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Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 1, Number 5

NOVEMBER, 1993

SHAME on Lewiston

By: Winnie Weir and Ken Constant

The same people who cried out in anger over the stereotyped "Frenchie" character last year on local radio have chosen to show that they themselves are bigots in Lewiston.

By a 67 to 33 vote Tuesday, the people of Lewiston said YES to discrimination in employment, YES to discrimination in housing, YES to discrimination in access to credit, and YES to discrimination in public accommodations.

The voters were misled by false information fed to them by a group claiming victory for family values. Paul Madore, the leader of Citizens of Lewiston for the Repeal of Special Rights claimed, "This is not a vote against gay people. It was a vote for family values."

In effect, Madore's group says that job security and housing are special privileges that should not be extended to gay men and lesbians. He and his followers (two thirds of the people in Lewiston) believe that people have the right to discriminate against anyone different from them.

The resounding defeat came as a surprise to many who thought that the people of Lewiston would remember the discrimination which they have endured over their Franco-American heritage and Catholic religious beliefs. There are many who were there when the Klu Klux Klan staged rallies against Catholics in downtown Lewiston.

When a Portland radio station was featuring a dim-witted character with a French accent, people were vocal about the insinuation that French men were all sexist and dumb. Many in the gay community agreed that it was uncalled for "bashing" and belittlement of a group of people for the entertainment of others. That same gay community now finds it ironic and offensive that the people of Lewiston would not stand up against discrimination.

The vote was lop-sided with 8,342 favoring repeal and 4,041 opposing. (According to the City Clerk's office, 13,324 votes were cast in Tuesday's election.) The repeal vote was to reject a Lewiston city council adopted ordinance similar to the one in place in Portland. Portland's ordinance does not grant

homosexuals any special privileges, but protects them from discrimination due to their sexual orientation in housing, employment,

many more stories untold because of fear. "The road toward justice is always a hard one, but the struggle must go on, and it will," said Celeste

and trying to buy special privilege. The former mayor of Lewiston was featured in radio ads warning voters to beware of the rich homosexuals.

Madore claimed that the gay community was getting outside financial help to promote gay rights. In fact, Equal Protection Lewiston organizers credit grass roots fundraising throughout the state for the financial support it received.

"Although we were not successful in our efforts to keep the anti-discrimination ordinance on the books, this referendum campaign was a step forward for Lewiston," said Lewiston Police Chief Laurent Gilbert, who serves as chair of the EPL steering committee.

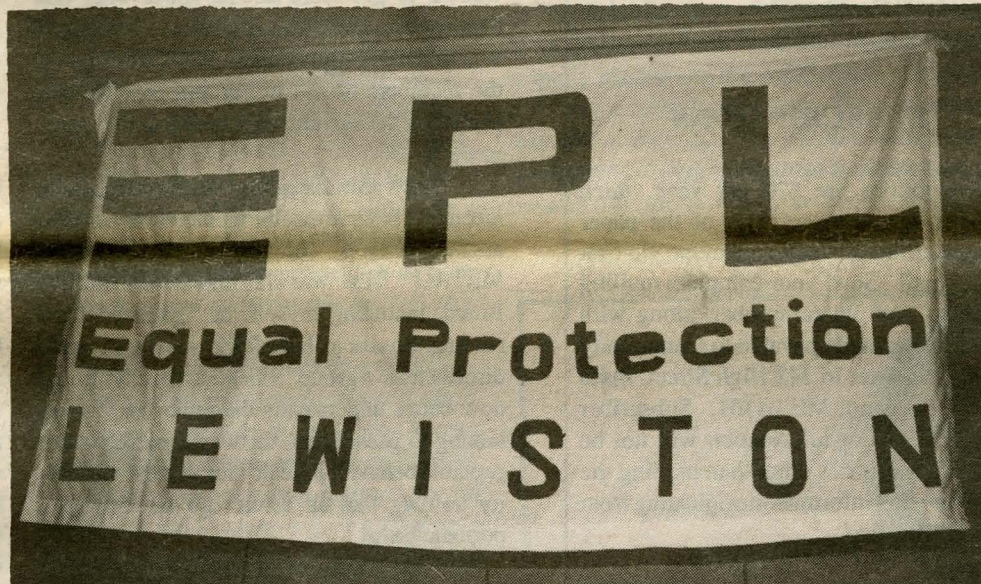
"I am proud of how the campaign in support of the ordinance has been run. We campaigned on the issues in a positive, educational way. This has been a tremendous grassroots effort from beginning to end," Gilbert said.

"Discrimination against gays and lesbians still exists in Lewiston, regardless of the vote on the ordinance. I will continue to do everything I can to insure that all Lewiston citizens are protected by the laws, regardless of sexual orientation. No one should be afraid to come forward to report a crime because of fear of discrimination," Chief Gilbert continued.

The ordinance was originally initiated by the Lewiston Police Department's Hate/Bias Crimes Task Force, which found that homosexuals (in Lewiston) are frequent victims of hate crimes, and often do not report the crime because of fear of discrimination.

"We may not have won this battle, but we go on to wage a war," claimed Celeste Branham. "I don't think we should give up here," she said. Branham said the pro-gay-rights forces would now concentrate on defeating a statewide referendum proposal that would bar municipal gay-rights ordinances, and on pressing for a state gay-rights law.

A die-in was planned for Wednesday evening in Lewiston to protest this vote, and to demonstrate our determination as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people to continue the struggle for equal rights.



credit, and public accommodation.

Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance stated, "MLGPA is planning to conduct a poll to ask the voters in Lewiston what factors influenced the way they voted. This is particularly crucial since all members of the city council who previously supported the challenged ordinance, and were themselves up for re-election, were returned to office."

Ms. Geraghty went on to say that their re-election indicates that they were known and trusted for their leadership abilities. "As a community, we must do a better job of face to face, one on one talking to neighbors, friends and families," concluded Ms. Geraghty.

Interestingly, the two top vote getters, John Jenkins (4,738 votes), and Edouard Plourde (3,835 votes), campaigned in support of the ordinance and easily outpolled the candidate closely aligned with the repeal effort. Jenkins and Plourde will face a run-off election on December 7th.

"Our campaign was about ending injustice. We documented widespread discrimination of gays and lesbians, story upon story, and

Branham, an EPL spokesperson.

State opponents of gay and lesbian rights have been using the "Special Privileges" tactic in their campaigns. Caroline Cosby of Concerned Maine Families contends that under equal protection laws heterosexuals will claim to be homosexual to gain special privileges.

Under current state laws both heterosexuals and homosexuals can be denied equal protection based on their sexual orientation. However, to date, no known claims of discrimination have been filed by heterosexuals, yet numerous homosexual men and women have been denied employment, housing etc.

When asked for her interpretation of the Lewiston vote, Caroline Cosby stated that because we are a small, closed community, her input would serve no purpose. She went on to say that this was going to play out in the local media and that she was content to have it be that way. She refused to give her opinion on what the impact of the Lewiston vote would have on her anti-gay signature gathering campaign.

The group led by Madore ran a deceitful campaign focusing on undocumented statistics claiming that homosexuals in Maine are rich

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.

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COMMUNITY PRIDE MAIL BAG

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the Editorial that ran in the premier edition of the *Community Pride Reporter*. In the editorial, Winnie Weir, the editor, details an incident that happened while she was riding a METRO bus in Portland. She goes on to relate that she called METRO and details the way in which her complaint was handled.

As a member of the Board of Directors of METRO and as a member of the gay and lesbian community, I would like to follow up and let you know how this incident was handled. After I read the article, I brought the subject up at the next monthly Board meeting. I wanted to make the Board aware of what had happened and wanted to get more details about what had happened and how the incident was handled. I was asked to supply copies of the editorial for the members of the Board and an item was placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

After the discussion at the subsequent meeting, I believe that the incident was handled appropriately by the Assistant Manager of METRO. That was the impression that the Board, including myself, had gathered from reading the article, but I felt it was important to discuss it as a group. I believe that the Board now better understands the policy on drivers talking to passengers, the way in which unacceptable behavior is dealt with, and the sensitivity training that all drivers go through on a periodic basis.

I just wanted to take a moment to follow up, thank Winnie for taking the time to contact METRO, and to write the Editorial, and let the readers of CPR know that you CAN make a difference in ways that sometimes seem small, but often times have more impact than you may realize.

Sincerely, Barb Wood
Board of Directors, The METRO

Dowd.) I wish to commend this woman, whoever she is, because I know only too well what she is up against. Whoever she is, she has my full support. Go get 'em Cynthia.

No one should have to live through the nightmare that I did just for the sake of a job. Sexism, racism, ageism, and homophobia are alive and well within the gates of BIW. I was exposed to this smut daily. I endured remarks about my age (hot flash comments, etc.), jokes about my sex (pornography, PMS references, etc.), sexually degrading comments from a person in the upper echelons of management linking me with a black male co-worker, and many cruel jokes about the presumed orientation of a male friend ("Who does he make a pass at first, Linda, your husband or you?"). That is only a small example. These guys are still working there and getting promoted, and my career as a designer is over.

My daughter's sexual orientation had to be a well-guarded secret from my coworkers. I can only imagine if they had found out that my beautiful, talented, exceptional daughter, Lauren Zust, happens to be a lesbian. She enjoyed the article about me in your paper. In her words, "Gee, Mom, you were outed and you were never in..."

Another thing that amuses me is certain acquaintances who expend a lot of energy wondering about my orientation. They don't believe that feminists can also be heterosexual. Now they must be really wondering. I never felt an explanation was necessary. When asked, I deadpan a Gloria Steinham reply, "Are you my alternative?"

Just wanted to clear up a matter and give recognition where it is due.

Love, Peace and Courage, Linda Noble.

Editor's Note: We apologize for the reporting mix-up which appeared in the October edition of CPR, and appreciate having a reader call about the error shortly after our distribution. We have spoken with Cynthia Dowd and Linda Noble, offering our apology, which they have graciously accepted. We salute both Cynthia and Linda for having the courage of their convictions. None of us can know the depth of their respective struggle to gain the respect and fair treatment they are entitled to. These courageous women are an example to us all.

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the article by Winnie Weir in the October issue of CPR. I have been more than eager to receive press whenever I could about my case against my former employer, Bath Iron Works. I need to clear up a misunderstanding, as there is a certain courageous woman who is the first to test the city of Portland's anti-discrimination law, and that woman is not me. To not correct you on that would be doing her a great disservice.

Yes, I did win the out-of-court settlement as the 10/1/93 Portland Press Herald reported, but it was for sexual harassment. The lawsuit filed for sexual orientation belongs to another. I think her name is Cynthia Dodd. (Ed. Cynthia

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EDITORIAL

There is no pressure as unhealthy as the pressure which we put on ourselves. It's the "stuff" ulcers, migraines, and all those other maladies are made of. It's the pressure of being the best, running the best campaign, publishing the best newspaper (and meeting deadlines!), being the best partner, best mom, dad, or friend.

But being the best is not what it's about at all, as a friend of mine just reminded me in a brief phone call. It's *doing our best* that matters. It may not tally up to be everything we wanted or hoped for. It's putting out there the best we can be at any given moment that will make us all winners.

So where am I going with this? Well, much has happened within the last months, particularly within the last few days, where numerous people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community have been being their best for the cause of equal rights, and the cause of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases prevention, to name two specifics.

The walls we come up against, and the defeats we experience, are discouraging and enraging to be sure. It causes us to question whether we did our best, or could have done better, should have said this rather than that. We don't need to second guess ourselves. We

were doing and being the best any of us could at this time. It's time to grieve, be in denial, be angry, and accept what the voters did in Lewiston and Portsmouth FOR NOW. Then it will be time to turn our best efforts to the respective state campaigns.

The Equal Protection Lewiston campaign saw countless hours of people being their personal best at whatever task they were doing, including examining the extent to which they felt they could be out and proud. This last point was particularly driven home to me during the last lit drop in Lewiston.

While I was distributing in one neighborhood, another volunteer came up to ask for directions. He was with a man in a pickup truck who held his hand to the side of his face as a shield, and looked piercingly into the steering wheel the entire time I was trying to help the other volunteer.

This incident again drove home the depth of the homophobia which we live with daily. Here was someone helping EPL and trying to be invisible even in the presence of a like minded volunteer. It took until today before I could see that, at that moment, he was being his best.

The election is over. EPL lost, I lost, you lost. Open Door City Coalition in Portsmouth, NH lost. Portland students lost be-

cause the powers that be decided that the Portland Schools are "not ready for condom distribution" yet. YET? Ivan Suzman attempted to propel the group of teachers, parents, administrators, and health professionals into 20th century reality at their October meeting only to become the focal point of anger and innuendo.

Paul Madore and his followers have seen fit to take what is referred to as The Great Commandment, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", and turn it around to mean "Do unto others *because it was done unto you*" It appears that the people of Lewiston who voted "yes" on November 2nd have selective memory, at the very least. More likely they have been duped by religious fanatics into thinking that THEIR eternal life is more important than the present (e)quality of life of their family, friends, and neighbors who happen to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Carolyn Cosby thinks we are trying to buy "special rights", and therefore we are fair game for discrimination. If she is so sure she's right,

why were petitions being misrepresented or the contents obscured while people were asked to sign them on Tuesday at the polls? This was happening on election day, but some of the volunteers who were countering the Concerned Maine Families presence caught it and requested the warden put a stop to it.

Thank you to all those people who worked so valiantly on Equal Protection Lewiston, and Open Door City Coalition, Portsmouth. Thank you to Ivan and others who work for sane safer sex policies. We are being our best when we attempt to insure equal treatment and safety for ourselves and others.

In Solidarity,

Winnie Weir

Open Door City Coalition Update

By: Winnie Weir

On November 2nd, voters in Portsmouth, NH voted on a non-binding question introduced by the City Council. It asked, in part, if the council should adopt an ordinance similar to the one considered by them in June of this year, which would prohibit the City of Portsmouth from discriminating against people because of their sexual orientation. It would also prohibit the city from doing business with persons or businesses who discriminated in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations or credit in relation to real-estate transactions.

In a conversation with Tom Kaufhold, a steering committee member of ODCC, on the morning after, he told me that 60% of the people voting told the City Council not to adopt such an ordinance. Kaufhold went on to say that 6 of the 9 City Councilors said they would support a change in the state law as opposed to a local ordinance. In a later conversation with Susie Colt, activist and ODCC leader, she said continued, page 7-ODCC

Struggle for justice continues.....

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance responds to vote in Lewiston

PORTLAND: Looking back at the bleak predictions of 10 months ago, ML/GPA is encouraged by the citizens in Lewiston who voted to support equal protection for all citizens.

Educating the public about the effects of discrimination was the focus of the EPL campaign. We understood that this was an uphill battle, and our efforts will continue.

ML/GPA believes that with time and continued education that people will come to understand the effects of discrimination against lesbians and gay men.

ML/GPA's efforts over the years have resulted in passage of Civil Rights legislation in both houses of the legislature. We will continue our statewide efforts to provide basic civil rights for Maine's lesbians and gay men, and we hope that the citizens of Lewiston who voted to support the ordinance will join us.

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Maine Civil Rights Act Provides Protection Based on Sexual Orientation

By: Patricia A Peard, Esquire

During its last regular session, the Maine Legislature amended the Maine Civil Rights Act to extend protection under the Act in ways that are very important for members of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community in Maine. Most significantly, the following provision was added to the Act:

"For the purposes of the [Maine Civil Rights Act]..., a person has the right to engage in lawful activities without being subject to physical force or violence, damage or destruction of property, trespass on property or the threat of physical force or violence, damage or destruction of property or trespass on property motivated by reason of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation."

This new provision of the Act became effective on October 13, 1993. It provides protection to lesbians, gays, and bisexuals if they, or their property, are victims of violence. It also provides protection if they have been threatened with violence toward their person or property, or trespass on their property.

This is a very real expansion of the protections available, and it is important for everyone in the community to understand that violence, and threats of violence against gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals, does not have to be, and should not be, tolerated.

The Act provides that an individual whose rights have been violated can file a civil suit in court. It also provides that the Attorney General of Maine is empowered to bring civil suits on behalf of anyone whose rights have been violated under the Act.

A Civil Rights Division has been created to deal with any claims reported to the Attorney General's office under this Act. The division is headed by Deputy Attorney General Stephen Wessler, and there are approximately five other lawyers in the Attorney General's offices who volunteer their time to staff this Civil Rights Division. They cannot act, however, unless they receive the reports of violence to persons or property, or threats of

such violence, from members of the community who have been victims of such abuse.

If you have been the victim of physical violence to your person or your property, or perceive the threat of violence to either yourself or your property, or of trespass or the threat of trespass on your property, as a result of your sexual orientation, your rights under Maine law have been violated.

Get the support and protection to which you are entitled by calling the **Civil Rights Division of the Attorney General's Office in Augusta at 626-8844**. This line is open 24 hours a day, and if you call after business hours, you will be given the name of a person who can be paged to give you immediate assistance. The Division will also accept anonymous reports.

This new amendment to the Maine Civil Rights Act is one of the currently existing legal protections that could be repealed if the Maine Concerned Families Referendum succeeds in Maine. One way to fight back is to make sure all members of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community in Maine who need protection under this Act get that protection.

Call the Civil Rights Division if your rights have been violated. ...



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OUT! Of My Mind

By: Ken Constant

Last month's cover story concerned a new federal law which mandates discrimination in the U.S. Armed Forces. There are a few additional points I would like to make on this subject.

First of all, it does not matter whether you believe in serving in the military or not. This new federal law goes deeper than a Gay Man or Lesbian's right to defend their country in uniform. This is the only federal law that specifically defines a group of American citizens to be discriminated against in equal employment and access, rights guaranteed to all other Americans by the Constitution. The military offers excellent career training, medical and financial benefits and, if you stay with it for a minimum of twenty years, outstanding retirement benefits. This new federal law says we are too disruptive to the high standards of morale, discipline and unit cohesion of the armed forces to be allowed access to this job. And that's what it really is, job discrimination as well as social discrimination.

So, aside from your political beliefs of an armed military, you should be infuriated with Senators George Mitchell and Bill Cohen, and Representative Olympia Snowe because they agreed with the creators of this bill. They say that OUR presence in the military would be a problem and that WE would be disruptive.

The only individuals who would be disruptive would be the red neck bigots who would choose to bash gays and lesbians, bigots like Colin Powell, who so many people are saying

Ken
Constant



would make an excellent future President.

We are about to enter another election year where our U.S. Representatives will be up for re-election. I urge you to attend rallies or speaking engagements for all candidates to these offices and demand - vocally - that they address the issue and make known their position on equal rights for everyone. Go to a Mitchell, Cohen or Snowe speech-a-thon, and if they try to say they are in favor of Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, tell them that THEY ARE LIARS AND BIGOTS! Their voting records speak for themselves. Make it known that it's time for them to step aside and let new people in who will represent all constituents. Excuse the expression, but "ACT UP" at these rallies. Don't let politicians say to Gay and Lesbian only speaking engagements that they are on our side and then at general public rallies ignore the subject. Make them come out of their political closets and say it to all the voters.

Discrimination against our community will continue until WE do something about it. Sitting back and letting "politics as usual" continue will only keep us as second class citizens with no say in our own futures. ...

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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.")

Readers and friends have heard so much about my lesbian daughter that they are sometimes surprised to learn that I also have a son. He is alive and well and living in Boston, and last month I drove down to help him celebrate his 22nd birthday. We ate Indian food, walked around Harvard Square, and feasted our eyes and spirits on the Reubens exhibit currently showing at the Museum of Fine Arts. The best parts of our visit, for me, were our long and lively talks about everything from identity politics to the fate of the Red Sox in 1994.

Raising a heterosexual son in a heterosexual world is every bit as challenging as raising a lesbian daughter. Boys are expected to be rowdy and tough; Andrew was always quiet and gentle. When he was five years old, he loved to lie on the living room rug and draw elaborate diagrams of roads and highways to serve as pathways for his Matchbox cars. In third grade, his road drawing expanded to a fascination with maps and star charts, and while his male peers were chasing each other around the playground before school, Andrew would stand transfixed before a large map of our home town, Springfield, Massachusetts, that hung in the back of his classroom. Within a few weeks, he knew the name of every street in the downtown area and could reproduce large parts of the map at home.

When Andrew was 12, we moved to a small town in Nebraska where everyone went to church on Sunday and lived and breathed football all week long. It was hard to be the only Jew in the school, but harder to be known as the kid who liked to read and wasn't much good at sports. For three years, Andrew survived isolation, insults, and physical abuse from his male classmates, who quickly identified him as a "sissy" and a weakling. In the eighth grade, he befriended the daughter of one of my academic colleagues, a bright, vivacious

girl who shared his interest in reading and science. For a few weeks life was less lonely, as the two of them spent time together after school and went on outings with each other's families. But to the boys in Andrew's class, girls were for crude locker room jokes and hallway harassment, not for friends. When the teasing became too much to bear, the two of them stopped seeing each other, at least around school.

After the verbal taunts escalated to blows, I went to see the principal, as well as the P.E. teacher in whose class much of the damage was happening. Their response was the same one I have heard countless times since then from teachers in schools plagued by gay-bashing: It's all a part of growing up. Kids can be cruel. Boys will be boys.

Andrew eventually returned back east to finish high school and then spent four happy years at the University of Massachusetts, where he found many friends, both male and female, whose idea of a good time was hanging out together and talking about ideas. Like many people who were lonely in childhood, he is a good listener and a loyal friend. When I asked him recently whether he thought his eighth grade harassment had anything to do with gay-baiting, he said he didn't think so. He said he thought he was picked on mostly because he came from somewhere else, and because he didn't relate easily to people back then.

But as someone who has spent a lifetime working in schools and quite a few years talking to gay youth and their families, I'm convinced Andrew's answer is only part of the story. Like the lesbian and gay teenagers who are routinely attacked in most American high schools, my son was a victim of the attitude that boys who would rather make music than make war, or girls who would rather play baseball than be cheerleaders, can never grow into "real" men or "real" women. It doesn't really matter whether the victims of such stereotyping actually are gay; all our youth are damaged by our culture's mindless equation of masculinity with toughness and

cruelty, and femininity with weakness and passivity.

During one of our talks, I asked Andrew if his friends and acquaintances knew he had a lesbian sister. His close friends all knew, he said, and occasionally he would mention her in a discussion about gender roles: "Here's proof. Here's a real person I know." But when I asked him if his readiness to respond to casual homophobic remarks came from having a lesbian sister, he shook his head. What he said next made me very proud of my son. "It doesn't just come from being Michelle's brother," he said. "It comes from what I believe." ...

Back With A Bang - Zootz

By: Ken Constant, Staff Writer

Proving the old saying that everything old is new again, Zootz, Portland's only Gay Positive dance AND live music club has reopened. "Same as it ever was, but only better," says Steve Gagnon the new club manager. "We didn't want to change the club from what (former owner) Kris had started, we wanted to improve on it," added new owner Jason Clark.

While in no way related, both the former owner and new one share two things in common, their last names and their desire to see Zootz remain a diverse, cutting edge club open to everyone while providing a safe, fun atmosphere for all.

In the past couple of months since it was announced that Jason Clark would buy the club, rumors had started that it would no longer be a gay friendly place. Most of the rumors surfaced because of Jason being the son of Linda Bean. Ms. Bean has been an outspoken opponent of gay rights, and failed in a couple of attempts to be elected to public office.

"I'm Jason, not my mother," asserts the new owner. "I'm not even republican (his mother's political affiliation)." After spending just a few minutes with Jason, you can tell that he and his mother live in two different worlds. Jason shows a genuine concern that he and his club be judged on their own merits, not the sins of his mother.

Another misconception arose after the downstairs portion of the club (known as The Cave) was offered to a lesbian employee as a private party area which would be a "safe" environment for a "womyn's only" night. Rumors again started that the club would be gay downstairs only. "You try to accommodate new ideas and honor the requests of one group of individuals, and right away it's misinterpreted and turns on you," said Jason. "We are still open to the idea of allowing private groups to use the downstairs area, but it is all under one roof, (and one liquor license) and would still be open

to all patrons."

Several changes have already been made to the six year old establishment. The obligatory new coat of paint has been applied, and the place has also been given a well needed cleaning.

There are new abstract murals being painted on the walls, and a new city mandated entrance-way has been built. The new entrance will keep the neighbors across the street from enjoying the music, and patrons are reminded that they should respect the residential area when leaving the facility late at night.

There is also a much needed beefed up security team. A uniformed security person will be patrolling the outside of the club and the parking lot next door. People will not be allowed to hang around out front. The policy of opening for chem free after hours dancing has been changed. The younger kids would hang out in front of the club until after hours so they could go in and dance. This was causing noise complaints with the police department. Also, some individuals who were banned from the club would congregate with the waiting crowd and conflicts occasionally broke out.

There will, at least for a trial period, be only one night of chem free dancing (Friday). Some other ideas are being looked at, but nothing has been decided as yet. "We would like to provide a place for the under 21 crowd to enjoy the club atmosphere, and want to find creative ways to accommodate them," says Steve.

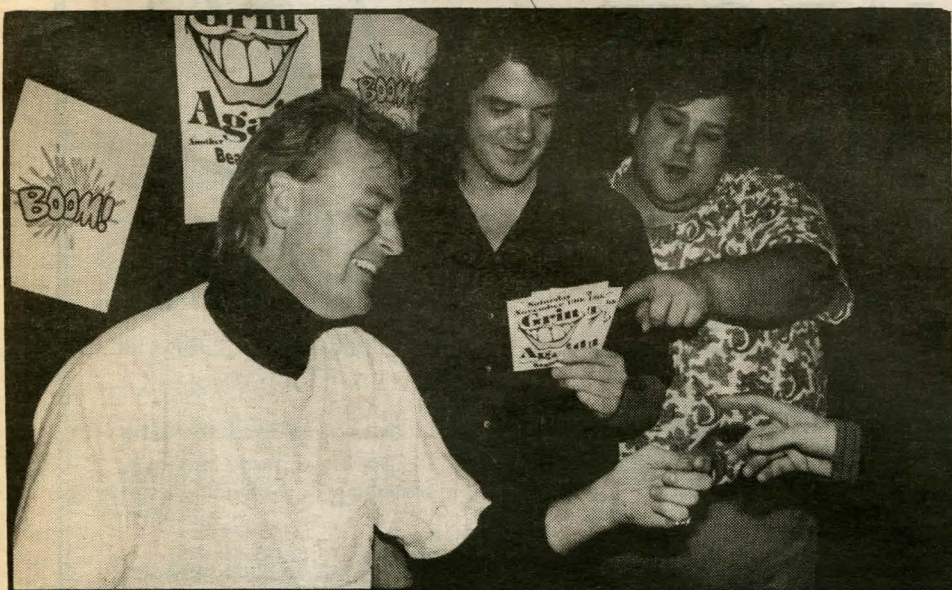
Both Steve and Jason are excited about some of the new ideas they are already putting into place. Thursday night theme parties are in the plans, along with Tuesday night "bad movies" and a Sunday "T" dance is still a possibility. The Thursday night music will be progressive dance with guest DJ's. On Sunday night, club favorite Bob Look will still be hosting a no-cover all request dance party.

Jason admits to being naive about running a club. He says he feels privileged to be the one chosen by former owner Kris Clark to buy the club. Kris turned down several offers from individuals he felt would not keep the club a fun, diverse and tolerant atmosphere.

Jason says that as a newcomer to the club business and to the city, he wants Portlanders to guide him and let him know what they want in the club. He's always open to suggestions and new ideas. ...

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l. to r. Doorman Randy, with ZOOTZ owner, Jason Clark & Manager, Steve Gagnon.

BUSINESS FEATURE: *Barbara's Kitchen*

By Luke Balboni

As the fog rolled in from Casco Bay enveloping the Portland Yacht Club, Barbara Winthrop, who runs the catering company known as Barbara's Kitchen, revealed some of the secrets of her life, her business, and her world-famous cooking. She talked to me while she labored over some of the deliciously aromatic ingredients of the recipe appearing at the end of this story.

Barbara's Kitchen is the name of her catering company, and it has been in operation for the

past two years. She leases the Yacht Club's kitchen because the terms of the lease are reasonable and the space is good. Barbara is the chef for both lunch and dinner during their busy summer season.

The path Barbara followed to cooking took a circuitous route. She was an English and physical education teacher in New York City, and to supplement her income, she worked part-time as a pastry chef at Minimax in Brooklyn Heights.

The switch from teaching to cooking had more to do with Barbara's coming out than anything else. It was at a restaurant job at Aesop's Fables in New York when the whole issue of sexuality crystallized for her. There were other gay employees who were open about their orientation, and even though she has thought about it before, she really hadn't had that much exposure. As she came to terms with her sexual preference, she felt she needed a freer space than her teaching job allowed. These changes in her personal life coincided with the boom time of the 80's when the restaurant business went sky-high in New York.

Barbara said that she got out of teaching when she came out because she had heard the way people talked about gay people, and she feared she'd lose her job or be harassed. I asked her if that wasn't a terrible sacrifice of her career. She thought for a moment and said, "yeah, I miss it. I still miss that sense of commitment to something bigger than myself, that involvement with growth and development in society, and helping to create a better place."

It was also at Aesop's that Barbara first got focused on cooking. There were times when they were stuck because a cook walked out in the middle of a shift, or passed out drunk on the job. The manager wanted Barbara to be able to fill in

at such times. Once in the kitchen, Barbara began to realize the creative possibilities in cooking, and saw her choice much as an artist might view a palette and canvass. In fact, she enjoys the challenge of opening the 'fridge to see what the leftovers are so she can create something colorful and delicious.

Barbara's taste is eclectic. She likes to prepare Thai food, and we discussed nouvelle cuisine and its development in the 80's as a form of American cooking in which elements were taken from all the famous cooking styles and recombined in different ways. We discussed how that practice has again shifted in the 90's to healthier foods, and what's called Spa cuisine.

Barbara occasionally has the opportunity to incorporate these ideas in what she does at the Yacht Club, but when it comes to her catering business, she finds that people tend to splurge at these events and forget about what's healthy because of the special occasion nature of what's happening. Another aspect of her catering technique is to make elegant foods inexpensive, attractive, and appetizing.

Barbara's Kitchen has catered events for the Portland Museum of Art, the Portland Stage Company, EPP (Equal Protection Portland), Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Matlovich Society, and the going away party for Diane Elze, former chair of MLGPA. Barbara has been in Portland for 5 years. She worked at Kristina's in Bath for a year. She also was the chef at Severy's on Exchange Street, but the owners went bankrupt and the place closed despite its great popularity. Even though it closed, Barbara learned a lot about the business.

This was an especially hard time for Barbara because her mother died, her father became terminally ill, and her long term relationship ended. A lot of temporary jobs followed including Alberta's, which she recalls fondly. She was frightened because she was grieving and scraping

for a paycheck. She would see the homeless people and realize what a thin line it is that separates one from such a fate. I know what she means.

Barbara states that Cafe Always is her favorite place because "it's exquisite." Her other two places are Katahdin because of their good food and festive spirit, and then the Pepper Club because of their ability to offer such good food at reasonable prices.

Barbara wanted to emphasize that she does a very good job catering to the specific needs of the client, and is very fair in price. She's flexible in terms of what kinds of food the clients want, and her philosophy is that even if the foods are basic, she does it well and with a special flare. For example, even if she's just preparing sandwiches, she'll offer a pesto mayonnaise instead of plain, or a specially prepared mustard.

Barbara pointed out that people tend to think of catering as expensive, but that you can do a lot of things that are not expensive, including special occasion dinners for two. If people are working with a limited budget, she will sit down with them and work out a menu. If someone came to her with "X" amount of dollars, she would be able to work out a plan. There's never a situation where she would say, "that's not enough."

People usually want more than they can pay for, but she will take on the job and show people what she can do. The idea is that she will work with you to make the event happen, and that the client will get the most for their money.

Barbara will also do part of a meal. For example, she'll do the dessert if the client is doing the entree themselves, or she can prepare something simple, like a gallon of chowder, and she will deliver it. She provides the food, rental agreements, staff—everything. Just call Barbara at 799-4734. Your stomach won't be sorry. ...



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From Barbara's Kitchen Red Pepper Fettucine:

Serves four. Red pepper fettucine is available at Shaw's, Shop'n Save, and Fresh Market.

Ingredients:

12 oz. red pepper fettucine
1 cup sun-dried tomatoes (not in oil).
3 oz. thinly sliced prosciutto (available at Micucci's).
8 chicken tenders, marinated.
(See recipe below for marinade.)
1 pint heavy cream
1/2 cup fresh grated parmesan cheese
1 tbsp. garlic, chopped
2 oz. white wine
1 yellow onion finely diced
1/4 cup fresh basil, coarsely chopped
seasoned flour, (pepper & paprika)
1 small bunch scallions thinly sliced
1/4 cup olive oil

Preparation:

Bring the sun-dried tomatoes to a rolling boil in water. Cool & slice.
Saute onion in 1/2 the olive oil until translucent.
Deglaze pan with white wine.
Add garlic, sun-dried tomatoes, and pro-

sciutto.

Remove from pan and let sit.
Dredge marinated chicken in seasoned flour.

Saute in remaining olive oil until golden on each side.

Deglaze pan with white wine.

Add heavy cream and reduce until it thickens.

Add sun-dried tomato, prosciutto, and garlic mixture to which 1/4 cup freshly chopped basil has been added. Finish with grated parmesan and mix until smooth, the consistency of the cream.

PASTA: Bring water to a boil.

Add 1 oz. olive oil.

Drop pasta into water and cook for 2 minutes or until al dente. Strain.

Pour sauce over pasta. Garnish with grated parmesan and sliced scallions.

Marinade Recipe:

1 8 oz. can College Inn chicken broth

1/2 cup oil

1/2 cup white wine

1 tbsp. chopped garlic

1 tsp. coarse black pepper, freshly ground

Marinate chicken tenders 2 hrs..

Seacoast Outright Up and Running

Portsmouth, NH- Seacoast Outright, a social and support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning youth, opened its doors on Friday, October 22nd in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

According to a recent press release, this organization was started to help youth through age 21 by providing emotional support and varied social activities in an environment free from harassment and discrimination. Young people will be given an opportunity to ask questions and receive accurate answers. They will have access to positive adult role models, and have the chance to discover that being gay is healthy and good.

Founded in 1993, Seacoast Outright is an educational, social service and advocacy organization that offers services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning youth in the greater New Hampshire, southern Maine, and northern Massachusetts seacoast region.

Meetings are held every Friday from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court Street in Portsmouth. For more information call the Teenline, 1-800-639-6095 or write Seacoast Outright, P. O. Box 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801. ...

child comes out of the closet, the parents most often go into the closed and begin their own journey of acceptance and coming out.

When a child musters the courage to reveal their sexual orientation to a loved and trusted family member, we are often not prepared. Sometimes we withdraw our love and a family tragedy begins. The tragedy of parents disowning their children must stop. The tragedy of lesbian and gay teenagers killing themselves at three times the rate of other teenagers must stop.

We, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, think our kids are fine, just the way they are. We are committed to helping families stay together in loving relationships.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Stratham Community Church. ...

Editor's Note: For more information on this chapter and the other P-Flag chapters in New Hampshire, please see the complete listing under RESOURCES appearing in this and every edition of CPR. A word of thanks to Nora Tuthill of Kensington, NH for providing this information. ...

ODCC continued from page 3

that the election also resulted in a loss of one supporter on the council who was not re-elected.

I asked Tom Kaufhold what the feeling was in the community now. He said, "The overall feeling is that civil rights are not something the majority should be voting on." He was ready, along with the other ODCC supporters to move on to the next stage, which is the state legislature.

Susie Colt was optimistic even in the face of this seeming defeat. She said, "given the demographics of those voting, and the low voter turnout, a 60% to 40% loss is not devastating." Given the fact that only 34% of those registered to vote actually exercised that privilege, according to the Portsmouth City Clerk's office, there were many who decided not to decide the issue. The total voting YES was 1,934. The NO vote totalled 2,814. ...

BOOKS ON REVIEW

By: Tina of Triangle Books

VITAL TIES

Karen Kringle, Author
Spinsters Ink, Publishers

In a small Wisconsin farming community, Lee owns her own dairy farm during the early 50's, struggling to survive and facing disapproval from locals for doing a "man's job." Clare, a young woman across town rebelling against her father's determination to give their own farm to her brother, buys the old Peterson place across from Lee to farm on her own.

This book chronicles the relationship of these two women to each other, as well as to various intriguing characters within their com-

munity, over a period of thirty years. Family and community bonds are woven together in a rich and complex reality so common in rural towns, as each of the characters struggle to make sense of the events that touch their lives.

Author Karen Kringle skillfully unfolds and develops the cast of supporting characters including Marsh, Clare's estranged brother who comes home to die of AIDS; Les and Wade, the local gay couple who operate a restaurant in town; and Frances, a fundamentalist preacher's wife who's life changes dramatically after her husband's death.

Vital Ties is a warm, old fashioned novel portraying the intricate web of life that holds the rural communities together in the face of change. It's a beautifully written book to curl up with in front of the wood stove and enjoy. I had to smile in the end on discovering that Kringle is herself a dairy farmer in Wisconsin. ...

P-FLAG, NH Seacoast Chapter

A message for parents

Each parent responds in their own way when they discover their child is gay, says the brochure produced by Seacoast Outright. We at P-Flag (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), understand that many of our dreams for our child die and we must grieve the loss of our dreams.

We also understand this is the same child we have always loved. We understand that we are affected by homophobia, and it is a struggle to get beyond it. We understand that when a

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Money Talk

The 1993 Tax Act:

The Condensed Version...

By: Peter Callnan, CPA

After months of debate and controversy, the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 was finally passed by Congress and signed into law by President Clinton. While in general the law will result in higher taxes for certain individuals in higher income brackets, there are a number of opportunities for individuals and businesses to reduce their tax liability, or at least minimize the effects of the current changes. We will address some of the changes affecting individuals taxpayers here.

Tax Rates:

Except for certain "high income" taxpayers, tax rates will remain unchanged. The top tax rate will increase from 31% to 36% for single taxpayers with taxable incomes exceeding \$115,000, \$127,000 for heads of household, and \$140,000 for those married filing jointly. Individual taxpayers with taxable incomes exceeding \$250,000 (\$125,000 for married, filing separately), will encounter a 10% surtax on the amount in excess of \$250,000. This additional surtax will result in a Federal tax rate of 39.6% for those individuals.

The effective rate can be even higher than 39.6% due to the phaseout of exemptions and

itemized deductions.

Even though the law wasn't enacted by Congress until August 10, 1993, the new rates will be effective as of January 1, 1993. To minimize the effects of the retroactive tax rates, the new law allows taxpayers to elect to pay the tax attributable to the 1993 rate increase in three installments on April 15, 1994, 1995, and 1996. These payments will not be subject to penalties or interest.

Medicate Taxes:

Currently, employees pay 1.45% on the first \$135,000 of their salary and other earned income. The new law will eliminate the \$135,000 ceiling; effectively adding a 1.45% tax on earned income in excess of \$135,000. Since employers match this tax dollar-for-dollar, they too will have a 1.45% increase. Self-employed individuals, who pay both the employer and employee portion, will have a 2.9% increase on earned income over \$135,000.

Social Security:

In the area of social security benefits, a multi-tiered approach will be applied to determine the amount subject to Federal income tax. Prior to the new law, up to 50% of social security benefits were subject to Federal income tax if your provisional income (adjusted gross income, plus tax-exempt income, plus one-half of your social security benefits), exceeded \$25,000 for singles and \$32,000 for joint taxpayers.

Beginning in 1994, the new law will create an additional tier that increases, from 50% to 85%, the percentage of social security benefits subject to tax. The 85% rate will apply to provisional incomes exceeding \$34,000 for singles and \$44,000 for joint taxpayers. The old rates will still apply to provisional income below these thresholds.

Capital Gains Exclusion:

To stimulate investment in small businesses, the new law contains a provision eliminating 50% of certain capital gains from taxation. In order to receive the 50% capital gain

exclusion, the investment must be in a C-corporation whose gross assets do not exceed \$50 million. 80% of those assets must be used in the active conduct of the business, and investments in real estate and securities cannot exceed 10% of the corporation's assets.

Finally, the taxpayer must have acquired original issue stock of the corporation after August 10, 1993, and the stock must have been held for over 5 years. C-corporations do not qualify as eligible investors for this exclusion.

There are exceptions to the 50% exclusion rule. Corporations in the service, banking, leasing, farming, mineral extraction, and hospitality (hotel, motel and restaurant) businesses do not qualify. Gains from these investments remain 100% taxable.

Moving Expenses:

Starting in 1994, the deduction for moving expenses will be limited. Taxpayers will no longer be able to deduct costs associated with selling and acquiring their residences. Furthermore, costs for meals consumed while traveling and living in temporary quarters will no longer be deductible. Also, you can no longer deduct the costs of pre-move house-hunting trips and the costs of temporary living expenses at the new location.

Finally, the required distance of the move has been increased from 35 miles to 50 miles.

Charitable Contributions:

Under the new law, charitable contributions will require more documentation. For contributions of \$250 or more, written substantiation in the form of a receipt will be required (in addition to a canceled check).

For charitable events that provide goods or services to contributors, the charitable organization will have to provide a good-faith estimate of the value of the goods or services (for contributions over \$75). The contributor can only deduct the excess of the contribution over the value which was received.

A stiff penalty will be imposed upon charitable organizations which fail to comply with this provision. The penalty is \$10 per contribution, not to exceed \$5,000 per event.

Alternative Minimum Tax:

If you are subject to the alternative minimum tax (AMT), the rate has been increased from 24% to 26% for AMT income up to \$175,000, and 28% for AMT income over \$175,000.

AMT provisions were written into the tax laws to help close loopholes and reduce perceived abuse of deductions by high-income taxpayers. However, with the increase in tax rates for high-income taxpayers coupled with the increase in AMT rates, we may see more middle-income taxpayers affected by AMT than high-income taxpayers. This is because AMT rates will now be closer to middle-income tax rates (5% spread), than high-income tax rates (11.6% spread), although the exemption will provide more offsetting benefit at the middle-income level.

Taxpayers subject to AMT in 1993 have more of a burden than taxpayers paying regular tax. Although the AMT increase is also retroactive to January 1, 1993, AMT does not qualify for the special 3-year payout allowed for regular tax.

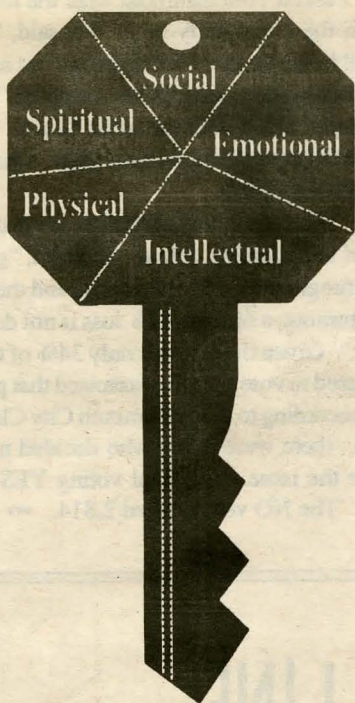
Contributions and AMT:

Not all news is bad for those subject to AMT. Under the new law, taxpayers subject to AMT will be able to deduct the fair market value of property contributed to charity. In the past, the gain on most property escaped regular taxation but was subject to tax under AMT rules.

The AMT gain is entirely eliminated under the new law for contributions of tangible property and other property, such as stocks or bonds. This provision is retroactive to June 30, 1992 for contributions of tangible property. So, an amended return may be in order for taxpayers with qualifying contributions in the last half of 1992.

This summarizes the new tax law as it relates to individuals. In future articles, we will review its affects on businesses and offer planning opportunities. Contact a tax professional for year-end planning if this new tax law affects you. ...

Editor's Note: Peter Callnan is associated with Honeck-O'Toole, Certified Public Accountants in Portland.



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Portland

Lessons from the epidemic - Part IV

In the past few months we have been focusing on what, of value, can be learned by living through an epidemic of such fear, pain and illness. It's my hope to help us hold a mirror to our society and look at who we are, for better or worse.

Certainly the volunteerism and selflessness that we have seen in the epidemic testifies to our basic goodness as human beings. There is much good to be seen in the work of those providing services to others in the epidemic. However, we also have to look at the bad that is mirrored to us. This month it is sexism. Looking at the darker sides of ourselves in these articles is only meant to provide the opportunity for growth as individuals and as a society.

"Can women get AIDS?"

"Yes."

"Are you sure?"

So went some of the early questioning in the AIDS presentations that I did. While I first thought that it was just that people thought of the epidemic as the "Gay Plague" (and gay meant male!), it became clear that we paid very little attention to women, and so reports of who was getting this disease often failed to mention women.

SEXISM. That's the real reason we didn't know women got AIDS. It's also the reason we don't understand HIV infection in women. How is it different than HIV infection in men? We fail to study the natural history of HIV infection in many of those with AIDS.

Given that we are a patriarchal culture, it makes sense that we are sexist. In the past thirty years, the Women's Movement has detailed the lived experiences of women in a sexist culture. We have begun to see how sexism is bad for all, boys and girls alike. The epidemic has mirrored that sexism back to us.

Women, caretakers in a sexist world, have no one to take care of them when they are sick. Mothers with HIV infection often fail to receive the same care that is offered to their babies with the disease. Many women can't

David

Smith, Ed.D



access primary medical care in our society for very simple reasons, sexism and poverty.

In sexist cultures, women are devalued and their illness and/or death are often less important. We have learned, in this epidemic, that women die sooner than men, get different opportunistic infections, and lack access to medical care. Women's role as primary caregiver for children often means that she has less permission to take care of herself. Women who are also addicts, a majority of women with AIDS, often have to choose between treatment for their addiction and being with their children.

There are too few resources for treatment of addiction, for men or women. Treatment on demand movements during the epidemic have focused on how important it is for an addict to get treatment when he or she wants it. Waiting 2 months or 6 months is unrealistic. For women, there have been even fewer options, and if they have children, their choices become harder.

Very few substance abuse treatment programs exist that have day-care provisions for children of women addicts. Residential programs almost always make women find places for their children to stay while they are in treatment. This has often meant that women need to give up their children, sometimes to governmental agencies, and wonder whether they will get them back.

The sexism that is part of our culture has been magnified by the fear and ignorance of the AIDS epidemic. I remember a woman whose child was removed from a school bus and put into foster care, just because the woman had AIDS. Some over-zealous bureaucrat had decided that she was an unfit mother solely because she had AIDS.

Prevention education programs have focused more on men than on women during the epidemic. We have made progress, and realize that women have specific educational needs, such as how to communicate the desire to use a condom to a partner. Given a sexist world in which women often have little choice during heterosexual sexual relations, it became clear that women could not safely insist that their male partners use a condom.

By being forced to look at the specific needs of women in providing both education and services in the AIDS epidemic, we are forced to confront our own sexism. This is good. Sexism and sex role stereotyping is bad for all of us. Boys and girls need to be free to be anything they want to be. Knowledge about our faults can lead us to a better way of living and loving. ***

Next month: *Spirituality and the Epidemic.*

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Displayed

Exhibit Opens December 1, World AIDS Day

PORTLAND: A four-day display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, an international memorial to those who have died of AIDS, will open Wednesday, December 1, World AIDS Day, at the YWCA, 87 Spring Street in Portland.

The display, the largest ever in Maine, will feature over 400 3' x 6' panels, each commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. It will be the first time that all of the panels made in Maine will be displayed together. The panels are just a portion of the over 23,000 panels that make up the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt.

The Quilt began in San Francisco as one person's protest to the AIDS epidemic. Propelled by the death and tragedy that confronted so many around the world, especially in the gay and lesbian community, Cleve Jones searched

for a way to make people understand the overwhelming loss and frustration affecting him and so many of his friends. In June of 1987, Jones spray-painted his friend's name, Marvin Feldman, onto a piece of cloth approximately the size of a grave. Friends, acquaintances, and strangers joined the effort by making panels of their own.

Soon, thousands of people across the USA and around the world were adding names and expressing their emotions by creating handmade memorials for loved ones they had lost to AIDS. Today the Quilt continues as a powerful, visible symbol of the worldwide pandemic. It includes panels from all 50 states and 29 foreign countries.

Donations collected at this local Quilt display will be distributed equally among 16 local AIDS service providers who provide necessary funds and assistance to people living with HIV and AIDS, and their loved ones. Beneficiaries include The AIDS Project, People With AIDS Coalition of Maine, and The AIDS Lodging House.

The display will be open daily through December 4th at the YWCA on Spring Street, Portland. The complete schedule is:

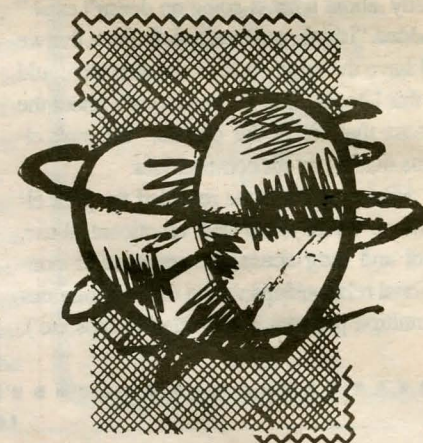
Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6 - 9 pm

Thursday, Dec. 2, 9 am to 9 pm

Friday, Dec. 3, 9 am to 9 pm

Saturday, Dec. 4, 9 am - 6 pm

For more information, call The NAMES Project/Maine 774-2198. ***



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Community-wide enrichment programs developed by grad students

The Gathering and The Coffee House feed mind and spirit

By: Winnie Weir

What do a graduate student pursuing a Master's Degree in Education at USM, and a graduate student pursuing a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology at Antioch New England Graduate School have in common?

- They both like challenges
- They both believe creative processes enhance individual lives
- They both perceive the consequences of systemic homophobia as negatively affecting our ability to make sane responses to the life-changing events in our lives as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender people.

d) All of the above and then some.

The correct answer is "d", all of the above plus and then some.

Faith Worthley, Master's Degree candidate at USM, and Tania Hubacher, Master's Degree candidate at Antioch, presently doing her internship at USM Counseling Center, put their creative processes together. During countless hours of brainstorming to address the need for an inter-active forum where both mind and spirit could be nurtured and healed, they came up with a much needed opportunity for Portland.

Tania reflected on the recent ending of her relationship, saying that one of the things it showed her was that "we are this group that talks about creating a Utopian community; that we've got an edge on love relationships and love affairs, but when it really comes down to it, that Utopia doesn't really exist. Finding a place to talk honestly about what is going on doesn't exist." She added, "I think, and I really do believe, that we could have the edge on love and that we could have this Utopia. But we need to talk about the skeletons that are in our closets, the pink elephants that are in our communities.

Further discussions revealed the pink elephants to be physical and emotional abuse, alcohol and drug abuse, the response to non-traditional relationships within the communities (i.e.: multiple partners, 3-way relationships, etc.),

and many others. These issues run the breadth and depth of our communities but are seldom talked about informally.

Asked why she thought we in the gay, lesbian, bi, and transgender community did not talk about these issues, Tania replied that it is the lack of a safe, encouraging space to begin that talking process. That was a key motivational factor in putting together "The Gathering".

"The idea," says Tania, "is to start talking about them; not to see it from an intra-psychic point of view at all. It's not an intra-psychic, isolated, individual problem. How, if we're all living under the daily, constant threat of violence, can we have a sane response? How can we expect ourselves to have a sane response to the legitimate daily fear of losing our lives, livelihoods, family, and friends? What would be a sane response? How, when we have been oppressed for so long, and hence have been taught so well how to oppress, how can we then turn around and learn to trust each other? Where do we learn those kinds of skills?"

Difficult, serious, thought provoking questions to be sure. I wondered if people would come to gather over heavy discussions on a weekly basis. Tania quickly interjected that another key element of "The Gathering" is to do it in a celebratory way. "Yes, these are heavy topics, but there is also going to be joy and laughter and fun, because all these elements need to co-exist."

Faith agreed, adding, "There are an awful lot of people on the planet doing a lot of processing, and nobody has any time for fun anymore!" She noted that it is difficult, if not impossible, to engage in intelligent, interactive conversation in any of the forums presently available in Portland. The noise level is prohibitive. Hence, the Coffee House seed was sown.

It is patterned after the Coffee Houses of the Village in New York City during the 60's and 70's. Faith remembers these as being "a wonderful place where people would come together and

have different kinds of things to eat and drink, not alcohol, and hear some folk singers or entertainment in a quiet format that allowed you to talk." She adds, "there is no place like that in Portland. For me, it's trying to provide a space like that where people can interact and have fun in a forum that affords a bit of culture, a place where friends can gather, and people in the community can meet one another. That's what's important." She wants to feature local talent for the entertainment portion of the Coffee House.

The Coffee House will be opened the third Tuesday of every month from 8:30 to 10:00 pm. Cappuccino, gourmet coffees, homemade breads, soups, knishes, and herbal teas will be available for purchase. The schedule of entertainers and performers will be announced shortly.

To kick off the Coffee House, four of the five members of The Maine Women Composers, Kay Gardner, Julia Lane, Ann Dodson, and Jean McIntosh, will perform on November 21, a Sunday afternoon (one time only), from 2:30 - 5:00 pm, at Luther Bonney Auditorium. Tickets are \$8.00 for students and seniors, and \$12.00 for the general public. Tickets are available at: Drop Me A Line, Raffles Cafe, Amadeus, USM Bookstore, Portland, and Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick.

"The Gathering" will meet every Tuesday from 7 - 9 pm at the Commuter Lounge of the Campus Center of USM. On Coffee House Tuesdays, formal discussions will end at approximately 8:30 pm. Admission to "The Gathering" and the Coffee House is free.

Both women are anxious to have readers know that the University of Southern Maine is a valuable resource for the entire community, students and non-students. They emphasized that this is not a "for students only" opportunity, but welcomes anyone in our community, older, younger, in-between.

The Gathering is looking for original written works of poetry, prose, and short fiction or non-fiction for an upcoming Tuesday of readings. The

Coffee House still has a few openings for performers. If interested, contact Tania, 780-4050, or Faith, 775-7362.

Topics for discussions include health issues, domestic partnership, external homophobia, out or in the closet, domestic violence, the military, transgender perspectives, and spirituality, among others. Facilitators will not act as the experts, but will present what information they have, and encourage interaction and discussion from the audience's own experience.

Many individuals, University groups, and business are supporting this undertaking through donations of money, services, and merchandise. Both Faith and Tania have had positive feedback from many people who are thrilled with this concept.

Particular mention and thanks go to the following sponsors: The Counseling Center, The Alliance for Sexual Diversity, Women's Forum, Student Life, Women's Center, Women's Studies, and to Barbara Winthrop for catering the events.

During this interview, I had the opportunity to see the level of commitment both Tania and Faith have, not only to the success of this project, but to building inclusive community within the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. They deserve our support, encouragement and feedback. Check the calendar for topics in November. ...

Gay Games V- Team Maine Bulletin

Special Meeting: Run & Brunch

By: Bob McCormack

Come join us on Sunday, November 21 in Cape Elizabeth for the 25th annual Turkey Trot Road Race, followed by brunch. The races start in front of the Middle School on Scott Dyer Road. Registration is \$7.50. Register from 8-10:30 am.

There are two races: a five kilometer run at 10:15 am, and a ten kilometer run at 11:00 am. The 5K (3.1 miles) is a distance that can easily be completed if you are aerobically fit. Runners of all levels will find this a fun race. The 10K (6.2 miles) is somewhat challenging. It's a prettier course, and the running is more competitive.

Brunch will follow at noon. Please call by Saturday, November 20th to let us know you are coming so we will know how much food to prepare, and to get directions. If you should decide not to run, please come to watch, cheer and join us at brunch. We will also review registration information now that the registration booklets are in. December 31st is the closing date for registering for the Gay Games V. ...

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Each get together is also an opportunity to share your ideas and experiences

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November 9th: Domestic Partnership, Equality in Family Benefits-Maggie Fournier, Associate Professor of Nursing

November 16th: External Homophobia-Mary Kay Kasper, Area Director-Portland Hall, & Larry Bliss, Director of Career Service and Cooperative Extension

November 23rd: Surviving the Holidays-Jim Settle, Area Director

November 30th: Out or In the Closet-Julien Murphy, Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences

December 7th: Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays-Rita Kissen

December 14th: Life Before Coming Out: Artificial or Authentic-Craig Hutchinson, Associate Director of Student Life

Future topics: Transgender Perspectives, Domestic Violence, The Military, and the Gene Factor

Sponsored by: The Counseling Center; The Alliance for Sexual Diversity; Women's Forum; Student Life; Women's Studies; Women's Centers, Portland- Gorham

Putting the breast cancer epidemic in perspective - Part I

By: Peaches Bass

Although it's still early in the decade, breast cancer would appear to be the lesbian health issue of the 1990's. Some of the most impressive grassroots efforts underway in lesbian communities across the U.S. are organizing around cancer, and the lesbian/gay press has been prominently featuring articles on breast

cancer.

Breast cancer has become the new rallying cry for the feminist health movement. It can happen to a woman regardless of her religious, political, or sexual choices. Breast cancer can affect any woman. A lesbian is not exempt.

Most coverage of breast cancer frames the issue as an "epidemic." An epidemic is usually defined as a widely and rapidly spreading infectious disease, although we also use the word to refer to situations, in general, that affect a large number of people and tend to increase in scope and size.

Nowadays, you'll hear people refer to violence on TV, illiteracy, and drug abuse as epidemics as equally as HIV, tuberculosis, or influenza. The term "epidemic" has evolved in our society to imply any overwhelming and widespread social or medical ill. When we discuss the impact of the breast cancer epidemic on the lesbian population, we are really invoking an emotional image. We *do* feel overwhelmed by breast cancer.

If breast cancer is an epidemic, what about other diseases? In the U.S., coronary heart disease is the number one killer of women. Combined with stroke (number three killer), cardiovascular disease accounts for half of all women's deaths. When was the last time you saw a front page article in the lesbian media on the "Coronary Heart Disease Epidemic That's Devastating The Lesbian Community"? Heart disease and stroke will claim the lives of nearly 330,000 American women in 1994, six times the number of women who will succumb to breast cancer. Why, then, is breast cancer the issue around which we are organizing? And why is that particularly true for lesbians?

Culturally, cancer carries deep meaning and engenders a response based at least as much on feelings as medical fact. The term "malignancy," a common euphemism (!) for cancer, illustrates our society's fear, dread, and moral judgment of the disease. Because we don't understand it's cause, we see cancer as unavoidable. That makes it both mysterious and frightening. Our fear is augmented by our notion that cancer is always fatal. While this is not the case, it is true enough to make sense. We are even frightened, and rightfully so, by the treatments for cancer—surgery, radiation, and chemicals. Eminent (and lesbian) breast cancer specialist, Dr. Susan Love, calls this, "Slash, burn, and poison." We are emotionally primed for a dramatic response to breast cancer.

Statistically, the threat posed by breast cancer appears to be increasing with no end in sight. Both the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute currently say that a woman's lifetime risk of developing breast cancer is one in eight. In 1991 they said it was one in nine. In 1987 they said it was one in ten. More alarming still is a breast cancer risk rate for lesbians that Suzanne Haynes, Ph.D. of the National Cancer Institute, theorizes at one in three!

Statistics, however, can be a dangerous thing. These figures are widely misunderstood. The term, "lifetime risk" is not an incidence rate. There is no national breast cancer registry, so we do not know the actual incidence of breast cancer. Lifetime risk is a cumulative probability based on the assumption that a woman lives to be 95. The lifetime risk of one in eight applies only to women who are 95 years old. On the other hand, the chances of developing breast cancer for a 40 year old woman are 1 in 200. A risk of .5% (1:200) is still deeply troubling, but not as anxiety provoking as 12.5% (1:8).

And what about Suzanne Haynes' figure of 1 in 3 risk for lesbians? Haynes extrapolated from data that did not specifically include a category for lesbians, but instead used categories such as "never married," or other definitions that are, at best, tenuously linked to lesbians. She also considered lesbian-based surveys on risky health behaviors that indicate lesbians may eat more fat and drink more alcohol than women in general, and that they are less likely to get mammograms and do breast self-exams.

The surveys that Haynes relies on are not random samples. They are over-representative of lesbians who are white, middle class, and well-educated. There is also serious debate as to what constitutes a risk for breast cancer. The current literature does not confirm a definite risk between high fat diets or alcohol consumption and breast cancer. Finally, let's remember that breast exams and mammograms do not prevent breast cancer, they detect it.

Failure to perform these procedures may affect survival of breast cancer, but they do not affect risk. In the absence of hard data, we have to approach theoretical statistics very cautiously. Sadly, the headlines quote Haynes' 1 in 3 figure as a fact, though Haynes readily admits that it is theoretical, and scientifically unproven. She may turn out to be right, but her reasoning is seriously limited by the data she's relying on.

When putting the breast cancer epidemic in perspective, we should also consider death and incidence rates (number of deaths/cases per 100,000). For example, the death rate from breast cancer has remained virtually constant since the 1940's. Many experts believe that the dramatic climb in the incidence rate in the 1980's

was largely due to the increased use of mammograms. Incidence rates are, in fact, dropping, and are expected to continue to fall until they reach about the same level as in 1980. The American Cancer Society says that the overall incidence of breast cancer, like its death rate, has remained steady for several decades.

Nest month we'll take a look at how risk, language, and activism influence our response to breast cancer. ...

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CPR

An interview with Jason Dilley

By: Luke Balboni

This conversation with Jason Dilley took place on October 17, 1993. Jason is from the small town of Nevada City, California which is in the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas. He was not out in his high school days, and was not sexually active. He recently attended his 20th high school reunion, which puts him in the class of '72.

Jason doesn't consider himself an artist though he joked that by virtue of being poor he met one of the qualifications. He did not attend art school. He studied theater arts and learned mask-making at a community college theater. Jason says that other people have told him that he is an artist, but that deep down inside he doesn't consider himself one.

He has worked as a temp and as a waiter for the last 20 years. He has not done any other art projects besides the current exhibition except for his association with various art societies in California.

To be selected to have your mask cast for the exhibit you must have an AIDS diagnosis. Jason tells the story of a man in San Francisco who he did a mask of, later telling him that he didn't really have AIDS but was only HIV+. No one with an AIDS diagnosis is refused.

He put a call out in San Francisco for candidates, and it took him 2 years to get 20 people. Jason says that he likes to spend a lot

of time with the individuals who volunteer, and he's had cases where he has spent several weeks with someone doing interviews, and then they don't like the mask-making experience. They suffocate under the plaster, so they don't do it.

There were others who simply said that they better not do it, and others who had health issues. He really didn't understand what the problem was. He says that in only 2 months in Maine he had 4 people volunteer for face-castings. I suggested that maybe some of the people were afraid to lose their anonymity, but Jason told me that people had the option to use their real name or an alias.

The installation consists of 20 face-castings. Each face-casting comes with a 2 to 3 minute tape recording which you listen to over headphones. You have volume control and rewind control. The taped interviews consist of hour-long sessions from which Jason pulls what he considers to be dominant themes. He edits out his voice so the effect is to hear a statement from the person.

The project started as a result of Jason's volunteering at San Francisco General Hospital's Ward 5A. He was a certified nurses' aide so he was used to hospital settings, but there was one kid, 22 years old, covered with KS who had a swollen body. Jason walked out of the room and started crying from the painful experience of seeing so much suffering.

Jason was struck by what he saw as the American public's ignorance of the extent of the suffering from this disease that was all around them. That was in 1988, and the idea came to him to take this boy to the American public by means of this exhibit.

The inspiration for the idea came on two consecutive nights at 3:00 am, when an inner voice directed him to do the masks. He checked with a friend, who directs theater at Stanford, who confirmed the nature of this type of inspiration. He made a face-casting with a ceramicist friend, and then he asked others what they thought of the idea of combining the tape with the masks and having a whole exhibit. The idea was well-received.

Jason is doing this exhibit because he wants to offer a safe environment for people to find out about AIDS. One goal is to educate teens and show them their mortality. It is not strictly for the gay and lesbian community, and not just for the IV drug people either, but for the global community. Jason reaches teens by inviting schools to come and see the exhibit. He offers information rather than moral statements.

The exhibit has been in the San Francisco City Hall, the Sixth International AIDS Conference in San Francisco, the Ansel Adams Photography Center, the Seventh International AIDS Conference in Florence, Italy, and at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The first exhibit was at a hotel where they were educating bishops and clerics, and they've taken it to the streets of San Francisco.

Generally speaking the gay press is



Jason Dilley with one of the Project Face to Face Masks

Photo by Luke Balboni

sympathetic to the show, and overall the press has been supportive. One reviewer for the Washington Times called the exhibit "vapid."

About a year and a half ago the show wasn't getting any funding. It was sitting in a crate, and Jason was considering going back to school. Jason met someone from Maine who helped obtain the sponsorship of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. So the exhibit came here. Jason is satisfied that Blue Cross is not using their sponsorship of this exhibit for advertising purposes.

There is an advisory committee that decides where the show will go next; it's not up to Jason. Next fall the exhibit will be in Boston. They would like to go on a national tour, but if there is no interest after Portland, the show will be crated. He will then return to California.

Jason emphasized the importance of the local face-castings that are a part of the exhibit. There are four people from Maine in the show. He also suggested that the dialogue wall is a crucial part of the show. Jason wants the show to continue after returns to San Francisco, he wants to teach face-castings, and hopefully, there will be a permanent exhibit of faces from Maine.

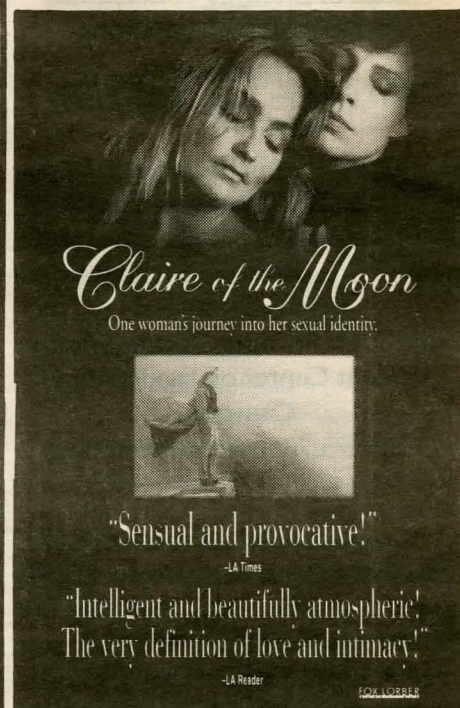
Face-casting is done in a few steps: a light layer of vaseline is applied to the face, then a layering of plaster that dries. You have the negative, then you put liquid glass inside the negative and then you pour in the plaster or porcelain and you get the positive.

Blue Cross pays Jason a stipend. Prior to this particular exhibition, Jason has paid for many of the associated expenses. There have been several financial disappointments, one of which was a proposal to bring the show to Mexico which fell through after a considerable sum was spent.

He sees Blue Cross' involvement as critical and as a risk on their part. He sees their involvement as a promotion of health care, and hopes that this sponsorship will be a springboard to a national tour. ...

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Project Face to Face

A Review

By: Luke Balboni

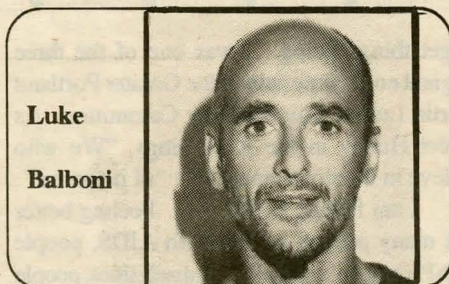
Project Face to Face is an exercise in crass opportunism. Not endorsing this show is like not liking E.T., but there it is. It may seem like some kind of tribal heresy, not to support everything that has to do with AIDS, but it is precisely this presumption of safety from criticism that is amongst the most reprehensible aspects of this show.

My personal relationship with HIV and AIDS is irrelevant to a discussion of the artistic merits of this exhibit. If the artistic merits of this show are themselves irrelevant, that is, if we can agree that this show is not art, then we must ask ourselves what it is.

One answer is that it becomes a vehicle for the artist's self-promotion through the use and abuse of the personal and global tragedy that is AIDS, hence the opportunism aforementioned.

Mask-making is not art, it is a technical process. Tape-recording is not art, it is a technical process. Art often is the unique juxtaposition of objects. Pairing these masks with taped recordings of those represented is clever and it may be art, but it is also a manipulation, not of media, but of our emotions. The cumulative effect of listening to the tapes is that we feel sad. This feeling is rendered in us as it would be following a film festival of the world's greatest tear-jerkers.

The exhibit is maudlin and morbid. Despite its claims to celebrate life, the exhibit is about death. Even the manner of presentation—stark white faces mounted on black felt, which in turn is mounted on black, lends to the



Luke
Balboni

funereal quality.

The masks are life masks in that they were taken from living people, but these people were selected for this process precisely because they are soon expected to be dead. (Only PWA's are included, HIV+ is not enough.) Their current status is unknown to us. And, sadly, it is irrelevant, because these people have served their purpose, and it is too sad to dwell on their condition at present; but we can assume, in fact, we are invited to assume, that they are dead. They've been made as expendable by this exhibit as they have been by our society, government, medical establishment, etc.

This exhibit seems to be part of the larger idea that some vehicle is needed to put across to people the enormity and tragedy of what it is to live with this disease. The AIDS Quilt is an example of this effort. In an overall sense, the quilt is not art, but individual panels can be, and yet it doesn't matter whether or not the quilt is art, because it functions visually to convey its message, and it does serve to humanize this tragedy.

On the other hand, the plaster casts of the faces are cleaner and more aesthetic than the quilt. But they are also colder and, therefore, more anonymous. And while the quilt is undeniably about dying, the odd thing is that

even though you can't get on the quilt until you are dead, it is more a celebration of life than the masks because of the goofy, fun things we are allowed to see about these individuals.

Normally, in a museum, you look at something and you are free to express yourself while you are experiencing it; the airwaves around you are free. But the isolating effect of listening to something over headphones turns us inward and that separates us from each other. It serves to enhance a church-like or prayer-like experience, which contributes to the morbidity of the whole. The dim lights and muted tones are sepulchral. Most people compare museums to churches. They both require a certain solemnity, and are both tomb-like in the way that they commemorate the doings of the dead.

This raises the question posed by some viewers of whether or not this show should be in a museum. This question is often reported from the point of view of its outrageous insensitivity. But that reaction is just an example of the knee-jerk response that anyone who dares question anything related to the AIDS tragedy is a monstrous Nazi. In truth, the question is neither outrageous nor insensitive.

There are several reasons why this exhibit should not be in a museum (not to mention that it should not exist at all.) It's not art. The museum atmosphere contributes to the death-like quality of the show. Who goes to museums?

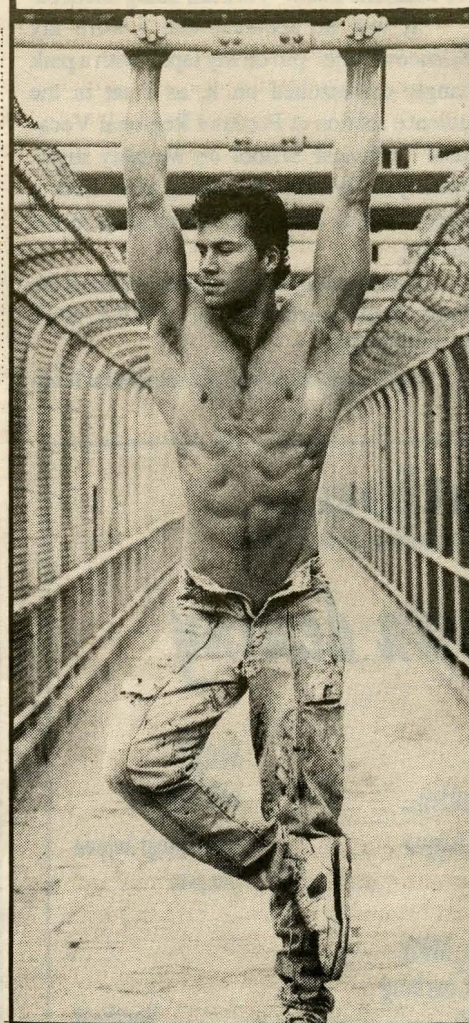
Most people who go to museums are likely to be sympathetic to the AIDS crisis anyway, so you're preaching to the converted. And so on ...

There's also the question of the effect this show has on people familiar with HIV and AIDS vs. those not familiar. If the purpose of the show is to connect with people and enhance communication, it fails. The method used is not up to that purpose because of the isolating effect of the headphones. Martha, one of the faces, tells us it's and "Us" vs. "them" disease. I submit that this exhibit reinforces that idea. The PWA's are separated from the HIV+'s and we from them and then from each other and the dead from the living.

Several of the recordings have wonderfully insightful things to say, especially Ernie's comments about the media hype on Ryan White. Sergio states that the reason why there isn't enough effort against AIDS is that not enough white people have it. Apparently he is unaware of the fact that the white people who have it are also homosexual or IV drug users, and that may be why not much is being done about it.

I was affected by this exhibit. Things can touch us regardless of their shortcomings. There is a profound difference here between the medium and the message. It's the medium I object to. ...

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Community Dialogue ...

This space is made available to persons or organizations who wish to engage in public debate around specific issues. Submissions should be kept to 250-300 words. Responses should be sent to CPR for inclusion in next month's edition.

CONDOMGATE!

A personal story of being excluded

By: Ivan Suzman

In June I was sitting in a circle of 40 unique men. We were attending a retreat, "Honoring our Journey," and each of us brought our own individual story to share, from our life experiences in Texas, Toronto, Maine and places in between.

We had cast flower petals, meditated, burned sage, passed a talking stick, danced, written in our journals, and shared in intimate detail many memories of our separate journeys. It was a powerful building up of brotherhood and community for us.

It came time to talk about what we felt we could commit ourselves to doing to build our community when we returned home. The talking stick slowly made its way around the circle, and we listened to each of our brothers speak of changes he would try to make in his life.

Now it was my turn to speak. My tongue halted as I search for words, and my thoughts turned to AIDS. Images of its continued devastation filled my mind. I decided at that moment that when I returned to Portland, I would do what I could to make condoms available in Portland's high schools.

That decision has led me down a dangerous road of screaming parents, surreptitious memos, unlisted telephone numbers, harassing calls, and now, a 2 1/2 page savage written attack against me, typed and sent on October 8th across the state of Maine, to damage my reputation and credibility. On October 19th I was suspended from the Human Sexuality and Family Living Advisory Board which will create the condom policy for Deering and

Portland High Schools. I am angry, isolated, and just beginning a fight that will shake the Portland Public School system from the top to the bottom.

Currently, my status on the Board is "under review" by Dr. Thomas Edwards, the district School Superintendent. But, I have lost my right to freedom of speech, at least within the confines of the homophobic, AIDS-phobic Portland School system. I am not mailed the minutes of meetings, am barred from being seated or from voting, and cannot work within the Board to help to develop the condom availability proposal I had put forward in its September 27th meeting. My basic American civil rights have suddenly vanished.

I am a victim of homophobia. I am a victim of discrimination. I am outraged. I am a physically challenged gay man, a PWP (a person living with Parkinson's) whose body goes through periods of tremors and paralysis, but whose mind is working overtime, as clearly as ever. And I am ACTING UP.

Thank you, ACTUP/Portland and other friends for supporting my effort. It took violations of my basic freedoms of speech and association to wake people up to the fact that Portland's students are prevented from having access to condoms. But there are more activists like me. HOW MANY MAINERS WILL DIE OF HIV-RELATED CAUSES BEFORE CONDOMS ARE AVAILABLE?

AIDS deaths in Maine as of August 31st: 209. HIV-positive reports in Maine as of July 31st: 952. Current estimated HIV-positive Mainers: 2000. Yet I am being silenced.

It was no accident that I wore my "Silence=Death" pin on my lapel, with a pink triangle emblazoned on it, as I sat in the audience section at Portland Regional Vocational Technical School on Monday night. Thank you, Winnie, for taking time from a trying week to come see the hysteria at the meeting.

I am fighting back. I have contacted the Maine Civil Liberties Union. I WILL NOT BE SILENCED.

Perhaps it takes being a sacrificial lamb

to get things going. I was one of the three original co-chairpeople of the Greater Portland Martin Luther King Holiday Committee. As Sweet Honey in the Rock sings, "We who believe in freedom cannot rest 'til it comes!"

I am feeling better now. Feeling better that many people, people with AIDS, people with Parkinson's, people with disabilities, people of color, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and yes, transgendered people, women, older people, all people who experience DISCRIMINATION will read my story. TOGETHER we will win. WE SHALL OVERCOME. At this moment, I have no health insurance. That will change. It won't be long. And health care will be a right, not a privilege. Apartheid is dying. Equal Protection Lewiston, I hope, will soon prevail.

It is time to get on the condom bandwagon, and fight for it. The time has come. Not tomorrow, not next year. NOW! ...

Portland Schools Balk

On Condom Issue

By: Ken Constant, Staff Writer

The Superintendent of Portland Schools and his advisory committee on Human Sexuality and Family Living have decided to respond to the AIDS epidemic by sticking their heads in the sand.

A preliminary study by a subcommittee of the advisory board concluded that the Portland school system was "not ready" for condom distribution. Local AIDS activists are asking the question, "how many students must contract HIV before they will be ready?"

The entire issue has caused a sharp division between supporters of both sides of the debate. A conservative group of parents is insisting that handing out condoms in the schools promotes teens to engage in sex. AIDS activists and many students are saying that is not true, and that the truth is there are students having sex, and they are doing it unsafely.

The advisory board was to vote October 25th on a motion to distribute condoms in the

schools, but decided to "study" the idea and table the discussion until December. The board member making the motion, Ivan Suzman, claims that since making the motion he has been advised by school superintendent, Thomas Edwards, that his membership on that board "is under review." Suzman claims that this is a discriminatory attempt to silence him.

Superintendent Edwards has also placed the sex education program under strict guidelines resulting in the cancellation of the group OUTright from speaking to students. OUTright is a support and education group which helps young teens come to terms with their sexuality (whether it be homosexual or confused heterosexual). Members of the group have spoken to Portland's high school students for the past five years. To accommodate the new guidelines set on the program, sex educators are attempting to find heterosexual students to speak along side homosexual students in this presentation.

The new policy says that various points of view must be presented on controversial issues, and recommends that the issues be presented by panels made up of both viewpoints. The new guidelines also require a staff member to moderate discussions, and mail notification at least two weeks in advance to all parents before presenting a controversial subject.

One outspoken member of the opposition to presenting homosexual discussion in the schools is Noreen May, director of Citizens for Excellence in Education. May says that to balance the panel on discussing homosexuality, you need to have "reformed" homosexuals to present an alternative to the "gay life-style."

James Light of OUTright disagrees. He says that OUTright does not wish to convert or promote homosexuality. Their only interest is to stop the name calling and hate.

The superintendent's advisory board was not asked to comment on the guidelines before they were issued, and that has some of them miffed. Cathy Kidman, a board member who also works for The AIDS Project, says it's one more example of the board being left out of controversial decisions. ...

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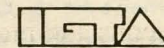
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Going Gay: Sailing on the Sea Spirit

By: John D. McVay, Gen. Mgr. Max Travel

Boarding the Sea Spirit for my cruise from Boston to New York this summer was like joining old friends. The reception was so genuinely joyful, I couldn't help but feel that I was about to embark on a truly memorable holiday.

As the guests gathered in the Observation Lounge, we began to realize the special quality of the Sea Spirit. The intimate quality of the ship seemed to bring the passengers together immediately, with new friendships established over complimentary champagne even before everyone was registered.

Following a simple check-in, we were individually escorted to our cabins by one of the ship's crew. The Sea Spirit has only outside cabins, and mine was located on the wrap-around promenade deck, Deck 4. The cabin, decorated in comfortable grays and whites, with blonde wood, featured two twin beds (other cabins have king beds), TV with VCR, a writing desk with large dressing mirror, efficiently designed closets with adequate storage, and additional comforts like super plush towels, luxury soaps and shampoos, and a built in hair dryer. Another very nice touch is a full size iron and small ironing board in every cabin.

Following the obligatory safety drill, we cruised away from Boston with a welcome aboard party on the sun deck. Although there isn't a pool on the Sea Spirit, there is a chlorinated fresh water fountain that crew members said passengers often use, and are invited to use, to cool off while sunning. The sun deck is

also the spot for theme night parties and first-run movies under the stars.

As Boston became a shadowy skyline, we had a brief orientation on our ports of call and available shore tours. As with all RSVP cruises, the tours are carefully planned and highly informative. All ground operators have been carefully screened to assure our complete comfort. Best of all, the tour prices are also quite reasonable.

The gathering center on the Sea Spirit is the Observation Lounge, and this is where the passengers congregate each night for before dinner cocktails and cabaret entertainment. Watches are not part of the dress code, as "Leona," the well-loved, or at least highly respected, ship's hotel manager, makes a nightly announcement that it is time to dine.

If you've cruised before, but have never experienced a ship with only one sitting for dinner, then you must treat yourself to the joy of dining on the Sea Spirit. Served in five courses, the pace was wonderfully casual, allowing us to enjoy pleasant conversation and the scenery captured by the picture windows. Joe, our waiter, quickly got to know our personal preferences and was ready with great suggestions and attentive service.

After sampling the beef, pork, seafood, and vegetarian dishes, I can easily proclaim the restaurant of the Sea Spirit as one of my favorite places to dine.

As my cruise drew to a close, I really tried to find things to criticize. The Sea Spirit offers a full day and evening of activities, which I found wonderfully surprising on a ship with only 100 passengers. This is an intimate ship, so you will not find a casino or multiple lounges on board. The outdoor Fantail Lounge, the Observation Lounge, and the Sun Deck seemed more than ample for everyone on board. For some, the absence of a pool may be a problem, but the ship is equipped with a sports deck that lowers to the water's edge at ports of call, leaving the sun deck wide open for serious tanning.

The Sea Spirit is best suited for people



looking for a very casual vacation. While it does attract a lot of couples, my particular sailing was about half couples, half singles. Women may want to keep in mind that, while they are very welcome, there were only 6 women on board. I'd recommend that women who want to sail the Sea Spirit bring along a special someone, or grab some friends and make it a big party. Of course, there's also Olivia Cruises, but more about that another time.

RSVP Cruises features Fall/Winter and Summer sailings on the Sea Spirit, and special large-ship charters year-round. While RSVP attracts primarily gay men, lesbians are welcome, although couples may be more comfortable than single women. Reservations can be made through Max Travel, 783-7399, or 1-800-728-2420. ...

TIME OUT!

By: Michael Rossetti

November is known to be a time of change of season that can add to the stress and negative aspects of our daily lives. The best remedy is to take note of the natural environmental factors around us, and to respond accordingly.

The most noticeable factor is the quality of sunlight. The days are not only shorter, but sunlight now reaches us at lower angles and longer distances. This gives it less intensity. As a remedy, you need to increase the light in your environment.

Start with your home by increasing the strength and number of lights in your most active areas. In addition, find the opportunities to get out daily to be in sunlight, even if it's just a brief lunch time stroll. If you have the option, get to work earlier so you can leave earlier and

enjoy what sun the afternoon offers. Your subconscious reaction to the quantity of life in your day has its effect on you whether or not you are consciously aware of its presence.

The cold burns up calories faster. If you're one of those who lives life between two jobs, or your home is kept cooler, you will experience low energy periods more frequently. It is a common fact of outdoor survival that 40% of your body heat escapes from the top of your head to heat up the rest of the universe. So, cover up outdoors.

Wearing thin clothes at your favorite watering hole, if it's not heated well, or trying to capture that certain stylish look which calls for an open neckline and a thin jacket, will cost you by burning off your resistance to the cold. Dressing according to the weather, and deliberate attention to your vitamin intake will protect you.

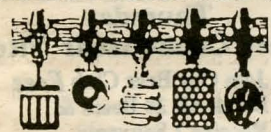
The obvious impact of cold weather is being indoors over extended lengths of time. November has great outdoor opportunities. Your favorite hiking spot or State Park is still accessible to visitors, even if the gates have been locked. (After all, we own it!) The leafless woods now reveal what you may otherwise miss: a hidden waterfall, the peaceful path to a calm lake, or a vista not open during the green months.

Another seasonal impact is (and I'm not kidding) that many can have withdrawal from not being able to get out to the beach. Granted the warmth is not there, but the beaches still are. They offer combinations of old forts, light-houses, or wooded trails that often go unexplored. The serenity of beaches or lakes can often be appreciated only when they're not populated with sunbathers.

A walk along the shore, finding treasures in beach debris, walking a dune path, or exploring a rocky spot, are things you might not have taken time for while struggling at your favorite beach for blanket space. Some easily reached spots for this are Wolf's Neck State Park, Popham Beach, Mount Desert, or the Marginal Way in Ogunquit. Also, along with the exotics of Time Out's first "Day-After-Thanksgiving 'Cold Turkey' Potluck and Hike", Time Out is hiking along the shores of the Pemiquire Peninsula. Call us at 871-9940 to connect, or try a shoreline walk on your own. ...

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Chew on This

By: Rose Mary Denman

Fall is here, and by the time you read this column, the magnificent burst of color that I see on the leaves outside my kitchen window will most likely all be blown off the trees, and the temperatures will continue to drop. Brrrr, winter is on its way!

With the lowering temperatures, we naturally turn to warmer and more substantial food than we had been eating over the summer and early fall. Our bodies want more than fresh fruit, salads and iced tea. They want more solid fuel, the kind that will keep us warm.

Eating seasonally means being aware of the kinds of fuel our bodies crave. In mid-fall through to early spring, we need lots of grains and heavier vegetables, like squash, to keep us going. The autumn diet needs to be focused upon building up the body's resistance so we can ward off the cold and flu season more readily.

If you are a meat eater, this means including more meats (try to choose those low in fat), and dairy products. Vegetarians will increase the amount of grains, nuts, beans, and seeds, as well as more dairy products and eggs if you use them.

It is important, however, to pay attention to your body as you increase these foods. Some, like bread and cheese, although good in moderation, are body congestors, and will not keep your intestines free-flowing. Meats are concentrated energy, not particularly easy to assimilate, and they create more density and body heat than fruits and vegetables.

We need to remember that fruits and vegetables are body cleansers in general, with the exception of bananas, which also have a congesting effect. Avocados and mushrooms act more as builders. The principal body builders are meat, fish, dairy products, nuts, beans, seeds and grains, in that order. But remember that these foods also create varying degrees of congestion. Other body congestors are noodles, potatoes, bread, cake, cookies, and all white flour, sugar, and chemical products.

Rose Mary
Denman



Whole grains are high in vitamin B, and their cellulose content helps your intestines by stimulating good elimination. A diet consisting mainly of body cleansers, along with whole grains, some building foods, and a limited intake of congestors will keep you clear, strong and well.

Autumn is a good time to try such foods as stuffed squash, and to experiment with hearty soups. Vegetable-barley soup is a great treat, and will keep you warm all over. Add some root vegetables like carrot, turnip, onion, and garlic to the soaking barley and simmer. Greens like celery, comfrey, dandelion, kale, watercress, or spinach can be added at the end of the cooking.

Many of us get lots of exercise during the warmer months and then turn into couch potatoes once it gets cold. The cold weather causes many of us to want to turn inward, to be more introspective, and this is nature's way. However, our bodies still need to be stretched, and perhaps our exercise program can concentrate more on staying loose and relaxed.

Stretching, calisthenics, running, and hiking will all help. Walking, especially while it is still so lovely out, is always a good form of exercise. Indoor exercise such as Yoga, is a good way to honor that part of you that seeks to go more inside yourself, while at the same time giving your body the stretch it needs.

I'll finish off this month's column with a wonderful recipe for baked stuffed squash. I hope some of you will try it, and even write in to report how it tasted to you. This particular recipe comes from the NORTHERN PINES NATURAL FOODS COOKBOOK.

STUFFED SQUASH

Split 2 medium-small acorn, buttercup or butternut squash lengthwise down the middle. Remove seeds and bake, face down, on a lightly buttered tray for 30 minutes or until tender at 350 degrees. (I have been quite successful with simply putting 1/2 inch of water in the pan instead of buttering it. The squash sort of steam-bakes this way.

THE FILLING:

- 1/2 lb. chopped mushrooms
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 stalk celery
- 1 clove crushed garlic.

Saute in butter until soft. (Again, I have found that eliminating the butter and simply keeping enough water in the pan so that the vegetables don't burn, works well. It also keeps the calorie and fat content down.)

ADD TO THE COOKED FILLING:

- 1/4 cup chopped parsley (fresh, not dried)
- 3/4 cup cooked millet, rice, or buckwheat
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds or walnuts
- 1 T. Dr. Jensen's Quick-Sip (at the Health Food Store)
- 1/2 cup yogurt (optional)

Once all these ingredients are combined, fill squash cavities with them and return to the oven for 10-15 minutes. Serve this with a spinach salad, a hearty crusty bread, and nice wine, and you'll have a great meal! Believe it or not, stuffed squash has been known to sit in for the turkey at many a vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner! Enjoy. ...

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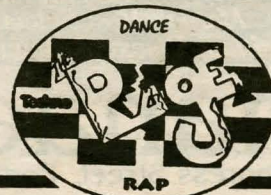
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••I'm looking for a non-smoking, mostly vegetarian male house-mate. \$200 per month includes garage space. Woodstove, 2 cats in Portland outskirts. Call 797-8488. ••

••Professional Gay man looking for other responsible, full time employed person to share my house in Bowdoinham. Close to Portland and Augusta, nice village setting, laundry, cable. Oil/wood heat. \$300 per month plus 1/2 electric and oil. Call Jim 666-8035. ••

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LESBIAN THERAPY GROUP

••Lesbian group forming designed to explore relationship issues, including primary relationships, family relationships, friendships, etc. The group will meet weekly and an initial interview is required to assess appropriateness for the group. Insurance reimbursable. Contact: Lucy C. Chudzick, LSAC; INTOWN COUNSELING CENTER, 477 Congress Street, Suite 910, Portland, Maine 04101, 207/761-9096. ••

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Where: Honeck & O'Toole CPA's
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••Young man! Let Dad do it! Trim, masculine son needed to make love to, and to explore friendship, sex, and possible long-term relationship. Dad is 49, healthy, active, and loves compatible young men. Write Ron, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, ME. 04073. ••

COUPLES WORKSHOP

••Couples workshop for lesbians, Saturday, December 11th, 9 am-4 pm, Expressive Therapy Center, 150 St. John Street, Portland. Are you willing to begin the journey of co-commitment in your coupleship? If so, this experiential workshop is for you. For registration information call Pam Anderson and Judy Bullard at 883-3863 or Pam Witham and Ingrid Avery at 883-0931. Space limited, register early! ••

FOR SALE

••Self-cleaning toaster oven, \$20; adjustable animal play pen (metal), \$30; 6' copper pyramid, \$100; vinyl covered easy chair, \$18. Call 879-0371. Leave message. ••

OPEN HOUSE

••Silver Moon Jewelry Holiday Open House. Friday, November 19th, 5-8 p.m., Saturday, November 20th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, November 21st, 1-4 p.m. Fine, hand-crafted jewelry including rings, gem pendants and earrings in silver and gold. Custom orders will be taken for that special ring. Gift certificates will be available. For more information, call Judy Bullard at 883-3863. 277 Broadtun Road, Scarborough. ••

SUPPORT GROUP

••Lesbian support and discussion group forming in November in Central Maine area. Call Irene Cox, L.C.S.W. at 453-4403 for more information. ••

**YOUR CLASSIFIED
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GETTING RESULTS.**

Nov. 1-Dec. 5: PROJECT FACE TO FACE on exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art, 7 Congress Sq. FMI-775-6148.

Tues. 11/2: "The Gathering" 7-9 pm, Commuter Student Lounge at the Campus Center, USM, Portland. We provide a space for students and non-students to talk about the "untalkable" things around lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues. Topic: Health Issues with Chris Lyman, Health Educator.

Fri. 11/5: 7-9 pm, The School Around Us on Log Cabin Road, Arundel, will host an auction to raise money for The AIDS Lodging House. Paintings, drawings, poetry, and masks done by students and friends of The School Around Us will be auctioned off. Refreshments. FMI, call 874-1000. The AIDS Lodging House is a Portland based non-profit agency providing safe, comfortable, affordable housing to people with HIV/AIDS.

Tues. 11/9: "The Gathering" 7-9 pm, Commuter Student Lounge at the Campus Center, USM, Portland. Topic: Domestic Partnership-Equality in Family Benefits with Maggie Fournier, Assoc. Prof., Nursing.

Wed. 11/10: Poetry reading & book signing at RAFFLES BOOKSTORE CAFE, 7 pm. Kevin McLellan will read and sign "An Unmade Bed".

Thurs. 11/11: A Dance Party Benefit for the Matlovich Society at The Underground, 3 Spring Street, Portland. 7:30 pm - 1:00 am. \$3-members, \$4-non-members. Come, dance the night away!

Sat. 11/13: MLGPA Board Meeting, 2-5 pm, Unitarian Church, Winthrop St., Augusta. FMI, call 761-8376.

Sat. 11/13: Margie Adams Concert, 8 pm, First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Tickets \$12.50 in advance, \$14 at the door.

Tues. 11/16: "The Gathering" 7-9 pm, Commuter Student Lounge at the Campus Center, USM, Portland. Topic: External Homophobia with Mary Kay Kasper, Area Dir., Portland Hall and Larry Bliss, Director of Career Service & Cooperative Extension.

Thurs. 11/18: Poetry reading & book signing at DROP ME A LINE. Kevin McLellan will read and sign "An Unmade Bed". Call 773-5547 for time & details.

Sat. 11/20: Leadership for Diversity Training: Reducing prejudice and building bridges workshop, 8:30 am-4:00 pm YWCA, Portland. Sponsored by National Coalition Building Institute. Cost-\$49 with partial scholarships available. FMI, call Jan Froehlich, Director of Training, 283-9097.

Sun. 11/21: Kay Gardner, Julie Lane, Ann Dodson and Jean McIntosh, 4 of the 5 members of The Maine Women Composers, will perform at The Coffee House kickoff event, Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland Campus of USM. 2:30-5:00 pm. Tickets \$8 students, \$12 general public. FMI-775-7362.

Tues. 11/23: "The Gathering" 7-9 pm, Commuter Student Lounge at the Campus Center, USM, Portland. Topic: Surviving the Holidays with Jim Settle, Area Dir., Gorham Campus.

Thurs. 11/25: THANKSGIVING DAY

Tues. 11/30: "The Gathering" 7-9 pm, Commuter Student Lounge at the Campus Center, USM, Portland. Topic: Out or In The Closet with Julien Murphy-Assoc. Dean of Arts & Science.

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PUBLIC SERVICE INFO:

The City of Portland's Director of Public Health announces that Flu shots will be offered to Portland residents at the Munjoy, Reiche, and Riverton Health Stations. Times are Monday thru Friday, 8 - 10 am and 4 - 5 pm, November 1 thru November 24. The cost of the flu shot is \$6.00.

CLASSIFIED RATES

To place a classified ad in any of the above categories (or another category of your selection), type or print clearly exactly what you wish to be printed. The cost is \$8. for the first 40 words and 10¢ per word over 40. Personals add \$2. for advertiser # & mail forwarding. Make your check payable to Community Pride Reporter. Send it with your ad before the 20th of the month.

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And the Band Played On

By: Luke Balboni

A friend asked me, "did you like it," I said, "yes," which was too quick, too easy. This film is not the kind you merely like or dislike, this film is the sort that either pisses you off, leaves you numb or, if you're someone whose been on the front lines of this epidemic for a long time, it may leave you indifferent.

And the Band Played On is an HBO original movie that debuted on Saturday, September 11th and is now being repeated on HBO. The main character is Dr. Don Francis of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), played by Matthew Modine. If this film has a hero, it is Dr. Francis, though he too is guilty of serious miscalculation and naivete.

The rest of the cast reads like an Academy Awards presenters list. Nevertheless, the actors discharged their duties quite well. I sometimes think that when famous actors appear in small roles, something more than simply playing their part is expected of them. In fact, the cast played their parts skillfully, with dedication and sensitivity.

One might be cynical enough to think that most of Hollywood wanted to be associated with this film for much the same reason that certain celebrities wear red ribbons in public. Somehow, though, I don't think that cynicism is what's going on here.

AIDS has been with us now for more than a decade, and I would guess that many of the people involved in this film have lost loved ones to this illness, as I have. Anything we do to educate, to inform, to arouse, to anger is done in tribute to those who have fallen. Victims all, the survivors and the dead, we do what we can to stop the killing, often not knowing what that is, often making

mistakes. But, we try. I salute Randy Shilts, the author of the book, and everyone involved with this production.

"THINK, KNOW, PROVE," these are the guiding principles of the CDC, and their scientists don't know much. The disease first appears here in the US. among gay men, and when this information is presented to the director of the CDC lab on infectious diseases, he crosses out "homosexual" because Reagan has just been elected. This "crossout" sets the tone for the rest of the film—which is an epic about bureaucratic territoriality, bruised egos, sensitive sexual subjects and lots of dead people.

These early scientists/investigators are on the right track from the start, but because of "THINK, KNOW, PROVE," they are continually hamstrung by the toadish CDC director, whose main concern is the following of established bureaucratic routine—something familiar to those of us who work.

Once certain facts are established, or at least heavily suggested, Dr. Francis wants to close the gay bath houses. Could he really have believed that closing the bath houses would stop the promiscuous behavior? I can't believe he did. He's supposed to be intelligent. Need I point out that people can do what they do at bath houses in many different places, and still do.

So the movie focuses on gay behavior, and gay leaders come forth to fight it out. One insists that the majority of gay men are in monogamous relationships or want to be. I'm not sure it matters, nor do I believe it, but I'm also not sure what he's trying to prove by saying it—that gays are more wholesome than straight people, or more decent, or more attached to hearth and home, or something nutty like that. Would anyone make such a claim for straight people? If you bothered to gather the statistics, you'd probably find out that

it's not true for breeders either, but so what.

The moralizing overtones in this film are suffocating. The virus has no particular fondness for homosexuals, but because it's passed through anal intercourse so easily, the fags are 'bad' to be having anal intercourse, or is it the amount of anal intercourse that's "bad." The horrible reality of this disease is that regardless of what most people say, many people (let's hope they're not the same ones) think that homosexual sex is immoral, and the passage of the virus by that route only confirms this belief.

The film moves on to the subject of the blood industry's incredible greed and willingness to sacrifice "a few" hemophiliacs in order to save money rather than conduct tests on the nation's blood supply. The powers that be in the Red Cross are not spared. They are shown at their worst—doctors as businessmen.

The film turns from examining the conflict around Dr. Gallo to the conflict between the National Institute of Health and Dr. Luc Montagnier, the French research scientist who actually discovered the AIDS virus. Gallo is held up for merciless ridicule. If he did what this film suggests, he should suffer the medical equivalent of disbarment, or the Saudi penalty for theft, which is hand removal.

He's a shallow, greedy ego-maniac whose tricks and deceptions paid off, since he's grown rich off having the patent to the AIDS test. Sounds like a good doctor to me.

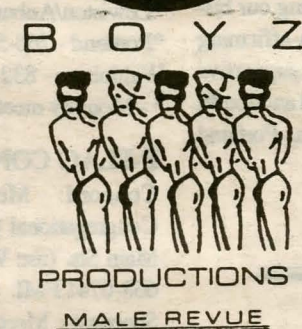
The film then peters out as it documents the losses, the vigils and the quilt, but we are left with our rather befuddled hero, Dr. Francis telling us that, "we could've stopped it." I don't believe that. What does he mean by "stopped?" "Stopped," meaning no one would have gotten sick, or no more would have gotten sick? How could they have stopped it?

Perhaps in some ideal world where people are humane and intelligent, but here where the CDC runs things and "THINK, KNOW, PROVE" is the guiding principle, how could AIDS have been "stopped?" His saying it could have been "stopped" is a cruel hoax, and an insult to those who have already died, those who are sick now, and to those who will get sick.

In the film, Phil Collins plays a bath house owner, badly. But he has one of the better lines, or at least one of the truest. He says to Dr. Francis at that bath house closing meeting in San Francisco, "I make the money when they come in, and you make it when they go out. So cut the shit..." ...



Dame Edna and her faithful companion, Madge, with owner Randy Scott at the UNDERGROUND. Dame Edna won best costume at both BLACKSTONE'S and the UNDERGROUND during the Halloween weekend festivities.



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CPR

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 7:30 p.m. every Thursday at the West Falmouth Baptist Church, 18 Mountain Rd. West Falmouth. FMI call 797-4915 or 892-7258. All are welcomed.

The Matlovich Society - an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meeting on the second and fourth Thursday, monthly, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq. Contact (207) 773-1209. **

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***

Lesbian & Gay Information Line - Portland: 871-0432, 24 hour community events update, free listings, announced live attendant times.

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

P-FLAG CONTACTS - NH

Concord: Meets 3rd Sun. 3-5 pm, 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Sts. (use Washington St. entrance), 603/668-0741 FMI.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tues. 7-9 pm, Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), 603/772-3893 or 5196 FMI.

Monadnock Region: Meets 4th Mon. 7-8:30 pm, Unitarian Church, Peterborough, 603/547-2545 FMI.

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thurs. 7:30, Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Sts., 603/880-0910 FMI.

P-FLAG 24 hour Helpline: 603/623-6023 or

Plymouth - 603/968-7516

Nashua - 603/880-8709

Manchester - 603/472-4944

Monadnock - 603/547-2545

Hanover - 603/643-8331

Concord - 603/746-3818

GROUP SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday, 7:30-9:30 pm at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI: call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP. Write to P.O. Box 5370 Station A, Portland, ME. 04101.

OUTRIGHT/SEACOAST: Meets every Friday, 7 - 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St. Portsmouth, NH. FMI call Teenline 1-800-639-6095 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801

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

Q-Squad Support Group for lesbian, gays, bisexuals, & transgendereds. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI, call and leave message, 778-7380.

TransSupport Group meeting regularly, providing group support, education, and social activities for cross dressers and transsexuals, their families, friends, and others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, Maine 04101.

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.

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 Gelinas 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 with 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.

TAP RECEIVES \$40,000 GRANT

Portland-The AIDS Project (TAP) has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from The UNUM Charitable Foundation to build capacity in its case management program, according to a recent news release.

The grant will be used to improve access to community resources for people living with HIV, such as medical, dental, housing and legal services. It will also be used to help develop services for clients, including home health care, prescription drugs and adult foster care.

These initiatives are led by Sandy Titus, R.N., TAP Support Services Coordinator, who was a local recipient and national finalist for the 1993 Jefferson Award in Public Services.

TAP also conducts prevention education and special outreach in local communities, operates the state-wide AIDS hotline, and provides on-site anonymous testing. ***

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