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Blade senior editor keynotes MLGPA dinner

by Terri Jones
Editor

AUGUSTA—Lisa Keen, Senior Editor of The Washington Blade will be the keynote speaker at the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance's Annual Banquet and Award Dinner being held March 5 at the Atrium in Brunswick. Keen has worked for the Blade since 1979 and has been senior editor since 1983.

Keen's work has been on the forefront of the major issues confronting the lesbian and gay community. In 1983, she co-authored a series on the response to the AIDS epidemic. Keen's most recent work has focused on Congress and the courts as well as state referenda and initiatives. Each year, she has prepared comprehensive reports on all lesbian/gay-related and AIDS-related cases that have reached the Supreme Court. Since 1974, she has tracked more 50 initiatives like Colorado's Amendment 2.

Civil suit turns into gay issue

by Laura Smith
Contributor

LEWISTON—How homophobic is Lewiston, Maine?

Homophobic enough that Newsweek spotlighted the city of Lewiston in a recent article in their Lifestyle section entitled "Homophobia" (February 14, 1994).

Homophobic enough that it took three attempts to find enough jurors who felt they could make an unbiased decision about a man's personal injury civil suit knowing that he was gay.

Richard E. Robichaud, 36, a native of Lewiston, filed suit against Robert Goddard and The Shelter Group, Inc. in August 1991 for injuries he claims he sustained when a snow plow operated by Goddard collided with his car in December 1989.

In November 1993, when jury selection was first attempted, not enough potential jurors could be seated because the majority of the jury pool had answered "no" on a questionnaire that asked: "Could you be objective and impartial considering evidence in a case in which one party is homosexual?"

Only 21 out of a total of 45 potential jurors were left.

Again, in January of this year, only 25 out of 65 potential jurors were left after the questionnaire was completed. Because of other factors which can eliminate prospective jurors, this did not leave enough potential jurors to select a jury.

The questionnaire was subsequently thrown out by Justice Donald G. Alexander and the issue was instead addressed during jury examinations when Alexander asked 22 prospective jurors the question directly. Only 4 men stood up and said they wouldn't be able to be objective.

"I was humiliated and upset," said Robichaud who couldn't believe there were not enough jurors.

What started as a civil lawsuit for Robichaud quickly became politicized as a "gay issue" when the February 8th Lewiston Sun-Journal "outed" him in his hometown just weeks before the trial was scheduled to begin.

"TheySun-Journalnever once tried to talk to me before they printed the article," claims Robichaud.

New Hampshire House passes gay rights bill, faces possible veto by governor

by Tyler White
Editor

CONCORD—New Hampshire is closer to being another New England state which would provide civil rights protection for lesbians and gays.

The largely Republican state House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill which would add sexual orientation to the list of groups protected in employment, public accommodation and housing. The bill is also expected to pass the state Senate.

Key to the passage of the bill may be the "disclaimer" attached to it which states adding civil rights protection for lesbians and gays is not necessarily an endorsement of their "lifestyle". Governor Stephen Merrill has voiced opposition to the bill both to lawmakers at a Republican caucus before the current session, as well as to reporters, to whom he told he would veto the bill. Some reports have Governor Merrill in favor of the bill because of the disclaimer.

Merrill feels the current anti-dis­crimination law already protects gays and lesbians, and thus the proposed legislation is unnecessary. Some members of the House were more pointed in their opposition, stating
Lewiston man can't get fair trial after being "outed" by Lewiston Sun-Journal

Headliner

Lewiston man can't get fair trial after being "outed" by Lewiston Sun-Journal

because I'm gay...They're us­ ing me as a pawn to further their agenda against homo­sexuals"

Robichaud, the son of a former fabrics mill worker and a Franco-American, seems to be caught in the middle of an ongoing battle in a town confronted and torn apart by gay rights issues.

With the overturning of Lewiston's anti-discrimina­ tion bill by nearly 2-1, and the national attention the pre­dominantly blue-collar mill town has received, it seems likely that any known or perceived gay or lesbian could face attack.

"There's been a lot of problems in this town. There are a lot of homophobia...broken windshields...slashed tires...people getting beat up," says Robichaud.

"I'm proud to be gay," he says, "but I'm not proud to be a resident of Lewiston, Maine right now."

"I feel like the EPL poster child," stated Robichaud with little mirth, refer­ring to the organi­zation Equal Protection Le­viston which struggled against right-wing con­servatives to uphold Lewiston's ordi­nance ban­ ning discrimi­nation against people on the basis of sexual orientation.

"I didn't want to take a stand, I felt I never had to, I never had a problem trying to get a job, find an apartment, or make friends."

Since the Sun-Journal article, Robichaud has worried about his future and his mother, who has received dozens of homophobic phone calls as well as his brother who own a locksmith business in town.

"Friends who didn't know I was gay have expressed support," says Robichaud. "One guy who I've done work with at a music studio said he couldn't believe they [Sun Journal] would print that I am gay...He said he would pray for me."

"My mom has been very support­ive," says Robichaud. Mrs. Cecile Robichaud says "God is with her son and God knows the truth about the case and it's going to be okay." The 69-year old woman has spent each day in court with her son during the trial.

Robichaud would just like to be compensated for the pain and suffering he has gone through since the accident. Because of the accident, he has been disabled and was living just on social security until only recently when a fed­eral judge awarded him $35,000 in damages.

After he pays his medical bills and his attor­ney, he will be left with less than $2,000.

"There's been a lot of problems in this town. There is a lot of homophobia...broken windshields, slashed tires, people getting beat up...I'm proud to be gay, but I'm not proud to be a resident of Lewiston, Maine right now," — Richard Robichaud

When contacted about the decision on Friday night, Robichaud seemed weary and frustrated. "The award contained no amounts for either pain and suffering or lost wages..." [the decision] makes no sense to me."

"I was never political," Robichaud re­flexed. "[But] the trial proceedings made me sound like I am sick, depressed and queer...now I'm ready to stand up for myself and talk about my experiences."

Friendy To Watch Out For

Dykes To Watch Out For

Cold Snap

Melrose Times

Melrose, MA

Order your green bagels for St. Patricks Day today!

Bagels Contain No Fats, No Cholesterol
Franchise Stores Available

Now Serving 10 Locations

Bagels Contain No Fats, No Cholesterol

Order your green bagels for St. Patricks Day today!

Bagels Contain No Fats, No Cholesterol
Franchise Stores Available

PJ's

March 11
2nd ANNUAL
MS. LESBIAN PJ's
Sign up now!

April 1
MISS PJ's

Wednesdays are Country Dance Nights!
Co-owner Anne teaches Country dancing every Wednesday night. 7 -9 pm

HAPPY HOUR
Tuesday - Thursday
7 - 10 pm

WANTED
Energetic piano player for Thursday nights

80 WATER ST, AUGUSTA
TUES-SAT 7PM - 1AM
623-4041

2 • March 1994 • 10%
Cosby is still fighting, are we fighting back?

Carolyn Cosby failed in her attempt to get her ordinance-busting, hate-mongering referendum question on the ballot for this fall.

Big deal.

Take off the party hats and stop googling, because Cosby is hardly finished.

Even though many here in Maine perceive her to be yet another wing-nut from the Far Right—one who probably couldn’t muster the support of even her family dog—people outside the state apparently think otherwise.

Concerned Maine Families (Cosby’s vehicle) is telling its members in mailings that their group has received support from “nation­ally recognized leaders”. These leaders of the Far Right believe “Maine could well be the state that should go all the way to the Supreme Court.” CMF also claims “Maine’s petition language was carefully drafted by some of our nation’s best Constitutional lawyers.”

Despite the Maine Bureau of Elections’ uncertainty, Cosby and CMF also tell their members that the signatures they collected are good until late-August 1994, and getting the remaining signatures by then puts her question on the ballot in 1995.

What else? Cosby states in her mailings that local politicians: “Brennan, Andrews, and all the pro-gay politicians have been strangely silent since Lewiston… This is no time to back away from our campaign.”

We aren’t dealing with Miss Cosby and her minor league scrubs anymore. Gays and lesbians in Maine are now battling against big league pitching. People like Lon Mabon, architect of Oregon’s many statewide and local initiatives condemning homosexuality, have packaged their successful techniques and promoted them around the country to groups like Concerned Maine Families.

Cosby and CMF appears to know about election laws, too. And she’s making rumblings of lobbying politicians.

It sounds to us like she’s picked up more than a few clues, and even worse, she knows what to do with them.

The message for Maine’s lesbian and gay community is this: Concerned Maine Families is a determined group that may be receiving help from national groups to defeat any gay rights initiatives in Maine. After Lewiston, they feel they can beat us at the ballot box. They are organized into chapters and are in our towns and schools, targeting everything from condom distribution and sex education efforts in our schools to gay rights ordinances.

Are you content with their portrayal of your life? If the answer is no, it’s time for all of us to do something about it. The light is at the end of the tunnel—we need to make sure it’s ours and not hers.

10%

Mainer’s monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

PO Box 10556 • Portland, ME 04104

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Strategizing for 1995

Guest Commentary by Karen Geraghty, Patricia Pearld, Jessica Maurer

From February 4-6, we attended a conference in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. The Victory Fund was established in 1991 to support openly gay and lesbian candidates running for public office. The “support” comes in the form of a Political Resource Directory, a Candidate Training Institute and financial aid. Because of their experience in electoral politics, the Victory Fund invited representatives from each of the 11 states facing anti-gay ballot measures in 1994 to come to their first Training Institute for Initiative/Referendum Campaigns. (Initiative means initiating from the voters, referendum means referred from legislature.) The other states sending representatives were Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon and Washington.

We found out four days before we left for the campaign training that Concerned Maine Families was unable to gather enough signatures for a 1994 ballot measure. In that respect, Maine was at an advantage over other states. The deadline for signature gathering in one state was May, and in another it was August. That leaves them little time to prepare for a November vote. They operate at all times as though they are having an initiative or referendum. The campaigns for the other states are in full progress.

The Extreme Right

Have you ever asked yourself who is the extreme right and what do they want? Well, if you looked at Oregon, where the extreme right has been organized since 1987 under the name of the Oregon Citizens’ Alliance (OCA), you can find some of the answers. In 1988, the OCA sponsored Ballot Measure 8, which successfully moved voters to rescind a governor’s order that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation in the state’s public employment. In 1990 the OCA sponsored an anti-choice ballot measure which would have outlawed abortion in Oregon. It was defeated. By the 1990, the OCA co-chair ran for governor as a “spoiler” candidate to take votes away from the Republican candidate who was pro-choice.

The OCA has also used city charter amendments to pursue their agenda. In 1992, it sponsored a ballot measure to amend the Corvallis city charter to legalize discrimination against homosexuals. That measure went down to defeat. The same year, another OCA-backed ballot measure successfully persuaded voters in Springfield to amend their charter to legalize discrimination against homosexuals.

Ballot Measure 9, another 1992 OCA activity, would have mandated state-funded discrimination against lesbians, gays and bisexuals. The measure was defeated. This defeat has not discouraged the OCA, which is currently sponsoring similar anti-gay ballot measures in 30 of 46 Oregon counties.

There is an OCA-type organization in each of the states facing anti-gay ballot measures this year. In fact, in Nevada, the initiative is referred to as the “Oregon Initiative” because the person who signed out the petitions from the Secretary of State has only been a citizen of Nevada for nine months. Their former place of residence was… you guessed it—Oregon. These ballot measures have little to do with gay rights or sexual orientation. They have much more to do with the ability of the extreme right to feel politically powerful and to use that power to gather support for a voucher system, the “English only” curriculum, opposing sex education and condom distribution in the schools, the teaching of creationism, and advocating prayer in public schools. The extreme right supports many “stealth” candidates such as Oliver North in Virginia or a local school board seat. In the area of economic justice, the extreme right is anti-welfare, anti-immigration and anti-multiculturalism. They oppose the environmental movement. They advocate censorship of books, television, and records. The extreme right opposes abortion and funding for AIDS research and treatment. This year in Oregon voters will be deciding on more than a dozen ballot measures from anti-gay initiatives to anti-tax initiatives and everything in between.

The Extreme Right in Maine

As Maine citizens, we would like to believe that we’ve been given a reprieve of some sort. The truth is we are under attack whether we know it or not. We have already identified one “stealth” candidate. Paul Madore, who led the opposition in Lewiston to overturn the Human Rights Ordinance, is now seeking a seat in the Maine Senate. The Christian Civic League is hard at work identifying and supporting candidates who will not vote for the lesbian/gay civil rights bill next year. The two legislators who worked hardest to pass the bill this year, Susan Farnsworth (an openly lesbian representative) and Gerry Conley, will not be seeking re-election. Carolyn Cosby of Concerned Maine Families is still busy collecting signatures and vows to put the anti-gay referendum on the ballot in 1995. In a recent letter to her supporters, she stated that she is receiving advice and support from nationally-recognized leaders in the extreme right.
Gay rights bill passed by wide margin in New Hampshire House

WASHINGTON—Two recent actions by the federal government show progress in the area of gay rights on a national level.

The earthquake assistance package, signed into law by President Clinton after passage in Congress, bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in distribution of emergency aid. It was the first time Congress added sexual orientation to the list of protected groups.

Agreement on health care reform, however, has remained elusive as the White House and Senate leaders have been unable to reach a compromise on the Senate's Democratic legislation, which would provide national health care coverage for all Americans.

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**An Illustrated Lecture on Transgender History**

Leslie Feinberg, author of *Ston Butch Blues*, gave a lecture at the February 10th meeting of the Matlovich Society. Feinberg used a slide show and her personal experiences to detail the history of transgenderism.

**Ms. Lesbian Underground 1994**

Wendy Richards is crowned Ms. Lesbian Underground 1994. The February 6th competition included talent, sportswear and evening dress.
**Listing of Events**

**Saturday**

**MLGPA Annual Dinner**

Bangor Pride will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. to plan the Bangor Pride parade and rally. The events are scheduled for Saturday, July 9. For more information, contact Malcolm Smith at PO Box 624, Orono ME 04473, or call 866-4520.

Chuck Roy, a comedian who has appeared on the Comedy Channel, Carolyn's Comedy Shop, and other places, will be at DiMillo's in Portland. The performance benefits Maine Pride's Stonewall 25 project. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. Special menu, cash bar, and cabaret seating will be available. Also appearing will be guitarist Kim Volk, poet Thomas A. Asp, and Steve Gerlach. Tickets are $10 in advance from Drop Me A Line or Condom Sense, or $12 at the door. Call 871-9940 for more information.

Easter Party & Midnight Breakfast

with Northern Lambda Nord.

Saturday, April 2. Call the Phoneline for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

Eual Protection Maine/Portland will hold a meeting on Monday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m., at which Pat Peard, Karen Geraghty and Jessica Marshall will report on the Victory Fund's how to Fight the Right conference recently held in Washington, DC. According to the conference, Maine is the targeted state in the Northeast for the organizing of The Right. The meeting will be at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 145 State Street, Portland. For more information: call 767-1422 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Snow date for meeting is Monday, March 7.

Great Chef Auction takes place on Thursday, March 31 at the Holiday Inn By the Bay at 88 Spring Street in Portland. Sample your favorite restaurant's cuisine and be the highest bidder for a meal served to you and three of your friends. As the highest bidder, you and your friends will be provided with a delectable culinary delight prepared and served in your home by the restaurant's very own chef. All proceeds will benefit the AIDS Lodging House of Portland. Auctioneers will be Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood and NewsCenter 6Alive anchor Diane Ahwood. The auction will take place from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. There will be hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction featuring gift certificates from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Call 674-1000 for more information.

Lesbian health conference

Do you have any events you would like to list on this page?

If you would like your non-profit event or activity listed, send us the time, date, place, phone number and a brief description of the event or activity by the 20th of the month.

10% ENTERPRISES
PO BOX 10536
PORTLAND, ME 04104

**St. Patrick’s Day party**

MLGPA monthly meeting

Spring for Life

Night out playing pool

ME Gay Men’s Chorus: Portland

Easter Party/ Midnight Breakfast

Lesbian health conference

**Spring for Life Art Auction**, to benefit The AIDS Project, will be held at the State Theatre in Portland on Saturday, March 19th. Public preview of art from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., free of charge. Doors re-open at 5:00 p.m., $5 general admission (includes bidder number), tickets may be purchased at the door. An artists’ reception will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art. Tickets are $20 (includes admission to auction). Auction begins at 8:00 p.m.

**St. Patrick’s Day of Spring Party & BBQ** put on by Northern Lambda Nord, Saturday, March 19. Location needed! Call the Phoneline for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

Stonewall 25/Pride ’94 Portland committee meets at Ferrante’s, 50 Exchange Street (second floor), Portland, on Monday, March 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call 871-9940 for more information.

**Monthly meeting for MLGPA** is held in Augusta on the third Saturday of every month (March 19 from noon to 5:00 p.m. MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and the media concerning lesbian and gay issues. Your participation is welcomed. Call 8080-55-MLGPA for meeting place.

**Night at the races**! Join Northern Lambda Nord for a night at the off-track-betting parlor at CHAMPS Grill and Bar on State Street in Presque Isle. Starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11. Call 498-2088 (voice/TTY) for more information.

**Night Out Playing Pool** with Northern Lambda Nord, at Wizard’s Pool Hall, Main Street, Presque Isle, next to the Northern Hotel. Saturday, March 26. Call the Phoneline for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

**Northern Lambda Nord’s monthly meeting** will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 13. Join NLN at the Lions Community Center on High Street in Caribou, across from Shop & Save.

Rita Kissin, Professor of Education at USM, will discuss her interviews with classroom teachers from all over the country. Voices from the Glass Closet: Lesbian and Gay Teachers Talk About Their Lives, Matlovich Society, Thursday, March 10, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free hotel parking, fully accessible.

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance’s eighth annual dinner** will be held on Saturday, March 5. Cocktails at 5:00 p.m., buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by Lisa Keen, senior editor of The Washington Blade, speaking at 9:30 p.m. Information for non-members is available from Ms. Judy Edgerly at 626-7509.

**Military ban on homosexuality and the courts** will be the topic of a panel discussion sponsored by the UMaine School of Law Lesbian/Gay Bisexual Law Caucus. Topics to be covered include old and new military policies on sexual orientation, with a focus on recent court cases and anticipated future constitutional challenges. Panelists will include Mary Bonauto, Esq., of Boston’s Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAAD), and Professor Merle Loper of the UM School of Law. Monday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., at UMaine School of Law, 246 Deering Avenue, Portland, Middle Classroom. For more information, call 774-2415.

**Lesbian Health Conference** to be put on by Mabel Wadsworth Women’s Health Center at the Airport marriott Hotel in Bangor. Saturday, April 9, all day long. The conferences will provide information on lesbians’ health and health care from a variety of perspectives. For more information, call 947-5357.

**Maine Gay Men’s Chorus** is pleased to announce that it will be performing two shows for its Spring Concert Season. Saturday, March 20 at 5:00 p.m., at UMaine/Farrington’s Nordica Hall. Tickets are $10 general admission, $8 students, both available at the door. Saturday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m., at the First Parish Church in Portland. Tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Available at Drop Me A Line, chorus members, or by Visa/MasterCard at 774-1112. For more information, call 774-1112.

**Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance’s Chorus** will be held on Saturday, April 1. Cocktails at 5:00 p.m., buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by Lisa Keen, senior editor of The Washington Blade, speaking at 9:30 p.m. Information for non-members is available from Ms. Judy Edgerly at 626-7509.

**Spring for Life Art Auction**, to benefit The AIDS Project, will be held at UMaine School of Law’s Nordica Season. Sunday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m., followed by Lisa Keen, senior editor of The Washington Blade, speaking at 5:00 p.m., buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by Lisa Keen, senior editor of The Washington Blade, speaking at 9:30 p.m. Information for non-members is available from Ms. Judy Edgerly at 626-7509.

**Military ban on homosexuality and the courts** will be the topic of a panel discussion sponsored by the UMaine School of Law Lesbian/Gay Bisexual Law Caucus. Topics to be covered include old and new military policies on sexual orientation, with a focus on recent court cases and anticipated future constitutional challenges. Panelists will include Mary Bonauto, Esq., of Boston’s Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAAD), and Professor Merle Loper of the UM School of Law. Monday, March 14, 7:00 p.m., at UMaine School of Law, 246 Deering Avenue, Portland, Middle Classroom. For more information, call 774-2415.

**Monthly meeting for MLGPA** is held in Augusta on the third Saturday of every month (March 19 from noon to 5:00 p.m. MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and the media concerning lesbian and gay issues. Your participation is welcomed. Call 8080-55-MLGPA for meeting place.

**Night at the races**! Join Northern Lambda Nord for a night at the off-track-betting parlor at CHAMPS Grill and Bar on State Street in Presque Isle. Starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 11. Call 498-2088 (voice/TTY) for more information.

**Night Out Playing Pool** with Northern Lambda Nord, at Wizard’s Pool Hall, Main Street, Presque Isle, next to the Northern Hotel. Saturday, March 26. Call the Phoneline for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

**Northern Lambda Nord’s monthly meeting** will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 13. Join NLN at the Lions Community Center on High Street in Caribou, across from Shop & Save.

Rita Kissin, Professor of Education at USM, will discuss her interviews with classroom teachers from all over the country. Voices from the Glass Closet: Lesbian and Gay Teachers Talk About Their Lives, Matlovich Society, Thursday, March 10, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. Free hotel parking, fully accessible.

**Spring for Life Art Auction**, to benefit The AIDS Project, will be held at the State Theatre in Portland on Saturday, March 19th. Public preview of art from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., free of charge. Doors re-open at 5:00 p.m., $5 general admission (includes bidder number), tickets may be purchased at the door. An artists’ reception will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art. Tickets are $20 (includes admission to auction). Auction begins at 8:00 p.m.

**St. Patrick’s Day of Spring Party & BBQ** put on by Northern Lambda Nord, Saturday, March 19. Location needed! Call the Phoneline for more information: 498-2088 (voice/TTY).

Stonewall 25/Pride ’94 Portland committee meets at Ferrante’s, 50 Exchange Street (second floor), Portland, on Monday, March 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call 871-9940 for more information.

**Time Out Spring Planning** and Events meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, in the Board Room at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland. The Ogunquit International Bike Ride in July will be discussed. All are welcome—call 871-9940 for more information.
groups are seeking signatures to get anti-discrimination, ban the extension of benefits to gay and lesbian domestic partners, and forbid schools from "presenting homosexuality as positive behavior." Second, the "Citizens' Alliance of Washington," an offshoot of the Oregon group, is pushing for the "Minority Status and Child Protection Act," which would do everything covered by the "Equal Rights Act." In addition, it would prohibit same-sex marriages and prevent gays and lesbians from having custody of children, including their own biological children.

The City Council of Springfield, Missouri, has placed a question on its November ballot regarding whether to retain its crime law that was enacted in October. The law includes a provision providing protection from anti-gay violence.

Domestic Partnership

The Boston City Council passed the Family Registration Act, which allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners. Registered domestic partners will be recognized as family members and will be entitled to a variety of non-economic benefits, but no economic benefit.

In Minneapolis, a city taxpayer named James A. Lilly has filed suit against the City asserting that the City exceeded its authority by granting health care benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian city employees.

The Chicago City Council has voted to pass a law that extends the City's three-day funeral leave benefit to covered domestic partners of city employees.

Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers issued an opinion on December 10, which asserts that the City of Atlanta overstepped its authority when it adopted a domestic partnership plan. The plan is currently being attacked in a taxpayer's suit, and the AG's opinion places the validity of the plan into question.

AIDS-Related Issues

In New York, a law firm, Baker & McKenzie, was ordered to pay $500,000 to the Estate of Geoffrey Bowers in damages for terminating his employment as a staff attorney because of his HIV+ status. The New York State Division of Human Rights rejected the law firm's claims that Bowers was fired due to his poor performance and that it was not aware of Bowers' HIV status. The firm announced that it would appeal the order to the NY state court system. See RBA Daily Labor Report No. 2, 1/11/94, p. A-10.

The Illinois Supreme Court unanimously rejected a constitutional challenge to the state's statute making it a crime to knowingly transmit HIV through sexual contact. The Court held that the law does not infringe on the rights of free speech or free association. Further, it rejected claims that the law was unconstitutional vagueness. The law does not explicitly state whether it is enough to knowingly engage in unsafe sexual contact with HIV+ or whether actual transmission of HIV is necessary in order for a crime to be committed.) People v. Russell, 1994 WL 125020 (Jan. 20).

In Louisiana, a criminal defendant was convicted twice for intentionally exposing his girlfriend to HIV. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment at hard labor. The girlfriend tested positive for HIV. State v. Cambrela, 1995 WL 559990 (Dec. 29).

Miscellaneous Topics

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a suit brought by a transsexual federal prisoner. The prisoner is asserting the 8th Amendment was violated when prison officials placed her in the general male section of the prison, where she was allegedly assaulted and raped. The 8th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits the infliction of "cruel and unusual punishments." The prisoner argued that prison officials should have known that she would have been in danger due to her appearance, and therefore, should have taken steps to protect her. The name of the case is Farmer v. Brennan, No. 92-7247.

A settlement has received preliminary approval in the discrimination suit brought by Frank Bittino against the FBI. Bittino claims that he was discharged from the FBI after being an agent for twenty years because he is gay. The Agency has agreed to pay $205,000 in damages to Buittino and $205,000 in civil penalties. The FBI would be ending its anti-gay policies.

A school board in Huntington Beach, California, has rejected an attempt by conservative parents to prevent a gay and lesbian youth support group from meeting on the high school campus. The board voted to maintain an open-access policy. Under federal law, because the school receives federal funds, it is obligated to maintain an open-access policy that does not exclude particular groups because of their subject matter interest. A similar dispute is currently raging in Austin, Texas.

The Iowa Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the state's hate crime law, which covers sexual orientation. State v. McLaughlin, 1994 WL 14995 (Jan. 19).

AIDS Coalition of New York State Division of Human Rights rejected a law that made it a crime to use "gay bashing" in a legal dispute. Thecommission of such a crime to be committed.)（People v. Russell, 1994 WL 125020 (Jan. 20).

AIDS Coalition of New York State Division of Human Rights rejected a law that made it a crime to use "gay bashing" in a legal dispute. The commission of such a crime to be committed.)（People v. Russell, 1994 WL 125020 (Jan. 20).
Exercise and HIV: A step in the right direction
by Martha Atherholt II

You've seen the late-night infomercials, magazines, newspapers, and celebrity video workouts... yes, we are bombarded with information on exercise. Dozens of times a day the media exposes us to information that tells us we should be exercising to lose body fat, strengthen our heart and lungs, and become stronger. All of these are valid, but what about exercising to build up the immune system?

Never have I seen Cher's video raving about her increased antibody production, or Fabio his more efficient T-Cells. But in reality this is, in fact, exactly what happens. Recent studies are just now beginning to realize the extent to which exercise is increasing the efficiency of the body's immune system and consequently, the remarkable role it plays in the treatment of HIV.

In his recently published book, Immune Power, Dr. John Kaiser explains how he is successfully using exercise in his HIV treatment program. Here are a few simple guidelines which he has found effective in his exercise program.

Exercise at least 30 minutes, 3-5 times per week.

It is important that you maintain an elevated heart rate level for at least 30 minutes in order to increase circulation in the deeper tissues of the body. This will bring a fresh flow of oxygen and nutrients to such organs as the kidneys, liver, spleen, lymph nodes and bone marrow.

Continue deep breathing during exercise sessions.

While exercising, deep breathing will help cleanse the lungs and increase the flow of lymph fluid throughout the body. Lymph is a fluid that contains the white blood cells and antibodies. This fluid flows through the lymph nodes and cleans out the various bacteria and virus particles that have been stored there. In other words, lymph fluid is the life blood of your immune system. Regular exercise will help maintain the proper flow of this fluid.

Exercise to the point at which sweating occurs.

While exercising, it is necessary to heat the body up to the point at which sweating occurs. Vital replication is inhibited when the body is at higher temperatures and thus decreases viral activity. Sweating also serves as a filter to remove toxins and waste products. It is important to shower directly after exercise so that these toxins do not remain on the surface of the skin.

Once you have decided to begin a regular exercise program, it is important that you choose exercises that you enjoy. You are most likely to continue with a consistent program if you look forward to what you are doing. Regular exercise is a wonderful outlet for stress, a source of personal satisfaction and an invigorating physical release.

So what are you waiting for? Go enjoy a brisk walk!

'Mother Country' worth the effort
by Douglas Packard

Another Country is a must-see film. This film stars Rupert Everett as Guy Bennett, a young and beautiful student at an English boarding school who is desperate to work his way up through the social status established by his students. His dream is to become a peacock, one of the socially elite, in one of the houses at this school. Bennett's life is complicated by his not-so-discrete behavior and that he appears to have slept with several members of his house. He uses this as blackmail to keep himself out of trouble.

Cary Elwes plays James Harcourt, a student from another house with whom Guy falls madly in love. This love soon proves to be the downfall of Bennett as he can no longer use his nocturnal homosexual encounters as protection, for if he exposes those who he has been with, he must also expose Harcourt and he could never harm the reputation of "the man he loves".

Add to the mix another student who is a Communist, reads only Karl Marx and happens to be Bennett's best friend, and you'll soon realize that the writer of the screenplay, Julian Mitchell, has woven quite an intricate story.

The only caution I can suggest in this review does not directly deal with the story line, but rather the production of the film. Watch it in a quiet room with no distractions—the humor is dry, the wit is quick, the dialogue contemplative, the British accents thick and the sound quality poor. If you can deal with the volume being a few notches louder than normal, I'm sure you'll enjoy this film.
I'm not sure how she did it. The bed's awfully small for her to have drawn her knees up to the small of her back. I didn't wake up until I hit the floor, pulling myself up and shaking myself off in the same quick motion. She turned the light on as I sat up. I stayed on the floor hugging my legs to cover my nakedness. She stayed in bed under the covers. If the light hadn't come on I might have talked myself into believing the hilly overcoat clad a sleeping body. She was watching to see how I would react. I sat stock still and stark naked letting the cold air chase out the edge of sleepiness. I wondered what each muscle was doing when I did it. I would pay, the cold biting right through my skin. I realized I was fiddling with the key. I heard the bed creak as she dropped him back on me and came up with a key from one of the many cubbies. I took the key from his hand. "Thank you. I guess I'll talk to you again at six." "Uh, ma'am, I won't be in then." "Whatever," as I pushed out through the glass door. I took a hot shower before I dialed Carol's number. It rang three times and then she picked up. "Yeah." It was more a syllable than a word. "Carol, it's Angie." She woke up quickly, "Okay honey. Stay put—I'll be right over to get you. Just try to stay out of whatever mom she's in." "Don't get up. I'm already out." I heard the bed creak as she dropped back on to the bed. "You walked out." "I left." "Well come on over. I'm not here and you can climb into bed with me. When you wake up I'll have oatmeal and hot chocolate ready." "Thanks, but I think I'm going to go up to grandpa's fishing camp." "Angie, it's not wintered. You'll freeze to death. Besides, what are you going to do for food and money?" I realized I was fiddling with the phone cord and quickly dropped it. I almost said that being pragmatic was what kept me in a relationship I didn't belong in. Almost said if I could come and really stay with you I wouldn't have to escape to a freezing cabin. But they weren't the real reasons. I need to be by myself. So what is that I do? I go even if I know it meant that I would never work again. "What are you going to do?" "Play solitaire, sleep to excess, and walk by the lake. On it if it's frozen." "Don't you dare!" "Just kidding" "You win. Go to bed and call me in the morning." "Thanks Carol." "Good job Ang," and then she hung up. I let the towel fall away from me, switched out the light, pulled the covers over me and started to shake.
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