Gay Rights threatened

Carolyn Cosby's state-wide referendum petition approved!

By Alan Stearns

On July 21, Secretary of State Bill Diamond reluctantly gave Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families permission to collect signatures for a state-wide anti-gay petition for referendum.

By July 23, Concerned Maine Families was collecting signatures at Portland's Deering Oaks Festival.

The war has begun. The target ballot date is November, 1994.

The petition contains two significant paragraphs. First is the proposed ballot question. It reads:

"Do you favor the changes in Maine law limiting protected classifications in future state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age ancestry, national origin, familial status, and marital status. Any provision of state or local law, rule, regulation, ordinance, charter, provision or policy inconsistent with this section is void and unenforceable."

This section being necessary for the welfare of the State and the inhabitants of Maine, shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose and is not to be interpreted or applied as a limitation or restriction on authority as enumerated in the Maine Constitution."

Within five days of Cosby's certification, MLGPA, MCLU, and GLAD filed suit challenging the wording of the petition.

Led by Attorney Patricia Peard of Portland's Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson, and Attorney Mary Bonanto of Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the complaint alleges that the language "obscures the true intent of the measure."

Furthermore, "no reasonable voter would be aware of the (anti-gay) intent from a first reading of the petition. As such, the initiative is not understandable."

The current challenge to the petition is the only remaining legal challenge available prior to the actual submission of the petition with signatures.

Attorney Peard, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General have already managed to challenge and delay Cosby's petition drafts since her first version in March, 1993, which was identical to the Colorado referendum wording.

Peard and Bonanto were also instrumental in frustrating a similar referendum attempt in 1992 by Jasper Wyman.

Carolyn Cosby does have attorneys from out of state. Even though she's recognized locally as a wing nut, her access to national resources cannot be underestimated.

If enacted, the proposed law would repeal Portland's Human Rights Amendment. It would repeal Lewiston's Human Rights Amendment.

It would prohibit future state or local protections based on sexual orientation. It would repeal the Portland School Committee's employment policy.

It would arguably repeal the protection of homosexuals and bisexuals under Maine laws punishing hate crimes.

Curiously, it would also arguably repeal existing laws which regulate the following "protected classes:" low income people, smokers, individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, workers with prior compensation claims, and on and on.

Legal costs for challenges to Cosby have already cost MLGPA, GLAD, MCLU and others thousands of dollars. MLGPA is already gearing up for an enormous opposition to Cosby's signature collection.

Donations for legal fees or organizing should be sent to:
MLGPA, P. O. Box 232, Hallowell,
Advisory Board to assist CPR
Eight volunteers meet with publishing editor to decide policy, format, direction

By Winnie Weir

It didn't take long for me to realize that in order for this paper to be a success for all of us, I was going to need input from people whose life experience is different from mine.

When I speak of inclusivity, I want that to be more than representative of my idea of what inclusivity is. When policy needs to be set around including or excluding articles, ads, photos, etc., my like and dislikes cannot be the only standard to which they are held.

Consequently, I have invited eight people to sit as an advisory board to me and the Community Pride Reporter. They are: Vic Bouchard, Brunswick; Ken Constant, Portland; Lt. Mark Dion, Portland; Colin Hoy, Freeport; Rev. Eric Kelley, Portland; Cindy Lupien, Durham; Diane Ricciotti, Peaks Island; and Dustin Schrader, Topsham.

Community Pride Reporter says thank you

Responding to some confusion around the source of funds for starting the CPR, publishing editor, Winnie Weir wants to publically thank the following persons for loaning the business various sums of money, equipment, and professional consultation services:

Cindy Lupien, Maine
Deborah Forrest, Virginia
Lyn Higgs, New Hampshire
Jim Estes & Joe Piergrossi, Jr., Maine

Thank you also to the following persons who have made outright donations of various sums of money:

Roy Keller, deceased
Larry Bliss, Maine
David Smith, Connecticut
Roger White, Ohio

The support of these friends has helped me realize the beginnings of a vision I have for my life. I am very grateful for their faith in me.

CPR office hours

The office schedule for the Community Pride Reporter is set based on the fact that while this is a full time endeavor, there are times when no one will be available to answer your telephone calls or greet you at the door should you drop by to visit.

Times when someone will be available are Tuesdays, 1-6 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 12-5 p.m. The office will be closed on Mondays.

This is not to say that someone will not be there at other times. The answering machine is always on, and messages will be returned promptly.

In addition, the CPR office will be closed from Friday, August 6th through Friday, August 13th. Messages will be checked, and return calls made as soon as possible.
On July 9th, I took the bus to Bangor to meet with a potential distributor for CPR, and to stop in at The Rage to meet the new owner. On the 10th, I again boarded the bus heading to Presque Isle. I was awed by the beauty of our state. The sun appeared to be resting at the summit of Kathadin. As the bus rolled past exit 56, Benedicta, I wondered if readers’ reaction would be to that, "Benedicta?"

Seventeen years ago I lived in "the County", as Aroostook is fondly referred to, in a little town called Mapleton, 7 miles beyond Presque Isle. I found it difficult to believe the emotions I felt and the memories that came flooding back; both good and bad, the heartbreak and joy of my first lesbian experience (I wonder if she’s still married?).

I recalled the interstate being one lane in each direction without a median strip. It’s now two lanes with a strip of thickly grown trees. Breaks in the trees confirmed my suspicions -- there is no traffic on the other side. The bus was the only vehicle north-bound as far as the eye could see. I wondered what it would be like to move back....

Perhaps I wanted to get back to a peaceful, simpler life, leave the worries behind, forget the problems facing me and my lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered brothers and sisters.

Wrong! The actions of Carolyn Cosby and her Concerned Families of Maine organization stand as a vivid testament to the problems facing all gay people in Maine, from Madawaska to Berwick, and from Lubec to Rangeley.

There is a battle to be fought. A peaceful, simpler life is a dream for the future when our rights are secured. Right now, we have received a loud wake-up call.

As you will read in the following pages, MLGPA, MCLU, and GLAD have taken legal action to challenge the hidden intent of the wording in the outrageous referendum question Cosby and her homophobic allies hope to put before the people of this state in November of 1994.

As one writer stated, "The war is on." We all know it is going to be a long and costly series of battles. The financial cost will be staggering, as will the emotional energy needed to win.

And win we must! And win we shall! It is time, right now, for us to come together as never before, in a show of solidarity that will understandably push the envelope for all of us.

It’s no secret that our diversity causes dissension among us. I was not in Portland during EPP, but when I returned, what’s the first thing I heard about? One group being upset by another groups’ conservative manner, dress, and behavior, and feeling excluded from the process.

We cannot afford to exclude even one of us from this upcoming battle. Our diversity has to become our strength. Our highest calling, I submit, is to honor each other, not pass judgement on one another or the ways in which we protest or do our political action.

I know that it is not going to be easy. It calls for the more conservative organizations to be supportive of the more liberal to radically labelled organizations. It also calls for those liberal to radically labelled organizations to be supportive of those they see as more conservative.

"Divide and conquer" are not just words printed on a page. It is a well-thought out philosophy of war. Don’t think for a minute that Cosby and her crowd haven’t thought about it.

I’d like to give them something else to think about. You may circulate this petition among the ignorant, fearful, right-winged church goers in secret, but I tell you that as soon as I can obtain copies of signed petitions, I will make as many names public as I can through this paper.

I’ve heard it said that we (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people), are our own worst enemies. NOT! We are talking about our lives here. I believe in us! I believe we can believe in each other!

---

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Since 1980, **NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD** has served the lesbian-gay-bisexual community of northern Maine and neighbouring New Brunswick with a variety of educational and social activities. NLN has a lending library, operates the Gay-Lebian Phoneline, and publishes a monthly newsletter. We host the Maine Symposium and other special events. Our current fundraising goal is to establish Maine’s first lesbian-gay-bi community center; we appreciate all donations, which are fully tax-deductible.

**NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD**

POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990 USA

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**THE RAGE MAINE**

**HOTTEST GAY DANCE CLUB**

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123 Franklin Street • Bangor, ME

947-1213
The AIDS Project names new Executive Director

Deborah G. Shields to assume responsibilities of Maine's largest AIDS service organization

Deborah Shields' experience in the AIDS epidemic to direct The AIDS Project as we work to meet growing needs for client services and prevention education.

Shields comes to Portland from Boston, where she was Clinical Supervisor from 1989-91 for the AIDS Law Clinic at Harvard Law School, one of the first legal agencies of its kind in the country. While there, she supervised volunteer attorneys and law students who provided legal services to people living with HIV.

She also carried her own caseload, advising clients on legal matters relating to discrimination, insurance, bankruptcy, estate planning and family law.

Shields has had a career as a legal advocate, community educator and non-profit consultant. From 1987-89, she was a staff attorney at the Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services.

Most recently, she was Referral Service Director at the National Lawyer's Guild in Boston, securing legal services for low-income clients.

In addition, she supervised the restructuring of Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, a progressive, non-profit organization which organizes "OutWrite," the annual National Gay & Lesbian Writers Conference. (This group also publishes Gay Community News, a Boston newspaper.)

She has been associated with several Boston AIDS organizations, including AIDS Action Committee and the Minority AIDS Council. She played an active role on the Prisoners With AIDS Task Force, served on clean needle bill policy committees and helped organize the first women and AIDS conference in Boston in 1990.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan, Shields took her law degree at Northeastern University.

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A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan, Shields took her law degree at Northeastern University.

Over 100 people applied for this leading position in the AIDS community in Maine," said Mr. LaPlante. "Marjorie Love leaves The AIDS Project in excellent financial condition, with a strong and dedicated staff, says LaPlante, adding "We are very fortunate to have someone with

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance welcomes The Community Pride Reporter!

Best wishes for a long and successful career reporting the activities and accomplishments of Maine's lesbian and gay community.

The ML/GPA works to ensure equal treatment for gay men and lesbians throughout Maine. For information about membership, call 780-5656 today!
"Maine voters have a right to know what they're signing," says MLGPA President Aboud as Cosby hides anti-gay agenda.

Portland, MAINE - Paula Aboud, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, and Robin Lambert, area businessman and former Republican candidate for State Senate, have been named plaintiffs in a suit filed today (July 8, 1993) by the Maine Civil Liberties Union and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, according to the latest press release. The suit challenges the confusing and misleading language of the anti-homosexual petition for a state referendum that was certified by Secretary of State Bill Diamond last week. (See page 1)

This initiative seeks to prohibit any protection from discrimination for gays, lesbians and bisexuals under the Maine Human Rights Act, and would also repeal any other state or local anti-discrimination measures in place.

It was submitted by Carolyn Cosby and her group, Concerned Maine Families, who hope to get it on the November 1994 ballot.

"We are not trying to block Ms. Cosby from circulating her petition," says Aboud. "We only want to make sure that people know what it means," she added.

"Cosby wants to enact official discrimination against gay people, so that is what it should say. Maine voters have a right to know what they're signing," explained Aboud.

"Most of us in Maine have heard her explain this petition in the press and on TV. She has clearly said that gays and lesbians should not be protected from discrimination."

"Ms. Cosby has even written a letter to me in which she states that the purpose of this petition is to bring the issue of sexual orientation before the people of Maine," continues Aboud. "But this petition doesn't use the word 'discrimination' -- it doesn't even mention gays and lesbians! In fact, I challenge anyone to tell me what it does mean. If she wants the people of Maine to discriminate against gays and lesbians, let her say so openly," concluded the MLGPA President.

NH Friends of the Quilt committee work toward Sept. 24th-25th display

The New Hampshire Friends of the Quilt Committee is working to bring 700 panels of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to Manchester, NH. Committee members are sponsoring a giant Flea Market at the Manchester Memorial High School on Saturday, August 7th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Rain date is August 8th).

Food, entertainment, with live bands, along with a live radio broadcast are all part of this giant event. There will be vendors from all over the area selling their wares. The admission is just $1.00.

This is just one of several fund raising events scheduled to raise the anticipated $24,000 it will take to bring the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt to the New Hampshire College Fieldhouse on September 24th and 25th.

A successful flea market is an important step financially to get this monumental symbol of a global epidemic to the citizens of New Hampshire. The committee's goal is to raise AIDS awareness throughout the schools in particular. This is a tremendous need in the state.

Funds are also being raised to provide for AIDS support agencies who provide direct support to persons living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information about this project, please call (603) 595-9158. We all need to remember.
OUT of my mind

By Ken Constant

On Election Day, November of 1994, the voters in Maine may be asked to make it illegal to grant any rights to homosexuals in any state, county, city, or town legislation.

This is the same law which was passed in Colorado last November. The same group behind this hideous, hateful law will also have it on the ballot in several other states.

Since November, there has been a dramatic increase in violent hate crimes in Colorado. It will also happen here.

They operate under the guise that it is to protect their innocent children. It is their belief that the gay and lesbian community actively recruits from the straight teens and pre-teens. These people actually believe that we have some kind of powers that can make them desire having sex with us.

Laugh if you want, but they are preaching this garbage, and people (potential voters) are listening and wondering if it's true. Just who are these people, these self-proclaimed saviors of the community?

Here in Portland, Carolyn Cosby is the puppet whose strings are being pulled by the group believed to have the backing, both spiritually and financially, of Pat Robertson. Her duty, as she sees it, is to spread fear and misunderstanding throughout the state.

She speaks the rhetoric, word for word, of the national hate-mongers. One has to wonder whether she knows this, or does she only know and repeat what those outside the state tell her.

She and her backers spread the word of the "Homosexual Agenda." They tell anyone who will listen, that we don't just want state's rights, but intend to "legitimize" our decadent lifestyles in a national forum.

What she isn't telling anyone is her (and their) hidden agenda.

Their intent is nothing short of a religion controlled government. They want to change the laws to make their religious beliefs and morals the only acceptable beliefs under the law; not Jewish, Buddhist, or other non-Christian traditions.

They won't stop with Homosexual Rights. Their hate and self-righteousness will be imposed on anyone who does not worship their god and have their social values.

So, the questions are, what are we doing about it? What can we do? First of all, think big. They have almost unlimited financial resources. To buy expensive television ad time, they simply get money from the tax-exempt church coffers. They also have the conservative media, especially Portland's channel 6, in their corner.

While the gay and lesbian community puts considerable effort into funding and promoting Equal Protection for Lewiston, you can bet your pink dollars they are not in the least concerned with local ordinances. Sure, they'll throw some money into local advertising and stage some anti-homosexual rallies, but they are only using the Lewiston fight as a smoke-screen.

We will spend considerable time and money in the fight over Lewiston, while they will be already planning, and funding, a state wide referendum; a referendum that will overturn not only Lewiston, but Portland's ordinance as well.

They are also quietly stacking school committees and town/city councils with their puppets who will see to it that once the new state laws are in place, gays and lesbians will be summarily dismissed from jobs in schools and government, and evicted from or denied housing.

A paranoid shout in the dark? Think again. It can happen, and if given the chance, they'll make it happen.

The time to do something about it is now. We must organize and formulate a plan of action to defeat a state-wide vote. It may even be to our advantage to have an actual Equal Protection bill of our own on the ballot.

Forget waiting for the governor and state legislature. Let's bring it to the people and let them decide. Is Maine going to be "the way life should be," or "the way they say it will be." Is this a state of friendship, love and good will, or will it be a state of hate, fear and bashing.

Let's organize now. Call me at 773-3042 if you care and want to assure equal rights for everyone in this state--not just special rights for the righteous.
MLGPA plans for 11/93-94 referenda and elections

By: Alan Stearns
The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Board of Directors is holding marathon retreats through July and August in an effort to build political alliance board of directors.

These retreats are also to help us gear up for the referendum in Lewiston, signature gathering by Carolyn Cosby, the upcoming gubernatorial race, and a wide range of other priorities, goals, and dreams.

Even before the retreat process finishes, MLGPA is working to educate its membership with a "Fight the Right” workshop on August 7th, run by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. See the calendar.

For more information on membership, fundraising, nominations, or the NGLTF workshop, call Paula Aboud at 445-2863 or write: MLGPA, P.O. Box 232, Hallowell, ME 04347.

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Chew on this. . .

By Rose Mary Denman
Late summer is a time of plenty, at least as far as vegetables and fruit are concerned. On Saturday mornings, one can go to any number of farmer's markets and buy fresh produce and flowers from any number of vendors.

If you haven't tried this kind of shopping for fresh food, please do. You won't be disappointed, and who knows... you might even meet someone special as you stroll among the broccoli, carrots and tomatoes!

Summer is also the time when people think of cooking outdoors.

When we think of grilling over charcoal, many of us may start the list with hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. But how about considering a healthier alternative?

If having a meatless menu sounds like going too far with a good thing, consider turkey burgers or dogs. The turkey dogs come packaged just the way beef hot dogs do, and ground turkey is sold in the meat case at your local supermarkets.

Five years ago, as I was making the transition to vegetarianism, I used ground turkey for everything: hamburgers, meatballs, chili, meatloaf, etc. It's more bland than ground beef, so you might want to spice it up with chopped onions, worcestershire sauce, parsley or some other favorites.

Ground turkey has much less fat than ground beef, so spray the pan with Pam if you're making a loaf.

If you want to be adventurous, try making one of the several burger ideas presented in this month's issue of Vegetarian Times. There are tofu burgers, Cafe Fiora's Vegetable-nut Burgers with fennel coulis, potato-mushroom burgers, chickpea burgers, lentil-rice burgers and Chef Kerry Sear's vegetable burgers.

They all sounded so good that I've decided to try them during the next couple of months to see which I want to add to my permanent collection.

OK, so the grill is ready, your burgers are constructed, and now you want to do something spiffy with vegetables. Here are a couple of ideas that might help you consider leaving off the meat altogether the next time.

Marinted Kabobs
Cut some of your favorite vegetables into two to three inch cubes or chunks. Zucchini, yellow summer squash, whole mushrooms, firm tomato quarters, small peeled onions are tasty.

Marinate vegetables (and cubes of extra firm tofu, if you like) in one of the following mixtures:

---Seven Seas Light Red Wine Vinegar and oil low calorie dressing. Use enough to coat everything. Let sit in refrigerator several hours. Overnight is even better. Or try:

---1/2 cup Tamari (soy sauce)
2 tsp. water
1 tsp. chopped garlic
2 tbs. chopped ginger (or a sprinkling from your spice jar)
2 tbs. honey
Marinate several hours or overnight.

Both these provide good tasting results. You can dream up your own combination of flavors as well.

Pierce the marinated vegetables with a skewer and grill. It should take only ten minutes if the grill is hot. Simply turn the skewers a few times.

Want to dazzle guests with a dessert that requires no cooking, is easy to make and tastes great? Try this recipe from Smart Cookies cookbook:

Heart's Delight Tahini Strawberry Roll-ups

1/4 cup tahini (a sesame seed butter)
1/4 cup unsweetened strawberry preserves (I like apricot, too)
2 tbs. lecithin granules (buy at the health food store)
2 tbs. wheat germ
2 tbs. unsweetened coconut
1/4 cup sunflower seeds
2 tbs. sesame seeds, lightly toasted (Put in a dry skillet over medium heat. Stir until golden)

Mix tahini and preserves. Mix in lecithin, wheat germ, coconut and sunflower seeds. The batter should be stiff. Pinch of pieces the size of a hazelnut and roll into balls. Roll each ball in toasted sesame seeds. Yields 2 dozen. Approximately 35 calories each.
Gay games IV
By Tom Hagerty

The Gay Games are held every four years to give lesbians and gay men the opportunity to participate in or watch athletic events in a gay-positive environment.

The fourth Gay Games, called Unity '94, will be held in New York City, June 18th through the 25th. They have been scheduled to coincide with the festivities in observance of the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Stonewall is viewed as the beginning of today's lesbian/gay Civil Rights Movement.

All levels of athletes are encouraged to compete in one or two of the 31 sporting events (see sidebar, this page). If athletes are playing in a team sport, they will be expected to register with their teams. If they are participating in individual sports, athletes will register according to age groups.

The organizers of Gay Games IV are also expecting 500,000 spectators to be in New York City that week. Along with the athletics, there will be a cultural festival with concerts, art exhibits, film festivals, and multi-media presentations.

Local athletes and others interested in the Gay Games have formed Team Maine, and informal organization with three objectives:

--- to organize athletes who want to march under a "Maine" banner in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Gay Games.
--- to act as a clearing-house of information about the Gay Games.
--- to act as a network for lesbian/gay athletes in Maine.

Team Maine does not intend to organize fund-raising events, transportation, or housing for participants from Maine to use to go to New York in 1994.

We do meet monthly in order to exchange information about the Games and other athletic events of interest to lesbian/gay athletes from Maine.

Team Maine will be offering information at local lesbian/gay places of interest, and advertising monthly meetings through the gay press and the Gay and Lesbian Information Line, 871-0432 (listed in Directory Assistance).

Inquiries can also be directed to Gay Games c/o Time Out, P.O. Box 11502, Portland, ME 04104. Additionally, I will be writing a regular column in this paper to keep information updated, and to let you know how Team Maine is progressing.

Team Maine Bulletin
By Tom Hagerty

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 18th at 6:45 p.m. in Cape Elizabeth. Call 871-0432 for more information.

Late registrants will be charged an additional fee, and may not find space in their sport. Regular and late registration rates have not been set.

As of August '93, officials of Gay Games IV are expecting 15,000 athletes.

CPR is now available statewide

You can now purchase your copy of Community Pride Reporter in several locations throughout the state of Maine, and at one location in New Hampshire.

Bookland has agreed to sell CPR in its' eighteen locations, including Stroudwater in New Hampshire.

Mr. Paperback, headquartered in Bangor, has also agreed to sell CPR in its' twenty-one locations in the state, which are located north, east, and west of Bath.

In addition, CPR is available at the Metro, Lewiston, The Rage, Bangor, and Pro Libris, Bangor.


Complimentary copies are at the YWCA, The AIDS Project, and the Portland Public Library for those with limited income.

Other locations will be announced as they are secured.

Time Out ME/NH
By: Michael Rosetti

One of the best ocean-side hikes in the mid-Coast Maine area is on the Popham Peninsula near Bath. Morse Mountain, actually just a 1,000+/- foot hill, is a magnificent look-out over Popham Beach, islands, and marshes. It's a natural environmental school for Bates College, with living quarters and roads.

Hikers are welcome and so are their leashed dogs. The main road leads through wetlands to Morse Mountain, then down to the beach area. The hike can be done in about an hour and thirty minutes, but it's too nice to breeze through without allowing time for some serious relaxing.

To get to Popham Peninsula, take route 209 south out of Bath to Phippsburg. About 9 miles ahead, on the left, there is a turn-off for Popham Beach State Park and Fort Popham.

Don't take it. Continue on for 2 miles where the paved entrance to Morse Mountain Reserve will appear on the left, in a low area between two slight rises in the road. You can park on the shoulder.

Walk up the paved section about 300 feet and take the unpaved dirt road on the right. This leads through a marsh. After your first branch off, about a mile and half from the main road, you will come to the summit. If you back track to the branch off, it will lead you to the beach area. Be sure to bring something to drink, and remember to pack out whatever litter you bring in.

For a free copy of the August Time Out newsletter and information on Time Out booklets for enjoying the outdoors, send a SASE to Time Out, ME/NH Outdoors, P.O. Box 11502, Portland, Maine 04104.

Readers are encouraged to support those businesses & services who advertise with CPR
Lessons from the epidemic

By: David Smith, Ed.D.

People often talk about being in the second decade of "the" epidemic, and rattle on about the challenges and obstacles facing us in attempting the monumental tasks of preventing HIV infection and caring for those with HIV infection.

But what really is an epidemic? How does it influence culture and subcultures? Do we learn from this tragedy? Is there any understanding to be derived from pausing to take a look at what this epidemic is teaching us? I think so.

An epidemic, by its very nature, has the power to change the very fabric of society - and that is precisely what it is doing to us. Early on in the epidemic, the author Jason Serinus stated that "those who have AIDS have chosen that path in this lifetime" because society needs them.

I had a hard time hearing him say this to a group of PWA's in a wellness group that I facilitated. It was August, 1987 and my lover had died the previous June of AIDS. "He chose this," I thought?

I had been working in the epidemic since 1983, and this troubling message of Jason's was the first time I thought about the lessons we were (might be) learning from the epidemic.

For many Americans, AIDS generated powerful emotions, including fear, anger, grief, and avoidance. There was an urgency felt by all in how to deal with an illness that could kill, but for which there was no known cure, and sparse treatment options.

For some, this urgency drove them to immediately join the forces of women and men who formed AIDS service organizations, became buddies, provided medical care to people with AIDS, and searched for treatments and, hopefully, a cure.

Yet for others, urgency resulted in avoidance, discrimination, and blaming. Same epidemic, different responses.

But, through all of this, many of us in the lesbian and gay male community worked, worked and worked some more.

There was little time for philosophy, esoteric observations and a more complete understanding of the impact of this epidemic. However, if we now take the time to look differently at what has happened, we may gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which society is being changed by AIDS.

Think of the epidemic, if you will, as a large mirror that reflects our core values and beliefs, patterns of behaviors and interactions with each other.

To begin with, we realized that all people were not treated equally in America. That the notions of fairness and equality were myths, not reality. Some inequality was blatant, some subtle. Often what we observed contradicted what we had learned about who we were as a people. In addition, the epidemic followed closely the cultural revolution of the sixties, the women's movement and gay rights movements of the seventies.

Change was abundant and general fear of change, not fear of AIDS, led to a classic counter revolutionary period - the Reagan Years.

What a time to learn about a disease that appeared to be affecting gay men and addicts!

Those years of silence from the White House caused pain, anger, and grief for many of us. Yet, through all these hard times, we were learning. Perhaps there is a silver lining to the AIDS crisis.

I believe that we, as a people, learned a lot about who we are from this crisis. We learned about sexuality and sexual orientation, present yet invisible, part of most people's lives, yet rarely spoken about.

Racism and sexism became even more clear to us. No longer accepted as part of society's fabric, but as an unhealthy growth needing to be removed.

Homophobia reared its ugly head, as it had always done, but so many of us stood up and said, "No more" this time.

We really began to see how the medical care system worked, or didn't work, in America. We learned about our most common disease - addiction - and began the process of seeing it as a disease, not a moral issue. Even more esoteric subjects such as the role of science and scientists acceptable research methods, and implicit promises about our ability to conquer disease began to be thought about and discussed during this epidemic.

Working with and living with people with HIV infection and AIDS opened many eyes to the realities of death and dying. Learning to grieve the losses of the epidemic in terms of dying friends, safer sex, and sexual freedoms challenged us daily, as individuals and as a community of lesbians and gay men.

We were often conflicted by the needs of AIDS service organizations and lesbian and gay cultural and civil rights groups. There was only so much volunteer time and money.

We began to see that we are spiritual by the nature of being human. We observed the strength and serenity of the long time survivors of this illness. They teach us much.

We learned about taking responsibility for ourselves. We saw how often this culture would rather "blame the victim."

The larger American culture learned many of these things, and so did the lesbian and gay male culture in America. While we were always a direct threat to the patriarchy, many of us had never heard that word.

Understanding the patriarchy - our supra culture - explained many of the conflicted observations that were part of our reality living in this epidemic.

The lack of a quick and responsible reaction to the epidemic by government and political entities made us question the role of government in America?

In the next several issues, I will address each of these learnings of the epidemic in greater detail. In an attempt to understand who we are, we will hold the epidemic as a mirror, and take a long, hard and critical look at the reflection.

This information, therefore, can be good news, because it will allow us to see clearly who we are as a people. It points us in the direction of change. It transforms our pain into an opportunity.

World travel expo in Boston

By: Paul T. Bernard

On August 19th, the Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo will be in Boston at the Westin Copley Place from 5:30-8:00 PM.

Presently there are over 25 exhibitors ranging from airlines to tour operators to cruise lines with programs and products especially for gays and lesbians.

The cost is $5 per person, payable at the door. There will be refreshments and door prizes. Anyone interested in attending can call me, (207) 885-5060 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and we can try to set up a car pool.

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142 High Street Suite 634 1/2 Portland 353-5850 (by appointment only)

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Businesses on Review: 2 new shops in Portland and 1 new owner in Bangor

Sven Davission of Ananael • Ken Constant of OUTPost • Randy Deabay of The Rage - newest entrepreneurs

By: Luke Balboni
(Ananael & OUT Post)
& Winnie Weir
(The Rage)

On July 21st, during a tremendous downpour, I interviewed Sven Davission, the owner and manager of Ananael (pronounced like "Rafael"), a store located at 521 Congress Street in Portland.

The name "Ananael" means, "secret wisdom" from Enochian language, which is an alchemical or angelic tongue from the 16th century Elizabethan era.

The store is beautiful. The space was formerly occupied by Carter Bros. Jewelers.

Carter Bros. lease began in 1854, and they were the oldest jewelry store in Portland, going out of business about a year ago. The structure was built in 1842 by the Maine Charitable Mechanics Association, a tradesmen's organization.

The building, which is Mechanics Hall, functioned briefly as the Portland City Hall, and was one of the few buildings to survive the fire of 1867 because, as Sven muses, "the god of fire is up on the building in the keystone."

There are now three gay-oriented gift-novelty-card-book stores in Portland. Sven states that one of the things that separates his store from Drop Me A Line and OUT Post is that he carries a wider range of books, that his interest is primarily in books and not the gift line, and that the items in which these three stores do crossover are different because they all have different tastes.

Sven claims that there have been cases when "Queer in America" by Michelangelo Signorelli, and "Paradox and Perversity in Gay Life: Cultures of Desire," books with cover photos of men embracing, were displayed in the window.

There was a male couple who would walk by every day at lunch time and shout such obscenities. They've stopped. (Maybe God "outed" them). The store's central location may also contribute to such outrages, but the most significant contributing factor is bigotry and ignorance.

The mere presence of these three stores (and others in Maine) helps to overcome these obstacles. Despite these incidents, Sven maintains that the reception of Ananael has been very positive.

A couple of days later, on July 23rd, I spoke to Ken Constant, the owner and manager of OUT Post, located at 10 Exchange Street in the Old Port.

The OUT Post opened on May 28th of this year. When asked to distinguish his store from the other two, Ken states that he thinks his store is "more openly lesbian and gay" because the name is "out there, the image is totally out there" and, he points out that his location in the Old Port is the last place one would expect such a store.

"When people walk down Exchange Street" says Ken, "and see the inverted triangle and the word "OUT", they must wonder, 'can this possibly be a gay store?' and come down the stairs both happy and incredulous to see that it is."

Ken says that he gets a lot of tourists as customers and that a portion of his business is heterosexual, but that he doesn't have a lot of merchandise for that community except perhaps certain greeting cards that are really for anybody.

Sven, at Ananael, also has a clientele that crosses the sexual spectrum, and he finds that many of the customers who are interested in his line of occult merchandise tend to be bisexual pagan women.

Greeting cards are Ken's most popular item, along with a variety of statement T-shirts hanging along the full length of a trendy brick wall which catches your eye as you enter the shop.

Regarding the competition between the three stores, Ken thinks that they should try to fill in gaps and carry different lines of similar merchandise rather than the same things, in order to provide more selection for the community.

I asked both Sven and Ken how they were affected by self-censorship in terms of what they were willing to display in their respective windows. Interestingly enough, both men stated that their leases referred to this subject.

In Sven's case, since his building is an historic landmark, his "window displays must conform to a certain level of propriety."

Anything visible from the street is subject to question by the landlord, but what it means in practical terms is that a video expo or neon sign would be inappropriate. To date, Sven has received no complaints.

Sven declares that the only
Ken also said Sister Creations in Freeport has been helpful. In terms of community support, Ken makes a distinction. He has received support from neighborhood businesses, but he states that he expected more support from the gay population of Portland and the surrounding area.

Sixty to seventy percent of his business is tourist, and Ken would hope that the members of this area's gay population think of buying a greeting card, they would choose to purchase it at one of the gay-owned stores, and not simply at a convenient place.

Both men were asked if Portland's ordinance had any effect on their decision to open a business here in Portland. Ken claims that the ordinance had no effect on his decision to open a business here. Sven says he was affected by it.

Expanding on the question of what prompted him to open a business here in Portland, Sven elaborated that he'd been running an occult mail order business for about four and a half years, and that he had introduced a gay and lesbian section to his catalog. The mail order business didn't satisfy Sven's desire to be of the front lines of the gay rights struggle, and neither did the prospect of locating a store in a gay ghetto like the Castro in San Francisco or Back Bay in Boston. Upon completion of college, friends advised him that Portland would be a good place to open a business. Sven also wanted out of the liberal utopia that Hampshire College had afforded him, and he recalled his childhood in Bar Harbor, where just walking around could arouse threats. So, Portland's mixture of urban and rural was just the right combination.

Ken chose the Old Port because he lives nearby and got a good deal for the excellent location he has. In terms of how he sees his store in the future, he wants to add more gift items and commitment ceremony gifts.

When asked to add whatever information he'd like to the interview, Ken offered that another distinguishing factor between his store and the other two is that he very deliberately stocks his store to be balanced between gay and lesbian. He is not saying that the other stores don't do this, he is merely stating his own philosophy.

Ken supports the idea of a gay business association as do the owners of Drop Me A Line, not only to promote business, but to act as an organization to promote all gay related events. Ken also added that he makes an effort not to sell products that are duplicates of what the other two stores sell.

Like the other store owners, Ken would like to see his store become a focal point for the community. To that end, he posts all kinds of notices in his store from "for sale" to "roommates."

Ken gets lots of questions about where the gay spots in town are, and he mentions all the gay or gay-friendly bars and restaurants. While he has no plans for expansion, Ken will be changing the inventory regularly, as he envisions a Gay-Mart one day!

I asked Sven what plans he had for Ananael. He said he would like to open his store up to become a "nexus for queer expression." He looks forward to the opening of the Maine College of Art across the street from Ananael.

He plans to use some of his space as alternative gallery space. He has theme shows in mind and video presentations. Perhaps performance art as well.

Sven wants to help create a "scene" drawing from the "scenes" underway now throughout the country in which many of his college friends are involved, as a means to supplement Portland's already vibrant avant-garde art community. Specifically, he wants to show the work of new artists and people whose art is not getting exhibited.

When asked to add whatever he wished to this interview, Sven said that one of the most important points he wants to convey to the public is that he is able to obtain hard-to-find and alternative books.

His appeal is especially directed to people who have had a difficult time at other bookstores where they've tried to order obscure materials. He has a vast personal knowledge of such books, and is able to find others because of his extensive mail order background. He welcomes people to use him as a resource.

Effective August 1st, all hardcover books will be sold at 10% off the list price at all times. This will assist in making these books somewhat more accessible.
In remembrance of my friend

By: Rose Mary Denman
(The following tribute was read at a Memorial Service which had been planned as a birthday party for Roy.)

Roy Keller died of AIDS tonight. He was my friend. It's nearly 11pm and I've just returned from touching Roy, kissing his forehead, looking at him for the last time.

His room looked different than when I was there earlier this afternoon. Then there were family and friends gathered around his bed, a nurse attempting to make him comfortable, the afternoon sun flowing in the windows while two fans worked to bring cool air to each of us.

And Roy, restless and struggling to breathe, in spite of the oxygen machine. Tonight his room was not lit by lamps, but by the soft glow of candles. The sounds of fans and oxygen machine had been quieted, and although there were gentle conversations, I was also aware of the soft silence, and Roy's freshly bathed body, lovingly combed hair, and the coolness of his skin.

It has been so long since his diagnosis, and then the initial signs of his disease which slowly, but steadily and progressively took him, that I hardly remember what he looked like when we first met seven years ago.

I met Roy at the Center for New Age Studies, when I was relatively new to Portland and he was working part-time in the Center's bookstore. He too was new to Portland, recently having moved here from San Francisco.

I was busy trying to find an alternative spirituality to Christianity, and Roy was keen to tell me about his studies with Louise Hay.

As the weeks and months passed, we easily went from being acquaintances to friends, and we began to see one another for lunch and conversations every week or so, and had long talks on the telephone almost every day.

There were no secrets between us; we shared everything. It's funny, but as I sit here in front of the word processor, I am remembering how Roy would talk often about thinking he really should find something more substantial to do than answer phones at the Center and wait tables for a living.

If you looked at what Roy did with the first forty-two years of his life before being diagnosed-HIV positive, I guess it would look like he hadn't done much at all. But it wasn't what Roy did with his life that seems important, but who he was.

Roy was one of the most authentic human beings any of us could ever hope to meet. He was a real friend, one who would give you love and encouragement when you needed it most, but who was also willing to risk giving you a kick in the pants with reality if it seemed to him that that was what would do the most good.

He was also willing to hear the truth about himself, a rare gift these days! And Roy knew how to love his friends in a way that set them free. I remember a phone conversation we had just before the holidays about five years ago. Roy asked me what I wanted for Christmas. Before I had much time to think about how much I was risking, I said: "a brother."

"Oh, that's easy. I have three sisters. I'm really good at being a brother." From then on, whenever Roy and I exchanged cards, I would send him one for "brother", and he would send me one for "sister". I think from then on, we really did feel like brother and sister to one another, and for that I am deeply grateful.

Three years ago, Roy went off to Florida for a year to study massage therapy. He felt he had finally found a vehicle through which he could make a living, while at the same time giving something good back to the world.

It was while in Florida he tested positive. When he called to tell me, we both cried, and I wanted nothing more at the time than to hug him and somehow make it all go away.

After finishing school, Roy came back to Maine, and although he didn't look different, the virus was already eating away at his body. Within months he became symptomatic. He never had time to get his massage practice off the ground. He just didn't have enough energy to do it.

And so the battle began. First to continue to work, at least part time. Then the goal was simply to be able to stay as independent as possible.

At first, Roy asked me to go to the doctor's office with him. I think he was afraid to hear bad news alone. The one time he decided to go alone, he called me from the doctor's office to ask if he could come to see me.

I heard the tightness in his throat and knew the news wasn't good. When he came in the door, he held me tight and cried. He had KS. As suddenly as the tears had started, they stopped.

"Let's go out and celebrate." I'm going on disability. I want to take you out to dinner. "Then I want to go to the movies. Let's go see that new movie with Julia Roberts."

I insisted I could cook for us in my kitchen. Roy insisted he wanted to go out to dinner, his treat. I agreed, but suggested we see another movie.

"I want to see that movie." "No Roy, let's see something else."

The banting went back and forth for a couple of more rounds. "Why" asked Roy, "don't you want to see that movie?" "Because" I said, "it's called Dying Young."

We both cried again. Then we went out to dinner.

Roy may never have quite figured out how to "do life", but he was brilliant when it came to dying. He became active in AIDS education, and for as long as his energy allowed, he accepted any invitation to speak on the issue.

It's been over a year since he spoke to my psychology class, yet ever since that night I have frequently had students come up to me to ask how he was doing. They saw his authenticity, and they responded to it.

He taught them well. He taught me that life is precious and that it doesn't matter how glowing our resume is if we can't be honest with ourselves and others.

He taught me that laughter is far more healing than gloom and doom, and that real tears shed from a willingness to be vulnerable are rare and beautiful. Somehow it seems more fitting that we gather in a back yard over pot luck and shared stories about Roy than sit stiffly in some funeral parlor or church...

This party's for you, Roy. To thank you for being instead of doing. To celebrate who you were, and still are, for us. And to wish you well on the next leg of your journey.

In remembrance of my friend
Money talk
By: Thomas Sumner of Sumner Bookkeeping
and Douglas Dunton of The Alan Company

This month we write about some services that are available to the Lesbian/Gay community that are provided by Lesbian/Gay businesses.

One thing that we are all concerned about is monthly expenses, including our telephone bill. We are constantly being told by New England Telephone to "reach out and touch someone."

When we do that, it usually costs money, and more each time it seems, depending on who we touch!

Since de-regulation of long distance services in the 1980's there has been a proliferation of companies competing for our long distance dollar. The three bid providers that spring to mind are ATT, Sprint, and MCI.

There are also a variety of smaller companies that provide comparable services and rates. The two long distance companies that have openly supported Gay/Lesbian causes are Working Assets and the gay owned Community Spirit Long Distance.

Information about Working Assets can be obtained by calling 1-800-788-8588. This company supports our causes, but is not Gay/ Lesbian owned.

Community Spirit Long Distance is owned by our community and offers the same service as its competitors at somewhat reduced rates. It also will donate 2% of your charges to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual or HIV organization of your choice. You are not restricted to any "approved" list; you make the choice. (The breakdown of rates appears in the sidebar.)

To sign up, call 1-800-487-6877 (It's Ours). Community Spirit will pay up to $5 to switch your service. They will provide a free calling card, and will send a coupon good for $5 off the initial purchase of a movie from Critic's Choice Video. Ask about the Video catalog when you call!

Community Spirit also has a program for businesses called Business Advantage. The charge is 17.9 cents per minute, anywhere in the US, any time of day. They offer volume discounts, 800 service, and they bill in 6 second increments.

This means if you talk for 10 minutes and 15 seconds, you would be billed $1.85 vs. $1.97 for an ATT call based on a per minute rate. This adds up over time!

The benefits of using Community Spirit are lower rates at certain times, contribution to a cause that you choose, and keeping your hard-earned dollars in the Gay/Lesbian community.

Call Community Spirit and ask for more information. Do the same with Working Assets and then compare the two. Include ATT, MCI, and Sprint if you like. By doing the comparing yourself, you can make the final decision as to who gets your money and your support!

Community Spirit Rate Breakdown
8am - 5pm rate max: 32.0 cents/minute min: 19 cents/minute distance based
5pm - 8am rate max: 13.9 cents/minute min: 9.9 cents/minute anywhere
weekend rate max: 13.9 cents/minute min: 9.9 cents/minute anywhere

Remember, it's your money and you make the choice. Send questions or comments to CPR, c/o Money Talk, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, Maine 04101.

Planned Parenthood Services
Portland, MAINE - Planned Parenthood in Portland offers confidential, affordable service to women and men at their 500 Forest Avenue clinic.

Services include: comprehensive reproductive health care, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, annual exams, including testicular, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and birth control information and supplies.

HIV information and education (with testing available in our Sanford clinic) is also available.

All services are strictly confidential. Medicaid is welcomed and fees are based on the ability to pay. Condoms are always free.

Teen walk-in clinics are held on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. For appointments or information, call 874-1100.

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Roy Keller
July, 1942--July 1993

Roy Keller of 363 Danforth Street died of AIDS at home on Monday, July 19th, surrounded by family and friends.

He is remembered for his vitality, perseverance to know the truth about himself and his world, his contagious sense of humor, and especially his strong love for his family and friends.

He did not want for his obituary to say he had died of complications after a long illness, but was insistent it be clear that AIDS was what took him from this world. During these past two years, his life was dedicated to AIDS education...and so his death will be as well.

A memorial gathering to celebrate Roy's life was held at the home of his buddy, Anne Coleman, in North Yarmouth on July 24th.

This was originally planned as a birthday party for Roy. It was in gratitude for his presence in our lives that we came together still. Roy began his life journey on the earth on July 2, 1949. The journey continues ....

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Editors Personal Note: The reporting of Roy's death is particularly poignant for me in that he was one of the first of my friends to make a donation to my endeavor to produce a paper for our community. Roy's death is also the first obituary to be printed in CPR. Unfortunately, his won't be the last.
THE RAGE

During the last week in May of this year, Randy Deabay assumed the responsibilities of ownership of the former Riverfront, a club serving the gay and lesbian community.

The Rage, as this establishment will now be called, is located at 123 Franklin Street in Bangor.

When I entered the stairway leading down to the main floor, my heart sank. "Not another hidden, dark and smoky hideaway" I muttered to myself. And, indeed, it was not.

What I found was a very spacious and welcoming main floor with small tables and chairs tastefully arranged to provide an unobstructed view of the dance floor.

The bar area offered more libationary options than this infrequent goer could ever hope to name, let alone sample. Two smartly dressed bartenders waited on customers with expertise and friendly banter.

The lighting and the ventilation quickly caught my attention. I could see and I could breathe! Commenting on the effective lighting, Randy told me that among many firsts was to install new lighting. Additional new lighting for the dance floor is planned for the future.

Off to the right of the main floor is another spacious room with a pool table, dart board, and a couple of pinball machines. It is well lit and very welcoming for spectators, as well as participants in the games.

I asked Randy to elaborate on how he has gone about making the old Riverfront into the new Rage.

"We have an enlarged dance floor with a brand new sound system. I've developed a color scheme and repainted, and the staff all wear white tuxedo shirts with black bow ties."

"We are going to have a lot more special events." Randy added. "We're open six nights a week for dancing, and we have a social hour on Sunday" he continued.

As we talked, it became apparent that Sunday was going to be a unique day in the life of this club. "I'm trying to create a warm, cozy atmosphere on Sunday so people will come here and hang out, talk, and play the games." It seems to be working.

Randy called one of the bartenders over to talk more about the Sunday morning schedule. She is a student at Bangor Seminary, and along with a husband/wife team who are also students at the Seminary, wants to conduct regular worship services at The Rage.

Their aim is to create a safe, nurturing space for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people to come together for spiritual enrichment and expression.

When I asked if the local churches were doing anything to fill this need, she replied, "No. The issues facing the lesbian, gay and bisexual community are not being addressed by the mainstream churches."

She went on, "The absence of negative comments about lesbian, gay, and bisexual people is no longer enough. There needs to be positive, affirming comments and actions."

As customers continued to filter into The Rage, I asked Randy to fill me in on any other items that would be of interest to the readers of this paper.

Knowing I was visiting from Portland, Randy said, "There is no reason for Portlanders to stay away because I have an arrangement with the Quality Inn-Phenix for discounted rates for overnight stays."

(Editors note: I stayed at the Phenix and found it very charming and convenient, as it is in the middle of downtown Bangor.)

In the future, Randy is looking to provide free rides home or to a hotel/motel within a 10 mile radius via a courtesy van.

In August he will be opening a store on the premises to sell Rage souveniers, T-shirts, beer mugs, hats, key chains, coffee mugs, and munchies.

He also offers meeting space to gay/lesbian/bisexual organizations free of charge. Says Randy, "I want to support my community. I'm always open to suggestions."

The Community Pride Reporter cannot emphasize enough the necessity for our community to support these gay-owned businesses. These hard-working, dedicated, and knowledgeable individuals are a tremendous asset to their respective cities and the communities at large. We here at CPR wish them every success and the brightest of futures.

OUT of town

Price wars--how to take advantage of them

By Paul T. Bernard

In the last two years, there has been much publicity about the price wars that the major airlines have gotten into. Exactly what are price wars? Because of the sluggish economy and increased competition among the airlines, occasionally one of the airlines, usually one suffering from low bookings, decides to lower prices to attract more customers. Typically, all of the other airlines will jump in and match them.

How do they work? Generally, an airline may suddenly cut airfares for the entire route system or for selected routes, such as Florida, California, or the Caribbean.

However, they will allocate only a percentage of the seats on an aircraft at that reduced rate. For example, if an aircraft has 100 seats, they may offer the discounted fare on only 20 of those seats.

Fare wars are usually triggered during slow times for the airlines, typically January, May, and September, not during times of peak travel like holiday periods or during the summer.

However, the airlines have never followed any kind of predictable pattern. Keep in mind that these fare wars require that you purchase your tickets by certain cut-off dates.

Travel agents are usually not given any advance warning. Most often we read about the fares in the newspaper, just like you.

So, how do you take advantage of them? The easiest way is to call a travel agent. If you try calling the airline directly, you will be trying to reach an airline reservationist along with several million other people.

By calling a travel agent, you will get a quicker response, and the agent can tell you what other airlines are offering discounted fares. Call as soon as you hear about discounted fares. Have dates and destinations in mind before you call. Try to be flexible on travel dates; you may need to have alternate times in mind.

Look for the special note on the Gay & Lesbian World Travel Expo to be held in Boston.
Carney creep lacks fairness...

By Luke Balboni

While at the Deering Oaks Family Festival on Sunday, July 25th, I encountered a man circulating a petition.

He approached me and my friends and asked us if we were registered voters. He showed us a statement which read like a piece of legislation.

It said something to the effect that any new civil rights legislation in the state of Maine could only protect homosexuals. The statement indicated that there could be no discrimination based on race, gender, creed, age, and religion.

Noticeably absent was "sexual orientation."

He asked us what we thought the statement meant. I said that it meant it was OK to oppress homosexuals. He seemed surprised that I got it right so quickly.

He said that that's not what it meant and that he and his friends were only trying to get people who agreed with the statement to sign a petition.

I thought of the anti-gay rights law in Colorado. I argued with him and then I lost my temper; as I usually do when dealing with hateful fascists.

I called him an asshole and we moved on.

In retrospect, I wish I'd gotten his name and more information about this insidious attempt to deny a large number of American citizens their basic constitutional rights.

I knew what this creep was up to because I'm informed, but many people would have read the statement he show-ed us, thought that it was perfectly reasonable, and signed the petition without there ever being a mention of gay-rights.

And then this character and the sniveling, sneaky crowd he runs with would say that the people who signed this petition are against gay rights, that they do not endorse "special rights" for any group, especially gay people.

We need to be aware of what those who hate are doing. We need to be aware of the incredible danger of their efforts. The hate they inspire is hideous, and the fact that they do it in the name of the Bible is hypocrisy beyond description.

These are the false prophets Jesus warned about in the Sermon on the Mount. Their self-righteousness is ugly, and they blaspheme the very concept of God. One only has to watch hypocrites like Falwell, Swaggart, Robertson, and Bakker begging for money on TV to turn away in disgust and disbelief that so many people can be misled by these forces of greed and evil.

The Christian right is the greatest threat today to our constitutional form of government. Their efforts violate the constitutional requirement of separation of church and state. Make no mistake about it: these people are fascists!

Just as the Nazis used the democratic processes of government in Germany to gain power, and then end democracy, the Christian right is attempting to use democratic processes here in America in order to deprive a large number of American citizens of their democratic rights while waiting to impose their moral beliefs on all of us.

In reference to the ban on gay-rights legislation in Colorado, the Colorado Supreme Court has spoken and has quite simply said that no one's civil rights will be subject to election. Any fool can see where we'd all be if they were. Instead of submitting the idea of gay rights to referendum, as Governor McKernan suggests, I suggest we submit his salary to referendum. He'd have to apply for welfare.

So, to the hypocrites and fascists of the Christian right we say, NO. It is NOT OK to discriminate against gay people, because before any other fact of our lives is true, the bottom-line truth is that we are American citizens, protected from hateful fools like you by a constitution.

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Auditions set for Maine's Gay Men's Chorus

By Winnie Ware

Bruce Fithian, Music Director for Maine Gay Men's Chorus, has announced audition dates for the 1993-94 choral season.

"Auditions are an extremely supportive and non-threatening experience," says Fithian, adding "They are done only in the presence of the accom­panist and the director." Vocal range, sound quality, and sight reading skills will be reviewed.

Musical ability is not necessary to become involved with this group. Many opportunities exist for those who would like to become a part of this growing choral arts organization. For more information, call Bruce Fithian, (207)-839-4506.

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THE RAGE

Is celebrating GAY PRIDE

August 22 to 29

Aug. 22: EMAN Benefit 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m.
Aug. 23: Gay Movie Night NO COVER & FREE MUNCHIES
Aug. 25: Special Clothing Show FREE MANICURES & PEDICURES

Grand opening of RAGE STORE Intro to RAGE WEAR
Hot dance tunes, Beer Bash & other specials, $2.00 cover

Aug. 27: Grand opening celebration of THE RAGE $3.00 cover • Dance til 2:30 a.m.
Aug. 28: Family Appreciation Night - NO COVER Drink Specials
Aug. 29: Family B.B.Q. 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. $4.00 all you can eat
8 p.m. 1 a.m. Homeless Shelter Benefit
$4.00 cover-Special talents & Hot dancing

123 Franklin Street • Bangor, ME 947-1213
Books on Review: three selections highlighting our literary diversity

High Clouds Soaring, Storms Driving Low: The Letters of Ruth Moore
Sanford Phippen, Editor
Blackberry Books, Nobleboro, 1993
$16.95
Reviewed by: Sven Davisson

What is being lost?

Last year saw the resurrected popularity of Eleanor Roosevelt, albeit in a different context, a "lesbian" one. The past few years have manifested a concurrent interest in unearthing lesbian pulp fiction—examining writers such as Ann Bannon, Claire Morgan and Anonymous.

These historical terrains have proved very fruitful for the burgeoning lesbian history movement, but what is being overlooked? Are there women who are being lost because they were popular rather than prominent or pulp?

Ruth Moore is one writer who is on the verge of just such an extinction. Ironically, this potential loss is on the verge of just such an extinction. These and the 16 pages of photographs furnish a monument and reminder of rich lives that can go unnoticed by all those not invited in.

The book reveals another side of Ruth Moore. Moore maintained that there were only two words she considered "obscene": interview and regional. Her avoidance of the latter term marks her wide popularity.

It was through her outspoken loathing of the first word that she managed to keep careful check on her cherished privacy. For Moore, privacy wasn't a matter of a closet. It was, rather, a means of keeping undisturbed while she and Eleanor pursued those things which were actually important in life, gardening and writing.

High Cloud Soaring does much to open up the private, and professional Ruth Moore. The bulk of the book presents Moore's letters with only minimal commentary by Mr. Phippen. Also included are a collection of 23 remembrances and an essay by her last publisher, Gary Lawless. In addition, the book provides 16 generous photographic pages of Ruth, Eleanor and others.

Several of the photos stand out as testaments to the relationship between these two women. One photo in particular, shows Ruth and Eleanor, dressed in denim, standing before their new house, blueprints in hand.

The photos and text work to present a well rounded image of Ruth Moore and her companion. They both present the professional and the private side-by-side, and often indistinguishable. Her publishers at William Morrow became close friends, and she often helped friends, such as Gordon Bok, become successful in their own right.

It should be noted that Blackberry Books has previously reprinted four of Moore's novels, The Weir, Spoonhandle, Speak to the Winds, A Walk Down Main Street and printed the original collection of poetry, The Tired Apple Tree. Spoonhandle (later made into the film Deep Waters), occupied The New York Times' Best Seller List for several months back in the late forties.

In addition, Blackberry is planning the publication of Eleanor Mayo's The Pleasure Dome for next year. Out of all this, High Cloud Soaring, Storm Driving Low comes forth as an artifact, or collection of several artifacts, to the pre-Stonewall lives we too often forget.

The Other Side
Nan Goldin, Author/Photographer
Edited by David Armstrong
Published by D.A.P., New York, 1993
$39.95
Reviewed by: Luke Balboni

Nan Goldin's newest book of photography will be of interest to everyone, but it will particularly pique the interest of any gay person who lived in Boston during the '70s when a bar of the same name was the most happenin' spot in town.

Indeed, many of the photographs in Goldin's book were taken there, though her title is meant to encompass the entire transgender reality from Boston to Bangkok and beyond.

The photographs are startling and beautiful, tender and funny, horrifying and ennobling, inspiring and FABULOUS.

There is great courage in these faces, and great determination. But, there is also the taint of caricature as many of the drag queens go to the extreme, and don't know when to put down the mascara brush.

One might be quick to label these few as whores, but such a labeling would come from a typically male sexist viewpoint, one which expresses the belief that men can fuck as often as they please and avoid censure, but women can only at the peril of such an accusation.

The paradox here, of course, is that these are men dressed as women. So, to which gender does their sexual
These photos weren't scratch 'n sniff. Of nail polish? Preface by the photographer in which counter was out of their favorite shade pissed that the asshole at the cosmetic Goldin's work. (Which is the premise of Ms. Goldin's work. ) Or is the thinker still thoroughly human work. Which we all get to be who we want to be? (Which is the premise of Ms. Goldin's work. ) Or is the thinker still pissed that the asshole at the cosmetic

'The people in these pictures are truly revolutionary; they are the real winners of the battle of the sexes because they have stepped out of the ring.'


Timber City Masks
Kieran York, Author
Third Side Press, $9.95

Let Kieran take you on a trip to Timber City, CO. She'll introduce you to a few lesbians and a town full of ordinary folks, and you'll meet Royce Madison, one of the towns' deputies.

Royce gained her police training on the force in Denver, CO, but returns to her hometown of Timber City and joins the small town police department. She brings her criminology and big city smarts to the sleepy little town, or so everyone thinks.

Trish Chandler-Sumner is the town's most popular and rich citizen. She frequents the local taverns and rubs elbows in the rich ski community of Aspen. She is married, a lesbian, and quite a sport around town. No one thought she'd end up dead.

Royce is invited by the Sheriff to prove some of her big city ways and solve the crime. Of course, the invitation comes after most of the crime scene is obliterated. There is a witness, and he fingers the drunk male Indian in town, but who would care if he was the one who-done-it?

Royce doesn't buy it. Against all odds, she begins the investigation, and surprises confront her at every turn. Her lover was also the lover and benefactor of the deceased.

The victim's husband knew of the affair, but can't possibly admit his wife was sleeping with a wo...... ! Royce and Trish's lover, Valeria, is the second grade teacher in town and could not be caught out with the deputy, so she goes with Trish's husband instead.

When Royce's mother, Molly, finds out that Royce spends most of her spare moments with Valeria, the seductive teacher, she begins to question the situation.

Little towns can be difficult to tangle with around coming out issues. Add a murder or two, and things can get spicy.

Can Royce pull it off? Who are her real friends and who must she question in a town that buried her father, the last sheriff, without a suspect ever found?

The author finds ways to share witty and tender moments throughout the novel. I look forward to the next Royce Madison Mystery novel. ---BJM

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NACHAS!
By Rita M. Kissen

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

Last winter, two friends of mine, a gay couple who have been together for over a decade, spent a glorious week in San Francisco. Recounting their memories of gourmet meals and wonderful shows, one of them paused, looked at me meaningfully, and said, “By the way, Rita, we did something naughty in San Francisco.”

Wondering what intimate confession might be in the offing, I raised my eyebrows. “It’s something really naughty,” he repeated. “Something you’ve done many times.”

By now I really was intrigued. (What ancient indiscretion might I have confided in a weak moment?) My friend leaned over conspiratorially and said, “We walked down the street holding hands.” And then, after another brief pause—“And nobody even turned around.”

I saw many lesbian and gay couples holding hands last month, as I and my extended family—spouse, daughter, and stepdaughter—made our first visit to San Francisco. From our “home” at a lovely bed-and-breakfast in the Castro district, we explored the city and revealed in its variety.

Now that I have returned, I am convinced that both the gay community and its enemies are right when they say that San Francisco is different from anywhere else.

Of all the places I have ever lived or visited, San Francisco comes closest to the professed American ideal of welcoming diversity. It is a city where people are not afraid of the foreign, the strange, the Other. In such an environment, people who are different cease to be monsters and become just... people.

Like the tall, immaculately groomed transvestite who stopped to buy a newspaper at the convenience store on our corner and chatted amiably about the weather with the owners, a middle eastern husband and wife whose English was limited to making change and chatting amiably about the weather.

Or the owner of the Leather Image shop, wearing a "Metropolitan Community Church" T-shirt and equally happy to tell me about the uses of his more esoteric wares, and his work with the MCC and his three children.

Or the exotically tattooed young dykes, wearing rings through every conceivable part of their anatomy, who browsed beside me in the women’s bookstore in the Mission district.

These are images that send Jesse Helms up a wall (a nice image in itself), and tap the hidden homophobia in some of us (supposedly) supportive heterosexual allies (“Why do ‘they’ have to give us ‘nice’ gay kids a bad name?”)

Yet in San Francisco I came to understand that the more open and matter-of-fact a society is about difference and sexuality, the kinder and gentler it truly becomes.

On the Friday night of our visit, ex-Portlander and old friend Bob Gordon took Michelle and me to services at San Francisco’s lesbian and gay synagogue, Sha’ar Zahav (Hebrew for “Golden Gate”).

The worshippers included the newly installed president of the congregation, along with her lover and their infant daughter, as well as lesbians and gay men of all ages and classes, dressed in everything from ACT-UP T-shirts to business suits.

The songs were the songs of my childhood; the prayers celebrated the struggles of lesbian and gay Jews to affirm their Jewish heritage along with their gay identity. During the Kaddish (the traditional mourners’ prayer) there was a reading of the names of all the members of the congregation who have died since its founding in 1977, including 60 deaths related to AIDS.

Our family trip to San Francisco had a poignant edge. On the second day of our stay, my daughter was offered, and accepted, her first full time teaching job, at the California School for the Deaf in nearby Fremont.

This September will be the first time, with the exception of her four years in college, that Michelle and I have lived father apart than a two-hour car ride. I can already feel the pain of separation, underlined by the three hour time difference.

But I comfort myself with thoughts of Michelle building a new life in the city we have both come to love. Most of all, I like to think of her strolling down Castro Street some fine evening, holding hands with a special woman she has met. I like that thought best of all. I like to think that probably nobody will ever turn around.

Classified Ads

Lesbian Group Forming: Lesbian psychotherapy group will begin meeting weekly on September 15th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. for twelve weeks in Lewiston. Led by expressive therapist and clinical social worker. Contact Rheatha Forster at 784-7127 or Norma Kraus Eute at 784-8747. Insurance reimbursable.


Your classified ad could be listed here

$8/40 words
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LEAN ON ME: If you’re a gay man looking for support and a place to find out more about yourself in a safe, trusting environment, join our men’s support group. Explore heterosexism, homophobia, gay pride, empowerment, relationships. Sliding scale fee. A group is forming now. Call Fred Wolf, S.T.D., M.Div., and Chris Behan, M.S.W., 879-0757.

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August Events Calendar

August 7, Saturday: 8:30pm-5:00pm NGTF Fight the Right Workshop, Universalist Unitarian Church, Summer St., Augusta. Bring lunch. For more info: call Paula Aboud, 445-2863.

August 9, Monday: 10:00am-3:00pm Northern Lambda member meeting, regular meeting of the Northern Lambda. For more info call Paula Aboud, 445-2863.

August 11, Wednesday: 7:00pm 7-9pm Maine Lambda. Interested members welcome. Location: Mapleton, ME. Bring Phoneline (498-2088) Wednesday, 7-9pm. For more info, call Paula Aboud, 445-2863.

August 12, Thursday: 7:00pm Matlovich Society Lawn Party, 235 High St., S. Portland. Bring a dish to share and something for grilling. For more info, call 364-8603.

August 14, Saturday: 5:00pm (ME), 6:00pm (N-B), Matthew Nutt of Bangor leading discussion on AIDS education/communicable diseases/health issues. Location: Mapleton, ME. Bring dish to share & favorite beverage. Call Phoneline (498-2088) Wednesday, 7-9pm for more information & directions. For more info, call 498-2088.

August 15, Sunday: 10:00am-5:00pm MLGPA Board Retreat in Union, ME. Interested in becoming more active in MLGPA? Come help us plan. Call Paula Aboud, 445-2863 for details and directions.

August 17, Tuesday: 7:00pm Meeting at the Underground, Spring St, Portland to organize a response to Carolyn Cosby's petition. FMI, call Ken Constant at 773-3042.

August 18, Wednesday: 7:00pm (ME), 8:00pm (N-B), Fold & Stuff the monthly Northern Lambda Nord mailing at the Phoneline for directions, 498-2088.

August 19, Saturday: 2:00-5:00pm MLGPA Annual Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church, 6 Summer St., Augusta. Nominations should be received in advance. All Paula Aboud, 445-2863.

August 20, Sunday: 7:30-9:00pm The Matlovich Society presents Betsy Sweet and Steve Wessler speaking on "Does Hate Begin in Kindergarten?" Combating Discrimination in Maine's Schools. Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Rines Auditorium, Wheel chair accessible.

Regular Meetings of Support Groups

Northern Lambda Nord: 2nd Sunday Call 498-2088, UMPI, Pullen Hall, 3pm (ME), 4pm (N-B). Everyone invited.

Out For Good: Thursdays 7-9pm, 445 Main St., Biddeford. Lesbian support/discussion group. Free/$1 donation to help w/rent. FMI call Bobbi-247-3461.

Rumford/Mexico Area AIDS Support Group/Phoneline: Mondays, 7-8:30pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main St. Call 364-8603.

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: Thursdays, 7pm, 70 Court St., 2nd floor, Auburn. Support for people with HIV & their families. FMI, call 786-4697.

Integrity/Dignity: First & third Sundays at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 5:15 pm. All are welcome. Fellowship follow each service with a vegetarian pot luck on 3rd. Sun. We minister to the lesbian/gay community. FMI, write POB 8113, Portland 04104.

Act Up/Portland: Sundays, 7pm YWCA, 87 Spring St. and Mondays 6-8pm at 142 High St., #222. Join us in the fight for universal rights! Call 828-0566.

Outright/Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for questioning youth 22 years old and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm. Call 622-1888 or 622-4254 for more information.

Ongoing Support

THE AIDS LINE: 800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call MonSat 9:00am-5:00pm, MonWed evennings til 7:30pm. Anonymous DIAL KIDS, 774-TALK: For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19.

INGRAMA VOLUNTEERS: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).


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

AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Bangor - 990-3626 - Eastern Maine AIDS Network
Belfast - 338-1427 - Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition
Brunswick - 725-4995 - Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services
Bridgton - 583-6608 - Community Task Force on AIDS
Portland - 774-6877 - The AIDS Project (AIDS Lodging House, PWA Coalition, Names Project)
Rumford - 823-4170 - Community AIDS Awareness Program
Lewiston - 786-4697 - Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition
Waterville - 626-3432 - Dayspring Ellsworth - 667-3506 - Down East AIDS Network
Oxford Hills - 743-7451 - Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network

Your support group meeting, phone line help, calendar dates could be here.