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The head of Concerned Maine Families' effort to place an anti-gay question on the November 1995 ballot claims to have collected 60,000 signatures.

Carolyn Cosby, leader of a radical right movement within Maine was quoted on a July 20 National Public Radio Morning Edition new sprogram as saying the group has collected 60,000 signatures—6,000 more than needed. The petition signatures could force the inclusion of a ballot question that would limit the current Maine Human Rights Act to its current language and effectively repeal or prohibit efforts like Portland's.

Cosby has said she will turn the signatures over to the Maine Secretary of State's office on August 15th. Equal Protection Maine plans to mount a signature challenge to its current Maine laws over to the Maine Secretary of State's office on August 15th. Equal Protection Maine plans to mount a signature challenge to its current Maine Human Rights Act to its current language and effectively repeal or prohibit efforts like Portland's.

Terry Jones

COLORADO SPRINGS—Papers, recordings and strategy papers from a May 16-18 Colorado Springs meeting of representatives from 35 religious right-wing organizations are being distributed by several gay and lesbian groups in an effort to publicize a bizarre and calculated plan to fight pro-gay initiatives across the country. Participants in the meeting included representatives from some of the best-known anti-gay groups including the American Family Association, Focus on the Family, Colorado for Family Values, the National Legal Foundation and the Family Research Institute. The meeting's proceedings highlight a new era of radical right activity designed to pressure and intimidate candidates and politicians into supporting the radical right's most focused attack to date—the defeat of all forms of gay and lesbian rights.

Addressing the group, John Eldredge of Focus on the Family, told meeting attendees that "the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn. It is destroying the souls and the lives of those who embrace it." Gay activists and observers believe that this signals an all-out effort on the part of radical right groups to fight a single cause—lesbian and gay rights.

Meeting documents now being distributed by Equal Protection Maine reveal a comprehensive and determined effort to undermine any pro-gay ordinance and prevent the passage of future initiatives. In a paper entitled "Project Spotlight: A Plan for the Nation" dated April 20, 1994 from the American Family Association PAC of Ohio, a detailed four-step plan and four-phase implementation is proposed. The "spotlight" in this case is to be directed at candidates and politicians that support equal rights for gays and lesbians. The four step plan is: 1) First and most important, educate voters about the homosexual agenda through a well-organized educational program that begins far in advance of the city council election (minimum one year). 2) Use every opportunity to register people to vote. 3) Through each educational meeting and other channels, start a petition drive to gather signatures of registered voters. Suggested petition language is: "I pledge I will not vote for any candidate who has accepted a political endorsement from homosexuals. I am opposed to elected officials promoting the homosexual agenda in government and schools. I am for equal rights for all. Therefore, I am opposed to special rights laws that promote homosexuality." 4) Two weeks before an election, mail to every person who signed the petition a list of candidates who have been endorsed by the homosexuals and a list of those who have not.

The stated objectives of this plan are to hold candidates accountable for their positions. The plan also highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to fighting the homosexual agenda. The four-step plan is: 1) First and most important, educate voters about the homosexual agenda through a well-organized educational program that begins far in advance of the city council election (minimum one year).
Equal Protection Maine Update

In an effort to keep the gay and lesbian community abreast of Equal Protection Maine’s anti-referendum activities, 10% will be reserving page 2 for the details of Equal Protection meetings, press releases and announcements.

Equal Protection Maine faces a serious, well-funded challenge from Concerned Maine Families and Carolyn Cosby. To meet this challenge, Equal Protection Maine needs volunteers with a variety of skills including fundraising, graphic design, computer and data entry knowledge, and media relations. EPM volunteers are also prepared to train interested individuals for fundraising activities.

Volunteers and money are desperately needed to finance a signature challenge and public education outreach in preparation for the November 1995 ballot question. For more information about Equal Protection Maine’s activities and needs, call 761-3732 or the Maine Civil Liberties Union at 774-5444.

Equal Protection Maine is looking for a House Party Coordinator and individuals interested in hosting a house party. House parties are fundraising and educational events that provide information about EPM and its activities.

EPM August Events

Equal Protection Maine meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke’s Cathedral, State St. Meetings are scheduled for August 8 and 22.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Bangor on the first Sunday of the month at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor, 2-4pm. For more information, write EPM PO Box 963, Bangor ME 04402.

The next meeting of the fundraising committee will be held Thursday, August 4 at PROP, 510 Cumberland Ave. at 7pm.

EPM Phonebank Fundraiser

August 15

at the offices of PROP, 510 Cumberland Ave.
6pm
Volunteers and donations are needed.

For more information, call 761-3732 or 774-5444
Defining ourselves

The release of documents from a May meeting confirms the worst of what the Maine lesbian and gay community has seen from individuals like Paul Madore and Carolyn Cosby. Knowledge of these activities is important for those formulating a strategy to preserve a gay rights bill in Maine — let's face it, it can seem overwhelming. A 1,200 employee organization with a $150 million budget, an all-out national attack from radical right zealots.

Even our own Portland Press Herald, which is not in the league with Concerned Maine Families, offered only one picture of our biggest-ever gay pride march and of course it had to be a picture of a man in drag because that is how the media would like to define all of us — regardless of who or what we are.

It's clear from the documents that the radical right has learned this lesson and they will use it. They want to define who we are in a way that will produce a negative, knee-jerk response to calls for gay rights. Calling us child molesters, disease-ridden, recruiters of children, manhaters and freaks makes us look as though we don't deserve equal rights. And if that doesn't work, they will use the same hate-filled tactic that has proven effective for racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan — define calls for gay rights as special rights in the same way that civil rights were defined as "reverse discrimination".

We know the strategy, we've seen it before.

Dedicated individuals working through Equal Protection Maine are attempting to mobilize our community to fight. They need money and volunteers sooner rather than later. We need to help the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance elect gay-positive legislators and push a gay rights bill through the Legislature. Donate, volunteer and organize, this is the hardest fight yet. But remember, the virulent radical right attack is a measure of how close we are to our goal. If gay and lesbian rights weren't possible, they wouldn't fight so hard.

And one other thing. Let's stand up and define ourselves. Show them our loving relationships, refused to be marginalized as a fringe and show them our families, parents, children and siblings. It is difficult to marginalize humans, it's easy to believe lies about "them". The margin of victory in state struggles for gay rights bills has frequently been the poignant and moving testimony by brave individuals who stand up and tell their stories, refuting the twisted pictures presented by bigots.

Don't let the radical right's picture of you be the only picture seen by Maine's legislators, citizens, and voters. Legislators can be swayed by a small number of calls, don't let them think they don't have any gay constituents. And don't let your friends, parents, acquaintances and employers think they don't know any gay men or lesbians.

Let's define ourselves before someone does it for us.
Cool down with a bagel and cream cheese!

Now Serving 11 locations
595 Forest Ave., Portland, 775-0718
18 Moulton St. Old Port 774-8704
229 Mall Plaza, St. Port. 773-3238
Mill Creek Shopping Ctr. 767-4756
204 US Rt. 1, Falmouth 781-7234
3 Main St., Yarmouth 846-6909
12 Main St., Westbrook 854-5209
336 Center St., Auburn 777-7007
Mid Mall, Bangor Mall Rd., Bangor 942-0061
106 Pleasant St., Brunswick 725-4007
Bagels Contain No Fats, No Cholesterol
Franchise Stores Available

Get it? Use it!

Safer Sex Tip #5
Summertime Reminders for Latex Care

1. Keep latex out of direct sunlight
2. Store at temperatures under 100 degrees F. (not in glove compartments of cars)
3. Do not use if latex is brittle, sticky or non-porous
4. When in doubt of the quality of stored latex, throw it away!

Have a fun and safe summer!

Ask us about mail order!
Look for our catalog soon!

Peabody House plans restaurant benefit

PORTLAND—Peabody House, a Portland-based AIDS hospice, and assisted living home has gathered area restaurants in a unique fundraiser for Saturday, August 20, 1994. On that day, between the hours of 12 noon and 10pm, restaurants will donate 10% of their proceeds to the Peabody House. Dubbed "Red Ribbon Restaurant Night to Benefit the Peabody House", organizers are still adding to the list of participating restaurants, currently Alberta's, Shalimar and Rosie's are just a few of the options.

The Peabody House, located at 14 Orchard St. in Portland is currently undergoing renovations and will offer a supportive, holistic environment for people in the advanced stages of HIV. Its mission is to foster and maximize human dignity, respect the autonomy of each individual and enable self-determination. Peabody House clients will be offered a choice of types and levels of care they receive. For more information about the participating restaurants and about Peabody House contact the business office at 774-6281.

MLGPA schedules Sept. 17 annual meeting

AUGUSTA—The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance has scheduled its annual meeting for Saturday, September 17, 12 noon at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. The meeting is open to all members of the community and features elections for the organization's board and the formation of committees.

The event's organizers characterize this year's meeting as particularly crucial, because of the anti-gay referendum, and because of the re-introduction of legislation to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in Maine. While Maine's gubernatorial races features 4 candidates promising to sign a civil rights bill, up to 40% of the Legislature could be first-time lawmakers. To meet this challenge, MLGPA is making preparations for a year of extensive work with newcomers, veterans, allies and the Governor's Office.

MLGPA is looking for individuals interested in fund-raising, legislation, media relations, membership development, volunteer coordination, grassroots organizing and education. For more information about MLGPA's needs or the annual meeting call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Boy Scouts receive $80,000 in donations through United Way

PORTLAND—The Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts will receive over $80,000 in donations through the Greater Portland United Way's donor choice program. The total collected effectively restores funding levels that were in place prior to a 1992 Council vote that refused to allow a lesbian mother to become a den mother for a Cub Scout pack.

Funding for the Boy Scouts was cut off when the local United Way voted to exclude groups that discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation after the Council's actions. This year was the first that offered United Way donors a choice of earmarking their pledges for groups that were not among the United Way's charities.

Kim Laramy, of the United Way, has said that "a donor makes a decision...we honor that."
The $80,366 allotted to the Boy Scouts represents a lion's share of the total $166,885 that was earmarked for non-United Way member organizations. The effort was aided by a letter sent to parents, friends and supporters of the Boy Scouts explaining the new donor choice option and suggesting that donors use the option to support the Boy Scouts. The letter

New lesbian support group in Bangor

BANGOR—The Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is now offering a lesbian support group through its Lesbian Health Project. The support group is for any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. Its mission is to provide a woman-only, lesbian-only space for the exploration of issues and to encourage an affirmation environment for participants. The group practices confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect.

The group will be meeting the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St. (Upton Plaza), Bangor. For more information call 947-5537.

Equal Protection Lewiston seeks donations to retire debt

LEWISTON—Equal Protection Lewiston is seeking donations to retire a $1200 debt incurred in defending the city's anti-discrimination ordinance during last year's election.

Donations are desperately needed to keep the EPL group viable particularly in the face of dual Madore candidacies (Paul and Susan Madore) and because the successful effort to recall Lewiston's anti-discrimination ordinance are running for the Maine Legislature in November's election.

To help raise money, Equal Protection Lewiston is having a benefit variety show at the Sportman's Athletic Club, Maine's oldest gay and lesbian bar, Saturday, July 30 at 10pm.

Sportman's is located at 2 Bates St. in Lewiston. Admission for the show is $5. Sportman's is looking for volunteers to help staff the show.

Donations can be sent to Equal Protection Lewiston, c/o Janet Welch, 8 Royal Oaks Drive, Auburn, ME 04210.

MLGPA sponsors July 31 beach party

OGUNQUIT—The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance is sponsoring a beach party with body surfing, games and volleyball on Sunday, July 31 at the rainbow flag at Ogunquit Beach.

The event will take place from 11-5pm and the rain date will be August 7th at the same time and location.

Concessions are available at the beach. For more information, call 1-800-55-MLGPA.
Northeastern to recruit lesbian and gay faculty

BOSTON—Northeastern University trustees have approved a new policy giving gay men and lesbians preferential treatment in hiring along with veterans and people with disabilities. The policy, according to gay faculty will allow them to serve as role models for their gay and lesbian students.

Some faculty have expressed concern about the policy because sexual orientation is not based in academic achievement nor is it a qualification, they say. The school should, in their words, promote tolerance and nondiscrimination, but not preach morality by expecting all members of the university community to "celebrate diversity." The framers of the policy say that it was intended to "ensure that Northeastern was hospitable to all kinds of people."

Boston School Committee backs Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth goals

BOSTON—In a June 16 vote, the Boston School Committee voted unanimously to endorse four recommendations made by the the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth. The recommendations have been released as part of a larger report by the Commission that has been endorsed by the Massachusetts Board of Education.

The recommendations suggest several strategies for protecting gay and lesbian students from harassment and flowed from a teacher's letter to the editor of Boston Latin School's The Argo in which homosexuality was characterized as a "great weakness and sickness". The piece had been approved by the school's headmaster.

The recommendations call for the development of policies to combat harassment and the institution of support groups for gay and straight students to work together and the training of teachers, guidance counselors and staff in suicide and violence intervention as well as counseling for families of gay children.

The vote by the Boston School Committee is seen as encouragement for other school boards across Massachusetts to take similar steps to develop policies to help gay and lesbian students.

McFeeley to leave HRCF

WASHINGTON—Human Rights Campaign Fund director, Tim McFeeley, has held the post for five years and has promised to leave the post after serving five years but his announcement was still a surprise to his coworkers.

Under McFeeley's direction, HRCF has grown from a 15-person staff with an annual budget of $1.5 million, to a staff of 45 with an $8 million dollar budget and a membership that has surged to 85,000 from 12,000.

For his part, McFeeley is extremely proud of the impact of the organization on the 1992 presidential election. He believes that HRCF played a major role in mobilizing gay support for Bill Clinton.

No successor has been named. The organization's board of directors has formed a search committee and hired a professional search team to find McFeeley's replacement.

Justice Department denied delay in Cammermeyer reinstatement

SEATTLE—A District Court Judge that ruled in favor of a lesbian's right to continue her service in the National Guard has rejected the Justice Department's request to place that reinstatement on hold. Citing "immediate and irreparable adverse impact," the Justice Department asked U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Zilly to place National Guard Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer's reinstatement on hold while it appeals his order to reinstate Cammermeyer.

On June 24, Judge Zilly rejected the Justice Department's characterization of the impact, and refused to stay the reinstatement.

The Justice Department has appealed Zilly's rejection of the stay request to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Cammermeyer sued when she was discharged by the Washington National Guard in 1992 after acknowledging that she was a lesbian.

No link between gays and sexual abuse

CHICAGO—According to a study published in the July issue of Pediatrics, openly gay and lesbian parents are no more likely than heterosexual parents to sexually abuse children.

The study was undertaken in Colorado after an anti-gay group there claimed that openly gay people account for 50% of all child sexual abuse. The group had cited the erroneous figure as part of their campaign against gay rights initiatives in Colorado.

Authors of the study say that "no evidence is available from this data that children are at greater risk to be molested by identifiable homosexu­als than by other adults."

Other studies of sexual abuse have suggested that 90-97% of all sexual abuse is perpetrated by heterosexual males.

Activists in Maine have faced similar claims from Concerned Maine Families' spokesperson Carolyn Cosby, who has cited figures claiming that gays perpetrate 97% of child abuse despite information provided by local child welfare service providers that indicate 85% of child abuse in Maine is perpetrated by heterosexual males.

Fla. Citrus Commission dumps Rush

TALLAHASSEE—Denying that criticism influenced its decision, the Florida Citrus Commission has decided to wear an iron-on red million contract with right-wing radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, when it expires in mid-August.

The choice of Limbaugh as sponsor has drawn criticism from several arenas including the National Organization for Women, and a recent statement by the National Education Association to boycott if Limbaugh's contract was renewed. The NEA cited Limbaugh's "denigration of women, teachers and minorities" as unacceptable.

NOW Executive Vice President Kim Grandy said that NOW's boycott of Florida orange juice and a letter-writing campaign, "sent a message that hate and intolerance will not be tolerated by thinking consumers."

San Francisco Giants designate game AIDS benefit

SAN FRANCISCO—In the first such gesture by a professional sports team, the San Francisco Giants will donate $1 from every ticket sold to its July 51 game against the Colorado Rockies to AIDS education and research. The money raised will be distributed among various Bay Area groups. The Until There's a Cure Foundation will also be on hand to raise money through the sale of their bracelets and other items.

The day has been dubbed "Until There's a Cure Day" and the Giants' players will wear an iron-on red ribbon on their uniforms. The first 30,000 attendees will receive a commemorative pin with the AIDS red ribbon encircling the Giants' logo.

Giants' owner Peter Magowan says that the day is "progressive" and says, "a baseball team is something like a public utility. But to feel like a part of the community it has to reflect and respond to community concerns. AIDS is probably the greatest local concern."

CA appeals court upholds landlord's refusal to rent

SACRAMENTO—In an important case regarding rights of cohabitants, by those able to marry and those unable to do so, a California appeals court recently favored a landlord's right to freely practice her religion over tenants' rights not to be discriminated against in obtaining housing based on their marital status.

The landlord, Evelyn Smith, who held a religious belief that forma­tion is a sin, refused to rent an apartment to an unmarried straight couple. Smith appealed an administrative act played by the late River Phoenix and a sexually-confused character played by Keannu Reeves.

The appeals court found that the California anti-discrimination statute barring discrimination against unmarried persons interfered with Smith's right to freely exercise her religion. The court was highly deferential to Smith's claim that the law burdened her practice of her religion, by making her discriminated, even though the court made no mention of why Smith believed that the apartment was going to be used for fornication.

Gay men prefer romance, 3 to 1

SAN FRANCISCO—According to a new survey by the Advocate, gay men prefer romance and long-term commitment to sex by a 3-to-1 margin.

In other findings, 71% of gay men believe they can detect other gay men, but only 29% believe that heterosexual men can spot gay men.

Bravo draws fire for "My Private Idaho" edit

NEW YORK—GLAAD has condemned the Bravo cable channel's editing of the film "My Private Idaho" during its recent run. The editing removed all scenes of a gay nature, intimate and otherwise, between a gay character played by the late River Phoenix and a sexually-confused character played by Keannu Reeves.

The editing was even more puzzling because Reeves' character's sexual confusion is a major aspect of the film's plot. Previously, Bravo has aired "Desert Hearts", a film adaptation of Jane Rule's novel but had substantially cut the lesbian love scene between the two main characters.

The editing follows well-publicized flaps about the missing kiss between two gay men in the season finale of Fox's "Melrose Place" and ABC's unsuccessful attempt to remove a kiss between women from an episode of "Roseanne."
Casino Royale Benefit at PJ's

On July 15th, PJ's in Augusta held a casino benefit for Day Spring, an AIDS support group. Event attendees survived hot temperatures to raise over $200 for the group.

Boogie 2 Shooz

The performing group Boogie 2 Shooz made an July appearance at Sisters.
Armstrong Valley AIDS Coalition meets every Tuesday from 7:30-9:00 at Lafayette St., Lewiston. Drop in any Tuesday or call 786-4697 for more information.

Equal Protection Lewiston Benefit, Saturday, July 30, 10pm at the Sportsman's Athletic Club, 2 Bates St., Lewiston. Proceeds to retire EPL's debt and for new activities.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Bangor on the first Sunday of every month at the Peace and Justice Center, 559 Main St., Bangor, 2-4pm. For more information write to EPM, PO Box 965, Bangor, ME 04402.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. This month's meetings are on August 8 and 22. Fundraising Comm. meets August 4 at PROP.

Equal Protection Maine holds a phonebank fundraiser on August 15, 6pm at the PROP offices, 510 Cumberland Ave. For more information call 761-5732 or 774-5444.

Friday Night Church meets every Friday at 7pm at the State St. Church, 139 State St., Portland. The service is all-inclusive and affirming offering a guide to Christian spiritual journey. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 774-6596.

"Getting the Story Out: The Queer Press in Maine", panel discussion with the editors of Community Pride Reporter. August 1 and 10% - Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians and gay men on the challenges of serving Maine's lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. 7:30pm, September 8 at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking. Sponsors of the Matlovich Society.

Lesbian Support Group meets every first and third Wed. at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. The group is a woman-only, lesbian-only space. 6:30-8:00pm at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Ctr., 334 Harlow St., Bangor. For more information, call 947-5357.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets on the third Saturday of the month in Augusta, call 1-800-55-MLGPA for meeting time and place.

Matlovich Lawn Party at 38 Myrtle St., South Portland, August 11, 7pm. Watch the sunset over Portland Harbor. Grill and games provided, bring something tasty to share. If lost, call 799-8744.

Mothers and Kids Group meets every Tuesday at 6:30 - 8:00 at the Maze Craze at the Lunt School, 799-8744.

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Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association

National legal trends

by Lise Wagner, Esq.
Contributor

Domestic Partnerships
The State of Vermont has become the first in the nation to extend domestic partnership health and dental benefits to its public employees, through an agreement with the union that represents state workers. To qualify, employees must file affidavits swearing that they are in an "exclusive, enduring domestic relationship of at least six months."

In California, the state's Assembly has passed a state-wide domestic partnership bill, and directing the first state legislature to do so. Registration would be accomplished through the Secretary of State's Office. The bill's "benefits" would include requiring health facilities to provide hospital visitation by partners, providing for participation by a partner in conservatorship proceedings, and revising the statutory form to provide a box that may be checked indicating the testator's desire to leave his or her principle residence or residuary estate to a domestic partner.

The bill has passed the Senate Judi­ciary Committee and is currently in the Senate Appropriations Commit­tee, scheduled for a vote in early August. On the down side, a Minnesota District Court Judge has invalidated Minneapolis' Domestic Partnership Ordinance, asserting that the City Council's actions in enacting the ordi­nance amounted to an improper at­tempt to create a new domestic rela­tions status in an area traditionally within the exclusive province of the state legislature. The city has announced that it will appeal the ruling.

Second-Parent Adoption
Wisconsin's Supreme Court has de­cided a second-parent adoption by a lesbian co-parent, despite a social worker's testimony that it would be in the best interests of the child and the trial court's finding of the same. The court decided that the state's adoption statute does not explicitly allow for second parent adoptions, even where it is clearly in the child's best interests. The court took an unusual step in this case by making it a contested case where there was no one originally in opposition to the adoption. When the state's Attorney General and the U.S. District Court Judge has invalidated Minneapolis' Domestic Partnership Ordinance, asserting that the City Council's actions in enacting the ordi­nance amounted to an improper at­tempt to create a new domestic rela­tions status in an area traditionally within the exclusive province of the state legislature. The city has announced that it will appeal the ruling.

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Smith v. Dovenmuehle
In one of the first AIDS-related em­ployment claims scheduled for trial, U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo approved a $160,000 settlement agreement that was reached after he had refused to dismiss the claim brought by Shawn Smith against his employer, Dovenmuehle Mortgage Co. The settlement also provides for the reinstatement of Smith in the same or an equivalent job to the one he had when he was fired in 1992.

Smith claimed that he told his imme­diate supervisor that he had AIDS in July 1992 and that she then became distant and hostile to him. Despite the fact that he had been promoted several times, Smith was fired in October, accused by his employer of failing to advise his supervisors of delays on a particular project which resulted in a financial loss for the company. In agreeing to settle on Smith's terms just days short of the scheduled trial, the employer insisted that it was not conceding the correctness of Smith's allegations, characterizing settle­ment as a "pragmatic business decision" based on the "high costs and inherent risks of protracted litigation." The em­ployer also insisted that it had no knowledge of Smith's disability prior to termina­tion. Smith v. Dovenmuehle Mortgage Co, 1994 WI 270502 (N.D. Ill., June 13).

Commercial Law
The Texas Court of Criminal Ap­peals, the state's highest criminal court, ruled that a "homosexual advance" does not justify deadly force in "self-defense". Defendant Granville Riddle claims he went to the victim's house to see if he wanted to go out drinking. He found the door unlocked, entered the house, and found the victim "drunk, passed out" in the bedroom. Riddle woke him up, and the victim, Riddle claimed, told him he wanted to have a homosexual relationship with him. As Riddle got up to leave, the victim grabbed him by the arm, pulled him on top of him, put his lips on Riddle's ear, and put one hand on Riddle's buttocks. Riddle then beat the victim to death with a tire iron, testifying at trial that "the more he hit him the madder he got." The victim was struck in the head at least fifteen times. Riddle was convicted of capital murder and given the death penalty; the trial court refused his request to instruct the jury on self-defense. The high court agreed with the trial court, stating that the defendant pro­vided no evidence that the victim ever attempted to sexually assault him or harm him. He also did not testify that he could not retreat or tried to but was prevented from doing so. A reason­able person, the court said, would have retreated without using deadly force. Riddle v. State, 1994 WL 242675 (June 8).

IIIV - Discrimination
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The second trimester and baby makes three
by Maggie Fournier

It's probably a wise cosmic plan that we wait months for babies to arrive. There is a great deal of arrangement and adjusting that needs to happen before the main event. And let's be clear about it...for all the talk and anxiety about labor and delivery, the baby is the main event.

The months leading up to the birth provide us with an opportunity to accomplish many important tasks. Use this wisely. After your child arrives, your lives will change in ways you cannot even contemplate. You'll be very busy!

In your second trimester, you'll probably feel pretty well. The morning sickness will have subsided and people around you will have calmed down regarding the news of your pregnancy. You will have more energy than in any other period of your pregnancy. So, perhaps now is as best a time as any to make some decisions and get on with the work and play of everyday life.

First, consult your health care provider about childbirth education classes. Check to see if you and your partner might observe a class or, at the very least, meet the instructor. This will give you a sense if this is the right class for you. Read about giving birth and discuss your questions and concerns. Remember that your body knows precisely what to do. If you've never really trusted yourself before, you're about to learn a very big lesson. You will give birth regardless of your fears. And even if you never attend a class, you will instinctively know how to give birth because all women do. There is no standard to achieve, no A to earn, no one right way to breathe.

While natural childbirth, i.e., vaginal birth without the intervention of drugs, is safest for the baby, many moms need the comfort of some analgesia or may even require a C-section. Childbirth classes provide a good overview of information and often tend to lessen anxieties. They are a helpful tool, but not a definitive prescription.

Now is a good time to start a search for a pediatrician. Talk to other parents, make a short list, and set up interviews. You need to do this before the baby is born if you plan to deliver in a hospital so that the baby can be examined immediately after birth. By all means, discuss your lesbianism with the doctor and nurses and only settle for a provider who is non-homophobic, a solid clinician, and someone with whom you both feel comfortable.

Consider plans for childcare. Will one or both of you be taking some time off? How about months later? Daycare, homecare, sitters...a lot of options to think about and plan for. Begin doing your homework. Another necessary and fun chore is the making of basic decisions about the nursery and clothes and bathtubs and strollers and car seats and backpacks and diapers and port-a-cribs, etc, etc, etc. See, your things are very expensive. Look for sales, yard sales, too! Be creative and frugal and don't get too carried away because this is just the beginning of a major glitch in your budget for years to come.

If you are able, take a vacation. Go somewhere very romantic that doesn't accept kids under twelve. Sleep late and have breakfast in bed. Make love. Spend the whole day in bed for that matter. Read a good novel. Dine with candle light and soft music. Buy something for yourselves. And try not to talk about the baby...at least for a few minutes.

Remember that your body knows precisely what to do.

The months leading up to the birth provide us with an opportunity to accomplish many important tasks. Use this time wisely.

Baby monitors and high chairs and backpacks and diapers and porta-cribs, etc, etc, etc. See, your lives are really going to change. And this stuff is very expensive. It's probably a wise cosmic plan that we wait months for babies to arrive. There is a great deal of arrangement and adjusting that needs to happen before the main event. And let's be clear about it...for all the talk and anxiety about labor and delivery, the baby is the main event.

The months leading up to the birth provide us with an opportunity to accomplish many important tasks. Use this time wisely.

Maggie Fournier is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Southern Maine. She is currently conducting research on the topic of co-mothering and is writing a book on lesbian parenting with her partner, Cheryl Ciechomski. Maggie and Cheryl live in Portland, Maine, with their eight-year-old daughter, Emily.
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Radical right
continued from page 1
promoting the homosexual agenda through public policy" and "to elect a majority of...candidates called for an "investigation and cessation of all tax funding to organizations who oppose the homosexual agenda." Once this is accomplished, pro-right lawmakers can work to repeal any pro-gay legislation in existence.

The next phase of right documents also lays out a four-phase implementation plan stressing research of candidates' positions and a concerted media effort. The media effort includes the distribution and screening of the radical right film "Gay Rights/Special Rights". In the plan, written for the Cincinnati area, the AFA discusses the sale of 10,000 copies of the video to raise money to purchase air time on local TV stations for the video. In addition, the plan's architects suggest the distribution of "the 62 Homosexual Demands" from the 1995 March on Washington as an education piece.

The conclusion of the plan stresses its inexpensive nature (an estimate of $5,000 is suggested) and asserts "the key components in the timing of the project. The homosexuals are powerless to attack or prevent this plan from working."

Other strategies discussed at the May meeting illustrate a more chilling mindset. Tapes of the meeting, seemingly obtained by the Institute for First Amendment Studies, reveal several initiatives. The use of electronic bulletin board service was proposed to keep track of "gay activists and recalling judges, surveying current legislation in existence. independent researcher for the institute to collect data on these reports and keep members of the radical right informed of all anti-gay activity.

Another proposal discussed targeted Kinsey's child abuse data and called for an "investigation and cessation of all tax funding to organizations who oppose the homosexual agenda." The stated goal is to pass resolutions in the 50 states to affirm that the traditional mom and dad family is the superior or ideal model.

Under the heading "legislative and legal ideas", over 50 suggestions for influencing politics and public policy were proposed. The suggestions ranged from promoting grassroots activities, to electing radical right individuals to local school boards, to providing a "resource base" to conservative lawyers who will advise and litigate, reintroducing the Hancock Amendment, educating school board members about the "causes" of homosexuality, supporting legislation establishing reporting requirements for people with AIDS, "documenting their spending - document the results of the homosexual lifestyle", maintaining criminal status for homosexual behavior, identifying and recalling judges, surveying current elected officials to "create a friend/enemy list", "developing a legal brief showing the superiority of heterosexual parents and heterosexual behavior for use in child custody cases", and exposing "that homosexual/lesbian activity is all criminal (sic). Homosexuals are the largest consumers of pornography. Hound-Hound-Hound...Drive it home!"

The techniques and strategies proposed appeared to be calculated to create and determine the coverage and character of a right for gay rights. Statements expressed at the meeting hammer on the message of "special rights" vs. equal rights, promises of bus behavior vs. loving gay and lesbian relationships and even discuss the use of the word "heterophobic" to combat any characterization of the radical right as bigoted or homophobic. The effectivness of repetitive and uniform characterizations of "the gay agenda" are emphasized by repeated references to educating in all sectors of society and the phrase "hound, hound, hound! Drive it home!"

The organizers of this effort have substantial resources to draw on. Focus on the Family is considered to be the best-funded national right radical group with 1,200 workers and an annual budget of $150 million. Another participant, the Christian Coalition is headed by 700 Club and Family Channel head, Pat Robertson whose national empire has been credited with the recent victory of Republican candidate for Senator Oliver North and the takeover of the Texas Republican party by radical right factions.

The dance list for the May meeting obtained by Equal Protection Maine did reveal any Maine-based radical right members. (See table below for some of the most famous attendes.)

Meeting Participants
Among those representing the 35 radical right organizations at the meeting were the following individuals:

Will Perkins - Colorado for Family Values.

Robert Skolrood - Executive Director of the National Legal Foundation, a group that headed the legal defense for Colorado's Amendment 2.

John Eldredge - Focus on the Family's largest consumers of pornography. Hound-Hound-Hound...Drive it home!

Dr. Paul Cameron - Head of the Family Research Institute, a Washington D.C.-based organizations. His proposals include stumping the whereabouts of individuals with HIV and having gays castrated. He was exiled from the American Psychological Association for violations of its code of ethics.

Peter Labarbera - formerly of the Washington Times, now edits the deceptively-named "Lambda Report" which has featured an interview with Carolyn Cosby. The report is published by the producers of "The Gay Agenda" reportedly distributed to 80,000 individuals.

Col. Ronald Ray - served as First Deputy Assistant Secretary of State under Ronald Reagan.

Gene Burrell - president of the Brevard County American Family Association.

Patricia Huston - a member of Warrriors not Wimps for Jesus, an Albuquerque, New Mexico group.

Loretta Neet - Communications director for the Oregon's Citizen's Alliance, the primary sponsor of several anti-gay local initiatives in Oregon.

Mike Gabbard - President of Stop Promoting Homosexuality Hawaii, a group opposing same-sex marriage initiatives.

Darlene Cornfield - A Kansas Legislator who has said that God put her into office. Author of an anti-gay bill in Kansas.
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