

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

# Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 1, Number 4

OCTOBER, 1993

## Betrayed! 3 to 1

By: Ken Constant, Staff Writer

In a late breaking action which held up the printing of this edition of the Community Pride Reporter, the United States Senate and House of Representatives have both voted in favor of an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act (DAA) which will continue discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the armed forces. The Senate vote was 66-33 and the House voted 301-134.

An amendment to the DAA, also known as the military budget, adds a new policy concerning homosexuals in the military. The new policy is not the so called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" compromise worked out last month

with President Clinton. It is, instead, an almost identical version of the current military regulation.

The new policy, which will become a federal law as opposed to a military regulatory policy, states "The armed forces must maintain personnel policies that exclude persons whose presence in the armed forces would create an unacceptable risk to the armed forces high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

Maine Senator George Mitchell voted in favor of the amendment. When asked why he voted in favor of discrimination, the Senator's office issued a statement saying he favors an end to the ban on gay Americans. "I believe service personnel should be treated on the basis of conduct, not status," said Senator Mitchell.

He went on to say that his position is in the minority in Congress and that is unfortunate. Mitchell said, "The choice we face, is between doing nothing or making the modest changes in policy which are achievable, with the full knowledge that they do not go as far as I believe they should. I chose the latter course." Senator Mitchell then set aside his earlier stated convictions and voted in favor of discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the military.

According to Mitchell's statement, the only realistic outcomes of the debate in the Congress were statutory codification of the current ban or the modest compromise that was approved. (They won't ask sexual orientation when recruiting, but if you are later found out to be homosexual you're out). "In these circumstances, I supported the compromise," said

Mitchell.

He concluded his statement by saying, "I believe the action taken is a step in the right direction, albeit a small one. I also believe that over time, education, common sense and common decency will change prevailing habits of thought and practice."

Voting in favor of the anti-gay amendment, Senator Bill Cohen said, "The Senate, with my support, has adopted legislative language on homosexuals in the military that is consistent in some respects with President Clinton's proposal on this subject." He went on to say, "The provisions also clarify the grounds for discharging homosexuals from the military. That language, agreed to by the Senate Armed Services Committee, states in its findings that: there is no constitutional right to serve in the armed forces; military life is fundamentally different from civilian life; and the armed forces must maintain personnel policies that exclude persons whose presence in the forces would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion."

Summarizing, Senator Cohen said, "We as a society must strive to eliminate discrimination and bigotry whenever possible. Given the role of the military, which includes placing the lives of our sons and daughters in harm's way, we must also insist that we not take hasty action that will create unreasonable burdens or dangers to those who serve in the military."

Representative Olympia Snowe also voted in favor of the discriminatory amendment but her office did not provide a statement after repeated requests.

Continued on page 15-Betrayed

Photo left: SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL: "The choice we face ...is between doing nothing or making the modest changes in policy which are achievable. I chose the latter course."

### US Congressional Delegation and White House Phone #'s

Sen. Wm. S. Cohen- Ptd. 780-3575  
DC-1-202-224-2523  
Sen. Geo. J. Mitchell-Ptd. 874-0883  
DC-1-202-224-5344  
Rep. Tom Andrews- 1-800-445-4092  
DC-1-202-225-6116  
Rep. Olympia Snowe-Lstn. 786-2451  
DC-1-202-225-6306  
toll free 1-800-432-1599  
The White House 1-202-456-1414

## Settlement Reached

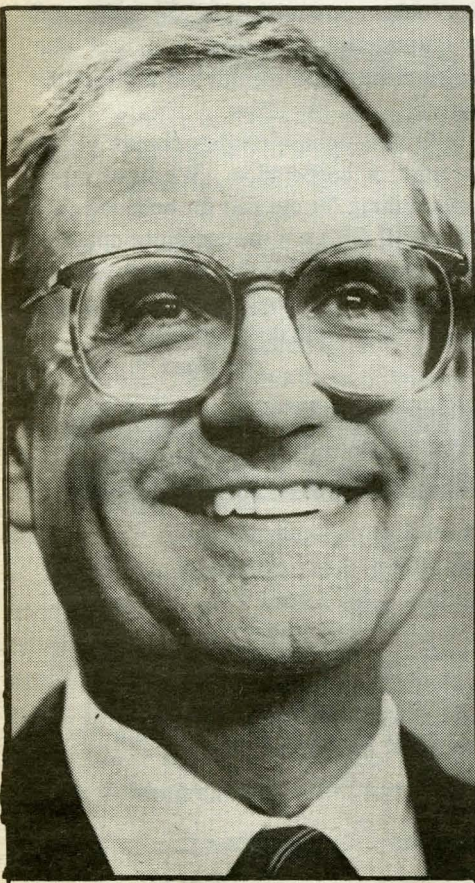
By: Winnie Weir

According to a story in the October 1st edition of the Portland Press Herald, an out-of-court settlement has been reached between Linda Noble of Topsham, Maine and Bath Iron Works.

The law suit was the first to test the city of Portland's new anti-discrimination law concerning sexual orientation. Noble filed the suit after being fired from her job with BIW in June 1992.

In the settlement, BIW does not admit guilt. They have reportedly agreed to pay 10 per cent of Noble's legal expenses and all her medical expenses relating to the stress she allegedly suffered through the harassment at work. The Press Herald reported that the settlement amounted to \$75,000.

A second lawsuit concerning sexual orientation is still pending in Portland. A lesbian is suing Bagel Werks of Portland over alleged harassment and loss of employment. ..





## Community Pride Reporter

142 HIGH ST., SUITE #634  
PORTLAND, ME 04101  
(207) 879-1342

Winnie Weir  
Publishing Editor

### OUR PURPOSE

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

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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## Farewell to Maine

by: Paula Aboud

As the outgoing President of the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance and as an outgoing member of the Maine community, I'd like to thank the Lesbian/Gay community for their participation in the successes of MLGPA this year and to share some of my observations and experiences from that unique perspective.

Being President of MLGPA was one of the hardest jobs I've ever done. It was also one of the most rewarding. I have great appreciation for the leaders and workers of MLGPA who helped build a voice to and for the lesbian and gay community in the last nine years.

In order to be an effective representative of a community, which I was being, at times, I thought that it was my responsibility to speak in a way which reflected the wide-ranging opinions of the community and to do so in a way in which mainstream Maine might best be able to hear. I learned that by moderating my more radical attitude and behavior, I did contribute to developing a less hostile and safer atmosphere in which to be heard.

To be "heard" or "listened to" was a moving experience in my life. Part of that was becoming president of a reputable and established organization which gave "credibility and an audience" to my words. It also carried with it a responsibility to adequately reflect, through the media, the feelings and relations to events or situations that affected our community. This was the hard work since there was rarely one opinion that could represent the sentiments of a whole community, especially one so diverse as ours.

The rewarding work was traveling across the state from one pocket of our community to another trying to bridge gaps, educate about civil rights and the legislative process, listen to folks, and empower others to become active in their own ways. Great result came about! A Bangor legislative committee and a Dexter community were mobilized for the first time. Rita re-activated a great Portland legislative committee. Lewiston came alive and now has serious activists on MLGPA's Board, and the

gay and non-gay communities came together to work for our civil rights in a moving expression of unity.

Some incredible bridges were crossed that brought flocks of people on board in an active way. Three weeks of candlelight vigils in front of the Governor's house happened without missing a night. We were only two votes away from overturning the Governor's veto! Truly our time has come. Truly the networking and bridge-crossing must continue if lesbians and gay men are to be free and equal.

What lies ahead for us? The religious war that Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson declared and are waging is focused largely on America's lesbian and gay communities. Local and statewide anti-gay referendums are being initiated by them and their members across this country. Maine faces one in Lewiston this November 2nd, and may well face a statewide one in 1994.

Historically, the lesbian and gay populations of the world, and oppressed peoples of the world, have never withstood the deadly onslaught of the maniacal oppressors by standing ALONE. In the Middle Ages in Europe, nine million women were killed; no one stopped the killers. The Spanish Inquisition lasted 350 years, killing millions.

Millions of Jews, lesbians and gay men and others were killed in Germany in this century. How many others have died in the millions with no one to stop the killings? It is naive to think that the Radical Right doesn't want to inflict such harm upon us today. It is also naive to think that lesbians and gays in this country can withstand the persecution of the Right without outside support.

Building bridges, uniting and standing with our allies, all of our allies, including our own community, is the way, I believe, to ensure our freedom and safety. Cooperation is the key. The next president of MLGPA will continue, I believe, to work to bring the lesbian and gay community together, and will also strengthen the alliances with our innumerable progressive non-gay allies.

Our community needs to come together in a spirit of cooperation. We have many friends waiting for our call for help and support, and MLGPA has the continued opportunity to be a bridge for the gay and non-gay communities. I trust that this will happen, and that together we will defeat this anti-gay

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### Subscription Form

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

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

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

All checks should be made payable to Community Pride Reporter and sent to:  
Community Pride Reporter, 142 High street, Suite 634,  
Portland, ME 04101.

## Gays and Lesbians Parenting ..

Saturday, Oct. 23, 1 to 3 p.m.  
Place - Portland Area TBA  
Call CPR 879-1342 for site.

If you are parenting or thinking about having children and are interested in meeting others, please come. If you can't make this meeting and want to be notified of other gatherings please call CPR 879-1342.



# EDITORIAL

With this issue of **Community Pride Reporter**, we are putting a new policy in effect. We will be distributing this publication free from now on. What led to this change in policy was basically a change in my mind set, aided in no small measure, by input from readers, advertisers, those businesses currently selling CPR, and those businesses who would not, or could not sell CPR because of space and convenience constraints.

Underlying the above, is the overriding consideration that if this paper is going to be of service to lesbian, transgendered, gay, and bisexual people, it needs to be distributed widely and read by many. While the \$1 cost is not, in itself, a deterrent (complimentary copies were always available for anyone not able to pay), old habits die hard.

Current and previous publications serving our community have been available in various locations throughout the state for the taking. **Community Pride Reporter** will now be available on that basis as well.

Subscription rates will need to remain \$20 per year due to the first class mailing, envelope and label costs, etc. It will be necessary to generate additional funds to underwrite the cost of operating this venture. We are in the

process of planning some creative and fun ways to do that, and will keep you informed. As always, ideas and suggestions from you are welcomed.

In order to improve our reporting and communication throughout the community, CPR needs a fax/modem for our Mac LCIII. I am also looking to join AP/Newsfinder, a service of Associated Press for less-than-weekly publications. There is one staff person who works primarily on stories of particular concern to our community around the world, nation, and state. There is a hook-up fee of \$250 plus a \$37.50 monthly charge which allows the user to down-load between 40 and 50 stories in a half hour. I cannot justify this expense from my limited funds right now, but who knows what the future holds?

I want to thank the people who helped get this issue of **Community Pride Reporter** out. Ken Constant, with his nose for news, and his tenacity in tracking down our lead story this month; Rose Mary Denman for reading and proofing just about every word, often at odd hours, and for agreeing to provide needed transportation to the printer; Vivian Holmes, who ran errands, prepared the mailing, offered moral support, and reminded me to eat; all the

columnists who contribute so generously each month; and you, the readers who make what the rest of us do worthwhile, and last, but by no means least, my friend Cindy Lupien, who helps keep me focused, and challenges me to meet and conquer my fears.

Switching gears, now. Some sad notes for our community. Since last issue, two gay-owned business in Portland have closed their doors; Peter's Sub Station and Pizza Shop, owned by Peter Fairchild, Jr., and the OutPost, owned by Ken Constant. I am sorry to see this happen, and frankly, as a new business owner, it scares me.

It scares people like Randy Debay, owner of **The Rage** in Bangor. His statement in *Community Dialogue* on page 4, talks about the commitment those of us who take the risk of going into business for ourselves take. I can't stress enough how important it is for us to support each other, not only with the dollars, but with positive energy, and, as my great, great uncle used to say, "a kind word."

The saddest note of all is also a two-edged sword, for as bisexuals, gays, transgendered, and lesbian people, we are continually engaged in the struggle for equal protection. That is sad (as well as enraging, to be sure!),

but it is also calling each of us to find the joy in being who we are. It's calling us to find our strength, both individually and as a community. It's calling us, "in all our diversity and complexity", as Bee Bell so eloquently stated recently, to sit at the same table and begin to build bridges.

I have recently had the privilege of being part of a small committee working on the structure for a state-wide organization, should one become necessary, to fight Carolyn Cosby's referendum. We are diverse. We are hard-working. We are making compromises. We are reaching consensus. We are strong. We are compassionate and passionate. We are building bridges!

All of those statements above apply to all of us. I am moved beyond words by the dedication of the activists fighting for our rights. They need the help and support of more of us in order to win in Lewiston, in the states of Maine and New Hampshire, and ultimately in this country. If might makes right, then we are in great shape, because we are MIGHTY tired of having to justify our existence!

In Solidarity,

## In My Opinion...

Dear Editor:

Please don't let the letters of discontent or upheaval get you down. The main thing is that you are reaching all of the alternative lifestyles, and they are going to send feedback. At least there is dialogue! My one concern is that our "community", no matter what life-style, is not united, and prejudice has a way of surfacing that can be a catalyst in sowing the seeds of mistrust, malevolence, and anger. We have got to come together and throw aside the ridiculous name-calling... and become more accepting of the unique differences. What is happening? What is going on? *Enough!*

Those of us who tried to live our lives in a tightrope of "straight" mores and society's dictatorial forms of repression know all too well that the "straight world" loves to hear and see this upheaval taking place in our communities. I would love to get the first publication from you. Could you please forward that ASAP? Warmly, Dee Corcoran, So. Berwick

Dear Editor:

I am a NEW WOMEN (post-op TS) and a lesbian. Your publication is a welcome and important addition to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people of Maine and the seacoast of Portsmouth NH area.

I feel that by reporting on all the issues important to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people, it will increase the awareness that we are all striving for the same goals of society acceptance, and no discrimination. We cannot achieve these goals if we discriminate, and do not accept each other.

As a former Transsexual, I can tell you that I did not ask to be born with Gender Dysphoria. I was, and I fought it for 45 years before finally accepting it and doing something about it instead of living a lie. I have done my psychotherapy, hormonal therapy, and life test. Fourteen months ago I took the final step of sex reassignment surgery. I am now, finally, complete. (As discussed in the book *Brain Sex*, by Anne Moir, Ph.D., and David Jessel).

I am finally at great peace with myself. BUT, society will not accept what I did. I've had a court judge call me a pervert, State Human Services personnel humiliate me in front of my partner, and I am fighting for employment. So, I welcome CPR to keep me informed of local events and issues. I AM GOING TO GET MORE INVOLVED.

Emily Goodwin, So. Berwick

## The Lesbian health movement wants you...

By: Peaches Bass

About five years ago, after 20 years of leadership in feminist health, abortion rights, and AIDS, lesbians began turning their energy in a new, more empowered direction.

We spent the seventies and eighties explaining, as much to ourselves as anyone else, why reproductive rights, family planning, and gay men's health were lesbian issues.

As our explanations became more sophisticated, and as health care issues have become more complex and thought-out, we began to identify areas that were unique to our lives as lesbians. This awareness has been supplemented by the increasing number of professionals and grassroots activists whose work has shown that lesbians have specific health issues that require special attention, and has resulted in a strong lesbian health movement in the U.S. and western Europe.

Lesbians have been surveyed repeatedly in the past ten years, and many issues have been identified. Lesbians want and need affordable health care services from providers who are comfortable with lesbian sexuality, knowledgeable on lesbian family models, and understanding of how sexism and homophobia affect our mental and physical health.

We want health care providers who know how to take a medical history without assuming we're having sex with men. We want therapists who want to help us improve our emotional health without trying to cure us of our lesbianism. We want alternative health care providers who are truly lesbian-positive and not just exploiting our interest in non-traditional therapies and practices.

These goals require the training of health care providers and the education of the lesbian public. We lesbians are our own best healers, advocates, and health care providers. Our empowerment, through knowledge and community, encourages health care providers to improve their services. But exactly what kind of information do we need to be healthy?

Lesbian health is a broad, open field. It covers issues of youth, adolescence, and coming out in a heterosexist world, and how homophobia and anti-gay/antiwoman violence affect young lesbians, putting them at risk for running away, dropping out of school, suicide,

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## Organization to fight referendum nearing formation

By: Rich Austin

Representatives of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual community from across the State met at **The Rage** in Bangor on Sunday, September 12th.

Paula Aboud and Ellie Goldberg of MLGPA facilitated the meeting at which a goal statement for the organization was adopted. Three previously proposed plans for the structure of the Organization were further considered.

The primary product of the September 12th meeting was the adoption of the Organization's Goal Statement and Supporting Statements, which were drawn together with input from the entire group, and accepted by a unanimous show of hands. The Goal Statement and Supporting Statements read as follows:

"The Goal of the Organization is to guarantee that the legislation proposed by Concerned Maine Families never takes effect because we mean to preserve our integrity as a people in all our complexity and to achieve full liberation for ourselves and all people.

"Supporting Statements: In order to reach

the Goal, the organization will (1) strategically oppose the petition, referendum, and proposed legislation at every legal, political, and grass roots opportunity; (2) educate ourselves and others, organize ourselves and others, and work to maintain cohesion between ourselves and our supporters; and (3) work to assure the failure of the Lewiston referendum."

The secondary product of the meeting was the near acceptance of a structural proposal brought forward by ACT UP/Portland. Toward the end of the meeting, many in the group expressed the desire to see the best elements of the other two plans integrated with the ACT UP/Portland Proposal.

At the direction of Paula Aboud, an eight person committee was formed to consider the three proposals and merge them into a final form. That proposal is to be presented for a vote at the next organizational meeting at **The Rage** in Bangor on October 2nd.

This statewide equal protection organization, and its community and local chapters, will be setting itself in direct opposition to Concerned Maine Families.

The organization has also declared its willingness to look toward the future to ensure that once this proposed legislation is defeated, no future attempt to restrict our civil rights in Maine is ever successful. \*\*

## Metro Cafe - best kept secret in Lewiston

By: Winnie Weir

In mid-September I had occasion to be in Lewiston, and took a friend out to dinner at the **Metro Cafe**. It was around 8:00 p.m., and I was surprised not to find the restaurant crowded with hungry patrons. My guest and I sat at a quiet corner table after greeting owner, Tim Pinkham.

The dining room is decorated beautifully, and is really elegant in a comfortable way. The tables were tastefully set with crisp tablecloths and napkins providing the perfect background for lovely table-settings. Our waitperson brought us menus and asked if we wanted drinks. After taking our order, he left us to peruse the menu.

Our first observation was the reasonable prices charged for everything, from appetizers to desserts. The highest priced appetizer was the shrimp cocktail at \$5.95. We decided on

the garlic bread with sauce for dipping at \$1.95. It was fresh, hot, and had just the right zest in the sauce.

There are four selections under Sandwiches & Burgers, each one sounding uniquely inviting. They include the Amsterdam Burger-\$3.89, the Mykonos Burger-\$4.25, the "P" Town-\$3.49, and the Ogunquit-\$4.79.

Salad fare featured green salad with fresh lettuce and assorted veggies, \$2.49, Metro Salad with fresh lettuce, veggies, topped with cheeses, meat and fruit, \$5.25, and Chicken salad on a bed of fresh greens and veggies, \$5.25.

Entrees provided a delightful selection challenge for us. All entrees are served with salad, garlic bread, or dinner rolls. The six tantalizing offerings included Chicken Stir Fry, Chicken Pie, or Delmonico Steak Au Poivre at \$6.95 each, Shrimp Scampi - \$7.25, Fettucine Alfredo-\$5.95, and Delmonico Steak & Shrimp Combo-\$8.50.

My guest selected the Delmonico Steak Au Poivre, and I selected the Chicken Pie. Our salads arrived with a raspberry vinaigrette

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## Community Dialogue....

*Editor's note: 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. This month, Randy Debay, owner of THE RAGE in Bangor, accepted my invitation to contribute.*

Back in late August, while talking with Winnie (CPR Editor), I had voiced a real concern that I, and many other gay business owners have. Many gay, lesbian, and bisexual business owners have invested much hard earned money and hundreds and hundreds of hours to make a go of either a directly or indirectly gay oriented business. Our purpose is to serve our community, to make a fair living, and to make a mark on the community.

Especially for the gay oriented businessperson, we find it frustrating to see, or know, that our gay community does not support us, or that they spend their discretionary income in other non-gay establishments! We wonder why?

Why go and spend \$20-\$30 at another club, then come and tell us you only have \$2 left to spend with us. Why not patronize a gay bookstore or clothing store instead when you are looking for a gift for a lover or gay friend?

Why travel hundreds of miles weekly or bi-weekly to go to a different gay bar, or leave Maine several times a year to go to Boston, P-town, and New York, spending hundreds of dollars, then return and spend only \$10 locally

while saying you cannot afford to spend anymore? We understand that change and vacations are fun; but support us like you do out of state businesses.

Remember, every \$10 of discretionary income you spend at a non-gay owned business is \$10 less we have to support our community, AIDS networks, or in support of the fight against discrimination.

We, just like you, have our personal bills as well as business bills to pay, and believe me, our business expenses are very high. My club supports, partially or wholly, 7 gay and lesbian employees.

The resentment and complaints about our businesses, our profits, or our prices, not only hurts us, but also our community. Remember, when or if we fail, we all fall, and that reflects on us as a community. Instead, offer praise and real support for our courage and commitment.

We have a large community in Maine, and if each one would spend \$10 more a week at a gay owned business, we would all flourish, and the gay businesses could afford to represent our community in our fight for rights.

I guess if you know me, then you know I have a hard time being diplomatic. I apologize if I have been, or will be, harsh, but this is how I see it. We need to stop back-stabbing, rumoring, and trying to hurt one another. We need to support and defend one another.

Spend more. Yes, spend more of your discretionary income at gay businesses, and stop supporting non-gay businesses or even worse, gay-hateful businesses. Stop complaining about prices etc., and be happy we have what we have. Let's become a family, a real one, and let's grow stronger by supporting one another. \*\*

# DROP BY...

For our GRAND RE-OPENING EVENTS

OCTOBER 7th. 9 - 10 p.m.

Join us for a Book Signing . . . Reception for Dell Richards, Author of Lesbian Lists and the newly released Superstars: Twelve Lesbians Who Changed the World. Immediately following her reading with the Matlovich Society.

OCTOBER 14th. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Come see what's New and Different . . . Refreshments!

OCTOBER 21st. 5 - 8 p.m.

Meet John Preston and celebrate his Lambda Book Award! Copies of his new book Flesh and The Word II will be available for signing.

10% of our day's receipts will be donated to the Matlovich Society.

# DROP ME A LINE...

615A Congress Street, Portland  
773-5547



## GUEST

### EDITORIAL ...

#### Consensus & the lesbian/gay/bisexual community

By: Paula Aboud

As our community is struggling toward a process by which the decisions will be made regarding the upcoming statewide anti-gay referendum, I am committed to sharing my own opinion and experiences around consensus decision-making.

A dictionary definition of consensus is: "general agreement or concord; harmony; majority of opinion." As a feminist, my definition of consensus is: a response to the Patriarchy's power trip of excluding women from the decision-making process; a way of Being, a culture, a way of treating one another with respect, verbally and non-verbally, in our heads and in our hearts, inclusion in decision-making.

I totally support a consensus process—in one degree or another, depending upon the circumstances. In all circumstances, how we treat one another should never be compromised. Respect is a must in order to bring about world changes. It's the bottom line. Without respect as a starting place, true consensus does not exist. Without it, we become no different than the Patriarchy which uses "democracy" as their process, while their intent is self-interest rather than the good of the whole.

Consensus can be used in varying degrees, dependent upon the situation. In WOMLAND, a women's land trust here in Maine, where time is not usually an urgent consideration, we are totally consensus-makers. In MLGPA, where time can be a concern, we use consensus in the large group, and elect officers who we trust to act "in good faith" when time doesn't allow the large group decision-making process. Small groups still use consensus, though.

In working on the civil rights bill for gays & lesbians, time became quite urgent, and an empowered group made decisions. No one person should ever be making a decision that affects the organization without some group input. (That is Patriarchy.)

There is discussion about using consensus to run a political referendum campaign. The ideal is great. The reality is not so accepting. An analysis of consensus needs to be undertaken first before it should be implemented. Even before that, respect must be "on board" for everyone involved. Next, an analysis as to what degree consensus will or will not work, based on the nature of the campaign, is critical.

Having worked on political campaigns in the recent past, and having participated for seven years in WOMLAND's pure consensus process, I feel very qualified to say to our community at large that a "pure" process, involving large numbers of participants mak-

ing all, or most, of the important decisions, will hinder the needs of the group to ACT.

"Pure consensus" and getting things done do not go hand-in-hand. In WOMLAND, some of our more difficult or "tough" decisions would span three different meetings. Some of our "easier" ones would last over one hour. And that was with a group of 10 like-minded, like-spirited women who had known each other for years!

To put together a large group of people who've never met, never worked together, never worked on a campaign before, and expect pure process to run a campaign is not realistic. It's a great vision for some future when our society has no difficulties with each other, but let's look at what's possible instead of what may well be impossible. Let us allow experience to count for something. Let us learn from our experiences, and let us share them with each other.

Our community is not yet at a place where we can all respect everyone. Why assume that we're capable of manifesting such a huge ideal as difficult as pure consensus?

Perhaps what could alleviate the need for such a pure system could be replaced with trust and electing folks to work on our behalf "in good faith", and making a commitment to confront those we "think" are not working for the general good in an open and honest way.

Perhaps we, as a community, need to learn to heal our problems with individuals rather than making them community-wide problems.

Perhaps the problem is that folks are afraid to confess to not being perfect. We're afraid to acknowledge our limitations. I'm not. I have met no other group of people in this state who have the kind of time necessary to commit to a pure consensus process. I've done it, and still am doing it, but I won't do it in a referendum campaign. I want to win, but never at the expense of disrespecting another. And, I think that those two ideas are compatible: respect and winning. Let's analyze how to do that in a campaign, and then I'll be there. My humble opinion. \*\*

*Editors Note: Paula Aboud is the former President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, and a circle member of WOMLAND.*

coming in December...

#### The NAMES Project

AIDS Memorial Quilt  
hosted by  
The NAMES Project/Maine

December 1 thru 4

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#### ... Lesbian Health

abuse, and pregnancy. It includes the complicated issues of alcohol and drug use, abuse, and addiction, and how sexuality can be formed and deformed around mind-affecting substances.

Lesbian health provides a forum to explore whether cigarette smoking and obesity are more prevalent among lesbians, and to what degree these conditions affect our risks for cancer and cardiovascular disease.

We are concerned with how being a lesbian affects our need for pap smears, how having sex with other women affects our risk for sexually transmitted infections, how never being pregnant affects our risks for endometriosis or ovarian cancer.

Lesbian family issues also include discussions of partner abuse. We have to come to an understanding of why violence and abuse exist among women and how to prevent it. This is an aspect of lesbian health that is both very personal and intensely political.

Equally personal and political is the issue of sexuality. As we communicate more openly, it's clear that lesbian sexuality entertains no assumptions. If it can be done, lesbians do it. If it feels good, lesbians do it.

Sexual health encompasses discussions

discussions of safer sex, bisexuality, masturbation, sex toys, pornography, and butch/femme roles. Sex therapists and couples counselors for lesbians are called upon to deal with these issues, but as you can imagine, there aren't many trained to do so.

Lesbian health also includes ageing and being old. Like our youth, our getting old is affected by both physical change and the outer world's response to us.

What effect does being old have on how lesbians feel and how we are treated? How is menopause different for lesbians? Does a lifetime as a lesbian affect how we age, what medical conditions we develop, the way we die? What social needs do lesbian elders have?

The political realm of lesbian health is fueled by a combination of workers from within the system and bold activists who apply outside pressure for the open inclusion of lesbians in health research projects; funding research specific to lesbians; the integration of lesbian issues into curricula for counseling, social work, medical and nursing students; the training of educators and public health professionals; and the development of lesbian health services.

In some places, community organizing is resulting in lesbian health clinics, support programs for lesbians with cancer, and health conferences and workshops designed for lesbians. None of these programs existed ten years ago.

If you're a lesbian who's thinking of serving her country with honor and distinction, consider a career in the lesbian health movement. We're recruiting for a healthy life and a healthy future. \*\*

With this article, we begin a new feature column in *Community Pride Reporter* focusing on lesbian health issues. I am delighted to welcome Peaches Bass to our family of columnists. Peaches is the Director of the Maine AIDS Alliance in Augusta.

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## Maine LeGaL comes out!

By: Jessica Maurer, Esq.

Early last December, a small group of lesbian and gay attorneys and law students met for the first time for the purpose of creating a law association which would meet the needs of the lesbian and gay legal community in Maine. After months of hard work, the Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association, better known as Maine LeGaL, is coming out.

In early September, over two hundred membership letters were mailed to members of Maine's legal community. So far, the response has been fantastic, and we can safely say that, by the time this paper hits the stands, we will have over thirty members!

Our purpose is simple: we want to promote human rights through advocacy, education and litigation, and to provide opportunities for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual professionals to interact and socialize. It is our goal to establish a forum in the legal community for lesbians and gays and their supporters to exchange ideas and information on topics of mutual interest and concern.

Ultimately, we hope our organization

will be a powerful voice in the legal community, a voice which can no longer be ignored or silenced. We hope this voice will aid in the advancement and placement of lesbians and gays to positions in the judiciary, public agencies, and on commissions.

We would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the legal profession or in legal education to join us. Anyone who is a member of any State bar may become a member of our organization. Anyone holding a J.D., attending law school, or who is employed in the legal profession or in legal education, may become an associate member.

As an added bonus, when you become a member in Maine LeGaL, you will receive a free subscription to Lesbian/Gay Law Notes, a monthly publication summarizing recent legal decisions, publications, news items, developments, legislation, and articles of interest affecting the lesbian and gay community. The non-member subscription rate is \$25.

The schedule of fees, along with a Membership Application, is published in the hope that you will decide to join us. The membership list is confidential, and will not be shared or sold to any other organization. If you have questions about Maine LeGaL, write to us at: MeLeGaL, P. O. Box 443, Portland, Maine 04112, or call us at: 207/829-3379. \*\*

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES, I'd like to become a member of MeLeGaL.

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

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fields of legal practice: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any limitations on how we may contact you. \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues Schedule

MEMBERS: \$50 Sustaining \$30 Basic \$15 Low Income

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: \$25 Basic \$15 Student/Low Income

FIRMS: \$75 2-10 Lawyers \$100 11-25 Lawyers

\$150 26-50 Lawyers \$200 > 50 Lawyers

(Dues Waivers are available)

continued from page 4

### ... Metro Cafe

dressing on the side. The salad was fresh, and generous with large veggie pieces. The dressing was pleasing.


Our dinners arrived pipping hot. My guest's steak was grilled to her requested rare, and was topped with a cream, brandy and peppercorn sauce. It was tender and delicious with the peppercorns adding a cumulative zing by dinners end.

The chicken pie was simply wonderful. The crust was deliciously flakey and literally melted in my mouth. Inside this divine crust

were generous cuts of broccoli, carrots, onions, chicken, and potato in a thickened gravy. The vegetables were fresh, and retained their original flavor and appearance.

The portions were so generous that we reluctantly declined dessert. Our coffee was brewed fresh for us, and our cups were continually being refilled. Our waitperson was friendly, and allowed us to comfortably pace our time at the Metro Cafe.

This is a must dining experience. Quality food, service, atmosphere, and reasonable prices make a trip to Lewiston all the more rewarding. \*\*

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SHOW at 6:30 and 7:30 Miss Gay Maine Miss Metro and from BOSTON, ZOLA	D.J. Paul L. Spins 'til 9 pm Dance from Dusk to Starlight!	PARTY STARTS 5 P.M. Speakers Mayor Jim Howaniet Police Chief Larry Gilbert	
	Proper Attire: Black & White	Security Provided	

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# Time OUT!

By: Michael Rosetti

The Maine Audubon Society maintains several great walking areas close to Portland that allow dry, easy day trips through marshland. A good Saturday adventure by foot or mountain bike is to visit both the Fore River Sanctuary and the Audubon Center at Gilsland Farm in Falmouth.

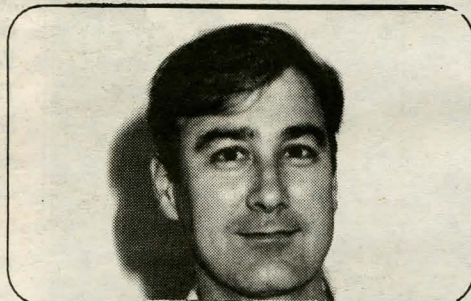
Gilsland Farm is just off route #1 in Falmouth, a mile from the Portland line. The Learning Center is opened on Saturdays, and has a store which can be an education in itself. The grounds are open to the public every day, and there are trails leading through pine groves, and old pastures with views of Casco Bay.

The Fore River Sanctuary is at the other end of Portland. This spot has a 25 foot waterfall, boardwalks through the heart of the marsh areas, forest trails, and the remains of the old canal that once connected Portland to Sebago.

To reach the Fore River Sanctuary, take Brighton Avenue to Rowe Street (Exit 8 off the Maine Turnpike, and head in-town). Rowe Street is the right at the traffic light after Forest City Dodge if you're going toward Portland, or a left at the traffic light after the Capisic Street light, if coming from in-town.

Park all the way at the end of Rowe Street. Keep bearing left on the trails to find the waterfall. The boardwalks are on the other side of the tracks. The October Time Out newsletter includes an after work supper walk at Gilsland Farm and information on several other Audubon walks around Maine. The newsletter is available for a SASE to Time Out, P.O. Box 11502, Portland, ME. 04104. \*\*

# OUT! of My Mind



How can we get the "straight" community to accept us and pass laws to protect us? Can we win them over by demonstrating, disrupting their social functions, or screaming at them, "accept us - or else!" Or else what?

We'll go to our room and sulk? The homophobes and bigots would gladly escort us, and lock the door behind us. Or else, maybe we'll retaliate with vandalism and/or violence. Oh sure, that'll warm their hearts-especially as they see us escorted off to jail where they'll again lock the door behind us.

I suppose we could hold our breath until they give us our way. I've tried that tactic. Mom escorted me to my room, (luckily there was no way to lock the door).

No, there's got to be a better way to make the straight community support and like us. Yes, really like us. The gay community is continually asking the straight community for help. "Please donate to The AIDS Project," (I know, AIDS is not a gay disease-it's just killing us first!) Please donate to the ACT UP/Portland fund-raiser.

Please don't give to the Boy Scouts because they are discriminating bigots. Please boycott Colorado because they are discriminating bigots." You get the picture.

But, what do we do as openly gay men and women for the straight community? Did Act Up/Portland volunteer to answer phones for the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon? Did a group representing the Matlovich Society participate in the United Way Rally? Do the gay owned business, bars, stores, and restaurants, have fund raisers for the Red Cross?

The answer is "NO". This is not to say that some individuals do not actively support these community causes. And, of course, we should all be proud of the group of Drag performers who did appear in wigs, heels and dresses on the local Labor Day elethon, presenting a check from a benefit performance they did. But, what about the rest of us?

We demand, yes demand, that the community give, give, give, and accept us as we are. But what do we do or offer in return? Not a week goes by that there is not an opportunity for an organized group of gays and lesbians to interact with the straight community.

I believe that if we become more visible as gay men and lesbians involved in the community, it would pay off for us at the polls in November, and eventually for full civil rights state-wide and nation-wide.

I often hear people from our community say that we are not at all like straight people. I say that's a bunch of crap. We are very much like them. We desire nice homes, good jobs, marital rights and the benefits that go along with them, and many of us desire families. How are we so different? If we are different, and don't want to be just like "them", then why do we demand the same

rights.

As we enter into another fight for our civil rights, let's step back and take a long look at who we are, what we want, what we are doing about it, and most of all, what we are willing to do.

Remember, the straight community doesn't have to give us anything. They own the ball, the playing field, and they are the referees (or judges). If we don't want to play the game their way, they'll just take their ball, and we'll lose the game-by default. \*\*

continued from page 2

## ... Farewell to Maine

referendum in Lewiston and in Maine.

As we have begun the work of the Referendum, and before this vision can be realized, it has become evident that there is a need for healing within our community. There are discordant and divisive voices which need to find their own peace and cease from inflicting disharmony. That must happen if we are to sit and work together. Any who follow out of fear, or guilt, or anger, or any who participate without clear and good and unfettered intentions, contribute to a lesser end for our community. The well being of the community, not of individuals, is the bottom line. Anger and fear must be taken elsewhere.

It has been a privilege to have been part of such a fine community and to have been the President of such a great organization. I move on to Arizona where I shall be actively involved in defeating their statewide anti-gay referendum. I look forward to helping defeat the referendum in Lewiston, and to reading

about the defeat of the statewide referendum next November (if we don't stop her signature campaign first).

I also look forward to hearing about the election of a gay-friendly Governor and many gay and gay-supportive legislators in 1994. I also hope to hear that the Gay civil rights bill has been passed and signed by the Governor in 1995. And here's hoping that before the end of this century we shall all live free and in peace-with each other and in harmony with Mother Earth.

Blessed Be...

## NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD

Since 1980, NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD has served the lesbian-gay-bisexual community of northern Maine and neighbouring New Brunswick with a variety of educational and social activities. NLN has a lending library, operates the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, and publishes a monthly newsletter. We host the Maine Symposium and other special events. Our current fundraising goal is to establish Maine's first lesbian-gay-bi community center; we appreciate all donations, which are fully tax-deductible.

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# EPL Countdown

By: Ken Constant, staff writer

November 2, 1993. D-Day, Discrimination Day for Lewiston, Maine. In less than a month, the citizens of Lewiston will be asked to vote on ending discrimination against sexual orientation in jobs, housing, credit and public accommodation. More importantly, they will be asked to send a message to people across the state and around the country that there is no room in Lewiston, Maine for discrimination, hatred and bigotry.

In recent weeks, Lewiston Mayor James Howaniec has been called a "faggot" because of his unwavering support of the anti-discrimination ordinance. At a recent fund-raiser held in Portland, he said his city is divided over the issue, but he is confident that in the end, the voters' good judgement will prevail.

While the language closely follows Maine's existing Human Rights Act, the new Lewiston ordinance is much more limited in its enforcement and remedies. It directs neither the police nor public prosecutors to investigate and bring charges, and it does not establish a local human rights commission to hear com-

plaints.

Violation of the ordinance is a civil, not a criminal, infraction. The person filing a complaint is responsible for proving that discrimination took place. If successful, he or she may be awarded costs and attorneys' fees. Civil penal damages may also be assessed, not to exceed \$1000. A civil action must be initiated within two years of the alleged act of discrimination.

A number of specific exclusions have also been incorporated into the ordinance. Religious organizations are exempt. Contrary to what opponents contend, the ordinance does not require public schools to teach about gays, lesbians and bisexuals. No affirmative action in employment, adoption rights, or legalized marriage for homosexuals is sanctioned in the new ordinance.

City Council President Edouard Plourde stated, "What the ordinance makes clear, is that we have to learn to get along with all kinds of people. The question of basic human rights will always be discussed, prejudice will always be here, but this makes it a little easier to say we're trying" to ensure such rights.

An anti-discrimination ordinance also sends a message to gay youth that the world is changing. They are not bad people, nor should they be ashamed of who they are.

"I can show you the graves of young people who have killed themselves in order to avoid dealing with the rejection of their families, their friends and their churches" - after they realized they were gay, stated James Bell, Affirmative Action Officer of Bates College.

Is there really a need for this ordinance in Lewiston? Yes. Hate-crime statistics prove that the numbers of anti-gay beatings and harassment are rising throughout the state. Even though Maine has laws, some victims are afraid to press charges when to do so means they could be fired from their jobs or evicted from their homes just for stepping forward. A 1986 study by the Maine Civil Liberties Union found that 46% of gay men and lesbians have been fired or have experienced employment discrimination, 28% have been evicted or denied housing, and 89% have suffered harassment or violence.

Another staunch supporter of the ordinance is Lewiston Chief of Police Laurent Gilbert. Choosing to spend his Twenty-third wedding anniversary with his wife at a recent



Jan Welch, Financial Manager, EPL, addressing Portland fund raising event.

EPL fund-raiser in Portland, the chief repeated his belief that, "If this ordinance is enacted, some, not all, will come forward and report these crimes to the police so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice."

According to Jan Welch, EPL Financial Manager, the vote is not yet won. There is still much to be done. You can get involved as little or as much as you want. Call the Equal Protection Lewiston office at 777-3037 or participate in the several events and fund-raisers scheduled in the remaining days.

Remember, the most important thing you can do besides, voting, is to talk to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Let them know that discrimination does exist and it's time to put an end to it. \*\*

## Gay Games V- Team Maine Bulletin

By: Tom Hagerty

The Gay Games are held every four years to give lesbians and gay men the opportunity to participate in, or watch athletic events in a gay-positive environment. The fourth Gay Games, called Unity '94, will be held in New York City, June 18th through the 25th, 1994. Team Maine has formed to act as a clearing-house of information about the Gay Games and as an informational network for lesbian/gay athletes in Maine.

--The next Team Maine meeting will be held Wednesday, October 13th at 6:45 pm. Call contacts to confirm and for more information.

--Contacts are: Swimming-Royal, 775-3630; Cycling-Michael, 871-9940; Marathon, Track & Field, Triathlon-Bob, 799-7981; Bowling-Vince, 874-0047.

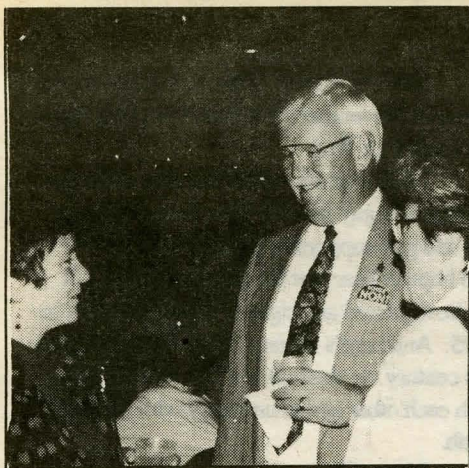
At the meeting we will be able to help each other navigate the registration process and sign up for competition in New York. Early registration is important. The Gay Games officials expect to have more athletes than they can organize into one week. They have already limited bowling to 1000 participants, and will probably limit track and field.

Even if you don't get a chance to participate, the Gay Games along with the Gay Games Cultural Festival and the 25th Anniversary of Stonewall, will be an exciting time for Maine lesbians and gay men to visit New York. Travel plans should be made early.

Anyone interested in becoming a contact person for their sport should write to Team Maine, c/o this paper, or call established contacts. This system of contacts is the way lesbian/gay sports organizations formed in larger cities.

Boston has 23 different sports organizations for lesbians/gays, Washington has 24, and this past August, Philadelphia hosted 65 softball teams from around the world for

... continued on page 9



l. to r. Susan Farnsworth, Lewiston Police Chief & EPL President, Larry Gilbert, and Pat Gilbert

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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.")

It was late one Monday afternoon when the phone rang and a breezy English voice asked, "Does Rita Kissen live here?" When I assured him that she did, the owner of the voice informed me that his name was Martin, that he'd been given my number by Parents Enquiry in London, and that he was visiting relatives in Maine and would like to meet some American families of lesbians and gays.

Parents Enquiry is a sister organization to P-FLAG, and, like its American counterpart, offers support to families of lesbians and gay men. Although he has no gay children himself, Martin works extensively with gay people and their parents, and was eager to compare notes with families here in the States. As luck would have it, our monthly P-FLAG meeting was scheduled for the very next evening.

As we drove to the meeting, I wondered what Martin would think of our group. Would he find our diversity of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic class and educational background different from what he was used to in England? Would he find us too political, not political enough, or just plain dull?

The meeting began; Martin joined our circle and listened while each family shared the month's news. Someone's daughter had come out to her aunts and uncles; a son had brought his lover to a family party, with happy results. There were several newcomers still coming to terms with the discovery that a son or daughter was gay. There were old-timers, some of whom have been sharing their stories for almost ten years—long before there was a P-FLAG in Portland. And there were the usual announcements—sponsors requested for the AIDS walk, upcoming radio or TV shows dealing with lesbians and gay men and their families.

Finally, it was Martin's turn to speak. He put down the notes he had been writing, looked around the circle, and spoke in a voice full of emotion. "I shall never forget this evening," he said. "I have only been in America for one week, but to me, you are America."

Then he went on to tell us what our

sharing had meant to him. How in England he had heard fathers threaten to take their gay sons out behind the house for "a good thrashing" that would "set them straight," and mothers in fashionable Hampstead drawing rooms complain because their lesbian daughters were a social embarrassment. How in our group tonight, he had heard the voices of people who would not let their pain keep them from loving their children. "There are tears of self-pity and there are tears of courage," he said. "You have shown me the tears of courage."

Eight years ago, I learned that I was the mother of a lesbian daughter and began looking for other parents with gay children. Since that time, I have seen tears of courage on many faces, and in many places. I have seen them in the eyes of mothers of sons diagnosed with AIDS, and of fathers who remember the lesbian daughters they love when they hear homophobic jokes on the assembly line or the CB radio. Most poignantly, I have seen them when a parent comes to a P-FLAG meeting for the first time and says, "I have a gay child, and this is the first time I've told anyone." At those times, there are tears in the eyes of the rest of us too, as we say, "You are not alone."

Our tears reflect our anger at the hatred we see and hear all around us. They express our fears that our children may be victimized because of who they are. Often they are tears of disappointment and confusion, part of our sadness at losing the child we thought we knew. But as our English friend Martin immediately understood, our tears show that we are courageous even in our grief. No matter how much we have internalized society's message that gay people are bad and unnatural, we know that our children are good people, and we refuse to stop loving them.

There's a footnote to this story. Martin is a real person, but Martin is not his real name. When I asked if I could write about him in my monthly column, he consented enthusiastically, but requested that I refer to him with a pseudonym. It seems that some of his relatives don't want anyone in Maine to know that they're related to someone who works with families of lesbians and gay men. People might wonder. People might think they are gay.

I wish I knew Martin's American relatives. I wish they'd come to a P-FLAG meeting. They'd surely see our tears of courage. They might even shed some themselves. ••

continued from page 8

### ...Gay Games

the Gay World Series. San Francisco won.

Although Maine may not have the population to field this many teams, lesbian and gay Mainers of all athletic abilities may wish to think seriously about organizing around their sport, and a way to make routine physical fitness more interesting and enjoyable.

Many of us can recall athletic experiences that were marred by homophobia. If lesbian/gay athletes organize teams, we can counter those experiences.

My personal experiences as a member of two Boston teams have been positive, energizing, and fun. It would be nice to have teams in Maine as well, and contact people are the means to that end. ••

## OUT! of Town

### Hawaii on a budget

Everyone dreams of going to Hawaii—that far-away paradise with beautiful, romantic beaches, and grass skirts. Yes, it is paradise, and surprisingly, it's not as expensive as most people think.

First, a little geography and history. Hawaii is located approximately 2500 miles west-south-west of Los Angeles. It is made up of eight main islands: Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, Kauai, Niihau, and Kahoolawe, along with hundreds of smaller islands. It totals about 6500 square miles of land and has a population of just over 1.1 million.

Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959, but what most people don't realize is that for many years Hawaii was a constitutional monarchy. Iolani Palace is the only royal palace located on US soil. The first people to populate the island were Polynesians who travelled thousands of miles in crude boats. Since those early settlers, many different groups have migrated to Hawaii including Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Filipinos, and now transplanted Americans.

Part of what makes Hawaii such a great place to visit is the diversity of its culture. Each immigrant group brought with it its own culture, and over the years this has been added to the cultural melting pot of modern-day Hawaii.

Paul T

Bernard



Despite the influx of these diverse groups, Hawaii still maintains a strong Hawaiian culture among its people. This is evident everywhere in Hawaii, from the colorful clothing, to the hard to pronounce Hawaiian street names, to their unique foods. Hawaii isn't just great beaches and golf courses. It's a great place to learn about another culture very different from your own.

When most people think of Hawaii, their first image is Waikiki Beach. Well, Waikiki Beach certainly is famous, but there is so much more to Hawaii. Waikiki is a section of the city of Honolulu located on the island of Oahu. Oahu is approximately 44 miles long and 30 miles wide. Honolulu is the capital of the state of Hawaii and has a population of over 800,000, making it the eighth largest city in the US. But the real Hawaii isn't located in the concrete and glass jungle of Waikiki. It lies outside the city in places like Hanuama Bay, Waimanalo, Haleiwa, the Pali Pass, or Pearl Harbor.

Hawaii isn't just Honolulu or Oahu. Each island is uniquely different from the

....continued on page 15

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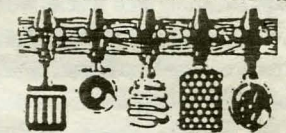
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# Wild Iris Production Inc., Entertainment Plus

By: Luke Balboni

Rita Cote and Beth Nitschke are the owners of Wild Iris Productions, Inc., a company whose purpose is to bring women entertainers/artists to Portland, and to sponsor women-only dances with the hope of building community while providing entertainment. I spoke with them on a misty Thursday afternoon at their secluded office in West Buxton.

Rita and Beth have been producing concerts and putting on dances under the aegis of Wild Iris for the last three years. In that time, they have had the pleasure of bringing the finest women entertainers to the Portland area from Cris Williamson (the "mother" of women's music), to Suede, a relative unknown. The list includes Heather Bishop, Patty Larkin, Margie Adam, Holly Near, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Deidre McCalla, Kate Clinton, Dianne Davidson, Ann Reed, "and on and on." Says Beth, "If they're somebody in women's music, they've been here."

The concerts are generally held at the First Parish Church at 425 Congress Street in Portland, because that facility has enough seats (750), a reasonable rental fee, good acoustics, and a supportive director. Wild Iris is quite happy with their arrangement with the church, and both Rita and Beth expressed profound gratitude for the church's support.

The dances are held at Temple Beth-El and, again, Rita and Beth had nothing but kind words for the powers that be in the congregation. Throughout our conversation, I was continually struck by the fact that Wild Iris is not a profit-making enterprise, and that what motivates these women is the pleasure they derive from seeing enjoyment in the faces of those who attend the events. Beth spoke delightedly about women who are perhaps attending their first all women's dance and how affirming and uplifting that experience can be for someone who is just coming out.

Rita said they always try to convince the headliner at one of their concerts to allow an opening act so that they can feature local talent like YaGottaWanna, an acappella trio from Portsmouth, or Pixie and Diana from mid-coastal Maine, or Georgie Nichols from Portland, or Katie Curtis from Saco (Beth said that Katie has moved on to some major folk work in Boston), or others who haven't been able to make it just yet, to give them a chance to perform in front of large audiences.

Beth indicates that the audience likes having a varied program. A side bonus is that the local talent will often bring in their own following whose ticket purchases help offset the money paid to these performers. The upcoming shows will, however, not feature opening acts because Patty Larkin, who'll be here October 16th, preferred to go solo, and the opener for Margie Adam, who'll appear November 13th backed out, so she will appear alone.

The schedule for Wild Iris events follows

the school year, and Rita and Beth state that they generally have had two concerts per semester. In the month when there is no concert, there is a dance at Temple Beth-El. Cris Williamson and Tret Fure will perform in May, and the other concert, set for March, has not been contracted for just yet. Beth says, "there are a couple of things in the fire, but we can't say who, because we don't know who."

Beth also points out that you can't bring people back too soon. "You've got to let them cycle." The March show could be a comedian, but Rita pointed out that one of their persistent problems in booking talent into Portland is that many of these performers are from California, and they need several dates in the Northeast in order to make their trip here worthwhile.



Presented by Wild Iris: Heather Bishop

Kate Clinton is the only comedian that Wild Iris has booked so far, and even though there are more and more women doing comedy, and they've seen lots of demo tapes, Beth's personal opinion about comedy is that "comedy is a very personal thing. What you find funny, I may not. It's a very fine line, and we want to make sure that what goes out is not derogatory to anyone, so that we can feel good about putting on the show, and that it's not at the expense of anyone, whether it be ageist or sexist or crude, or whatever. I think with comedy we're much more critical."

At this point, I recommended Sandra Bernhard as a comedian who, if not a lesbian herself, is certainly openly supportive of gay people. Neither Rita nor Beth knew that she did stand-up. She does. Her most recent appearance I know of was at the Berklee School of Music in Boston last fall where she did her stand-up routine to a sell out crowd. She starts her show by asking all the gay people to stand up, and then asking for a round of applause for them.

Rita then told me that even though they do only contract women performers, these women need not be lesbian, and not all have been. Beth said, "It's easier for us when they are." I told them

I wasn't sure if Sandra would be offensive to anyone because she is so unpredictable, but her favorite target is hetero men, so what's the harm.

Rita then gave examples of comedians they find unacceptable: ones who make fun of overweight people, gay people, or who make ethnic jokes. There is one comedian in particular who uses "fuck" every other word. This practice is offensive because there are women in the audience who bring their daughters, and both Rita and Beth find excessive use of profanity and crude remarks to be embarrassing.

Members of the community have made their desire for certain entertainers known to Wild Iris by various means. Many people have simply made suggestions when they've seen Rita or Beth, but both women actively seek input, because they want to bring artists who will draw a good-sized crowd. They have conducted a couple of formal surveys, but the results have been disappointing. With a mailing list of 750, there were only 35 surveys returned the last time they did one.

They've tried to solicit opinion at concerts by conducting the survey there and offering a free CD as an inducement to respond. This method brings in more responses, but still does not tell Wild Iris about the people who stayed home that night. For the most part, the responses on the returned surveys mirror the tastes of Rita and Beth, but there have been requests for poetry readings.

Poetry readings are feasible, but Wild Iris has set "one thing a month" as its goal (except in summer), and publicity and posterage and all the rest of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into show business takes time—a great deal of time, and both these women work full-time jobs (C & R Business Consultants of West Buxton), so with the concerts planned so far, along with the dances at Temple Beth-El, their plate is full. But, with a little more interest, poetry readings could definitely become part of their repertoire.

The dances are well attended drawing between 75 and 200 people. They love the facility and the people at the Temple. Beth says that they "had to work long and hard to get their first date in there, but since then they've been very good to deal with, as long as we don't pick a Jewish holiday." At another place where they held a dance, the owners of the hall asked them to close the doors so children attending a function in the same building would not see them. Other places made accusations, and when I asked the nature of the accusations, Rita and Beth hesitated, saying, "We can't tell you that. It's more embarrassing than anything else, but it's nothing that would happen with lesbians, let's put it that way, OK."

They've been up front with all the people they've dealt with by telling them that they are running a lesbian dance. Initially, everything seems OK, but the vibes change. In contrast, the prevailing attitude at the Temple is positive. Beth thinks this is partly because of Rabbi Harry Sky's

support of gay rights in general. There have been no attempts on the part of the Temple to censure Wild Iris' functions in any way, except in the one way that applies to all groups who use their facilities: no non-Kosher food on the premises.

When asked about their hopes for the future and any plans to change the business, Rita said they were pretty much content with the scale and substance of Wild Iris as it is. They say this because there was a time when they did more and friends told them they were doing too much. As Beth notes, "attendance was down for each event. There was too much to choose from."

She points out that economic realities require people to choose only one or two concerts per six month period, and that choosing is going to leave some events out. While they do not have any specific competitor as such, they do have to contend with the general entertainment world which can deliver some unexpected blows. For example, they had to compete with an Anne Murray concert which was held right next door to them at City Hall. Beth remembers that they did all right that night.

Then their Patty Larkin show was a week away from Elton John, and even though they check around to try to avoid concert conflicts, obviously they cannot eliminate such occurrences. They are now trying to work around the Portland Gay and Lesbian Film Festival for which there is presently no set date. They routinely check with the Portland Folk Club, and the Chocolate Church in Bath who will often bring some of the "cross-over" artists like Patty Larkin or Christine Lavin, Cheryl Wheeler, or Fred Small.

I put in my strong endorsement for Cheryl Wheeler, who has a beautiful voice, and is someone I've never seen, but would love to. Beth informs that some of these artists have a preferred venue like Fred Small's association with the Portland Folk Club. Wild Iris goes out of its way to respect that, and tries very hard not to step on anyone's toes. She thinks this attitude is reciprocated.

Beth points out that Wild Iris has no aspirations to expand and do a festival. They're just not into that level of money and effort. She points out that she and Rita have been friends for a long time, and they've been in this business in various ways for 9 years. They really are content with the way things are right now. They have a comfortable level of support, and are happy with the way in which they fit into, and are received by, the community.

A short time ago, they put out a letter asking those on the mailing list if they really wanted Wild Iris to continue, because Rita and Beth were "close to the border." Beth says that not only did they receive answers in the affirmative, they received anonymous donations and other small gifts which indicated real support. All these signals confirm their belief that Wild Iris is working at its proper level.



The artists that Wild Iris engages are exclusively women, and the audiences for these shows are primarily women. Rita and Beth, thought not separatists themselves, are intent upon building community among women, and certainly make no apology for it. (Nor is any sought or needed.)

Certain performers have more of a "cross-over" appeal, and for someone like Holly Near or Patty Larkin, you will see men in the audience. With someone like Alix Dobkin, who is a total separatist, you wouldn't see any, or as Beth says, "If one came walking through that door, he probably wouldn't stay too long."

Wild Iris dances are women only. Rita explained that there was some thought of doing a combined gay men and lesbian event, but because Wild Iris does so few things, they've decided to keep their focus on women.

As far as using other venues, such as the refurbished State Theater in Portland, the bottom line for Wild Iris is, "If it's affordable." The Scarboro High School auditorium and Portland High auditorium, though beautiful, charge three to four times what First Parish charges. Only Luther Bonney auditorium at USM can match the reasonable rate of their current home, so use of the 1300 seat capacity State Theater remains to be seen.

Rita wanted to emphasize the hidden costs of putting on these concerts. Their average show costs between \$3500 and \$5000, and they don't always break even, never mind make money. All their workers are volunteers, including themselves. They must pay for lights, sound, security, insurance, publicity, mailings to 750, etc. The costs are high, and they want to keep ticket prices

Obviously, these expenses were not met, and Wild Iris had to absorb the loss.

Another bad memory was the blizzard that interfered with the Heather Bishop show, but that one went off OK, and people managed to make it, including their friend who got in a car accident on her way into town.

Then there was the time Beth was checking on the Baby Grand piano they had rented for the Holly Near concert. The piano company asked her to hold on for a moment, and when they returned to the phone they told her they were in the process of being repossessed and the piano in question was, at that moment, being loaded onto a truck to be taken away. Then their lighting company told them they couldn't come through on that date. All this only a few days before Holly's sold out show. Somehow, it came together.

Rita and Beth report that they have not encountered any forms of discrimination or negativity in their business dealings. Their lighting and sound people are males, and these men are truly supportive of Wild Iris. Bob Blackwell has been their sound tech for the past nine years. This question raised a sensitive issue for these women.

"What about using women technicians?", I asked.

Beth explained that there are explicit standards set forth in the performers' contracts, and the one woman they know of who qualifies to meet these standards is in Massachusetts. They've tried to use her, but she is in such great demand that they have been unable to retain her services.

Bob receives compliments on his expertise from all sources. He's a feminist, and works very

to use women in these roles comes from their audiences. Beth agreed with my general statement that the technical realities of their business does not always allow them to follow their political instincts.

This discussion of using males as technicians brought up the general subject of how they deal with political issues. Rita disclosed that they often face this problem in the nature of the announcements they are asked to make at a concert. These announcements can range from a NOW



Presented by Wild Iris: Ann Reed

meeting, to a civil disobedience at Maine Med, but they all have to be approved by the artist who is appearing that night. That proviso is in the contract, so in most instances the decision to announce, or not, is not up to Wild Iris. There have been only a few times when people have been unhappy about a Wild Iris decision, but the animosity is usually short-lived.

Another place where Wild Iris draws the line is with its mailing list. They will not give it out, but they are willing to include someone's flyer with a mailing they are doing, if that group will share the mailing cost.

On occasion, this policy has caused some conflict, as pressure has been brought to bear by others to turn over this list. There is some irony here. Rita and Beth are putting on these shows on their own time and often at their own expense, and it seems unfair that they should have to take abuse in their roles as concert promoters when their real motive is community-building. The only condition they put on mailings and announcements is that they conform to their mission statement which in general, is to promote women.

A brief history of Rita's and Beth's show biz career is as follows: nine years ago Pine Cone Productions was formed, of which Rita and Beth were only a part. From that, a women's co-op of nine members was formed, but because of personalities and other problems, it didn't work. The co-op went from nine members to three, and then Rita and Beth formed Wild Iris. In this discussion of these facts, both women mentioned not wanting to step on anyone's toes, so let's issue an apology to anyone right now who might disagree with or be offended by this history.

Beth talked movingly about how, as a college student, she had hated speech class and

feared getting up in front of people to speak, but that now she has no problem getting up on the stage, grabbing the mike, and saying that she is a lesbian, and urging folks to vote for this or that because "it's our rights." Adds Beth, "empowerment comes to us in strange ways."

Beth is aware of the women in the audience who may not yet be able "to pull that trigger", but who, after listening to her, to the singer, and to the music, will feel better about herself, and come away empowered. Rita says that women who attend these events for the first time undergo a wonderfully uplifting experience to realize that, "there are others." One of the big pay-offs for both Rita and Beth is that even if someone doesn't come out as a result of these shows, at least during the concert or the dance, they can be themselves and feel safe.

An important message that Rita wanted to convey to women is that if Wild Iris doesn't bring a Cris Williamson or other well-known name to Portland, but rather and unknown, they want their audience to trust them enough to come to the show anyway, believing that they wouldn't book talent that wasn't good. The experience will broaden the audience member as well.

They use the example of Suede, who they believe has a marvelous voice and is multi-talented. At first her shows were poorly attended. It took three performances to build the audience for Suede, and when finally 200 people showed up for her, some said, "where has she been?"

The reason why Wild Iris doesn't get Lily Tomlin or k.d. lang is the prohibitive expense involved, and besides you can hear these type performers easily. We all recalled Tracy Chapman's appearance at a New England Folk Festival at the Somerville Theater years ago. I wondered if Tracy was officially "out" yet, and they weren't sure. As to why she might not be, they surmised that she probably is not supported in that decision, and then Rita told the story about Suede who was approached by a big agent who told her to lose a lot of weight and she'd "make it." But some women will not sell-out. Wild Iris applauds those performers who have declared themselves, but also understands those who, for whatever reason, have not.

In wrapping up, I asked them to give me their best case scenario, or most stand-out moment. For Rita, it's the comments after the show of thrilled patrons. It's seeing new faces in the audience, and at the dances, and the creation of safe space for lesbians. Beth does the phone work, and she is pleased with the reputation that Wild Iris has built throughout the music industry. They are a trusted name.

Beth also recalls the Holly Near concert and the song *Singing for Our Lives*. The entire audience was standing, holding hands and swaying. She peeks out from the stage at moments like these, or when there is a comedian and everyone is laughing, and she sees tears of joy on the people's faces. These moments make it all worthwhile for Rita and Beth of Wild Iris Productions, Inc., and the entire community owes them a debt of gratitude, for in building women's community, they enrich the lives of us all. ••



Presented by Wild Iris: Barbara Higbie - Teresa Trull

down. For that reason, the church offers the best circumstances under which to hold their shows.

"Give me your worst case scenario," I demanded. As they both shifted uneasily in their seats, Beth reluctantly began. "All right. You want a worse case..." Rita chimes in, "Our worst case was when 13 people showed up for Elaine Townsend." Elaine is a blues/folk singer from out West, and concert expenses ran about \$2000.

well with Rita and Beth, and unless they were able to find someone to exceed what they have now, they will not make a change here. Gary Massey, of Klondike Sound, is the lighting person who bailed them out of their Holly Near disaster. He is very knowledgeable and helpful, and though he is a sound person himself, he prefers to let Bob do the sound.

Rita and Beth both report that the pressure



## Lessons from the epidemic Part III

America's Puritan heritage causes us to be rather sex-phobic. This then results in our not talking about sex, sexuality, sexual fulfillment, or even the physiology of sex. For an activity that most people engage in, and want to be proficient at, we teach our children very little about being sexual. The reality and extent of our sex-phobia became clear as we began doing AIDS prevention education.

Some lessons that we are learning from the epidemic about sexuality are that it's difficult to talk about sex; yet sexuality is part of everyone's life. We had forgotten that people are sexual throughout their entire lives, including children and older adults who are sexual with themselves and with others. We had to learn to talk about sex to various groups of people because HIV is spread sexually, and preventing infection requires specific knowledge, attitudes and skills. The mirror of the epidemic pointed out the double standards, ignorance and fear we have as a culture about sex.

So how do you teach about a new disease caused by a virus that can be found in semen, blood, and vaginal fluids, without talking about sex? Many looked for such an unrealistic approach, but it doesn't exist. Early in 1985, I remember asking a school district in upstate New York to allow our trained educational volunteers to come and speak to students about AIDS. They were very wary and enlisted the advice of the chair of the Social Studies department in making their decision.

When I saw this woman walk into the room, I felt we were doomed. Her tightly wound bun at the back of her neck and thick glasses on a serious face, stereo-typically spoke to me of conservatism, spinsterhood and fear. She took her seat and addressed the Superintendent of Schools and simply said, "Well, I never thought I would be talking about anal intercourse in a social studies class, but that is exactly what I am doing. Students need this information."

I breathed a big sigh of relief, as clearly this woman was influential in that district. I privately chided myself for my original stereotypical response. This is a success story that, unfortunately, was not repeated in enough school districts throughout the country. It's now 1993, and many adolescents are still not receiving the functional knowledge to prevent their own infection with HIV. So, the need for talking about sex in the public schools was made clear to us, even though we should have been providing sexuality education all along.

The most obvious lesson that we are learning is that not all people are heterosexual! Homosexuals and bisexuals are part of all societies and cultures. In fact, homosexuality is a regularly occurring natural phenomenon. Sexual orienta-

David  
Smith, Ed.



tion is varied in all societies. An important effect of the epidemic (and the concurrent gay rights movement) is that youngsters who are gay have more access to information than ever before. It isn't likely that a young gay man or lesbian will feel that he or she is the "only one," an occurrence so common in my generation.

We are also learning that people express their sexuality in hundreds of ways - and relatively few of those ways transmit HIV. Safer sex came to be the focal point of brochures, discussions, community dialogues and news articles. While there was a basis for agreeing what was "safer," there was actually little understanding of what was "sexual!" We began to learn how to take a sexual history so that an individual could assess her own risk of infection. We learned how to talk about sex in front of large groups of people - and many of us learned how to do that in a non-homophobic way.

Gay men in particular were challenged to take a long and clear look at sexual behaviors. Who am I as a sexual being? Who are we as a sexual people? In determining the best education to provide for gay men at risk of HIV infection, we again ran into cultural homophobia. Gay male culture is a sexually explicit culture, yet we were forbidden to use sexually explicit, culturally sound materials. While we began looking at ways to provide culturally specific education to various other populations, we often failed to see gay men and/or lesbians as being part of a distinct culture of their own.

Teaching about AIDS and, specifically, prevention education, identified for us one of our bigger cultural myths, *behavior change is easy*. Many sought a silver bullet, an ideal program, or just the right words to deliver to an audience and magically each person in the audience would change his/her behaviors. *Changing established behavior is very difficult*.

It requires and individual to have functional knowledge, appropriate attitudes and the skills needed to make the change. We also learned that sustaining a behavior change is very difficult. Probably anyone who has ever been on a diet could have told us that. But we were fortunate in this epidemic to have so many people in recovery modeling very effective behaviors.

The 12-Step movement has grown greatly in the last decade with its approach to maintaining behavior change. So often we forget that these programs are not just about stopping a behavior and adopting a new behavior, but maintaining that new behavior for life. We are fortunate to have so many individuals, wise and knowledgeable about addiction and recovery, working together in this epidemic.

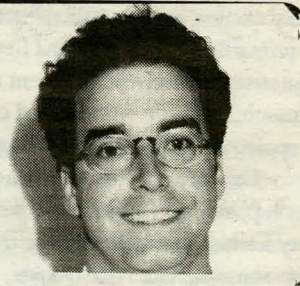
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## New ML/GPA Board and Officers elected

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance held its annual meeting on September 19th. in Augusta. Newly elected officers are: President, Karen Geraghty; Vice-President, Celeste Gosselin; Treasurer, Larry Bliss; Secretary, Alan Stearns, and Membership Secretary, Lauraine Bernier.

Newly elected Board members are Jody Brinser (Presque Isle), Jim Martin (Bangor), Judy Carter (Camden), Ray Gagnon (Auburn), Judy Edgerly (Hallowell), Rita Clifford (Windham), Jan Welch (Lewiston), Brian Kaufman (Gardiner), Patricia Peard (Falmouth), Mary McPherson (Camden), Al LaPan (Augusta), and David Jackson (Pittsfield). Jim Michaud and Dennis Churchman were also named alternates to the Board.

Alan  
Stearns



The MLGPA would like to extend a special thanks to retiring board members and officers including: Mary MacLean, F. E. Pentlarge, Harry Gordon, Anke Siem, Paula Aboud, Ellie Goldberg, Dick Dickinson, and Cheryl Daly. \*\*



## Nitely Specials

### Monday Bud Nite

Free Buffet 4 - 9 p.m.

All Bud, Bud Light &  
Bud Dry Bottles \$1.50

### Tuesday

#### A SHOT TO THE SYSTEM NITE

Hot Damn	\$1.00
B52s & Cum Shots	\$2.25
Choc. Covered Cherry	\$2.25
Quervo	\$2.75

### Wednesday Mix To Your Pleasure Nite

Long Island Ice Tea	\$4.50
Malibu Beach	\$3.00
Coffee Sombero	\$2.25
Rum & Coke	\$1.75
Tequila Sunrise	\$1.75

### Thursday

#### Beer Connoisseur Nite

Join Our Beer Club *Free*  
Drink All 20 Beers &  
Receive 2 Souvenir  
Rage Beer Mugs!!

Domestic Bottles	\$1.75 or 2/\$3.00
Imports & Ales	\$2.00 or 2/\$3.50

Friday (Open til 2:30 a.m.)  
Cover 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. \$3.00

4 - 9 p.m. Free Buffet

All Miller & Miller Lite Bottles \$1.50

All Schnapps Shots \$1.50

### Saturday

Cover 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
Open til 2:30 a.m.

4 - 9 p.m. Free Buffet

Rolling Rock Bottles	\$1.50
Lg. Pitcher of Mil. Best	\$4.00
Lg. Pitcher of Labatts	\$4.00
Petes & Becks Bottles	\$2.00

### Sunday

#### Sports Day

Noon to 8 p.m.

Free Buffet 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

FREE GIVEAWAYS!

10 oz. Drafts	\$1.00
Domestic Bottles	\$1.75



123 Franklin Street  
Bangor, Maine  
Phone: 947-1213



# OUTrageous news from THE RAGE

By: Lucien Hasten

The Rage, Bangor's hot, new dance club for our community, had its first PRIDE WEEK August 22nd through 29th. The week was kicked off on Sunday with the Eastern Maine AIDS Network Benefit, featuring a Casino Night with a Las Vegas style Drag Show.

The Casino portion of the evening consisted of gambling with play money which you purchased with the real stuff! There was a blackjack table, wheel of fortune, and a craps table. All the money won on these tables was used to purchase items auctioned off later in the evening.

The Las Vegas style Drag Show featured performers from Peacock Productions. The evening ended with dancing and socializing. This was a huge success for the Network as well as for The Rage.

Monday night was the night for the men. Chris Stone from Wilde Side Productions was our live entertainment. The evening started out with a photo session where customers were able to get their photo taken with Chris. Later that evening, Chris performed his erotic dancing, which the crowd loved!

Following Chris' performance, there was a question and answer session with Chris. The evening ended on a high as Chris gave out autographed pictures and talked with customers.

Tuesday night was supposed to be a quiet night with nothing planned. This was to let staff, as well as customers, recoup from the busy weekend. Well, we had a surprise. Chris Stone did an encore performance, and we also had a female dancer for the women. Michelle Verrill did her dance routine to the delight of the lesbian and bi customers. The evening concluded with

everyone dancing and having a good time.

Wednesday was the Grand Opening of The Rage Store. Items sold in the store include OUTrageous T-shirts, Rage shirts, jackets and glassware, jewelry, snacks, magazines, and much more. Additional items are expected in soon.

Thursday was our actual quiet night. This was a night of all request dance music, and socializing. It was also a night for the employees and the owner to get ready for the Big Weekend ahead: Friday, Grand Opening Night!

Friday night was the night worth waiting for. The Rage was neatly decorated with streamers, a grand opening banner, balloons (all 300 of them, all on the dance floor!). The staff were very dapper and festive that night. Michelle and Christina were in long tails, top hats, gloves and canes. They took turns taking money and opening the door for every customer.

Both bartenders, Randy (also the owner), and Keith, and the DJ, Lucien, wore hotpink bow ties and cummerbunds with their tuxedo's. Lots of activities were planned that night. They included a beer chugging contest, a jalapeno pepper eating contest (whew!!), and a pinata breaking between the gentlemen and ladies.

Lots of prizes were given away: T-shirts, glassware, mirrors, clocks, and a computer. We danced all night, and breakfast was served from 1:30 to 3:30 in the morning.

Saturday night was our extended Grand Opening celebration with more giveaways, and drink specials. A two-night stay in Portland was one of the many prizes given out. Lots of dancing, socializing, and breakfast topped off the festivities.

On Sunday, The Rage held a benefit for the Shelter for the Homeless. We had live entertainment with local talents, including the band, Pale Faith. The evening was filled with heart-warming, as well as comic acts. It was a successful night for the homeless shelter.

The Rage and its staff want to thank all who supported the events held during PRIDE WEEK. We hope everyone had a great time! \*\*

## BOOKS ON REVIEW

By: BUZZ-Triangle Books

**Stoner McTavish**  
**Sarah Dreher, Author**  
**New Victoria Publishers**  
**\$7.95**

In this first book of Sarah Dreher's Stoner McTavish Mysteries, Dreher plunges right into the plot. Stoner, a travel agent by trade, finds herself playing detective. Her Aunt Hermione, a palm reader, is convinced that her client, Mrs. Burton, must retain Stoner to assist with a "little" problem.

Mrs. Burton's granddaughter, Gwen, is in trouble, or so Mrs. Burton and Aunt Hermione believe. They con Stoner into going to the Grand Teton National Park and rescuing Gwen from her deadly fate.

Dreher gracefully transports you from

Boston to the Midwestern Grand Tetons. With her descriptive language she gives a vivid account of the Tetons and makes you feel their power and strength.

Stoner arrives at Timberline Lodge, where Gwen and Bryan, her new husband, are staying. There she meets Stell Perkins, owner of the ranch. Stell fulfills the role, and meets the needs of the mother Stoner always desired.

When Stoner saw Gwen close-up for the first time, she was breathless. The picture she had been shown excited her, but nothing had prepared her for the real woman sitting across the room from her. She was of average height, on the thin side, but firm-bodied, and her hair was a light doe-skin brown. Stoner crossed the room and approached their table. Gwen's mahogany eyes met hers.

Stoner knew right then and there that she had to stop the evil she saw unfolding. She had to save this beautiful woman from the fate that her Aunt had foretold. She would stop at nothing, take any challenge ...

Can Stoner stay one step ahead of Bryan to save Gwen from death? Can she change what fate has already determined? Join Stoner on her first adventure of the now five titles available. \*\*

SUPPORTIVE OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY

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DINNER  
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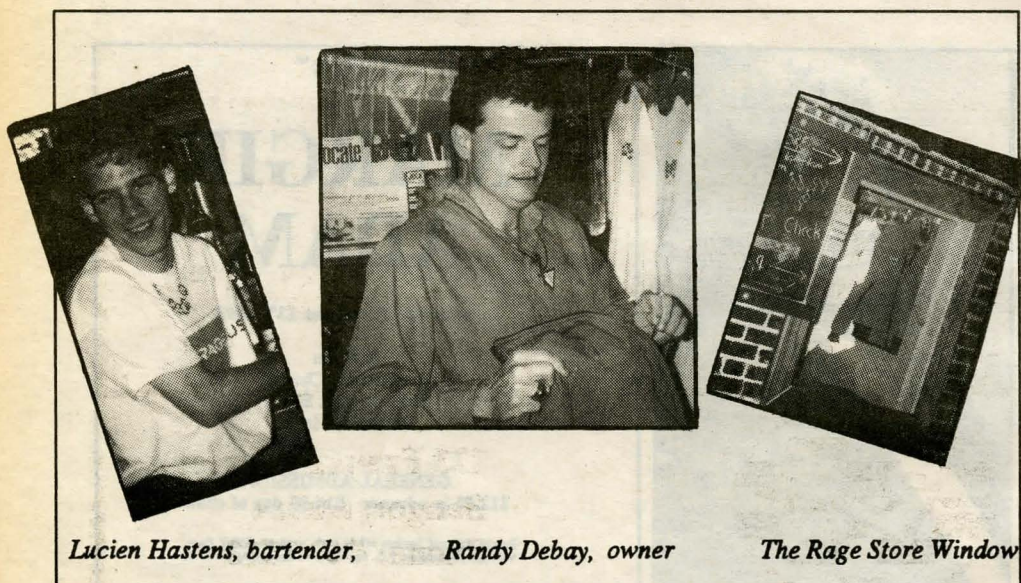
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Lucien Hastens, bartender,

Randy Debay, owner

The Rage Store Window



## Chew on This

There are so many books written about the importance of good nutrition; so many in fact, that it is more than possible to become completely confused by the often conflicting information flooding the market.

There is one particular writer on the topic of health and nutrition I would like to introduce in this column. Dr. Elson M. Haas is the author of **Staying Healthy With the Seasons**, and **Staying Healthy With Nutrition**, both published by Celestial Arts.

Dr. Haas is a medical doctor, trained in Western medicine, who has also studied nutrition and the Eastern approach to healing. **Staying Healthy With the Seasons** is a 243 page introduction to good nutrition and health by combining the best of Western and Eastern approach. Haas is a firm proponent for using diet as a means of staying healthy, as well as relieving stressors on the body brought about by the misuse of food and environment.

**Staying Healthy With Nutrition** is nearly 1200 pages in length, and is actually the equivalent of two nutrition texts used in most schools offering degrees in nutrition. This book then goes beyond what most texts offer to, again, combine Eastern and Western approaches.

**Staying Healthy With the Seasons** is my all-time favorite because it is a sound, basic introduction to good nutrition and health care. Haas introduces the reader to homeopathy, prevention, nutrition, herbology, Chinese medicine, and allopathic medicine.

After giving a general introduction on each of these topics, Haas divides his book by seasons, presenting good health care and nutrition for each. There are five seasonal sections rather than four; late summer is addressed as a season all its own.

Juice fasting is discussed as a safe way to ease from summer into fall, and from spring into summer; a way to make the seasonal transitions smooth, a way to cleanse the body in preparation for the activities ahead. Haas also recommends "juicing" as a way of life, and suggests one day a week of juicing to

Rose Mary  
Denman



maintain balance and energy.

To do juice fasting, you will need an electric juicer. They can be purchased for \$45 up to \$500. Here's a days' worth of juicing I particularly enjoy.

For breakfast, try combining either watermelon and cantaloupe or, my favorite, cantaloupe and pineapple. You might find the juice too thick to your taste, in which case you can cut it with warm water. *Never drink juice cold.* It is too hard on the stomach.

For lunch, try a broth made from boiling one large beet, two stalks of celery, one potato, one onion, and a handful of greens (spinach, beet, kale or any other of your choice). Chop vegetables in large chunks. Put in a pot of bottled water (about two quarts) and boil for an hour. Strain the liquid and enjoy. You can serve the vegetable to another member of your household, or save it for your dinner the next evening.

For dinner, my all-time favorite choice is juicing five large carrots and two stalks of celery. Again, you might want to cut it with about one third warm water to two thirds juice. If you have never tried carrot juice before, you are in for a real treat. It has a gentle, sweet taste.

Except for the broth, which can be refrigerated and then heated over, never prepare fresh juice ahead of time. Instead, wait until you are ready to drink it. Making it ahead, and then storing it, will rob the juice of valuable vitamins and minerals.

The purpose of juicing is not only to give your body a chance to rest from all the digestive work it does on a daily basis, but also to boost it with much needed vitamins and minerals.

If juicing interests you, or you are interested in making changes in your present diet, I

would recommend purchasing **Staying Healthy With the Seasons**. It's not a read-once-and-collect-dust kind of book, but one that could serve you well for many years to come.

As with any major change in eating habits, it is always best to consult your medical practitioner beforehand. If you are a healthy adult, juicing one day each week can be an effective way to maintain good health. If you have any major illness, please consult your healthcare professional first.

If your practitioner works strictly from a Western perspective, he or she might think you a bit daffy to want to try juicing. So do be prepared not to get a standing ovation for your efforts. You don't need for your practitioner to tell you it's a wonderful idea, but you do need to know whether you have any medical problems which could be aggravated by juicing.

As I look to future columns, it would be helpful to know what you would like to read about. Write to CPR with ideas or questions, and I will respond. \*\*

unreached by traditional AIDS education campaigns.

In one such effort, Mark Griswold of TAP coordinates an outreach program to men who have sex with men in public sex environments (PSE's). In the first year of the program, Mark and a group of volunteers have personally talked to hundreds of men in PSE's in public parks, rest areas and adult bookstores.

With each conversation, Mark and TAP volunteers hand out a packet with lubricated condoms, lubricant, mint oral condoms, short flyers on safer sex, and a convenient breath mint.

According to Mark, the whole point is direct outreach, going to where the at-risk people are, rather than hoping those people will come to a workshop or read a bulletin board. For most of these men, fear-based prevention doesn't work. Negative messages about their behaviors may produce guilt, anxiety, denial or "erotophobia."

Instead, TAP's efforts are sex-positive and health-positive, and specifically tailored to a target audience in the parks and rest areas of Portland, Auburn, Lewiston, and Oxford.

"I start with a lot on introductions," says Mark when asked to tell us about his work. "I tell them my name, that I'll be there a few times each week passing out condoms and information on safe sex and testing. It's all about getting more than one contact so they know who I am and then feel comfortable."

"I walk up to everyone who I think may be cruising. I'm pretty good at figuring out who is there for what reason."

"Most men are actually glad I'm there. They like to find out that someone out there actually cares. Sometimes guys say, 'Aw, don't bother me, kid,' if they are really horny, or embarrassed, or in denial. In essence, my very presence tells them that I know they are there for sex. But most people react well."

"There are good days and bad days. Prevention work is tough because you can't instantly see the results. The successes may not be visible for years."

"I've had a few really positive experiences."

*continued on page 19*

## Working the parks: The AIDS Project brings safer sex education to public sex environment.

By: Alan Stearns

The AIDS Project (TAP) in Portland actively provides direct services to people living with AIDS. TAP also educates target communities on HIV and AIDS-related issues.

As the epidemic continues, TAP and other agencies have recognized the need to directly target at-risk communities which have been largely

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continued from page 1

## ... Betrayed

The only member of Maine's Congressional delegation to stand up to discrimination was Representative Tom Andrews. Representative Andrews voted against the amendment and issued the following statement regarding the lifting of the military's ban on gays and lesbians.

"A person's sexual orientation should not be a basis for determining their qualification for military service. But under current policy, capable and dedicated men and women in the armed forces are being forced out simply because they are gay or lesbian. It is time to end this discriminatory policy and I applaud President Clinton's pledge to do so."

Robin Kane, spokesperson for the National Gay/Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C. said, "The vote by congress affirms discrimination in the armed forces." According to Kane, there were also two other votes held in the House of Representatives concerning homosexuals in the military.

A proposed addition to the amendment to reinstate the policy of military recruiters questioning the sexual orientation of potential recruits was defeated 291-144.



**Representative Tom Andrews:**  
"A persons' sexual orientation should not be a basis for determining their qualifications for military service."

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## ... Hawaii

Haleakala Crater, a dormant volcano that rises over 10,000 feet above sea level (you can actually drive to the top); Hawaii - the Big Island - is home to an active volcano; Kauai - the Garden Isle - is where you will find Waimea Canyon, the "Grand Canyon" of Hawaii.

Hawaii is one of several states that have gay rights laws. It is a very gay friendly place, which makes it a very popular gay/lesbian destination. In Honolulu there are approximately 10 gay/lesbian bars and nightclubs. In addition to several Bed and Breakfasts, there is also a gay hotel, Hotel Honolulu, which is within walking distance of most of the bars and nightclubs.

Gay/lesbian owned and operated properties on the other islands are not as plentiful as they are in Honolulu. However, the gay/lesbian traveller should not feel at all out of place staying in most of the non-gay hotels and condos. In addition, there are several beaches that are known as gay/lesbian beaches. Probably the best known

is Queens Surf Beach located in the Waikiki section of Honolulu.

I've been to Hawaii 11 times in the last 5 years, and have been totally impressed with the openness of the Hawaiian people, not to just gays and lesbians, but to everyone who comes there. They are some of the friendliest people found anywhere in the world.

Packages that include round-trip airfare from Portland (via United and Delta), hotel, and transfers or a rental car, start at about \$1100 per person for a 7 day, one island trip. Packages can be designed to suit your needs and desires from a simple one island trip to one that takes in five islands. \*\*

continued from page 12

## ...Epidemic, Part III

Our sexuality is a great gift. A gift to ourselves and a gift to others. Being sexual is part of being human. We can take all we are learning and apply it to creating comprehensive sexuality education programs for all children so that we can raise a generation of sexually literate, healthy Americans. \*\*



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## AIDS Memorial Quilt

### December exhibit

By: Winnie Weir

PORTLAND: The Names Project/Maine is sponsoring an exhibition of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Portland "to help all of us experience the humanity of AIDS," says Carol Hauser, media relations director for the group.

In a telephone conversation with Ms. Hauser, she said approximately 416 panels are expected to be on display from December 1st through the 4th, at the YWCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland. The 52 12' x 12' sections will include most, if not all, of the Maine panels made to date celebrating the lives of men, women, and children who have died from HIV infection.

The Opening Ceremony will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 1st, which is World AIDS Day.

The schedule for the display are:

Wed., Dec. 1st 6-9 p.m.  
Thurs., Dec. 2nd 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Fri. Dec. 3rd 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Sat. Dec. 4th 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

On Saturday, the Closing Ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Viewing the Quilt is an experience that will touch your life deeply. Make your plans to be present. For more information, or to volunteer to help with this tremendous effort, call The Names Project/Maine at 774-2198. \*\*

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## RAINBOW CALENDAR

**Thurs.10/7** Matlovich Society, 7:30-9:00 pm, Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square. Del Richards, historian & author of *Lesbian Lists* discusses her new book, "Superstars: Twelve Lesbians Who Changed the World." Book-signing reception at Drop Me A Line, 615A Congress St. following the meeting.

**Thurs.10/7** Album Release Party to celebrate the release of "Yagottawanna Live!" recorded live in Portsmouth. At The Loaf & Ladle, 9 Water St., Exeter, NH, 8:00 pm. \$5 cover. Call (603) 778-9619 for reservations.

**Fri.-Sun.10/8-10/10** "We are Everywhere" Atlantic Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Conf., Halifax NS. FMI:(902) 429-7922.

**Sun.10/10** 5-10pm, Spend to End Discrimination at Sister Creations, Freeport. 15% of receipts during these hours goes to EPL.

**Sun.10/10** Black & White Block Party at Metro Parking Lot, 18 Park St., Lewiston. FMI: 786-6511. EPL fund-raiser.

**Mon.10/11** NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, help create a supportive environment for gay, lesbian and bisexual people to come out. Be visible, get political, educate, and party.

**Mon.10/11** Cocktail Party at Slaters in Hallowell, sponsored by MLGPA as a fund-raiser for EPL, 761-8376.

**Tues.10/12** 7:30pm, Ludeke Auditorium, Westbrook College, Stevens Ave., Portland, Richard Roberts, pianist, plays Bach, Beethoven, Chopin favorites: Sleepers, Awake!, Sheep May Safely Graze, Nocturne, Op. 9/2 plus more. Admission is free.

**Wed.10/13** 6:30pm, NH Coalition to End Discrimination hosts a fall rally at NH College, North campus, to show state-wide support of the introduction of anti-discrimination amendment.

**Thurs.10/14** Matlovich Society, 7:30-9:00 pm, Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square. "Serving People in the AIDS Epidemic." Staff from The AIDS Project present the latest on programs, community needs, and state and federal developments. Matlovich Soci-

ety welcomes new Executive Director of TAP, Deborah Shields.

**Fri.-Sun.10/15-10/17** NH Women Meeting Women trip to P-Town for Women's Weekend. FMI: Barbara, (603) 881-4268.

**Sat.10/16** Maine Chapter NOW Annual Conference, University of ME, Augusta. Theme: *Women's Health and Economics: Your Money or Your Life*. Registration is 9 am, \$15 for members, \$18 for non-members. Lunch is \$5. Three workshops from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm. Evening fund-raising performance, 8 pm with Diana Hansen & Pixie Lauer at Jewett Hall. \$5.00 at the door, free to conferees. FMI: 626-3554, 582-1004, or 623-4787.

**Sat.10/16** 2-5 pm, MLGPA monthly board meeting. Unitarian-Universalist Church, Summer and Winthrop Sts. Augusta. FMI, call Karen Geraghty-761-8376. NOTE CHANGE FROM SUNDAY TO SATURDAY through end of 1993.

**Sat.10/16** Patty Larkin Concert, 8 pm, First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. \$12.50 in advance, \$14 at the door.

**Sun.10/17** Maine Lights, Lewiston Jr. Hi, Central Ave. EPL fund-raiser with Tom Andrews et al. Call EPL office-777-3037.

**Sun.10/17** Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting. Rm. 114-B, Pullen Hall, UMPL. 3pm (ME), 4pm (N-B).

**Mon.10/18** Equal Protection ME, Cumberland Cty. chapter meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 145 State Street. 7:00 p.m. How to stop the petition against gay/lesbian rights to be discussed and a planned formulated.

**Tues.10/19** "Dealing with The Far Right" a training sponsored by the Family Planning Council of NH. FMI: (603) 224-4394.

**Wed.10/20** 2nd planning discussion on organizing to fight anti-gay/lesbian forces, 6pm (ME), 7pm (N-B), followed by a NLN Fold & Stuff the November mailing. Meet at the Phoneline, Caribou, 7 pm (ME), 8pm (N-B). (207) 498-2088.

**Wed.10/20** Portland Museum of Art opens exhibit of Project Face to Face. Created by Jason Dilley of San Francisco, Project Face to Face focuses on individuals living with AIDS. Finely detailed life masks, recorded oral histories and printed stories invite viewers to observe the faces

and to hear the voices of people coping with this illness. On exhibit through Dec. 5th. See Nov. CPR for in depth interview with Jason Dilley.

**Thurs.10/21** Grand Opening of DROP ME A LINE's new store at 615A Congress St. John Preston, recipient of the Lambda Award for distinction in gay and lesbian writing, will be signing copies of his new book, *Flesh and the Word II* (Penguin), from 6-8 pm. Drop Me A Line will contribute 10% of today's receipts to the Matlovich Society.

**Fri.-Sat. 10/22-10/23** Communications Training. "How to Use the Media in Dealing with the Christian Coalitions" sponsored by the Pro-Choice Resource Center and Planned Parenthood. Learn debate techniques, phrases & "sound bites" to use against the Radical Right. 970 Forest Ave., Portland.

**Sat.10/23** Lit Drop in Lewiston. Volunteer, call 777-3037.

**Sat.10/23** NLN. Spend some time helping organize the Library, followed by a pot luck. Bring dish to share. Starting at 1pm (ME), 2pm (N-B). FMI:(207) 498-2088.

**Thurs.10/28** Matlovich Society, 7:30-9:00 pm, Rines Auditorium, Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square. "Male Couples in Long-Term Relationships; Male Couples as Parents." Mike Fitzpatrick, ACSW, Seattle family therapist, speaking.

**Fri.10/29** Clay Hill Farm Gay & Lesbian Halloween Ball to benefit AIDS Response of the Seacoast. FMI: Clay Hill Farm, Ogunquit, ME - (207) 361-2272.

**Sat.10/30** NLN Halloween Party. Details to be announced. Call the Phoneline, (207) 498-2088.

**Sat.10/30** CAGLR dance at Pat's Peak. 8 pm, \$6 per person. FMI: 224-1686. \*\*

## RAINBOW RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

**Woodford's Toastmasters Club:** Non-profit organization devoted to improving public speaking and leadership skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meets at 7:30 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, 7:30-0:00 p.m. Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Sq. Contact (207) 773-1209. \*\*

Send your calendar listings to CPR by the 20th of each month for inclusion in this section. Free!

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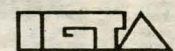
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## APARTMENT FOR RENT

•Gardiner: Roomy, unique, fun in gay positive environment. Affordable one and two bedroom apartments available, \$250-\$350 plus utilities. For more information, call 582-2725.

## APARTMENT TO SHARE

•Looking for a non-smoking male to share my house in Camden. \$200 monthly, plus one-half utilities. Private bath. Call 236-8935.

•Looking for non-smoking female to share spacious, 5 1/2 room apartment. 2 bedrooms, dining room, large living room, kitchen, finished basement with washer/dryer. Ample storage, parking, small porch & yard. One block from private beach, near Ft. Williams. 10 min. to downtown Portland. \$275 monthly, plus utilities. Call 799-4734.

## HELP WANTED

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

## LOOKING FOR WORK

•Lesbian graduate student—working on MS in Education—will BABY-SIT in your home or mine. (Have diverse collection of non-violent, non-sexist books—including Alyson Publications—and toys; no TV.) Extensive experience. References. Available weekends, some evenings. \$4.50/hr. (207) 871-0477.

## PERSONALS

•Lesbian, 49, attractive and fun-loving. Looking for a soul-mate. Like going to Clubs or just staying home for candlelight dinner. Am a professional looking for someone to talk to and share my life. Write Advertiser #3496, c/o this paper.

•Dad wants son. Must be loving, honest, sincere, and hard-working. Let's share good times together if you like older men. Dad is active, loving, diversified, exploring. Late 40's. Write Ron, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, Maine 04073.

•Lesbian, 39. I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, green eyes, brown hair. Enjoy music, watching movies, the outdoors, nature, and keeping fit. I'm feminine and a hopeless romantic. Sincere, honest, monogamous. Are you like me, searching for a faithful friend to share your life with? You may be that special lady! Will answer all responses. Phone number and we'll talk. Write to Advertiser #1725, c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High St., #634, Portland, ME 04101. Your mail will be forwarded to me.

•Lesbian in her early 40's looking to share time with same. Would like to meet someone who enjoys hiking, canoeing, camping, music, and theater. Would be interested in hearing from you. Write Advertiser, P.O. Box 1111, Gray, Maine 04039.

## 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 Broadum 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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

## 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.

## EPL events in October

Oct. 18th Spend to End Discrimination 5-10 p.m. Sister Creations, Freeport will donate 15% of their sales during these hours to EPL.

Oct. 18th Black & White Block Party at the Metro parking lot, 18 Park St., Lewiston. FML-786-6511.

Oct. 11th Cocktail Party at Slates in Hallowell, sponsored by MLGPA. FML-761-8576.

Oct. 17th Maine Lights-Lewiston Jr.High, Central Ave. near Bates College. Academy Awards type entertainment. Tom Andrews and other guests on hand. Tickets \$10 and \$8 (students). FML call the EPL office, 777-3037.

Oct. 23rd Lit Drop in Lewiston. Call EPL office and volunteer, no matter where you live.

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# Coming to Portland...

## Margie Adam: A lasting presence sings about our lives

By: Ellen Toplin

Portland welcomes lesbian/feminist, pop singer/songwriter Margie Adam on Saturday, November 13, when she'll perform at the First Parish Church (425 Congress Street) at 8 P.M. (Tickets are available through Wild Iris Productions, Inc.: (207) 929-3866). Adam comes to us as part of her multi-city Fall Tour to showcase the release of *ANOTHER PLACE*, her new recording from Pleiades Records. Her

performance will highlight songs from her new release, a few old favorites, and pieces from another new body of work, Adam's soon-to-be-released piano instrumental recording.

As poet Honor Moore says, a Margie Adam performance is "unique theater." Adam effortlessly balances the passion, humor and politics of our lives and does it all in a rich alto voice accompanied by elegant and moving piano work. "I was drawn to her brains and charm," Moore writes, "dazzled by her talent at the piano and her nerve as a performer. I loved the way she could spin a small perception into a hilarious monologue; the way the audience's laughter would quiet when she made a pungent political or moral point; the way our feelings would shift a moment later as she launched into a song or plunged us into the lush landscape of her instrumental music, the place where, as a performer, she seemed most vulnerable."

So what will we hear during the Portland performance?

The work this tour presents her new

recording, gathers thirteen recently written songs that make what is most familiar in our lives visible in a new way. There are songs that deal with the different faces of love—*Deep in the Night* captures the rapturous beginning, *Ranting and Raving* the angry breakup (rendered with humor), and *Truth to Tell* the sad, empty longing when it's finally over. There are songs that deal, in a moving, personal way, with the broader context of our lives—in *Women Who Dare*, Adam sings "Count on me—I'm here for you," and celebrates the intense, emotionally-supportive bonds that women create. In *How Many*, she sings "How many hearts will be broken...How many lives will be taken," during the beautiful and simple chorus of a song about three friends living with AIDS. In *Long Haul*, she sings "With a steady voice they call us," speaking of those whose lives enfold the long-term commitment needed for incremental social change. And there are many loving and passionate new songs.

Margie has always been that rarity among pop acoustic performers: she does many things equally well. She's an outstanding pianist (recently voted #1 Keyboard artist by readers of *HOT WIRE*, the premiere women's music publication in the country), composer, songwriter, singer, storyteller and social commentator. She is also very funny on stage.

But, perhaps most importantly to us, Margie Adam has, since the mid-'70s and early '80s, musically crystallized our lives and carried their message into the wider world. She has shared the stage with Gloria Steinem and Kate Millett, Lily Tomlin and Bonnie Raitt. Her song, *We Shall Go Forth!*, was placed in the Smithsonian's Division of Political History. Margie's performance of her song *Best*

*Friend* (*The Unicorn Song*) on the main stage at this year's Gay and Lesbian March on Washington, became the theme song footage of a major documentary film about the event.

Adam's music is also helping others carry the gay and lesbian rights message to a broader audience. Peter, Paul, & Mary, touring the country this year, sing *Best Friend* (*The Unicorn Song*) at every performance. The group explains that it was written by "lesbian/feminist, Margie Adam," and that they sing it in support of the gay and lesbian effort to gain both civil and social acceptance.

This summer, Margie Adam was quoted in a *USA TODAY* cover story on the new visibility of lesbians, their diversity, and cultural perspective. Said Adam, "It's the first time lesbians have been on the cover of a national magazine (*Newsweek*). When I came out in 1964, there was no political or cultural context for my life." And on the invisibility lesbians have long endured in this society: "No one knew who we were. As a result, there's no history of our accomplishments."

Also this summer, Margie was interviewed on "Star Talk," a syndicated radio talk show produced by Universal Studios and broadcast to 60 stations around the country, and featured on "Real Personal," the CNBC-TV talk show, a program with 50 million viewers, nationwide.

So, what can you expect of Margie Adam in Portland this November? As Ronnie Gilbert has said, "Margie calls out with fervor and wit to the compassion and spirit among women. The sound of her voice, lovelier than ever, lingers in the ear long after the performance is ended." \*\*



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## .. Working the Parks

There was a gonorrhea outbreak going around the Oaks, so I came up with a flyer, and talked to guys about gonorrhea. These guys went to the STD Clinic at City Hall with my flyer in hand to get tested. That made me happy.

"The PSE scene was all new for me. I am fascinated by the rituals that happen with cars and glances and all the innuendo. It's fascinating. When I first began, I started a lot of conversations with guys by asking them what was going on, and what it meant to park your car in this direction or that direction. And then I'd move the conversation toward condoms.

"It was really embarrassing at first because I'm shy sexually, and this outreach is very sexual. As time went on, I learned and became more comfortable. Now I try to wear clothes that will make guys want to interact with me. It's fun.

"We use the term 'men who have sex with men' which may not be a proud term like 'gay' or 'bisexual', but it covers everybody I meet. A lot of them identify as heterosexual, but have sex with

men. So if I tell them I do outreach to gay and bisexual men, they can't relate. So I stay away from labels.

"There are all sorts of people in these PSE's. There are guys with wives, closeted bisexuals and gay men, and openly gay men who go there because they like the anonymity. And there are sex addicts. I like the broad range. The part that's tough is the hustling. You see guys who are pretty young, really young, and it's hard not to try to fix it. I provide information, I help people make choices, but I'm not there to fix things. I only promote safer sex."

Mark Griswold also coordinates TAP's AIDS Line, anonymous testing program, and outreach programs to bars. He is always looking for volunteers, especially those with working familiarity with PSE's. Call him at 774-6877 or come hear him speak to the Matlovich Society in mid-October. \*\*

- Do you have questions about AIDS or HIV?
- Want to know where to get tested?
- Does HIV scare you?
- Ever found yourself in a risky situation you didn't want to be in?
- Want to find out how to make your sex safer?

CALL US at the AIDS Line on Saturdays between 1 and 5 p.m. We're guys like you who share your concerns. We're anonymous and we care. Let's keep each other safe and healthy.

1-800-851-2437

Man to Man



## 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.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

## PERSONALS

••Lesbian, 49, attractive and fun-loving. Looking for a soul-mate. Like going to Clubs or just staying home for candlelight dinner. Am a professional looking for someone to talk to and share my life. Write Advertiser #3496, c/o this paper.

••Dad wants son. Must be loving, honest, sincere, and hard-working. Let's share good times together if you like older men. Dad is active, loving, diversified, exploring. Late 40's. Write Ron, P.O. Box 1169, Sanford, Maine 04073.

••Lesbian, 39. I'm 5'4", 130 lbs, green eyes, brown hair. Enjoy music, watching movies, the outdoors, nature, and keeping fit. I'm feminine and a hopeless romantic. Sincere, honest, monogamous. Are you like me, searching for a faithful friend to share your life with? You may be that special lady! Will answer all responses. Phone number and we'll talk. Write to Advertiser #1725, c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High St., #634, Portland, ME 04101. Your mail will be forwarded to me.

## RAINBOW PHONE SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

## AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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

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

**Portland - 774-6877** - The AIDS Project, AIDS Lodging House, PWA Coalition, Names Project  
**Rumford - 823-4170** - Community AIDS Awareness Program

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

**Waterville - 626-3432** - Dayspring

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

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

**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays -**

**P-FLAG CONTACTS/ME:**

Augusta/Hallowell - 623-2349

\*Bangor/Brewer - 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath - see Waldoboro

\*Lewiston/Auburn - 783-9789

\*Portland - 766-5158

Waldoboro - 832-5859

\* - Monthly meetings held

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

## RAINBOW GROUP SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

**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, 7:30-9:30pm at Williston West Church. 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

**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, pro-

viding 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.

Pick up your copy of  
**CPR at**  
**Drop Me A Line**  
615A Congress St., Portland

Pick up your copy of  
**CPR at**  
**Pro Libris**  
10 Third St., Bangor

## Host a House Party to help EPL

By: Winnie Weir

The Portland Fund-raising Group, formed to help Equal Protection Lewiston, is encouraging people who want to help raise funds to have some fun while doing it.

Most everyone looks for a reason to have a party, and here is the perfect opportunity. Host a House Party for several old and new

friends. It's simple, not a lot of work, inexpensive, and fun. In addition, it is one more way to help end discrimination. Be creative with your party. It can be a tea party, brunch, dinner party, cocktail party, or a dessert extravaganza. EPL will send some of its workers to talk with your guests about the referendum in Lewiston. They will answer questions and pass the hat for contributions to this important campaign.

EPL has an instructional kit, which they would be happy to send you. It contains some "how to's" in case you've never done this before. Also provided, if you need them, are invitations. So, what are we waiting for. Let's party! For more information, call Charlie or John at 871-9109. ••

## Send your Support Group Listings to:

**Community Pride Reporter**  
142 High Street, Suite #634  
Portland, Maine 04101

They will be included at  
no charge as a public service