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 nation law passed by a 2-1 margin in Portland. The new "Red Ribbon" stamps. Funding to fight AIDS, and he pledged to appoint an AIDS Czar.

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 reader.

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 businesses in Maine this year. There are a few new homosexual owned businesses in Maine this year. Anchors, 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 Stage! In mid-April, Sister Creations, an establishment carrying gifts, music, and works of original art to em

See 1993, page 4

Our World, Our Nation

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 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 conservatives 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.

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. Anchors, 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 Stage! In mid-April, Sister Creations, an establishment carrying gifts, music, and works of original art to em

See STATE, page 2
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 being a gay man, 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

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 of obvious filler material, but, they can't give me 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. 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 isn't. 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 the holder of the "public" trust.

Their license should not be renewed.

Bill Costley, Thornndike

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**COMMUNITY PRIDE MAILBAG**

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Dear Editor:

I want to subscribe to the Community Pride Reporter. I have enclosed my check for $20.00 for 12 issues mailed first class in a plain envelope.

NAME: 

ADDRESS: 

PHONE: 

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

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Dear Editor:

The name Carolyn Cosby has replaced that of Linda Bean on most rightists' activits' 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...
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 no 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 publication'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 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 "what can and cannot be read, admired in the exchange of ideas.") I almost tossed my lunch. I can live, work, or do business as I choose, but not ALL children do. Do these parents have to suffer and die because some children have to do exactly as they say, 100% of the time? May THEIR children do, although I doubt it, but not ALL children do. Do these parents 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 live!

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 even 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 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 thirty 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.

In Solidarity,
1993, continued from page 1

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 Sundulis issued an executive order banning discrimination in state employment.


Pride Beer made its debut in Los Angeles. A brew 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 January 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 toplees sunbather! Thank goodness she did not notice the hand holding male couple and female couple!

St. Patrick’s Day in Boston found onlookers booping, 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 an HIV test, used condoms or knew 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. Cee Fidgen 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 threats.

The big event of the decade was held April 24th through the 26th. The Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual 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 stories. Mr. and Mrs. Average American had Queens in the living room and they may never get used to it.

Mr. Safe Sex 1993

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 UVM.

You may also have seen him at his work place, Portland’s Nickelodeon.

If 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.

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.

Seventeen Century

CPR

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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 Women'sphere Winter Retreat for women, to be held February 18-21, 1994, the Press Release says that the site for this gathering, Center and Retreat in Essex, MA, February 4-6, 1994, was set in 1994, to be held February 18-21, 1994, the Press conference being held at the Essex Conference and intimate lounge areas. A on 36 acres of hilly woods and ponds. It offers TOI : “Full Circle of Women Portland's Kim Volk, Portsmouth's The conference will attempt to address 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 opening 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.

TEAM MAINE

Tom Hagerty, Jr.

The Gay Games are held every four years to get 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 on January 17, 1994, at 7 PM at St Luke's Church, 143 State Street, Portland. The main topics of the meeting are fundraising strategy, Future planning, and Brainstorming. The meeting will be non-structural in nature.

While it is still not a certainty, hopes spring 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's events that would protect the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities.

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

Leslie Feinberg to visit Maine cities


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.

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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 know that the battle between Apple Computer and James 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 of the triumph of passage of a law protecting the rights of lesbian and gay students in Massachusetts, of David Mixner'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 never mind what straights put out there. E-mail is a tool linking universities, corporations, and anyone else who wants to use it. It is a way to existence.

High Street, Portland

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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 else who wants to use it. It is a way to existence. Anyone can post a message, and government, and at home. Anyone can post a to write back.

While, then, they want to write to each other. They even want to write back.

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

so, what is motivational coaching??

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- living in the present
- daring to dream
- demanding happiness
- capturing your spirit

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**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 cards, tapes, pins, etc. As I was feeling 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. Tearing 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 from being a lesbian and gay man 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 just that "No," trigger all the hurt and discrimination I feel?

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Money Talk
By: Peter J. Callan, 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 the end of the 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. Swapping to investments, or investment funds, which make no current earnings while the remaining 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 in 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 matters 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 RSVP at 774-0882. Until next time, Happy New Year!

Lessons from the epidemic

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 safer 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 how 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.

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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 background to explore group singing; to foster 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 purpose of the group is 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 music education 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 positively. "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 41-for-profit organization with the following elected officers: Kate Austin, Coordinator; Barbara Rachel, Co-coordinator; Alyson Cummings, Secretary and Legal Advisor; Karen 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 Emmanuel 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 Creations 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.

Atlantic 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. Atlantic Events runs 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 very 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 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 run to various destinations in Freeport.
fter the vote? A look back at Lewiston.

Staff Writer and member of Outright / Portland

I jumped to the phone after the news of the Lewiston vote, which ended in arrests, and, mercifully, no serious injuries, circulated quickly through the community. I had just left a 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 verbal taunting along the halls of his dorm. His first roommate even moved out, unable to handle his 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. He and his individuality to not get caught in the fast lane of the community that can especially destructive to a young heart.

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 arms, and later when I wept, was the credit, he wondered if his age, or his sexuality, would prevent the securing of the loan.

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
Ron Feature: The Matlovich Society

By: Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

The story of Leonard Matlovich continued on page 27.

On January 13th at 7:30 PM, the Matlovich Society will host its first event in its new quarters at Holiday Inn by the Bay. The 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's 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 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 is helping 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 naming their plans through the end of April. Someone who doesn't show for four or five months will then come to a program that they are interested in.

Lois said that some people come to programs that they wouldn't normally be interested in, for example, those that 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 coincidence happened 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 basically made up of anyone who wants to be on the board that is governed by a board that is.

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 been 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 raising applause, lasting well beyond the last man reaching his position. Director Bruce Fitchian raised his arms, and we were immediately transported to that special place where caring 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.

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, especially with some added motions by the men in the middle of the chorus.

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- with 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
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.

Coeb 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 judge. He told them that he loved them.

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.

Theodore 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."

Kandy Shilt's 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.

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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 LOTUS 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 LOTUS subscriber 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 LOTUS, 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 it's 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 "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 "pro-family" issues, including the "homosexual agenda" and monitoring the public schools for "pro-homosexual, anti-family and value free content" in the curriculum.

While 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 faults 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, was dropped in syndication.

The AFA has stepped into the political arena, currently spearheading a petition drive in Texarkana and the Pro Life Action Ministries. These complaints were directed at the pro-choice, antihomosexual agenda, and monitoring the public schools.

The November issue of the Journal decries the "Myth of Gay Parenting," which states, "There is no scientific evidence that children raised by homosexuals, "behave as well as children raised by heterosexual parents." The AFA's September issue of the Journal ran an article, authored by Don Feder of the Creators Syndicate, entitled "A Day in the Life of a Homosexual Parent," which deals with the "trendy theme" of gay parenting. The Journal article headlined "Kids raised by homosexuals 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 American Family Association, copies to interested members.

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 faults 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.
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. A bitter cold fall afternoon, the lesbians squared off, watching the beginnings of a new day unfold outside the community. The score was tied at 1-1, and the group had no real part in the decision making process. Portland to come from the ranks of the locals for representation.

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 that 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 a 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 Perron 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 flyers 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 break. Her personal interest in youth support with EPL, and with the entire Human Rights Movement has disband, and life has continued with new friends and a new wave of activism.

``As I learn to see, my vision is altered. 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. I come to you via friends and airplanes and airport wheelchairs. 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 with the shades drawn, that my friend the sunlight cannot harm me.``

``Blazing sunset, blazing sunset, blazing sunset.``

``Rejoice in me. Rejoice in me. Rejoice in me.``

``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.``

See UTC, page 16

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 last 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 "retraitants" 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
Bearers of strange, sweet paradox.
Certainly unsure, surely uncertain
As you give me life, so is it taken away.
Considering, uncertainty is here.
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.

As I come to you via friends and airplanes and airport wheelchairs.

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, that my friend the sunlight cannot harm me.

As I learn to see, my vision is altered.

As I learn to see, my vision is altered.

Blazing sunset, blazing sunset, blazing sunset.

Rejoice in me. Rejoice in me. Rejoice in me.

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!

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.

Fucked 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.

Your presence—your presents, Touching me deep inside—deeply touching...**

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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 deal with varying snow conditions. The older did not exist. Misinformation is steadily dealing with varying snow conditions. The older did not exist. Misinformation is steadily

Older versions of cross country skis are wooden and require waxing of the bottoms to aT

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 basic idea is to wear warm, though all the 80s wore crossovers. 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 cross-dressers are transvestites. A TV is, 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 wellbeing. As the crossdresser comes to accept himself, he may embrace a wider range of dressing activities.

Many TVs have a definitely masculine, non-effeminate personality 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 it is a case 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 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 is not anyone's "fault," it's not choosen. 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 Hal-loween, playing a female role in a play, losing a bet, or taking a dare, or simply curiosity. Often, dressing as a female is a form of self-expression in many cultures and during many periods in history.

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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 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 uniformed attitudes of our current culture. For many TVs, crossdressing is a solution, not a problem; it's an answer, not a question. Dressing 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

**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.
VENUS ADVENTURES

Unique tour company celebrates 7 years
while combining the sacred and the sensual

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 the Feminist Spiritual Movement and whose spiritual journey includes Goddesses, to join us on these tours."

The tours are a part-time adventure. Lanai is 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.

Conference on lesbian health planned for April

BANGOR: On Saturday, April 9th, the Mabel Wadsworth Women's 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.

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."
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 NETWORKING: 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 IGLHRCPenPalProject, 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 increases 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 anti-gay laws. Draft legislation being considered would increase penalties for same-sex relations and adver tisers that cause "damage, danger, or disaster," 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.
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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 Unitarian 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, FP&NE 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 04104. 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 grueling and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gaylesbian 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 Phoneine in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/498-2088. 

**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) 773-1290. 

**National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter:** Sexual Minorities 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 (Rhea).**