaching my classes and working with my peace group and dreaming of coming back east for good.

So as January fades into February and the snow turns into slush, I'd like to remind us that our strength lies not in any list of resolutions, but in the hard, lonely times when we thought we might disappear, and didn't. I'm thinking of my lesbian and gay friends who spent their holidays trying to make peace with families who couldn't quite make peace with them. I'm thinking of the parents who struggled to affirm their love for their gay and lesbian children at holiday dinners with homophobic relatives, and to respond to smug Christmas letters announcing the latest wedding or the latest grandchild.

We're all here. Not only that, but most of us work, play, laugh, argue, and enjoy our friends and lovers. That's the best reason to celebrate the New Year. And the resolution to go on celebrating is the only one I know I can keep. ■

**NACHAS:**  
A YIDDISH WORD  
MEANING "PRIDE,"  
PRONOUNCED WITH  
THE ACCENT ON THE  
FIRST SYLLABLE,  
WHICH RHYMES WITH  
"BACH."



# AT THE stage door...

BY ALEXANDER WALLACE

I don't know whether I agree with Portland Stage Company's description of Ibsen's *HEDDA GABLER* as: "as potent and absorbing today as when it was first written." The High Victorian Age, *HEDDA'S* time, was a millennium ago by today's free-for-all moral standards. What are we liberated types to make of a flighty, willful, jealous, over-indulged, male-dominated society heiress, with a mansion, servants, bored to tears, destroying two men, another woman and herself, in the process of "coming out?" And when she does slam that door, discovering that there's no-one there? Supposedly the quintessential "woman's play," (written by a white, heterosexual male? Well, women didn't write plays in 1890!) *HEDDA GABLER* could only exist in Victorian times, when a Woman Of Class could not work, be seen in a hotel without her husband, brother or father, marry without daddy's consent or bed the gardener without retribution and, zounds...disgrace! The Duchess Ferguson or Princess Di, you say? Silly, but very fortunate twits, in comparison to Ms. Gabler! And what exactly do those Royals have to do with we Reals? No, *HEDDA*, having stepped outsider her station and disgraced womanhood, is obliged, by the high moral code of the day - also written by men - to kill herself, much as gays had to in fifties' novels, "beautifully," as the white male playwright insists. *HEDDA* is very much like *ROMEO AND JULIET*: disobey Daddy and Your Heavenly Father will get you! No matter how modern directors try to twist *HEDDA* into a woman's lib manifesto, *HEDDA GABLER* is still very much about the "rightness" of patriarchal domination. But *HEDDA* has been seized on and served up, with turgid relish, by all the great Dreadnought Divas of Thuh Theatuh and, like *HMS TITANIC*, *HEDDA* refuses to stay down. Still considered a viable "classic," treated as a pot-boiling period piece and played straight for bathos, with a killer broad in the title role, *HEDDA GABLER* can still give the Marilyn Quayles and Teddy Kennedys of today the willies and some serious second thoughts about women's "proper" place. But is there anything relative there for us? Do straight theatre producers still not get it? If PSC wimps on her and makes "it" *HEDDA'S* fault, you have my permission and encouragement to boo, hiss and stamp your feet, the way we used to in *The Good Old Days*. (*HEDDA GABLER* starts at PSC January 5th. See Calendar.)

From the turgid to the too-too. John Spritz, over at WPKM 106.3FM, plays a Great American Musical Comedy Classic Original Cast Album every Thursday night at 7PM. (See calendar for January's shows.) To salute John, WPKM and The American Musical Comedy, America's one true great and original contribution to

music., here's a critique of some of the latest releases on CD. This also contributes to my one-man campaign against the plastics industry's conspiracy to dispose of as much deadly polyvinyl-chloride as the environment and the illiterate can handle by mis-labeling it "Music" - read: rock and roll, disco and rap - and selling it to tone-deaf, culture-deprived oafs and oafettes. \$15 for an original cast album CD gets you a life-time of listening pleasure; \$15 in a disco gets you deaf from the...music and lung-cancer from the smoke. 1991-92 was a banner year for Musical Comedy CDs and here are my faves.

The Gershwin Brothers, George and Ira, scored a solid hit and a near-miss, on CD, in 1992. *CRAZY FOR YOU* is a successful recreation of the kind of flippant, silly, campy, air-head-plot-but-song-and-dance-loaded musicals of the 20's and 30's that were designed to sell sheet music in the days when Broadway was the source of America's popular music. *CRAZY FOR YOU* contains songs from The Gershwins' *GIRL CRAZY*, *SHOW GIRL*, *OH, KAY*, *TREASURE GIRL* and two smash Fred Astaire movie-musicals. And what songs they are! "Bidin' My Time," "Someone To Watch Over Me," "I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise," "Shall We Dance," "Slap That Base," "Embraceable You," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "Nice Work If You Can Get It," and the immortal, "I Got Rhythm!" Such an assault on the musical sense was not unusual in a single show in the days when America had melody as well as a beat in its heart and would not have stood, much less paid for, one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's B-O-R-I-N-G one-song pseudo-operas. *CRAZY FOR YOU* is available on Angel and is still SRO on Broadway. The CD captures the zaniness and the camp and the beautiful music. Not so successful is the "restored" version of the Gershwins' legendary 1927 flop, *STRIKE UP THE BAND*. An early, pre-*PORGY AND BESS*, even less-successful attempt by George and Ira to write a "serious" musical, *STRIKE UP THE BAND* remained in afficianado's memories, again, mainly because of several incredibly musical Gershwin tunes: "Soon," "Mademoiselle From New Rochelle," "I've Got A Crush On You," and "The Man I Love." Entombed in an endless light-opera libretto supposedly inspired by Gilbert and Sullivan but actually presaging the far-more successful *SHOWBOAT*, the score of *STRIKE UP THE BAND* barely survived a 1929 revival attempt and the show slid from public memory. Not even George S. Kaufman's sardonic anti-war book could save *STRIKE UP THE BAND* from the sophomore audience demands of the times imposed on the Gershwins. The 2-disc Elektra-Nonesuch CD remains just a history-buff's oddity, except for those SONGS! They stand

OUT, much as they must have in 1927. Jerome Kern's and Oscar Hammerstein's *SHOWBOAT* achieved the kind of success denied the Gershwins' un-producible *PORGY AND BESS* and the new EMI double CD of *SHOWBOAT* soars! Dealing solidly - in 1927 yet - with interracial marriage and black-and-white bigotry, *SHOWBOAT* also contained its fair share of great hits: "Make Believe," "Life Upon The Wicked Stage," "Why Do I Love You," "Bill," "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man," "Old Man River" and the spell-binding, shimmering, "You Are Love." Not as pseudo-operatic as the bathetic *PORGY AND BESS*, *SHOWBOAT* spanned generations of America's race problems and musical development, didn't pander or talk down to Blacks as *PORGY* does and has always succeeded, even in highly censored film versions. The new version contains all the music ever written for *SHOWBOAT* and is a must for collectors.

CD releases of Broadway revivals make for interesting comparisons to the original Broadway versions, especially when so many of the latter are also now available on CD. Currently playing to packed houses, *GUYS AND DOLLS* succeeds again just as it first did in 1951 and the new version includes some fine dialogue, the Havana segment, a reprise of "Adelaide's Lament" and the entire "Crashshooters' Dance" omitted from the original, shorter format LP. Created when TV and rock-and-roll were making their first deadly, mind-numbing assaults on the national intelligence and taste, *GUYS AND DOLLS* contains some of the shortest musical numbers on record. But they grab hold of you, twist your funybone and toss you for a loop. Curiously, the new RCA CD version's clarity emphasizes the aria-like nature of the show's many solos, duettes and quartettes, which are delightful send-ups of the opera variety, without sacrificing the essentially comic nature of the material. Orchestrations are brighter without sounding over-amplified; vocally, the new cast, including handsome Petet Gallagher in fine voice as Sky Masterson, is the equal of the original and if it's impossible to erase the vision of Stubby Kaye, big enough to swamp that *TITANIC*, singing "Sit Down, You're Rocking The Boat," Walter Bobbie is just as effective, musically, on the new disc. And Faith Prince, as the original bimbo-in-waiting, Adelaide, is worth not only the price of the CD but a trip to Broadway!

Tyne Daly comes a cropper in her recording of "ETHEL MERMAN'S GYPSY." I know that's not the name of the show but it should be. No one, not even the magnificent Angela Lansbury, comes close to S!II!N!G!II!N!G the part of Rose the way La Merm did. It's not just that Daly, who I adore, hasn't got the Merman pipes, she has no music at all in her rather small, limited voice and that's painfully obvious on the vinyl. Daly may have been able to carry the show dramatically, but her vocal inadequacy glares on the plastic. Still, the disc is of value for the extended dialogue, additional music and for a terrific rendition of "All I Need Now Is The Girl," by new-comer Robert



## LESBIANS MAKE BETTER BABIES

Children raised by lesbians are psychologically healthy, according to a study of 37 San Francisco Bay area families.

The study, by a University of Virginia psychologist, is unusual because it focused on families in which the parents were openly lesbian when their children were born or adopted.

Earlier studies dealing with children of parents who came out of the closet also indicated they had normal personal and emotional development.

The study, which will appear in a book on issues in gay and lesbian psychology, may be helpful for lesbians and gay men in custody, adoption and foster care proceedings.

An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 children have been born in recent years to lesbian mothers, according to one researcher. No solid figures are available on the total number of lesbian-parented households.

The study showed that children raised in lesbian households were more likely to report feelings of stress and of well-being than other children, according to the study's author, Professor Charlotte Patterson.

Patterson, who is a lesbian, suggested the difference could result from the families' having developed coping skills to deal with prejudice and from having parents who actively encourage their children to share their feelings.

## AUDRE LORD, LESBIAN POET, DEAD FROM BREAST CANCER

Audre Lord, one of the lesbian and feminist community's most fervent spokeswomen and poets, died on November 17 at the age of 58, after a 14 year struggle with breast cancer.

Lorde often called herself "a black lesbian feminist warrior poet." Her first poems were published in 1968 in a volume titled *The First Cities*, followed by *Cables to Rage* (1970), *Coal* (1976) and *The Black Unicorn* (1978). In 1980, Lorde published an account of her struggle with breast cancer in *The Cancer Journals*. And she devised a fictionalized memoir of her lesbian awakening in *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982). Lorde also published numerous volumes of essays, including *A Burst of Light*, which won the American Book Award in 1989.

Lorde was born in 1934 in New York City and was educated there, receiving a bachelor's degree from

continued next page

continued page 15



## The Straight narrow

by Holly Valero

damnable skiing weatherman on TV. Two years later I am not only over that incident, but I am prepared to ski again. Oh, not outside, mind you. As a matter of fact, if I ever make a move to take this body—now over 30—to the top of a snowy mountain, strap a couple of slippery boards onto my feet, and jump off I hope somebody on the chair lift puts a ski pole right through my heart. I'm talking about our new **NordicTrack Pro!** Best damn exercise in the free world—according to their brochure. Now I can watch the Skiing Weatherman and ski along with him! Best of all, in just a month or so you can be in primo physical condition, assuming that you don't blow a heart valve with all that full-body workout! So this year, my public resolution is to figure out how to use the thing without breaking a bone and maybe even ski a couple of kilometers over the course of 1993. Privately...well, ABC has been running that Thrill of Victory/Agony of Defeat spot for an awfully long time...

Hmmm...maybe I should set up the camcorder... ■

## AT THE stage door...

BY ALEXANDER WALLACE

Lambert as Tulsa. He proves you gotta have a gimmick: in *GYPSY'S* case, a VOICE!

Leonard Bernstein's last attempt to rescue *CANDIDE* from immortality is a botched failure. Fortunately, we still have the abbreviated but brilliant original cast album with Barbara Cook as Cunegonde, also newly out on CD. Bernstein, one of the creative giants of music, had the same tragic flaw the Gershwins and Stephen Sondheim share: the foolish conviction that musical comedy isn't serious music: they had to write, or turn their musicals into - OPERAS! They failed, of course, and the end result is that the rest of us are stuck with *EVITA*, *PHANTOM OF THE OPERA*, *PACIFIC OVERTURES*, *SWEENEY TODD*, *LES MISERABLES* and ponderous operatic versions of *CANDIDE* and *KISS ME, KATE!* Recorded shortly before Bernstein's death, this 2-CD version of *CANDIDE* is only slightly less deadly than The New York City Opera version but is killed by Bernstein's funereal pacing, walling sopranos, appalling lack of enunciation (no wonder most opera is sung in Italian!) and wildly fluctuating recording volume levels. Additional lyrics, re-juxtaposed songs and a sprightly performance by Adolph Greene, definitely not an opera singer but a musical comedy Titan, as Voltaire and Dr. Pangloss, make this tedious *CANDIDE* worth having. (Note to future musical comedy writers: OPERA SINGERS CAN'T SING BROADWAY MUSIC!)

Last, but the best: the CD version of Stephen Sondheim's *ASSASSINS* confirms him as The Undisputed King Of Musical Comedy. Containing more wit, intelligence, message, meaning, music, entertainment value and brilliance in one hour than can be

found in ALL of Andrew Lloyd Webber's dreary, sententious, pretentious, intellectually vapid, humorless crap, *ASSASSINS* is astounding! But it was a Broadway flop, too: down like *THE BISMARCK!* Presenting a typical, liberal, New York City Opening Night audience with a musical that glorifies the assassins of Lincoln, Kennedy and The Great God Roosevelt recalls the effrontery of "Springtime for Hitler" and New York didn't like it! *ASSASSINS* is told from the assassins' point of views and the listener is guided through the history of American presidential murders by an arrogant, archly attractive John Wilkes Booth, who, in the final scene, "inspires" Lee Harvey Oswald to kill Kennedy. It's a JFK Assassination Theory I found curiously convincing. *ASSASSINS* is, however, really a musical about outsiders - like us - it takes listening to and succeeds for that reason better on CD than it did on Broadway. *ASSASSINS* makes an important, minority statement about America; it's witty, biting, funny - a musical masterpiece! *ASSASSINS* is right up there with Sondheim's *INTO THE WOODS* and *FOLLIES* on my list of The All-Time Top Ten American Musicals. ■

All of the above Cast Album CDs are available at Amadeus Music in Portland. And if you have anything for the column, please send it to me, Alexander Wallace, Box 5301, Portland, Maine 04101 or call me at 773-5726.

## MO' Letters

town. Why did Queer Nation's representative resign from the steering committee? How were the spokespeople chosen, the powerful committees formed? These are central questions now as then, not merely strident mouthing off or sour grapes.

It's the duty of the press—especially the non-mainstream real people's press—to publicize dissent, not suppress it or mock it. Too many voices are muted by the attempt to sustain a facile, superficial semblance of harmony—"Don't mourn, organize," certainly; but do criticize, do debate, do challenge, do act up.

Bee Bell  
EPP & ACT UP/Portland

Your letter was the longest news item we've received from you since EPP began its campaign—and you were on the press committee. We love your cant and your recant -- keep it coming.

Your ideal of safeguarding dissent is one we share with you. As a paper, if we suppress it or don't cover it, we should be called on it.

We covered the news, debates, and press releases to the best of our ability. We did not cover the internal politics... Where would we have gotten the leads? From the tight-lipped media committee?

No campaign is perfectly run, but it is run by the people who make the commit-

ment to show up week after week and make sure that their voices are heard.

Ask yourself this, would you have rather ripped apart the political insides of EPP to keep it "pure" or win an election that would guarantee rights for the whole community?

(To Our Paper)

GAY RIGHTS. GAY RIGHTS. GAY RIGHTS. I am so sick of hearing about GAY RIGHTS that I think I will probably vomit the next time anyone mentions them to me, even though I have no idea what they are. What we want are EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL RIGHTS, EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS, the rights that we were guaranteed under the bill of rights, but do not seem to get. I want these rights for my children and for all the gay and lesbian children of the world. Ten percent of children were created by God to be gay. Ten percent of all God's sexual creatures were created to be gay; birds, bees, and Catholics.

My father graduated from Colby College in 1887. He told me that one of his professors taught him that the Bible is "the most spiritual writing of the most spiritual people who ever lived," and he may be right. However, these people believed that the world was flat; that oysters, clams, shrimps, and lobsters were ritually unclean, and it was as sinful to eat them as to commit sodomy; and that women wearing red dresses was equally bad. Being gay or lesbian is hereditary, or genetic, or some other things over which the gay person has no control.

Since there are 1,200,000 people in Maine, there are about one hundred twenty thousand gays and lesbians. Each has two parents. Therefore, there are two hundred forty thousand parents of gays and lesbians in Maine.

We who are members of the National Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), have studied our children. We know them. Some of our children know that they are gay or lesbian when they are eight or ten years old. I have had long conversations with 100-200 gays and lesbians. They are all different. But almost all of them were so horrified when they learned that they were gay or lesbian, that they fought with themselves for years. Although they are only ten percent of the population, they commit over thirty percent of the teenage suicides.

We must do everything in our power to help these children to feel that they are as lovable as any child. Churches must help. Schools must help.

Gays and lesbians do not want GAY RIGHTS. They want the right to work. We parents want all parents to feel as happy, pleased and proud of our children as we do. Most of us grieved when we learned that our children were gay--grieved as sorrowfully as we would have if they had died. I know that I did. I kept saying to myself, "At least he's not dead." But I could not talk about it to anyone, as I could when my four-year-old daughter was dying of diabetes. I kept won-

dering which was worse. Fortunately, they both lived.

Now if modern thinking could only catch up with modern medicine.

Frances (F.E.) Pentlarge

Frances is one of the three founders of PFLAG in Maine.

F.E.,  
Yowsa!

Dear OP Staff

I congratulate your paper on its part in the success in the recent victory over bigotry...as a potential Maine resident (at some point next year) I supported the coalition financially and urged my friends in Maine to do the same.

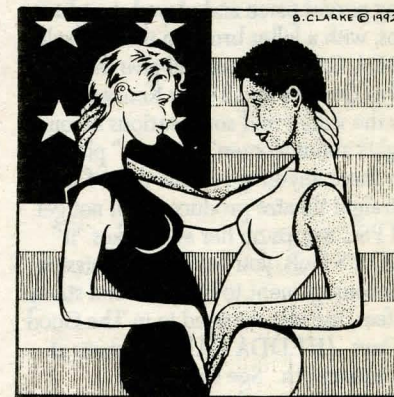
It doesn't take a Ph.D. in Political Science to figure out by looking at the statistics on the front page of the December issue that some precincts were more friendly to Vote NO than others...and from those figures I'd say I would rather live in Pct. 1 or 3 of District 2 rather than Pct. 3 of District 3. You do out-of-staters like myself a favor with an article on the demographics of the vote. Some districts just don't randomly vote one way or another. Are there liberal areas and/or areas that show a concentration of Gay/Lesbian votes? It'd be a real service to folks like my long-time companion and myself in helping to choose areas in which to look for housing. Thanks!

T. Myers

T.M.

The areas in which we did not get the support were pockets of predominantly older voters, religious neighborhoods, etc. Without the backing of the Christian Civic League, Concerned Portland Citizens would have probably run out of steam much faster. The liberal vote was a reflection of what will eventually become the norm. Twenty years from now it will be a proud footnote that Portland led the way.

## Washington DC APRIL 25, 1993



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- "This is my sixth visit. The consistently excellent food and service will keep me coming back!"
- "The pot roast was tasty and tender."
- "White Sale fits in with your overall image. It's nice to see a cut in prices that were already a good value."
- "Very tacky decorations--I'd hate to see where you live!"
- "We're from Brooklyn. Wish we lived up here so we could come back sooner."
- "Where does the name Katahdin come from and what does it mean?"
- "Your chicken pot pie is as good or a little better than mom's."
- "Service was excellent. We filled restaurant to capacity within 15 minutes and received excellent food and service."
- "Melt-in-my-mouth delicious lamb shank!"
- "Your angel hair with shrimp--I dream about it!"
- "We love, love, love the food but can never finish what is so consistently delicious--i.e., the portions are huge!"
- "The service doesn't get any better. Thanks!"
- "We are guests from Inn at Park Spring and we could not have found a more perfect meal."
- "My friend Rose told me about Katahdin. It made me like her even more!"
- "best soups in town!"
- "Our waitress was excellent and honest with personal suggestions."
- "Loved the funky atmosphere and the good music!"
- "We will definitely come back--especially for desert!"
- "We don't get out much, but when we do it's nice to come to a comfortable place with great home cooking."
- "We were looking for Cremo's but found Katahdin instead!"

## It's a Normal thing.

by Alan Stearns

of nondiscriminatory lesbian and gay equality in favor of the term "normal."

That being said, I am now accepting applications for my new chapter of ACT NORMAL.

ACT NORMAL, affiliated with Normal People/Portland ("NP/P") and Normal Nation, begins its semantic mission by taking back a word which has been historically withheld from minorities. As a strategic offensive move, self-declared normalcy will force the losers in Oregon to reflect on their efforts to declare normalcy abnormal, and perhaps force the previously normal to declare themselves queer to avoid the neo-normal label. Newly normal people will join ACT NORMAL in droves, and no one will dare oppose any bill which would prevent discrimination based on normalcy.

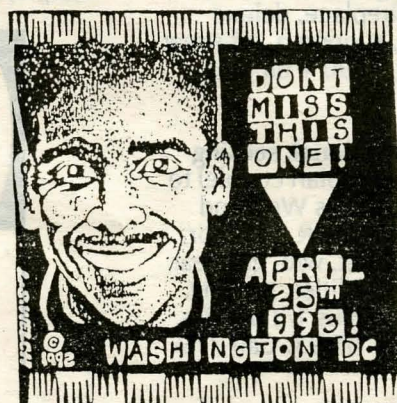
Implicit in the normal movement will be a reversal in current trends of self-deprecation cum insult. The predominantly asserted current linguistic paradigm grants to anyone who calls himself a queerdick sweaterfag, for example, the apparent privilege to call others by similarly disparaging terms, such as queer kike dressydike, with no fear of reproach.

Under normalism, however, competitive self-application of verbiage reclaimed from sewers and, most importantly, its insulting extension to unwilling bystanders will be replaced with efforts to recognize the positive aspects of self and others. Furthermore, rather than blaming victims for internalized homophobia when these people are struggling to survive in a nasty world, ACT NORMAL pledges to praise people for externalized normalcy and reserve blame for perpetrators and perpetrators of phobias rather than their victims.

There.

I had to get that off my chest.

For those of you who want an explanation: it's finals week and I haven't had a vacation in a long, long time. Next month I promise to wallow no longer in the muck of my thesaurus or the battlefield of Portland's political aftermath. ■



Hunter's College and a master's degree in library studied from Columbia University. She worked as a librarian at City University of New York and then taught creative writing at Tougaloo College in Mississippi and at John Jay College in New York. She later became a professor of English at Hunter College.

She said about herself, "When I say myself, I mean not only the Audre who inhabits my body but all those feisty, incorrigible black women who insist on standing up and saying, 'I am, and you cannot wipe me out, no matter how irritating I am, no matter how much you fear what I might represent.'"

Lorde died on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### SUPREME COURT ALLOWS EMPLOYERS TO CUT HEALTH BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE WITH AIDS

The Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that a Houston company had the right to limit medical coverage for an employee once it was discovered that he was infected with HIV.

John McGann, a warehouse employee for H and H Music of Houston, Texas, learned in 1987 that he was infected with HIV. When he told his employer, the company changed its health insurance policy's ceiling on benefits from \$1 million to only \$5,000 for AIDS-related illnesses. It did not change the limit for any other catastrophic illness.

McGann quickly reached the maximum. He died in 1991.

"It is a real tragedy that workers are now vulnerable to losing coverage at the very time that they need it," said Suzanne Goldberg, a lawyer with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The American Medical Association, also denounced the high court's decision. "It opens the door for health plans to pick the healthiest of the population and leave those with serious illnesses to fend for themselves," said chairperson Dr. Raymond Scalettar.

The Supreme Court did however note that the Americans with Disabilities Act may forbid such practices in the future. In this case, the employer had limited the health insurance policy before the Act became effective.

Continued page 18



GLT

# classifieds

## 12 MISCELLANEOUS

**WEST SIDE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER** is a warm, gentle, and homelike childcare center, with a loving, professional and diverse staff. We're child-centered and developmentally appropriate for children ages 3-6. We have low child/caregiver ratios, and never more than eighteen children. We presently have full, part-time and drop-in openings. We are located in Portland's West End. Call 772-9817 for information.

**Pet Shop in Central Maine** interested in assistance from a gay male over 40. Must be interested in small animals, fish, birds, dogs & cats. Also clean, neat, good with public, dependable, no substance abuse, prefer non-smoker. Send detailed information including, but not limited to: personal information about yourself, interests, experience with animals or small business and how and why you could work into our organization. Mail to PETS, Box 311, Skowhegan, ME 04976.

**SPERM DONOR NEEDED.** Lesbian couple seeking healthy donor. Have tried unsuccessfully with sperm banks and now would like to try alternative methods. Will be professionally and privately handled. Only serious donors need to contact us. Write to: P & S, Rt #2, Box 1280, Doverfoxcroft, ME 04426.

## 16 APARTMENT TO SHARE OR RENT

**Roommate sought to share house w/fireplace**, located in wooded area of Orono/Oldtown. \$250 + electric & water, heat furnished. Call 827-2879.

**Room for rent or apartment** to share in Saco. Non-smoking woman only. \$240-\$325 includes all utilities. Call 284-9547 between 6-9:00 p.m..

**Room for rent in nice** neighborhood home with private bath, kitchen & laundry privileges. Female, non-smoking, drug-free. Minimum of 6 month lease. \$400. includes utilities and cable TV. Available immediately. Call 885-0261 till 9:00 p.m..

## PERSONAL OF THE MONTH:

**Hunters Orange Worn for Walks in the Woods. Movies. String quartets. Irreverent laughter in coffee shops. Hiding out in attics. Twenty two year old misanthropic, atheistic optimist (what a mouthful!) hopes to find a wicked good friend and lover. Innarested? Boxholder, P.O. Box 3173, Old Town, ME 04468.**

**Lesbian, 37, looking for one or two lesbians** interested in renting a house on or near salt water near-Portland?-Freeport?-Higgins Beach? Prefer non-smokers, pets(I have one dog), and people with a sense of humor. Please call 772-3757, leave a message and I'll get back to you.

**GM Roommate sought to share house in Camden.** Wooded area but close to town. Private bath. Non-smoker, please. \$200/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Call 236-8935.

**Portland-USM Area.** Gracious 2 bedroom double living room, hardwood floors, fireplace, deluxe kitchen, sunporch, off-street parking, \$690 + utilities. 761-3918.

**GF, Professional, seeking n/s F, (or lesbian couple)** to share spacious West End apartment. 2 BR, 1st floor, hwd/carpets, w/d, gas heat, modern facilities, parking. \$300/mo. plus 1/2 utilities. Available 1/1/93. Call 775-5112.

**Intown-3 Room apartment** in a well maintained building; clean, comfortable, quiet and sunny; \$300+ utilities (utilities are very reasonable.) Call 772-5521 and leave a message.

## 20 FEMALE PERSONALS

**I want someone who is** going to love me. Someone that's mine. I am feminine. I'm 34. I love to dance! There must be a special lady just for me. Write to Advertiser #407-1, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104

(what a mouthful!) hopes to find a wicked good friend and lover. Innarested? Boxholder, P.O. Box 3173, Old Town, ME 04468.

## 21 MALE PERSONALS

**Companionship-Social,** Recreational & Emotional. GWM, 39, BR, Beard, 5'11", 245lbs.. Enjoys theater, cooking, dining, hiking, camping & outdoor sex. Looking for younger GWM with the same interests. P.O. Box 2102, Bangor, Maine 04402. Enjoy your Holidays.

**GWC, Early Forties, Looking** to meet other singles-couples. We enjoy gardening, antiques, eating out, coastlines, art shows, etc.. We are non-smokers/no drugs, social drinking-"lite". Portland to Augusta area. Write to: Advertiser #515-2, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

**Serious Top Seeks Bottoms.** GWM 49, seeks younger, masculine men sincerely interested in consensual, no nonsense S & M/B & D sessions. Roger, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073.

**My dream is to make love to** a Maine State Trooper. GWM, 33, 5'10", 198lbs., discreet, with a fetish for police uniforms. If you're a uniformed police officer looking for a nice guy, let's get together! No rough trade please. Write: P.O. Box 191, Blue Hill, ME 04614.

**I Know you're out there!** GWM, 5'9", 145, bl/bl, looking for fun-loving, anything goes friends. Let's make each other happy. Write to: Advertiser #517-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

**GWM, 40, expert alpine skier,** seeks trim, GM, good to expert alpine skier, to ski major Maine ski resort(s). Write to: Advertiser #518-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

**SEEK INFO ON MR. GAY MAINE CONTESTS OR PAGEANTS OUT OF PORTLAND.** Limelight? Underground? If you have any info, pix, video, memorabilia, etc., would like to hear from you. Especially interested in years 1985-1990. Will pay for pix, video. Write to advertiser #409-5, c/o Our Paper, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

**Sore Muscles from working out?** Call for a massage from a GWM to help you feel like yourself again. Call 795-0984, ask for Alan. Hours 7:30 am - 8:00 p.m..

**Mature Christian GWM 26,** seeks sincere others for companionship- social/emotional. Easygoing, caring, many interests, romantic, simple things, etc... No Drugs! Augusta-Waterville area. Write: D. Warren, Rt.3, Box 525, Augusta, ME 04330.

**MORE CLASSIFIEDS>**

# Classified Directory

05 WANTED TO BUY	41 AIDS/HIV COUNSELING
10 STUFF TO SELL	44 CLUBS/BARS
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13 YEAR/GARAGE SALE	47 SOCIAL EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS
16 APARTMENT TO SHARE	49 ATTORNEY/LEGAL SERVICE
20 FEMALE PERSONALS	50 HELP WANTED-SEASONAL
21 MALE PERSONALS	51 HELP WANTED-GENERAL
29 RESTAURANTS	66 COUNSELING
30 HOTELS/INNS VACATION	67 MAIL ORDER
31 CAMPING & HIKING	68 JOB OPPORTUNITY
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1993

16 JANUARY



GLT

# More Classifieds **clippers**

## FUZZY n HOT - Good

Looking, exciting, muscular GWM young 40+, 5'8", 135lbs, dark trim beard, attractive body hair, financially stable, MBA, seeks monogamous GWM Lover with good body & mind to enjoy life's great offerings. Cubs encouraged- Grrrrr. Please Call 207-646-5933 with description or write P.O. Box 1820, Ogunquit, ME 03907-1820.

## Lonely Mid-Coast Male-

seeks, GWM for fun, perhaps relationship. I like both classical & folk music, theatre, antiques, eating out, working out. Age is not important. Let's get together and explore our feelings. Write Advertiser # 519-3, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

## 22 BI PERSONALS

**Attractive Male, 38, 6'2"**, 175lbs. Very clean, discrete, honest, sincere, - you be the same. Ellsworth area. Limited travel. No evenings or weekends. Novice bi, novice submissive. Seeking attractive female(s) or couple for exploration/encounter. All discreetly answered. Photo/Phone appreciated. Write to :Advertiser #406-2, c/o Our Paper, box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

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Event \_\_\_\_\_

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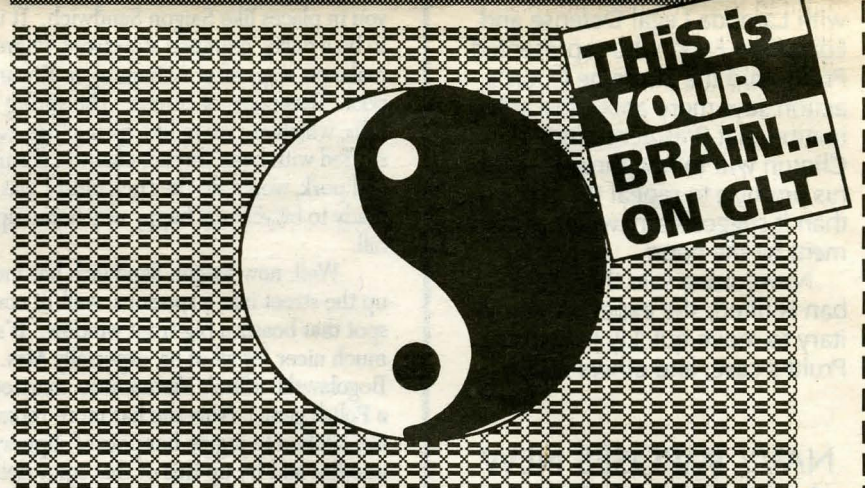
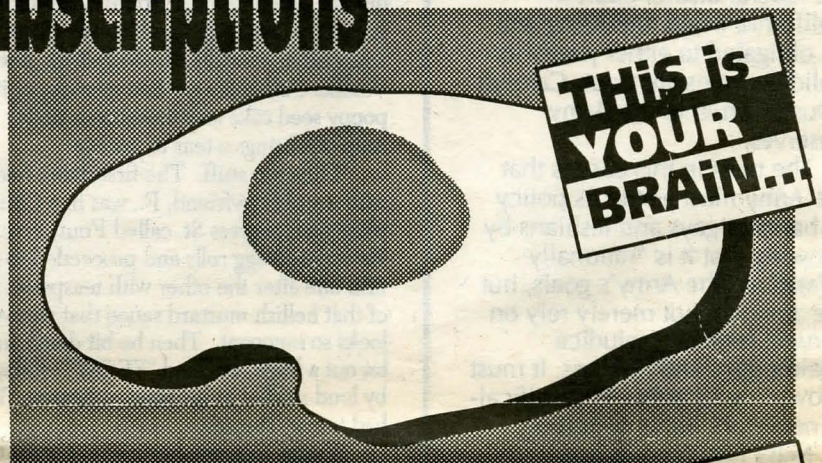
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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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## ARMY MUST JUSTIFY ITS REASON FOR DISCHARGING LESBIAN

It's not all bad news from the Supreme Court. The high court, in a ruling in December, refused to undo a lower court decision in favor of a lesbian's challenge of the military's ban on lesbians and gay men in the armed forces.

The Supreme Court's ruling means that the case will go back the federal district court in California where the Army will be obligated to either justify its policy or reinstate Capt. Carolyn "Dusty" Pruitt to the Army Reserves.

The twist in this case is that the Army must justify its policy of banning gays and lesbians by showing that it is "rationally related to" the Army's goals, but the army cannot merely rely on general societal prejudice against gays and lesbians. It must show how its policy is specifically necessary for its operation.

Mary Newcombe, a lawyer with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund who represented Pruitt, said the Supreme Court's action says more about the anticipation that President-elect Clinton will follow through with his promise to repeal the ban than it suggests a new temperament by the court.

Newcombe said that if the ban is lifted, she expects the military to move quickly to settle Pruitt's case, and others like it.

## NAVY IMPOSES NEW ANTI-GAY REGULATION

Navy officials admit the timing is bad, nevertheless the are going forward with requiring R.O.T.C. midshipmen and midshipwomen at all colleges and universities that offer R.O.T.C. scholarships to sign an affidavit saying they can be discharged and forced to pay back their scholarships if they are found to be lesbian or gay.

"I consider this inquisitorial affidavit a totally unwarranted intrusion in the private lives of American citizens," Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) wrote to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. But Navy officials said the new policy is similar to those in place for other students at the Naval

continued page 19

# Miss Saigon Sandwich

by Brian L. Crabtree

Let me begin by saying that I'm partial to a certain kind of restaurant. One serving cheap food and lots of it. Spicy food, preferably with some ethnic kink in its make-up. I left home early, and I still maintain that it was in part to escape a regimen of potatoes for dinner six days a week, broken by franks and beans on Saturday. You get the picture. Not only was it much easier to smoke, pile up dishes, and meet boys on my own; my food horizons expanded considerably. In cities from the East coast to the West, I'd seek out the place. In San Francisco, it was a tiny Mexican taqueria in the Mission district where the Christmas decorations stayed up year round and heaven came wrapped in a tortilla. In New York, it was Veselka Coffee Shop. The memory of its poppy seed cake and mushroom barley soup still brings a tear to my eye.

I like hot stuff. The first date I had with my old boyfriend, F., was in a Chinese place on Congress St. called Four, Five, Six. He ordered egg rolls and proceeded to garnish one after the other with teaspoons full of that hellish mustard sauce that always looks so innocent. Then he bit down and let out a huge, satisfied "YEOW!" followed by loud snuffles as his sinuses cleared. You had to love the guy.

Funny food memories come back to you in places like Saigon Sandwich. It used to be a dusty, cramped storefront where I'd make pit stops after swimming in Kiwanis pool. Ravenous, of course. The spring rolls, which are more like spring logs, really, stuffed with bean thread, cilantro, shrimp, and pork, would do the trick until I was ready to bicycle my happy way home up the hill.

Well, now Saigon Sandwich has moved up the street into a spacious, well-lit corner spot that boasts a big front window. It's much nicer for all of us, especially Mrs. Bogolawski. (She's Vietnamese, married to a Polish gent.) Now she has more room in the kitchen to juggle her pots of slippery noodles and fry up this or that spicy delight.

Recently, S. and I showed up to case the new place. Mrs. Bogolawski gave us her

usual warm hello. On certain days, she will even sit down with you after you're served and chat you up. S. loves this, being the gregarious doll that he is, but I confess it sometimes makes me nervous. I begin to think she has one eye on the conversation and the other on our busy consumption of her food. It reminds me of my mother, standing over the eternal potatoes as I "finished" my plate. Mrs. Bogolawski is a mother. You're more than likely to catch one of her handsome, charming kids on their way out with a goodbye kiss for her.

Sometimes Mrs. Bogolawski, with a devilish wink, will suggest a dollop of some fiery condiment to give the bowl an edge.

Finishing your plate, however, can be a challenge at Saigon. S. and I ordered the spring rolls (A pre-determined thing, really. I can't imagine being there without dredging sections of these through the peanut-flecked hoisin sauce.) and a new item, steamed dumplings, as appetizers. These are bigger here than the usual little wrinkled numbers that hold a tiny pink wedge of mystery meat, and the filling itself is spicier and substantial. Our conversation threaded through bites of these and large sips of our brought-in beers. But when the enormous bowls of soup arrived, quiet was in order. One needs to bow one's head over the face-sized bowl and smile into the steam. To inhale this rich mix of fresh herbs, soft noodles, and strips of beef or chicken is to be transported, and you need not even click your heels three times or chant. Don't say anything. Just slurp away. Noise is fine here... you are not in Tavern On The Green. Sometimes Mrs. Bogolawski, with a devilish wink, will suggest a dollop of some fiery condiment to give the bowl an edge. I generally prefer mine straight, and I can barely look up until the bottom of my bowl shines out from under the spoon. Yes, for

around \$20, you and a friend can eat until it hurts. For that price, you can wax expansive if you're with someone you'd like to impress, and leave a bit tip.

What are the drawbacks? None, none, none. You may wait for a bit if there are two parties or more. (Mrs. B. does everything.) But bring a doodle pad and play tic tac toe. Believe me, the eventual meal is worth whatever ego deflation you may feel at not being looked after as if the owners of the place want to have your child. Oh, and vegetarians will

have tough going. The Saigon sandwich itself, a unique concoction, could be placed on a museum pedestal with a placard reading, "Vegetarian Nightmare." It has pork, liverwurst, and, I believe, beef, amongst its other highly spiced ingredients.

Have a glass of water in one hand if you order this. When asked nicely, Mrs. B. will make you things with shrimp only, but in general, the place teems with the smell and sounds of meat being cooked and devoured.

On these cold winter nights, when all light's been chased from the sky by 5 p.m., and your refrigerator holds on cat-sup and dreaded potato with a thousand eyes, go to Saigon Sandwich. Mrs. Bogolawski likes everybody, and she proves this with her food. Be nice to her. Bring your lover. You can share bowls of soup or curried beef stew. Maybe you'll reach new heights of tandem noodle supping. But please! Don't bring too many friends, and if you require take-out, give the lady plenty of time. ■

Saigon Sandwich is now located at 921 Congress St. (772-6419)

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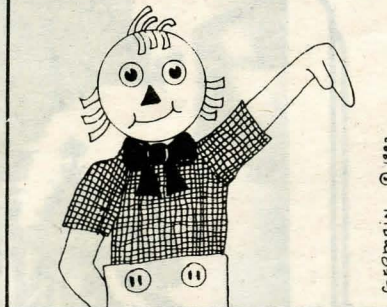
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# FAGGOTY ANDY



# DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

# REPUBLICAN TRANSSEXUAL WINS MASS. ELECTION

The Boston Herald reports that Althea Garrison, a 52 year-old Republican, was elected to the legislature from Dorchester. According to records at the Suffolk County Probate Court, Garrison was formerly a male known as A.C. Garson but changed his name in May 1976.

Court papers say the name change "is consistent with petitioner's appearance and medical condition and is the name by which he will be known in the future."

## FRANK VISITS RUSSIA SEEKING RELEASE OF SODOMY PRISONERS

A delegation led by U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.) met with Russian government officials to push for the repeal of that country's harsh sodomy law, and for the release of men imprisoned under the law.

Frank said he met with representatives of the Russian ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Justice. He said they agreed that the law should be repealed, but said it is up to the Russian Parliament to do so.

President Boris Yeltsin has proposed a new criminal code that omits a ban on homosexual activity between consulting adult men. However, this proposal is unlikely to pass, according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the San Francisco-based group which organized the visit.

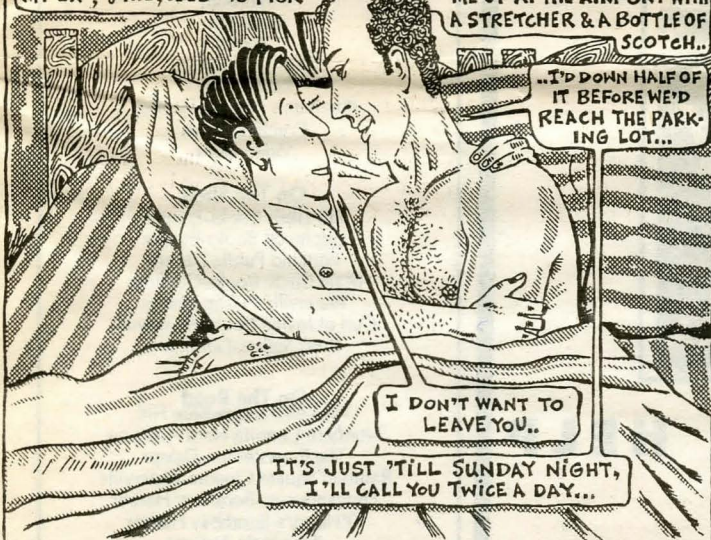
Ten men were convicted and sentenced to prison or labor camps under the sodomy law during the first six months of 1992, Justice Ministry officials told Frank. There are no laws banning homosexual activity between women.

continued back cover

Happy Holidays from Ethan Green!

## HOLIDAY TRAUMA REVISITED

BEFORE I CAME OUT TO THEM, HOLIDAY VISITS HOME USED TO LEAVE ME  
NEEDING 3 WEEKS IN A SANATORIUM TO REGAIN MY MENTAL HEALTH, HELL,  
MY EX . PHIL USED TO PICK ME UP AT THE AIRPORT WITH



HOLIDAYS MAKE ME SO STRESSED.  
 \*\*\* I MEAN I LOVE MY FAMILY,  
 Y'KNOW, BUT ~~LAST~~, I JUST GET  
 TOO STRESSED..

.. LIKE THOSE MEN WHO GET  
 SO WORKED UP ABOUT  
 STUFF THAT THEY DEVELOP  
 THIS NERVOUS DISORDER  
 WHERE THEY LOSE ALL  
 THEIR HAIR ....

EVERY FOLLICLE,  
 EYEBROWS,  
 EYEBROWS,  
 JUST GONE..

I DUNNO... WHAT  
 WOULD PHYLLIS  
 SCHLAFLY  
 DO?

NO. HOLIDAYS  
 DON'T REDUCE  
 ME TO A QUIV-  
 ERING BUNDLE  
 OF NEUROSES.  
 WHAT MAKES  
 YOU ASK?

SNICKERS  
 CLEVELAND

NEUROPRIDE

.. THEN THE ENTIRE  
 CLAN GATHERS  
 HEARTHSIDE FOR  
 CAROLING... SOME-  
 TIMES "GAW-GAN"  
 (THAT'S WHAT WE  
 CALL OUR GRAND-  
 MOTHER) PLAYS HER  
 ACCORDION..

THINK YOUR MOM  
 WILL PUSH OUR  
 BEPS TOGETHER  
 THIS YEAR?

THIS YEAR... WHEN  
 UNCLE OSCAR ASKS  
 WHEN I'M GOING TO  
 FIND THE RIGHT GUY,  
 I'LL SAY "OSCAR,  
 I'VE RIGGED YOUR  
 TABLE SETTING  
 WITH PLASTIC EX-  
 PLOSIVES. PREPARE  
 TO DIE!"

MAyBE I'LL  
 GO "I RELIEVE  
 SOME TENSION"  
 IN THE LAVATORY  
 AGAIN...

I GOTTA  
 STOP DOING  
 THIS.  
 NEXT YEAR,  
 I'LL JUST  
 CALL..

ONE HIGH POINT OF  
 THE FUTURE WOULD... WELL,  
 IF YOU INSIST... THERE  
 WOULD BE  
 THIS MAN  
 HOT LANTA  
 75.1

DAVE COVERLY

**FAMILY MEMBERS 1+2:**  
ASK YOU ABOUT POSITIVELY EVERY-  
THING EXCEPT ANYTHING EVEN  
REMOVELY TO DO  
WITH YOUR  
PERSONAL  
LIFE:

**FAMILY MEMBER 3:**  
STOPPED TALK-  
IN AT THESE  
GATHERINGS  
AROUND  
1967..

**FAMILY MEMBER 4:**  
GIVES RELENTLESS  
UPDATES ON PEOPLE  
YOU HAVN'T SEEN SINCE  
YOU LEFT HIGH SCHOOL...  
...AND BOBBY GOLDFARB  
IS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL  
ORTHODONTIST...  
DEANNA GLASS  
OWNS A THRIVING  
PAPERAMA-  
AND GALLY-AND  
GENIE MARRIED A  
THIN ARMS-SUM GELBER

HOW'S THAT CAT  
OF YOURS?

ARE YOU STILL  
EATING SO MUCH  
PASTA?

IS YOUR APARTMENT  
WELL INSULATED?

DO YOU THINK  
TURKEY WILL EVER GIVE  
UP CYPRUS?

WHICH COLA  
DO YOU LIKE  
BEST?

WHY DON'T YOU  
INVITE YOUR  
"FRIEND" HOME?

**FAMILY MEMBER 5:**  
PART OF ETHAN'S  
BRAIN IS BIGGER  
N' YALLS... THAT'S  
WHY HE'S  
HOMOSEXUAL...

**FAMILY MEMBER 6:**  
SHARPER THAN  
HE LOOKS:

**FAMILY MEMBERS:**  
FEELS COMPELLED  
TO INTERJECT  
GAY ISSUES AT  
EVERY CONVERSAT-  
IONAL TURN FOR  
YOUR BENEFIT:

GELBER

WHY ARE HE HERE?  
I DUNK, MAYBE IT'S A SEVERE PHOTO-SHOOT

6

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... TOO MANY BOURBONS ON THE RIDE HOME...

2 CARRY ON BAG GAUGE. THIS BIG.  
NO BIGGER. DISOBEY US AND YOU'LL GET NO HONEY RAISED SNACKS.

1993

© 1992 By Eric Gerner...

19 JANUARY





Twenty-six states in this country have anti-sodomy statutes on the books.

## IRELAND STALLS ITS REPEAL OF LAW AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS

The Council of Europe gave the Irish government another six months to repeal the law criminalizing acts of homosexuality between consenting adults.

The Irish Times said the 27-nation Council acted on a plea by Liam Rigney, the Irish ambassador to the Council. According to Rigney, more pressing issues, like divorce and abortion, have prevented the government from implementing the European Court of Human Rights' order four years ago to repeal the sodomy law.

The Human Rights Court, administered by the Council, ruled in 1988 that Ireland's sodomy law violates the right to privacy under Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. This international treaty, signed by Ireland, says "every citizen has the right to respect for his private life."

According to the Times, the Council is known to be greatly disturbed by Ireland's "flagrant breach of the Convention." However, there is little the Council can do, except take the radical step of expelling Ireland from membership.

## AUSTRALIA ENDS MILITARY BAN ON GAYS AND LESBIANS

The Australian cabinet has ended its ban on lesbians and gay men in the military. The lifting of the ban was opposed by Australian Defense Force chiefs and the Armed Forces Federation, which represents rank-and-file soldiers.

Top military officials had convinced Defense Minister Robert Ray to continue the ban, citing a potential threat to unit cohesion and morale. However, a Labor Party committee recommended that the ban be lifted.

Attorney General Michael Duffy, who pushed for the end of the ban, was bolstered by the commitment of President-elect Clinton to end the U.S. ban and by a similar move by Canada in 1992.



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- Protested George Bush and his HIV/AIDS policies whenever he set foot in Maine.
- With our actions, we publicized discrimination against veterans, health care workers, prisoners and others with HIV infection.
- Coordinated the Portland vigil and march after the brutal bashing of a gay man with AIDS, and co-organized a huge New England march for universal health care.
- Brought condoms and latex gloves to nine Maine high schools, from Kennebunkport to Bangor.
- Demonstrated against Pat Buchanan in Kittery, Bush/Quayle "family values" in Portland, Linda Bean everywhere.
- Worked in coalition with other groups for women's right to choose, for civil rights for lesbians and gay men, and in protest of the Rodney King verdict in L.A.
- Helped teen organizations demand comprehensive HIV education in their own high schools. ACT UP/Portland members addressed school boards, educated parents, and testified before legislative committees about AIDS.
- Monitored state government, and met regularly with legislators and officials to voice concerns and change state policy (e.g., proposed HIV+ names reporting).
- Created a proud and visible presence for our community in Maine. Our office in downtown Portland affirms the presence of lesbians, gay men, and straight allies who will not stand by silently in the face of injustice.

### WHAT WE'LL DO IN 1993:

### NOTHING. WITHOUT YOU.

Be a part of the solution. Contribute what you can.

YES! I SUPPORT ACT UP/PORTLAND'S EFFORTS TO FIGHT AIDS IN MAINE. ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK/MONEY ORDER FOR

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### On The Road

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Northern Lambda Nord -Caribou  
The Brewster Inn-Dexter  
Railroad Square Cinema-Waterville  
Enchantments-Boothbay Harbor  
O'Henry's-Boothbay Harbor  
Papa Joe's-Augusta  
Square Cafe-Waterville  
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River Front-Bangor  
Lifestyle Alliance-Biddeford  
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New Words-Cambridge, MA  
Frontrunner-Manchester, NH  
AIDS Response/Seacoast- Portsmouth, NH  
Members-Hampton, NH  
Northstar Restaurant, MA