VOLUME 10 ISSUE 5 GLT

GLT

GAY & LESBIAN TIMES OF MAINE

February 1993

JOHN PRESTON!

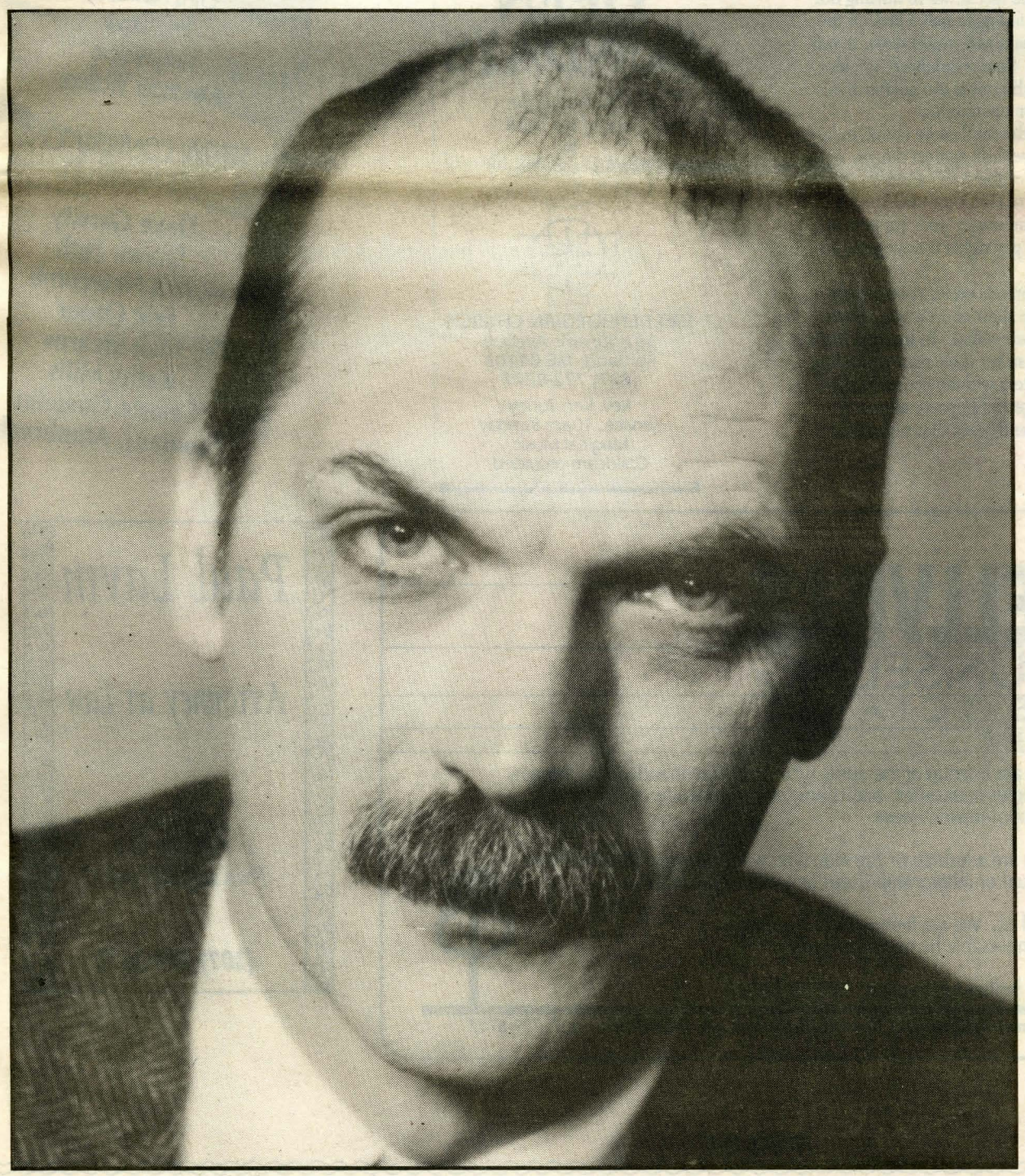

Photo by The Mayne Studio

INSIDE

GENERATIONS & SADOMASOCHISM
The John Preston Interview - pg.4

IN THE LIFE...IN THE CLOSET?
Why won't public TV air it? - pg.9

COLORADO BOYCOTT--LOUSY IDEA?
One Reader's Viewpoint-Editorial

NACHAS!
A Look at Lewiston - pg.12

THE CRYING GAME!
Don't tell me you haven't seen it! pg.7

MLGPA NEWS
Award Dinner etc. - pg.20

STRAIGHT&NARROW
Brand New Woman? pg.8

CALENDAR!
Stuffed to capacity! pgs.10-11

NEWS
Maine,New England, National,Global

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GLT

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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

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GLT

Editorial

THE COLORADO BOYCOTT
ONE READER'S VIEWPOINT...

Editor,

I have become convinced that the Boycott Colorado movement is a hasty and self-defeating response to a very real threat.

As everyone must know by now, three of the communities most affected by this boycott—Denver, Boulder, and Aspen—have gay rights ordinances. "They'll just have to sacrifice" is the usual response of boycott supporters, often with the implied accusation that members of these cities (which voted overwhelmingly against Amendment 2) are at fault for not having done even more to stop it.

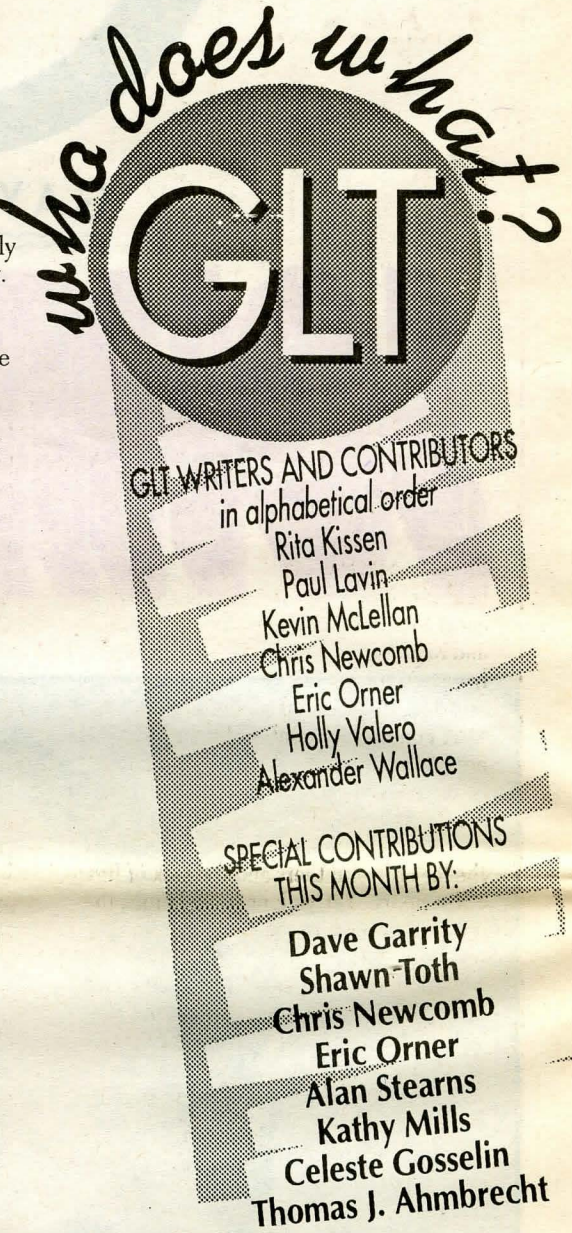
This is great hindsight, but lousy politics. The fact is, we're hurting our supporters in hopes that a little of the economic pain will trickle down to our opponents. Sound familiar? Trickle-down punishment is eve goofier than trickle-down economics.

Amendment 2 came about, in large part, as a backlash against the gay rights ordinances of these three cities. A blanket boycott of Colorado sends out a dangerous message: your support of lesbian and gay rights is now going to cost you.

In a perfect world, voters might flock to vote their conscience, and to hell with their wallet. In the real world, we invite disaster if we start rewarding our supporters with an economic boycott. A targetted boycott, aimed at businesses and cities that supported Amendment 2, would be a far smarter approach.

The boycott movement has quickly taken on an aura of political orthodoxy. On this (as on so many other issues), debate should be encouraged, not squelched. Perhaps the time will come when a blanket boycott of Colorado seems like our only option. But it should be a last resort, not a knee-jerk first response.

Sasha Alyson



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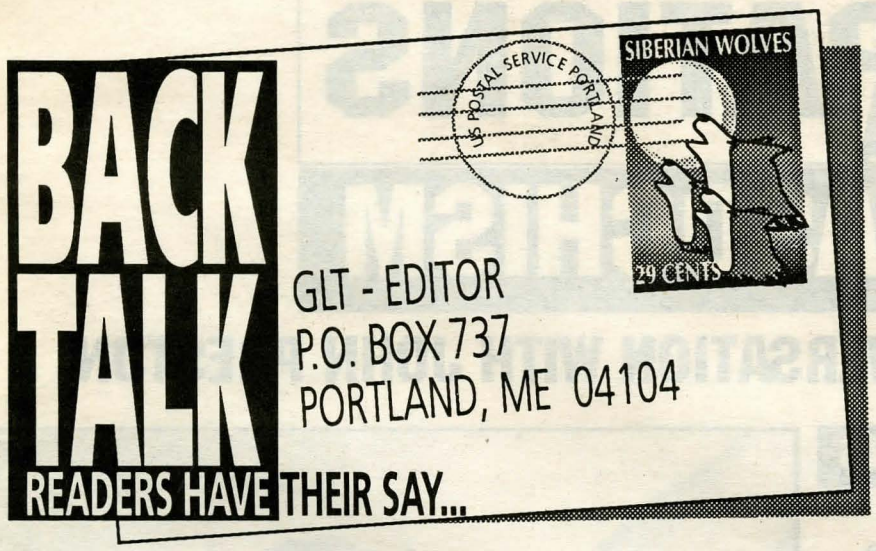

GLT:

My Thanks to the fellow who wrote you last month to decry the all too frequently high levels of blood-letting and back-stabbing which often fills the editorials and columns of your publication. He expressed the same views which I and my friends have held for some time. Your response, while consistant with your tradition of ridiculing and belittling any who differ with you, totally missed the point! He did not say, as you asserted, that there is no divisions in the GAY community. Rather he said that you are intolerant of any dissension; intolerant of anyone who disagrees with your own personally held beliefs.

You complain in your editorial about the lack of volunteers and the lack of financial support. Yet, as long as you mock the opinions of thers in the GAY community, you will only have the support of those few who think like you! Perhaps the new name will mark a new beginning. I did not the lack of blood dripping from the last issue, which was a breath of fresh air.

Perhaps the editorial board could also use a breath of fresh air with a change in people, bringing in new faces, new ideas, and support.

Sincerely yours,
Christopher Gallen

Mr. Gallen,

I am somewhat confused about the blood-letting stuff...Features over the last several months have included: Diane Elze's interview, theatrical debut of BENT, PFLAG, EPP's debate coverage and other news, the VOTE NO! Victory, Neal Snow's ROTC battle, the AIDS Quilt, EPL, Wild Iris Productions, and movie and restaurant reviews. Editorials have tackled such wildly radical topics as: encouraging people to vote, a new look for Our Paper, support for lesbians who support feminist campaigns, an apology for September's phantom issue, and a plea for the community to stop fighting and accept Portland's human rights victory graciously. Then there's the vicious "Literally" feature that spotlights poetry and creative writing; "At the Stage Door", which covers theatre; Rita Kissen's "Nachas!", and "The Straight & Narrow", which one reader helped us to classify by referring to it as drivel. The news, calendar and classifieds aren't especially violent either.

Aside from **BACKTALK,** it's pretty tame.

The GAY ***AND LESBIAN*** community, thank you, is diverse. Dissension is a form of diversity, unless you live in a police state. And our writers and contributors say what's on their minds—as you have here. Considering how passionately you feel, I assume we can count on your volunteer efforts to help produce our monthly paper. Bring your new face, new ideas, and support any time.

H.V.

GLT,

I look forward to "Our Paper" monthly. I was quite refreshed by the changes. But reading along, turning the page, I read the 3 letters at the top of the page: (GUILT) GLT. I have problems with this and wonder if you had noticed it at any point? I don't like the word GUILT being associated with my/our lifestyle or orientation. The mainstream public does this enough already and we don't need to and can't reinforce these ideas.

A.M. Winkel

We did notice the GLT associations when we came up with the name. We've also had readers indicate that it sounds like some kind of sandwich—a GLT.

The guilt association, as you say, is made by the mainstream public. It does not have to be made by us. If someone mentions that GLT sounds like guilt, it's quite appropriate to simply state that it is the Gay and Lesbian Times of Maine.

Remember TAKE BACK THE NIGHT? Think of this as TAKE BACK THE NAME.

GLT,

This is a plea to all the gay friendly businesses: ADVERTISE! No, I don't work for the paper. I'm from out of town! I rely on local papers for information. I look for gay and friendly and gay owned restaurants, shops, B&Bs.

Help those of us who want to patronize these businesses.

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LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

Compiled by News Editor Paul Lavin

LEWISTON ORDINANCE SUSPENDED; REFERENDUM IN NOVEMBER

The residents of Lewiston will face the same battle over civil rights for lesbians and gay men as Portland did this past November.

Opponents of the Lewiston anti-discrimination ordinance, led by right-wing religious fundamentalists, gathered enough signatures to suspend the enactment of the ordinance and force a referendum on whether the law should be repealed.

The law, which prohibits discrimination against gay men and lesbians because of sexual orientation, was passed by the Lewiston city council by a vote of 5-2 early in January. The public hearing was attended by about 700 people and was a highly emotionally charged event. Many supporters of the proposed law felt their safety was threatened by the conduct of the opponents during the hearing itself. Some of the members of the city council received threatening phone calls.

The group leading the petition drive. Maine Coalition Opposed to Special Treatment of Homosexuality, gathered 2,000 signatures. The city clerk certified at least 1,129 signatures, making it possible for the right-wing group to prevent the enactment of the ordinance. The ordinance was scheduled to go into effect on Feb. 6.

The referendum will be held on November 2, 1993. Lewiston has about 29,000 registered voters.

61 PERCENT OF MAINE RESIDENTS SUPPORT GAY AND LESBIAN CIVIL RIGHTS

According to a poll conducted in December, 61 percent of Maine residents would support a law which protected lesbians and gay men from discrimination in employment and housing.

The poll was conducted by Market Decisions, Inc, of South Portland. Market Decisions polled 400 Maine residents from all over the state in December on a variety of economic and social policy questions. The poll has a 5 percent margin of error.

The question put to the respondents was "Do you favor or oppose the passage of a Maine law that protects the rights of homosexuals from

continued page 4

LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

discrimination in the workplace and housing?"

Of the 61 percent that favor the passage of such a law, 34 percent said they strongly favor the law and 27 percent somewhat favor it. Of those who opposed the law, 21 percent strongly opposed it and 12 percent were somewhat opposed. The undecideds amounted to 7 percent. Support for the law was stronger among women at 69 percent, while 54 percent of the men polled favored the law.

The poll comes at a time when the Maine legislature will be considering a state-wide gay and lesbian civil rights bill in the next two months. The bill was first introduced in 1977 and this will be the ninth time it has been in front of the legislature. The bill almost passed in 1991, but a last minute threat from Gov. John McKernan to veto the bill squelched the bill's chance to pass the Senate.

According to the Portland Press Herald, Jaspar Wyman, executive director of the religious right-wing group, the Christian Civic League, criticized the poll by saying that the question was posed in such a manner that a positive response was to be expected. He said he didn't think the poll would have much influence with the legislature.

Al Caron, who was the campaign consultant for Equal Protection/Portland, contradicted Wyman, saying that the poll results were valid and that support for lesbian and gay civil rights legislation is growing throughout Maine.

MEMBERS OF ANTI-GAY GROUP SIGN CONSENT DECREE

The four members of the anti-gay hate gang known as FSU Posse against whom State Attorney General, Michael Carpenter, filed a lawsuit entered into a consent agreement in order to settle the suit. The group is known for its graphitti and violence against gay men and lesbians and other minorities.

The consent decree requires that the four gang member- Gabriel Holmes, 15, William Holmes, 17, brothers, and Andrew Fontaine, 16, all from Portland, and William Marquis, 18, of Freeport-stay away from Zootz and Abraham's House of Coffee in Portland and banning them from discriminatory behavior.

The suit stems from a Christmas

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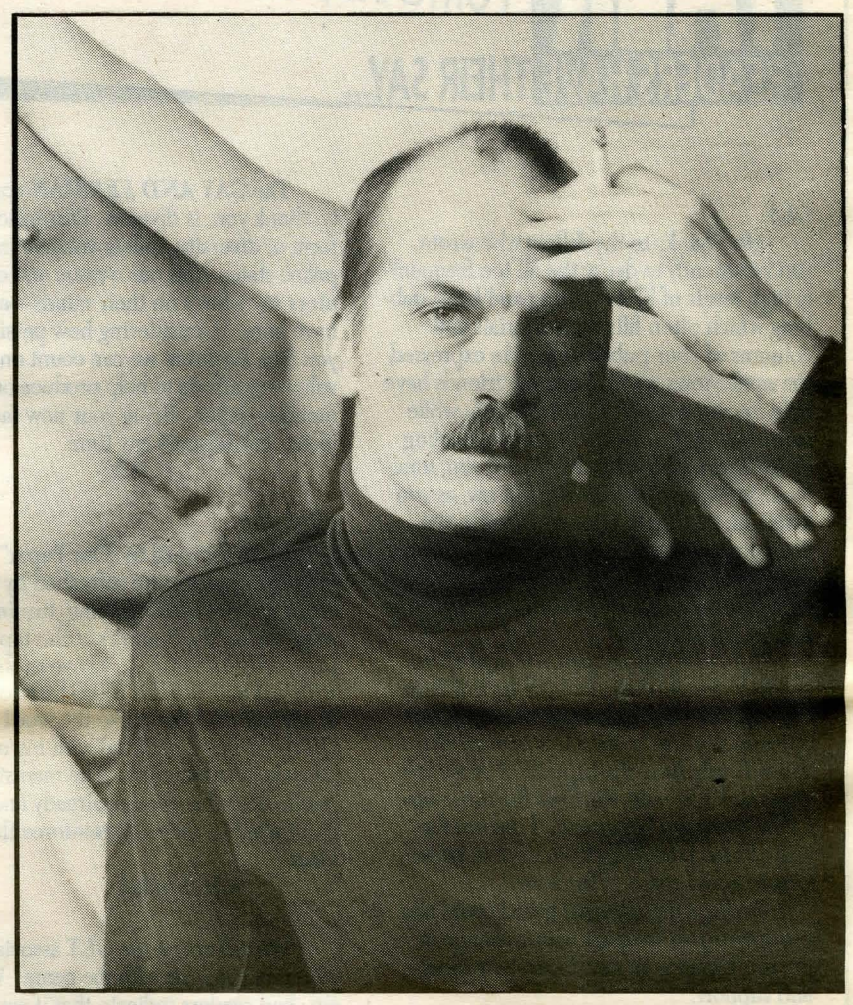
GENERATIONS & SADOMASOCHISM

A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PRESTON

BY ALAN STEARNS



"I am the scribe to the common gay man. I really want to write, on an erotic, social and political level, what it's like to be a gay man living in these decades."
John Preston,
December 1992.

John Preston is everywhere. His anthologies are being published at a rate of two per year. His erotic novels come at a rate of one per year, and his older books are being re-released, bringing the total to nine releases in 1992, six in 1993, and several more anticipated for 1994. His name and face are in Newsweek, USA Today, the Portland Press Herald as well as respectable news journals including Gay Community News and Bay Windows. He regularly appears at national, state, and local gay and lesbian events as a keynote speaker, including Los Angeles' recent NLGTF Creating Change conference. Before moving to Portland in 1979, he had been the editor of The Advocate, editor of Drummer, founder of the country's first gay and lesbian community center in Minneapolis, and an activist of national repute. His activism continued after arriving in Maine, most notably serving as the President of the Board of The AIDS Project in Portland.

In person, he is animated, accessible and friendly, yet his personality starkly contrasts with his unsmiling publicity photos which often bathe his face in shadows and accentuate his piercing stare. Sometimes marketed as the Dark Lord of Gay Erotic Fiction, fans may expect Mr. Preston to behave in person like the hauntingly oversexed disciplinarians of his novels. Not so. Mr. Benson never laughs; John Preston does so easily.

Preston's most recent anthology, A Member of the Family: Gay Men Write About Their Families, follows Hometowns: Gay Men Write About Where They Belong and Flesh and the Word: An Erotic Anthology. Flesh and the Word 2 will hit stores later this year. Preston is also working on an anthology in which gays and lesbians

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PRESTON CONTINUES...

write about each other, and a work of non-fiction titled The Art of Being a Hustler.

IS YOUR MOTIVATION FOR WRITING YOUR RECENT ANTHOLOGIES POLITICAL OR PERSONAL? ARE YOU STILL AN ACTIVIST THROUGH BEING A WRITER?

"I began the anthologies with Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS. I did that because I had to find a way through my writing to deal with my HIV infection, and the experience of working with a community of writers excited me. The book really served its purpose. The experience had been so exciting, that I then wondered, what are my other issues? Being from New England is a major one. I have a whole sense of place, and I hadn't heard enough other writers deal with it. And families is the same thing. And naturally the series continued. The next book will be an anthology titled Friends and Lovers: The Families That Gay Men Create. No, I didn't really set out to do a political thing in that sense.

"I find myself constantly ripped apart by the split between activist and author. It is very clear that, at this point in my life, "author" is the defining term. Yet I just get so involved or so angry that I always end up doing activist stuff. It's a constant struggle to find a way in which I can meet my own ethical mandates about how one acts in one's community and at the same time meet my goals as a writer. At the tail end of my tenure as the President of the Board of The AIDS Project it just became more and more clear that writing was something I really wanted to do. It was something I was good at. I finally had to get to the place where I understood that many of us could work on committees but no one else could write my books. I would prefer and intend to continue being a writer."

WHAT IS YOUR INTERACTION WITH THE STRAIGHT COMMUNITY, AND WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT SEPARATION, ISOLATION, AND ASSIMILATION?

"My politics originated in the sixties. My politics and world view are very much the concept of intertwined communities. It should be supported that we each go into our own communities to shore up those identities, and then move across all kinds of boundaries. Three of the major defining things for me are: I'm gay, I'm a man, and I'm from New England. Those are the most fascinating things for me right now. So that's what I explore. And to do that I move across different boundaries.

"I wrote in my introduction to A Member of the Family that I had to leave my family to be gay. But now I am reconciled with my family. It's not a life long choice. You have the right to withdraw at certain times into a certain part of yourself and your community to explore that totally. One of the problems with the American mind is that we present these options as life long choices. And they're not. They are what we have to do at a certain point.

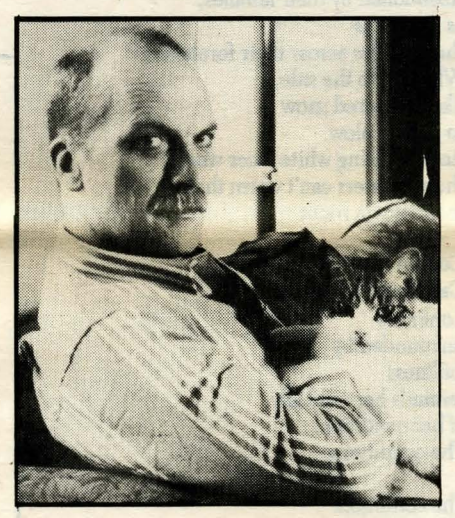
"My own self-identity is both intensely gay, yet also much more as a writer. Being constantly gay is a bummer. I really feel like it's a social obligation I have accepted. One of the most startling things when I first moved to Maine was turning on the television one of the first days and seeing a gay man interviewed in silhouette on the screen because no one who was gay would be interviewed and show his face. I was staggered by that. And even though I had moved here to calm down on my activism so that I could write, the silhouette was not acceptable, so I very quickly let it be known that I would be that face on that television screen. Often I didn't want to be an activist. I wanted to draw a boundary, withdraw to my cocoon and not feel obliged, but I wasn't very successful."

WILL YOU TELL A STORY ABOUT YOUR OWN LOVERS OR YOUR OWN RELATIONSHIPS WHEN YOU EDIT YOUR UPCOMING ANTHOLOGY TITLED FRIENDS AND LOVERS: THE FAMILIES THAT GAY MEN CREATE FOR THEMSELVES?

"No. My story is much more about becoming a bachelor. I'm becoming quite happy about it. The theme of my story is really I don't want a lover. One of the ways I finally had to realize that is that all of the men I've had relationships with live at least 200 miles away. The thing that is much more powerful to me is finding a generational stance to gay life. I think gay life is trivial if it's not generational in some form. I've had that most of my life. I've had a mentor, Samuel Steward, a writer in his eighties who lives in Berkeley now. And I've always had non-genital relationships with young men here in Portland. That's very much based on generational good uncle stuff. And now recently I'm taking on a very explicit mentoring relationship with three gay male writers, working with all three of them on their books, long distance: Michael Lowenthal in New Hampshire, Michael Rowe in Toronto, and Owen Keehnen in Chicago. It's more important to find my place in a community that's generational than it is to worry about a one on one relationship."

"If we could just cherish and nurture good fucking like we do eating, then Pat Califia's name would be as well known as Betty Crocker's."

John Preston, June 1992.



[TALKING ABOUT GENERATIONS AND ACTIVISM A LITTLE LATER...]

"A lot of my life has been very conflicted about being the first. I did a lot of first things. I joined the seminary in Minneapolis when I was about twenty five. I actually went to three seminaries as a part time student, and I was the first openly gay student at each of them and for each of the denominations. And it was a huge struggle and I got burnt out and thought, "God, I don't want to do this again." I founded the first gay community center in the country. I DID all of that stuff. It's a lot of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

Eve beating of Michael Wormwood of Portland. The incident took place near Zootz, a dance club on Forest Ave. in Portland, about 1:30 on Christmas Eve morning. As Wormwood tried to make his way through a group of people outside the club, he was attacked and beaten while his attackers yelled anti-gay epithets at him.

Carpenter brought the civil rights lawsuit as a part of the Attorney General's offensive against hate crimes.

BANGOR AREA NEWSLETTER OUT AND AVAILABLE

The GLCN Newsletter, a monthly publication of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Community Network, is again being published and can be picked up at the Riverfront and at the Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine. The GLCN Newsletter had a brief hiatus and is now back on the scene.

The newsletter has articles, calendar listings, gay, lesbian, and bisexual network listings, as well as ads and classified and its own advice column. The address for The GLCN Newletter is GLCN, P.O. Box 212, Bangor, Maine 04402-0212.

MLGPA ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance elected new officers and board members at its meeting in Augusta on January 17. The new president is Paula Aboud of South China. The other new officers are Judy Edgerly of Hallowell, vice president; Harry Gordon of Bangor, secretary; and Larry Bliss of South Portland, treasurer.

The new board members are Anke Siem (Augusta), Ellie Goldberg, Pat Peard (Falmouth), Alan Stearns (South Portland), Mary MacLean (Portland), and Karen Geraghty (Portland).

All canditates ran unopposed, and one board seat remains empty. Even though a certain number of board seats are reserved for regional representatives, most of those are held by residents of the Portland/Augusta corridor due to a lack of candidates from most regional districts. As one astute political observer has noted, "The world is run by those who show up."

The annual MLGPA dinner is coming up on February 27 in

continued page 6

LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

Brunswick. See the Calendar for complete details. However, one detail that may not be in the Calendar is that the Maine Gay Mens Chorus will be performing at the dinner. The Chorus' debut performance in December established it as a new institution of gay and lesbian culture in Maine.

VERMONT SEES RISE IN BIAS COMPLAINTS UNDER RIGHTS LAW

The attorney general's office in Vermont is invesitgating at least six complaints of discrimination against gay men and lesbians since Vermont passed a law protecting the civil rights of gay and lesbian people.

Robert Appel, an assistant attorney general in the civil rights division, said, "I definitely an convinced of it need. Prior to the effective date of the law, there was no reason for a person who was a victim to contact us because there was no remedy. Now there are remedies, the word is out and we are receiving complaints."

Appel said that most of the complaints involve gay men being harassed in the workplace.

"People get picked on because of who they are, making the worker feel uncomfortable in the workplace, he said. "Sexual orientation is just not a consideration that should be used in employment decisions."

Susan Sussman, executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, said her office has three complaints charging discrimination based on sexual orientation under investigation, all concerning alleged insurance company practices.

"The number of charges that have been formally filed in the attorney general's office and the Human Rights Commission in a relatively short period of time since the passage of the law is significant, she said.

CAMBRIDGE MAYOR COMES OUT

Kennth Reeves, mayor of Cambridge, announced last month that he is gay, though he said it shouldn't be a surprise to anyone.

Reeves was at an award ceremony of the Greater Boston Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance to accept an award designated for

continued next page

GLT

Literally.

A creative writing column of sorts...

POET
KEVIN MCLELLAN

Tinsel

Tinsel threads dangling off
while deeply rooting onto
a used Christmas tree;
a dead birthday tree.
Douglas has been thrown down
onto the brick sidewalk;
the day after.

The day after
brings a squall.
Melted delivery later
freezes to
tinsel threads dangling off,
freezes to
and becomes
smooth sheets of glass above
arranged bricks candid.
Silver tension;
holding on from both ends.

Holding on from both ends.
Abandoned by their families,
as certain as
the wrinkles across their foreheads.
Wheeled to the side,
like powdered snow
to a snow plow.
Accumulating white faces wear;
their sweaters can't warm them
in the warm room.

Cold in the warm room;
Carol hasn't caroled.
Lonliness
surrounded by
lonliness
reminds her critically
of her condition.
The conditions.

The condition.
The slowness
of so little time,
to remember holidays past.
To chronically forget
the cooking,
the giving,
to the life
or lives created.

To the life
of life created.
Old creations forgotten.
Oh, so gentle
and delicate.

Delicate
frozen tinsel
the day after
the dead birthday.

Send your creative writing to GLT, P.O. Box 737, Portland, ME 04104, Attention: Literally. Deadline for copy is the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

GUEST POET
THOMAS J. ARMBRECHT

In my Family We are all Misogynists

My brother lost his virginity
When he was thirteen.
He told me that when he did
It. He was so excited
That he came before he was inside her.
Now he is twenty.
It 's hard to believe, but that girl
Is still in love with him.

My brother's new girlfriend
Probably wasn't a virgin when she met him.
Which is may be why he calls her
His hole. He kisses her
When he says that, and she
Sort of laughs,
Because she knows he is fooling.
It's sort of terrible, but

My brother and his new girlfriend
Hate the old one. They call her a bitch.

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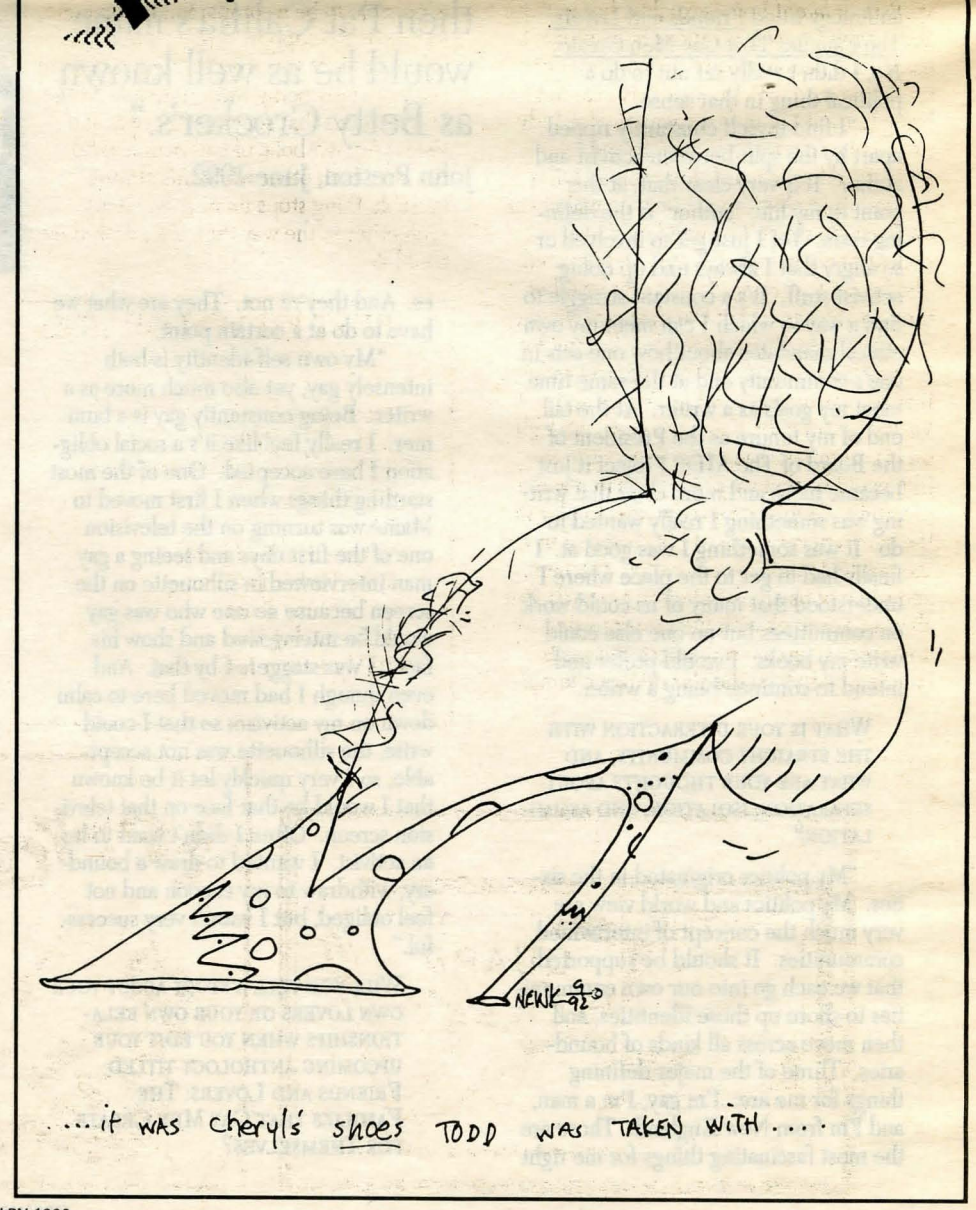
By Chris Newcomb



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THE CRYING GAME

Is a Must See Film!

by Shawn Toth

First I would like to get the preliminaries out of the way. "The Crying Game" is the new film by Neil Jordan, director of the "The Miracle" and "Mona Lisa."It takes place in rural Ireland and downtown London. Jody(Forest Whitaker), a soldier from London, is taken hostage by Ireland's IRA. The group demands that the government release a recently imprisoned IRA member or they will kill Jody. The government refuses the demands. In the meantime Jody has befriended Fergus(Stephen Rae), the most sympathetic of the people who have taken him hostage. Jody, knowing that he will probably be killed, makes Fergus promise that he will seek out Dil(Jaye Davidson), Jody's girlfriend, and take care of her. Fergus moves to London to escape his IRA backround. He is haunted by his promise to Jody and seeks out Dil, a beautiful and sensuous hairdresser. As Fergus slowly falls in love with Dil he is found by the surviving members of the IRA. It has adventure, romance, love, and mystery(for those of you that haven't been told the scene in question). There are even some surprising cameos in the soundtrack; Boy George sings "The Crying Game" and Lyle Lovett sings "Stand By Your Man. The Crying Game is a fantastic film with a script that flows naturally and theme of human nature ringing strongly. All of this is explained by Jody's telling of Aesop's fable of the frog and the scorpion.• People I have talkied to would like to squeeze it into the catagories of transvestism or latent homosexuality, but in truth the Crying Game is all about how we can't escape the people we are. Fergus is consistently the man with the heart. He cannot bring himself not to feel sympathy for Jody nor can he stop himself from loving Dil(even after he learns her secret). Dil is another example of someone who will never change who she is. She need only hear endearments to become loyal and devoted. She knows that Fergus will never love her the way she needs, but the devotion she sees from him is enough to keep her waiting for Fergus forever. Jody is the insightful catalyst that recognizes the good in Fergus and knows he can trust Fergus to carry through on his promises. The under current in the film could be that we are players in a game of nature. Each of us has our role to play in the giant cricket game of life. Some of us are the bowlers in life, some are the catchers, and some of us are the cheering crowds, but all of us are stuck with the positions that we are given. In dream sequences Fergus is haunted by Jody as the star cricket champion tossing Fergus the ball. Just before Jody's death as he ran to escape Fergus, Jody cries out that Fergus isn't fast enough to play cricket. Jordan shows us the dream sequences, Jody's uniform still hanging in Dil's apartment, and how Fergus cuts Dil's hair and makes her dress up in Jody's cricket uniform all could be attempts by Jordan to finish the relationship that Fergus and Jody were never able to finish, maybe to finish the game that the two of them started. Fergus also said once "I'm not good for much". By becoming involved in Jody and Dil game, Fergus now has a position and a purpose for his life. The cricket theme could even be carried over to make the IRA members. They are the opposing team out to defeat Jody's team. Maybe it's a big stretch of an analogy, but it is there.

One of the most impressive aspects of the film is the realtionship between Fergus and Jody. Fergus cannot help but care about Jody. There are some people in this world who are generally just loving people. Even when Fergus learns of Dil's secret he cannot prevent himself from feeling the need to guard and insure Dil's safety. As a gay male I sometimes feel something similar. There are straight women friends of my that I love with all my heart but can never be the person I wish I could be for them. I can only do my best to be their most trusted companion. That's one of the final points in the film. It is possible to be a companion to someone, to saüisfy and support someone in a non-sexual basis. If you are a loving person you can just enjoy being with someone. At the end the glass that seperates Fergus and Dil is very symbolic of two people who can care each other while this almost invisible thing stops them from loving each other in the way they both wish they could.◆

BEST FILMS FOR 1992
(not necessarily gay)

1.Zentropa
2.The Crying Game
3.The Double Life of Veronique.
4.L'Atlante
5.Swoon
6.Raise The Red Lantern
7.My Father Is Coming
8.Vanishing Point
9.The Living End
10.My Father Is Coming

MAINE FINALLY HAS ITS GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

(I wish!)

BY SHAWN TOTH

I have this reoccuring dream. It's always in the same place. There is this city that sits on almost an island, but it's connected to the mainland at one point. The sidewalks are brick and some of the streets are made of cobblestone. In the center of the city stands a huge statue of a woman with armor and a sword. Somewhere in this city is a building. This isn't any ordinary building, this is a building that represents liberation, power, diversity, and community. I could go to this building to find the history of the gays and lesbians from the island of Lesbos to the city ordinance that protects these same kind of people. I could go there to find counseling or support groups. I could go there to view art, hear poetry readings, or see films by gays and lesbians. My dream would be for Portland to finally create a Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

I think that the community is at a mature point where we could make a claim on a building of our own. Consolidating all the gay and lesbian groups, to include gay sensitive organizations, could have many benefits. Similar groups could help share reference information or information about upcoming media events. The chance of everyone having fundraising benefits on the same night would be all but be eliminated. It would be easier to gather such information as which organizations to write to for sponsorship or grants. It would be the chance to network and share your experiences with other gay and lesbian organizations.

A community center might also have its monetary values. There are special loans ands funds available for groups that renovate the second or higher floors of a building in Portland. I am sure if we added up all the rent for the MLGPA, Outright, PWA Coalition, The AIDS Project, Woman's Space, The GLT, Out & Out Productions, Gay AA, or all the other groups here in Portland the cost would definitely work out to be at least equal to the rent of a building. I know I would feel much safer about the groups I am involved with it they were located in a community center. It would do a lot to send a strong message to fellow gays and lesbians while giving us something to physically be proud of. Can you imagine a whole building that we could walk through and be proud of. Knowing the creativity that exists here in Maine, I am positive it would become a building of stunning beauty. A little some-

LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

friends of the community. Reeves said he felt that he needed to be honest. Honesty meant clarifying that he is more than just a friend of the gay community.

Also receiving that award was former Mayor Alice Wolf, who made reference in her acceptance speech about being call an "honorary lesbian." Reeves' speech left nothing to speculation. He said, "I am not an honorary homosexual. I am a real homosexual."

BATTLE LOOMING OVER THE LIFTING OF MILITARY BAN

In his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin said that he would deal with the Pentagon's ban on gay men and lesbians in the military "head on," seeking to overturn it "carefully" and "deliberately."

"There's no way to avoid the issue or slide around it, or try to patch up the whole issue and let it go away," he said. `Bill Clinton ahs said to me, "We want this issue to be dealt with very, very carefully, but we want it to be dealt with very, very deliberately.' So, I think there is some benefit from the pledge that Bill Clinton has made because it will force us to confront it."

"My view is that there are some obvious flaws in the current policy," said Aspin. "All you have to do is pick up the newspaper once in a while and find that something's not right here. Somebody's served 30 years in the military and is suddenly separated because it's discovered that he or she is homosexual.

"From an equity and fairness standpoint, I think there are some real problems with the way the policy is going right now."

The Clinton Administration has proposed that the ban be lifted in two steps. First, Mr. Clinton would informally direct the military to suspend enforcement of the ban and asking recruitees about their sexual orientation. Second, in several months, Mr. Clinton would issue an executive order formally lifting the ban. Gay and lesbian leaders are not enthusiastic about the delaying of the executive order.

However, Secretary Aspin faced stiff opposition to the lifting of the ban in his first meeting as Secretary of Defense with his Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Joint Chiefs angrily con-

continued next page

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fronted Aspin in a meeting on January 21, according to the *New York Times.

The Joint Chiefs expressed their concerns that the repeal of the ban would wreck morale, undermine recruiting, force devoutly religious service members to resign and increase the risk of AIDS for heterosexual troops.

General Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is the most forceful opponent of the lifting of the ban, emphasizing in his several meetings with Clinton and Aspin on the topic that the lifting of the ban would pose a threat to "good order and discipline" in the ranks

One Navy admiral said, "we know we have a cerain number of gays performing extremely well, but they're in the closet, and as long as they stay there we're fine. But when they come out of the closet and get pro-active, it'll be really nasty."

WRITE A LETTER TO BILL; LET HIM KNOW WE'RE WATCHING

President Bill Clinton made some promises to the lesbian and gay and HIV communities to get our votes and we gave them to him in record breaking numbers. It's payback time now.

Write President Clinton demanding that he follow through on his promise to end the military ban on gay men and lesbians and that he rescind the travel and immigration ban on people with HIV from traveling and immigrating to the United States.

Send letters to President Bill Clinton, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Also for a copy of NGLTF Presidential Transition Document that highlights other key federal policies to advance gay and lesbian civil rights, write Robin Kane, NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309.

BOYCOTT UPDATE: COLORADO AND TAMPA

The U.S. Conference ofMayors has canceled plans to hold its June 1993 meeting in Colorado Springs because the anti-gay amendment to the Colorado constitution violates the conference's anti-discrimination statement.

continued next page

GLT The Straight narrow

Warning: Brand New Woman!

by Holly Valero

Good Morning America fills the bedroom shortly after 7:00 a.m.. Cut to commercial. A gorgeous woman takes me aside on the TV and purrrrs, "I have a delicious chocolate shake for breakfast, another for lunch, and a sensible dinner." It just rolls off her tongue. No biggie. Toss back a couple of shakes, grab that sensible stuff at night and presto! You're a high paid fashion model.

Now, I'm not so nutritionally-challenged that I roll out of bed every morning and grab a Camel unfiltered and a swig of tequila, but the last thing I could face on a chilly Maine morning is a chocolate milk shake. A chocolate milkshake. Is that a healthy mental association for me to start making? Diet? Chocolate milk shake! Diet? Chocolate milk shake! That's like Alcoholics Anonymous serving coffee in small shot glasses or old beer bottles. And I don't know about you, but if I have to survive from 6:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on chocolate milk shakes alone, the choice I make for dinner is going to be anything but sensible. Psychotic is more like it...

Jenny Craig, on the other hand, wants to change my relationship with food. Now, anyone who's been married can tell you that the most dangerous thing you can do is get involved in someone else's relationship. Still, I find it hard to see a relationship in a scenario where one of the partners is digested. It's very 90s.

Weight Watchers touts something even more incredible: A Brand New Woman inside! You even get a BRAND NEW WOMAN T-shirt to prove to the world that you are no longer the former you. Weight Watchers offers the usual dieter's voodoo toys, gauges, when-to-eat hand-outs, etc. Plus, everybody gives you a standing ovation when you lose a pound or two.

What happens when you gain it back? Do they hunt your down with bloodhounds and beat the living crap outa you? Pelt you with Little Debbies? Do you have to send the T-shirt back?

First thing in the morning I sit in bed with my coffee, pink grapefruit juice, bran flakes, and Joan Lunden. Good Morning America is just stuffed with diet commercials. A slim and attractive woman holds up a pair of slacks vaguely reminiscent of a pair in my closet. I absentmindedly think, "oh, yeah, I've got to take those to the dry cleaners..." She then gleefully drops them as if they were radioactive to reveal her BRAND NEW WOMAN who just happens to be a size 2.

Size 2?

I'm sorry, but adult clothing cannot come in a size 2. I don't care what anyone says. When I was a little kid I distinctly remember wearing a size 6X. At that rate a 2 would basically fit a newborn. Size 2?

They feature young, slim, attractive, well dressed, white collar, sophisticated women who probably think a stretch mark is a defect in a pair of panty hose.

Thimbles, maybe. Knitting needles, baby socks, and clothing for your pet. Not clothes.

There is something wicked going on out there...

Over 90% of diet ads feature women only. They feature young, slim, attractive, well dressed, white collar, sophisticated women who probably think a stretch mark is a defect in a pair of panty hose. The only women of size appear as blurry black and white photos blown up like life-size police mug shots. Usually the commercial reinforces the success theme of their diet plan by destroying said photos with a wrecking ball or ten ton weight.

And men? The MTVesque Beverly-Hills-90210-ogling-hunks-in-the-parking-lot-shot sometimes appears to reassure the women that once they are beautiful they will again be seen as hunks of meat by the male of the species. Meat with the fat trimmed off. I've even seen ads where whole women leave the diet group only to become piecemeal in front of the camera: buttocks, legs, etc. when they run across men.

I wonder who directed that commercial? Penny Marshall? Probably not...

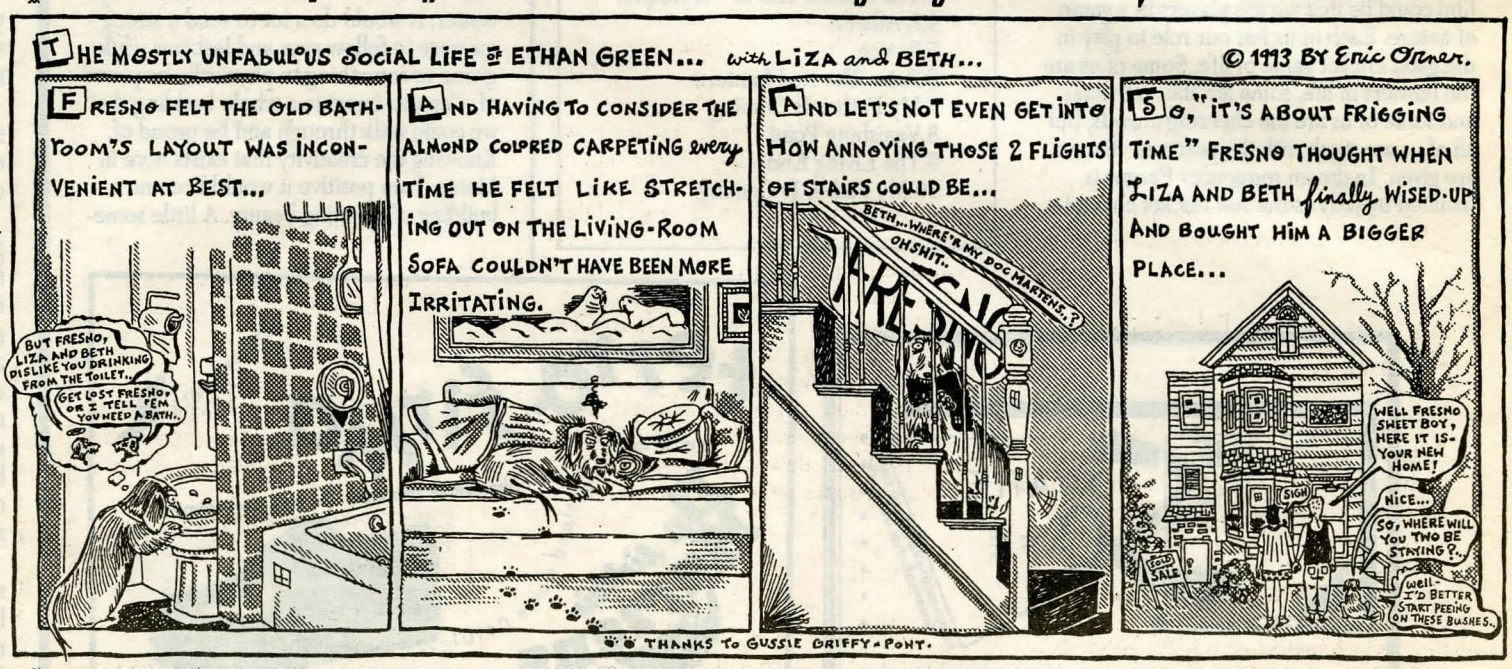
Overweight women are unacceptable but, slim women keep downsizing themselves out of existence. They herd together to get a little positive reinforcement and pay millions of dollars to diet farms that keep buying air time to attack them. There's something wrong with that equation.

There are some basic facts about weight loss and gain. First, it takes about 1/10th the time to gain weight as it does to lose it.

Second, there are only three sure-fire ways to lose ten pounds quickly: move to a country where the food is so different (say, India) that you are afraid to eat, fall in love, or become a vegetarian. Falling in love with an Indian vegetarian and following her back

continued on page 14

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green



GLT

By Dave Garrity

Maine Public TV Still Says NO to Gay/Lesbian Show

The first national variety-talk show on broadcast TV by and for lesbians and gay men debuted with a special, hour-long Pride Week preview last June. After years of lesbian and gay efforts to get a PBS program, we finally just did it ourselves.

Mind you, this show is meant to be entertaining, and has already attracted some big names. Joel Grey, Liza Minelli, Judith Light, Bonnie Franklin, Shari Belafonte, Lily Tomlin, and Dick Sargent (out-actor who played Darrin on "Bewitched") have already appeared. The cast of Broadway's "Falsettos" sang "Unlikely Lovers" from their Tony award-winning musical, and David Drake performed a piece from his hit play, "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me."

Hosted by comedienne Kate Clinton, "In The Life" kicked off its near-monthly schedule in October. Three programs have already aired and two or three more are planned this season. Associate Producer Katherine Brady is excited about its future. "We have brought the program up to the professional standards we wanted in its first year. From this position we hope we can go weekly next Fall."

"In The Life" has been developed by its own independent production company and is co-sponsored by New York City's municipal station, WNYC-TV. Rather than risk a Jessie Helms/NEA type funding fight, they rely on a unique method of financing. They appeal to us directly to make tax-deductible contributions and become "members" of their new program, just as we might be members of any PBS station. This provides another distinct advantage; PBS sends the program out free of charge to all public stations.

The program has been picked up by nearly sixty PBS stations to date and that number is growing daily. All four public stations in Vermont have signed on and three stations carry it across Massachusetts. North Carolina, the home of Helms and homophobia, has been won. Yet Maine Public Television won't even make a decision, let alone actually broadcast the show.

Maine Public Television: Round 1.

I first spoke with Harry Wiest, Maine Public Television's programming manager, early last summer when the pilot of "In The Life" was first airing on PBS stations around the country. Mr. Wiest was already aware of our new program and seemed genuinely interested in it. He explained that the merger of Maine's two public stations, which took place July 1st within days of the debut, was taking all of his time. He hoped to learn more about the show and possibly add it to their schedule when the show went full-time in the Fall.

I also called the production offices of "In The Life," and relayed my conversation with Mr. Wiest. They offered to send him another information packet and follow it up with a personal call to Mr. Wiest themselves. I thought for sure we'd all be glued to our screens come Fall.

Lily Tomlin commemorates Vito Russo's work and life (show 1)

Round 2.

I didn't speak with Mr. Wiest again until early October when the first regular episode of "In The Life" was supposed to air. He was a bit less forthcoming this time. At first, he tried to say he hadn't received notice of the show. I reminded him of our earlier conversation and upon questioning he recalled that the producers of "In The Life" had contacted him, too.

Mr. Wiest then argued that this is not an official PBS-sponsored production.

[I checked on this with PBS in Washington for this story and learned that PBS doesn't create any programming itself. All of its programs, just as this one, are created or sponsored by member stations and/or independent producers.]

I asked why that should preclude its airing, especially over Maine's "Alternate" second station. Mr. Wiest did not reply.

He then offered to view a tape of the June pilot episode and consider airing the regular episodes sometime in the future.

Round 3.

After reading a January IN NEWS piece on the growing number of stations carrying "In The Life," I decided to try again. I contacted GLT and received permission to interview Mr. Wiest and report on this matter in these pages.

This time Mr. Wiest had a new set of explanations and programming problems. He suggested that he couldn't easily program a monthly half-hour in a regular time slot without inconveniencing viewers of whatever aired in its place the other three weeks. He also said that special programming obligations in future months leave no time available for this half-hour show: Maine high-school basketball will take over at least 40 hours in February; another pledge drive is planned for March; and, April is the annual Auction. When I suggested that "In The Life" could air inbetween these breaks, Mr. Wiest did not respond.

continued page 14

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LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

After what J. Thomas Cochran, executive director of the conference, called an emotional closed door meeting, the organization's executive committee rejected the Colorado city as the site of next year's meeting. Earlier, the mayors of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, and Atlanta said they would not attend the conference because of the amendment.

Eight years ago, the conference adopted an anti-discrimination policy which "recognizes the right of all citizens, regardless of sexual orientation, to full participation in American society and recommends that all levels of government adopt legal protections for the rights of gay and lesbian Americans."

Barbara Streisand has backed off from earlier strong support for the boycott by the entertainment industry. She said she would personally support the boycott and find some other state to vacation in.

Among the growing number of voices supporting the boycott is the *New York Times. In an editorial on December 21, the*Times said, "The Colorado law amounts to an aggresssive statewide policy to allow discrimination and block attempts to mitigate it."

Meanwhile in Tampa, Florida, civic leaders are worried that a boycott against that city may soon develop in light of the vote to repeal Tampa's anti-discrimination law.

Already the national Catholic Campus Ministers Association has canceled its 1994 regional meeting even though the bishop of St. Petersburg support the repeal of the law. Sister Joanne Sullivan who helped organized the meeting said her group is opposed to discrimination in any form.

The 1996 GALA Festival, the gathering of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, is also is doubt, along with its expected $3.5 million in revenue for the city.

GAY LEGISLATOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF MINN. SENATE

Without any controversy, the Minnesota Senate has elected an openly gay legislator as its president.

On Jan.5, Sen. Allan Spear became the highest-ranking openly gay state lawmaker. The reaction of his colleagues was "So what?"

"It's a non-issue," said Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe. "Senator

continued page 13

February Calendar

February (Ongoing)
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine will hold monthly discussion/speaker pot-luck suppers at the First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. The purposes of the Fellowship are to encourage individuals to explore their own spirituality and to develop their own personal theologies, heighten the awareness of gay, lesbian and bisexual issues, foster friendships, and offer support, information and assistance. For more information and to be placed on the mailing list call the First Parish office at 773-5747. See our calender listings below for the February - April programs.

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

February (Ongoing)
WEDNESDAYS
Portland's Branch of MLGPA's Legislative Committee meets on all Wednesdays in support of the state-wide effort to gain civil rights for Lesbians and Gay men. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend ongoing meetings at 100 Middle Street., 5th floor(the law offices of Bernstein, Shur & Associates) at 7:00 p.m.. Call the Lesbian/Gay Info. line at 883-6934 or Larry Bliss at 767-4496 for more information.

February (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.

February (Ongoing)
FRIDAYS
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, 255 Maine Street in Sanford has new Friday hours. They are now open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. Services include FREE pregnancy testing, birth control information and supplies confidential HIV testing, annual exams and STD screening and treatment for women AND men. Call 324-9385 for more information.

February (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.

February 1
MONDAY (AND ALL MONDAYS TIL THE BILL PASSES)
Anyone interested in working in support of civil rights for Lesbian and Gay men at the state level is invited to attend the ongoing meetings of MLGPA's Legislative Committee. Place:AUGUSTA City Hall, 6:30 p.m. each Monday. Call Paula for more information at 445-2863.

February 1- 7
MUSEUM: ANSEL ADAMS: The Early years; 77 rare photograghs by Ansel Adams, at The Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Square, Portland. Call 773-ARTS.

February 1 -27
THEATRE: SEXUAL PERVERSITY IN CHICAGO, A Dark Sex Comedy by David Mamet. Performed by the Vintage Repertory Company at Cafe' No. Call 772-8114 for more information.

February 2-21
THEATRE: THE BALTIMORE WALTZ, An AIDS play by Paula Vogel. Performed by the Portland Stage Company. For more information call 774-0465.

February 3
WEDNESDAY
Bangor/Brewer PFLAG meets at 7:00 p.m. in Brewer. Call 989-5180 for the location.

February 4-28
THURSDAY- SUNDAY
THEATRE: BETTER DAYS, A new play by Richard Dresser. An enticing combination of social commentary and character farce, "Better Days" recalls the classic American comedies of the forties and fifties-the works of Frank Capra, Preston Sturgis, Moss Hart and George S. Kaufamn. Performed by Mad Horse Theatre, 955 Forest Ave., Portland. Thursday through Saturday performances will be at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 7:00 p.m.. Tickets are $16.. Call 797-3338 for more information and reservations.

February 5
FRIDAY
Christine Lavin and the Babes will appear at 8:00 p.m. at the Music Hall in Portsmouth, NH. Call 603-436-2400 for more information.

February 5
FRIDAY
Chiltern Mountain Club beginner cross country ski weekend in New Hampshire. Call John 617-648-9185.

February
THEATRE: EVITA, a Concert Stage Version of The Andrew Lloyd Weber Musical-Opera, Portland Symphony Orchestra & The Maine State Music Theatre, City Hall, Portland. Call 773-8191 or 1-800-639-2309.

February 6
SATURDAY
Out & About Two Step Dance, First United Methodist Church, Miller Ave., Portsmouth, NH 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.. There is a $6 cover.

February 7
SUNDAY
A Variety Show to benefit the Eastern Maine AIDS Network will be at The Riverfront Lounge, 123 Franklin Street, Bangor. There will be cash prizes for winning performances in four categories. The show starts at 9:00 p.m. and there will be a $2. cover charge. Anyone interested in performing sign up at the Riverfront or call the Eastern Maine AIDS Network at 990-3626.

February 11
THURSDAY
THEATRE: A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, Original Cast Album of the musical by Stephen Sondheim, 7:00 p.m., WPKM FM 106.3.

February 11
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents: JOHN PRESTON, speaking on his new book, "Flesh and the Word," arguing that there's no difference between pornography and erotica. Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m.. Wheel chair accessible.

February 12-28
THEATRE; BLITHE SPIRIT, by Sir Noel Coward, a ghostly Comedy, City Theater of Biddeford, Call 282-0849 for more information.

February 13
SATURDAY
Women's Valentine Dance at the U. U. Church (across from the library) on Pleasant Street in Brunswick at 8:00 p.m.. For more information call 882-9672.

February 13
SATURDAY
Lucy Blue Tremblay performs at Saunders Theater, Cambridge, MA 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $15 & $17.

February 14
THEATRE: SHIRLEY VALENTINE, a screwy love comedy at The Theater Project, Brunswick. Call 729-8584 for more information.

February 14
SUNDAY
Chiltern Mountain Club winter day hike in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Call Gloria 617-547-0053 or Carol 508-392-9474.

February 14-21
NATIONAL CONDOM WEEK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

February 16
TUESDAY
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine is sponsoring a speaker/pot-luck supper. Tonight's speaker is Howard Soloman, Gay/Lesbian historian and professor at Tufts University who's topic will be "The History of Silence." Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.; and speaker and/or discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m. First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. For more information call 773-5747.

February 16
TUESDAY
THEATRE: Douglas Rafter, Guest Organist on the Mighty Kotzschmar Organ, City Hall, 7:30 p.m.. Call 774-3427 for more information.

February 19
FRIDAY
Chiltern Mountain Club cross country ski weekend in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire. Call Johnny 603-624-8955.

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February 20
SATURDAY
DIGNITY is presenting; JOHN McNEILL, former Jesuit priest and author of Taking a Chance on God: Liberating Theology for Gays, Lesbians and Their Lovers, Families and Friends and The Church and the Homosexual, who will speak on "Freedom, Glorious Freedom: Achieving Freedom as a Mature Lesbian/Gay Person." At the First Parish Church, Congress Street, Portland at 7:30 p.m.. For more information call 422-3140.

February 20
SATURDAY
"Hearts of Fire" Valentine Ball sponsored by N.H. Pride at the Alpine Grove in Hollis, N.H.. Good food and live music, 8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. Tickets are $15. in advance and $18. at the door. A map will be sent with your tickets. Send your check made payable to NH Pride with a SASE to N.H. Pride, P.O. Box 396, Danville, NH 03819.

February 21
SUNDAY
The MLGPA will meet to discuss most especially the bill before this session's legislature guaranteeing civil rights/equal rights to Lesbian and Gays. Augusta, 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Winthrop Street. Call Paula Aboud for information.

February 22
MONDAY
Alexander Wallace will speak on: Homosexuality and The Religious Right, Seacoast Gay Men, Portsmouth, NH, 7:00 p.m.. Call 603-898-1115 for more information.

February 24
WEDNESDAY
Chiltern Mountain Club attends the 9th Annual Gay and Lesbian Ski Week in Stowe, Vermont. Call the Chiltern Trip-line 617-859-2843.

February 25
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents: Dr. DIANA LONG, Historian and Director of Women's Studies at USM, speaking on "Haven't We Seen This Before? An Historian Looks at Scientific "Explanations" for Homosexuality." Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m.. Wheel chair accessible.

February 25
THURSDAY
THEATRE: LISTENERS' FAVORITES, WITH ALEXANDER WALLACE and HOST JOHN SPRITZ, 7:00 p.m., WPKM 106.3 FM.

February 27
SATURDAY
The 7th ANNUAL MLGPA DINNER, moves to Brunswick at the ATRIUM INN at Cooks Corner. This year will honor all the people who have contributed to the civil rights movement in Maine. The evening starts at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails, followed by a sit down dinner at 6:30 p.m.. There will be a brief award ceremony and new this year, a silent auction. Dancing will begin at 10:00 p.m.. Reservations must be made. Seating is limited. For more information write or phone; Judy Edgerly, P.O. Box 136, Hallowell, ME 04347, call 626-9309.
Also, for those traveling long distances room reservations may be made at the Atrium Inn at reasonable rates-call729-5555.

February 28
SUNDAY
National Day of Remembrance. Sponsored by the National Coalition for Black Lesbian and Gays this last Sunday in February is set aside to honor Black gay and lesbian people who have died.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 3
WEDNESDAY
Bangor/Brewer PFLAG meets at 7:00 p.m. in Brewer. Call 989-5180 for the location.

March 5 & 6
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Kate Clinton at the Tsai Performance Center, 685 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA.. The show on the 5th is at 8:00 p.m. and there are two shows on the 6th at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.. Tickets are $16.50. Call 617-496-2222.

March 9
TUESDAY
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine is sponsoring a speaker/pot-luck supper. Tonight's speaker is Nightwalker who will speak on "Native American Spirituality." Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.; and speaker and/or discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m. First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. For more information call 773-5747.

March 11
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society and The Names Project/Maine presents: "How The Quilt Speaks To Us: An Evening of Storytelling, Music and Poetry" accompanying the display of a 12' x 12' panel of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. This is a kick-off of a three-month visit of the AIDS Memorial Quilt to Maine. Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m.. Wheel chair accessible.

March 13
SATURDAY
The 7th Annual VISUAL AID ART AUCTION to benefit the AIDS Project will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Portland. Last year's auction had over 140 artists and over 600 people attended. Rob Elowitch will be the Auctioneer and contributing artists this year include: Dozier Bell, Brett Bigbee, Alfred Chadbourne, Judy Ellis Glickman, Pat & DeWitt Hardy, Paul Heroux, Charles Hewitt, Eric Hopkins, Fred Lynch, Alan Magee, Celeste Roberge, Marguerite Robichaud and Toni Wolf. The preview begins at noon and the Auction starts at 8:00 p.m.. Admission is $5.. For more information contact the AIDS Project 774-6877. The SNOW date is March 14th.

March 21
SUNDAY
The MLGPA will meet to discuss most especially the bill before this session's legislature guaranteeing civil rights/equal rights to Lesbian and Gays. Augusta, 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Winthrop Street. Call Paula Aboud for information.

March 25
THURSDAY
The Matlovich Society presents: Dr. GARY LEUPP, professor of Japanese history at Tufts University, presenting an illustrated lecture on "Nanshoku:Homosexuality in Japanese Culture." Portland Public Library, Rines Auditorium, 5 Monument Square, Portland, 7:30-9:00 p.m.. Wheel chair accessible.

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 2,3 & 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 12 -17
MONDAY- FRIDAY
GAY/LESBIAN/BISEXUAL awareness week at University of Maine-Orono. The Theme for this year is Religion and Homosexuality/Bisexuality. Activities/speeches planned so far are: Brian McNaught, who will speak on Tuesday. For more information call the Wilde-Stein office at 581-1596.

April 20
TUESDAY
The Unitarian Universalist Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Fellowship of Maine is sponsoring a discussion/pot-luck supper. Tonight's topic is "The Goddess." Susan Auglis will present a slide show and lead a discussion. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m.; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.; and speaker and/or discussion will begin at 7:30 p.m. First Parish, 425 Congress Street, Portland. For more information call 773-5747.

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 the 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.

June 25-27
FRIDAY-SUNDAY
The 7th Annual Golden Threads Celebration will take place at the Provincetown Inn in Provincetown, Ma.. Golden Threads is a worldwide social network of Lesbian Women over 50, and women who are interested in older women— no lesbian women is excluded. Lesbian women from all over the U.S., many from Canada and some from other countries will converge in Provincetown to celebrate what they are and their age, whatever it is. Entertainment will be provided by Julie Woods. A banquet will be followed by dancing, with the DJ mixing in the pre-rock oldies. Sing-a-longs and rap sessions will be offered, as well as feminist videos. Attendance is limited to 250 women. For more information please contact: Golden Threads, P.O. Box 3177, Burlington, VT 05401-0031.

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THE MAN WITH THREE COFFINS	Mar. 1

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Nachas!

Nachas:
a Yiddish word meaning "pride," pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, which rhymes with "Bach."

By Rita M. Kissen

From the moment I arrived at Lewiston Junior High School the evening of January 6, I knew that the public hearing for the proposed Human Rights Ordinance was no May 11-Portland-style celebration. At least two thirds of the thousand people in the auditorium were wearing badges that said "NO GAY EDUCATION" and holding signs with messages like "The Twin Cities [Lewiston-Auburn]: Sodom and Gomorrah?" and "We Hate Queers." The tenor of the hearing, during which one man yelled "Kill all the faggots!" in the midst of Bates College Affirmative Action officer James Bell's testimony (was it just coincidence that the most vicious heckling happened during a speech by an African American?), can only be described as scary.

Talking later to Lewiston mayor Jim Howaniec, I learned that I was not the only person who was scared that night. Jim told me that he has had numerous hate calls; even his mother has been harassed. Jim, Police Chief Larry Gilbert, and the five members of the City Council who voted for the ordinance have all received threats to their careers and their lives. Yet almost in the same breath, Jim told me he is planning to go door-to-door to face the people of Lewiston and talk about the ordinance.

Jim Howaniec is not the only brave person in Lewiston. Almost as soon as I entered the school, I saw a group of Equal Protection/Lewiston volunteers who had set up a table to welcome supporters. There they were, right outside the auditorium, with literature, EPL signs, and purple ribbons for ordinance backers. Some wore red armbands and stood quietly along the sides of the hall all evening, not saying anything, just being there.

I don't know how many of these people—many of them younger than my own kids—had ever done anything public for gay rights before. I don't know how many are out to their parents, their coworkers or fellow students, their community. I don't know what painful memories of harassment, assault, or just plain invisibility they brought to that moment when they greeted us. All I know is that by standing up instead of hiding, they made me, and everyone else who testified for the ordinance, feel a little safer and a lot prouder.

One of my favorite family stories is my father's memory of an incident that happened 75 years ago, when he was 10 years old. My grandparents owned a bakery in a seaside community where the annual influx of "summer people" included many Jewish families from the city. In the winter, the hotels and bungalows stood empty and the population dwindled until my dad's family became the only Jews in the neighborhood. A shy kid who was small for his age was the perfect target for local toughs, who yelled "kike!" at my father as they chased him down the street every afternoon.

My father was then, and is now, one of the few true pacifists in this world, and the thought of defying those bigger and stronger kids must have been unappealing, not to say terrifying. But one day, as he tells it, something clicked: he turned around almost involuntarily, and confronted his tormentors. In an instant, they scattered and fled, never to chase him again.

I thought of my dad as I drove back to Portland after the hearing, and I thought again of the lesbians and gay men who welcomed me and sent me safely on my way home that night. It will take a lot more than standing behind a table, or wearing armbands, or even going door-to-door, to win equal protection in Lewiston. But no strategy, however brilliant, can take the place of simple courage. Lewiston's advocates for human rights showed us that it is possible to be outnumbered and outshouted—and still make a difference.◆

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Peter J. Callnan

A CONVERSATION WITH JOHN PRESTON...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

work to be the first. And you almost never can win. You almost have to be defeated. No one who's the first can be that perfect. And that's what I meant about generational; you have to be willing to be the step in a process as opposed to the end in the process."

HOW DO YOU FANTASIES AND FICTION RELATE TO YOUR REALITY?

"The whole thing about the fiction and my reality is bizarre, because it happens on so many different levels. I usually bristle when they talk about all fiction being autobiographical, which gives the author no creativity. Actually, I Once Had a Master is explicitly autobiographical and I owned it in the epilogue. The rest of my fiction is out there in outer space. It is simply my escape. It's not meant to be anything more than that. But there's also Franny the Queen of Provincetown, my first book, which fascinates me. I could easily deny that Franny was autobiographical. What I found out though was that it was anticipatory. By writing that book I was trying on being a middle aged person; I have become Franny. I have become this good uncle with these nephews, and that was not in my life when I wrote that book. I was mapping a landscape that I would later on become."

Preston's anthologies are filled with essays by gay male writers confronting some of the most personal aspects of gay life. His editing, contributions, and introductions are full of introspection, emotion, and careful analysis of social and personal patterns. His erotica, however, is fantasy with a principle purpose of entertainment and exploration. His erotica, sometimes called pornography, and sometimes referred to by Preston and others as sleaze, has also been referred to by USA Today as part of a new literary flowering. An examination of the actual content of Preston's sexual fiction will allow readers to attach their own labels free of the contradictory connotations of the labels of "sleaze" or "flowering": his novels and short stories deal with sadism and masochism. **S&M** a' la Preston includes most controversially the use of a variety of devices to inflict pain and create bruises and welts. It includes the ingestion of urine and the exposure of bodily wounds to the same. And it includes the use of branding irons and fists. And it involves mock slavery and men who refer to each other as Daddy and Son.

In his writings and interviews, John Preston has explained his view of the importance of pornography in the life experience of gay men. "Pornographic writings were how we learned the parameters of our sexual life. . . Pornography was how we developed our fantasies, both sexual and emotional. . . It's incredible to hear how many men found their first significant connection with the gay world through a porn magazine."

DO YOU THINK THAT A HEAVY S&M STORY IS A GOOD FIRST CONTACT WITH GAY IDENTIFY FOR A SIXTEEN YEAR OLD PICKING UP A MAGAZINE?

"I'm finding in my middle age that my mother is the fount of all New England wisdom. And I adore her very much, much more now than I probably ever have before. She came to a reading in a group in Boston a couple years ago, and some of the people read some very racy stuff. And it had been my mother and a couple of my sisters and a room full of seventy five gay men. And afterward everyone went, "Oh my god, what did your mother think?" So I went to her and said, "Ma, what'd you think?" And she looked at me and thought for a moment and said, "I could have left the room." That was the end of the conversation.

"You must remember this is another generational thing. I grew up in a time when there were no images, when there was only the void. The only people who were ever identified as gay were those who were going in and out of the mental institutions or were so stereotypical that they couldn't be a role model for a young New England boy like myself thirty five years ago.

"I am not inclined to tell anybody what they ought to do. I am more inclined to present them with as many options as they want. And just as I do when writing erotica, they can explore something and decide they don't want to do it. A lot of stuff that I've written I don't want to do. That's not the point. It's in my fantasies. We shy away from very taboo topics. I want all of those things out on the table. When I came out I was told not to be a sexual person who wasn't nice. And I feel that I and other people have suffered from that. It is important to speak the unspoken. Especially when I was perceived as only being a pornographer, or perceived as being filthy it was much more important for me to not bear the burden of those secret thoughts than anything else, than the way that it might offend somebody."

WHEN EDITING YOUR EROTIC ANTHOLOGIES, DO YOU EVER READ STORIES WHICH YOU FIND TOO OFFENSIVE TO PUBLISH ?

There are some issues which are very painful to me. One of them is boy love. I am not willing to take on the role of the censor, but having been a young boy who was sexually active I am acutely and painfully aware of the power discrepancies and I think that the whole argument about boy love is not meaning-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Continued on page 14

The Straight & narrow

by Holly Valero

from page 8

home, however, may not result in a weight loss of 30 pounds.

Picture a young girl in grade school about to take a test. As she enters the classroom the teacher says, "I don't think you're prepared. You'll probably fail." The girl sits down at her desk. The teacher says, "The boys will do well. If you get a passing grade it will be a miracle." The girl takes the test, finishes before the boys, and puts the paper face down on the desk. The teacher says, "You finished early. You must have left several blank or made several mistakes because this was a hard test. The boys are still working hard on their papers. It's a shame you couldn't do better. This will probably lower your overall grade." Class is dismissed and the children leave. The next day they return. The little girl walks in and picks up her paper from her desk. She has received an "A" on the test. The teacher comes up to her and says, "You were very lucky. Next time you may not be so lucky." The teacher says to the little boy at the next desk, "You did very well. You got a "C" You're performing as well as your classmates. Very good."

First thing in the morning. Last thing at night. The message to women is that you are doomed before you start.

It's true that I could easily lose, say, 30-40% of my total weight without ill effects. And like every American woman I certainly feel overweight. It would be hard not to in a country that constantly reminds me that I'm not Miss America. It's not like I'm not working on it... I have a Nordictrack, you know. But it requires a backbone of Teflon sometimes.

I take solace in those occasional CNN stories of the lone survivor of a plane crash in the snowy Rockies - who had enough personal insulation to outlast the Slim Fast Sales Team that croaked three days out after eating all the honey-roasted peanuts and chocolate snowcone shakes.

It is true that our entire nation would be better off if we all had the endurance of decathlon runners, the flexibility of well-oiled slinkies, and the overall build of Olympic gymnasts. However, unless I install a set of uneven bars in my office and hurdles down the hallways, my 9-5 job will provide enough cardiovascular exercise daily to work with hilarious ferocity. Wednesday nights at CAFE NO through February 17th. Call: 772-8114.

Up in Biddeford, in their beautiful, historic play-house, CITY THEATRE is producing our very own SIR NOEL COWARD'S wonderful comedy classic, "BLITHE SPIRIT." The epitome of theatrical sophistication and British camp, "BLITHE SPIRIT," is a "delightful and improbable farce which deliciously delves into the world of the occult." If you've never seen a Coward play or live "British" comedy, pre-Monty Python - although they claim Coward as one of The Masters - "BLITHE SPIRIT" - almost indestructible - is to cut one's theatrical eye teeth on! You have in Elvira - created on stage by Gertrude Lawrence, the most glamorous of ghosts; in Madame Arcati, immortalized on screen by Margaret Rutherford and in the musical comedy version by Bea Lillie - the whackiest psychic channeler ever - and in Charles, realized by Sir Noel himself, the apotheosis of The English Prig - three of Classic Comedys' greatest characters. Friday and Saturday through February 28th. Call: 1-282-0849.

And on Thursday, February 25th, at 7PM, your humble scribe will be racing through the ENTIRE history of the American Musical Comedy, playing ten or twenty of my favorite musical comedy selections as the guest of host JOHN SPRITZ of WPKM 106.3 FM. It's a new programming effort called: "LISTENERS' FAVORITES," and I'm honored to be John's first guest. And my selections go 'way back.

And a last minute flash! PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY is doing a play with an AIDS theme: "THE BALTIMORE WALTZ," by PAULA VOGEL. It starts February 2nd. Call: 774-0456.

See THE CALENDAR for other February theatre offerings 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. ◆

AT THE stage door...

BY ALEXANDER WALLACE

from page 13

of these heterosexual friendships. Mamet's slant on contemporary sexual mores probes the complex relationships between the four

MAINE FINALLY HAS ITS GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

continued from page 7

thing to make those heterosexuals very jealous. Being the dreamer I am my wish would be for the old St. Lawrence Church(that abandoned church near The Whole Grocer on Congress Street) to be our new community center. It is sad how a building of such fantastic history and architecture just sits there rotting away. Of course this could all remain a dream or not happen until fifty years from now. Being the impatient young man that I am, I want it now.◆

PUBLIC TV SAYS "NO"...

He did offer that the station had recorded the first shows for possible future broadcast. And he has finally viewed the pilot show. I argued strenuously that it was time for Maine Public Television to recognize that Maine has a large gay and lesbian constituency, as evidenced by the success of Portland's and Lewiston's new human rights ordinances.

I asked him when his failure to decide should be considered a decision in itself—after a month, two months, six months, when? I asked if he even had a timeline for deciding. To all of these, Mr. Wiest had no direct response other than to imply that the show would not be airing before May. Although I reminded him of my two earlier calls and that he was first offered this show last May, Mr. Wiest could give me no indication of when, or even if, a decision would ever be made.

Mr. Wiest further suggested that I contact Bernie Roscetti, his immediate supervisor and director of both public radio and TV, as well as Robert Gardiner, president and general manager of the whole Maine system. I think I even got a chuckle out of him when I mentioned Mr. Roscetti's very pointed, on-the-air references to "family" programming during December's pledge drive. I explained that I didn't hold much hope for anyone who was still using such anti-gay buzzwords, especially after last year's local and national electoral campaigns.

At one point Mr. Wiest suggested that he was trying to find a good time slot for our program. He said that he didn't want to relegate it to Sundays at 11:00 pm as other public stations do. I hope I spoke correctly when I said that we would be happy to have it broadcast then—we have VCRs—rather than not see it at all. This seemed to be an opening Mr. Wiest regarded as worthy of further consideration. But, as ever, he would not say.

I finished the interview by asking Mr. Wiest how he recommends that we let our feelings be known. He first replied that he has already heard from a number of viewers.

see MAINE SAYS NO, page 15

JOHN PRESTON

ful. It just does not deal with the complexities of that situation and the exploitation that sexually active boys go through because of adult men. Any story that would glorify boy love would automatically be suspect. I can't imagine it being complex enough as writing."

BUT IN YOUR OWN WRITING THERE IS A LOT OF VOCABULARY OF DADDY AND SON?

"But that's psycho-play between consenting adults and it's very clear that it's always that. And I think that's very powerful stuff. That's what a lot of our lives are about right now in terms of our culture. We're all clinging to Jungian archetypes and looking at things in that way and acting out various aspects of our lives. I think it's all part of the creativity of gay sex that we can get into that. We cross that line when we get into playing into societal exploitations.

"There are also certain things about gay sex and gay porn which separate them from other categories. Heterosexual porn almost always involves the degradation of a woman and thus reinforces the societal standards of a woman's degradation. Gay porn is strikingly different in that the reader, a gay male, can take either role. The common woman reader can not take either role in heterosexual porn as it's usually constructed. But the gay male reading an S&M story is either the master or the slave depending on his moment.

"I am more and more convinced that gay male porn, especially, S&M is about a rite of initiation. There is a ritual being presented in an under-ritualized world. I am very intrigued by the elements of costume, how in much S&M literature, for instance, the "boy", who is not necessarily younger by any means, earns his leather, endures an ordeal, is taught by a master. "What is the violence doing?" is the question of importance. In Flesh and the Word 2, the editor came back and was quite stunned that there were two stories which on first reading are rape stories, and it wasn't until a second reading that she understood that the supposed victim was in control. And so that's the complexity that becomes much less vile in a homosexual context than in a heterosexual one."

ARE YOU REPORTING THESE RITES OF INITIATION OR CREATING THEM?

"We as writers are both reporting what's happening in the bar and the men in the bar are finding in our writings ways to fulfill their needs. The first thing I ever wrote of any note was Mr. Benson which appeared as a serial. I found it very shocking that there were clubs of men who purported to act out each segment as it was published in the magazine. It never dawned on me that people were going to do these things because I wasn't going to do these things, or not all of them anyway. People are still responsible for what they do. They're responsible for how they interpret the writing. If someone is uncreative enough to not come up with his own sex life and follows my writings, I don't feel that's my responsibility." ◆

John Preston will be speaking to the Matlovich Society on February 11, 1993, in the Portland Public Library, arguing that there is no difference between pornography and erotica.

GLT

Maine says NO...

I reminded him that this story might be the first notice many Maine gays and lesbians have that this show even exists. I explained again that I felt he was underestimating the size of the potential audience in Maine for "In The Life." I guess he took my questions as threatening. He would only suggest that we do whatever we like. He again strongly refused to give any timeline for even making a decision, let alone putting our program on the air.

The original Broadway cast of Falsettos (show 3)

On one hand, Mr. Wiest has given every impression that he is an open and reasonable man, as I am sure he believes himself to be. On the other hand, he has relegated our show to the shelf without considering the homophobic nature of that act. People like Mr. Wiest find validation for their dismissal of our concerns in the social and professional acceptance of second-class treatment for lesbians and gay men. This kind of internalized and institutionalized discrimination is even harder to fight than the Jasper Wymans of the world, who freely admit they are fighting us.

This is an important issue. Visibility in mainstream media is the number one way to battle the ignorance that fosters homophobia. I hope to follow up on this story next month. Take the time to contact Maine Public Television right away.

It is clear they need a push.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Become an "In The Life" member.
   Dues are high ($35 or $50) but consider joining if only for this startup year. They hope to receive grants and PBS or corporate underwriting for their second season. Call Kevin McDonough for more info at 1-800 / 578-4354.

2. Tell Maine Public Television that you want to see "In The Life." It is obvious that we have a great deal of inertia to overcome at MPTV. Every one of us – this means you – must send a postcard, make a phone call or write a letter now. Just ask to have our program broadcast. If you are a subscriber, please say so in any communication you have.

3. Contact your gay-friendly Maine state legislators. Let them know that you are a public citizen whose needs are not being met by Maine Public Television, a major recipient of your tax dollars. Let them know that "In The Life" has been available free-of-charge since last June.

Here are the major players:

Robert H. Gardiner
President and General Manager
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.
1450 Lisbon Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
phone: 1-783-9101

Bernard F. Roscetti
Director of Broadcasting
Maine Public Broadcasting Corp.
65 Texas Avenue
Bangor, ME 04401
phone: 1-941-1010

Harry J. Wiest
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LOCAL STATE REGIONAL NATIONAL GLOBAL

repealed by referendum.

NEW YORK CITY EMPLOYEES GET LIMITED BENEFITS

Mayor David Dinkins of New York City signed two executive orders granting lesbians and gay men domestic partnership benefits, including a benefit allowing a city employee to take a leave of absence without pay to care for a partner's newborn child.

Noticeably absent from the executive orders was a grant of full health benefits to domestic partners of city employees. Gay and lesbian leaders were critical of Dinkins and called on him to fulfill his 1989 campaign promise to give lesbian and gay city employees full health benefits.

In signing the executive orders, Dinkins established a city registry where city employees can register their relationships. Registering a relationship is the first step in being eligible for benefits.

New York joins about 25 other cities which have domestic partnership legislation.

OREGONIANS WOULD OPPOSE COLORADO-TYPE INITIATIVE

Despite strong support for an anti-lesbian and gay initiative, a recent poll shows that Oregonians would still oppose an anti-gay and lesbian initiative even if it was couched in milder terms such as the one that won in Colorado.

In November, Oregon voters defeated an initiative that would have required schools to teach that homosexuality is abnormal and perverse and prohibited the use of state funds to "encourage" or "facilitate" homosexuality, as well as forced the repeal of any local laws prohibiting discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

Lon Mabon, head of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the religious fundamentalist group which backed the anti-gay initiative, said that he would try to get a Colorado-type initiative on the 1994 ballot.

In a poll commissioned by the Washington Blade , 59 percent of the 809 voters polled said that they would vote against an initiative worded in a manner similar to

Continued page 18

GLT 16 classifieds

12 MISCELLANEOUS

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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: To share lovely 2 bedroom, fully appliance duplex with oil heat. Private, quiet, chem-free environment. Includes w/d hookup, off-street parking and more. GM preferred. $312.50 + 1/2 utilities. Available 1/15/93. Pets negotiable. Call 780-1415 and leave a message.

20 FEMALE PERSONALS

Bored? Want to travel? Seeking a travel companion for 2/3 weeks vacation in Czech., visiting local dykes living there. Interested...call 882-9672 for details.

30, Feminine, GWF. I enjoy the beach, quiet times, good conversation and dining out. I'm an unforgettable romantic and I love to show affection. I'm searching for that special someone to love and share my life with. Please no dykes/kids O.K.. Photo appreciated. Write to advertiser # 201-1, 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.

PERSONAL OF THE MONTH:
Sensuous, Single figurative painter seeking:
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4. *a best friend of unique quality.*

Write to advertiser #800-1 c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, Me 04104.

Sensuous, Single figurative painter seeking:
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4. a best friend of unique quality.

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21 MALE PERSONALS

GWM, 44, seeks other GWM's or GM's ages 40-50 in the Kennebec County area for just a "good friendship" to pass away lonely times into enjoyable ones. Write to advertiser #203-1, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

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 #515-1, 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 #409-4, 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..

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 # 519-2, c/o Our Paper, Box 737, Portland, ME 04104.

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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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Classified Ad Form

All classifieds must be prepaid prior to publication. Our Paper accepts no liability for any reason for its failureto print an ad, or for any errors appearing beyond the cost of the advertisement. Our Paper reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.

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GLT

Mo'Classifieds

22 BI PERSONALS

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66 COUNSELING

Support Group and Counseling Sessions for Gay Men and Women, 61 Main Street, Bangor, Maine. Men meet Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and Women meet Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Cost is $20 per person per 1 1/2 hour session. Sessions are led by J. Bunker, M. Ed. Counselor. Call 947-1022 or 990-2944.

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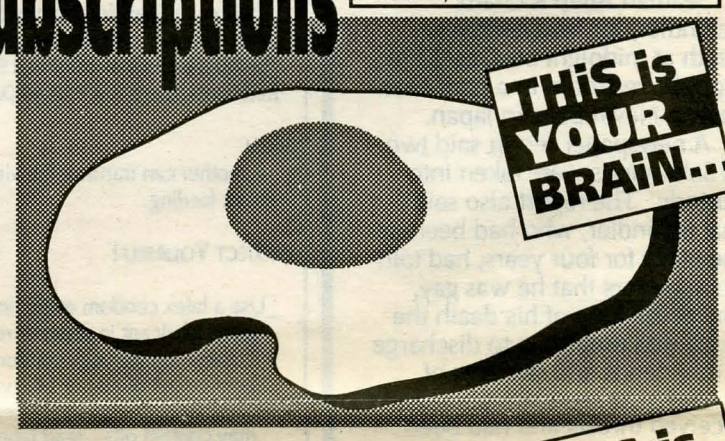

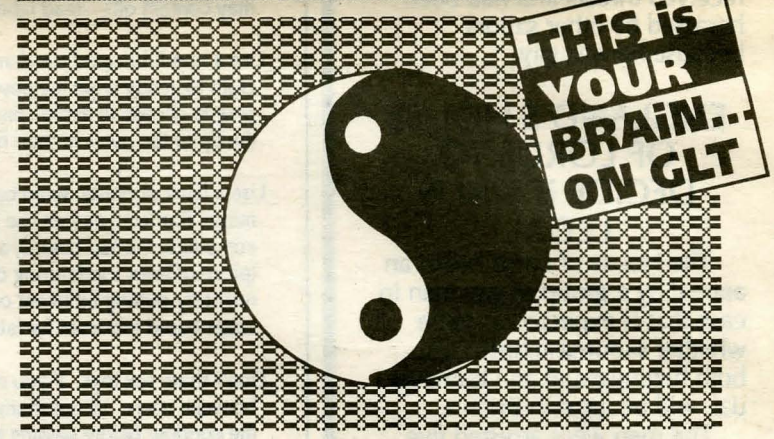

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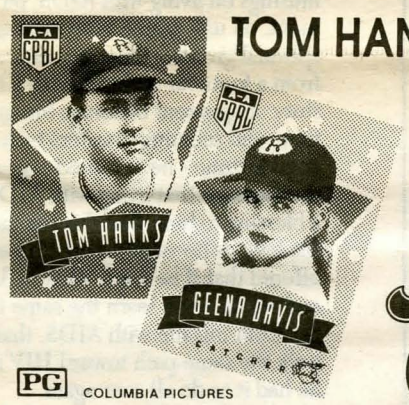

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HIV/AIDS INFORMATION & EDUCATION

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the Colorado initiative. Only 35 percent said they would vote for it and 6 percent were undecided.

GAY SAILOR MURDERED IN JAPAN

The U.S. Navy is investigating whether a sailor based in southern Japan was murdered six weeks ago because he was a homosexual.

Seaman Allen Richard Schindler, 22, was beaten to death at midnight on Oct. 27 in a public restroom in a park near Sasebo Naval Base in Japan.

A newspaper report said two of Schindler's were taken into custody. The report also said that Schindler, who had been in the Navy for four years, had told his superiors that he was gay, and at the time of his death the Navy was preparing to discharge him. Friends and relatives of Schindler say that the sailor had received threats and had been harassed by other sailors because he was gay.

ENGLAND'S HOUSE OF LORDS TO DECIDE IF S/M IS LEGAL

The House of Lords heard an appeal by a group of gay men in case that is expected to settle whether sadomasichistic sex, both heterosexual and homosexual, will be legal in Britain.

The men were arrested five years ago during a nationwide police campaign that resulted in 42 arrests of alleged members of a gay male S/M group. Sixteen were convicted and eight received prison sentences.

According to the London weekly *Capital Gay, the appeal centered on whether the law should draw the line on bodily harm when determining the legal definition of "consent."

Baroness Ane Mallalieu, representing the gay men, argued that the law should interfere in consenting sexual acts only if they take place in public. She said the men should never have been tried in the first place, since no complaint was made to the police, and since the activities were private, did not involve children or animals, and did not cause serious or permanent injuries.

continued page 19

THE FACTS ABOUT HIV & AIDS

WHAT IS IT?
HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome). HIV attacks the immune system and weakens it over time. AIDS is a diagnosis that a person infected with HIV receives after the virus has severely damaged her/his immune system.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?
HIV is transmitted through certain body fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions (includes menstrual blood, cervical discharge, and fluids of sexual lubrication), and breast milk. There is no evidence that the virus is transmitted through saliva, tears or sweat. HIV may be present in urine and feces if blood is present in either of these substances. HIV is spread from person to person in the following ways:

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE
_anal intercourse (penis in anus/rectum)
_vaginal intercourse (penis in vagina)
_oral sex (mouth to vagina, mouth to penis, mouth to anus).

BLOOD TO BLOOD CONTACT
_sharing needles (for intravenous drugs, steroids, ear piercing or tattooing)
_through open cuts or sores (including blood brother/blood sister rituals)
_blood transfusions prior to 1985 when no antibody test existed (According to the American Red Cross, there is a 1 in 40,000 chance of contracting the virus through a transfusion today.)

BIRTH
_A mother can transmit the virus to a child before or during birth, and after birth through breast feeding.

PROTECT YOURSELF!

_Use a latex condom every time for anal or vaginal intercourse (fucking). Be sure to use a good lubricant in order to reduce friction and make the condom less likely to break. Lubrication for latex condoms must always be water based like KY or Wet. Lubricants that contain petroleum or oils (vaseline, crisco, baby oil, etc.) will quickly dissolve the condom and cause it to break. Note: water soluble lubricant is not the same as water based, and may contain oils—read labels carefully!

_Use a non-lubricated condom for oral sex on a penis (blow job). For best results, use a wet cloth to gently wipe the powder off the condom before putting it in your mouth. Some people choose to avoid condoms by licking the shaft and balls of the penis without putting the tip of the penis in their mouth.

_Use a latex or plastic wrap barrier for oral-vaginal sex (going down) or oral-anal sex (rimming). Barriers you can use include common plastic wraps like saran or glad wrap (some come tinted in fun colors), a condom cut lengthwise to form a square, or a dental dam (piece of latex used during dental procedures, often flavored). For added pleasure, you might try putting lubricant on the side of the barrier facing the vagina or anus (always use a water based lubricant for latex barriers).

_Don't share sex toys. If you must share, make sure to wash them in hot, soapy water between users. When sharing dildos, one partner can use it with a condom, then remove the condom before passing the dildo to the next person.

_If you're an I.V. drug user, avoid sharing needles. If you must share needles, be sure to cleanse them properly with bleach between users. To do this, fill the chamber of the needle with bleach and squirt it out, then fill the chamber with water and squirt that out. Repeat the process one more time. This will kill any HIV that may have entered the needle from the last person using it.

_Remember, the point here is to always avoid receiving blood, semen or vaginal secretions in your mouth, rectum, vagina, the tip your penis, or on any open cuts or sores.

_There are lots of activities that pose virtually no risk for HIV transmission. Some include kissing, massage, masturbation, phone sex, bathing, etc. Be creative!

_Use of alcohol and other drugs can cloud your judgement and cause you to put yourself at risk. Substance use/abuse also lowers the body's immune system, making transmission even more likely.

ANY QUESTIONS?

The AIDS Line is Maine's state-wide source for HIV/AIDS information and referrals. Call us at 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267 if you have questions about safer sex, transmission, or HIV antibody testing. Always strictly anonymous.

JON GREENBERG SPEAKS AT MATLOVICH MEETING

"AIDS: An Open Systems Approach"

By John Bean

Jon Greenberg, a former spokesperson for ACT UP/New York and current director of the Treatment Alternatives Project, was invited back by the Matlovich Society to speak on January 14th. Last winter, he spoke on the AIDS Crisis (he started by saying it's over, which raised a few eyebrows), and gave a workshop on alternative treatments for AIDS (focusing less on particular treatments than on PWA's becoming empowered enough to manage their health care and their lives). Back then, his criticisms targeted, among others, direct action groups and entrenched AIDS service organizations. This time around, his focus was more on how PWA's live with AIDS, and, secondarily, on how the rest of the world understands AIDS. Since he is a person very in touch with his anger, mixed in with the metaphysics were frequent, witty asides focusing on the shortcomings of a rogues gallery of presidents, doctors, social workers, straight white middle-class males, etc.

Jon led an appreciative audience of about thirty through a sometimes rambling (he calls this ranting) yet logical series of musings on living with AIDS, on empowerment, on unlearning false messages, on spiritual growth. Opening with a parable from a footnote to the Tao Te Ching - a story of apparent blessings bringing misfortune, and seeming disasters turning into good fortune - he returned over and over to the message that living with AIDS has been a blessing to him, that this has taught him the lessons he values most. He even offered that if he knew what he knows now, and would again learn the same things he has from this life with AIDS, that he would walk the same path toward HIV infection if he had it to do all over again.

Jon charted his reaction to his HIV status and living with AIDS - a passage through fear, anger, public outrage, empowerment, the shedding of illusions, peace, love and respect, clarity, and finally to a state of grace and trust in the universe. He offered a disclaimer that these were personal truths he was going to share, learned from his body, that no one was obliged to accept their universality. He acknowledged diversity among PWA's, that he didn't wish to invalidate anyone else's reality by sharing his own. He proposed that life is made up of change, of pain, and ultimately of death, and that our society fears all these things.

This fear, he said, denies what life really is. And AIDS, which brings change, pain, and death becomes the focus of this fear. Jon Greenberg would argue that AIDS is nothing to fear, that living with AIDS is living, yet another diverse way of living that is not a punishment, not a curse, just different. What the "normal" immune system does, he suggested, is just one definition of health, and its an assumption to believe that living with AIDS is less healthy. In fact, Jon might argue that his

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

MATLOVICH...CONTINUED

immune system is at least as healthy as that of a non-PWA.

Jon mentioned he was living with, not effortlessly, at least four opportunistic infections: herpes, cryptospiridium, kaposi's sarcoma, and cryptococcus. His strategy has been to aggressively diagnose, with the help of his physician, the activity of these infections, to counter-attack vigorously to contain the extent of their impact, and to eventually achieve a stasis where he and these viruses, bacteria, fungi, and cancers can coexist. In the case of a PWA's immune system, the barrier that either kept out or rendered impotent these pathogens no longer exists, or is at least greatly diminished. Globally and in his own body, in the absence of barriers, Jon Greenberg finds acceptance, learning, and even love.

Turning to a diagram at this point to illustrate how barriers, geographical, societal, and physiological may cause more harm than good, he drew several parallels. Countries war, racial exclusion exploded in the L.A. riots, and a "normal" immune system reacts to the "other" with fevers, congestion and diarrhea. He asked us to accept that AIDS breaks down the walls between a person and the rest of the bio-diverse world, between life and death, between ourselves and the inner truths we are given this lifetime to learn. Greenberg's lecture attempted to redefine AIDS, not as a virus, not as a public health emergency, but as an opportunity.

The next day, a few PWA's joined Jon at the Living Room North to share experiences. Again the talk turned to the spiritual journey of living with AIDS, to near-death experiences, to glorious months of clarity affirming a person's spiritual purpose, to particular trials and tribulations that had offered lessons of peace and reconciliation. There was talk of the gulf between those with AIDS in their bodies and those on the outside, when friends try to reform a PWA's approach to health and longevity into one conforming with their own, when talk of mysticism and knowledge of death brings close friends to the anguish of having to let go. The hard lessons of pain and disability were weighed against the joy of spiritual awakening and the adventure of relearning life, and again Jon preached of AIDS being a gift and a blessing. Such a great gift, he believes, that it will help this world heal itself. ◆

AIDS ACTIVIST VINCENT BOULANGER DIES

By Kathy Mills

Vincent Boulanger of Gray, one of the longest living people with AIDS in Maine, died in his home on Tuesday, January 5.

Boulanger was widely known in the community as an AIDS education activist. Since his diagnosis in 1986, he worked with The AIDS Project and the State Department of Education, giving talks to numerous high schools and community groups across the state. He spoke frankly about his own fears about people with AIDS. He was a strong advocate of clear, explicit information about safer sex for youth.

Boulanger was one of the first in Maine to go public with his HIV status. Over the years, he was the subject of numerous newspaper and television stories on AIDS, and was perhaps the most interviewed PWA in the state. He felt strongly that more people needed to come out about their HIV status. He thought that only by keeping the face of AIDS in the public eye could ignorance, fear, and discrimination be overcome.

In 1988, he appeared in *Newsweek with another Portland AIDS activist, Frannie Peabody, when she was honored as one of the 50 unsung heroes in each of the states who have made a difference in their communities. In 1991, Vincent appeared with Peabody on the television show "Good Morning, America."

"Vincent had a kind of tenacity, determination and will that was truly remarkable." said Frannie Peabody. "He was very courageous through many battles with his illness. And he was blessed with parents who supported him completely. I have worked with many families struck by AIDS. That kind of family support is rare, and makes all the difference in a person's struggle with AIDS."

Boulanger served on the board of directors of The AIDS Project from 1987 to 1989, and was a regular donor to their annual AIDS benefit art auction.

In addition to his work with AIDS, he was a vocal advocate for community safety and civil rights for gays and lesbians. He was the victim of a vicious attack because he was gay, but did not win the case against his assailants. He spoke openly about his gay identity whenever he gave talks about AIDS.

On World AIDS DAy 1992, Boulanger participated in the Portland Museum of Art's observance of "A Day Without Art, " which focused on the impact of AIDS on the arts. In the fall, the Museum installed "Vincent's Journey," a porcelain life mask of Boulanger done by Portland artist, Paul Rodrigue.

Boulanger remained active throughout his last year of life. He turned 30 in July, marking seven years of living with HIV. Boulanger was an artist who worked in several different media. He was also a naturalist and attributed much of his knowledge about nature to his many years as a Boy Scout. He kept a garden at his home in Gray, and created bonsai in recent years. He found the small, painstaking work helped him to fight the loss of mobility in his hands. During early bouts of paralysis, his creativity found outlets in quilts and soft sculpture. An early quilt of cats won first prize at the Cumberland Fair.

Vincent Boulanger is survived by his mother, Shirley, and father, Donald, who were his primary caregivers, a brother, Jeffrey, two grandmothers, and his persian cat, Lucy. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 31 at 3:00 p.m. at First Parish Church in Portland. The family has asked that memorial gifts be sent to the Peabody Fund at The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., Portland, ME 04101.

The House of Lords, unlike the lower courts, appeared willing to accept the definition of S/M as sexual activity not consenting violence.

NORWAY INTRODUCES LAW TO LEGALIZE GAY MARRIAGE

The government of Norway proposed a law in December taht would allow gay men and lesbians to marry in much the same manner as heterosexuals do.

The Minister of Children and Families, Grete Berget, said she hoped Parliament would adopt the law this year.

It would allow gay men and lesbians to register their partnership with a notary public the same way straight couple do in a civil ceremony. The gay and lesbian couples would have the rights and obligations of a married couple, except for adopting children and being married in a church.

NEW ZEALAND'S ARMED FORCES SUPPORT LIFTING OF BAN

In a letter leaked to New Zealand's gay press, Defense Minister Warren Cooper said the country's armed forces are willing to end the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military.

The letter said that the armed forces will agree to comply with proposed legislation to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientaion. The legislation is expected to be adopted by New Zealand's parliament in the near future.

News compiled by Paul Lavin from the following sources: the Washington *Blade, Philadelphia Gay News, Bay Windows, New York Times,Portland Press Herald, Lewiston Sun-Journal.* Additional EPP and MLGPA news was supplied by Alan Stearns.

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MLGPA NEWS

On Sunday, January 17, 1993, the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) held a special election to fill vacancies on the Board. Elected to the board at the January meeting were:

President-Paula Aboud
Vice President-Judy Edgerly
Treasurer-Larry Bliss

Harry Gordon who has filled the role of acting President over the past two months will remain as Secretary of the organization. Newly elected District Directors include: Ellie Goldberg, Anke Siem, Pat Peard, and Alan Stearns. Members elected At-Large are: Mary MacLean and Karen Garrity.

For a complete list of MLGPA Directors and the Districts they represent, please write to: MLGPA, P.O. BOX 232, HALLOWELL, ME 04347

MLGPA'S ANNUAL DINNER MOVES TO BRUNSWICK

For the seventh time, members and friends of MLGPA will gather to honor those who have contributed to the civil rights movement in Maine. It is also a celebration of the community and is considered by many to be one of the state's premier social evenings.

MLGPA's dinner and dancing is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 1993 at the Atrium Inn at Cook's Corner in Brunswick, just off route 1. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a sit-down dinner at 6:30 p.m. A brief awards ceremony will follow the speaker. Dancing at 10:00 p.m.

A silent auction will also highlight the evening and organizers are looking for items to auction. Donations could be an item that you no longer have use for, body work sessions, volunteer housecleaning, a date with a starlet, a week at a B&B, or anything! Send your information to: Paula Aboud, P.O. Box 34, S. China, ME 04358, or phone 445-2863. Please list the item and description, including a picture, if possible, along with a minimum acceptable bid and your name/address/phone number. Please include permission to print your name with your item (or your desire to remain anonymous).

Businesses wishing to advertise in the Annual Dinner Program Booklet please phone Herb at 622-3346. Deadline is 2/3/93.

Reservations: Invitations are being mailed seperately to all members by mid January. If yours fails to arrive, write or phone Judy Edgerly at P.O. Box 136, Hallowell, ME 04347, phone 626-9309. Reservations must be in prior to 2/23/93. For room reservations, call 729-5555. A signer will be available for the hearing impaired.

MLGPA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The CIVIL RIGHTS BILL for Lesbians and Gay men in Maine is the legislative focus for MLGPA this session. Prime sponsor for the Bill this year is Senator Gerry Conley of Portland. This is the 8th session in which the Bill will be submitted, the first one being submitted in 1977. In the last two sessions the Bill has passed in either the House or Senate, but not in both at the same time. However, the prognosis is very good this year for the Bill to pass both houses. Plus we are encouraged that the Governor will move away from his position of last year, making this year our best opportunity to pass the Bill.

We need your help in the passage. Some ways to help include:

1. testifying at the public hearing,
2. working with the Legislative committee,
3. contacting you own legislator regarding this bill.

Our work has already begun. A constituent for each of the 35 Senators and 151 Representatives has made a personal contact with his/her legislator to help us identify where each one stands on this bill. Committees for fundraising, media, lobbying, education, phone banking, etc. have been formed in Augusta and now in Portland. A Bangor committee is urgently needed. Call Harry Gordon if interested at 942-3901.

URGENT: IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMMITTEE HEARING AT THE STATE HOUSE IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH, MLGPA URGENTLY REQUESTS THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS EXPERIENCED DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, OR VIOLENCE ON THE BASIS OF HER/HIS SEXUAL ORIENTATION WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO TESTIFY AT A PUBLIC HEARING OR SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR THE HEARING, PLEASE CONTACT: MARY MCPHERSON AT 59 MECHANIC ST. IN CAMDEN, ME. 04843 --OR CALL 236-8941.

We are also in need of people willing to work with us legislatively, i.e. willing to call your legislator, write a letter to the editor, stuff envelopes, fundraise, or lend moral support. Call one of the following for meeting locations in your area or for more details.

AUGUSTA: Monday • 6:30 p.m., Paula Aboud, 445-2863
PORTLAND: Wednesday • 7:00 p.m., Larry Bliss, 767-4496
BANGOR: No meetings yet. Call Harry Gordon, 942-3901
AROOSTOOK CTY.: No meetings yet. Call Dick Dickinson, 448-2294

A total community effort is needed to pass this civil rights bill on a Statewide basis. 1993 is the year to take positive action for ourselves and furture generations. We look forward to linking arms with each and every one of our community members and our supporters in this legislative effort for our equal rights!

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Waterville Public Library
Gulf of Maine Books-Brunswick
Book Sellers-Farminton

On The Road
The Left Banque-Blue Hill
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
Mike's Place-Lewiston
Sportsman's-Lewiston
River Front-Bangor
Lifestyle Alliance-Biddeford
Freemont and Julien Cafe-Hallowell
Northern Lambda Nord-Caribou
Fare Share Co.-Norway

Out-a-statuhs
Lady Iris Books-Portsmouth
Giovannis Room-Philadelphia
Lambda Rising-Washington, D.C.
Oscar Wilde Bookshop-New York City
Inn Exile-Palm Springs, CA
New Words-Cambridge, MA
Frontrunner-Manchester, NH
AIDS Response/Seacoast- Portsmouth,NH
Members-Hampton, NH
Northstar Restaurant, MA