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Christian Coalition plans Bangor training

by Terri Jones
Editor

PORTLAND—The Christian Coalition canceled a scheduled "Leadership Training School" slated for Portland on March 4 and 5 due to low enrollment. According to Mrs. Paul Volle, local contact for seminar registration, the training was canceled because the Coalition was too busy fighting the Outcomes 2000 legislation (known as HR 6) and because the Coalition had not signed up the 20 people necessary to hold the training. The Coalition is still planning a "Leadership Training School" for Bangor on May 6 and 7. Nationally, the Christian Coalition has sponsored trainings to teach fundamen-

talists how to "influence public policy" as well as targeting school curricula and school board elections. The effort has generated enough success that national groups like the People for the American Way, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Fight the Right Project and the National Center for Science Education are monitoring their activities. Of particular concern, according to these groups, is the Coalition's consistent tactic of obscuring their candidates' affiliations during the campaign.

Christian Coalition president Pat Robertson wants the Coalition to put the country back in the hands of "those who share [al pro-family, reli-
tional belief system".

Concert packet fizzles

by Rebecca Foster
Editor

FARMINGTON—The March 20th Farmington performance by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus was picketed by eight anti-gay protesters carrying signs proclaiming "homosexuality is a sin" and handing out leaflets criticizing the "homosexual lifestyle". The protest comes on the heels of a series of threat-
ening letters sent to the campus' lesbian and gay student group Gay and Straight People's Educational Alliance (GASPE Alliance).

Members of the Chorus were expecting the picketers half an hour before the performance. The Chorus' appearance was part of UMaine Gay Pride Week also featuring AIDS Art Auction, with proceeds going to benefit the AIDS Project.

Spring for Life' AIDS Art Auction

by Tyler White
Editor

WASHINGTON—In a mid-trial settlement, the FBI has agreed to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. FBI Agent Frank Buttino filed suit against the FBI when he was fired by the agency after 20 years of exemplary service. The resolution of the case came after the Clinton Administration promised equal treatment for gay and hetero-

sexual FBI agents and appli-
cants. Just a week prior to the settlement, Attorney General Janet Reno barred all Justice Department agencies from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

Buttino first came under agency scrutiny in 1988 when his supervisors received an anonymous note claiming that Buttino was gay. The note included a reply by Buttino to a personal advertisement from a gay newspaper. Initially, Buttino denied the story, but after a period of time admitted that he had written the reply. The FBI fired Buttino for lying and for failing to cooperate with the investigation of the note. The author of the note was never identified.

The settlement of this case has forced the FBI to reconsider a hiring decision. Dana Tilson, who applied for an FBI job in 1987, received high marks in the hiring process until the FBI learned that she was a lesbian, something she did not hide. Based on the settlement with Buttino, the FBI has agreed to reconsider Tilson's application.

Along with the new policy, the FBI has agreed to pay Buttino approximately $100,000 in legal fees and a monthly pension when he turns 62. Buttino dropped his request for reinstatement and plans to teach near his home in upstate New York.
DANCE!

Help free the Matlovich Society from the chains of financial oppression!

Celebrate May Day at a benefit dance party at Zootz
SUNDAY, MAY 1
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Admission is $5 with a $1 discount if you bring a food donation for the Preble Street Resource Center. Bring snacks to share!

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Wednesday is 2-for-1 night... ALL NIGHT!

Thursday is our weekly pool contest

Friday & Saturday: Top40 DJ starting at 9pm
Adam & Eve or the Big Bang?

State referendums are not the only means conservative Christians are using to spread their narrow-minded views throughout the country. Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition has set their eyes on the schools of America as another outlet for intolerance. While the national media frequently probes the pasts and affiliations of national candidates, our local school boards and municipal governing bodies have no such ally. Candidates, often unopposed, can easily win seats without significant scrutiny of their pasts, affiliations or agendas. When this is coupled with the relatively small amounts of money needed to conduct a campaign for school board, the situation is ripe for infiltration. The Christian Coalition is funding candidates for these races.

This possibility was explored by a recent *Mother Jones* article. In it, recently-arrived city-dwellers discovered that their new hometown has a school board dominated by members of a local fundamentalist church. Soon, schoolchildren are learning "creationism" as the new scientific thought. In another recent news leak, 60 Minutes explored a "reality-based" sex education course that teaches abstinence only, with commentary that suggests that AIDS and other STDs are "nature's comment" on the appropriateness of homosexual sex and sex outside of marriage. A similar curriculum is nearing passage in San Diego.

No state or area of the country is safe from this type of activity. The *Mother Jones* article looked at a town outside of Seattle, the 60 Minutes article looked at a southern town, the Christian Coalition is running 88 candidates in New York state school board elections and has arrived in Maine and is training people to "influence public policy".

This means that Maine citizens—gay and straight—who are interested in preserving tolerance must add one more task to their list. We must watch school board elections carefully, question the candidates that come knocking on our doors and publicize what we learn by writing letters to the editor supporting non-fundamentalist candidates.

It may be that there are some politicians in power whose minds will never support tolerance, community or human rights. It may also be the case that we will not have a gay rights bill in Maine for five more years. These are separate fights that we must do. What we cannot allow is the infection of the minds of the next generation of Maine citizens by letting groups like the Christian Coalition determine school curriculum.

These groups have targeted the next generation of voters, politicians, policy-makers and citizens and they want to teach them to hate and to fear those that do not support or represent their beliefs. Not only is that un-American, it's anti-democratic and ugly. Even if we cannot win all our battles this year, do not allow the Christian Coalition and others like them to win the easy fight. The cost to young Maine minds is too high.
Spring for a bagel!

Don't miss the grand opening of our Brunswick store, April 1st!
Telephone 725-6007

Bagels Contain No Fats, No Cholesterol
Franchise Stores Available

continued from page 1

Christian Coalition plans Bangor training

ious, traditional-values perspective." Thus far, the Coalition has had sig- significant success according to reports by the People for the American Way and Mother Jones magazine and are continuing to work towards their goal of "Christianizing the schools."

A recent Mother Jones article notes that one-third of the Coalition's can- didates for school board seats were successful last year. Once elected, they have been instrumental in the revi- sion of school curricula, particularly, sex education courses. The most sig- nificant success to date is their elimi- nation (with help from the New York City Archdiocese) of a multicultural elementary school program for New York City children. During the last New York City school board elec- tions, the Coalition fielded 288 can- didates for seats on 52 boards and claimed victory after 66 of their can- didates won.

The Coalition has used several tactics to win support for the revision of school curricula. In particular, they have stated that programs that teach diversity and tolerance teach chil- dren to be homosexual in an effort to capitalize on a community's ho- mophobia. They also stress a re- turn to the basic education, reading, writing and arithmetic, an appealing but misleading message to parents.

The Goals 2000 legislation and outcomes-based education is a major annoyance to the Christian Coalition. The legislation, currently before Con- gress, is designed to focus students on specific learning goals.

According to Mrs. Volle, out- comes-based education is an at- tempt to "federalize education" removing from local and parents' control and is part of "creeping socialism." When asked what concerned individuals could do about this threat, she sug- gested calling Congressional repre- sentatives to oppose the measure.

For information about the Bangor seminar, contact the national Chris- tian Coalition office at (800) 525-4746 or local contacts at (207) 774-7778.

GASPE received three pieces of hate mail containing explicit threats to gay students and staff members. The first piece called itself a letter on your (GASPE) behalf and was "a fair warning of the future for your sick alliance." The letter went on to state that "Uthe writer] have recently had a bad encounter with a lesbian or dyke or whatever you what to call the person (6). On behalf of this sick individual (the dyke), she has thus ruined all of my support for the (sic) homosexual rights."

Vowing to punish "this lesbian for your sick ways," the letter ended by characterizing GASPE as organi- zation for "self gain and bigotry for your own sexual preference." The let- ter was signed " a new anti-gay per- son with firearms and other neat weapons, like strong hands, knives, etc. (you get the point) ha ha ha ha ha."

The second letter, while not overtly threatening, questioned whether homosexuality is natural and asserted the writer's opinion that "ho- mosexuality is not normal, it will never be normal and it will never be considered normal in our society." The letter was signed "...a true Hetero-sexual!!!"

Rally organization began after a third letter threatened to "put a damper on you (sic) lifestyle. My goal is to make you afraid of coming out of the closet (where you belong)." The letter also mentioned resident life-staff member Tony Victor saying "maybe Tony can be the one to take the punishment for the rest of you sick people." Victor is head of, diver- sity programming at UM and is co- advisor to GASPE.

Students and other participants in the rally voiced support for the student organization and dismay and shock over the violent tone of the letters.

Washington Blade senior editor keynotes

BRUNSWICK—Lisa Keen, senior editor of The Washington Blade, gave the keynote address at the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Annual Awards Banquet held on March 5 in Brunswick. A member of a band of veteran lesbian/gay media professionals, Keen has specialized in following court battles for lesbian and gay rights and tracking the efforts of right-wing groups.

Keen warned the audience that the national lesbian/gay movement "is in trouble" and is facing many anti-gay efforts as pro-gay initiatives. She noted that of the 19 anti-gay initiatives in 1993, all were successful, including Lewiston's repeal of a city nondiscrimination ordinance.

This contrasts sharply with 1992 when the movement won three initiatives and lost three others.

The tactics of right-wing groups usually fall into three categories according to Keen. The first relies on a Biblical interpretation that maintains that the Bible renounces homosexuals and that laws should be changed to reflect Biblical pronouncements. The second tactic characterizes lesbians and gay men as child molesters and disease- ridden and therefore, unworthy of civil rights protection. Some anti-gay initiatives have been misleadingly titled "child protection acts" in an effort to convey this notion finally, anti-gay organizers attempt to characterize civil rights legislation as conferring "special rights" on lesbians and gay men.

The movement for gay rights should take note, in Keen's opinion that these arguments can be countered by noting statistical and Biblical studies that contradict right- wing views of gay rights issues.

Two burglaries devastate new bar

PORTLAND—Sisters, Portland's newest lesbian-owned bar, was burglarized on two separate occasions dur- ing the weekend of March 25th. The bar's CD collection as well as bottles of liquor were stolen sometime after closing on both Friday and Saturday night.

Mary Ann Brown, one of the bar's owners, expressed sadness and a feel- ing of violation after the incidents. She feels grateful for the show of support by area business Sisters Cre- ations, which sponsored a raffle to help defray the cost of new CDs, and an outpouring of support and dona- tions by customers, who have stopped by the Danforth St. bar to express their concern.

The Portland Police Department is investigating the crimes and have stepped up patrols in the area to prevent further problems. Sisters plans a benefit to raise funds to replace the lost items.

MLGPA hosts pols at annual banquet

BRUNSWICK—The March 5 Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance Annual Awards Banquet featured an unprecedented number of politicians and candidates. In all, some 56 candi- dates and current office holders ap- peared pledging support for a gay rights bill for Maine. Gubernatorial
Justice Department settles first AIDS discrimination case under the ADA

PHILADELPHIA—The Justice Department has settled a suit filed against the city of Philadelphia and its Emergency Medical Services personnel under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The complaint was filed by a man who was refused emergency medical assistance after he told an emergency medical technician (EMT) that he was taking AZT.

The complaint, filed by the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, alleged that a man who was lying on the ground and experiencing chest pains was asked by an EMT if he was taking medication. When the man whispered that he was on AZT, the EMT backed away and refused to give assistance. The complaint further alleged that the EMTs told the man to place himself on the stretcher. When he was unable to do so, a bystander assisted him.

Under the terms of the settlement, Philadelphia has agreed to develop an AIDS awareness program and will train the city's firefighters and police in AIDS. The training will include transmission prevention, respect for right to privacy and sensitivity to the needs of people with HIV. In addition, the city will write and publicize a policy that prohibits EMTs from discriminating against individuals with HIV/AIDS and discipline any employee who fails to comply with the city's nondiscrimination guidelines. Philadelphia will pay the man $10,000 in compensatory damages and make a formal, written apology.

The suit was brought under Title II of the ADA which prohibits state and local governments from discriminating on the basis of disability in the delivery of their programs and services.

BANGOR pride group organizes march, Stonewall 25 trip

BANGOR—Freedom Fest Maine is planning Bangor's second pride march and festival for Saturday, July 9. The march will begin at 12 noon in downtown Bangor and end with an all day festival at Paul Bunyon Park.

The organizers are looking for parade marshals, medically trained personnel, volunteers for set-up, entertainers, vendors, information booths, craftspeople, farmers, donations and businesses. Freedom Fest will also be organizing a round trip bus to the Stonewall 25 International March on the United Nations. The bus will leave Bangor on June 25 and returns June 27. The ticket price is $45 and deposits are required by May 15.

Interested individuals can attend march planning meetings the first Sunday of the month at the Peace and Justice Center, 539 Main St, Bangor at 2pm. For bus registration and more information, please contact Malcolm Smith at 866-4520 or at P.O. Box 624, Orono, ME 04473.

candidates Tom Allen, Jonathan Carter, Richard Barringer, Joseph Brennan, Angus King, Donnell Carroll, James Howaniec and Robert Woodbury and a representative for Summer Lippman all pledged support for a gay rights bill.

In addition to gubernatorial candidates, other candidates included Jean Hay, Chip Spencer, David Schief, Paula Craighead, Anne Rand, Sharon Tret, Eliza Townsend, David Costello, Dale McCormack and Susan Farnsworth.

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Reno issues waiver allowing HIV+ visitors to attend Gay Games

WASHINGTON—Attorney General Janet Reno has approved a waiver that will allow people with HIV to enter the United States to attend the Gay Games scheduled for June 18-25 in New York City. The waiver will grant stays of 10 days, allowing visitors to attend the 8-day event with 2 additional days for travel. Individuals who wish to state their HIV status, but must show their intent, through tickets or other proof, to visit the Games, according to Justice Department spokespeople. The move was endorsed by the State Department and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The action was taken after the Centers for Disease Control found no public health reason to prohibit brief stays. The waiver option was raised by Assistant Secretary of Health Dr. Philip Lee, who characterized denial of entry as "directly contrary to the public health policies of supporting people with disabilities in our society."

President Clinton has promised to remove the ban on visas for people with HIV, but has been unable to get his proposal through Congress.

Florida Supreme Court strikes down anti-gay amendment

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Supreme Court has blocked a proposed November 1995 anti-gay ballot initiative saying that it violates the state's constitution. The initiative, sponsored by the American Family Association, would have banned new laws and repeal all old ones that grant protection on the basis any "characteristic, trait, status or condition other than race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, ethnic background, marital status or familial status."

Suzanne Goldberg, who argued against the proposal for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund characterized the proposal as so broadly written that it could have eliminated legal protection for many other groups. She said the court's ruling "makes clear that civil rights are not special rights, and it deals a powerful blow to the national radical right's attack on lesbians and gay men and civil rights generally."

Ralph Stores associate director of the American Family Association in Miami has had no comment on the ruling except "Watch out."

Mexican granted asylum to escape persecution of gays

WASHINGTON—The Immigration and Naturalization Service has granted asylum to a gay man from Mexico based on his "well-founded fear of persecution." A man using the abbreviation J.G., José García, sought asylum after living in the U.S. illegally for 10 years. He cited beatings, harassment and rape by Mexican authorities who knew of his sexual orientation. He also stated that his work in the U.S. as a gay advocate and AIDS outreach worker would make him a target.

García’s attorney, Ron Silberman, was thankful to the Clinton Administration for the decision but said he was not aware of any special consideration or effort on the part of the Administration to resolve the case.

The ruling, while not allowing all gays automatic asylum, may set the stage for other grants for individuals from other countries.

Maryland suit alleges forcible HIV testing

BALTIMORE—A man has filed suit in Federal District Court accusing Maryland officials of violating his civil rights when he was allegedly dragged from his car and forcibly tested for HIV. The man, who is unidentified in the lawsuit, has accused state and federal officials of violating his right to privacy and protection from illegal searches and seizures.

According to documents filed with the suit, Maryland officials had contacted the man several times over a two-month period to notify him of his exposure to an infectious virus and of his need to be tested. After failing to respond to these efforts, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

In August of 1992, the man was pulled over, arrested and taken to the county jail for testing. At the end of August, he was told that he had tested positive for HIV.

The plaintiff’s lawyer, Nancy Paige, has said that Maryland law calls for voluntary testing with counseling which was not provided to the plaintiff. Current Maryland makes it a crime to knowingly spread potentially fatal diseases. This defense however, is not available to the plaintiff, according to Paige, because the officials were not sure that her client was infected at the time he was stopped.

Idaho polls show support for gay rights

BOISE—In a survey of 810 Idahoans, a 2-1 margin opposed a Idaho Citizens Alliance proposal to restrict "special rights" for homosexuals. The measure is scheduled for a November 1994 vote.

Significant numbers of those polled were undecided including nearly 19% from Northern Idaho and 20% overall. The measure’s supporters downplayed the results of the poll because the question used the neutral term "policies regarding homosexuality" instead of the reference "anti-gay." A poll commissioned by the Idaho Citizens Alliance had announced that 68% of those surveyed supported the measure.

SUNY officials decline to appeal recruiting ban

ALBANY—The State University of New York system has decided not to appeal a ruling which prohibits military recruiters from operating on its campuses because of Pentagon discrimination against gays.

Ex-SUNY Chancellor D. Bruce Johnstone notified campus presidents about the decision in late February. In November 1993, state judge ordered SUNY Buffalo to allow military recruiters in a suit brought by law student and lesbian, Terry Mayo. Mayo asserted that the recruiters should not be allowed on campus because they would not allow her to enlist because of her sexual orientation.

Although the decision prohibits recruiters, it does not impact military scholarships, ROTC activities or recruitment efforts.
search grants.
The SUNC system has more than 400,000 students and is the largest state university system in the nation.

Gay candidate wins Chicago primary

CHICAGO—Tom Chiola won an overwhelming victory over four candidates in the March 15 Democratic primary for the Cook County Circuit Court. Despite a field of five candidates, Chiola won 53% of the vote, raising hopes that he will be successful in the November general election.

Chiola has served as Chief Administrator to the Circuit Judge for the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation for five years. If elected, he would join Pulaski School Board member Mark Loveless as Illinois' second openly gay elected official.

Stonewall route, rally still elusive

NEW YORK—Organizers of the June 26 march commemorating the Stonewall riots have expressed frustration over New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's proposal to reroute the march. Stonewall 25 has requested three different parade routes but the Mayor's Office has countered with a proposal to route the parade down FDR Drive to Battery Park. Organizers had requested routes leading to Central Park's Great Lawn.

One group characterized the effort as "keeping a fringe group on the fringe of the city." Organizers have expressed concern that the Mayor is attempting to keep the demonstration out of view. Spokespeople for the Mayor's Office say that an impasse exists and that the Mayor's Office "doesn't want to budge."

New definition and heterosexuals fuel surge in AIDS cases

ATLANTA—New AIDS cases more than doubled last year to 103,500, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The Centers had projected a 50% increase due to a new definition of AIDS which includes those infected with HIV who have a severely suppressed immune system, tuberculosis, recurrent pneumonia or invasive cervical cancer.

Despite pressure from Governor Mario Cuomo, Senate Republicans refused to let it on the floor for a vote. Privately, the Republican senators stated that they did not want to take a public position on the bill and feared a backlash from the Conservative Party and the New York State Catholic Conference, two groups that opposed the measure.

Despite pressure from Governor Mario Cuomo, Senate Republicans seem likely to follow last year's course. Gay organizations have said that they will organize letter-writing campaigns and personal visits in an effort to "put a human face" on the issue.

Anti-gay initiatives pass in Oregon towns, county

OREGON—Three Oregon towns and one county have passed anti-gay ordinances despite a state law that prohibits such measures. Marion County, and the towns of Turner, Albany and Junction City each passed ordinances that bar lesbians and gay men from promoting their lifestyle.

The ordinances were backed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the group that sponsored the failed Measure 9, a statewide anti-gay ballot initiative that was defeated in 1992.

1992 with women accounting for two-thirds of the heterosexual cases.

New magazine features Goldwater's grandson

NEW YORK—POZ, a new magazine for people who are HIV-positive features an interview and nude photograph's of 31-year old Ty Ross, grandson of famous conservative Barry Goldwater.

The bimonthly lifestyle magazine was published on March 15 and features the first public acknowledgment by Ross of his HIV status.

The premiere issue also has an interview with Bob Hattoy, the only openly HIV-positive appointee in the Clinton Administration. Subscription information for the magazine is available from POZ Magazine, Old Chelsea Station, P.O. Box 1279, New York, NY 10113-1279, telephone (212) 242-2165. POZ is free to those who identify themselves as HIV-positive.

NY gay rights bill faces uphill battle in senate

ALBANY—Following last year's Senate non-action that allowed an Assembly—passed gay rights bill to die when Senate Republicans refused to let it on the floor for a vote. Privately, the Republican senators stated that they did not want to take a public position on the bill and feared a backlash from the Conservative Party and the New York State Catholic Conference, two groups that opposed the measure.

The same measure passed the Assembly last year but was allowed to die when Senate Republicans refused to let it on the floor for a vote. Privately, the Republican senators stated that they did not want to take a public position on the bill and feared a backlash from the Conservative Party and the New York State Catholic Conference, two groups that opposed the measure.

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Awards....

Members of Equal Protection Lewiston accepted a Community Service Award at the March 5th ML/GPA Awards Banquet.

Benefits....

Chuck Roy, right, and Maria Esposito, below, entertained at a March 17 benefit for Maine Pride’s Stonewall 25 Project

photos by Rebecca Foster

and Entertainment...

“These boots were made for walkin’...”
The Underground’s March 6th “Kickin’ Country” Show
### April/May

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**Ms. Lesbian PJ's 1994**

PJ's crowned a new Ms. Lesbian PJ's on Friday, March 11. Competing for the title (L to R above) was Sharon Jackson, Cindy Standbach, Ilieana Ruiz, and Andrea Boynton.

Pictured right is Ilieana Ruiz, Ms. Lesbian PJ's 1994, performing a traditional Cuban song, a capella, for the talent portion of the pageant.
Benefit for people with AIDS hosted by Raffles Cafe Bookstore's Friday Night Music Series with Alternate Mediums, Friday, April 8. Acoustic performers Knots and Crosses, Tom Dean and Steve Gerlach. 7:30pm, 555 Congress St., Portland. For more information, call 761-3930.

Easter Party Breakfast at Northern Lambda Nord, Saturday April 2. Formore information contact NLN at (207) 498-2088.

Daedalus Project, an annual AIDS benefit variety show will take place on April 25 at the Waterville Opera House, Waterville, Maine. Doors open at 7pm for a silent auction with the performance beginning at 8 pm. All proceeds benefit the Maine AIDS Alliance. Minimum donation of $15.00 is requested. For more information, call 877-4142.

14th Anniversary Party and Dance. Celebrate Northern Lambda Nord’s 14th Anniversary, May 7. For more information, call (207) 498-2088.

Library Time/Potluck/Game Night, sponsored by Northern Lambda Nord, on April 16. New Sweden. For more information, contact NLN at (207) 498-2088.

"The Religious Community as a Partner in Social Action", a one-day conference sponsored by MaineShare. Topics to include funding from religious sources and the role of churches in social action. 9:30am-4:00pm, Sat. May 7 at Jewett Hall, University of Maine at Augusta. The site is wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact MaineShare at 622-0105.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets on the third Saturday of the month in Augusta. ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the public, politicians and the media concerning lesbian and gay issues. Call 1-800-55-MLGPA for meeting time and place.

Northeast Bisexual Community Meeting, April 29 and 30, at Christ Church, 64 State St., Montpelier, Vt. Social event and registration on the 29th with 10am-5pm meeting on April 30. Lunch is provided on the 30th and an informal dinner will follow the meeting. Sponsored by the National Bisexual Network. For more information, contact Martina Perez at (603) 282-5357 or Stephanie Berger at (617) 666-5149.

Libby Roderick in Concert, Saturday, April 23, 7pm at the Dover High School Auditorium, Dover, NH. A benefit for the Caring Unlimited/York County Center Against Domestic Violence.

Northern Lambda Nord Meeting, Sun. April 10th at 1pm, Lions Community Ctr., High St. (across from Shop N Save), Caribou.

Sea coast Gay Men (SGM) Spring Potluck, Monday, April 4 at the Unitarian Church, downtown Portsmouth at 7pm. For more information, contact Al Santerre at (603) 898-1115.

Religious Community as Partner NLN’s 14th Anniversary

State Senator Gerard P. Conley, Jr. sponsor of the Maine Human Rights Bill of 1995, reflects on politics, activism and human rights at the April 14 Matlovich Society meeting. 7:30pm at the Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. The site is wheelchair accessible. Free parking available. For more information, contact Howard Solomon at 775-1209.

Lizzy Poole, director of the new Free Radical will speak on the courage to dare at the Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH, Monday, April 18 at 7pm. The event is sponsored by the Sea coast Gay Men. For more information, contact Al Santerre at (603) 898-1115.

Stan Clough will discuss Walt Whitman and masculinity, a poetic biography Monday, April 25 at 7pm. The event is sponsored by the Sea coast Gay Men and will be held at the Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH. Call Al Santerre at (603) 898-1115 for more information.

Partners of Parents, meets every 3rd Monday, 7-9pm, at Woodfords Congregational Church. Meetings provide support to lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. The group is self-led and meets for discussion. For more information, call 774-5032.

Attacking "Hate Groups and Hate Crimes in America: Gays and Lesbians under Attack", on May 12 at the Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. The event is sponsored by the Matlovich Society and marks the Society’s third anniversary. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking available. For more information, call 775-1209.

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

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

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Choosing pregnancy
Part One
by Maggie Fournier
Contributor

So you've decided that you want to become pregnant. Good for you! It has taken a lot of courage and perhaps more than a few sleepless nights to reach this point. Babies change our lives in ways one can't imagine and so does preparing for them.

Slow down! Let's take this one step at a time.

First thing to do is stop your consumption of all alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, caffeine, and drugs. Prescription drugs are another matter which warrant careful review by a physician. You're not pregnant yet, but ingestion of these substances might influence your ability to conceive and successfully carry a baby to term. Later, when you are pregnant, it will be important to refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol and taking caffeine because of the harmful effects of these materials (even small amounts) to the fetus.

Secondly, if you don't have a physician, now is the time to make some decisions. Ask friends and coworkers to share their opinions about who they see. If you know any lesbian moms, inquire if they might be willing to discuss their experiences with you. A gynecological practice which specializes in fertility issues is a good place to begin your search. A simple phone call can give you a great deal of information. Let's consider some important questions to ask.

1. Are you taking new clients?
2. Are you comfortable providing care to lesbians? Get this one right out on the table. If there is any hesitation or reservation on the part of the staff then, in all likelihood, this is not the practice you want. And don’t settle for anything less. You deserve to be cared for by people who respect you and your partner as a lesbian couple. There plenty of ob/gyn practices in Maine that are open to lesbians, so be selective.
3. What are your fees and what will my insurance cover?
4. What will my out-of-pocket costs be?
5. Is it possible to set up a initial consultation visit with the physician? (It should be!) This is strong recommended.
6. Do you use a sperm bank which is approved by the American Fertility Association? Which sperm bank?

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Maggie Fournier is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Southern Maine. She is currently conducting research on the topic of co-mothering and is writing a book on lesbian parenting with her partner, Cheryl Ciechomski. Maggie and Cheryl live in Portland, Maine, with their seven-year-old daughter, Emily.
National legal trends

by Will Sandstead, Esq.

Contributor

HIV Status and Privacy

On February 1, a federal appeals court reinstated a civil rights suit brought by John Doe against the City of New York Commission on Human Rights (HRC). Doe's suit alleges that HRC violated his constitutional right to privacy when HRC publicly disclosed personal information about his HIV status and privacy agreement which settled John Doe's HIV discrimination complaint brought to HRC against Delta Airlines.

The conciliation agreement, which was signed by both HRC and Doe, provided that Doe's name would not be disclosed without his written consent. Nonetheless, HRC revealed Doe's identity in a press release. Although Doe's name was not mentioned, the release contained enough information to allow those acquainted with him to identify him as the person described. Doe asserts that the disclosure caused him great embarrassment and made him the target of discrimination and ostracism.

The Court held that there is a recognized constitutional right to privacy in personal information which can be characterized as a right to confidentiality. The Court recognized that there are two matters as personal as one's health and stated that "an individual's choice to inform others... is one that she should normally be allowed to make for herself." The Court continued, "An individual revealing that she is HIV positive potentially exposes herself not only to misunderstanding or compassion but to discrimination and intolerance, further necessitating the extension of the right to confidentiality over such information. We therefore hold that Doe possesses a constitutional right to confidentiality..."

This right only protects disclosures by the state and private individuals and, further, only if the state has no "substantial interest" in the public disclosure. The case was remanded to District Court for trial on the "substantial interest" question. Doe v. City of New York, 1994 WL 24215 (2nd Cir.).

Child Custody

A California court rejected the claim of a lesbian who sought joint custody rights to the biological child of her former partner. The lesbian partners had formed a written agreement regarding custody before their breakup. However, the Court held that the agreement was unenforceable and could not be used to counter existing case law where, in certain states, a biological partner/mother has no right to child custody. The partner had raised the child together for over five years before the biological mother claimed sole custody and moved to another county. The case, Georgia P. v. Kathy B., is currently unpublished.

On February 16, the Virginia Court of Appeals heard oral argument in the notorious Bottoms v. Bottoms case, where a judge gave custody of Sharon Bottoms and her mother, Kay, on the grounds that Sharon was an unfit mother, under Virginia law, because she was engaged in a same-sex relationship. Observers at oral argument reported that some of the judges were rather hard on Kay's attorney. A decision should be handed down in a few months.

Legislative proposals are pending in South Carolina and Washington state which would prohibit gay and lesbian adoptions of children. The measure in South Carolina passed the House of Representatives and has the support of the governor. So far, the only states which have legislative bans on lesbians and gays adopting children are New Hampshire and Florida. Gay adoption of children, however, have been approved in several states, and last year the Vermont and Massachusetts high courts approved such adoptions.

Anti-Gay Housing Discrimination

A New York court approved an award of $100,000 in damages and $75,000 in civil penalties against a residential landlord who refused to renew a gay tenant's lease in addition to harassing him because he was gay. The court found ample evidence of "a prolonged pattern of discriminatory acts of harassment," which included interruptions of telephone and electricity services, unlawful entries into the apartment, menacing telephone calls and vile name calling. The monetary award has been described as one of the largest of its kind. 119-121 East 97th St. Corp. v. City of N.Y. Comm. on Human Rights, N.Y. Law J. 2/9/94, p. 22.

Hate Crime Statutes

In two unrelated cases, the Florida and Missouri high courts upheld the hate crime laws in those states. Each statute provides for the enhancement of sentencing for certain crimes, where the offense was motivated, at least in part, by ethnic, racial or religious bias. The Florida statute also covered hatred based on ancestry or sexual orientation. State of Florida v. Stiles, 1994 WL 19548 (Jan. 27). State of Missouri v. Vanatter, 1994 WL 17466 (Jan. 29).


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Men according to Tom of Finland

by Douglas Packard
Contributor

Are you a Tom's man? Do you enjoy "real" men? Do you prefer
men in leather or uniforms? Then
you are a Tom's man. Tom, of
course, refers to Tom of Finland.
The absolute physical perfection
of a real man who is beautiful
without being too pretty and
never, never too masculine. Tom
is a man who prefers leather and
uniforms over the latest fashion
tips and stylish haircuts, and
sports the ultimate in pectorals
and abs, plus another ex­
treme which I will leave to your
imagination. He is the man that is
developed just beyond the realms
of human capacity, but no so far
beyond that you give up looking
for him, because you know he just
might be out there.

The story behind "Tom's men"
and a slice of gay culture is the
subject of "Daddy and the Muscle
Academy: the Art, Life and Times
of Tom of Finland." The originator
of Tom of Finland is a 70-plus
year-old Finnish man who is com­
mited to the art of eroticism. The
movie, in Finnish with English
subtitles, is a synopsis of Tom's
entire life. The first pair of leather
boots he owned, ironically given
to him by his parents as a birth­
day present. His first sexual expe­
riences happened during World
War I, interestingly enough with
German soldiers.

The film also documents the
various influences that inspired
the creation of his characters and
follows the development of Tom
of Finland from his early rendi­
tions of pretty boys to a more
mature masculine self. At the same
time showing that there is more
to Tom of Finland than a
gorgeous body.

Interspersed with Tom the
artist's explanations of his life,
work and drawings, are small in­
tervenes with some of "Tom's men"
discussing why they are his fol­
wowers and emulate the character
of Tom of Finland. Their explana­
tions range from the idea that
dressing like Tom helps one to
escape from reality to the belief
that it is the ideal image of mas­
culinity and sexuality. In fact, until
one Tom's man saw a Tom of
Finland drawing, he didn't know
that he could be gay and masu­
cline at the same time.

The film will increase the
viewer's knowledge about another
facet of gay society and is recom­
mended for that purpose. On the
other hand, do not expect it to
titillate with all its leather and
chains, unless that is attractive
and the Tom of Finland "wanna­
bees" may not be attractive after a
close look. However, after the film
provides a learning experience
about men who prefer leather and
uniforms as well as the artist who
created the fantasy that keeps so
many men happy.

Correction

In last month's coverage of the Hospice
Standards bill before the Joint Committee on
Human Resources, 10% inadvertently sub­
stituted the word "Medicaid" for "Medi­
care".

The article should have referred to Medicare
standards. 90% apologizes for any
inconvenience or misunderstanding this
error caused.
Nutrition and HIV

by Martha Atherholt II

Contributor

Diet is an integral part of the function of the human body. It determines the multitude of processes which occur in our bodies on a daily basis. All in all it can be said that the better we eat, the better we feel.

For those living with HIV, nutrition is an even more important part of their lifestyle. A healthy diet and regular exercise can literally mean the difference between life and death.

But as we look through the multitude of articles on health and nutrition, there seems to be an underlying controversy as to what actually constitutes a healthy diet. With regard to those living with HIV, there are specific guidelines which have proven successful in assisting the immune system to function at full capacity.

In his book, Immune Power, Dr. Jon Kaiser has compiled these guidelines into what he calls the Immune Enhancement Diet.

The basic premise behind this program is that it is important to keep the diet as natural and minimally processed as possible. This prevents the body from being exposed to chemicals which may affect its functioning in a negative way.

Because the body has such unusually high metabolic needs in the presence of an HIV infection, it is also important that the diet contain an abundance of vitamins, minerals, calories and protein. By keeping these in abundance, the immune system will also be supported and strengthened.

Here are the general principles of the Immune Enhancement Diet:

1. Increase your consumption of whole grains, vegetables and fresh fruit.
2. Increase your consumption of natural soups, teas and warm beverages. (Ice-cold beverages take more energy to warm them up.)
3. Eat a nutritious breakfast every day.
4. Eat plenty of onions garlic and ginger.
5. When cooking with oils, use only high-quality olive and sesame.
6. Eat an adequate amount of protein each day. For the average adult, 0.8 grams per pound of body weight is good.
7. Limit your dairy consumption to 5% of your total diet.
8. Avoid sugar, alcohol and caffeine.
9. Avoid raw foods such as clams, oysters, uncooked fish sushi and very rare meats. These contain infectious bacteria and intestinal parasites.
10. Combine and balance foods properly. Do not eat fruits and vegetables at the same time.

Keep in mind that the principles outlined here are not solely for those who are HIV positive. These are general guidelines which can be useful to anyone striving for a healthier and more nutritious diet.

LET THY FOOD BE THY MEDICINE, AND THY MEDICINE THY FOOD.

—Hippocrates

Martha Atherholt is the Director of Fitness at the Bay Club in Portland. She holds a degree in Exercise Science from the University of Maine and has experience working with various exercise treatment programs.

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T-SHIRTS: S, M (child's), L, XL, XXL. 100% cotton Button-Down. "TREAT ME WITH RESPECT (OR I'LL LEAVE)" large front logo, blue on yellow; "DO IT NAKED" small left breast logo, black on white. "Out" large on front logo, black on pink. $11.95 + $3.50 s&h each. Ashley Lenartson, 84 Irving St. Portland, ME 04103. (207) 761-1924 Reg 17% 15% discount on 5 or more ordered. Think Summer. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. 10% to AIDS. 16x24 posters available. DO IT NAKED: block on white; "TREAT ME WITH RESPECT..." block on yellow; "Out" block on pink. All on poster boarded for $11.95 each + 2.00 s&h or 56 for $56 each + 2.00 s&h. Send SASE for catalog of all other designs available.

COMPLEXIONS -- Richard McInnis, Licensed Aesthetician. 90-minute stress buster & skin revitalizer: $49.00. Located within Topcoats Nail Salon. 874-0929 for appointment.

This thirties GM is rather cute (blue eyes, runner's build); bright enough (ivy league way back when) good-hearted (in the helping professions, card-carrying liberal), but (if looks awhile, but hey), active (footstamping, skinning running), well-rounded (pianist, writer, French-speaker) and single. Go figure. And you? BOX 904-01

Very established gay male couple looking for third partner. What we are looking for is a loving, caring 3-way relationship. We are attractive, in our early-30's, sexually versatile. Please send photo. No fats or freaks. No strings. Excellent companion with the right person. BOX 904-02

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Paws is a volunteer organization that helps improve the quality of life for persons with HIV/AIDS by giving support for their pets and providing information on the risks and benefits of animal companionship.

If you are interested in helping to form a Maine Chapter of PAWS, contact Jon Pieter or Charles Wynnott at 118 Brackett St. Portland, ME 04102

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Odd Girls and "Before Stonewall" are good prep for 25th Anniversary

by Lise Wagner
Contributor

This June marks the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York City. The Stonewall Inn was a gay bar in Greenwich Village which was raided by the police one time too many on Friday night, June 27, 1969. The Riots, which took place over several nights, were considered the first time gays and lesbians found their voice amidst the separation of the Stonewall incident did not rise up out of blacks, and other oppressed groups. Gay and lesbian history. It is important, looked and certainly is not taught in virtually the only way to learn about when frustration creeps in at how schools. Self-education, therefore, is the least lesbian which were often is a 1984 award-winning documentary which, through interviews, photos, and film footage, captures the lives of gays and lesbians before the Riots. Narrated by Rita Mae Brown, the 87-minute film provides insight into the isolation and fear felt by a group of people who, even still in the 1960s, debated among themselves whether their sexual orientation was an accepted bohemian way. The documentary has marvelous film footage from the early twentieth century "twilight world" in which lesbians and gay men lived. World War II is highlighted as time when lesbians and gay men became less isolated and more liberated while in the service of their country. It also clearly shows how the military used gays and lesbians, turning a blind eye to their lifestyle when its used but persecuting them as soon as McCarthyism was in vogue. It also clearly shows how the military used gays and lesbians, turning a blind eye to their lifestyle when its used but persecuting them as soon as McCarthyism was in vogue.

Odd Girls travels through the "experimention" years of the 1920s, when being lesbian was an accepted bohemian way to spend a weekend. It details how women often had exclusively lesbian relationships while at an all-female college, but were generally forced to become at least heterosexual before they left that protective environment. The history continues in the war years during which there was a relative acceptance of frequently entirely lesbian WAC units in the Army. As does the Stonewall documentary, Odd Girls highlights the initial tolerance of lesbian relationships in the military, but notes how quickly thereafter lesbians were designated as "sick" and ultimately communist and outcast.

One of the most interesting aspects of Faderman's work is her clear identification of the enormous differences among lesbians over the years. She describes the butch and femme roles essential to the lesbian subculture of the 1950s and '60s. She points out the class and racial lines that were often crossed only in one direction. Especially intriguing is the whole atmosphere of "political correctness" that surrounded, and eventually destroyed, the growth of women-centered communities in the 1960s. Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers is a marvelous book which should be read at least by everyone, even if they have not heard of it. Before Stonewall offers a good dose of history in a little over an hour. Take the opportunity to be educated, particularly when there are books and documentaries as fine as these two.
Baiting in Drag

fiction by Tara Luce

I have been baiting in drag since I was seventeen. I have an exact image of the moment it started. I was going into the Northern Trust Bank in the city. I held the door open real polite for a good-looking woman, who was about twenty-five. I mean really stepped back with a flourish. She had been ready to blow by, but she hesitated. She was flattered. I looked like a clean-cut shortstop. A wet-behind-the-ears, too-cute kid, who she could think about sleeping with despite herself.

She smiled and said “Thank you”, with every intention of making me blush. So that she could see me blush. My ears blushed red for the rest of the day.

I blushed clear down to my stomach. Now, I'd been sleeping with women for eight years so it wasn't inexperience that made my stomach clench. It was that she was obviously heterosexual and she had obviously taken me for a boy. I'd known for a long time that I didn't look particularly feminine but I had never considered the fact that I made a very attractive straight college boy.

I went home that afternoon and examined myself in the mirror. I am broad shouldered, flat-chested, slim-waisted, clear complected with deep brown hair, but it is definitely my eyes that trap them. In the mirror, I decided that the lack of make-up on either my eyes or brows helped to seal the assumptions.

It was that she was obviously heterosexual and she had obviously taken me for a boy.

Also I'd been listening to my female friends, most of whom I'd slept with, dissect boys so I knew what women found attractive about men. But since, I've decided that it is solely the eyes, or rather the act of making eye contact. I can pick up any woman I want, as long as I make eye contact.

The first step of the plan was to get a fake ID. I went to the same guy I'd gone to for my first ID, the one that gets me into dyke bars. He's this old gay guy who thought it was a real trip I was putting one over on "breeder women". He thinks of them as the lowest of the low. I'm secretly in love with every one of the ones I pick up and that's the reason my plan works.

See women are looking for something that men can't give them. Something that I can. All of which can be communicated through the eyes; compassion, empathy, vulnerability, and it the ability to love unselfishly. Though in all honesty it is not an unselfish thing that I do because it has to end.

I do it because I am looking for that straight woman who could love me for a year without finding out.

And in the end it's always a little cruel. I never give out my number and I rarely call them back. I've only gone so far as to kiss a woman once. It was a mistake. I fell more deeply in love than I have ever been in my life. Though I wanted to call her back, more than any of the others Shelly was the one I couldn't. She'd have been the one I slipped up with.

To tell you the truth I do it because I don't get much from lesbians, even the real feminine ones. I do it because I am looking for that straight woman who could love me for a year without finding out. Like Yentl. Because some day I'll tell one of them the truth and she'll kiss me anyway. That will be the test. If she can love me in the same way a woman could love a man, if men were better at loving. She'll be the one, so you see, it is all very necessary.

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