

# Community Pride Reporter

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



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SEPTEMBER, 1993

## Astarte Shell Press...

the cutting edge of feminist publishing



The women of Astarte, l to r, Debbie Leighton, Elly Haney, Sylvia Sims, and Sapphire.

By: Sapphire

"At last we are building, in large numbers, our own literary tradition, finding our own audience, and from these shaping a world view."

— Celest West, in the *Forward to Words In Our Pockets*

Astarte Shell Press is a Portland-based book publishing company formed in 1989 by five women to produce literature about feminist spirituality and politics. "We wanted to promote women in all of our many aspects," says Sylvia Sims, one of the company's founders, "to show the complexity of women's lives and to encourage writing that is frequently overlooked by larger, mainstream publishers."

### Early Vision

The partners in 1989 were Elly Haney, a Doctor of Theology and university instructor; Debbie Leighton, transition counselor and State employee; Sylvia Sims, graphic artist; Sapphire, a registered nurse with a background in journalism, and Diane Eiker, an early childhood educator. Eiker left the partnership in December of 1992, when she found her business responsibilities in conflict with other commitments.

In 1988 all five were members on the same committee at the Feminist Spiritual Community, a women's spiritual group in Portland. They began talking about their common interest in words, literature,

spirituality, and in sharing what was important to them. They decided to start a business to publish books.

Astarte (pronounced a-start-ay) Shell Press began with the partners' own investments of money and a great deal of time, and with the financial support of friends and family. All work full time at other jobs and still do not draw salaries from the company.

Leighton states, "Elly is the only one of us with an entrepreneurial background. Her parents were in business and she's always thinking of new projects, but the rest of us were novices at running a business, and especially at publishing books."

Their very early vision for a publishing project was an anthology of multicultural spiritual classics by women writers. More than four years and seven books later, they still haven't gotten to the anthology, but they have created a viable, active, rewarding business that is growing like new leaves on a spring tree.

Says Sims, "This partnership has been an outlet for our many talents. We work well together, and I'm enjoying it more than I thought I would."

Astarte's first book, *Vision and Struggle: Meditations on Feminist Spirituality and Politics*, was written by Elly Haney. "I'd already written it," Haney said, "and it seemed like a logical place to start, since we had no other manuscript."

Continued on page 10

## Statewide meeting called to determine EPM structure, goals

by: Rich Austin

The first meeting of the still forming Equal Protection Maine will be Sunday, September 12th from noon to 4 p.m. at The Rage dance club, 123 Franklin Street, Bangor, Maine. The purpose of this meeting is to explore organizational structures, goals, and direction for the upcoming battle to secure our freedom and rights as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered people in the State of Maine.

Representatives from all lesbian/gay political action organizations are invited to carpool and congregate at The Rage for this

landmark gathering. The Rage is being offered cost free and chem free for these hours to allow participation of all ages from all parts of our community.

This will be a diverse meeting in a safe space for a non-threatening, non-confrontational time of brainstorming, information sharing, and decision making. Every interested person is welcome and encouraged to attend. Come, be part of the process of securing our rights and freedom as a unified people in the State of Maine. For directions call The Rage at 947-1213.

## Second "EPM" meeting informative, concerned

By: Rich Austin

Nearly forty people gathered in the fifth floor conference room of the offices of Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson on Wednesday evening, August 25th. Their purpose being to further define and discuss the need to form a state-wide equal protection organization in the face of the most recent actions of the local branch of the fanatical religious right.

Among organizations represented were Equal Protection Portland, Equal Protection Lewiston, the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance, Act Up, the Boston chapter of Gays and Lesbians Against Discrimination, and many community members.

### Battle Tactics

Within the past two weeks, Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families received certification for the latest retitled, but not reworded, version of their referendum question. The "referendum question", now known by few other names, if enacted, will amend the Maine Human Rights Act to exclude from protection under the law every minority or special group not currently listed. This includes the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community, among potentially numerous groups.

One question raised is, how can the Community interfere in the Right's signature gathering process so that the required

amount of signatures would not be collected by the January 31st, 1994 deadline? A popular suggestion around the Community is to sign false names to the petitions whenever possible, thereby flooding it with invalid signatures.

The practical problem with this idea is that it is entirely possible to sign the name of an existing person, and ultimately have that signature validated. The legal problem with this idea is that when a petition to amend Maine law is being circulated, it is a class E crime to falsely sign that petition.

The moral problem with this idea is that falsifying signatures in an attempt to scuttle the referendum question is a dishonest act that could full well jeopardize our cause. Says Mary Bonanto, "We need to have integrity, take the high road, and do the right thing the whole way. Our actions must be educational and unified, not ignorant, like theirs."

Some of the tactics Cosby and CMF will employ will be simple and shallow, but potentially very effective. Signature gatherers will take their posts in the foyers and stairwells of local and rural Christian fundamentalist churches across the state and urge God's obedient flock to support their Lord in battle against an evil people.

Continued on page 3-EPM



## Community Pride Reporter

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**Winnie Weir**  
Publishing Editor

### OUR PURPOSE

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

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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## In My Opinion . . .

Dear Editor:

I am pleased that you are publishing. We in rural Maine need your services! Thanks. --Greenville, Maine

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading the July issue of CPR and am delighted with the quality, tone, and variety of this newspaper. I felt a lot of grief at the demise of OUR PAPER/GAY LESBIAN TIMES. Our community very much needs a vehicle such as yours to communicate, support and inspire.

I am very pleased that you exist, and am enclosing \$20 for a subscription for myself and my partner. Best wishes for the future... --Windham, Maine

Dear CPR:

What's this about "They (Carolyn Cosby and the Fundamentalist Right) also have the conservative media, especially Portland's Channel 6, in their corner" (CPR, August 1993, Ken Constant)?

Puh-leeze!

Channel 6 may not be WGAY, but it's no Pat Robertson's 700 Club either!

Among Portland television stations, it was Channel 6 that:

\*humanized the topic of AIDS in the gay male community while many of us were still whispering (reporter Diane Atwood in an interview with Cameron Duncan, 1985).

\*created, broadcast and PAID FOR queer youth PSA's in association with Dial KIDS and OUTRIGHT that ran hundreds of times over two seasons (1990-91).

\*blew the whistle on discrimination in the Boy Scouts with a powerful lead story featuring Terry and her son Nick on its 6 pm news (reporter Susan Kimball, 1992).

\*adopted a sexual orientation non-discrimination policy for all Maine Broadcasting System employees WCSH-TV Portland, WLBZ-TV Bangor, and KMEG-TV Sioux City, Iowa).

\*editorialized in favor of our civil rights in 1992 (after sadly missing the point in 1991).

Television stations, like people, are seldom perfect. Call them, write them, let them know when they've done us right or wrong. But please, CPR, know your facts before you smear the good name of one of our friends.

--Bob Gordon, San Francisco, CA

(Editor's Note: Editorial policy clearly states that, "views and opinions

appearing are those of the authors' only." While Mr. Constant and I disagree about his perception of Channel 6 (and we have talked about it), it is his perception).

Dear Editor:

I just received my sample copy of Community Pride Reporter, and am extremely excited. It is a welcome and important addition to the Maine lesbian/gay/bisexual scene. Thank you! .... Darcy Wakefield, Livermore Falls, ME.

Dear Editor:

For a number of reasons, I do not want to subscribe to the CPR! First of all, the writing style resembles a poorly edited high school newspaper. The B. Luca Balboni interview is reminiscent of "ZOOM", the WGBH pre-teen magazine of a few years back.

I was steamed by the time I read the cartoon ad for the METRO, complete with it's nellie, Boys-In-The-Band, stereotypical dialogue.

What is most annoying, however, is the "brown paper wrapper" approach to marketing.

Don't you at least find it ironic that something with the name "Pride" on it has to be mailed in secret? As long as gay/lesbian people treat themselves as something shameful or pornographic, we will continue to be treated that way by others!

The closet is oppressive and inappropriate. Stereotypes are destructive and menacing. When will the gay community stop using these things to oppress itself? Why do we need a special newspaper to facilitate our own oppression? Bill Barter, Portland, ME.

(Editor's Note: See Editorial for response).

Dear Editor:

As I read your article, PANTY CHECK (CPR, July 1993), I was enraged. It is my guess that many of the genetic women may have been (enraged) as well, since their vote of more than 3 to 1 seems to indicate that they had no problem with a transsexual woman being there...

As a transgenderist myself, I have researched the process of crossing over the gender line from one sex to another. No matter what any so called NORMAL person may think or say, WE PAY OUR DUES to become the sex we choose. What others are born to, we must earn! And EARN is just what we do!

Let me give you a quick run-down of what is involved. The realization of

Continued on page 6 - OPINION ...

### Subscription Form

Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. Subscription rate is \$20.00 for 12 issues. The paper will be mailed first class in a plain envelope.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Community Pride Reporter, 142 High street, Suite 634,  
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# EDITORIAL

One of the mixed blessings of being Publishing Editor of the **Community Pride Reporter** is the letters and notes received in the office. I get very excited when someone writes. After all, it indicates they have felt it important enough to write that they have devoted a portion of a most precious commodity, personal time, to the endeavor.

I've been told by friends, old and new, to expect criticism, both positive and negative. I've been told not to take criticism personally--not to let the positive go to my head, and not to let the negative go to my heart. Well, I'm here to say that it's certainly easier to say, type, or hear those statements than it is to put them into practice.

Take the letter appearing in this month's *IN MY OPINION* from Bill Baxter. In it Mr. Baxter attacks not only the paper, but columnist Luke Balboni, a paid advertiser, the policy of CPR to mail each issue in a plain envelope, and lastly that portion of our community who thinks and acts differently than he does.

In my July editorial, I wrote about the need to honor each other and our diversity, the need to build bridges, rather than walls, and implicit in that, to stretch beyond what our present vision of inclusiveness is, particularly in our community.

At the end of my editorial I said that I would be intentional about making "I" statements. This comes out of a basic recognition that I do not speak for everyone in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community, nor any other community of people I identify with.

I agree with Mr. Baxter when he asks if I "find it ironic that something with the name 'Pride' on it has to be mailed in secret?" Yes, I do. But that's as far as it goes. As long as there is one lesbian, gay man, bisexual, or transgendered person who does not feel safe receiving CPR without the safety of a plain envelope, that's how it will be mailed. I am on a continuous coming out journey. It's not fair, but who said life was fair. It's reality and that is what I honor and respect in others' fears.

Mr. Baxter asks why we need "a special newspaper to facilitate our own oppression?" My answer to that is, it depends on how you look at the proverbial glass. Is it half empty or half full? I don't see this paper as facilitating our oppression. I see CPR as a vehicle (a two-wheeler with training wheels, perhaps) to bring about a sense of community in a safe, non-threatening way.

I see it as offering encouragement to the person who has never written an article,

but always wanted to. I see it as a forum for the free exchange of ideas. I see it as a way of helping that fear-filled member of our chosen family to know that those of us who are OUT there are willing to keep them in the fray with us, even if only in spirit, until they can safely find their voice.

In another vain, I would like to say a word about our need to support each other. Many of those who advertise in these pages need to know that their ad is being seen at the very least. It would be great if we could also manage to drop some of our hard earned money at their places of business. If you're going to buy a book or magazine or card, T-shirts, jewelry, candles, or whatever, try one of the gay owned business first.

Need something to eat in a hurry? Try Peter's Sub Station and Pizza Shop. A leisurely meal at the Katahdin with a word to the wait staff that you saw their ad would be encouraging. Some of us are struggling to provide items for the community. While that doesn't necessarily entitle us to special privilege, a little support wouldn't hurt and would help bunches!

When you are near Bookland or Mr. Paperback, thank them for carrying CPR. The same for Videoport, Drop Me A Line, Ananael, OUT Post, Books Etc., & Peter's

Sub Station in Portland. Pro Libris, & The Rage- Bangor; Harvest Time- Augusta; Fremont & Julian Cafe & Books, and Kennebec Rowe-Hallowell; The Metro, & Max Travel-Lewiston. I am always open to other locations willing to sell CPR. Let me know if you are interested. I also need advertisers. Are you in a business that could benefit from advertising in CPR? Don't be shy.

Moving on, I want to say a special word of thanks to Terry Dority for taking the photos of the men and women who write columns for us. Thanks also to Rich Austin who has some wonderful newspaper skills (and computer knowledge!) he is willing to share with me. A belated thank you to Lyn Higgs for her hours of work laying out and pasting up the August CPR. Thank you to Rose Mary Denman who has proofed much of the last two editions. Lastly, thank you to the people who volunteer to share their writing talents, insight and wisdom, and their valuable time preparing their monthly columns. You are wonderful!

*Wm Wein*

EPM (continued from pg. 1.)

Faithful signature gatherers will brave the autumn winds this November 3rd, standing outside polling places across the state collecting signatures. Another well known tactic of the fanatical faithful is to canvas county and regional fairs toting clipboard and Bible.

In all these places you can count on finding selections of the finest anti-gay literature, carefully written with biblical tagwords chosen to cement the image of lesbians and gay men (the right barely acknowledges the existence of bisexual or transgendered people), as perverted, child-molesting, sinners hated by God, who must be healed of their affliction, or surely go straight (pardon the pun) to hell.

Take heart, however, for in conjunction with this extremist philosophy comes an extreme phobia. Cosby has all ready declared that she, and her petition-wielding minions, will not seek to collect signatures in malls, believing in all seriousness that there are so many worldly people in a mall, it would not be a spiritually safe place for them to gather signatures.

## Proposed Structure

At the August 25th meeting, three plans for the proposed structure of the proposed state-wide organization were briefly outlined and discussed.

Larry Bliss, MLGPA Treasurer, illustrated what has become known as the "Idaho Plan," the political action committee (PAC) that has taken shape in Idaho to defend against the attacks of the religious right in that state.

The Idaho Plan consists of a PAC that represents the overall organization, a steering committee that directs the actions of the organization, and chapters that lead the fight in specific communities, reporting back to the steering committee via representatives who sit on the committee.

Pat Peard illustrated the principals of a proposal drawn up by Al Caron of Caron and Associates, a political consultant who has worked for EPP, EPL, and on many other community oriented political ventures. The Caron proposal calls for building a diverse coalition, capable of tapping into nearly every social and business resource in Maine.

"This proposal is for a broad based organization that taps into resources around the state. We have a lot of friends already in place and ready to go. The aim is to expand our support base even further. An organization of this type helps ensure that, if we have to go to war against this woman (Cosby), we have the greatest possible access to support on a state-wide level," commented Pat Peard.

Erica Rand of Act Up and EPL, voiced some concerns that Act Up would like to see addressed as the state-wide organization takes shape. They include mandating that the representation of the group at-large be as diverse as possible, that control of the organization should be entrusted, in greater measure, to the hands of the people most directly affected, and that a clear, step by step decision process be established so that every decision would have to pass through it before being acted on.

## Call To Arms

Toward the end of the meeting, familiar voices of wisdom reminded us of the need to move quickly and carefully in forming a state-wide organization, and setting it on its course.

"Tonight we're looking toward a more representative statewide meeting in Bangor on the 12th, where an honest representation of the entire state can make these important first decisions together," said Pat Peard. "If we don't figure out how to organize the rural part of this state we're going to get killed by this referendum because Carolyn's greatest strength is in the rural, fundamentalist churches," Peard added.

Commented Paula Aboud, current MLGPA President, "Maine should develop

a statewide Lesbian/Gay coalition that will stay together and stay active in more than just politics, and act as a counterpart to the Christian Civic League at every level where the freedom of our community is attacked. We need to secure a future for our issues and our rights."

Barbara Wood, political activist and former Portland City Councilwoman, reminded us that, "Average people don't pay attention to the issues until a week before they go to vote. We need to start educating people; gay and straight. Get the word out, and raise awareness now."

Ken Constant, Portland activist and business owner, spoke an honest and sober anthem. "We don't just need to win our rights, we need to really win big because otherwise, a year from now, they will come up with another referendum question and we'll be fighting for our freedom all over again."

Paula Aboud reminded us that though there is hard work ahead, there is already support in place. "Organizations are calling MLGPA from all over the state and asking, 'How can we plug in?' If we reach out, we will find the people who are willing to come together. Because of this referendum, people are moving in corners of this state who have never moved before. I see this happening, and it's wonderful."



# CPR

## Gay Games IV - Team Maine Bulletin

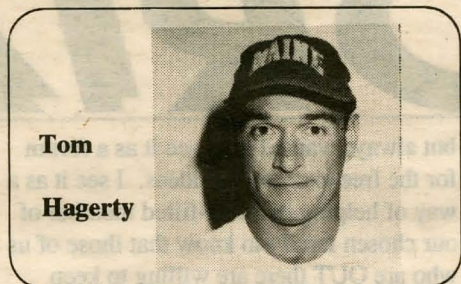
The Gay Games are held every four years to give lesbians and gay men the opportunity to participate in, or watch athletic events in a gay-positive environment. The fourth Gay Games, called Unity '94, will be held in New York City, June 18th through the 25th, 1994.

~~Next Team Maine meeting: Wednesday, September 29th at 6:45pm, in Portland. We will probably watch videos of Gay Games III after the meeting.

~~Registration will take place in late September, and end in December, 1993. Late registrants will be charged an additional fee, and may not find room in their sport (although venues will be found for everyone who registers during 1993).

All rates have not been set. Keep in mind that one may be required to be a member of the national sponsoring organization of one's sport in order to register for that sport in Gay Games IV.

For example, a person who wanted to swim at the Gay Games in Vancouver in 1990 was required to have a membership with the US Masters Swimming, Inc., a national organization that is neither officially gay or straight.



Tom  
Hagerty

This means that there may be a minimal fee to a separate organization, in addition to the registration fee for the Gay Games. Get in touch with Team Maine, or the Gay Games organization (212/633-9488), to receive a registration booklet in late September. This booklet will have exact information for each sport.

~~Team Maine contact persons for the following sports have been set:  
~~Swimming: Royal, 775-3630  
~~Bowling: Vince, 874-0047  
~~Cycling: Michael, 871-9940  
~~Marathon, Triathlon, Track and Field: Bob, 799-7981

Call these contact people if interested in these sports, interested in being the contact person for a different sport, or interested in coming to Team Maine meetings.

~~Team Maine swimmers are forming a group to practice late mornings on Sundays, and make an occasional trip to Boston for the Sunday practice of Different Strokes East, a Boston-based lesbian/gay swim club. Call Royal if interested in going. \*\*

## New Hampshire Coalition proposes amendment to NH civil rights law

By Eric Murphy

On May 2, 1993 over forty gay and lesbian New Hampshire citizens got together to discuss the proposal of an amendment to the state's current civil rights legislation.

The result of that gathering was the formation of the New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination.

The goal of NHCED is to add sexual orientation to the existing legislation which currently protects people from discrimination based on race, religion, gender, marital and familial status.

Since its formation, NHCED has been laying the groundwork for the introduction of the amendment at the end of this year. By adding sexual orientation to the current legislation, the proposed amendment would protect gays and lesbians from discrimination in employment, housing, credit, and public accommodations.

The amendment would ensure gays and lesbians with the same protection that is guaranteed to every other citizen of New Hampshire.

NHCED is focusing on creating a cohesive network of communication between the gay and lesbian organizations within the state. The coalition is also soliciting endorsements from political and social organizations, businesses, churches, and universities.

A speakers bureau is being formed which will contact prospective supporters and educate them about discrimination and homophobia, and the need for the amendment.

NHCED recognizes the need for actual accounts of discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, credit, and accommodations in order to pass the amendment. Discrimination accounts are essential to prove to the legislature the merit of the proposed amendment.

NHCED is collecting accounts of discrimination, and is looking for people willing to testify before the New Hampshire legislature.

Fundraising is a perpetual priority. Lobbying a legislature of over four hundred is an expensive endeavor. NHCED plans to meet these costs through grants and contributions, as well as the sale of buttons and t-shirts.

Anyone willing to offer support, whether it be donations, service, or a discrimination account, is urged to contact NHCED at P. O. Box 74, Concord, NH 03302. \*\*

## THE RAGE

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## Cosby's anti-gay crusade begins with empty war chest

By: Greg Kesich

PORTLAND-The anti-gay rights organization Concerned Maine Families, headed by Carolyn Cosby, claimed victory last week when Superior Court Justice Kermit Lipez upheld the wording of their voter initiative question. However, their late start in gathering signatures, and their so far unproven ability to raise money, casts doubt on the group's ability to achieve its goal.

"They're going to be hard pressed" to gather 53,000 signatures before the January 31 deadline, said Mike Heath, Associate Director of the Maine Christian Civic League. "Anything can happen, but they certainly don't have too much time."

As a political action committee, CMF is required to file quarterly reports with the Commission on Governmental Ethics. According to a report filed on July 15, the group had, at that point, only raised \$290 in contributions, while spending \$921.75.

The difference was made up by a \$725 loan from Col. Everett R. C. Ward of Falmouth. Ward, 91, is a retired U.S. Army officer who is listed as one of the PAC's directors. Ward says he opposes gay rights because, "I want to protect my rights--my right to discriminate. The essence of liberty is the right to choose. I can choose what brand of gasoline I use, I don't know why I can't choose other things as well."

In addition to Ward's loan, CMF also owes \$7,989 in outstanding bills. The report lists \$836 owed to Bangor attorney Samuel Lanham, \$3,250 to Bruce Fein of Great Falls, Virginia for professional services, and \$3,903 to two Colorado Springs, Colorado organizations known as Dove Tail Ministries and Word Wright. Those bills were for professional services and research materials.

Heath said that the Maine Christian Civic League, Maine's oldest and best known

socially conservative special interest group, researched what it would take to mount a state-wide anti-gay rights referendum a year ago. "We figured it would take a year and \$50,000 to gather the signatures, and anywhere from a quarter to a half million dollars for the state-wide campaign."

Cosby says that the lack of funds is no reflection on her organization's strength. "We didn't have a question until now," she said.

Heath said even when using volunteer labor, a statewide petition drive will cost money. Coordinators and office support cost money, and the people circulating the petitions need training from experienced people. "When they turn those petitions in, there's going to be an army of lawyers from the other side," who will try to disqualify signatures. "This issue is guaranteed to have a challenge."

CMF finds itself with only five and a half months to collect the signatures. Further complicating the effort is the fact that the bulk of the names will have to be gathered at the polls on election day, and since this is an off-year election, turn-out is expected to be low.

Cosby says that other groups have signed on to her campaign, but she would not reveal their names. "They will make it public themselves." Heath said his board was approached by Cosby last spring when the Legislature was debating a gay rights law. At the time, the League felt they had their hands full with the legislation fight and voted not to assist Cosby. The board has not met this summer and Heath says they have not been approached by Cosby again. The gay rights law passed both houses of the Legislature and was vetoed by Governor McKernan.

Meanwhile, both Cosby and the groups that challenged her in court over the wording of the referendum question claimed victory last week after Lipez' decision. The court approved the wording of the question in the ballot initiative, but

called the title of the bill misleading. Maine Civil Liberties Union attorney, Patricia Peard of Falmouth, said in a press conference last Thursday, that the question was confusing and hid its anti-gay intent. Research done on behalf of the referendum's opponents showed that only 20 percent of people reading the question understood what it meant. Lipez' decision permits Cosby's group to gather signatures for a referendum, which if passed, would freeze the number of protected classes under the Maine Human Rights Act to those presently named, and to repeal any laws that expand these classifications. Lipez also said the title of the question, which read, "An act to limit protected class status under the Maine Human Rights Act," was misleading because, if successful, the law would affect other state and local laws. Cosby said that her group was happy with a new title, limiting groups protected ... "under Maine Law."

This is an absolute win for us," Cosby said Monday. "The gays are touting this as a victory because we had to change three words in the title, but we consider this extremely insignificant."

But, as a consequence of that change, CMF will have to begin circulating petitions and gathering signatures all over again. If the question is to appear on the 1994 ballot, the signatures must be collected by January 31, 1994.

The wisdom of Cosby's strategy has also been criticized by those who might be expected to support her. Paul Volle, Executive Director of the Christian Coalition and chairman of Linda Bean's 1992 congressional campaign called it a "failed strategy" doomed to failure, in an interview last June. Heath said he was sympathetic to Cosby's goals, but could "see some holes" in the idea of stopping gay rights legislation by freezing the number of protected classes under the Human Rights Act.

Cosby said the League's Executive

Director, Jasper Wyman, may be planning to run for governor, and that explained why the group might want to distance itself from what is expected to be a divisive political debate.

She (Cosby) says the issue of gay rights is not one of preventing or encouraging discrimination, but one of stopping what she sees as an affluent minority seeking special rights. "This isn't anti-gay, it's anti-gay rights," she said, "We're not looking to make homosexual activity illegal."

Cosby said she doesn't think people should be fired from their jobs on the basis of their sexual orientation, but she also doesn't think they are. "Let's face it, it's just not happening."••

(Reprinted with the kind permission of Marian L. McCue, Publisher & Editor, *The Forecaster*, August 18, 1993 edition.



### Gay Games IV

Gay Games IV  
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Sept. 17th

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Oct. 2nd

## LEATHER LEVI NIGHT

Birthday Party for  
Tim and all Libras

Men of Metro Stage Show

ATTITUDE



Continued from page 2 - **OPINION** ...

Let me give you a quick run-down of what is involved. The realization of **GENDER DYSPHORIA** may come as early as age 5. Whenever it may come though, there are years of psychiatric therapy. Then testing to eliminate psychiatric diseases that might manifest themselves in this manner. Once those have been eliminated, there is more therapy. Then there is that beautiful day when you get your first letter recommending you for hormone therapy. There is also anywhere from 100 to 200 or more hours of electrology...VERY painful for some.

The hormones can cause pain in the testicles as well as in the breast area, not to mention cramps similar to a genetic woman's menstrual cramps, and just as real! The penis and testicles atrophy to several times their original size with a loss of sex drive, good news to the women who hate men! Next, there is what is called the life test. The transgenderist is required to live, work, eat, and sleep in their chosen gender role, plus more therapy to boot!

Then and only then can the transgenderist hopefully get their letter for surgery. The surgery alone should qualify the transgenderist for womanhood, and

inclusion into the world of femininity! It is a VERY painful operation that has been described as much like giving birth, and you genetic women who have given birth realize the pain of which I speak!

This is only a brief synopsis of what a transgenderist goes through to become what I call a real person; the person they feel themselves to be inside. Only a chosen few get to be complete. God knows how many commit suicide or live out their lives abusing themselves or others because of their dysphoria.

So, yes, I am angry and disheartened when one of our numbers is discriminated against! We have suffered as women. We have suffered as men. But worst of all, we have suffered as **NON-HUMANS** because of narrow-minded, self-righteous, self-serving bigots. The majority of transgenderists are fine citizens, moral, religious, and **KIND**...

--From a **SYSTER**,  
Marie Elizabeth,  
Maine.

Letters to In My Opinion... should be no more than 300 words, typed or written clearly. Send letters to CPR before the 25th of each month. Readers are encouraged to make their opinions know.

## OUT of my mind

**INVASION** - that's what the poster said. (See below) *Portland could become another Boston ... frequent shootings, robberies, rapes... as more blacks move into the Portland area.*"

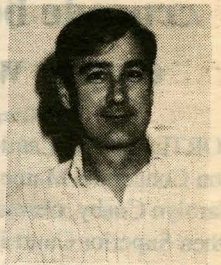
The poster's claim the National Independents Movement (NIM), of Westbrook as their originator. Of course, these proud, brave protectors of the white society only give a post office box number, no real address or phone. They don't have balls enough!

They go on in their liturgy to say that what happened in the Los Angeles riots could happen in Maine as more blacks move into Portland.

I've got news for you, NIM. It happened because of small-dicked idiots like you. We don't need to keep blacks and other minorities out. We need to run you out.

Now, why am I so fired up about this? I should hope it's obvious. If these people want to discriminate against racial

**Ken  
Constant**



minorities, you can bet your old pink three dollar bill that we aren't on their "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" guest list either.

*Racial integration or racial segregation should be decided by the individual on a voluntary daily basis... If racial integration/equality cannot be achieved on a daily, voluntary basis, without government force, then it was never meant to exist!"*

I hope this vile garbage infuriates you as much as it does me. If you see any of their materials around town, either collect it and call the Police Department, or at least throw it in a trash can where it belongs!

Let's take a stand now. Do not tolerate discrimination of any kind! ••

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Domestic bottles \$1.00 • Imports \$2.00  
10 oz. Drafts 50¢ • 16 oz. Drafts \$1.00

GIVE AWAYS!  
8 p.m. \$10. • 9 p.m. \$20. • 10 p.m. \$25.

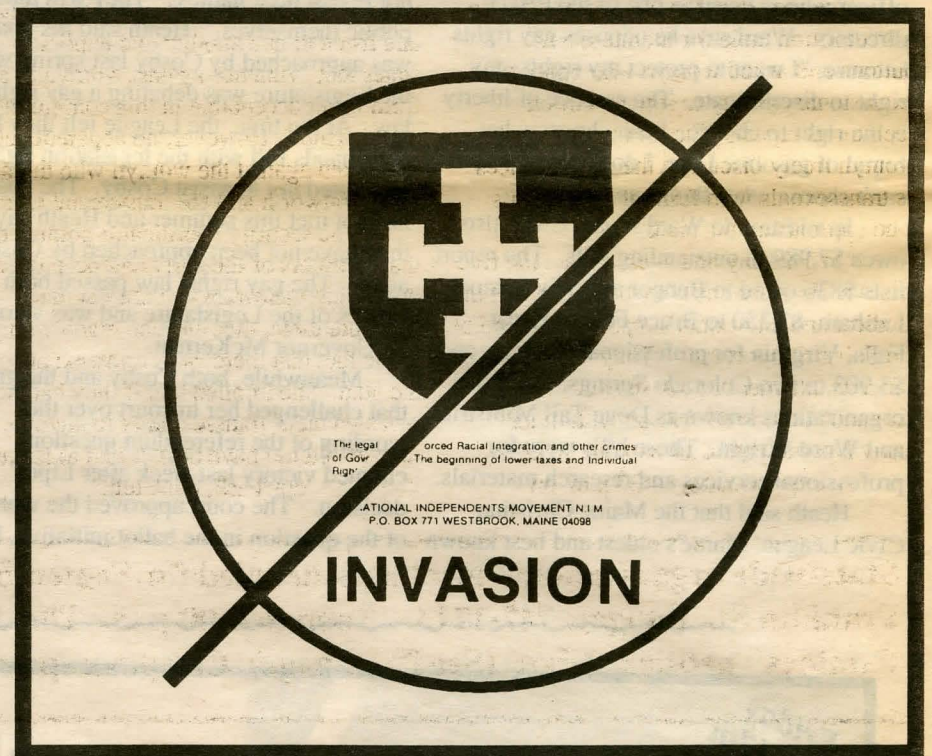
**Saturday, Sept. 10th:** Lewiston Night!! Lewiston ID - NO COVER  
2 tickets for 5-cent drinks (\$3.00 value for each)  
Arrive by 8 p.m. Special price accommodations at Phoenix Inn available

**Friday, Sept. 23rd:** Mexican Party Night - Mexican Decor & Games  
Specials on Mexican style drinks & beer

**Friday, Sept. 30th:** Strictly Formal Night, 8 p.m.-10 p.m.  
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**"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all (men) are created equal.'"**

**---Martin Luther King, Jr.  
August 28, 1963  
Washington, D.C.**



## Transsexual womyn expelled from MWMF

By: Davina Anne Gabriel & Janis Walworth

WALHALLA, MI.-- Four postoperative male-to-female transsexual lesbians were expelled from the 18th annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF) by festival security staff on the third day of the event.

The four womyn, who had undergone sex change surgery from 2 to 14 years earlier, and a nontranssexual supporter attended the festival to raise consciousness among participants about the festival's policy of excluding transsexual womyn, and issues of gender in general.

Womyn opposed to transsexuals at MWMF attempted to silence them by destroying their educational materials.

One of the transsexual womyn was Nancy Burkholder of New Hampshire (see CPR, July edition), who had been expelled from the festival in 1991. She, and Davina Gabriel of Missouri, Wendi Kaiser of Maine, and Rica Fredrickson of Pennsylvania purchased tickets at the front gate without incident.

The next day, the five womyn set up a distribution table for literature and buttons and asked womyn who opposed the exclusionary policy to sign a petition seeking its repeal. The four transsexual womyn freely discussed their experiences as transsexuals with festival participants who approached the table.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the five womyn did work shifts in the kitchen, at the medical and emotional support areas, and at the Sober Support tent. They attended concerts, ate meals, took showers, and shopped in the crafts bazaar with other festival participants, all without incident.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on

Thursday, August 12th, Janis Walworth of Massachusetts, the nontranssexual member of the party, and Kaiser, who were staffing the literature table, were approached by two womyn, one of whom identified herself as MWMF security coordinator.

She told Walworth that the transsexual womyn were in violation of the festival's "womyn-born womyn" only policy, and that they must therefore leave the festival. Walworth replied that it was not clear that the transsexual womyn were in violation of the policy as stated since they all identify as womyn-born womyn.

The security coordinator indicated that some festival participants had complained about the presence of transsexual womyn at the festival, and asked security to remove the womyn from the land.

She went on to say that these womyn vowed to take matters into their own hands if security did not do so. Security felt it could no longer guarantee the safety of the transsexual womyn. They were even reluctant to assure Walworth's safety at the festival since she had been staffing the literature table and associating with the transsexual womyn.

The festival catalogue calls upon womyn who attend the festival to dialogue and listen to one another and explicitly states that "violence against womyn in any form is not acceptable in this community, on this land." However, no apparent action was taken against the womyn who threatened Walworth and the transsexual womyn.

The security coordinator pointed out that members of the party had been openly discussing their transsexuality at the literature table, thus alerting many womyn to the fact that there were transsexuals on the land. She implied that if they had not revealed their transsexuality to anyone, they would not have been asked to leave. In effect--"don't ask, don't tell."

The four transsexual womyn returned to their campsite and packed their belongings. They were delayed leaving the land by many womyn who stopped them to express their support. A contingent of leatherwomyn offered to guarantee the safety of the transsexual womyn at their campsite for the duration of the festival and strongly attempted to dissuade them from leaving.

The womyn set up camp across the road on National Forest land, and set up another literature table, along with neon pink banners proclaiming "Too Out To Be In!" and "Transsexual Womyn Expelled From Festival." Womyn came out from the festival to spend time with the transsexual womyn, express their support, and to bring food, flowers, and encouragement.

Festival participants who visited the transsexual womyn reported that sentiment inside the festival was overwhelmingly supportive of their participation in MWMF, and there was outrage at their expulsion.

Inside the festival, nontranssexual womyn helped staff the inside literature table, and Walworth conducted two sessions of a workshop entitled "Confronting Transphobia," as well as a workshop on gender and shamanism which had been scheduled to be presented by Gabriel.

On Friday evening Riki Anne Wilchins, a transsexual from New York City, flew in to present her workshop, "21 Things You Don't Say to a Transsexual." She chose to remain outside the festival with the four expelled transsexual womyn and conduct her workshop. Womyn who wanted to attend Wilchins' workshop agreed to move the location to the area outside the front gate. Approximately 75 womyn walked the mile to attend the two sessions.

On Saturday morning, the literature table inside the festival was left unattended

for a time. All literature, buttons, display racks, signed petitions, and completed survey forms were stolen. Also stolen were a donation can and personal property.

Also on Saturday, Walworth and Laura Ervin of Massachusetts, met with feminist author Kay Leigh Hagan who was acting as an official representative of the festival producers, Barbara Price and Lisa Vogel, and the security coordinator.

At that meeting, Hagan disclosed that the festival producers are the sole determiners of festival policy, and that she did not anticipate that they would change the anti-transsexual policy in the near future. ••

## THE GAY AGENDA video comes to The Underground

By: Ken Constant

The controversial video, The Gay Agenda, will be shown at THE UNDERGROUND in Portland. The video, produced by the Christian right-wing, is being shown to church groups, city and state legislators, and anyone else they can get to watch it.

It's distorted depiction of "the gay life-style" is used to persuade these groups of viewers to support efforts to repeal and deny all gay civil rights and municipal protections.

Find out what lies and misinformation the Christian right is spreading about us. The video (approximately 30 minutes long), will be shown during the Equal Protection Lewiston fund-raiser at THE UNDERGROUND on Sunday, September 19th. It will also be shown at THE UNDERGROUND at 6:00, 8:00, and 11:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20th.

THE UNDERGROUND is located at 3 Spring Street in Portland. For more information, call me at 773-3042. ••

**State-wide organizational meeting scheduled for September 12th, at THE RAGE, 123 Franklin St., Bangor. 947-1213. Noon to 4:00 p.m. This is in response to Concerned Maine Families' petition drive. (See front page) Car pool, spread the word. This is important!**



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## Lessons from the epidemic - Part II

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is at the very heart of our culture, showing us what we believe and who we are. Using it as a large mirror, as I suggested last time, is a sometimes difficult task. Whether we are looking at ourselves, or the larger series of cultures with which we identify, introspection and observation can be scary.

While easier to avoid, the gifts obtained by looking at ourselves make the journey worthwhile. Some immediate reflections of our culture appear fixed, static, and unchangeable to many individuals. That is because most of our core values are systemic, part of the system, and that system is rarely articulated in families, schools, or communities.

While we have much learning to do about being Americans, clinging to the myths of rugged individualism and equality for all, I want to begin at a deeper level. The patriarch is the larger or supra culture to which we belong. Its values are almost never articulated, just practiced. As children, we grow to believe that this is the way it is and always has been. That culture is, in reality, fluid, and hard to discover.

As the women's movement grew in the 1970's, it saw that feminism was a real, not imagined, threat to the patriarchy. Lesbians and gay men had also been direct threats, but had been effectively silenced for centuries in some cultures. The epidemic changed all this. We became more visible because we had to, because too many were dying, because there was work to do.

Many formerly closeted physicians, social workers, nurses, and lawyers chose this as an opportunity to come out because of their desire to advocate and provide services to those with AIDS. And it wasn't just professionals who came out to provide services. Waiters, carpenters, secretaries, and many other gay people came out in their work as volunteers and organizers in the epidemic.

And, most importantly, many courageous people with AIDS came out to help others understand this disease. It became, by the 1990's a time where gay men and lesbians were no longer totally invisible. Even the soaps have gay characters now! But the discrimination didn't end and, in some cases, got worse. So, we began to look at the systemic nature of homophobia, reflected to us by the epidemic's mirror, and see how it is a subset of sexism, both of which are generated by the patriarchy.

Part of what we learned was that homophobia, like sexism, was systemic. When we say that discrimination is systemic, we mean a number of things. First of all, we do mean that it comes from the system, but we need to carefully define that system.

David  
Smith, Ed.D.



We also mean that it is something that we all have learned - that in some ways it is "normal" to be homophobic or sexist. And finally, we mean that it is related to other parts of our system. Homophobia is part of the fabric of our society. That fabric is being changed by the epidemic.

When we talk of the system, we really mean our culture. In this case, we are talking about the larger culture known as the patriarchy. Many different cultures are part of the patriarchy. While varying, these cultures share a common cultural norm that overvalues maleness and undervalues femaleness. In this way homophobia is closely related to sexism and the discrimination against women that we see in our society. How did the patriarchy develop? How does it cause homophobia?

Many anthropologists and feminist theorists believe that the patriarchy began about 6-10 thousand years ago as humankind began giving up a nomadic way of life and began agrarian civilizations. It was at this time that a number of major changes were seen.

One of the most important was the development of monotheism, or a belief in one god. This is often taught in history classes as beginning with the Egyptian and Hebrew cultures of the Middle East. While it is presented as a major event in the development of humankind, one of its most interesting and important components is rarely explained, **that the one god is male.**

This historical event is more accurately referred to as the rise of male gods. The omission of this fact in schools hides the sexism of our culture from our view, and explains why sexism is also systemic. Women are only important in that they have children for men. They become sex objects. If a woman's purpose is to have sex with men, then men cannot have sex with men. Hence, the beginning of systemic homophobia. Men, in the patriarchy are socialized to oppress women and control them so that they can be sure who their (the man's) children are.

Much of the explanation offered here is based on theorizing and piecing together thousands of years of unwritten history. Anthropologists have found that same sex sexuality was valued (as seen by art work and religious rituals) in many pre-patriarchal societies around the world.

In our community, **Judy Grahn** and **Harry Hay** have written about the fact that gay people have always existed and were valued differently in different cultures.

What became clear to Judy Grahn in her research, is that there is "a social purpose for lesbians and gay men." In the epidemic, with so many gay men contracting AIDS, we began to understand, and to say to the world, **"homosexuality is a naturally occurring regular phenomenon."**

These reflections from the epidemic allow us to continue our fight for civil rights for lesbians and gay men. It becomes a gift of information that shores us up with the onslaught of rabid homophobia that was also a result of so many coming out. Although the epidemic brought many of us out, there were not always welcoming arms waiting to receive us.

Closer to home, we found that we needed to examine some core values of the American culture. Yes, it too was sexist and homophobic. However, some of its other core values provided big trouble for people with HIV infection. One clear myth is that of rugged individualism. It says that individualism is valued and American greatness is made up of these individuals who did his (almost never *her*) own thing, and all Americans gained.

The reality is, conformity is valued in America, as anyone who has ever stepped out of line knows. The rugged individualism myth tied to the Horatio Alger myth - that anyone can become a millionaire, if you work hard enough - were used to hide the excesses of capitalism.

We are a CAPITALIST society. Capitalism is not just an economic system, but rather a complete philosophy that addresses the worth and rights of humans. But, this is a big secret that was kept from us in schools. Frances Fitzgerald, in America Revised, points out that capitalism is not mentioned in over 90% of American history textbooks. They (who are they?) have really worked hard to keep us in the dark.

We learned about capitalism the hard way in the epidemic. Health care was there for those who could pay for it. Housing was available for those with money.

Women, already disenfranchised by a sexist culture, became the invisible AIDS epidemic. In fact, in the 1980's, while first doing community presentations on AIDS, I had to assure the audience that women were at risk for HIV (HTLV-III) and, in fact, some did have AIDS.

Women, we found, had less access to health care, as did many African-Americans, Latinos, addicts, and the homeless - all groups impacted by the epidemic. Also, some gay men had difficulty obtaining these same services. The myth that all gay men are white and rich is just a myth. Also, if you had been employed, became sick, and had to stop working, there were often few medical benefits available. For all these reasons the gay community took the lead in developing AIDS service organizations.

What a powerful model we became for the entire society. With strength, power, and pride we fought this illness. Our leadership qualities as lesbians and gay men had once again led society in the right direction. These new directions that we have learned from the epidemic are part of the gifts we are fashioning out of our frustrations and tears. ••

*David Smith, Ed.D. is a professional educator who has been working in the HIV epidemic since 1983. Currently, he is a Consultant at the Connecticut State Education Department, working in the Comprehensive Health Unit. He has worked in AIDS service organizations, AIDS and addiction treatment programs, and not-for-profit community organizations. As an educator he has focused on homophobia, addiction and the HIV epidemic.*

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## Next MLGPA President? A conversation with Karen Geraghty

I first met Karen during the Equal Protection Portland campaign. She caught my attention because she quietly volunteered for everything and accomplished every task she ever offered to do. Not once did she ask for recognition, yet by victory night she was widely recognized as one of the unsung heroes of the campaign.

Karen moved from EPP to the Board of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. Now she has been nominated for the Presidency of MLGPA. In her free time she is an accountant at a law firm in Portland.

While relatively new to MLGPA, she has made herself known as an honest, no-nonsense worker who bridges conflicting styles and provides a stable backbone amidst the flurry of a campaign.

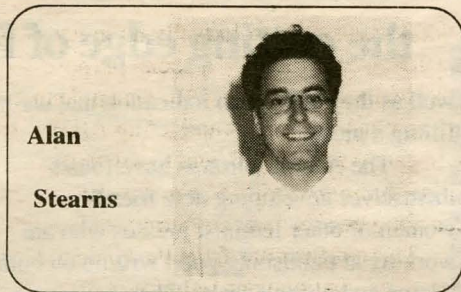
Nominations have not closed for MLGPA officers, and people are encouraged to nominate themselves or others to run for the presidency or any other seat. I interviewed Karen at her home in Portland to let the community know about this woman who wants to be the next President of MLGPA.

### Why are you involved in politics and activism?

"I'm involved because I believe in the concept that one person working in a group can make a difference, and the threat of not being involved is just too great."

"I know I can make a difference with my energy more than with a check sent to someone else. I don't want to say it, but I'm also involved because I'm afraid. I'm afraid that Jasper Wyman or Carolyn Cosby is going to be out there directing my life."

### How did you get involved in Maine



Alan  
Stearns

### politics?

"I grew up in Gloversville, NY, then lived in Columbus, Ohio for ten years until I moved to Portland in 1991. During that first year in Maine, I volunteered at The AIDS Project. I was really inspired by PWA's. PWA's are some of the most 'out' people I have ever met. They have no reason not to be. Then I read an article in Our Paper about the City Council hearing on the Human Rights Ordinance. I went that night and have been hooked ever since."

### Where will you lead MLGPA in the next year?

The most important goal is to make sure that Carolyn Cosby's anti-gay initiative fails. But, we can't get lost in that task or that campaign. We also have to build long term bridges to other groups. We have lots of friends, but no solid working relationships with groups like the NAACP, the Jewish Federation, and the Maine People's Alliance."

"I also plan to expand MLGPA's membership and make it more representative. I bet ninety percent of our membership is middle class. There are a lot of poor or rural Mainers who just aren't aware of or served by MLGPA right now."

"For instance, my girlfriend's nephew in a small town near Augusta doesn't know any gay kids or many gay adults. He thinks he's the only one who exists. We need to reach out to people like him. If we make MLGPA interesting to him, if we offer him something, then maybe we can show him how important it is for him to help us with a campaign. And I'm sure we can learn a lot from his

perspective, too."

### Tell me about Laurie Holt.

She's the love of my life. We met over a year ago through EPP, and have been living together for almost a year. She went to an EPP Speakers Bureau training because I had signed up. She's crafty that way!"

"I couldn't do all of my political activities without her. She's so far removed from the meetings and personalities. I come home exhausted, and she's so full of energy. She's a support, but also an escape."

### Will you win the election?

Right now I'm unopposed. Someone may read this interview and say, 'What a bimbo!' and run against me. I wouldn't discourage that. \*\*



Karen Geraghty, Presidential hopeful

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Roma Heilig Morris, PhD., founder of Whirling Rainbow Teaching Lodge will teach about the spirituality of Native American shields and lead adults and children in creating our own Autumn Equinox shields.

### Next Services October 10th & 24th

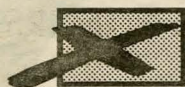
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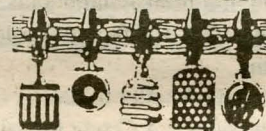
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**Sapphire, Manuscript Reviewer and Editor**

*continued from page one*

The manuscript was revised and edited, and production was begun.

Leighton said, "Sylvia had the most experience, with her knowledge of graphic arts and in knowing her way around the production business. She kept us alert with her frequent reality checks, laughing uproariously when we said we thought we could have *Vision and Struggle* out in three months. It took us over a year."

### Varied Skills

Astarte's directors bring a variety of skills and interests to the publishing business. Debbie Leighton, marketing and business manager for the company, is a crone, with her own business as a transition counselor. Sailing is her passion, but swimming, biking and skiing are rivals for second place, depending on the time of the year.

Sylvia Sims has been a graphic artist for more than twelve years, but went into nursing two years ago when she got laid off as an artist. She has been the designer of all of Astarte's books and the illustrator for five of them.

Sapphire, Astarte's manuscript reviewer and editor, has a background in journalism, and, like Sims, has been in nursing for the past 16 years. "I majored in journalism in college," she said, "but didn't learn enough about interviewing and writing to not feel that I was invading peoples' privacy. I'm very pleased to be working again at seeing how words go together to affect peoples' lives."

Elly Haney, also a manuscript editor, is currently the head of the Liberal Arts department and an instructor at the Maine College of Art (formerly the Portland School of Art). She is one of the founders of the Feminist Spiritual Community and of the Center for Vision and Policy, and, like Leighton, enjoys most activities that get her outdoors. Haney's previously published

work is *A Feminist Legacy: The Ethics of Wilma Scott Heide and Company*.

### Growing, Growing

After *Vision and Struggle*, Astarte's second project was to be a collection of rituals done at the Feminist Spiritual Community. It became the *fifth* book they published. Sapphire, who is one of the book's co-author/editors, talked about the creation of *Keep Simple Ceremonies*. "We thought the book would write itself. Diane (Eiker) and I would collect the rituals that had been done at FSC, find some women to write them out by hand and get Sylvia to do the art work. Six months, no sweat. What we didn't take into account was something called the creative process — the process that demands perfection, worries about judgement and is very subject to energy, mood and time constraints."

The book took three years to pull together, but has been Astarte's fastest-seller to date, with 1,700 copies sold in three months.

It's steadiest seller to date is *Celebrating Ourselves: A Crone Ritual Book*, which also comes out of the ceremonies of the Feminist Spiritual Community. The book, published in October of 1992, is due for a third printing this Fall. It celebrates the reclaiming of the word "crone" as an older woman whose wisdom is valued in society rather than dismissed. The book includes a croning ceremony to honor a woman's emergence into her time of wisdom, a discussion of the ageism that exists in American society, and offers comments by those who have been "croned" at FSC over the years.

*The Moon In Hand*, by Eclipse, published in 1991, is also scheduled for a Fall reprint.

"We have tried, from the very beginning, to be a quality publishing company," Leighton said, "to produce books of outstanding content and design. I think the fact that our books have sold as

## the cutting edge of feminist publishing

well as they have is an indication that we're filling a niche."

The Astarte partners have found themselves developing new friends — women of other feminist presses who are working at publishing good writing on both a large and a small scale. They have been pleased, and surprised, that so many publishers have been willing to share their knowledge of the business, and to encourage them. What they were told was that there was too much to do to hold back for rivalry's sake. Leighton also cited the Maine Writers' and Publishers' Alliance (MWPA), which encourages, publishes and sells books of local writers, as being a great resource for information.

While the business's focus is the production of books on feminist spirituality and politics, the vision has recently widened somewhat to include peace and social justice issues.

Astarte's forthcoming book *Anoqcou* (pronounced an-o-qwa-sew) is an extended interview with gkisedtanamoogk, a member of the Wampanoag Nation. The book deals with the interweaving of Wabanaki tribal culture and ceremony, stating that "Ceremony is Life itself. It is the way we do things; it is the way we maintain Balance and Harmony with all our Relations . . ."

Another recent publication, *Death by Crystal*, by Agnes Bushell, is a Portland-based mystery story, the second in a series about lesbian detectives Johanna Wilder and her partner, Ruth (Will) Wilson.

### So Many Manuscripts

Deciding what to publish is the beginning place for the entire business. "The first year we were in business we received nearly 150 manuscripts in the mail. We had placed only two ads in writers' publications and were surprised at the response." Many of the writings

submitted were poetry, which Astarte does not publish, feeling that the market is too specialized and that they don't have enough knowledge of poetry editing to do it justice.

Sapphire reviews new manuscripts, decides which to pursue and passes them on to her partners or to others who have particular experience in the subject area. "Sending manuscripts back to authors is the hardest part of this job. I can feel that so much of who these women are has gone into the writing of these stories, especially when the subject is recovery from abuse. I try to make it clear that it's the style and quality of writing that's being turned down, not the validity of the story itself."

Final decisions on publication are made by all. Publication timetables, marketing schedules and budgets are then established, with twelve to eighteen months being the realistic average for production of each project. "No more trying to get books out in three months and tearing our hair out when we can't make it happen," Sapphire said.

### Hand Of The Goddess

The Astarte logo represents who the women of the press are and what they want to accomplish. Designed by Sims, it shows the astarte shell, a life form local to the coast of northern New England, and the hand of Astarte, the goddess of abundance and transformation. The snake, power animal of Astarte, curls around her wrist.

Says Sims of hers and her partners' work with Astarte, "We have learned this business through practical experience, and we have grown to love it. We are all much wiser, not sadder, and definitely happier — at least I am." The others agreed. ••



**Debbie Leighton, Marketing & Business Manager**





*Sylvia Sims, Designer and Illustrator*



*Elly Haney, Author and Manuscript Editor*

## TREASURES FROM ASTARTE

**Keep Simple Ceremonies**, a book of rich, feminist rituals celebrating life passages, friendships and political commitments, developed in the textured weave of women's lives, embracing pain and tragedy as well as joy and transformation. Edited by Diane Eiker and Sapphire, this 150 page collection sells for \$12.95.

**Celebrating Ourselves: A Crone Ritual**, honoring the passage into old age of twenty-four women, this collection tells of moving celebrations from sober preparation to joy. Edited by Edna M. Ward, and illustrated by Sylvia Sims, this 50 page collection sells for \$6.00.

**Vision and Struggle: Meditations on Feminist Spirituality and Politics**, explores the topics of white privilege, sexuality, alliance building, goddess language and cosmic principles of feminist ethics and moral excellence. Rooted in a commitment to social, economic and ecological justice, the author, Eleanor H. Haney, develops a normative framework for feminist theology and ethics. 150 pages • \$10.95.

**The Moon in Hand: Journeys into Feminist Mysticism**, invites us on a powerful, ecstatic and wrenching journey into the heart of the ancients, the earth and ourselves using meditation, stories, prayers and rituals on each of the four directions. Accompanying each direction is a stunning color plate created by the author and several black and white line drawings. Authored by Eclipse, an Earth-Witch activist, mother, and ecofeminist, this 154 page book sells for \$12.95.

**Feminism for the Health of It**, is a collection of essays by Wilma Scott Heide,

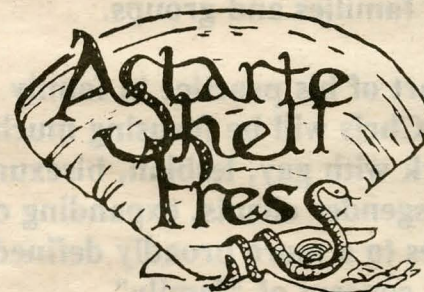
a renowned activist for racial justice, nurse, and third president of NOW. She prescribes a feminist ethic for social and personal health, using humor, anger and compassion. 164 pages • \$6.95.

**A Feminist Legacy: The Ethics of Wilma Scott Heide and Company**, is an intimate portrait of this founding mother of the current feminist movement. An important resource to help white feminists understand their own complex and ambiguous roots for addressing the challenge for justice for all living beings. Written by Eleanor H. Haney, this 208 page book sells for \$8.95.

**Girl to Woman: A Gathering of Images**, uses powerful and memorable images in essays and poetry to celebrate and mourn the seasons of a white woman's life, creating an eloquent memoir of growing up in northern Minnesota. Author Susan Hauser writes of childhood memories of nature, family, of fantasy and fears. This 126 page book sells for \$10.95.

**Death by Crystal**, chronicles the exploits of the Portland, Maine-based lesbian private detective team of Wilder and Wilson. In addition to the all the elements of a mystery novel, the author, Agnes Bushell, addresses underlying serious issues about the power of the government and individual freedoms. This is the second Johanna Wilder mystery novel from Bushell. 160 pages • \$8.95.

**ANOOOOU: Ceremony Is Life Itself**, is the latest book of Astarte Shell Press. This book contains four interviews of gkisedtanamoogk by Frances Hancock about Wabanaki culture and ceremony. The last interview should be of particular interest for non-native people concerned about the continuing white exploitation of Indigenous rituals and spirituality. 60 pages • \$6.50.



Astarte Shell Press  
P.O. Box 10453, Portland, Maine 04104



## OUT! of Town

How to fly for free!

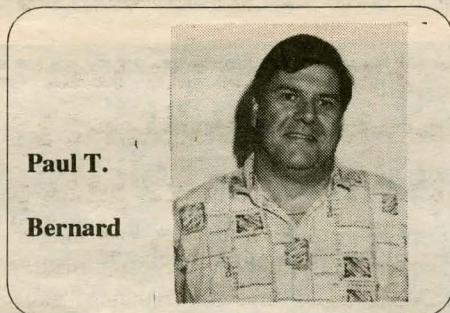
Actually, there are two ways to earn free tickets.

•• Enroll as a Frequent Flyer. Each of the major airlines has their own Frequent Flyer Program. This program is designed to build "brand loyalty" and will reward those loyal customers with several benefits.

Although each airline's program is slightly different, they all have certain things in common. A) It doesn't cost anything to join. B) You earn miles or points by flying on that airline. C) After you earn so many miles or points, you are eligible for various rewards. D) These rewards vary from free upgrades to First Class to actual free tickets.

Which airline's program is the best? It all depends on how often you fly and where you fly. Is it worthwhile to enroll as a frequent flyer? **You bet!** But only if you are going to fly one airline consistently. It's easy to enroll. Just ask your travel agent to enroll you. They can do it over the phone, and you can start earning mileage from that time on.

•• Offer to be bumped on an over-booked flight. As most of you know, the airlines over-book their flights to some degree. The reason they do this is that past history tells them that a certain percentage



Paul T.

Bernard

of passengers on any flight will be "'no-shows'." So, the airlines gamble that they can accurately predict the number of "no shows" and will try to fill those seats. When they goof, you have an oversold flight - too many people actually at the airport wanting to get on that particular plane.

So, what do they do? Well, to save face, they offer willing passengers some sort of compensation if they will agree to give up their seat on that plane with a guarantee of a seat on the next available flight. Sometimes that compensation is a gift certificate for anywhere up to \$455-\$500, or more likely, a free ticket for anywhere in the continental US.

Is this a good deal? **It sure is,** but only if you aren't in a hurry to get where you are going. You could be delayed anywhere from several hours to a full day. How do you get picked for this? Actually,

you volunteer! But there are some tricks you need to know.

A) Get to the airport early, and once you are checked in, proceed to your gate. B) Once at the gate, go up to the counter and ask the agent if the flight is over-booked. If he/she says it is, tell him/her that you are interested in volunteering your seat. They will put your name on a "bump" list, and you will be called if it becomes necessary to use your seat for another customer. The agent will explain any procedures that you will be asked to follow.

**TAKE NOTE:** Before you give up your seat, make sure you know what the alternate flight arrangements will be. If you can't live with the anticipated delay, it doesn't do you any good to volunteer. ••

## NH COALITION ANNOUNCES FALL RALLY

By: Eric Murphy

The New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination announces a fall rally at NH College North Campus. At 6:30 pm Wednesday, October 13th, NHCED will sponsor a rally to show state-wide support of the introduction of an anti-discrimination legislative amendment addressing sexual orientation.

The rally will demonstrate the vast range of political, religious and social support for the amendment throughout the state. Former gubernatorial candidate, Arnie Ameson, house minority leader, Rick Trombly, Franklin Mayor, Brenda Elias, Episcopal Bishop, Douglas Theuner, P-Flag spokesperson, Betsy Janeway, and NH activist, Marcus Hurn are among the scheduled speakers.

There will also be entertainment and an opportunity for socializing after the event. Refreshments will be served. The New Hampshire Coalition to End Discrimination enthusiastically invites all who are interested in supporting the passage of this amendment. A strong show of support by a diverse group of people is essential for our success. Show your support! Get active! ••

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As part of his practice in family therapy, Chris will be focusing much of his work with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender clients, expanding our services to a more broadly defined concept of "family".

He will also be developing a practice with individuals and families living with HIV.

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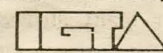
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## When someone you know is gay

By Glen A. Hersey

The book of this title is prominently displayed in our library. The authors are Susan and Daniel Cohen. It opens with the question "What would you do if your best friend came up to you and said, 'I've got something to tell you. I'm gay.' Would you stay and talk? Turn away? Walk away? Pretend you didn't hear what you just heard?"

I spotted the book as I sat in the school library during a particularly dull school evaluation meeting and found myself flipping through it. It covers a topic that students know very little about. A generation ago we knew almost nothing about it. This ignorance has caused a tremendous amount of suffering, especially for young people. I think this is an honest and compassionate book that every student should read.

The question posed at the beginning is not unrealistic. Experts argue whether ten percent or two percent of the population is gay. But whether there are fifty or a hundred and fifty gay students at Wachusett (Regional High School, Holden, MA), the fact remains that discovering that one is gay is a burden that happens to one person at a time and immensely complicates the already difficult teen years.

The Cohen's book is full of poignant testimonials from many gay teens from all walks of life.

The second chapter, "Is it Catching?" is worth reading if you read no other chapter. Here are a few of the statements about homosexuality that the authors present: No--it is not catching. No amount or combination of environmental factors has ever made a straight person gay.

People do not "choose" to be straight. (Should we be saying "sexual preference" or "sexual orientation" in referring to gays?) They cannot be "cured" by psychological, medical, or religious methods. Every possible method has been thoroughly tried. (These methods can, however, inflict considerable pain.)

Despite myth and theory, no one knows what causes homosexuality. All we do know is that some people are oriented this way in every part of every country in every religion throughout all of human history.

There is no "protection" against this orientation. It is simply something that is part of some people's deep seated nature. Despite popular stereotypes, there is no standard appearance to a gay person.

The book is quite readable and compelling. The many stories from the lives of gay teens represent the price that society visits upon these young people as they "come out" to themselves and then try

to "come out" to friends, family and church. What strikes the reader is how lonely these people are in the struggle. Loneliness is tough at any age, but especially so during the teen years when teens are trying to find out how to connect to this world.

When I was a teen, we were simply ignorant. We would taunt some kids as being "fairies" or "queers." But I, at least, hadn't a clue what these terms were really supposed to mean. In retrospect, I realize how hurtful these words must have been.

I also realize now that some of the people I knew then were probably gay. Unlike my students who race home to get going on their English assignments, I would race home to do something "useful." I'd spend my afternoons hanging around the garage or helping someone build a house. The man at the garage taught me how to fix almost anything on a car. The man building his house taught me plumbing, carpentry, masonry and wiring.

There was another man who taught me how to play the violin. And of course, there was the Liberace television show where a talented musician shared his genuine joy of music with me. Each of these men gave me life-long skills that I treasure. I had no inkling these men were any different from other men. I don't think we even had the word "homophobia." I'd like to think that I would have been tolerant of their differences if I had known more about their lives, but I cannot know that....

Yes, at some point in your lives, you are bound to become aware that some of your friends, co-workers, fellow students, perhaps even family, are gay. What will be your response to yourself, and to them?

I know only this: The fate of the planet is very much in our hands. We can no longer afford the luxury of hating, abusing or excluding any group of people for any reason.

Gay people have made enormous contributions to business, education, sports, religion, medicine, the environment, music, art, and every other phase of civilization. Now, more than ever, we need every single soul on this planet for the support of our fragile civilization. ••

*(Glen Hersey teaches English at the Wachusett Regional High School, Holden, Massachusetts. He is a supportive ally of our community, and a personal friend of the CPR Editor. This article was first printed in the WACHUSETT ECHO, the student managed high school newspaper.)*

**Pick up your copy of  
CPR at  
Drop Me A Line  
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## Family of the Year project introduced by Portland-based group

The Family of the Year Project is a cooperative venture of the Family Institute of Maine and its affiliate, Dialogue Center. The Project, established in 1993, says in its Statement of Purpose, "Because of the broad diversity of family structures in contemporary society, we feel obligated as family therapists to honor and bring to the public's attention these new and often creative family structures and to facilitate constructive, creative and healthful ways of being together in a responsible and nurturing way."

In a letter sent to this paper, Cynthia Lambert, Director of Family Institute of Maine, and Larry A. Fader, Director of Dialogue Center wrote, "We believe this project reflects one answer to the growing and important need for all of us to face the rapidly changing nature of family life in our culture. These changes do not always need to be seen as 'family deterioration' or 'crisis in the American family,' but, as we see it, a reflection of the creative perseverance of people and their capacity to evolve new structures and new ways of being together."

The \$1000 award will be granted annually to a family which represents people's creative or courageous attempts to establish or maintain 'family' in difficult times. Some of the diverse structures and processes they hope to honor include single parent families, gay and lesbian families, foster families, adoptive families, communities of single people, families who teach us about living and dying with AIDS or other life threatening illness or disability, as well as families who demonstrate the capacity for recovering from some traumatic event, crisis or separation.

Families may nominate themselves, or be nominated by therapists, agencies, physicians, employers, friends, etc. The selected family will be videotaped in dialogue with selected staff of the Family Institute and Dialogue Center. The tapes will serve as an historical archives of the

changing nature of family in our community, state, nation and world. Deadline for submissions is September 31, 1993. For more information, contact the Family Institute of Maine, 38 Deering St., Portland 04101, Tel. 773-6658.

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## \$\$\$ Money Talk \$\$\$



Tom Summner



Doug Dunton

This month starts a series on savings. Yes, that sometimes dreaded, sometimes impossible notion of tucking some of your head earned money away for "a rainy day."

So, start the chuckles. The common reply, "How can I save any money when I can barely meet the demands of day to day living expenses?"

Well, it can be done. It must be done. A good financial plan has a savings account built into it. How much do you put away? Good question. Perhaps a simple 10% is a good place to start. Most people can put that much away without noticing it. That 10% is what slips through the cracks of everyday living, like coffee and the paper!

If 10% is truly too much to start with, then start at 7%. Watch how that grows and then try 10%.

This is for you. This is a form of paying yourself first for all your hard work. Not the lights first. Not the telephone first. But YOU first. Only you know your needs. Only you will look out for yourself.

There are ways to make this easier. Perhaps your company has an automatic payroll deduction to make savings much easier, and relatively painless. Remember, this new change in financing requires some discipline, but it's worth it as it's something you are doing for yourself.

When you go to the bank to either cash or deposit your check, you can have your bank savings book ready and take 10% off the top and put it away then. It seems that a trip to the bank is probable, so make your transactions then.

If you have your paycheck automatically deposited, then see about making arrangements to have your 10% re-routed to your savings account.

The first and most important part of savings is your new frame of mind. Knowing that you are the most important debtor in this picture, and that YOU need to be paid first is key.

Within this new structure you're creating, there are at least three kinds of savings accounts you should think about, and numerous places to put this money. In future issues, we'll discuss some of the options. Until then, in whatever way you need to, start thinking of yourself and your savings account as top priority. A penny saved.....

## Chew on This

September already! Where has the summer gone? There are some wonderful things to look forward to as we anticipate the fall season: the beautiful transformation of the leaves as they turn their brilliant colors, cool crisp days, just a few more weeks of those wonderful fresh vegetables before we are forced to go back to store-bought plastic tomatoes!

Last week a friend came for dinner and brought "salad" with her. Now, I'm not talking about your average salad of lettuce, tomato and cucumber. No, I'm talking about a salad fit to be the entire meal, especially at this peak time of vegetable harvest before that dreaded first frost.

I enjoyed our meal together so much that a few days later, when I had a weekend guest from Boston, I did serve a salad for dinner. Serving it with a hearty seeded bread made it a wonderful meal, and believe me, no one went hungry! Here's what I brought to the table. You might want to try some of your own favorites.

### TO SERVE FOUR:

- 4 new, red-skinned potatoes
- 6 new beets
- 1 large, crisp cucumber
- 16-20 baby carrots (or 2-3 larger ones cut in spears)
- 2 large, juicy, ripe tomatoes
- 2 tiny eggplant
- 1/2 lb. snow peas

- Cook the beets till tender. Peel and Chill
- Cube and cook potatoes (with skins) until tender. Chill

Rose Mary Denman



- Steam carrots until barely tender-crisp. Chill
- Steam snow peas until just blanched. Chill

As you can see, you can prepare the above vegetables in the morning, or the daybefore, put them in the 'fridge, and it will take only a matter of minutes to put the meal together.

Just before serving, peel and slice cucumber into thin rounds. Slice tomatoes into wedges. Cut eggplants into thin slices length-wise. These are best grilled, but you could put them under the broiler for two or three minutes each side.

Arrange one quarter of each of the vegetables on four large dinner plates. Be aware to put darker colors next to lighter ones and see how striking each dish looks!

For dressing, you can make your own quite simply by chopping a large handful of

fresh basil and adding it to equal amounts of light olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Add chopped fresh parsley and some fresh ground pepper. Shake and drizzle over all the vegetables. Enjoy!



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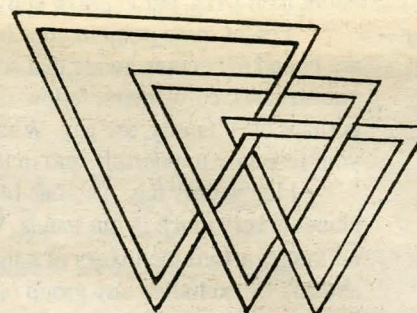
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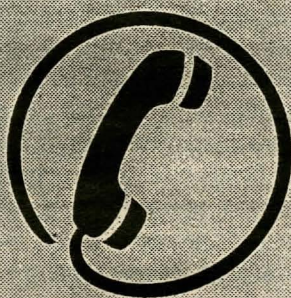
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## Nachas!

By: Rita M. Kissen

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

If Carolyn Cosby did not exist, the Gay community and its allies would probably have to invent her. She makes us remember the father who threw us out of the house when we came out to him, and a co-worker who laughs at a homophobic joke in the staff lounge while we cringe in silence, too intimidated to tell them that they're talking about us or our relatives.

She reminds us of the minister who told us God would not love a homosexual when we came seeking spiritual guidance; the social worker who tried to drag our gay kid off to a shrink to "cure" him; the high school coach who joined in the ridicule as we stood in our dreaded gym class trying to look invisible. Carolyn, in short, is everyone who has ever ignored us, ridiculed us, or made us hurt.

Now of course I know full well, dear readers, that Carolyn Cosby does exist. Like you, I know that she ran for the Portland City Council several years ago, and that most recently she has led the effort to convince Maine voters they need to decide whether lesbian and gay people actually deserve to hold jobs, get credit, rent apartments, and utilize public accommodations.

Carolyn is every bit as real as Gay people getting beaten up in the Old Port or "faggot" jokes that some folks think are funny as long as they're told in the locker room. Like you, I just wish that Carolyn, her petition, and her followers would just go far, far away, or maybe melt right down to nothing as a battalion of soldiers in fur

hats cheers "Hooray for Dorothy!"

We need to defeat Carolyn, her referendum, and the idea that lesbians and gay men don't need to be protected from discrimination along with other minorities in Maine. But we also need to remember that demonizing our opponents gives them more power than they deserve.

The civil rights movement drew its strength, not from hatred of white people, even racist white people, but from the pride and courage of African Americans and their allies. The feminist movement has changed the lives of millions of women and men not only by opposing male violence and patriarchy, but by offering an alternative vision of how we might live in the world.

Similarly, our struggle to end injustice based on sexual orientation will succeed, not because we defeat Carolyn Cosby (though we must, and will, do that too), but because we celebrate and build on the strengths of our community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, their relatives and friends, and all those who love and support them.

In addition to our courage, our solidarity, and our commitment to justice, we have a secret weapon in our arsenal that our opponents usually lack. Carolyn Cosby may have media coverage and a petition, but she does not have a sense of humor. And while humor alone does not win battles, it helps protect us from despair and self-righteousness, the twin pitfalls of political activism.

In 1968, at the height of the anti-Vietnam, anti-Nixon movement, Abbie Hoffman and the Yippies announced they were going to run a pig for president, and paraded one through the streets of Chicago during the Democratic Convention. I don't know if this event contributed to Nixon's resignation six years later, but it certainly made a great statement.

In the 1970's, during the bleak days of Margaret Thatcher's conservative reign in England, I attended a Labour picnic where you could pay twenty five pence to throw a sponge at "Maggie," a very large gentleman dressed in an elegant blue dress and wearing an uncannily Thatcher-like mask. If you succeeded in hitting Maggie's nose, you won a balloon.

Closer to home, I wouldn't have wanted a political campaign that didn't include last year's "Half-Baked Bean Supper" poking fun at Linda, or that glorious moment at Woodfords Church when debater Richard Slosberg declared that he was right and we were wrong and stormed out of the hall to prove it.

We laugh at our opponents and sometimes at ourselves because we know that laughter is healing and empowering, and because laughter reminds us that those who oppress us are not only wrong, they are silly. As my spouse and I remind ourselves about the bats that sometimes fly into our basement, they may be more afraid of us than we are of them. \*\*

## 4th Annual Maine AIDS Walk

On Sunday, October 3, 1993, the fourth annual Maine AIDS Walk will take place at several locations in the state. The walk is a ten kilometer walk coordinated by MAINE AIDS ALLIANCE to benefit HIV/AIDS education and care in Maine. Profit from the Walk will be used by local organizations for direct care, support, and education.

HIV/AIDS effects all Maine citizens. It's important that we not only work together, but that we WALK together. Form teams in your neighborhood, at work, church/synagogue, or camp. Collect sponsors, and then be prepared for a good time, rain or shine.

The Maine AIDS Walk is being held at 10 different sites. Honorary Chair for this year's Walk is Tim Sample who be on hand. Entertainment will be provided by local artists, and refreshments during and after the Walk will also be provided. Volunteers are needed to help on-site, so if you don't want to walk, call the sponsoring group in your area and volunteer. (See the listing of phone numbers under Rainbow Phone Support on page 20).

## THE RAGE

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE RAGE

#### FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS

2 a.m. - 4 a.m. BREAKFAST - Nothing over \$4.00

#### SUNDAY

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. BRUNCH BUFFET \$5.00

2 p.m. - 6 p.m. TEA DANCE

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#### MONDAY

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MON - THURS 5PM - 10PM • FRI AND SAT 5PM - 11PM



## RAINBOW CALENDAR - SEPT.

**Sat. 9/4** - Saco River Canoe Trip, Conway, NH to Lovell, ME FMI, call 207/871-9940.

•8:00-10pm, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be prominently featured on the ABC TV entertainment and AIDS outreach special "IN A NEW LIGHT '93." Hosted by Arsenio Hall and Paula Abdul, the show will include many 12' x 12' Quilt sections on the set, as well as profiles of panelmakers. Get the VCR working.

**Sun. 9/5** - Lafayette Ridge Hike in NH. 4000' +. FMI, call 207/871-9940.

**Tues. 9/7** - 6:00-9:00pm, auditions for Maine Gay Men's Chorus at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St. Portland. FMI, call Bruce Fithian, 839-4506.

**Thurs. 9/9** - The Matlovich Society, Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq. 7:30-9:00pm. Professor Bill Coogan, USM's Political Science Dept. along with representatives of EPL & The Open Door Coalition (NH) discuss "The Challenges of Grass-Roots Organizing." FMI, call 773-1209.

**Fri.-Sun. 9/10-9/12**, Portland Campout/ Timeout Fest, beginning with a potluck supper and 'Star Walk' around Back Cove. Sat., an all day bike ride around the city, Sun., brunch followed by a beach party on Macworth Island. FMI, call 871-9940

**Sat. 9/11** - 8:00pm to midnight, Women's Dance at Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave. Portland. Chem-Free, DJ, refreshments. \$5. in advance, \$6. at the door. A Wild Iris I production.

•4:00pm (ME), 5:00pm (NB), Northern Lambda Nord Pot Luck and Policy Manual meeting in Caribou. Bring dish to share and beverage. FMI, call 207/493-3294

**Sun. 9/12** - 12:00-4:00pm, STATE-WIDE "EQUAL PROTECTION MAINE" ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING at THE RAGE, 123 Franklin St., Bangor. A call to unite to defeat the right!

•3:00pm (ME), 4:00pm (NB), Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting, UMPI, Pullen Hall, Rm. 214. Everyone invited.

•3:00pm, The Peach Church, 524 Allen Ave. (Allen Ave. Unitarian-Universalist Church), Portland. Rev. Susan Savell leading the worship experience.

•6:00-9:00pm, The Freedom Coast Ensemble Musical Potluck and informal gathering for gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered people interested in starting a community instrumental music group. Bring instruments, printed music, and potluck item. FMI, call 871-9940.

**Wed. 9/15**, Fold & Stuff. Northern Lambda Nord's monthly mailing of invitations to Oct. 2nd Renewal Party. Meet at the Phoneline office, 7:00pm (ME), 8:00pm (NB). FMI, call 207/498-2088.

**Sat. 9/18**, Free workshop on lesbian sexuality offered in Bangor from 10:00am to 12:30pm at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334A Harlow Street. Workshop leader is Bobby Poulin, Coordinator of Down East AIDS Network. "Wild, Wet, and Well" is a fun workshop exploring intimacy, communicating about sex, and safer sex for lesbians. FMI, call MWWHC, 947-5337.

**Sat.-Sun. 9/16-9/19**, FALLFEST® '93 - 3RD. N.E. FESTIVAL FOR WOMYN WITH JUSTINA & JOYCE, PIXIE LAUER & DIANA HANSEN, YAGOTTAWANNA, Georgie Nichols, Pat D. Dance with DJ Deb Dufresne. Benefit auction, sports, and more! Located on the scenic coast of Maine at an 80 acre campground. Cost for the festival is only \$30. For specific information, call PJ Productions, 207/539-8619.

**Sat.-Sun. 9/16-9/19**, WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, presented by Maine-ly For You Festivals with Lucie Blue Tremblay, The Lesbian Lounge Lizards, Bernice Lewis, Heartstrings, Jamie Morton, Kim Volk. Dancing with Diane Deleasa and Two Steppin' with Mimi Eber. Sports, Womyn art, craft & literary vendors. \$30 festival fee includes concert on Saturday night. FMI, call 207/583-6980.

**Sun. 9/19**, 2:00-5:00pm ML/GPA Annual Meeting & Elections followed by potluck, social hour & dance. Unitarian-Universalist

Church, Summer & Winthrop Streets, Augusta. FMI, call Paula Aboud - 445-2863.

**Sun. 9/20**, 7:00pm-9:00pm, Mediation for Unmarried Partners. An informal discussion for lesbian, gay, and unmarried couples about the process and benefits of mediating partnership issues, including commitment agreements and separation agreements. Led by two attorney-mediators, Pam Anderson and Joanne Fryer. Free of charge.

Scarborough Public Library, 48 Gorham Rd., Scarborough. FMI, call 885-0031.

**Thurs. 9/23**, The Matlovich Society, Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square. Dr. Robert McCordle from Brighton Medical Center leads a discussion on "AIDS and Sexuality: Reducing the Risks."

**Fri. - Mon. 9/24-9/26**, Panels from THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT will be on display at New Hampshire College Fieldhouse, Manchester. FMI, call 603/595-9158.

**Sat. 9/25**, 4:00pm (ME), 5:00pm (NB) Billiards-Pool at "The Oasis", 1 mile south of Fort Fairfield on Rt. 1A (the former UPS building.) FMI, call 207/498-2088 any Wednesday between 7 & 9pm (ME), 8 & 10pm (NB).

**Sun. 9/26**, 3:00pm, The Peace Church, 524 Allen Ave. (Allen Ave. Unitarian-Universalist Church), Roma Heillig Morris, PH.D. Guest speaker. All welcome.

### COMING IN OCTOBER:

**Sun. Oct 3rd.** Maine AIDS Walk. Get your pledges now and help many AIDS service organizations.

**Thurs. Oct 7th.** Drop Me A Line invites you to our new larger store at 615A Congress St. Dell Richards, author of Lesbian Lists, will be on hand to sign copies of her newest book, Superstars: Twelve Lesbians Who Changed the World. Call for specific time, 773-5547..

*Send your calendar listings, resource listings, support group listings, and phone support listings to CPR by the 20th of each month. Indicate if it is a new listing, or a revision. There is no charge for this service.*

## RAINBOW RESOURCES

**The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (ML/GPA)** works to ensure equal treatment for our community throughout Maine. For more information about meetings or membership, call 780-5656. (This number now works.)

**Planned Parenthood**, confidential services to women and men at 500 Forest Ave. Services include reproductive health care, screening and treatment for STD, annual exams, HIV info, education, testing at Sanford clinic. Bases on ability to pay. Condoms always free. Teen walk-in clinics, Fri. afternoon, Sat. mornings. FMI call 874-1100.

**Women's Chorus:** An eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation is now forming. If you want to become a member, or can volunteer organizational skills, send SASE to P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME. 04112. Include your telephone number, or call 772-0013.

**Spiritual Group:** Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a volunteer community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative musical entertainment. FMI, Bruce - 839-4506 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

**Woodford's Toastmasters Club:** Non-profit organization devoted to improving public speaking and leadership skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meets at 7:30pm every Thursday at the West Falmouth Baptist Church, 18 Mountain Rd. West Falmouth. FMI call 797-4915 or 892-7258. All are welcomed.

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### Every Friday

Well Drinks \$1.50  
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6 to 11 pm  
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### Every Wednesday

Coors Light • Women's Night  
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32 oz Pitcher \$2.75 • 64 oz. Pitcher \$4.75  
Free Pool!

### Every Saturday

Choice of Schnapps  
Peppermint • Peach  
Hot Damns • Buttershots \$1.50 all night



## TIME OUT

By: Michael Rosetti

Acadia National Park is the second most frequently visited national park in the country. Mt Dessert is the best known part of the Park, although there are several other islands and areas less known, but just as beautiful.

Mt. Acadia is a recommended addition to any trip to Acadia if you're looking for an easier hour or two hike with unforgettable views. It avoids the crowded auto-road to Mt. Cadillac. It lies close to Bar Harbor, about 7 miles by car or bicycle.

Mt. Acadia has inland views of Sommes Sound, the fjord which cuts the island almost in half. It also has great views of Atlantic islands and Echo lake. The summits are bald, but have hiding places and pines to shield you on windy days. It's just great for a summer or early fall day.

On its return loop, at the lowest southern point of the mountain, lies the original settlement area for Acadia, dating from the 1600's. It was a potentially active port of trade that was destroyed, after just a few years, by war with local Indians.

Although there's not much more left than a placard, you can imagine the pristine nature of the pre-colonial forests. Imagine the rigors of life in such an environment.

The trail starts from Echo Lake parking area, and takes about 45 minutes to an hour to get to the 2,000 foot plus summit.

When you get to the fork on the road as you enter Mt. Dessert Island, bear right after the info booth onto Rt 102 rather than left to Bar Harbor. Follow it some 7 miles through Sommesville.

About a mile and one half after downtown Sommesville, you'll see the parking for Echo Lake on the right. Park there, and the trail starts on the opposite side of the street. After your hike, if the temperature is up in the 70's or more, try a dip in the lake. ••

## "The County" Connection

### Notes from Northern Lambda Nord's Phonline

By: Lynn Craig

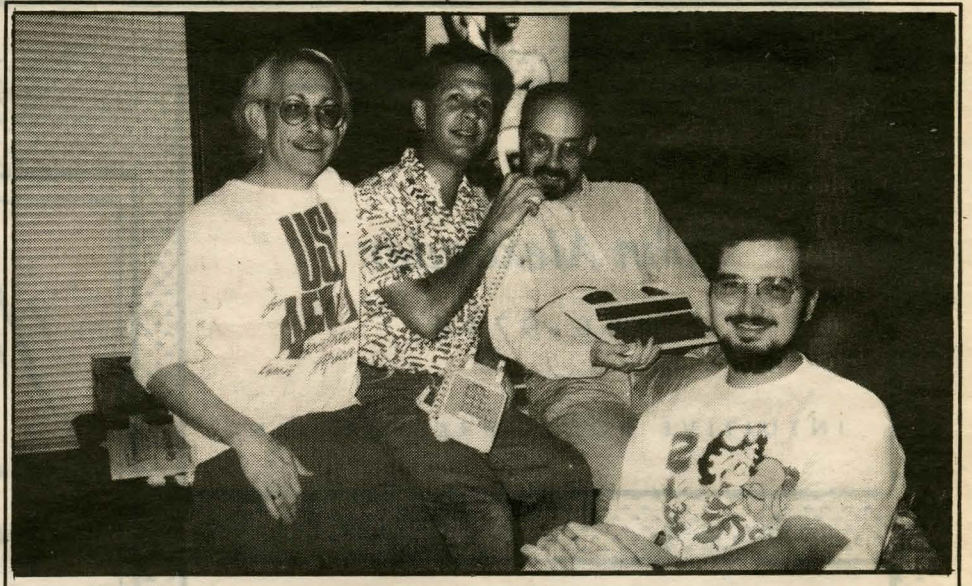
Everyone knows we don't grow on trees, but here we are tonight, all the guys and gals, sitting around Roger's kitchen table. It's Open House at the Phonline, as it is every Wednesday night.

Ray is off in the Red Room, (Roger's office) checking out the messages that have come in for the week, and getting ready for the night's calls.

Roger always seems to keep us in snacks. It's BYOB, a little food, a little drink, and a lot of heavy-duty conversation. Take your pick--the floor's open. Just don't get "too" serious. We're here to relate, aren't we? The night is ours.

Dick, another one of our Phonline volunteers, has brought it to my attention that the number of calls coming in during the past few weeks has increased. A great deal of that has to do, of course, with the military ban. Many of these calls are from nearby Loring Air Force Base. The majority are possibly military personnel making crank calls.

But on the tip of our tongues this night was the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. Everyone has an idea on the outcome but, of course, we've all come to the strong conclusion that a less discriminating policy is long overdue. (Our Loring people can probably attest to that, but anonymously, for now.



NLN Volunteers: l to r , Roger Murphy, Dick Harrison, Dennis Prue, Ray LaValley

Ray interrupts: "Does anyone have a recommendation for a caller on a book that argues that homosexuality is not strictly environmental or choice?" We all scramble to think about what has been published lately.

Conversation turns to the latest genetic study, and the debate surrounding what the world will do with these findings. Will they hurt us? Will they help us? Can we foresee genocide? I don't even want to think about that, to tell the truth, but we talk about it anyway.

Now it is Jody's turn to butt in: " just a minute please. Someone's on the line about accommodations for the NGLTF Fight the Right workshop. Does everyone feel comfortable with the set-up? OK ,we'll be leaving Friday night after work, OK? OK."

Anyway, our night goes on

something like that. This part of Northern Lambda Nord, the Phonline, owes a great deal of gratitude to our four "flex" men: Ray, Roger, Dick, and Dennis, who volunteer their services on a weekly switch-off basis. Also a thanks to the women who show up at the Phonline and take calls.

Thanks to our contact people out there who offer their services from the convenience of their own homes. I would never have found the community without help from all these people. As small as the community is up here, there seems to be this sanctuary, a real affirmation, with real people that, for me was almost non-existent five months ago. The activities help me see that this bother and sisterhood is something I wouldn't even have if I were straight. So, cheers to everyone, out, recently out, and those coming out!••

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## Video's on Review

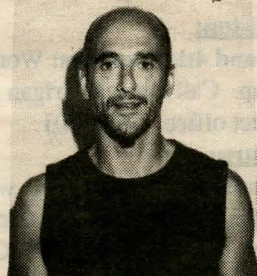
### Edward II

Legend has it that King Edward II of England who reigned from 1307 to 1327 was killed by a red hot poker shoved up his ass. The idea behind this novel form of execution was that since Edward liked taking things up his ass so much, what more fitting, Christian way could there be to put an end to his immoral pleasures than by killing him with a rectal reminder of what a bad boy he had been. It's only a legend... or is it? The scene depicting this alleged event will straighten your pubic hair.

Derek Jarman brings Christopher Marlowe's play *Edward II* to the screen by a clever blending of modern and traditional costume, current and historical theme and stark set design. He sticks by the Elizabethan era dialogue and is true to Marlowe's writing except for a few modernizations. Jarman alters Marlowe slightly, but far less so than Marlowe altered history. But, that's what poetic licence is all about. Marlowe got the feeling right, even if he telescoped the history in order to give us this brilliant, still controversial and anguish-inducing play. As in the best works of stage and screen, we are left with many questions that hopefully will drive us to check the historical record.

Edward II, played by Steven Waddington, was in love with a young man named Piers Gaviston, played by Andrew Tiernan. Historically, Gaviston was the son of a French noble who had been given as a playmate to Edward II by his father,

Luke Balboni



Edward I, in order to reward Gaviston's father for services rendered as a Knight. Jarman directs Gaviston as a punky hustler type who speaks up with a Cockney accent, the voice of the British underclass. Gaviston is more talented in many ways than the nobles, and he's not shy about it. The king rewards him with vast lands and earldoms, as well as other titles and high offices.

History tells us that Gaviston had exhibited his upstart ways early on, even while Edward I was still alive, so the king banished him. The film opens with Edward II summoning Gaviston back to England, stating that now that his father is dead, they can be together. Gaviston receives this letter while sitting on a bed in which there are two sailors fucking. Excited by the prospect of returning to England and bored by the sailor's fucking, he tells the sailors to get out. Upon his return, Gaviston and his gang corner the bishop who supported the banishment. They beat him, strip him, torture him, then kill him. A great scene.

Aside from committing the grievous sin of raising a person of low birth to high office, Edward also commits the mistake of flaunting his love for Gaviston. They are

always together, draped around each other. Edward's wife, queen Isabelle, played by Tilda Swinton, feels neglected. (Swinton performs brilliantly in this movie, as she does in the new movie *Orlando*, based on the book by Virginia Wolfe.) Gaviston seduces Isabelle, knowing how horny she is, then, laughing in her face, he taunts her about the coldness of her marriage bed. She doesn't begrudge Edward for Gaviston, she says, it's just that she wants a little attention herself. But Isabelle doesn't get what she wants, and the change in her personality is chilling; a frightening statement of repression, deceit, and jealousy.

Their son, the Crown Prince, is presented as an effeminate youngster well on his way to being just like daddy. Here's a young man who lives to have his day.

Edward's brother, the Duke of Kent, seems ready to allow Edward his Gaviston as he lists many of history's great men and their lovers: Alexander and Hephaestion, Socrates and Alcibiades, Zeus and Gannymede and Hadrian and Antinous. But Edward's chief nemesis, Mortimer, played by Nigel Terry, will have none of it. Yet he seems to be using homophobia to mask his real motive, which is to seize power. I

wonder if Pat Robertson is a descendant of Mortimer? Ideologically he is.

The opposition to Edward takes two roads: those who are outraged by the homosexuality, and those who are outraged by the elevation of a foreigner and a man of relatively low birth to the highest levels of government and the subsequent awarding to him of large land holdings. It is my contention that the nobles who conspired in Edward's downfall were far more pissed off at the breaking of class boundaries than they were of the fact that their king was queer- a Marxist interpretation of homophobia.

The costumes are perfect. Mortimer and his cohorts are presented in Nazi-like brown military uniforms. Edward's supporters are depicted in one scene as an Act-Up crowd and in another as a similar band of disaffected rebels. Edward's friends at court are stereotypes of gay men at the bar scene.

Occasionally you'll hear radios, and there are other manifestations of the modern set against buildings and rooms with no character of their own so that no scene of time is conveyed. These events and this story are timeless. A 1992 release this film is available at Videoport. \*\*

## BOOKS ON REVIEW

By: BMJ-Triangle Books

**Final Rest**  
Mary Morell, Author  
Spinsters Ink, Publisher  
\$9.95

How many of us have thought about growing old and what will become of us and our lovers? Probably most of us. Do we remember there is already a generation or two (maybe three) ahead of us and already there? They, perhaps, have helped pave the way for a freer life-style for us, but what about them? Have they been able to set themselves free? Do we spend much time thinking about the older generation of lesbians?

Mary Morell wraps the generations together in her second and best novel yet. Her first, *Final Session*, won the 1990 Lesbian Fiction Contest, and was a great read. Mary captivates the reader with her latest mystery. She combines family ties, good and bad, with aging and loving, and never forgets the murder left as yet unsolved.

Amy has finally found love in the comfortable arms of lesbian detective, Lucia Ramos. Amy then she receives the call that her beloved and aging Aunt Meg has been arrested for the murder of a neighbor in her elegant retirement condominium. Three states away, Amy tries to help by making phone calls, offering bail money, and contacting the best lawyer to be found. But, it is just too far away.

Amy convinces Lucia to accompany her to Alabama to engage in some off-duty detective work. If not Aunt Meg, just who put the poison in the sugar bowl at Lorretta's house? Lorretta no longer cares, but she seems to rule the neighbors even from her grave. Why did Lorretta have so many enemies?

As the story unfolds, we also discover that Amy and Aunt Meg have some mysteries of their own to solve. They have a troubled past, but have been able to remain close. Can they work out the family betrayal and leave Aunt Meg and Amy with hearts unbroken?

Join Lucia in her sleuthing, and witness Amy's and Aunt Meg's search for freedom in this wonderfully told story. \*\*

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## RAINBOW PHONE SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

**AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**Bangor - 990-3626** - Eastern Maine AIDS Network

**Belfast - 338-1427** - Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition

**Brunswick - 725-4995** - Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

**Bridgton - 583-6608** - Community Task Force on AIDS

**Portland - 774-6877** - The AIDS Project, AIDS Lodging House, PWA Coalition, Names Project

**Rumford - 823-4170** - Community AIDS Awareness Program

**Lewiston - 786-4697** - Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition

**Waterville - 626-3432** - Dayspring

**Ellsworth - 667-3506** - Down East AIDS Network

**Oxford Hills - 743-7451** - Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network

**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays - P-FLAG CONTACTS/ME.:**

Augusta/Hallowell - 623-2349

\*Bangor/Brewer - 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath - see Waldoboro

\*Lewiston/Auburn - 783-9789

\*Portland - 766-5158

Waldoboro - 832-5859

\* - Monthly meetings held

**Lesbian & Gay Information Line -**

**Portland:** 871-0432, 24 hour community events update, free listings, announced live attendant times.

**Maine Bisexual People's Network:** P. O. Box 10818, Portland, ME. 04104. Our purpose is to affirm in ourselves and others the positive nature of bisexuality and to work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referrals available.

**Call Community Pride Reporter Office (879-1342) to add to any of the Rainbow Support Columns free of charge. Or, submit you info via mail. See address, pg. 2.**

## RAINBOW GROUP SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

**Integrity/Dignity:** First & third Sundays at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 5:15 pm. All are welcome.

Fellowship follow each service with a vegetarian pot luck on 3rd. Sun. We minister to the lesbian/gay community. FMI, write POB 8113, Portland 04104.

**The Temple of the Great Goddess:** meets on Sabbats (for members) and at Full Moons (for wimmin) to celebrate the Goddess, 7:30pm. Bring drums & instruments. Space can be provided for men and transgender people to meet. FMI, call Lady Alaina, 207/676-7914.

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

**Outright/Central Maine:** Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years old and under. Call "First Call" and ask about OUT-RIGHT services at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042.

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

### HIV & RELATED SUPPORT MEETINGS:

#### Portland at THE AIDS PROJECT:

**Mondays:** HIV negative partners of people living with HIV, 6:30-7:30pm.

**Tuesdays:** People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30-12:00 noon.

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays:** Living Well, focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

**Thursdays:** Women living with HIV, 1:15-2:45pm.  
Men living with HIV, 5:30-7:00 pm.

All the above support groups meet at 22 Monument Square, 5th floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 if you would like further information.

### Lewiston:

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays:** Women's Support Group. Call Diana Carrigan at The AIDS Project office - 783-4301.

### Auburn:

**Thursdays:** People Living with HIV, 7:00pm at American Red Cross, 70 Court Street, Auburn. Call Claire Gelinat at AVAC - 786-4697.

### Brunswick:

Family and friends who have a loved one with AIDS or HIV, 5:00 - 6:20pm, Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services. 8 Lincoln Street. For information on meeting day, call Brian Allen - 725-4955.

### Gardiner:

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays:** 1:30-3:00pm, People Living wit HIV. Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call Brian Allen (M.A.S.S.) - 725-4955.

### Biddeford:

**1st and 3rd Wednesdays:** 7:00pm Support Group for Family and Friends Who Care (about people with HIV disease), Southern Maine Medical Center, Cafeteria #3, 2nd floor. Call Roger LaChance - 284-4102.

**Send your free calendar listings, support group listings, & PSA's to CPR by the 20th of each month**

## RAINBOW SUPPORT GROUPS FORMING

**Coastal Counseling Center, Inc.,** a private group practice committed to serving the Gay and Lesbian community, is pleased to announce the formation of a 12 week therapeutic group for Lesbians who have experienced childhood trauma/abuse. Group begins October 5th. For information, call (207) 363-0038.

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

**Lesbian Dianic Wiccen Classes** (for wimmin born wimmin only, please), forming to worship and celebrate the Goddess. Classes start September 16 (flexible meeting night). Serious students only need apply. Also looking for trained Temple Maiden. Contact Lady Alaina: 207/ 676-7914. (North Berwick).

## RAINBOW PERSONALS

**LESBIAN - 39,** I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, green eyes, and have brown hair. I like music, watching movies, the outdoors, and nature. I'm feminine, and a hopeless romantic. Are you like me, searching for a faithful friend and lover? You could be that special lady! All responses will be answered. Phone number and we'll talk. Write to Advertiser #1725.

## RAINBOW CLASSIFIEDS

**VOLUNTEER ADULT MALE AND FEMALE NEEDED:** A support group for gay and lesbian teens in Auburn needs volunteer adult male and female meeting facilitators who might also be available to chaperone dances, assist various day trips and help in fund-raising. Write to OUT-RIGHT/Central Maine, P. O. Box 802, Auburn, ME. 04212.

**PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED MALE,** in his 40's, seeks male CNA, non-smoker, for Portland home-based personal care. Please call CPR office, 879-1342, and leave brief message with your name, phone number, best time to call you. References necessary.

**HOUSE TO SHARE:** Looking for a non-smoking male to share my house in Camden. \$200 monthly, plus 1/2 utilities. Private bath. Call 236-8935.

**FOR RENT:** Very sunny, 2 bedroom, 2nd floor apartment in Portland. Living room, dining room, den, screen porch. Good neighborhood, nice yard. Available Oct. 1. \$625/mo., (negotiable) + util. (oil heat). No pets. 775-7973.

**FOR RENT - GORHAM:** Spacious unfurn. bsmt.ap., 870 sq. ft., large BR, Large LR with fireplace, sep. entrance, kitchen, shared washer & dryer, garage parking, in quiet country setting of fields, woods, & streams. Opportunities for gardening. Non-smoking. \$450/mo. util. incl. Available immediately. (Sept.) Call 839-4506.

coming in December. . . .

## The NAMES Project

AIDS Memorial Quilt  
hosted by  
The NAMES Project/Maine

December 1 thru 4

**Community Pride Reporter**

142 High Street, Suite 634  
Portland, ME 04101 (207) 879-1342