Spring 5-1994

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CONCORD—Hopes of a New Hampshire gay rights bill in 1994 were destroyed when the New Hampshire Senate voted 13–10 to kill HB 1432. HB 1432 would have added “sexual orientation” to the state’s civil rights legislation.

HB 1432 passed the largely Republican House of Representatives but included a “disclaimer” attached to it which stated that the addition of civil rights protection for lesbians and gays is not necessarily acceptance of their “lifestyle.”

After House passage, concern had been raised that New Hampshire Governor Steve Merrill would veto the bill. At that time, spokespersons for the Governor had expressed the possibility that he would work out a compromise with the Senate.

LEWISTON—Parade viewers attending the Maine State Parade in Lewiston on May 14 will view a sea of rainbow, doves and puppets carried by a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender contingent. The “Color me a rainbow” parade idea is being organized by Maine Pride/Stonewall 25 in conjunction with Lewiston-Auburn’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group “Becoming an Inclusive Community.”

According to organizers of the contingent, the parade presence is intended to be a celebration not a protest. Marchers are planning large puppets in the style of “Bread and Puppet Theatre” featuring a moose and doves of peace. Marchers will be encouraged to carry rainbow banners and placards with the United Nations’ symbol in preparation for the march on the United Nations timed to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Interested individuals can contact Maine Pride/Stonewall 25 at 871-9940 or “Becoming an Inclusive Community” at 795-6219.

Crowded gubernatorial primary awaits Maine voters

PORTLAND—Maine’s June 14 Democratic and Republican primaries present voters with 13 gubernatorial candidates with a wide variety of previous experience. From former Governor Joseph Brennan to perennial Republican candidate Jasper Wyman, voters will be asked to narrow the field to just two, one from each party.

While the specifics of programs have been somewhat slim, this year’s Democratic primary features a new and encouraging field for lesbian and gay voters. All five Democratic gubernatorial candidates made an appearance at March’s MLGPA Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony to pledge their support for a gay rights bill for Maine, an unprecedented occurrence in Maine politics. The five candidates are: Thomas Allen, former mayor of Portland, city councilor and lawyer, Richard Barringer, on leave from his post as director of the Edmund S. Muskie Institute of Public Affairs, former Governor and Representative Joseph Brennan, State Representative Donnell Carroll and Robert Woodbury, chancellor of the University of Maine system.

On the Republican side, eight candidates are vying for the opportunity to succeed current Governor John McKernan. Among the Republicans are legislators Judith Foss, Pamela Cahill, Paul Young, Charles Webster, and Summer Lipman, former Cohen staffer Susan Collins, community activist Mary Adams and former Christian Civic League director Jasper Wyman. Of these, continued on page 4
Contestants in the Miss PJ's contest April 22 competed in talent, evening wear and an interview portions of the pageant for the opportunity to represent PJ's at the May 22 Miss Gay Maine Pageant, hosted by PJ's. Above, contestants display evening wear. At right, Miss PJ's 1994, Valene Royale.
Do the primary thing

Now that the dust has settled from Senator George Mitchell's surprise departure from political life, Maine voters face a daunting, endless list of primary candidates including 15 gubernatorial candidates, numerous 1st and 2nd Congressional District hopefuls and countless local races. Sheer numbers, coupled with the lack of media coverage and/or opportunities to hear each candidate make the primary season seem too complicated to tackle.

Readers of 10% editorials may have noticed a theme during the first issues - be vigilant, be educated and vote. That third thing, vote, is on for June. At this point you might be saying to yourself, why bother? It's just a vote, is it? Don't forget, primary elections are the first issues - be vigilant, be educated and vote. That third thing, vote, is on for June. At this point you might be saying to yourself, why bother? It's just a vote, is it? Don't forget, primary elections are

Organizing to oppose the referendum
by Patricia A. Peard, Esq.

There will be a referendum fight in Maine in November, 1995. In order to defeat the challenge of the radical right to our basic civil rights we will have to raise at least 1.5 to 2 million dollars. Unfortunately, these are two facts of life that we must all begin to accept and to deal with as directly as possible.

The good news is that an organizational structure is already in place and we have begun to raise money. But to be successful, we must have support from everyone. There will be and there is room for everyone in this campaign regardless of your previous campaign experience or your level of time commitment.

Concerned Maine Families recently held a three- and-one-half hour prayer meeting at the Catholic Church in South Portland at which they discussed their two-handed approach to their campaign. First, they will use the hand of restraint to deny us our equal rights under the law. Second, they will extend the hand of compassion to show us that they truly care for us. They contend this will not be a campaign of open hatred. Yet as those who attended the meeting can attest, the room was full of hatred and fear. The radical right is earnest in its intent to achieve their goal through legislation because they know that over time they will be defeated in the courts just as has taken place in the battle over a woman's right to choose.

The legal opposition to Concerned Maine Families is in place and well-prepared but we cannot assume we will win in the courts. We must do all that we can to be ready to fight a long, hard referendum battle for our rights. This is a fight we can win if all of us join in. No one can afford to sit this one out. Please come to a meeting and volunteer in any way you can for as much or as little time as you have available.

For information on the dates and times of organizational meetings for Equal Protection Maine, turn to the calendar page.
Crowded primary field for Maine candidates, only Sumner Lipman has pledged support for a gay rights bill and sent a representative to the MLGPA Banquet to announce his position. To help sift through the candidates, the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has invited the candidates to attend a gubernatorial forum, Saturday, May 21 from 7-9pm at Jewett Hall, University of Maine at Augusta. The forum is co-sponsored by Maine AIDS Alliance, Maine Chapter of the National Organization of Women, Maine Civil Liberties Union and the Women's Issues Working Group-University of Maine at Augusta.

Northern Lambda Nord holds first planning session for '95 Symposium CARIBOU- The first monthly planning meeting for the 1995 Maine Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium was held on April 2 in Presque Isle. Organizers have set May 26-29, 1995 as the next date for Maine's 20-year-old statewide gathering. The event has been scheduled for the University of Maine at Presque Isle campus. Symposium '95 planners are seeking input and suggestions for a theme, keynote speakers, entertainment, workshop topics, workshop facilitators, leisuretime activities and new possibilities for Symposium events. Also being sought is information about the 1994 Symposium which would have been hosted in Portland. '95 organizers are attempting to find out if anyone is hosting a 1994 event. Ideas and suggestions for Symposium '95 should be sent to P.O. Box 990, Caribou, Maine, 04736-0990 or call the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, Wednesday evenings between 7 and 9pm at (207) 498-2068.

Concerned Maine Families sighted PORTLAND- ACT-UP/Portland has reported that representatives of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) have been sighted in Bangor post offices collecting signatures for a November 1995 referendum question. The question would ask Maine voters to approve a cap on money, more research, a cure. For more information, contact the Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition at 538-1427.

Gay dance club opens in Portland PORTLAND- Portland's second new lesbian and gay bar this year is slated to open Friday, May 6 at 137 Kennebec St. near Portland's Marginal Way. The bar, KAO5, will be emphasizing progressive and house dance music, non-stop dancing and live entertainment. The bar will be open Thursday through Sunday at 9 with extra late hours (9pm-3am) on Friday and Saturday. KAO5 is located at the site of a previous gay spot, Ravens, but features an expanded dance floor and renovated facilities.

Portland gay pride activities announced PORTLAND- Portland's Pride Committee has set June 17-19 as a weekend-long celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride. Events will begin with a Friday evening rally at Portland's City Hall Plaza from 7 to 8pm. Following the rally, Stonewall 25/Maine will hold a letter-writing reception with information about Stonewall events and the International Appeal for Human Rights.

Saturday, June 18 has been designated Pride Day with a parade and festival. Parade formation will start at Pine St. near Longfellow Square. This year's parade will be led by Dykes on Bikes, a balloon arch and a Stonewall 25/Maine float. Registration for groups and floats is required by June 4 (525 registration fee).

Parade organizers are looking for volunteers to act as peace keepers during the parade. Volunteer peacekeepers must attend an orientation session on Sunday, June 5, from 4 to 6pm. The session will be led by the former security coordinator for Boston Gay Pride.

After the parade, entertainment and festivities will continue at Tommy's Park and Old Post Office Park. Music, comedy, vendors, information tables, and side shows will be featured. Wild Iris Productions will sponsor a women's craft fair at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church on Congress St. That evening, the Maine Gay Men's Chorus will present a concert at the State Theatre (Tickets available from the State Theatre).

The weekend will conclude with a Time Out bicycle brunch on Sunday, June 19 and Dignity/Integrity Services at St. Luke's, 143 State St. at 5pm.

For more information and registration, call 871-9940.
Illinois municipality extends domestic partner benefits

OAK PARK — In a unanimous vote, April 19, Oak Park, Illinois became the first Illinois municipality to extend domestic partner benefits to city employees. The 7-0 vote extended benefits to same-sex partners, but a motion to extend similar benefits to unmarried heterosexual partners was defeated by a vote of 4-3.

Also defeated was an amendment that would have created a domestic partnership registry. Village board members felt that community religious opposition to such a registry was too high but left open the possibility of a registry in the future.

Approximately 190 speakers spoke at the ordinance hearing. One resident remarked that he was "very angry and very depressed" at the tone of the debate. He said, "I'm angry about what I've heard in the村委会 in the past four months (people) using Christianity to promote hatred, bigotry and to promote lies. The Oak Park tradition is to welcome diversity." Objections raised to the ordinance included blasting homosexuality as an "abomination" and "immoral" and characterizations of gays as "counterfeits of genetic engineering."

With the extension of domestic partnership benefits, Oak Park joins at least 13 other cities who have approved such measures.

Atlanta judge throws out domestic registry

ATLANTA — Atlanta's Fulton County Superior Court has ruled that Atlanta's domestic registry ordinance is unconstitutional. The law was the only remaining portion of a package of laws granting legal recognition to unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples. Judge Isaac Jenrette found that the registry was "outside the city's authority under the municipal home rule act and the Georgia Constitution. Earlier this year, the domestic benefits portion of the law was nullified when city officials realized that state insurance laws did not allow Atlanta to define unmarried partners as dependents.

The ruling means that the city must stop registering couples. To date, about 60 couples have registered and received certificates similar to marriage licenses.

Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell has quoted editor Leonard Conlovett that the city's gay and lesbian issue was "a positive issue and not one for the courts to decide. It also sets up a commission to study sexual orientations."

The committee must finish its work during the month of April.

Blackmun, dissenter in Bowers, steps down from high court

WASHINGTON — Justice Harry Blackmun announced his retirement from the United States Supreme Court last month. Blackmun will be remembered fondly by the gay and lesbian community for his 1975 Roe v. Wade majority opinion affirming a woman's right to choose and his dissent in the 1986 Georgia sodomy case, Bowers v. Hardwick.

In his Bowers dissent, Blackmun wrote, "I can only hope...that the court soon will reconsider its analysis and conclude that depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our nation's history than tolerance of non-conformity could ever do."

Japanese court issues pro-gay ruling

TOKYO — Tokyo's District Court has ruled in favor of a lesbian and gay group that sought to stay overnight at a public lodge but were barred by the Tokyo metropolitan government.

The Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement (OCCUR) used the Fuchu Youth House, run by the Tokyo government, in February 1990 but claimed that they were harassed by other guests. When they reapplied to use the facility again, their application was rejected by government officials. Officials cited a policy that forbids members of the opposite sex from sharing a room. The group asserted that other guests would be disturbed because they would assume that the group's members would be having sex.

District Court Judge Toshiaki Harada rejected the officials' justification noting that the authorities had no basis for assuming that the OCCUR members would be engaging in sexual activities. The court awarded OCCUR $2,600 in damages.

GLAAD announces 1994 media awards

LOS ANGELES — The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has announced its 1994 awards for fair, accurate and inclusive representations of lesbians and gay men in the media. Among those honored were "Angels in America" for theatre, a NBC News piece, "Gays in the 80's, CBS television drama, "Other Mothers, "Philadelphia", and independent film, "Forbidden Love: The Unnamed Stories of Lesbian Lives". Openly lesbian columnist Deb Price of the Detroit News also received an award.

A special award was given to MTV for its focus on gay and lesbian musicians.

Lesbian issue a big hit

NEW YORK — Newsweek magazine has reported that its top-selling issue of 1993 was the June 21st issue featuring a cover story about lesbians.

USA Today has quoted editor Maynard Parker as saying that he selected an "intentionally wholesome" image of a real life lesbian couple.
### May/June

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**The 1994 Miss Mike's Place Pageant**

The evening wear display from the 1994 Miss Mike's Place Pageant held April 16. Contestants were interviewed by judges and displayed evening wear and talents for an enthusiastic crowd.

Miss Mike's Place 1994, Tiffany
**Listing of Events**

**Saturday**

**NLN's 14th "Religious Community" Float-making Party**

**The Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition** meets every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm at 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston. Drop in any Tuesday or call 786-4697 for more information.

**Coalition-Building Committee of EPM/Portland** will meet Monday, May 16 at 7pm at 50 Morning St.

**Equal Protection Maine** will hold its next meeting on Monday, May 9 at 7pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland.

**Equal Protection Portland** meeting to discuss the principles of the campaign for EPM/Portland, Thursday, May 5 at 7pm at Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer and Nelson, 100 Middle St., 5th floor, West Tower, Portland.

**David Webb** of KLANWATCH will discuss "Hate Groups and Hate Crimes in America. Gay and Lesbian under Attack," on May 12 at the Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. The event is sponsored by the Matlovich Society and marks the Society's third anniversary. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking available. For information, call 777-1209.

"Exploring the Welcoming Congregation: An Affirmation of Our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Community" a special service sponsored by the Task Force for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Concerns, Sunday, May 1, 10am. Held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Brunswick, corner of Pleasant and Middle St., Brunswick, ME. For information, call 729-8515.

**Float-Making Party, all day May 7:** outdoor event. Help make banners, puppets and floats for the Maine State Parade "Color me a rainbow" contingent. For directions, call 799-6219 or 871-9940.

**Freedom Fest Maine-Bangor** meets on May 1st to plan Bangor's 2nd Pride March scheduled for July 9th. Meetings take place on the first Sunday of at 2pm at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. Meeting will also explore the creation of a statewide organization for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities at an earlier time of noon to 2pm. For more information, contact Malcolm Smith at 866-4520.

**Maine State Parade, Saturday, May 14, Lewiston:** Be a part of the "Color me a rainbow" contingent for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Parade needs participants, rainbow flags and more. For more information, call 799-6219 or 871-9940.

**Matlovich Society May Day Dance Benefit, May 1, 5pm-9pm, Zooro, Forest Ave., Portland. Admission $5.**

**Northern Lambda Nord's 14th Anniversary Party and Dance, celebrate with NLN on May 7.** For more information, call (207) 498-2080.

"Our Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Lives: Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going?" a talk by Howard Solomon, professor of lesbian and gay history, and co-chair, University Task Force on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Issues, Tufts University. Unitarian-Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. 7:40pm, Friday, June 10.

**Partners of Parents," meets every 3rd Monday, 7-9pm, at Woodfords Congregational Church. Meetings provide support to lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. The groups is self-led and meets for discussion. For more information call 774-3052.

**Portland Pride Fundraiser, "Disco Dance Party," Sunday May 8, 9pm at the Underground, Spring St., Portland. To benefit Gay Pride Parade and Rallies, June 17 and 18.

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

**Sexual Minorities on Film, "Sexual Minorities on Film," a discussion led by Wayne Bryant, a Boston film historian. Presented by the Matlovich Society on May 26, 7:30pm at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Wheelchair access and free parking available. For information, call 777-1209.

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**Time Out after work bike ride.** Time Out after work bike ride. Wednesday, May 11, Portland to Fort Williams Loop, beginner level. Call 871-9940 for details.

**Time Out Evans Notch day hike at Blueberry Ridge May 22. Beginner level hike; for details and meeting location call Michael at 871-9940.

**Time Out Acadia Weekend, May 27 and 28. Saturday day hike of Mt. Champlain. Steep grades with ladders, but a beginner capable hike. Sunday is day ride of selected Mt. Desert carriage trails starting from Bar Harbor. To participate, call 871-9940 before Thursday May 27.

**Ongoing:** Lesbian ACOA meeting, Tuesdays, 7-9pm at 774-5032.

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**Time Out Birdwatching Breakfast, May 1 at Gilford Farm, Gilford. Call 871-9940 for information**

**Time Out Camden bike tour. Intermediate level ride. May 15, for time, meeting location and details, call 871-9940**

**Tri-State Stonewall planning meeting** (NH/ME/VT/MA) May 8 at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, State St., Portsmouth, NH. Noon to 4pm with potluck supper. March update; bus and volunteer planning.

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

**Upcoming...**


**Boston Gay Pride March, Saturday, June 11. For more information, call (617) 446-9366.**

**Portland's Pride Weekend, June 17-18. Parade, rally, festival with vendors, entertainment and information and evening performance by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. For information, call Portland Pride at 871-9940."
June 2 - 5
Springfest '94
the 4th New England Festival for Womyn!
Lincolnville, ME

Cris Williamson &
Trel Fore 6/3
15 workshops, craftswomyn vendor area,
dance, sport, day stage and 2 concerts

with Pixie Lauer & Diana Hanson, Pat Dill,
Georgie Nichols, Mama Noize, Gail Byron

Lucie Blue
Tremblay 6/4

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Choose pregnancy
Part Two
by Maggie Fournier
Contributor

Now that you have made some decisions about a health care provider and scheduled an appointment, get out a small notebook and cuddle down with your partner and a cup of herbal tea. You've got some important things to talk about. If you intend to raise your child together as co-mothers, it is vital from the beginning that each of you have a part in this unfolding drama.

Discuss ways that the mom who will not be carrying your child will feel included. Perhaps she can manage the temperature taking and recording routine, handle the ovulation predictor tests and schedule appointments. She can assure that the appointments are made at a time that is convenient to each of you.

By all means, she should go right into the examining room to ask questions and get to know the nurses, docs, and/or midwife. If you are there for an insemination, inquire if your partner might actually do the procedure. If an intrauterine insemination (a procedure where a small catheter is inserted directly into the uterus...much less painful than it sounds...) is being done, your partner can be there to comfort and hold your hand. There are countless ways for both of you to feel that this is a joint effort.

Discuss ways that the mom who will not be carrying your child will feel included.

Don't forget romance! Lesbians make babies a little differently, for sure, and at times things can seem a bit too clinical. Flowers on the way to an appointment, a gift of a journal to record all the special moments, lovemaking after an insemination, a picnic on the beach and so on, have an effect of producing wonderful moments and lovely memories.

Even under the best of circumstances, (i.e., when you are ovulating normally and are having timely inseminations) on average, conception will take between four and six months. SO RELAX! Escape for an intimate weekend. Sleep late. Read a good book. Save some money. Finish a project. Try not to be totally consumed with baby making. It might be a long road ahead. And these may be the last days, for a long time, that you get nice long periods of time to yourselves.

...Research demonstrates that children of lesbians do just fine...no better or worse than kids raised by heterosexual parents. It's love and caring that grows healthy children.

One last thought. Dealing with families of origin can be easy or a daunting challenge on a host of factors. If you are "out" to your families and have a good relationship, sharing your plans and pregnancy is likely to go fairly well. Sadly, in many situations, the news of the pregnancy of a lesbian daughter is met with a great deal of hostility. How much information to share and when to share it is an individual decision which bears some early discussion between the moms-to-be. Expect mixed reactions. Remember that this is your life and your decision to make. Know that research demonstrates that children of lesbians do just fine...no better or worse than kids raised by heterosexual parents. It's love and caring that grows healthy children.

So, if your families go off the deep end for awhile, in all likelihood, they will get over it. Give them a little time to adjust. After all, this is their grandchild...whether their daughter is the biological mom or not.

Maggie Fournier is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Southern Maine. She is currently conducting research on the topic of co-mothering and is writing a book on lesbian parenting with her partner, Cheryl Ciechomski. Maggie and Cheryl live in Portland, Maine, with their seven-year-old daughter, Emily. They celebrated their 22nd anniversary in April.
National legal trends

by Will Sandstead, Esq.
Contributor

Asylum granted to gay Mexican

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has granted asylum to a gay Mexican. The man, "Jose Garcia," whose real name was not released, presented evidence that he had been harassed, beaten and raped by Mexican police solely because he was gay. The INS concluded that asylum should be granted because Garcia presented a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

Unemployment compensation benefits

On March 1, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that a gay male who quit his job due to an anti-gay working environment could not be disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits. The Court found that Raymond Hanke had good cause to leave his job because he was frequently harassed due to his sexual orientation and because he had no reasonable expectation that his employer would prevent further harassment.

Hanke was a hair stylist for Safari Hair Adventure. A fellow employee repeatedly told him that she would "get him" married to a girl if she had anything to do with it," and once told him that she did not want "a bunch of fags in [the] salon." Hanke did not immediately complain to his boss, Vernon Cole believing that Cole was homophobic. However, once Hanke did report the harassment to Cole, Cole insisted that the fellow employee was not capable of making such comments and that Hanke and his co-worker should work out their differences on their own, because Cole could not "control the opinions of what other people feel or think" (sic). Hanke decided to quit at the end of the conversation.

The Court likened the case to that involving sexual harassment, and concluded that while it was Hanke's burden to report the anti-gay harassment, it was Cole's responsibility to respond in a manner that would give Hanke a reasonable expectation that Cole would take steps to prevent future harassment. Hanke v. Safari Hair Adventure, 1994 WL 57956.

Lesbian co-parent adoption

In New York State, the lower courts are split as to whether N.Y. law would permit a non-biological lesbian co-parent to adopt the biological child of her lesbian partner. In Putnam County, the court took a restrictive reading of the N.Y. adoption statute and ruled that the non-biological lesbian co-parent has no right to bring an adoption petition. The court held that the non-biological mother did not fall within any of the statutory classifications of who may adopt. The court appeared to ignore the fact that the N.Y. statute explicitly provides that unmarried adults can adopt, and instead focused on the provisions for married couples. Matter of Dana, NYLJ, 1/26/94, 20 Fam.L.Rep. 1189.

Conversely, a Monroe County, N.Y. court took a broad approach and granted two separate petitions for second-parent adoptions presented by lesbian non-biological parents. The court concluded that nothing in N.Y. law requires adopting parents to be a particular gender and that sexual orientation discrimination is prohibited by the regulations governing adoptions in N.Y. The court refused to strictly interpret the law requiring the termination of the biological mother's parental rights. Matter of Caitlin and Emily, NYLJ, 1/25/94, 20 Fam.L.Rep. 1184.

Domestic partnerships

An Austin, Texas referendum regarding the city's current domestic partnership ordinance will be on the May 7 ballot. The ordinance currently extends spousal benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex unmarried partners of city employees. If passed, the referendum would amend the city charter to define "spouse" as including only husbands and wives, and it would limit city employee benefits to an employee's spouse, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, and the parents or grandparents of an employee's spouse.

AIDS related cases

On February 22nd, the Supreme Court announced that it would not hear the AIDS discrimination case of Bradley v. University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, 5 F3d 922 (5th Cir. 1993) cert. denied, 114 S. Ct. 1071. In Bradley, the Fifth Circuit upheld a hospital's decision to transfer a surgical assistant to a clerical position after he revealed in a newspaper that he was HIV-positive. The hospital defended its decision to transfer Bradley on the grounds that there was a chance that an HIV-positive surgical assistant could transmit the HIV virus to a patient.

Finally...

Germany has repealed the final remnants of Paragraph 175 of the Criminal Code. Paragraph 175 was the provision under which gays were sent to Nazi concentration camps during World War II.


Will Sandstead is an interim board member of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association (MeLGaL) and is an associate at Farnsworth & Associates in Hallowell.
The roots of a movement
by Terri Jones

The anniversary of the Stonewall Riots provides an excellent excuse to probe the history of lesbian and gay communities across the country. In previous years, it has been difficult, if not impossible to find and learn about lesbian and gay history. Jonathan Katz and Lillian Faderman's book, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community,* by Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis, published by Routledge Inc., New York, 1995, have provided the lesbian and gay community with a look at the the "gay experience" throughout different eras. In Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy's and Madeline D. Davis' book, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community,* oral history and the metamorphosis of the lesbian community form the centerpiece of an excellent book.

**Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community**

by Terri Jones

The style of writing is both academic and exhaustive and may be trying for some readers. It uses extensive source material from other writers to place the Buffalo community in the context of both the national events of the time and the more general body of research on the development of a lesbian and gay rights movement. For all of this weight, however, the dedicated reader will be rewarded with the words of women whose very acts made today's lesbian and gay communities possible. Their words are inspiration and might sustain those readers who struggle against the homophobia of today's society.

The quest for these stories was a task of love for the authors and is reflected in their dedication, "filo the women who have gone before us, brave women..." who sought only to find a life of love and dignity, and some of them did.

It is rather interesting that each of two recent films have characters involved in love triangles with a gay or lesbian twist to them. Both films star Baldwin broadway stars Stephen and William. In both films both stars women who appeared in the television series, "Twin Peaks" (Lara Flynn Boyle and Sherilyn Fenn). The comparisons, however, end there. "Threesome" is recommended, but "Three of Hearts" needs help.

"Threesome", currently in area theaters, is a surprisingly good movie. Although the premise seems rather farfetched -- a young woman named Alex is assigned to a college dorm room with two men because she has a "male" first name -- the film deals intelligently and humorously with friendship, love and sexuality. The movie's cast is small; three stars share ideas and experiences and know that the movie is "right" for them. Hearing the voices of these women through Kennedy's and Davis' work reminds us of the stories we could have told -- stories that have been lost for generations.

The book discussed the sense of excitement that lesbians experienced in their daily lives. Another facet of the developing women's community was the rise of the butch-fem dichotomy. Kennedy and Davis discuss the development of a butch as a personification of the difference that was the lesbian community. A butch's active effort to define herself as aggressive, autonomous and interested in women confronted and challenged heterosexist society in each day of her existence. The author sees the butch-fem struggles of this era as central to the ongoing lesbian search for solutions to the contradictions of gender and sex. This book does a great service by preserving the story of a women's community. It is easy to forget that there was a time when property laws impoverished women and it was unheard of and impossible for women to live without a man. The Stonewall Riots were an incredible act of courage, but to be gay in the 1950s, 40s and 50s meant few gay books, no gay papers and an abencer of words to describe the relationships lesbians knew to be "right" for them. Hearing the voices of these women through Kennedy's and Davis' work reminds us of the stories we could have told -- stories that have been lost for generations.

The writers theorize that part of the success of the film *Three of Hearts* is the portrayal of a lesbian and gay rights movement. In their opinion, the creation of a lesbian and gay rights movement is never belittling or derogatory; even the macho Stuart tells Eddie he's not interested in his advances without cutting him down (or beating him up).

"Threesome" is not necessarily the most enlightening film about college life; rarely did the three actually seem to be students, it certainly is more enlightening in dealing with relationships and sexuality than many teen flicks made. And Josh Charles is a breath of fresh air among a plethora of stupid young male actors today.

"Three of Hearts", on the other hand, is not a breath of fresh air. It is completely implausible sometimes scary, and poorly acted film. The lesbian relationship is not portrayed terribly positively; in fact phone sex comes across as healthier than the lesbian relationship in this movie.

The film stars William Baldwin as a "male escort" and Sherilyn Fenn and Kelly Lynch as lovers breaking up. When Ellen (Fenn) tells Connie (Lynch) she needs space and is moving out, Connie breaks down and in an attempt to hire Joe (Baldwin) to escort her to a big family wedding. He ends up spending the night in her apartment because his friend Alex (Baldwin) is going to a wedding in the same city. Connie announces this to Joe with the same enthusiasm as "hey kids, let's put on a show!" from the Garland/Rooney team.

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Farnsworth & Associates
Attorneys at Law
Susan Farnsworth, Esq.
William Sandstead, Esq.
22 Water Street
Hallowell, Maine 04347
(207) 628-3312

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