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Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 1, Number 7

JANUARY, 1994

HAPPY NEW YEAR !! WELCOME 1994 !

1993 in Review

By: Ken Constant, Staff Writer

Our World, Our Nation

Our State

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." The year 1993 started with a new hope - in a man from Hope. Bill Clinton was believed by many to be the man who would lead the way to equal rights for gays and lesbians. He had promised to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. He said that he would increase funding to fight AIDS, and he pledged to appoint an AIDS Czar.

By year's end, the military ban was actually written into law by congress (although the federal courts are striking it down). AIDS funding has increased - but not nearly enough, and the AIDS Czar has so far become part of the furniture that takes up space in Washington, and collects a pay check every two weeks. Ask any person with AIDS, or for that matter any AIDS doctor or educator, and its doubtful they can tell you her name (Kristine Gebbie). They may even be surprised to hear there is an AIDS Czar!

The year started with President Clinton proposing a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of homosexuals in the military. Meanwhile, a grandstanding Senator Sam Nunn convened hearings to determine whether the ban should be lifted. He began the hearings by publicly stating that no matter what was said or what evidence was presented, he would not change his mind.

Serving in the military, according to Sam Nunn, was not compatible with the homosexual life-style! A mutinous General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs' of Staff, spoke out against lifting the ban. Sam and the boys managed to write up a new policy - one that was

nothing like the Clinton proposal, but more of a reinforcement of the existing regulations - and they passed it into law. Both of Maine's Senator's and Representative Olympia Snowe voted in favor of keeping the ban in place.

There were other wars being waged over gay rights around the country. Colorado found itself in the middle of a national boycott over their "Amendment 2," proposal to ban protection of "special" rights to homosexuals. That law, which never took effect, was struck down by the Colorado courts as unconstitutional.

Elsewhere around the nation, the year started off with a sad note as the most talented ballet dancer in history, Rudolf Nureyev, died of AIDS related causes in France. The French government also released statistics that 40% of deaths of men ages 25 - 44 were AIDS related. They attributed that to the large gay population in Paris and the public resistance to AIDS education.

Zimbabwe, reported 1.5 million AIDS cases, 14% of that countries population.

And in the United States, the death rate of Gay men in New York City was 24 times higher in 1988 than in 1978. This was attributed to AIDS.

In a January 11, 1993 letter to the editor of the Grayson County News-Gazette, Reverend Jonathan P. Eshoff, pastor of God's Church of Rapture in Big Clifty, Kentucky said, "Pornography causes Satanic occurrences." To prove this he says, "About five years ago in Colorado,

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The old saying, "You can't get there from here" could almost be used to sum up the way things went for the gay/lesbian community in Maine this past year.

What was good for Portland was bitter-sweet for Lewiston. Last year, an anti-discrimination law passed by a 2-1 margin in Portland. The same law was defeated by almost the same margin in Lewiston this year. What went wrong? Finger pointing has begun with the conservative side saying the radicals were too radical and the radicals saying the conservatives were too conservative. The only thing for sure is that the people of Lewiston voted as they understood and as they believed what was best for their city. The question now is, did they really understand the question that was placed before them? Or, was the effort of the opposition to cloud the issue with a "special rights" tactic successful? One thing is for sure, both sides will meet again, and it can be counted on that it will take a lot of hard work by a broad-based coalition to change the tide.

The new year of 1993 found the Portland Police investigating a Christmas Eve beating of a gay man outside the popular dance club Zootz. Michael Wormwood had decided to stop by and see if the club was open. It wasn't, and as he was returning to his car, he was allegedly jumped and beaten by a man believed to belong to a group calling itself FSU posse.

ACTUP Portland scheduled a showdown with President Bill Clinton. The Prez went to dinner while the ACT UPers staged a quite

effective sidewalk theater of the state of healthcare. The "zap" was so impressive, the Portland Press Herald even gave it front page! ACTUP also did lots of good work in Lewiston on behalf of the EPL effort. And, they finished the year with a protest at the post office over the new "Red Ribbon" stamps.

The year 1993 saw the demise of the *Gay & Lesbian Times* in early spring. This publication, the *Community Pride Reporter*, was started in July by Publisher/Editor Winnie Weir. It is Maine's only statewide newspaper serving an inclusive gay - lesbian - bi - transgender readership.

Portland's Gay/Lesbian/Bi Pride Parade was held in May. About 300 people took to Congress Street and marched in all their pride and splendor. It was the largest march yet for Maine. Next year, it is hoped to be bigger, and with an accompanying festival of some sort.

Fundraising for a new Gay/Lesbian Community Center was started in Presque Isle by Northern Lambda Nord. It will be the only community center in the state serving the homosexual community.

There are a few new homosexual owned businesses in Maine this year. Ananael, a new book/gift shop opened on Congress Street in Portland; a new dance club, *The Metro*, opened in Lewiston; and the Riverfront in Bangor was sold and became *The Rage!* In mid-April, *Sister Creations*, an establishment carrying gifts, music, and works of original art to em-

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Community Pride Reporter

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

Winnie Weir
Publishing Editor

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 will present political information and opinion to assist our readers in making informed choices. We will also endorse candidates whom we feel represent our community most completely. 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

Subscriptions are \$20 per year, which covers first class mailing in a plain envelope. Send your complete mailing address and phone number, along with your check made payable to Community Pride Reporter, 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 this office. No part of Community Pride Reporter may be reproduced or duplicated without direct editorial consent.

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Alliance for Sexual Diversity	
Women's Center-Portland	
Powers House-Women's Forum	
Westside Restaurant	

Other Locations in Maine:

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Bangor: The Rage, Pro Libris, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
Brunswick: Gulf of Maine Books
Hallowell: Fremont & Julien Cafe
Blue Hill: Left Bank Cafe
Freeport: Sister Creations
Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network
Orono: Wilde-Stein Club
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SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Yes, I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter.
Enclosed is my check for \$20.00 for 12 issues mailed first class
in a plain envelope.

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Send to: COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER, 142 High St., Suite #634, Portland, 04101

COMMUNITY PRIDE MAILBAG

Dear Editor:

This letter is written in response to the Ken Constant column, *OUT! of My Mind*, in the December issue of CPR.

In his column, Constant lists the reasons he has to celebrate not being a woman, rather than simply listing those reasons he has to celebrate being a gay man. Four out of the five items on his list make women less than, and this is women versus men rather than one man simply celebrating his love for other men.

Let's not perpetuate the homophobic myth that lesbians love women because they hate men, and that gay men love men because they hate women!

Vivian Holmes, Buckfield
Rose Mary Denman, Portland

Dear Editor:

For almost a year, I, along with other readers of your predecessor, *Our Paper*, have been trying to get Maine Public TV to air a monthly half-hour talk show called "In the Life" — the first PBS talk and variety show made by and for homosexual men and lesbians.

Our inquiries and urging are met with promises to "look into" it, but nothing changes. Maine Public TV can find hours and hours for high school basketball, cooking, home repair, gardening shows, children's programming, and hours of obvious filler material. But, they can't give a measly half-hour a month to our community.

Well, now it's time for Maine Public TV to petition the FCC for renewal of its license. So that means it's time for members of our community to write to Maine Public TV and let them know how we feel about their continued stonewalling on this particular issue. Write to: Robert H. Gardiner, General Manager, Maine Public Television, 1450 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240. At the top, say that you want your

letter to be included in Maine Public TV's license renewal file. At the bottom, show that you've sent a copy to the FCC. Send a copy of your letter to: TV Branch, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554.

You may think of this issue as inconsequential, but it's not. In Maine Public TV programming, the representative of the homosexual community granted air time most frequently is the obviously gay sales clerk on the British sitcom entitled "Are You Being Served?" — a series which represents stereotyping of the most blatant variety. In this age of increased hate crimes, the fostering of stereotypes (and homosexuals are not the only group stereotyped in this particular sitcom) helps viewers justify their tendency to see their neighbors, not as persons deserving of rights and respect, but as mere objects, to be treated as such....

To combat stereotypes and assist viewers in gaining a broader, more inclusive perspective, TV stations, especially ones that call themselves "Public" TV, should be offering responsible programming that portrays members of minority groups as three-dimensional, real-life-type characters with their ups and downs and all the struggles that flesh is heir to.

By choosing to continue the portrayal of stereotypes, Maine Public TV is depriving members of minority groups of the "mirroring" that it is their duty to provide....

Public TV is in a unique position to provide the dominant culture with glimpses into the real world beyond the narrow confines of their nice, neat categories, and their suburban family rooms. But, up to now, Maine Public TV is not living up to its duty or its privileged status as a holder of the "public" trust.

Their license should not be renewed.

Bill Coskrey, Thorndike

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power women, opened in Freeport.

The name Carolyn Cosby has replaced that of Linda Bean on most rights activists' lips. Carolyn thinks it's her personal duty to launch a political crusade against the homosexual community and deny us the *special rights* of jobs, homes, credit and public accommodation. The problem with her twisted proposal is, that rather than just coming out and saying its to discriminate against homosexuals, she has chosen to say that it will grant special rights and privileges

only to those on her list, and limiting, by law, all future privileged classes to those on that list.

December 1st, World AIDS Day, saw the opening of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, sponsored by the NAMES Project Maine with space for the exhibit provided by the YWCA. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus performed at the opening ceremonies, and hundreds of viewers passed among the Quilt panels during its four day stay in Portland. ...

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EDITORIAL

First of all, let me wish each of you a very Happy New Year! May 1994 be all you want it to be.

There are several items on my-what-to-say-in-the Editorial list this month.

Richard Fried, of ACTUP/Portland, came into my office the other evening with a Casco Bay Weekly tucked under his arm. After we exchanged greetings, he showed me the paper, which contained a classified ad that was crude, rude, and definitely maladjusted. On top of that, it was utterly offensive and scary. The ad was for T-shirts in red, white, or blue saying, "Hillary Sucks" or "AIDS Kills Fags Dead." There was a So. Portland address and a request that one send a SASE.

Richard said that a call to CBW was not very productive, with the person taking classified ads saying there was nothing they could do about it. I scratched my head in total disbelief at that comment. But wait, I thought. I'm new at this newspaper business. Maybe there's some rule, or etiquette, or something that paper's abide by, that I am unfamiliar with. No way! This is a vile ad, perpetuating the worst kind of hate and bigotry. There can be no rule or etiquette to allow for this kind of trash. Or so I thought.

I put in a call to CBW's editor, Seth Sprague. After introducing myself, I asked him how he could allow an ad such as this to be printed, what were the guidelines? He acknowledged that the ad was offensive, but suggested that my "frustration" should be with the advertiser, not the CBW. He went on to say that CBW

tries to be an "all inclusive publication" and does not want to "censor" what goes into the paper (Ah! The out for this is to wave the flag of censorship.), but "provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas." I almost tossed my lunch.

I countered with questions about ads spewing hatred of Jews, African Americans, etc. Sprague said he would print those ads, and recounted an ad placed some time ago for T-shirts picturing former President Bush standing in front of a swastika with text under it. He said CBW "took a lot of heat from the Jewish community over that one."

"Understandably so," I shot back in response.

I wanted to hold Sprague responsible. I'm not at all happy that this kind of ad appeared in print in CBW. Richard certainly wasn't happy. I talked to my lover about it. She went ballistic, saying Sprague was part of the problem, etc., etc. As I'm writing this, the words that keep coming into my head are, "I disapprove of what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it," attributed to Voltaire's Essay on Tolerance.

I'm torn between wanting this sort of verbal garbage, and the hate it represents, eliminated from our lives forever, and the larger picture of preserving the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and our Constitution. Excedrin Headache number 785! I truly believe that denying someone's access to expression, be it through words, photos, brush strokes, or other mediums, jeopardizes the rights of us all. It

risks putting someone like Carolyn Cosby "in charge" of what I can and cannot read, admire in a museum, or in the privacy of my own home for that matter, who I can love and how, and where I can live, work, or do business.

Scholars have debated this question for decades. At the moment, I am coming down on the side of CBW, but I have a great deal of thinking still to do. In the meantime, I am requesting three things from CPR readers. First, write the individual who placed this ad. The address is: S-Dist., 50 Market Street, So. Portland 04106. Perhaps some kind of dialogue may ensue and a bridge can be built rather than burned. Second, write a letter to the Casco Bay Weekly, expressing you feelings about this ad. Third, write your thoughts and comments on this subject to CPR's MAILBAG or to me, if you would prefer they not be published. I would like some feedback.

Another subject on my list for this month is the article that appeared in the Portland Press Herald on December 18th saying that Superintendent of Portland's schools, Thomas Edwards, called "a halt to an advisory board's study of whether condoms should be made available in Portland's high schools."

While Edwards and his advisors fiddle, Rome is indeed burning! We all pretty much know the drill. Proponents of condom distribution and sex education are trying to prevent further spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. Opponents are yelling that condom distribution condones teen sex and

encourages risks. These child abusers continue to delude themselves into thinking that their children do exactly as they say, 100% of the time. Maybe THEIR children do, although I doubt it, but not ALL children do. Do these children deserve to suffer and die because some parents can't entertain the thought that their child might not do everything they're told, or worse yet, *be sexually active*? I think not.

So, what do we do about a School Superintendent who is less than enthusiastic about saving young people's lives, using "invasion of privacy" rhetoric as an excuse to hold up the surveys that are now in his possession? Get those word processors warmed up, readers. It's going to be one of those letter-writing times. Let's write letters to Superintendent Edwards, the School Board, and the local newspapers, demanding some responsible leadership in the fight to save lives!

We cannot sit back and wait for the Superintendent to "review" his position, which is non-specific to non-existent. Come on, Dr. Edwards, make a decision in favor of life!

In Solidarity,

Winnie Weir

A gift to the business community

CPR to provide free check-up for business health

By: Winnie Weir

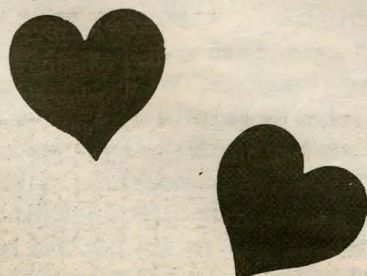
As a way of saying thank you to the businesses owned by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community in our coverage area, Community Pride Reporter is sponsoring a free business health check-up.

Through special arrangements made with Ms. Cynthia Lupien, business consultant and motivational coach, with extensive experience assisting businesses in the areas of profitability, sales, cost control, general marketing issues, employee motivation, and more, CPR is sponsoring her services to insure the continued health of our business community.

Ms. Lupien will be providing business counseling, free of charge, through March 31st. She will travel to your site within a 50 mile radius of Portland during evening hours. If your business establishment is further away, call to

make arrangements. Appointments can be made through the office of CPR, 879-1342.

We of CPR are grateful to the community at large for your support, and this is one of the ways we want to be supportive of you. We salute the courage of those in our community who are business owners, particularly in the face of these unsettled economic times. There are risks involved with operating your own business. We want to offer this 'preventive check-up' to help insure that we'll all be making the best decisions possible for our business futures. A Happy and PROSPEROUS New Year to us all! ...



Have a heart!

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th

By: Winnie Weir

In observance of that special day honoring Cupid's handiwork, CPR wants to encourage the fun and happiness Valentine's Day is traditionally noted for. So, if you would like to publicly acknowledge your love for someone special in your life, here's your chance to do that, and more.

For \$5, CPR will print your 30 word message honoring your special love. Money received for these 'heartfelt' messages will then be donated by Community Pride Reporter to The AIDS Project to be used to support a newly created, client produced newsletter. The newsletter is called In The Affirmative, and it is created by people with HIV to serve people with HIV and their care givers and loved ones. There are costs of production and mailing that we can all help defray. Just twenty messages will raise \$100 for this new venture. Some simple math tells me we could raise a substantial sum to help this newsletter succeed.

Have a heart and help a worthy cause. Use the form below, and mail with your check

to Community Pride Reporter, Suite #634, 142 High Street, Portland, ME 04101 by the 20th of January.

Yes, I want to be included in the Valentine's Day special tribute. Here's my message and a \$5.00 check.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Message: _____

Use additional paper, if necessary.

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a homosexual opened a porno-video rental store. Not four weeks had passed when ranchers reported multiple animal mutilations and people all over the area sighted UFOs hovering over their once fair town!"

Also in January, Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun issued an executive order banning discrimination in state employment.

State Rep. Ed Blackmon blasted the Mississippi legislature for not allocating any funds for AIDS education. "It's a dereliction of responsibility," Blackmon admonished his colleagues. He proposed spending 2 million dollars on a pilot AIDS education program.

Pride Beer made its debut in Los Angeles. A beer brewed by and for the homosexual community, a portion of the profits are pledged to gay/lesbian/AIDS causes.

February started off with the passing of another well-known figure. Arthur Ashe, the first black man to win the prestigious Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, died of AIDS related causes on February 6th at the age of 49.

The U.S. Senate wrote an immigration ban into law barring people with AIDS or anyone who has tested HIV+ from entering the United States. The sponsors managed to pass this ban by attaching it to the National Institute Of Health funding bill containing AIDS research money. It passed 76-23. It defeated the President's pledge to lift the Bush administration's ban. Maine Senator Bill Cohen voted yes and George Mitchell voted no.

New York City schools' chancellor Joseph Fernandez was fired from his job in February. He promoted and fully supported the Rainbow Curriculum.

The Ohio Northern University student senate voted to deny official recognition of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance. The vote left the organization with no insurance, no money

and no student handbook listing. The university is a United Methodist school.

The Dallas, Texas Police Department said it would continue to exclude gays and lesbians from jobs as police officers despite a February 10th court order. The department contested that homosexuals are sodomites and sodomy is a felony in Texas. By year end the policy would be changed.

In Kansas, Reverend Fred Phelps was arrested by Topeka police on February 17th and charged with disorderly conduct. He allegedly called attorney Jerry Palmer a "fat, ugly, sodomite." After posting a \$250 bond, Phelps said, "Almost every night I get down on my knees and ask the good Lord to please let someone get me into a court situation. Then I get subpoena powers, and I get to cross examine witnesses." Phelps is well known in Kansas for his picketing outside funerals of AIDS victims saying that "God Hates Fags," and "Gays deserve to die."

1984 came 9 years late in the guise of ultra conservative religious groups demanding that many books be banned from public and school libraries. Daddy's Roommate, Heather Has Two Mommies and even Where's Waldo? were targets. A North Carolina woman couldn't find Waldo - but she did home in on a topless sun-bather! Thank goodness she did not notice the hand holding male couple and female couple!

St. Patrick's Day in Boston found on-lookers booing, heckling and throwing stink bombs at 25 proud gay and lesbian Irish marchers. One teen threw a cup of hot coffee at a marcher. In New York City, gays were denied the right to march in the parade and held a parade of their own. Ironically, in Ireland, the gay/lesbian Irish group was allowed to march along side their fellow countrymen.

A student sued the University of Wyoming in Laramie after he was nabbed for writing messages in library books seeking contact with other gay men. He objected to an undercover campus cop asking him if he had taken an HIV test, used condoms or new the identities of gay men in Laramie who had AIDS.

Three Marines were acquitted on April 13th of charges that they beat a gay man outside a Wilmington, North Carolina bar January 30th because they were angry about the president's plan to lift the ban on gays in the military. Crae Pridgen alleged the Marines beat him while shouting "Clinton must pay" as he was leaving the bar. Attorney's for the marines alleged their actions were taken in self-defense because bar patrons shouted obscenities and threatened them.

The big event of the decade was held April 24th through the 26th. The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual March On Washington was short on attendance but big on accomplishment. The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed on the Capital Mall, a mass wedding ceremony was held on the steps of the Internal Revenue Service and Hands Around the Capital were all held on April 24th. The main event, the March, was on the 25th. Estimates ranged from a low of 300,000 to a high of 1.5 million marchers. The low figure was the "official" department of National Parks figure which will go down in history books, but at least it will be there. C-Span and CNN gave extensive television coverage of the events and 17 major daily newspapers featured front page

MR. SAFE SEX 1994



Shawn Walsh, (r.) Mr. Safe Sex 1993, with this year's winner, James Prentice. James, who is originally from Oregon, is an accounting student at USM. You may also have seen him at his work place, Portland's Nickelodeon.

stories. Mr. and Mrs. Average American had Queers in the living room and they may never get used to it!

Army Sergeant Joe Zuniga attended the events as a highly decorated soldier, selected as the 6th Army's 1992 Soldier of the Year. He announced at a press conference that he was gay and upon returning to his home base at the Presidio in San Francisco, he was immediately discharged.

April 26th, an American Airlines flight crew requested, and received approval, for a "complete change of all pillows and blankets due to gay rights activists on board." The flight was from Washington D.C. to Dallas and was packed with returning marchers. American Airlines made a public apology three days later.

Senator Jesse Helms made the news in May when he called then nominee for Assistant Housing Secretary Roberta Achtenberg a "damned lesbian." He added, "If that makes me a bigot, then so be it." (It does, and he is.)

The Advocate reported in its May issue that the Washington D.C. chapter of ACT UP had decided to disband. The group reported that it had lost most of its regular members and was having trouble meeting monthly rent.

On May 5th, the Supreme Court of Hawaii, with a 3-1 ruling, said a state law restricting marriage to heterosexual couples was "presumed to be unconstitutional." "In other words," according to William Rubinstein of the Gay Rights Project for the ACLU, "the court ruled that, 'If a man can marry a woman, and a woman can't marry a woman, that's sex discrimination.'" The next question is, will other states and the federal government recognize Hawaiian same sex marriages?

"I sentence you to confinement for the rest of your natural life." With those words, the trial of 21 year old Terry Helvey came to an end. Helvey was found guilty of savagely beating to death a fellow sailor, Allen Schindler, in a public restroom in Japan. Schindler had made it known to his superiors that he was gay, and being harassed on board the ship he was assigned to. He was being reviewed for discharge. Helvey

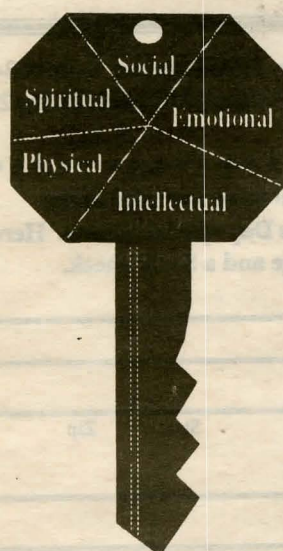
faced the death penalty for the murder, but Schindler's mother pleaded to the court for leniency.

1993 is the year that Drag Queens stepped into a spotlight of their own. John Epperson, better known as Lypsinka, was a most sought after runway model. And RuPaul was seen camping it up on the Arsenio Hall talk show. Speaking of Arsenio Hall, he invited Lea DeLaria, an openly lesbian comedian, to appear on his show twice! DeLaria introduces herself as "A Big Dyke!"

Straight actress Kelly Lynch took the breath away from lesbians nationwide in the movie "Three Of Hearts." She played a jilted lesbian who hires a hustler to seduce, mistreat and hopefully convince her ex girlfriend to return to her. Kelly was no stranger to the gay scene, her dad once owned a drag bar in Minneapolis.

On July 14th, California Senator Barbara Boxer stepped into the ring to challenge defense secretary Les Aspin to make public a Rand Corporation study regarding homosexuals in the military. It appears that the Defense Department has had the report (which they commissioned) and kept it under wraps throughout the Senate hearings on the subject. The possible reason for keeping the report out of sight was because the Rand Corporation came to the conclusion that there is no reason at all to exclude homosexuals from serving in uniform. The Defense Department poo-pooed the findings

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This and That

A compilation of miscellaneous press releases, musings, and other 'musts' for publication!

Following up on last month's CPR article on the Womensphere Winter Retreat for women, to be held February 18-21, 1994, the Press Release says that the site for this gathering, Walnut Hill in Raymond, New Hampshire, is set on 36 acres of hilly woods and ponds. It offers un-groomed self-guided ski trails. Inside, enjoy the warmth of a rustic lodge with woodstoves and intimate lounge areas. A mix and mingle party begins the retreat, featuring tunes by all your favorite female artists.

Saturday you will select three of ten workshops from feminist therapy to women's health issues to country line dancing. In the evening, a women's concert will provide entertainment from 7-midnight. Featured artists include Portland's Kim Volk, Portsmouth's Yagottawanna, and New Hampshire's own blues, folk and new country group, Ladies Choice.

Sunday is packed with more workshops and activities, including an early spirituality service. Hiking, skiing, videos, games, and just plain relaxing are available all weekend long. Meals and snacks are vegetarian, and all participants will share community tasks. Contact Keryn Kriegl at 603/659-2139 for more details. Cost of entire time is \$95 if registered before January 17th or \$110 if registered by February 7th.

Calling all creative art divas !!! The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is sponsoring an art contest to design our future chorus logo. Use your artistic, creative abilities to design what you think would represent the diversity of a fine choral arts organization. The winning entry will

be chosen by the MGMC Board of Directors. The winner will receive \$100 cash and a 1/2 page season advertisement in our concert brochure. All entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1994 and mailed to: MGMC Logo Contest, P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

Full Circle of Women Conference: Following up on last month's CPR article on this conference, being held at the Essex Conference Center and Retreat in Essex, MA, February 4-6, 1994, the brochure says, under "PARTICIPATION": "Full Circle of Women is for woman-identified individuals living their lives as women—transgendered, nontransgendered, transsexual (preoperative and postoperative), and intersex people living as women. Participation by women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, asexual, or other-sexual is encouraged. Women of all colors, shapes, and sizes are welcome. If you are not sure whether this conference is for you, please call us at 508/386-7737."

The conference will attempt to address questions such as, "What do we share in our souls that leads us to experience our lives as women?" "Can we free ourselves from patriarchal doctrine enough to encompass our tremendous variety?" "What power can we tap with diversity that can't be touched with uniformity?" "What unique gifts can we bring to feminism?"

For those who have been excluded from women's events, this is a chance to be included in women's space. For those who have taken womanhood for granted, it will challenge all our assumptions about gender, says the intriguing brochure. The Center is on 18 acres of peaceful woods adjacent to 250 acres of conservation land, within walking distance of the ocean. Hot tub and sauna available. Healthy, mainly vegetarian, meals served. Cost is \$250, some scholarship money may be available. Call the above number for further information.

Leslie Feinberg to visit Maine cities

PORTLAND: Winterfalcon/Rich Productions announces the appearance of Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues* (Firebrand Books, Ithaca, NY), in southern Maine, February 8-13, 1994.

Leslie Feinberg grew up differently gendered in a blue-collar town in the 1950's. She came out as a butch in the bars and factories of Buffalo, NY in the pre-feminist '60's. She writes from the unique vantage point of a woman who entered a female-to-male transsexual program in the early 1970's and has written and spoken widely about her experiences as a passing woman. She is a political activist who has been a part of the lesbian/gay struggle since before the Stonewall rebellion, a member of Workers' World Party for 20 years and a contributing editor to Workers' World. *Stone Butch Blues* is her first novel.

Editor's note: See the CPR Calendar of Events for appearance dates, times and locations.

Equal Protection Maine PORTLAND to meet

By: Richard B. Fried

On January 17, 1994, EPM PORTLAND will meet at 7 PM at St. Luke's Church, 143 State Street, Portland.

The main topics of the meeting are Fund-raising strategy, Future planning, and Brainstorming. The meeting will be non-structural in nature.

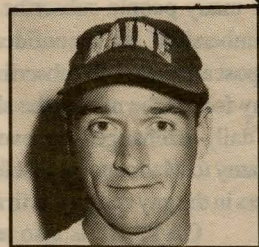
While it is still not a certainty, hopes springs eternal that Carolyn Cosby and her Concerned Maine Families group will not gather the required number of signatures to put the anti-gay referendum question on the November '94 ballot. Preparations need to move forward, however, in order to have a response to this, or any other obvious attempts to take away the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities.

For directions to the church, or more information, call 879-1342.

TEAM MAINE

Tom

Hagerty, Jr.



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-25th. Team Maine has formed to act as a clearing-house of information about the Gay Games, and as an informational network for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered athletes in Maine.

The next meeting of Team Maine participants will be held in Biddeford on Sunday, January 23rd at 2:00 PM. at the University of New England. We will meet in the parking lot to go next door to a members' home and discuss plans for the Gay games. We will return to UNE following the meeting to make use of free passes to the athletic facility that have been provided for Team Maine members.

At this meeting we will discuss plans for marching under a "Maine" banner during open-

ing ceremonies of the Games, and then have time to play volleyball, swim, or use the indoor track and weight-room at UNE.

Call the contact people to make sure the meeting is still on if the weather is bad, if you have questions, or if you need directions or more information. Contacts are:

Swimming, Royal-775-3630; Cycling, Michael-871-9940; Marathon, Triathlon, Track & Field, Bob-799-7981; Badminton, Andrea-781-4747; Racquetball, Jody-764-5581. ...

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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.")

One of the "perks" of academic life is access to E-mail, the electronic mail system linking universities, corporations, and anyone

from erudite discussions of gays in history to requests for a gay-friendly bed and breakfast in Pittsburgh. While there is no way of knowing how many people subscribe to GAYNET (the "membership" list is confidential, and one need not post a message to subscribe), my guess is that many follow the net for the sheer fun of reading the daily exchanges on everything from monogamy to Madonna, or just feeling connected to others in the gay and gay-affirmative community.

GAYNET is also an excellent way to keep up with current events. Subscribers knew the battle between Apple Computer and Williams County, Texas, long before it hit the AP (the company's gay-friendly domestic partnership policy led officials in the county to reject Apple's bid to build a plant there, but happily, the decision was reversed). Through GAYNET, I first learned details of the triumphant passage of a law protecting the rights of lesbian and gay students in Massachusetts, of David Mixener's fence-mending meeting with Bill Clinton, and of recent attacks on lesbians and gay men in Mississippi (another event still missing from the mainstream media as of this writing). On World AIDS Day last November, GAYNET featured a moving summary of observances and ACT-UP demonstrations all over the world.

E-mail is undeniably a forum for the privileged, those of us with access to corporate or university mainframes or enough money to buy into the networks marketed to home computer users. Yet despite its elitism, E-mail reminds me that letter writing, once deemed a casualty of the 20th century, is alive and well on the network. People do want to talk to each other. They even want to write to each other. And then, they want to write back.

People on GAYNET disagree violently, and their disagreements mirror the arguments
See NACHAS, page 12

Community Dialogue ...

This space is provided to those who wish to engage in public debate around specific issues, or who wish to inform readers on topics of interest and concern to our community. Submissions should be kept to 500 words. This month we are printing two submissions dealing with the issue of invisibility.

Bi The Way

By: Vivian J. Holmes

Being different within a community that is already different can be one of those growing experiences life always seems to give us. You'd think that by the time you start approaching the big 'five-O' you could rest a little.

I'm a firm believer in supporting our own business community. Recently, a friend and I visited a lesbian owned store that had a nice collection of art, cards, tapes, pins, etc. As I poked around, I could feel my anger rising. Once again I was feeling isolated, discounted and invisible.

As I searched through an extensive collection of pins, I couldn't find any bisexual pride material. Trying hard to control my building anger, I asked the proprietor if she carried any Bi-pride merchandise. All I heard was a curt and perfunctory "No." In my head, that "No" triggered all the hurt and discrimination I feel lesbian and gay men lay on bisexual people—never mind what straights put out there.

Once again, I was faced with another one of those 'gawd awful' growth experiences. Not only was I feeling slapped in the face, but I had to decide whether I wanted to 'educate' one more time.

I'm tired, tired of the hurt and tired of always having to educate. Had I not been with a friend that day, I would have left and never spent my 'bi' dollars there again.

Waiting for my friend allowed me to cool down. I decided to try another approach. I wanted to test what the "No" meant. Did it mean "your life and reality are not worthy of note" or simply that "no one ever requested such merchandise, and I never thought of carrying it?"

This time the experience had a pleasant ending. The proprietor and I had a great discussion about designing bi-pride products, and how she would start searching for and carrying bi-pride material.

A small triumph; a win-win situation. If life could always be so simple.

My wish for the New Year is that all people will be accepted for whom they are. I especially wish that my own community will mature into a loving, caring family, who accepts and cares for all its diverse members, be they bisexual, transgendered, lesbian, or gay men. ...

Lesbian Invisibility

By: Bobbi Miller

I hate my invisibility. The world screams, "Don't ask, Don't tell." I resent telemarketers who ask for "Mrs." while invading my privacy at home. And, at the doctor's office, the womyn asks my husband's name so she can find my file under its rightful place.

When I come out at the dentist's office by mentioning my partner, she asks, "What business are you in?" When my lover and I want to rent a video to watch on Saturday night while cuddling together, the only images available are of womyn and men. The only acceptable love is heterosexual.

Every billboard, magazine ad, television commercial and media image are not meant for me. The church I grew up in denies my existence.

The most painful invisibility comes at the hands of the woman who bore me. She cannot even let the WORD pass her lips, the "L" word. When my lover and I visit, she tells friends on the phone that I am there, but excludes mention of my life partner.

How do I make myself visible? The saying goes, "It is more difficult to be ignored than to be hated." So I come out as I safely can. It is only a light in the dark. I put bumper stickers on my car, wear shirts that define who I am. I will no longer change pronouns or hide my identity to "pass" as heterosexual.

Still, the world continues to feel heterosexual. One author states that womyn loving womyn is a threat to the patriarchy. How dare two womyn feel whole without a man. The world around me reflects this bias. ...

METRO Club without a home... for now

By: Winnie Weir

In the December issue of CPR, the METRO Club announced their move from their Lewiston home to their new location in Auburn. Their ad invited us to celebrate New Year's eve with them in an extravaganza complete with special midnight show and all the frills.

Well, you've heard of Murphy's law—whatever can go wrong will go wrong. Yep! The deal fell through. METRO Club owner, Tim Pinkham wants all his customers to know that he is working on other location possibilities and will keep you posted through this paper. The good news is that despite the turn of events, Tim threw a party anyway! A METRO Club-At-Large party was held at the multi-purpose building across from the ice arena. It was a BYOB, with food, a special show, and all the frills. ...

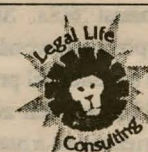
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Money Talk

By: Peter J. Callnan, CPA

With the passage of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993, those affected are wondering what they can do to lessen the tax bite, or to take advantage of the new law. Here are a few suggestions to assist you in minimizing your tax liability for 1994. These will not apply to all taxpayers, and some will require special planning with help. The best time for tax planning is at the beginning of a year, not in December. Taking action now could result in substantial tax savings for 1994.

1. Consider municipal bonds and investments generating capital gains. The increased rates may make the after-tax yield of municipal bonds more attractive. Switching to investments, or investment funds, which minimize current earnings while maximizing appreciation may be wise. With the top individual rate (39.6%) and more than 11% higher than the maximum capital gain rate (28%), it pays to invest for long-term capital gains rather than ordinary income such as interest or dividends.

2. Shift income. If you are in the top tax bracket, see if you can shift income to other taxpayers, such as your children who are age 14, or your domestic partner who is in a lower tax bracket. If your income fluctuates, you may also benefit by equalizing income between years as much as possible. It may be better to be in the 31% bracket in each of 2 years, than in the 28% bracket in one year and the 39.6% bracket the next year.

3. Reduce your taxable income by increasing itemized deductions or making an IRA contribution. Maximize your itemized deductions when possible. For example, the fourth quarter estimated tax payment to the State of Maine may not be due until January of 1995, but by making the payment before December 31, 1994, it can be taken as an itemized deduction and reduce your taxable income. Making an IRA contribution will also reduce your taxable income. This can be done for 1993 as long as you make the contribution before April 15, 1994 when your return is due. Be certain to review the limits affecting individuals covered by employer plans however, before you decide how much to contribute.

Please be certain to consult with a tax professional regarding which of these planning ideas is appropriate for you. In next month's article we will be looking at some general questions people ask when they begin to prepare their tax returns. If you have any specific question, please feel free to send them in. Also, if there are money matter areas of special interest you would like to see focused on in future articles, please let us know.

Honeck & O'Toole will be presenting a free, one hour seminar on Financial Planning for Domestic Partnerships on January 18, 1994 at 5:30 PM at our offices at 50 Portland Pier. Anyone interested in attending should R.S.V.P. at 774-0882. Until next time, Happy New Year! ...

David

Smith, Ed.D.



Lessons from the epidemic Part VI

Happy New Year! New beginnings both frighten and excite us. We are hopeful that things can be different, that this time things will change. So often we are scared of change, though. Our looking at the lessons that the AIDS epidemic is teaching us is one way to reflect on who we are as a people. Change is possible and safe after thoughtful reflection.

America-land of the free! Unless you are not free. Unless you are different. Unless your ancestors were once slaves. Racism-one of our ugliest secrets and powerful realities is seen so clearly by our experience in this epidemic.

As early as 1985, CDC statistics showed that 40 percent of the men with AIDS were men of color. 80% of the women with AIDS were women of color. Still magazine covers featured middle class white women when they spoke about the impact of AIDS on women. And, it was years later that we began to fund programs for prevention and services in communities of color. African-American women with AIDS die more quickly than others because they have so little access to medical care. Gay men of color are often overlooked by their native communities and the often white dominated gay community. Racism is real. Racism is one of the reflections we receive when we look into the mirror of this epidemic.

Long before AIDS, at a day-long seminar on racism in 1974, Beryl Banfield was explaining the difference between racism and prejudice. She said that "if you dislike people just because of their race, you are prejudiced, but if you deny them access you are racist." All the "isms", racism, sexism, and heterosexism rely primarily on denial of access to the member of

the group. This was both a new understanding and an important distinction for me.

When working with people of color with AIDS, I quickly saw how they were denied access: to medical care, to information, to financial support for their community institutions, - all examples of racism. Seeing racism from this angle gave me hope, however, around some of the solutions we might use to deal with our societal racism. Rather than just focus on individuals who are discriminated against, we need to also look at the institutions of social control that reinforce or create that lack of access and racism.

Institutional racism is what the late Martin Luther King, Jr. so eloquently spoke about in his "I have a dream speech." As we celebrate the glorious memory of this great American, it becomes important to examine our hearts to see if we have our own dreams that can end racism.

Our prevention education efforts, we soon learned, needed to be culturally sensitive. That education is most successful when it begins where the "student" is has become a great lesson of this epidemic. The clear educational work of Paulo Friere articulated this in his book, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. People also needed educators they could trust and who understood their culture so that they could safely hear the messages of prevention in this very scary epidemic.

African-Americans, Caribbeans, Asians, Latinos, all pointed out our racism to us. America is racist we heard, and that racism is getting in the way of saving lives at risk for HIV. I am grateful and thankful to so many who stood so strongly against the racism of this epidemic because we all benefit from these lessons. We find that other minority cultures or sub-cultures affected by this epidemic also needed their own approaches. For example, gay men need sexually explicit information that reflects their sexually explicit culture.

When working with prison guards, we had to learn from them about who they were before any effective education could be done. The most successful educational effort in the prisons, that I was part of, was led by a former prison guard. While teaching physicians about addiction, I learned that medical personnel have their own culture and need their own "culturally sensitive" education. So learning from racism,

in a few cases, helped us do the hard work of the epidemic.

The racism of the epidemic, for me, also gave me firsthand knowledge of true multiculturalism. I worked with so many people of different races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations to build organizations and responses to the epidemic that I knew we could work together successfully. Yes, it's hard to put our fears and prejudices aside, but many of us can do just that when confronted by racism in this epidemic. AIDS service organizations, organizations to provide access to clinical trials for people with AIDS, educational organizations and substance abuse treatment programs with which I worked were sometimes able to take a multi-cultural approach and provide services to all. Every step we take to end racism, by living alternatively, is important.

We have a long way to go. We are still racist, but understanding is the first step of any change. We can use the lessons of this epidemic to help us change, help us have a new beginning. We can continue the effort to expose and eliminate racism in our world.

Next month: Addiction and AIDS ...

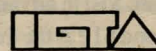
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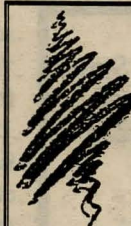
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Women in Harmony

By: Georgia Nichols & Winnie Weir

During the summer months of 1993, a small group of women began meeting to discuss forming a women's chorus in Portland. Each came to the initial meeting with a seed of a vision. Subsequent meetings watered and fertilized these seeds of vision beginning a process of growth. This fall saw the harvest as thirty-five diverse voices blended together in musical harmony.

Women in Harmony is a not-for-profit organization of women who love singing, regardless of musical or singing ability. Membership is open and inclusive, welcoming women of all sexual orientations. The purposes of the group are to provide a positive and supportive environment for women of diverse backgrounds to explore group singing; to foster appreciation of women's choral music in the community through performance and mu-

ducted at the Robert Shaw Choral Workshop at Carnegie Hall in New York City. She has been guest conductor for the New England Women's Symphony, as well as conducting the International Choral Festival in Warwick, England, and numerous New England Music Festivals for Jr. and Sr. High students.

"Sunny", a childhood nickname, "is a descriptive image for this charming and enthusiastic woman" says one chorus member. "Sunny gently shapes the phrases with her hands, much as a potter does with clay. The voices swell, and the music flows in an exciting moment when inanimate notes, mere ink-spots on a page, are given a life of their own. This is music, indescribable music," continues the chorus member.

Despite the various skill levels present, Sunny's teaching and conducting experience are obvious in her poised and focused interaction with the group. When asked about her early impressions of the chorus, she responded

ations in Freeport.

Membership will re-open following the initial performance and women are encouraged to join or speak with a chorus member to get more information or call 774-4940. As a most vivacious soprano put it, "Now this is a sister act!" ...

OUT! of Town

Paul T.

Bernard



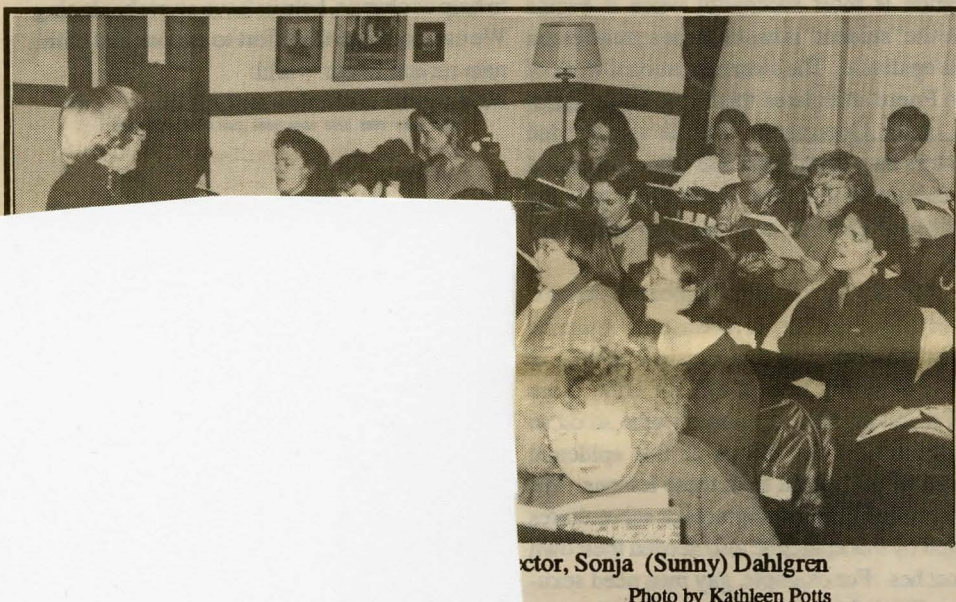
This month, I thought I would tell you about some of the travel options available for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. There are quite a few tour companies offering group packages specifically designed for our community. Here are some that have come across my desk recently.

Atlantis Events runs two week-long, all-inclusive programs at Club Med. The first is Club Med Huatulco on the Mexican Riviera, February 5-12. The second is Club Med Playa Blanca in Mexico, April 23-30. Atlantis Events buys out these Club Med facilities for the week and then markets them for about 350 gay men. Their "all-inclusive" package price of \$895 per person covers most everything (except airfare and liquor).

James Dean Vacations (yes, it is his real name) offers several package tours. The first is to the Sydney Australia Mardi Gras, leaving March 1st. The 7 day package starts at \$1,437 and includes airfare from Los Angeles. They also have a tour going to Rio, the gay capital of South America, leaving April 23rd. This 7 day all-inclusive package starts at \$1,856 per person with airfare from Miami. Also scheduled for 1994 are ski trips to New Zealand in July and an Amazon River Cruise in October.

Anderson International Travel offers individual packages to various destinations in Europe, including Amsterdam, Munich, London, and Paris. They also have options for a "castle stay" in Holland. Rates vary according to the city of your choice and the length of stay.

Toto Tours (Adventure Travel for "Friends of Dorothy") has a group tour to Maui, Hawaii scheduled for March 12-20 for \$995 plus airfare. In addition, they are offering a tour of the Mayan Ruins of Mexico, running January 22-29 for \$995 plus airfare. February 6-12 and 13-19, they are offering Sailing in the British Virgin Islands on a 95 ft. schooner, priced at \$925 plus airfare. Join the group going to Costa Rica, April 8-18 for a fun 10 days of snorkeling, white water rafting, hiking, and wild night-life. They also offer several



Director, Sonja (Sunny) Dahlgren

Photo by Kathleen Potts

sitively. "It is really early in our rehearsal schedule, and we come from diverse backgrounds and musical experience. Diversity is something to cherish. Celebrating that we are women is our common thread, music is our common purpose."

Women In Harmony has developed from grassroots group, spirited by Lee Bryant, to a not-for-profit organization with the following elected officers: Kate Austin, Coordinator; Barbara Rachel, Co-coordinator; Alyson Cummings, Secretary and Legal Advisor; Aaron Brown, Treasurer; and Sylvia Sims, Librarian. The musical accompanist is Linda Marks. Our American Sign Language music signer is Tania Hubacher.

The debut of **Women in Harmony** is scheduled for February 12th. They will present "Renaissance to Rock: 400 Years of Music for Women" at the Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High Street in Portland. Performance time is 8:00 PM. In the event of a snow storm, the concert will be held on Sunday, February 13th at 3:00 PM at the same location.

Ticket prices are \$10 in advance, \$6 for seniors and students, and \$12 at the door. They are available at Macbeans' Music in Brunswick, Amadeus Music in Portland, and Sister Cre-

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BLUES DOUBLE HEADER

Jan. 28th, 8 pm

Koko Taylor & Ronnie Earl

Movies Return to the STATE

Sat. Jan. 29th, 2 pm, 6:30 and 9:15

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FIRST TIME IN PORTLAND

Feb. 3rd, 7:30 pm

THE CAPITOL STEPS
Political Satire at it's funniest

Comedy DOUBLE HEADER

Feb. 4th, 8 pm

EMO PHILIPS
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From the GRACELAND tour

Feb. 14th, 7:30 pm

Ladysmith Black Mambazo

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rafting trips in Utah and in the Grand Canyon, scheduled for June and July. Or spend a week in the wilds of Banff, Canada horseback riding, hiking, and canoeing.

RSVP SeaSpirit promotes week-long cruises aboard their own ship. Their 7 day packages run from \$895-\$1395 plus airfare. From January to March, they are running weekly cruises of the Caribbean-mostly in and out of St. Thomas. Starting in April, the cruises will

See TOWN, page 9

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L:

After the vote? A look back at Lewiston.

Staff Writer and member of Outright / Portland

ting place at the end of the often intense hour support group, that they find the rage to come back, the courage to reach to other gay and lesbian youth, the strength to endure the adjustment of leaving solitary ation, the individuality to not get caught in the fast lane of the community that can be especially destructive to a young heart.

Where no one can see me kneel, when no one can hear me cry and shout and call out to God to protect them, I pray for their safety, physical and emotional, in an insane world where the 'people of God' rise up against the young peoples they have been called to reach out to.

Later, at eleven, one station barely mentioned the Lewiston vote. Another seemed to mock the defeat. I leaned back into the couch, into a friends arms, and thought I could really feel the hopes and prayers of the whole state sinking within me.

I have not been out an entire year yet, and have barely overcome homophobia in my personal life. To see eight thousand people in one city vote against offering their entire community legal security for their individuality as people was a silent heartbreak for me. I closed my eyes and turned my head into my friends shoulder. Then I succeeded in pushing back the tears, later I did not.

Anyone who knows me will tell you I have a big-brother complex. It is an orientation of personality that makes me naturally predisposed to care for the emotional well-being of others, especially those my age and younger. This world beats the hell out of its children enough, and it's gay, lesbian and bisexual children more. I've been one of them.

What I felt when I huddled into my friends arms, and later when I wept, was the weight of an entire group of people, gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, who will now have to fight harder and experience even more pain than ever in the city of Lewiston just to be able to safely say out loud that they are who they are, they love who they love, and that they are okay.

I jumped to the phone after the news report and dialed a friend in Lewiston. "How are you?" I asked casually. "Feeling like I've been betrayed," he answered flatly. He, like myself, was not a part of a political organization, but had as much at stake on that ballot question as did. More, given his home and work are both in Lewiston.

I am a regular face at Portland Outright. I see many other familiar faces every week, and sometimes, new ones: young, old, male, female, cute, butch— young people who know they are differently oriented, living in a world that demands sexual "sameness". Outright welcomes them, encourages them to know that they are not alone, and introduces them to others who have stood and often still stand where they stand.

I always pray that when they leave this

The next night, news of the Lewiston protest, which ended in arrests, and, mercifully, no serious injuries, circulated quickly through the community. I had just left Maine Gay Men's Chorus rehearsal. Friends from the chorus and I sat around a table in Woodfords Cafe and I vocalized my fear. "Is Lewiston going to become a war zone?" I asked out loud. "Are the children going to suffer the worst?" I asked myself silently.

I have a lesbian friend who works at a fast food restaurant and is constantly reminded to do her job and keep quiet about anything else. I have a gay friend who recently dropped out of college. One of the most pressing reasons was that he was experiencing consistent vocal taunting along the halls of his dorm. His first roommate even moved out, unable to handle my friends very low-key sexuality.

I have an 'adopted' younger brother in a long term relationship who recently went shopping for a new car, planning to go in on the loan with his boyfriend. Despite good credit, he wondered if his age, or his sexuality, would prevent the securing of the loan. Sure it would be one or the other, he never had a chance to find out. Unemployment put his plans on the back burner. Reason for dismissal? Non-professional conduct.

I am a blessed man. I have the privilege to earn my keep in a straight business, but run by a lesbian sister in the community. I reside under the secure roof of my supportive mother. I have known that other gay people my age exist since February of this year, and I am 21 years old. Why do I become involved in other people's pain?

Because I recall all too clearly— I have the journal entries since my freshman year in high school— the taunting in the halls, the slashed tire in the parking lot, the hushed counseling session in the guidance office, the eyes that either stared me down, or refused to meet my own. How very, very alone I was. Knowing myself, doubting the rest of the world.

"I believe that some day I will no longer be alone." I wrote those very words in my journal more times than I can count. Today, nearly eight years since those journals began,

and eight months since I met my first openly gay 16-year old at the door of a church in Portland on a cold February evening, I am no longer the only gay young person I know.

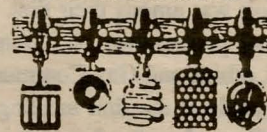
I see angry adults making political volleys and affecting the future of hundreds of gay young people in Maine, many in Lewiston, ultimately gay youth everywhere, and I shudder.

I don't believe in a hateful God. I believe in a loving God, and I pray when I pull the covers over my head at night, and I pray before I drive the truck out of the yard in the morning. Please, God, keep the young ones safe, and help them find each other, and explore their sexuality safely. Give them the courage to reach out for affirming support, to discover they are not diseased, or sinful, or wrong, and they are not going to hell because they love this way. Each and every one of them is priceless. Tell them about 774-HELP and Outright. Help them to know they are no longer alone, and they never have to be again." ...

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TOWN, continued from page 8

be out of Miami, and will cruise to Key West.

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on Feature: The Matlovich Society with Lois Galgay Reckitt and Howard Solomon

By: Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

and Matlovich died in 1988.

Ron thought it a shame that gay people were unaware of their history, so he wanted to form an organization that would serve to inform the community.

The organization is not national, but there is talk of another chapter opening in San Francisco. For some reason, I thought the Matlovich Society was a national group.

Howard chimed in at this point saying that, of what makes this organization unique is a combination of educational, social and cultural elements. It's also unusual in our community to have women and men working equally well together, and that's really something we've done from the very beginning, and that's a uniqueness. When we started in Portland, it was just at the time of the emergence of lesbian and gay political and sense of identity, so I think there's

something remarkably local about us in the best sense. We might never have happened in another setting, or time in history. There's something very specific about Ron McClinton being here, what was happening in Maine in 1990-91, and all of that."

Lois adds, "Our first meeting was in May of 1991. Ron was ill, and I think he wanted to leave something behind. He wanted to create something in the community that would outlast him, and surely that has happened."

Lois attributes the success of the Matlovich Society to several factors. She concurred with Howard's point about timing, but, she amplifies, "we struck a chord with the kind of programs we were running. The other reason is that Ron would call every single one of the people who signed in at the meeting and tell them how glad he was that they had come, and hoped that they would be back at the next one, and tell them when that was. He did this after every meeting."

The group decided that they would have speakers, and Lois was among their first. She moderated a panel presentation on "Domestic Violence in the Lesbian and Gay Community." There were 16 people at the first meeting, and through Ron's efforts, the attendance at subsequent meetings grew, exponentially, until soon, there were 150 people present.

The first meetings were held at the People's Building on Brackett Street upstairs from Good Day Market, but the increase in numbers drove the organization to find new quarters, which they did, at Rines Auditorium in the Portland Public Library. Meetings are always on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

The programs have been incredibly varied, ranging from Congressman Barney Frank to Richard Plante (the expert on Nazi treatment of homosexuals), to a group discussion on growing up gay and Jewish, to poetry readings.

On January 13th at 7:30 PM, the Matlovich Society will host its first event in their new quarters at the Holiday Inn by the Bay. That night's program is entitled, "Let Me Tell You About My Family: A Panel Discussion with Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual parents." On January

27th, there will be a Poetry Performance by Craig Hickman, who is an award-winning poet, singer and satirist. I don't plan to miss this one, do you?

One of the benefits of the move to the Holiday Inn is that you won't have to leave the building at 9 PM. The program will still end at that time, but people will be able to stay and socialize, unlike at the library.

Lois speculated that several things have happened here in Portland, in part, because the Matlovich Society helped create a community in which it was safe to do things. She feels that the good will generated by the organization helped the Equal Protection Portland effort.

Lois said that what they tried to do was create a place where lesbians, gays and bisexuals could come together to learn about their history and their current reality, as well as a place to feel good about themselves, and socialize someplace other than at a bar.

Howard elaborated on the purpose of the organization by saying that in addition to educational and social activities, they wanted to help people who were struggling with coming out by providing affirmation through acknowledgment of gay history and shared struggle, and even provide a safe place for closeted people to come. "We try to be as embracing of the whole community as we can be, and in that, we've been successful."

Someone who doesn't show for four or five months will then come to a program that they are interested in. Lois says that some people come to programs that they wouldn't normally be interested in, for example, they had a big crowd for "Homosexuality in Classical Japan."

The program topics are announced to all 1600 members via the mailing list, and every week in the Casco Bay Weekly and other Portland papers. The Society puts out its program four times a year so they are now announcing their plans through the end of April.

I was very interested in exactly who Leonard Matlovich was, and we discussed this simple and honorable man. An amazing coinci-

dence occurred when Lois showed the biography of Leonard Matlovich to Ron McClinton. There is a photograph in the book of Leonard receiving his Purple Heart, which he was awarded for service in Vietnam. When Ron saw this photo, he realized that it was his stepfather who was handing the medal to Leonard. The hand of fate seemed involved here. Ron McClinton's stepfather was Matlovich's commander in Vietnam.

Matlovich came out publicly in 1975. He was the first to come out, and was subsequently thrown out of the Air Force. Eventually, he won his case. "Matlovich was a working guy, an ordinary guy who lived an extraordinary life," as Howard put it. I had many questions about Leonard Matlovich, though I had heard of him, and known something about his case.

Howard and Lois graciously allowed me to borrow the biography of Leonard Matlovich entitled, Matlovich: The Good Soldier, by Mike Hippler, which I strongly recommend. It is intelligently written and even suspenseful. One is compelled to find out what life had in store for this modest hero. A worthwhile addition to your list of books to read in 1994.

For further background, they loaned me, My Country, My Right to Serve, a collection of experiences of gay men and women in the military, WW II to the present, edited by Mary Ann Humphrey, a must, it's even erotic.

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honest man, and they want to celebrate and honor him in addition to bringing programs to this city.

The organization of the group is very flexible. They are governed by a board that is basically made up of anyone who wants to be on it. They encourage participation, and Howard asked me to stress that if anyone out there has any ideas for speakers or programs, please bring them to the group and get involved. Transportation costs for the speakers are paid, and when



Matlovich Society co-chairs, Lois Galgay Reckert and Howard Solomon

Photo by Luke Balboni

The Matlovich Society is not a political organization. The main problem they face in trying to accomplish their goals is not having enough money. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a couple, \$10 for low income and \$40-\$50 for organizations.

In wrapping up, Howard emphasized, "We are always looking for new ideas and new members." Lois added, "We're very excited about the fact that we are moving to the Holiday Inn and we are moving there because they

approached us." The Inn is actually cheaper than the library, and the free parking is a very beneficial bonus.

Lois thinks that the active solicitation of the Matlovich Society by the Holiday Inn is a very healthy indicator of where Portland is in its attitude toward lesbians, gays and bisexuals.

Both Lois and Howard stressed how important it was for them to have had the library as their meeting place, and what a strong statement of support it was from the community. In fact, the Director of the library, Sheldon Kaye, spoke at their group on censorship. They regret leaving, and do so mainly because of the closing time question.

"Would you be able to characterize the most exciting of your speakers?" I probed.

Lois said that Richard Plante probably was, but that Barney Frank is always entertaining. Locally, she felt that the presentation by Outright! was the most moving event she witnessed. Howard recalls the poet, Becky Birtha warmly, and referred to Lois' program on Domestic Violence as a high point.

Lois and Howard are extremely dedicated public servants. The work they do through the Matlovich Society enriches this city in untold ways. This living monument to Leonard Matlovich and the unsung heroes of our struggle for full equality stands as a beacon to light our way and spread the truth. ...

ON REVIEW... A Winter Serenade: The Maine Gay Men's Chorus holiday gift

By: Winnie Weir

On Sunday, December 19th, over 400 people attended the final performance of A Winter Serenade presented by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. As one of the standing room only assembly, I was indeed grateful that I had not given into the holiday tug of a million other things to do that afternoon. What a gift I would have deprived myself of!

The 50+ dapper men entered the church to rousing applause, lasting well beyond the last man reaching his position. Director Bruce Fithian raised his arms, and we were immediately transported to that special place where cares and responsibilities melt temporarily away and are replaced with the warm fuzzies. Two festive pieces, Welcome! Sing. Be Merry! and Ring

Out. Wild Bells, began this afternoon to be remembered. cially with some added motions by the men in the middle of the chorus.

As the program moved on to celebrate family with four thought provoking and poignant pieces, I found myself experiencing a full range of emotions from pride, as Diversity honored and celebrated our differences, to a mixture of sadness, gratitude, and awe as Rita Kissen's For Our Children was sung. The sadness was for those of us who have not had the benefit of accepting families, while the gratitude and awe is for Rita's commitment and work as an ally of our community.

As Family reminded us that we are each others' family, "growing stronger and wiser," the fourth piece in this set, Brothers and Sisters, did the same in a lighter, humorous way, espe-

The next portion of the program, "In Memoriam" was dedicated to the memory of those who died of AIDS. Featuring Anthony Allen's mastery on the flute, A Winter Serenade, Agnus Dei-I Shall Miss Loving You, and Love Live On, moved many in the audience to tears, this writer included, as we made personal reflections on those people who have died.

The second half of the concert presented the lighter and more humorous side of our lives. The Long Christmas Dinner was interrupted on more than one occasion with raucous laughter. Actually, bursts of laughter continued during Tomorrow Shall Be My Shopping Day, which was presented by an ensemble from the larger

chorus, poking fun at the commercialism of Christmas. Christmas Brunch and Coming Out On Christmas Day were pure hilarity. The final piece of the second half, Peace of Mind, while on a light note, looking at the hustle and bustle of this time of the year, reminded us that the appreciation of love, friendship, and each other is the theme of the season.

Following the perfunctory sing-along of Christmas songs, which always leaves me feeling crazy as I watch non-Christians singing about Jesus Christ being born, the men exited to sustained applause, whistles, and cheers. Accolades continued during the reception which followed the performance.

This was a superb concert, a true gift to the

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1993 continued from page 4
ible to the military" party line.

An NBC News Poll in July showed that 57% of adults in the U.S. were in favor of distributing condoms in high schools.

Prosecutors in London, England charged 39 year old Colin John Ireland with the murders of two gay men. Ireland is believed to be "Sado Sam" a man who made frequent calls to newspapers saying he would murder one gay man every week. He reportedly often phoned Scotland Yard detectives to tease them that they would never find him.

The U.S. Supreme Court welcomed a new member this past summer. Ruth Bader Ginsberg said in her confirmation hearings that she thinks discrimination against anyone is to be deplored.

Randall Terry, the head of the anti-abortion group, Operation Rescue, blamed last summer's flooding in the mid-west on homosexuals! He said AIDS, floods and hurricanes were God's punishment to the United States for tolerating homosexuality and permitting abortion.

An explosive finding in July revealed that homosexuality may be passed on maternally. In other words, it's Mom's fault! Researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health claim to have found markers on chromosomes that they believe indicate homosexuality. It is believed to be hereditary and passed through the mother's side of the family. Peri Jude Radecic, then deputy director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said, "The study is an important addition to the growing body of evidence proving a genetic basis for homosexuality in some people." She added, "It shows that homosexuality occurs naturally and is a common variation among humans - a fact that gay and lesbian people have known all along."

The leader of the Roman Catholic church, John Paul II, visited the U.S. in August. He appeared in only one place, Colorado. Gays and lesbians joined a multitude of others in organized protests against John Paul and his church.

Theresa Dannemiller of Portland died of complications from AIDS on August 1st. Terry was the mother of Autumn Aquino who also has AIDS. She made many public appearances in schools and civic functions to speak out about safer sex and AIDS education. Terry was 29 years old.

One time presidential hopeful Barry Goldwater was interviewed by The Advocate in September. The retired Air Force General commented, "The president of the United States is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. If he says to drop the ban, by God, everybody should do an about-face or get out of the service. If the commanders can't take orders from the Commander-in-Chief, they should submit letters of resignations." He went on to say, "The Constitution says that all men are created equal, and it doesn't say that all men are created equal except for gays."

Randy Shilts' best-seller "And The Band Played On" finally made it to film. The HBO movie starred Sir Ian McKellen, Matthew Modine and Alan Alda among others.

While limited to television in the U.S., the film was released to theaters overseas.

Amanda Bearse, one of the stars of the Fox Television Network's "Married With Children" came out in September. She and her lover had been hounded for weeks by the tabloids.

Cobb County officials (Atlanta) in Georgia voted to not spend any county funds on the Arts. They took this action to avoid spending any money on gay-themed works. The Cobb County commission had initially intended to eliminate funding for gay-themed artworks, but when it was threatened with lawsuits over the plan, it decided to eliminate its entire \$110,000 budget for the Arts.

In a sermon September 26th, Evangelist Billy Graham said that AIDS may be a judgement of God for sin. He apologized two weeks later saying he doesn't believe that and doesn't know why he said it. Graham went on to say in his apology that he had met many people with AIDS and had even put his arms around them and told them that he loved them.

Citing a Virginia law prohibiting sodomy, Henrico County circuit court Judge Buford Parsons granted custody of 2-year-old Tyler Doustou to his Grandmother, denying custody to his natural mother, a lesbian. "In the opinion of this court, her conduct is immoral," said Judge Parsons of the mother Sharon Bottoms. Sharon and her live-in lover were said to be confusing to the normal development of Tyler. It was said that if he were allowed to remain with the two women, he would have difficulty telling the difference between men and women when he was older.

The BBC announced plans to film "The Night Judy Garland Died" a screenplay based on Martin Duberman's book "Stonewall." The BBC also made a television mini-series this year of Armistead Maupin's "Tales Of The City" which will be shown on PBS reportedly in January 1994. The release of "Judy" is scheduled for June, the 25th anniversary of Judy Garland's death, and the Stonewall Riots in New York City.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted in favor of raising AIDS spending by 27% over 1993 levels for the 1994 budget. It will be an increase of \$538.5 million.

As the year wound down, elections were held and gay rights took another step back. Several states had anti-gay referendums on their ballots, thanks to the efforts of ultra right religious groups. Here in Maine, the people of Lewiston voted down an anti-discrimination proposal despite the efforts of police chief Laurent Gilbert and the hard working members of Equal Protection Lewiston. On the bright side, the court in Colorado struck down Amendment 2, a

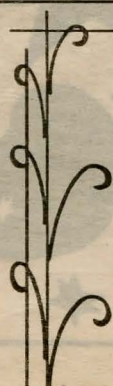
law meant to deny equal rights for homosexuals. The judge stated that you cannot legislate away peoples' basic rights. The finding of that court may be used in other states as a precedent. Still, the efforts of anti-gay groups continues (including our own Citizens for Family Values, led by Carolyn Cosby, here in Maine).

Navy Seaman Keith Meinhold took the oath of re-enlistment, administered by a lesbian officer, as he signed on for two more years with the Navy. A federal judge has ruled that the Navy has no grounds to discriminate against him. Other cases are pending in federal courts across the country. Joe Steffan, who was forced to resign from the Naval Academy days before his graduation, was given his diploma and commission in the Navy per another court order.

And so we ended the year much as we started it, still battling with the military, the religious right and the closet. The year to come may be a turning point for gay rights. It will be the 25th anniversary of the year that a group of drag queens in New York City said enough is enough, and fought back. The Gay Games will be held in New York in June, and the annual Gay Pride observances across the country promise to be nothing less than festive.

HAPPY 1994 readers! ...

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NACHAS, continued from page 6

that threaten to divide the community nationally and here in Maine. Since joining, I've read heated exchanges about gays in the military (do we work to end the ban or do we work to end the military?), racism and homophobia, affirmative action quotas, the use of the term "queer," and the merits of mainstream TV shows with lesbian and gay characters. But GAYNET is also a community. Shortly before Thanksgiving, a subscriber logging on at a university office posted a string of suicidal messages. Netters responded instantly with words of concern. But one GAYNET member living halfway across the country went further. He made a long distance call to the campus police, who were able to intercept the would-be suicide and alert local counseling agencies. Anxious netters who happened to be logging on that weekend followed the developments hour-by-hour as subscribers in the immediate area finally made contact and updated the rest of us.

That story was spectacular enough to make CNN and the AP. But there are many other less dramatic stories on the network. Whether it's a young man working up the courage to come out to his family, a professor threatened with dismissal by a homophobic university administration, or a lonely subscriber living out in the heterosexual middle of nowhere, everything stops on GAYNET, and the network responds.

There's a lesson there for all of us as we move into 1994. We need to talk, to argue and debate about strategy, goals and identity. But we need to stop and listen, too. Most of all, we need each other. ...

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American Family Association Agenda

By: Malcolm Smith

In September of this year, the Bangor affiliate of ABC, WVII-TV, showed the controversial new television show *NYPD Blue*, despite the 150 phone calls, 35 letters and 700 signatures it had received against airing the program. These complaints were orchestrated by a local church radio station with the aid of the American Family Association.

The American Family Association, headed by Dr. Donald Wildmon of Tupelo, Mississippi, describes itself in its literature as "a Christian organization promoting the biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media." The AFA does not restrict itself to the defense of television's "traditional family values," however, but also attacks the "homosexual agenda," pro-choice, and the first amendment.

The AFA is made up, according to the 1992 annual report, of 600 local AFA chapters, with a local chapter in all 50 states, and a goal of 1000 chapters. The estimated 60,000 people in these chapters are described by the AFA as "THE FOOT SOLDIERS IN THE WAR FOR FAMILY VALUES AND THEY'RE ADVANCING THE BATTLE INTO ENEMY TERRITORY."

The local AFA affiliates are working on a set of 9 "pro-family" issues, including the "homosexual agenda" and monitoring the public schools for "pro-homosexual, anti-family and value free content" in the curriculum.

The emphasis of the AFA's work is with television, and to do this they send members the monthly "American Family Association Journal," which lists, among other things, the "best and worst" of the previous few months of television offerings, along with the names of the show's sponsors.

The November issue of the Journal devotes an entire article to October's CBS Schoolbreak Special called "Other Mothers: The Story of a Family," which deals with the "trendy theme" of gay parenting. The Journal criticizes the movie, which is about a lesbian couple and their teenage son, for portraying the family as "normal" and because "tolerance is upheld as a much higher virtue than morality." In addition, the son is faulted because he "takes the misguided stand in support of his moms."

The end of that article speaks of a related Journal article headlined "Kids raised by homosexuals traumatized," which criticizes the "trendy chorus" of researchers that are "biased in favor of homosexuals (and) ignore their own data." The article, authored by Don Feder of the Creators Syndicate concludes, "Children were meant to be nurtured by a man and woman together. Absent that, at least they shouldn't be placed in a situation where a distorted version of human sexuality is presented as the norm, to satisfy the latest bizarre demands for equality."

The September issue of the Journal ran two articles that referred to homosexuality as an addiction that results in a life of self-hatred and cruising.

The AFA has other resources, including the non-profit AFA Law Center, with four attorneys who "defend Christians whose constitutionally protected rights are subject to legal attack." According to the 1992 report, the AFA lawyers were representing suits for Operation Rescue and the Pro Life Action Ministries.

The law center also provides model legislation to towns that wish to regulate adult oriented businesses, in an attempt to regulate "obscenity."

The AFA also provides free copies of the video "The Gay Agenda" to churches and sells copies to interested members.

While different groups argue over the effectiveness of the AFA, the AFA does achieve results. Among other successes, at least 60 ABC affiliates refused to carry the premiere episode of "NYPD Blue," and because of the AFA, the "thirtysomething" episode involving the gay couple in bed is not seen in syndication.

The AFA has stepped into the political arena, currently spearheading a petition drive in Austin, Texas that would make the legal definition of a family as "a husband, a wife, and children."

Wildmon, who founded the AFA in 1977, acknowledges the criticism he receives, some from clergy. He responded to such scorn in a recent Journal editorial, defending himself with this ironic bible verse, "Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account." *The AFA can be reached at PO Drawer 2440, Tupelo, Mississippi, 38803.* ...

Panel on lesbian parenting & pregnancy

BANGOR: A panel discussion on the real-life challenges and experiences of pregnancy and parenting for lesbians will be offered on Saturday, February 12, 1994 from 10 am until 12:30 pm at the Mabel Wadsworth Womens' Health Center. The Center is located in the In-Town Plaza, Harlow Street, Bangor.

The panel will feature three lesbian couples who will talk about their experiences with alternative fertilization, adoption, pregnancy and parenting. There will be ample time for open discussion among the panelists and the audience.

"Having and raising children is one of the most important topics now for many lesbians. It is a part of the complex nature of our family life, with concerns around health, sexuality, economics, family roles, civil rights, and relationships," said Peaches Bass, Coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project at the Mabel Wadsworth Womens' Health Center. "With more and more lesbians choosing to have and raise children, we want to offer an opportunity for lesbians to hear from one another on the subjects of pregnancy and parenting. Also, kids are really neat, and we want to emphasize that they are part of our lives as lesbians," Bass added.

This program is FREE of charge. In the event of bad weather, it will be cancelled and rescheduled. For more information, call the Health Center at 947-5337. ...

Chew on This

Our illustrious editor has just rejected my first article, the first rejection slip I've ever gotten over the phone. "Too long" she says... "too wordy. Besides, by the time the readers get the January issue of CPR, New Year's Eve will be history. How can you submit an article with suggestions on how to spend the night?"

How I hate it when she's right; that's my domain! Good thing I'm not in a mood to get "my britches in a snit." Anyway, I thought my first article was great, so this rewrite should be super fantastic. There's hope anyway. At least let me keep my fantasy!

So, you're reading this, and New Year's Eve is passed. (I hate doing time-warp stuff!) By now you've probably even forgotten your hangover. So, I thought I'd write about the "after holiday blues." You know, the parties are over. The tree is down and you know you'll be vacuuming up pine needles for the next six months. Hell, there's maybe a foot of snow on the ground and it's freezing outside (remember, I'm doing time-warp here). The only warm feelings left from the holidays are the hand knit socks from Aunt Sophie and the heat being generated in the pit of your stomach by the holiday bills that are pouring in.

So, you're broke, summer's just a figment of your imagination and there isn't another major celebration 'til the Gay Games! Now what? "Chew on this" a minute... how about getting spiritual?

No, I'm not suggesting you head for the nearest revival, unless that's your thing. I'm not even suggesting you get in early on Saturday night so you can be in the front pew on Sunday morning! And I'm certainly not suggesting you need to repent and demonstrate your conviction by being "dunked", circumcised, given a new name, or, please no, a new sexual orientation.

What I am suggesting is that we might all be able to use these next months of winter and early spring the way our ancestors did—as a vehicle for reflection in a season that is naturally less busy and demanding of our time and energies.

Rose Mary

Denman



Have you noticed a natural tendency to want to be indoors more during this time of year, or experienced a tug to spend more time quietly and peacefully alone? This is a normal response to the season, a kind of pull toward hibernation, you know, like the bears. So why not go with the flow?

If you already have a spiritual path that feels good, why not give it more of your time and attention? If you've never been involved with any particular religious institution, this might be the time to do some comparative shopping. That shopping doesn't necessarily need to reflect the chosen path of your biological family. In fact, there are probably more opportunities for spiritual nurturing out there than your family ever dreamed possible. Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism have all been around for centuries. But what about those forms of spirituality that are even older, those that are being newly reclaimed, like Paganism or Native American Spirituality?

If groups are not your bag, nothing says you can't be spiritual in the presence of your own company. Many would argue that human beings are necessarily spiritual beings. It is in our essence to be spiritual. So, forget those elements of religion that are a turn-off, but don't throw the baby out with the bath water. Try something, anything, and see how it feels to tap into that part of yourself.

Nurturing comes in all forms. What we take into our bodies in the form of food is only one of them. So maybe you can try a bit more spiritual nurturing. After all, what do you have to lose? Like Mikey says, "...I like it, I like it!" Maybe you'll like it too! ...

REVIEW, continued from page 11

entire community. The quality and blending of voices bespeaks a chorus of longevity rather than second season performance. The interaction between Director, Chorus, accompanist Delmar Small, and sign language interpreter, Douglas Packard shows mutual commitment and dedication to presenting the best choral music possible. There is obvious respect, admi-

ration, and love as the foundation of the chorus.

No, they weren't perfect, as a chorus member pointed out to me, but they accomplished what they set out to do, entertain. They did so, magnificently. ...

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EPL Under Thirty Committee- a small group that made a big difference

By: Rich Austin

The citizens of Lewiston cast their ballots on November 2nd and broke the heart of every resident of the State of Maine who believed in freedom and justice. Before that, there was a small group of young people in Lewiston who found the courage and conviction to strike out on their own path to reach people in their community.

Purpose, structure

Anne Perron and Adam Spey were the youngest members sitting on the EPL steering committee. Perron, 21, of Lewiston was chosen to represent youth, and Spey, 22, of Bates College was chosen to represent college age youth. After a time working with EPL Perron and Spey began to feel ignored by their older counterparts. They felt like their opinions were not taken seriously, and often felt like they had no real part in the decision making process.

Perron and Spey enlisted the help of three other friends and formed the Under Thirty Committee, a loose organization of five members who acted on their own, and with help from friends in the community and classmates at Bates. Perron and Spey acted as liaisons between EPL and UTC. The goal of UTC was to involve and empower youth, and give young people in the community an audible voice in the fight for human rights.

"We [young people] weren't being listened to and we needed some clout," explains Perron when speaking about the reasons for the formation of UTC. "EPL functions were costly. Cruises, dinners and brunches are things people under thirty don't have money to blow on. We brought people into chem-free dances that packed the Metro for \$2 a head."

In the time between UTC's formation to the November 2nd vote, UTC organized three dances, a showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, a football game dubbed 'Dyke Bowl '93', and worked with Bates' Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Association to implement a young voter registration campaign that registered over 400 Bates students as Maine voters based on their seasonal residency during the school year.

UTC's structure was informal, and simple, with no hierarchy. The five person core group met weekly to brainstorm on events, design posters to advertise them, and work together to gain support and implement the groups plans. Work was spread out among the group members, and decisions were made only by consensus. "Of course we didn't always agree," says Perron. "But we always had the brains to reach a compromise everyone could live with."

Activities that reached youth

UTC organized three chem-free dances, all held at the Metro on weekday evenings. \$2 a head at the door gained entry, fifty cents bought a soda, and all the dancing and fun you could stand was free. Attendance, reports Per-

ron and Spey, was like a busy Friday or Saturday night at the bar. The first dance was, by all accounts, extremely successful. "Some of the faces I saw at the dances I had seen around town, and some were new," says Spey.

Publicity for the dances was primarily through word-of-mouth, with a special push on posters and flyers only for the first dance, and the last dance, which was called the 'Homo-coming Dance', was organized in conjunction with the 'Dyke Bowl' football game two days later. The Dyke Bowl saw a group of 25 to 30 lesbian and gay youth on a Lewiston High School field on a bitter cold fall afternoon. The lesbians squared off in teams of six, and the gay men cheer-led. In the end, the score was tied at 1-1, and the group consensus was to avoid overtime and catching pneumonia in the cold.

Perhaps the most outrageous event UTC organized was the showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show in the Grey Cage, a gymnasium at Bates College. UTC paid \$500 to the FOX TV Network to show the film. The showing was announced far and near through fliers and word of mouth, and the turnout was simply massive. Many die-hard Rocky Horror fans came up from Portland to join the ranks of the locals for this special evening.

Between 250 and 300 young people filled the section of the gymnasium the film was being shown in, ready in costume and with squirt guns (Rocky Horror fans will understand. For those who don't, it is a long-standing tradition to attend showings of Rocky Horror dressed as one of the characters in the movie). Toast, rice and newspaper were sold very inexpensively, and the movie was shown against one of the white concrete block walls of the gym, the largest white surface available.

Where do we go now?

After the November 2nd vote, UTC decided to take a break and reassess their position with EPL, and with the entire Human Rights Movement. The group has disbanded, and life has returned, as much as possible, to normal. Anne Perron sees this change of pace as a much needed breather. Her personal interest in youth support and youth activism is well in tact, and as time goes on, she sees herself, and others redoubling their efforts on education about all the issues encompassed by the tag name of discrimination.

"You have to prove to people that we are losing our jobs and our living spaces, our public accommodations and our financial security," says Perron. "People have to listen to our stories, feel our pain, understand that we are discriminated against for the way our heart works, that we did not choose and can not change." She pauses for a moment to gaze out the window, then says, "Anytime anyone interferes with my right to be a human being that's discrimination, and discrimination is always wrong."

Perron feels that the success of the 'special rights' campaign can be attributed only to ignorance, ignorance by choice on the part of those who turn a blind eye to the discrimination they know is wrong but participate in, and ignorance due to lack of knowledge on the part of people who don't understand that discrimination really happens.

Reflections on Insensitivity

By: Rose Mary Denman

John Alexander is a gay man presently braving the final stages of AIDS related complications. At this writing, he has, for the past two and half weeks, chosen not to take any solid food and to maintain physical comfort with fluids. This decision was made after having read Helen Nearing's book, *Loving and Leaving the Good Life*. John, like Scott Nearing, has chosen to leave this world on his own terms.

Wildwood is a center of healing on the west coast. John went there this past fall in response to the invitation: "Come, be with us, let us nurture you and care for you." After being there for only one day, he was asked to leave. Two other "retreatants" had voiced fear of being contaminated by one of John's infections. At 5:30 the following morning, sitting in his room watching the beginnings of a new day unfold outside his window, John penned the following poem.

Wildwood

By: John Alexander

Letting go, out of control, not in control
Opening the hand
Bearer of strange, sweet paradox.
Certainly unsure, surely uncertain
As you give me life, so it is taken away.

As I learn to see, my vision is altered.
As I learn to feel, my heart sheds such sorrow.
As I learn to love, my heart quivers with coming home.

I come to you via friends and airplanes and airport wheelchairs.
It is as if I crossed the country on Route 66,
1200 green lights opening my path, traffic parting,
offering fluid space for me to pass.

Flying with the shades drawn,
that my friend the sunlight cannot harm me.
Flying blind to the clear, pure West,
Toward some kind of joyous, ecstatic blazing sunset.

A closing, closure and opening, and open-sure
Into new life, new breath, pure love.
Free at last.

Then, crying into the mysterious morning.
Mourning the past, observing the moment.
Visiting the wonder of it all.
Seemingly alone, seriously connected to all

that is.
Gold thread spinning out infinitely.
Offering a peace too huge to wrap words around.

A healthy man will not know when he dies!
James told me that, brilliant teacher that he is.
Laying, lying, as I lie in the darkness
Dreaming my life, living my dream.
Blood coursing through my body.
Breath coursing through as well.

As well I am, I am well.
I am a well of richness, a virgin well.
Fuck me that I may know life
Feel your living member.

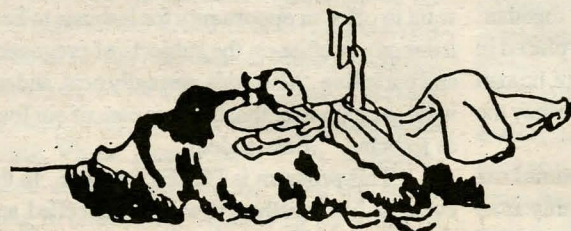
Mem-brains merging
Member-brains that we are.
Deep inside a seed of love—of change...
Of beginnings and endings.

Feeling your essence fill and make me whole once again...
Hole again
Whole—again!

Rejoice in me.
Enter this the temple of my life,
Temple of pleasure and of pain.
Come into me with your all—
Your presence—and your presents,
Touching me deep inside—deeply touching. ...

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Time Out!

By: Michael Rossetti

Cross country skiing, or Nordic skiing (as in Nordic Track) is easily the number one winter exercising sport, but it's also the best way to explore the woods and trails in our own backyards, once the snow gets deep.

The basic equipment is skis, poles, and cross country shoes or boots. The skis are narrow, with soft edges and can be wooden, fiberglass, or metal. Boots must be made to integrate with the skis' pin or clip system which holds the toe area to the skis. All of this can run upwards of \$200 to \$300. A day's rental of the package is usually \$15 at a ski touring center or about \$30 rental at many winter sports equipment dealers, like LL Bean.

Older versions of cross country skis are wooden and require waxing of the bottoms to deal with varying snow conditions. The older boots were low cut and poorly insulated. Newer boots are high tops and water repellant as well.

The basic motion in cross country is similar to skating (and flying). It's a sport that can burn a lot of calories, but slow, relaxed trips through trails, with lots of gliding can be a more enjoyable alternative for the less fanatic. The availability of trails is innumerable. Some of the better ones are Acadia National Park trails and State Park trails, but the best are to be found at ski touring centers.

The centers rent equipment, groom their trails, mark paths with rating systems, and provide warm, indoor places to take breaks, all for about \$10 or \$20 with equipment rentals. Most downhill ski areas have additional trails for cross country, but places that masquerade as farms and golf courses in the summer are great winter Nordic ski spots around the state.

The clothing required for cross country can vary. The basis idea is to wear warm, non-cotton, non-water absorbing layers. Knickers are a good idea, but regular pants with gaiters, cloth ankle covering that keeps snow out of your shoes, are fine for cross country. Gloves that allow finger motion are better for raising poles rather than mittens.

Head gear will allow you better resistance when you're crossing windy open areas. You can be stylish with cross country gear, but the concern should be warmth, ability to aerate, and wind resistance. Aim for button fronts rather than pullovers.

In early February, Time Out! will be trail skiing at a ski touring center in Farmington, one of Maine's best. If you can't join us, then take a trip to your local ski equipment dealer. Ask lots of questions, then try out a day's rental. You'll open up new routes in an otherwise sedentary season. ...

DID YOU KNOW...

38% of lesbians and gay men report verbal harassment due to sexual orientation in the first 6 months of 1993 & 3% report physical attacks.

Also known as crossdressing

By: Winnie Weir

"The world would be narrow if there were no crossings!," says the front of the brochure given to me by a crossdressing friend of mine who is educating me around issues of the transgendered community. Also on the front cover are nine words with the prefix 'trans': transfer, transition, transplant, translation, transaction, transmission, transpersonal, transportation, and finally, transvestite.

With little editing, I want to share the information in this brochure with all the readers of CPR. This brochure focuses on the male-to-female dresser. Notice the familiar ring of the words and thoughts expressed.

Transvestism is a form of self-expression. A literal definition of transvestism is "crossdressing" (from the Latin 'trans' = across + 'vestire' = to dress. Not all crossdressers are transvestites. A TV is not, for example, the same as a "drag queen," a professional female impersonator, or a transsexual, although all these persons crossdress.

Transvestism is a recurring desire, sometimes compulsive, to wear the clothing associated culturally with the opposite sex, to impersonate that sex, or both. It is a way for a man to express affinity with the feminine. Certain specifics may be emphasized, such as high heels, lingerie, or silk. A total "passing" look may be carefully sought, and is often skillfully achieved, since the natural expression of femininity frequently occurs almost instinctively. Today, most transvestites (TVs) are men. This is partly due to the greater freedom of women to select their "look."

Most TVs are heterosexual; some are bisexual, some gay. Dressing is sometimes done to enhance sexuality, and is erotic. At other times, crossdressing may have no sexual context at all, but is indulged in for purposes of relaxation and well-being. As the crossdresser comes to accept himself, he may embrace a wider range of dressed activities.

Many TVs have a definitely masculine, non-effeminate persona in addition to the feminine. In ordinary life, most TVs display no traits that would set them apart from other men. Yet they are different. Their orientation toward the female sets them apart from the "norm." Transvestism is not an exclusively modern phenomenon, for it has been

a form of self-expression in many cultures and during many periods in history.

Society has not had a chance to understand transvestism. Where does society get its information about TVs. The image of the transvestite in the media is often exaggerated, or is a cue for laughter. Due to the shame our culture associates with crossdressing, and to the mistaken identification of transvestism with other types of behavior, few people have had unbiased exposure to a TV, or have heard anything positive about the experience. Society has much to gain by accepting transvestism.

The causes of transvestism, variously theorized, remain one of life's mysteries. It's not caught, taught, or inherited; it's not anyone's "fault", it's not chosen. Usually it's unrelated to what a parent did or didn't do. Often the TV is aware of his specialness at an early age. Although none of the following cause transvestism, one may have brought the desire to awareness: dressing as a female for Halloween, playing a female role in a play, losing a bet or taking a dare, or simple curiosity (e.g., finding Mom's slip in the hamper and wondering what it feels like to wear.).

Transvestites are family members. Many are rearing, or have reared, children. Numerous people have a TV in their family, a husband, parent, brother, son, nephew, or cousin. His needs are the same as the needs of any family member, to be both acknowledged and accepted. Rejection of a TV is a loss for every person in the immediate and extended family.

Crossdressing helps transvestites to be mentally and emotionally healthy. It is not a mental or emotional disorder. A majority of transvestites are responsible employers and employees who pay taxes, are cooperative neighbors, care about family and community, and are careful not to offend others when dressed.

Unhealthy aspects of transvestism have largely been created by the negative and uninformed attitudes of our current culture. For many TVs, crossdressing is a solution, not a problem; it's an answer, not a question. Crossdressing is a release, a non-violent outlet for suppressed frustrations, a time for an agreeable and mellow attitude, a natural expression, and a way to be comfortable. People crossdress not to be like others, but to be like themselves.

Self-acceptance is greatly facilitated by a

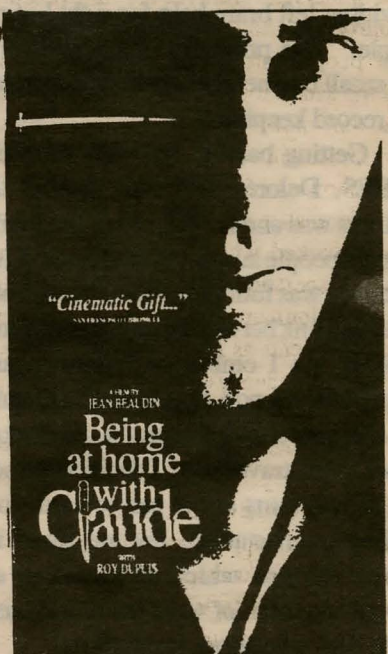
knowledgeable society. Many TVs have come to a peaceful contentment after years in the dual dressing roles. Methods for "cures" that have been tried, and repeatedly failed, are purging or discarding all female clothes, makeup, etc., professional counseling, growing a beard, willpower, immersion in career, alcohol and/or drugs, getting married, getting unmarried.

Over and over, partners and close friends of TVs learn that it is a condition of life, that it's not going to go away. The transvestite is not going to outgrow his desire to dress in women's clothes. He cannot change his condition, although the chances are that he's tried hard to do so. The choice for the partner or friend is to leave, to tolerate it, or to accept it. Many who do accept it are finding numerous advantages in relating to a transvestite: increased self-awareness, opportunities for humor, new friends, and sometimes more clothes.

Some women, upon learning their "man" is a TV, feel a loss; others feel it would be a loss if he did not crossdress. Misinformation is steadily diminishing as more people come out of isolation into the large, supportive community of TVs and their friends. In the US alone, over fifty transvestite organizations exist today, along with approximately a dozen TV magazines and other literature.

Several million American males have been estimated to be TVs. Transvestites are in most professions as laborers, lawyers, military personnel, business executives, contractors, teachers, clergy, etc. Every income level, race, and major religion is represented. Many of us probably do business with, live near, or worship with, a transvestite, but just don't know it. ...

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BUSINESS FEAT

Venus Adventur

Unique tour company celebrates
while combining the sacred and

By: Winnie

Described by founder Delores Lanai as "a gift to myself and my companions celebrating the Goddess," VENUS ADVENTURES was born in Washington, DC. This unique tour company benefits from Delores' multi-faceted and vast experience as a travel agent, business woman, anthropologist, traveler and woman committed to feminism and nature spirituality.

Nature spirituality of cycles and healing has been Delores' path for many years. She celebrates with the Feminist Spiritual Community in Portland. As a Priestess of Sophia, she attempts to bring together the sacred and the secular, particularly on her tours. "On each tour we focus on how visiting sacred sites can impact our everyday lives, to re-member earlier times and to develop their continuing relevance for us today."

She tells prospective tour participants, "Your spiritual journey may vary from mine; these sacred sites tell many stories. I invite those who support peace and the web of life, and whose spiritual journey includes Goddesses, to join us on these tours."

The tours are a part-time adventure. Lanai is also a business organizer, helping people in business to "live their bliss" and providing left brain help for right brained people. She primarily helps individuals and small businesses organize their financial record keeping.

Getting back to VENUS ADVENTURES, Delores said that starting this business was and is "part of my life goal to connect people across cultural lines. From the time I was fourteen, I have been drawn to being a link between peoples of different cultures. As I embraced feminism as a worldview of non-oppression, affirming life and peace, and had professional experience in the travel field, I decided to focus on offering tours as my part toward world healing and nurturing. For me, travel is a vehicle through which all can learn and experience more of what the world has to offer: fun, education, inspiration."

When Lanai was 14 years of age, she went to live in Hawaii, "before it became a state," she interjects, and got a taste of what it was like to live in another culture. She changed her family name to 'Lanai', which had been her home in Hawaii for a year, to honor the experience.

traveling on her own were paramount in shaping her visions into the reality of VENUS ADVENTURES. Living in Washington, DC, where she was active in the feminist movement, and saw a lot of women going out on their own, provided a distinct advantage, according to Lanai. In 1986 she founded the Feminist Business and Professional Network in DC, "to give support to women starting businesses, to those already successful in business, and feminists in any profession wanting the connection to like-minded women."

The 1994 tours include Greece/Crete and England/Wales/Ireland. The Greece/Crete tours are in October, 1994, one for women only, and one for women and men. "These will be Mythic Journeys led by Wendy Ashley of Portland. As a Mythologist and Astrologer, Wendy will help you determine which sites are sacred to your personal mythology," says Lanai. "In late April, 1994, I'll be leading a Journey of the Sacred Female to England and Ireland, for women. In the fall of 1995 the England trips will be for men and



Delores Lanai, Founder
VENUS ADVENTURES

Conference on lesbian health planned for April

BANGOR: On Saturday, April 9th, the Mabel Wadsworth Womens' Health Center will hold a day-long conference on lesbian health. It will be held at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Bangor. The conference, the first of its kind ever in Maine, will provide information about lesbians' health and health care from a variety of perspectives.

"Lesbians in Maine have been clamoring for a forum on the topic of lesbian health," says Peaches Bass, coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center.

"We're eager to give and receive information on everything, including cancer, sexuality, economics, mental health, aging, coming out, family health, substance abuse, staying healthy, being smart health-care consumers, being better health-care providers, having kids, community health, and more. Health is a broad subject, and for lesbians, the field is wide open, so this conference is going to have a diverse array of workshops to choose from," continues Bass.

UTC, continued from page 14

Perron applauds EPL's hard work over the months, and brushes off recent criticisms of fractionalizing and disjointedness within the organization. "People can shit on EPL until they're blue in the face, but we got our thousand people from our town to vote or us."

Adam Spey believes that UTC was formed for a specific function, and performed that function as well as anyone could have. "We addressed an issue that we thought needed to be addressed," says Spey. That issue was involving gay, lesbian and bisexual youth in the fight for their rights as people."

In the wake of the November 2nd vote, Spey looks forward. "The fight continues. The fight for equal rights for all people, including gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, and every part of society that is oppressed." He speaks of UTC members, saying, "I hope we'll all continue fighting in different ways. I know I will."

The only message

At 21 and 22 years of age respectively, Anne Perron and Adam Spey are examples of the life that exists among our gay, lesbian and bisexual youth. Mixed feelings, struggles, questions, sweet victories and sour losses are as much and more a part of being out and young as being out and adult in Maine and in Lewiston.

Perron and Spey would remind us that no one fights for our rights alone, we all work together. When we are united, we stand. When asked what people need to be told, Perron replies, "Discrimination is always wrong. Justice for all is the only message that needs to be told." ...

The conference is open to all women. Health-care providers and others interested in better serving lesbians are also encouraged to attend. Scholarships and free child-care will be available. Registration materials will be mailed in February. For more information, call the Health Center at 947-5337. ...

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National Gay Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute

Activist Alert

WASHINGTON, DC: Williamson County Texas commissioners voted on November 30, 1993 to deny tax breaks to Apple Computer because the company offers health benefits to the domestic partners of its gay employees. Apple had stated prior to the vote that it would choose another site if it did not receive the tax breaks offered to other companies moving to the area. The vote will cost the county 700 jobs and an \$80 million Apple complex. This is the first time, according to NGLTF records, that a government entity has used its power to punish a company for treating its gay employees fairly.

Apple has been the target of a phone-fax-mail zap by the Religious Right, attacking the company's non-discrimination and domestic partnership policies for including gay and lesbian employees.

Thank Apple Computer for its domestic partner policy and for not buckling under anti-gay bigotry. Write to Apple Computer, RE: Policies, 20525 Mariani Avenue, Mail Stop 72P, Cupertino, CA 95014.

(Editors Note: According to AP Newsfinder, the city of Austin voted on and approved a different kind of tax benefit acceptable to Apple, and Apple will now build their complex. It's still a good idea to drop them a letter of thanks.)

Meanwhile, Dell Computer, in Austin, TX, received the tax breaks denied to Apple. Dell Computer has no domestic partnership policy and does not ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Write, call or fax Dell to suggest implementing non-discrimination and domestic partnership policies. Contact Grace Alcala, Manager of Employee Relations, Dell Computer, 9505 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759-7299; (512)338-44001 (512)728-8922 (fax).

LESBIAN NURSES NEEDED: NGLTF, in conjunction with other groups, is waging a battle with the Harvard researchers responsible for the 18-year-old Nurses Health Study. This is an on-going study of more than one hundred thousand female nurses to obtain general health information in all areas of women's health. The researchers are now considering whether to ask respondents about their sexual orientation and sexual activity.

We desperately need nurses (lesbian, bisexual, or straight) to write the researchers and encourage them to add the questions about sexual orientation and sexual activity.

Please call Marj Plumb, NGLTF Health Policy Director, at (202) 332-6483, ext. 3310 or fax her at (202) 332-0207 and leave your name, address, phone number and fax, so that she may send you important information about this study and who to write to.

HEALTH CARE REFORM & YOU: NGLTF is preparing an analysis of the President's Health Security Act and its impacts on the health concerns of gay, lesbian and bisexual people. The document will be available in mid-December.

NGLTF is also establishing a nationwide network of lesbian, gay and bisexual health reform activists who want to receive ongoing mailings about health care reform and who will contact their federal legislators regarding reform.

For a copy of the Health Security Act analysis, write to NGLTF Publications Dept., 1734 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. To join the nationwide network of lesbian, gay and bisexual health reform activists, contact Marj Plumb. (See above ALERT article).

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK-

ING: The International Gay and Lesbian Rights Commission has launched the East/West Pen Pal Project to serve as a liaison between gay men and lesbians in the West and those in Eastern and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. The Project is currently seeking new people interested in becoming pen pals.

For information, write to IGLHRC Pen Pal Project, 520 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

ACTIVISTS BEWARE: The Lambda Report is an anti-gay political hit rag that twists quotes from gay activists to advance a Far Right Agenda. Beware of Peter LaBarbara, author of the Lambda Report, which is published by the producers of the "Gay Agenda" video.

THE MARRIAGE BATTLE IN HAWAII: The Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project (HERMP) is spear heading a legal and political effort in the state of Hawaii to legalize marriage for lesbians and gay men in late 1994 or early 1995. Considered a landmark decision already, Baehr v. Lewin, announced in May 1993 by the Hawaii State Supreme Court, declared the prohibition of same sex marriage as a violation of Hawaii's state constitution protecting citizens from discrimination based upon sex.

Top pre-empt a possible court decision legalizing gay marriages, State House Judiciary Chairman Terrance Tom announced that he will introduce a bill to clearly prohibit state licensing of same-sex marriages. Tom has reasoned that the state issues licenses to couples who appear to present the "biological possibility" of producing offspring.

This project requires continued legal work and a massive public education effort that is relying on supporters throughout the country.

For more information or to send tax-deductible donations, write the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project, c/o Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1820 University Ave. Suite 8, Honolulu, HI 96822.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION: The House and Senate passed the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act by overwhelming margins in both chambers. This piece of legislation advances the federal response to crimes in which the perpetrator intentionally selects a victim because of his or her "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation." The legislation in-

creases penalties for hate crimes under the federal law; enhances federal sentences not less than three offense levels, and demands proof beyond a reasonable doubt that a hate crime occurred. The House passed a stand alone measure while the Senate passed an Omnibus Crime Bill package that included the hate crimes issue. This legislation will be going to conference committee in January to resolve differences between the chambers.

Please write your member of Congress and ask them to support final passage of the Hate Crimes Sentencing Act. For further information, call Martin Hiraga, NGLTF Anti-Violence Organizer, (202) 332-6483, ext. 3307, or Tanya Domi, NGLTF Legislative Director, ext. 3308.

ROMANIA TO STIFFEN ANTI-GAY LAWS: The Romanian Senate recently proposed tightening the country's already strict anti-gay laws. Draft legislation being considered would increase penalties for same-sex relations and encounters that cause "damage, wealth," and prohibits the "public incitement or enticement" of homosexuality, thus limiting the right to assemble and organize.

Demand the defeat of these measures and an end to penalties for same-sex activity. Write the Hon. Adrian Nastase, President, Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania, Palatul din Dealul Mitropoliei, Bucharest, Romania. Send copies of letters to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, 514 Castro St., San Francisco, CA 94114. ...



A beautiful sight to behold in DC as close to 1 million bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered and straight people gathered to support equal rights. Photo by Geoff Higgs

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Sat. 1/1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Sun. 1/2: 5-7 PM, Voice auditions for 1994 Spring Choral Season of Maine Gay Men's Chorus, First Parish UU Church Hall, 425 Congress St., Portland. FMI, call 797-9270.

Wed. 1/5: 6-8 PM, Policy Meeting of Northern Lambda Nord to establish rules, responsibilities for the newsletter, at the Phoneline office in Caribou. FMI, call 498-2088.

Wed. 1/5: 7 PM (ME), 8 PM (NB), Northern Lambda Nord Open House at the Phoneline office, Caribou. FMI, 498-2088. (Meet every Wed., same time & place.)

Wed. 1/5: 5-7 PM, Voice auditions for 1994 Spring Choral Season of Maine Gay Men's Chorus, First Parish UU Church Hall, 425 Congress St., Portland. FMI, call 797-9270.

Sun. 1/9: 2 PM, Stonewall 25-Bangor Group, The Rage, 123 Franklin St., Bangor.

Thurs. 1/13: 7:30 PM, The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Topic: "Let Me Tell You About My Family: A Panel Discussion with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Parents." Come, hear about the diversity of family life in our community. Free parking. Accessible to the mobility-impaired.

Fri. 1/14: 7:30 PM, Peace Action Maine Speak Out, Allen Ave. UU Church, 524 Allen Ave., Portland. David Hart, Executive Director, principal speaker.

Fri. 1/14: Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Celebration begins. 7-9 PM, Campus Ctr. USM, an "Impromptu Evening" of sharing stories, music, and experiences. Open and free to the public.

Sat. 1/15: 10 AM-noon, Portland YWCA, "African Folklore" with storyteller, Jane Gilbert. Free, geared to children 5-12 years old.

Sat. 1/15: Northern Lambda Nord's 3 event day. 1 PM Library Day-Help get the library collection into the computer. 5 PM (approx.) Pot Luck in New Sweden. ALL DAY, help increase the fund for a community center by bringing in your empty bottles and cans, or cash them in and make a donation. FMI, call 498-2088.

Sun. 1/16: 6:30 PM, Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland, "Gospel Extravaganza" featuring local church choirs. Tickets: \$5 per person, or \$20 family of 4-6.

Sun. 1/16: Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting. New location and new time: 1-3 PM (ME), 2-4 PM (NB), The Lions Community Center, High St., Caribou. Park Lions Center or Shop & Save lot. FMI, call 498-2088.

Mon. 1/17: 12th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Spring St., Portland. Senator George Mitchell, Key-Note Speaker. John Jenkins, Mayor-Elect of Lewiston, and Terrie Rouse, Director of the Childrens Museum, Portland, Guest Speakers. Advance ticket sales only. \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 & under. FMI, call 774-3057 (10 AM-8 PM) or 883-9764, 774-0915 or 773-3696 from 6-10 PM.

Mon. 1/17: 7 PM, Equal Protection Maine/Portland meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 143 State St., Portland. (Across from Mercy Hospital.) For directions or more info, call 879-

1342, during the day.

Tues. 1/18: 7-9 PM, The Gathering, Commuter Student Lounge, USM. Showing "Claire of the Moon."

Wed. 1/19: 7 PM (ME), 8 PM (NB), NLN Fold & Stuff Feb. newsletter & calendar at the Phoneline in Caribou. FMI, 498-2088.

Sat. 1/22: Aroostook's Fight the Right Group Meets 4 PM in Presque Isle. Agenda includes name the group, adopt statement of purpose, set goals, decide how to reach goals. Pot Luck Supper follows. FMI, call 498-2088.

Sun. 1/23: 2 PM, Team Maine meets at UNE to discuss plans for Gay Games in NYC and to use the facilities at UNE gym including weight room, pool, indoor track. Call contacts for more info. See Team Maine Bulletin for #'s.

Tues. 1/25: 7-9 PM, The Gathering, Commuter Student Lounge, USM. Topic: "Straight, But Not Narrow" with Kate Ridlon, USM student.

Thurs. 1/27: 7:30 PM, The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Topic: "Performance Poetry: An Evening with Criag Hickman". Craig Hickman is a choreographer and co-writer of *Through the Fire*, a provocative and poignant reflection on being black and gay in North America. Award winning poet, singer and satirist, Hickman brings his magic to Portland. Free parking. Accessible to the mobility-impaired.

Sat. 1/29: Northern Lambda Nord's 14th Anniversary Dinner Party, 7 PM (ME), 8 PM (NB), at the Carriage House Restaurant, Presque Isle. Reservations required by 1/19. Call the Phoneline for more information, 498-2088.

FEBRUARY PREVIEW

Sun. 2/6: A DON'T-BORE-ME-WITH-GENDER Pre-Valentine Cantina T-Dance, 4-9 PM at ZOOTZ, 31 Forest Ave., Portland. Donation of \$6 per couple, \$4 single. Creative dress encouraged. Portion of proceeds to help defray costs of bringing Leslie Feinberg to the area.

Tues. 2/8: 7-9 PM, THE GATHERING, Student Commuter Lounge, USM. Leslie Feinberg leads discussion on "Surviving Gender Oppression, A Lesbian's Journey."

Wed. 2/9: 7:30-9 PM, Leslie Feinberg reading from her book, *Stone Butch Blues*, and leading discussion of gender issues at Bowdoin College, Kresge Lecture Hall, Brunswick.

Thurs. 2/10: Matlovich Society presents Leslie Feinberg, "An Illustrated Lecture on Transgender History." 7:30 PM, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Spring St., Portland.

Fri. 2/11: 7-9 PM, Slide show on transgender history by Leslie Feinberg. Chase Lounge, Bates College, Lewiston.

Sat. 2/12: 2 PM, Book signing with Leslie Feinberg at Ananael, 521 Congress St., Portland

Send in meeting dates of your organization or dates of special events to Community Pride Reporter, 142 High St., #634 Portland, ME 04101 by the 15th of the month

PERSONALS

••Lesbian, 40, slim, 5'4", green eyes, brown hair who lives in southern to western Maine area. My hearts desire? To be the keeper of your heart! Enjoy music, movies, taking walks, the outdoors, and nature. I'm feminine and a hopeless romantic. Sincere, honest, monogamous. Are you like me, searching for a faithful friend and lover to share your life with? You may be that special lady! Come and walk life's road with me. Will answer your response. Address/phone number. Write to Advertiser #1725, c/o this paper. •••

APARTMENTS TO SHARE

••Graduate student, female, 40 yrs. old, seeking female roommate. 2 bedroom Victorian apartment corner Emery & Pine, West End. \$200+ 1/2 utilities. Parking included. Available January 1st. Lesbian friendly, non-smoker. Short or long term considered. Call 775-0587 evenings or weekends. •••

••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 Fort Williams. 10 min. to downtown Portland \$275 monthly, plus utilities. Call 799-4734. •••

HOUSE TO SHARE

••House mate wanted: I would like to share my house in Camden by the sea with a gay man. Call 236-8935. •••

HELP WANTED

••Do you enjoy meeting people? Are you assertive and confident? Can you sell a product you believe in? Do you want to pick up some extra cash? If you answered yes to theses questions, contact the Community Pride Reporter. We are looking for additional Account Executives to sell advertising. Commission only. Call 879-1342 today! •••

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••Prime FREEPORT location. Very private on 2.8 acres. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Cathedral ceiling. Center chimney & hearth. Huge wrap around deck. Full daylight basement with washer/dryer. New oil heat system. \$800 plus utilities. 761-3918. •••

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••2 bedroom mobile home, oil heat, gas stove. BOTH country setting with privacy, furnished or unfurnished. Close to Popham Beach, trees, wildlife, hiking, skiing trails. 20 minutes to Brunswick. \$400 + utilities. 389-1626. •••

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUPS

••Support group starting in greater Portland area for Lesbians entering menopause. Let's share information and experiences. This is not a therapy group. Call 879-0769, and leave you name, phone number and best time to reach you. •••

••Lesbian support & discussion group, Central Maine area, meets 1st and 3rd Fridays, 7-8:30 PM. Call Irene Cox, LCSW, 453-4403 for more information. •••

BADMINTON, ANYONE?

••Looking for advanced skilled female badminton player to commit to weekly practice together in greater Portland area. Call AW, 781-4747.

HELP WANTED

••Looking for free lance reporters to cover newsworthy events in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community for the Community Pride Reporter. If you are interested in sharpening your writing skills while helping to keep our community informed, call 879-1342 for interview. •••

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RESOURCES

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (ML/GPA) works to ensure equal treatment for our community throughout Maine. Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of the month, 12 noon, at the UU Church, Winthrop & Summer Streets, Augusta. For more information about meetings or membership, call 761-3732 or 1-800-55-MLGPA, outside the Portland area. **

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England has a new Health Center at 970 Forest Ave., Portland. Serving men & women, PPNNE offers annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing & treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support & more. Free parking, evening hours, affordable services, & complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. FMI, 874-1095. **

Women's Chorus: An eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation is now formed. 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, 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104. **

Northern Lambda Nord: an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving northern Maine and New Brunswick lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. Meets every Wednesday at the Phoneline in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/498-2088. **

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 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Contact (207) 773-1209. **

National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, & lobby legislators re: issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are 5 PM, 3rd Thursday, monthly at Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030. **

Am Chofshi, Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish group, meets monthly. FMI, 874-2970 (Rheatha). **

PHONE SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Bangor - 990-3626 - Eastern Maine AIDS Network

Belfast - 338-1427 - Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition

Brunswick - 725-4995 - Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

Bridgton - 583-6608 - Community Task Force on AIDS

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

Rumford - 823-4170 - Community AIDS Awareness Program

Lewiston - 786-4697 - Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition

Waterville - 626-3432 - Dayspring

Ellsworth - 667-3506 - Down East AIDS Network

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

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

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

Augusta/Hallowell - 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer - 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath - see Waldoboro

*Lewiston/Auburn - 783-9789

*Portland - 766-5158

Waldoboro - 832-5859

* - Monthly meetings held

P-FLAG CONTACTS - NH

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

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

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

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

P-FLAG 24 hour Helpline: 603/623-6023 or Plymouth - 603/968-7516

Nashua - 603/880-8709

Manchester - 603/472-4944

Monadnock - 603/547-2545

Hanover - 603/643-8331

Concord - 603/746-3818

GROUP SUPPORT

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

Out For Good: Thursdays 7-9pm, 445 Main St., Biddeford. Lesbians 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 TOO: Sundays, 6 pm at Peace & Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI, call 285-7180.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wilde-Stein Club: Lesbian/Gay support group meets every Thursday, 6:30 pm, Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

Lesbian/Bisexual support group: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm, UM Orono, Womens Resource Center.

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.

Maine AIDS Alliance Member Organizations

AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: 563-8953

PO Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0421

AIDS Lodging House: 874-1000

PO Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition:

786-4697, PO Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243

Children's AIDS Network: 761-1872

PO Box 793, Portland, ME 04104

Community AIDS Awareness Program:

823-4170, PO Box 457 Rumford, ME 04276

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.:

583-6608, PO Box 941, Naples, ME 04055

Dayspring: 626-3432

32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330

Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

PO Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.: 725-4955

PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057

Names Project/Maine: 774-2198

PO Box 4319, Portland, ME 04101

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451, PO Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.:

773-8500, 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland, ME 04101

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: 834-3355

c/o NMMC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743

The AIDS Project: 774-6877

22 Monument Sq., 5th fl., Portland, ME 0401

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

PO Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915

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at Railroad Square Cafe
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