Amendment threatens pro-gay curricula

by Rebecca Foster
Editor

WASHINGTON, DC- On August 1, the U.S. Senate voted 63-36 in favor of an amendment that would remove federal funding from any school or district "that carries out a program or activity that has either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative." The amendment, sponsored by Senators Jesse Helms, (R-NC) and Bob Smith, (R-NH) was part of a larger debate on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a $12.5 billion bill that funds public schools.

The vote is similar to an amendment approved by the House. Differences in the two bills will be worked out by a conference committee.

The debate on the Senate floor continued on page 5.

Press conferences spotlight referendum opposition

by Terri Jones
Editor

PORTLAND- As Concerned Maine Families' spokesperson Carolyn Cody walked into Portland City Hall with her husband to turn in Portland signatures, representatives from groups across the state stepped forward to voice their opposition to a proposed November 1995 ballot question that would prohibit any gay rights bill in Maine and repeal Portland's Human Rights Ordinance.

Among the representatives attending an August 15th Portland press conference to announce a strategy of legal action and public education against the referendum were Assistant Attorney General Stephen L. Wessler, Thomas C. Ewell, executive director of the Maine Council of Churches, Susan G. Schwartz, director of Special Projects, Jewish Federation of Southern Maine, Laura A. Fortman, Maine NAACP, Susan Pieter, Manager, Public Affairs and Communications of So. Maine, Laura A. Fortman, Executive Director, Maine Women's Lobby, Moses Sebunya, Vice President, Maine NAACP, Susan Pieter, Manager, Public Affairs and Communications.

"I worked hard at my job, and my reward was getting fired for no good reason," Summerville told the committee. "The right to hold a job shouldn't be based on whether someone is black or white, male or female, gay or straight. It should be based on ability and dedication. I hope that you will take action to ensure that people like me – a fellow American – can have the same rights as everybody else."

August 16th's press conference in Bangor was one of four bringing together opponents of the anti-gay ballot initiative.

Senate hears ENDA testimony

by Terri Jones
Editor

WASHINGTON- The National Commission for Employment Policy (NCEP) testified in favor of a federal law prohibiting job discrimination based on sexual orientation before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Subcommittee on July 29. NCEP's report was submitted for the record by Commission Chairman Anthony P. Carnevale. The hearings are gathering testimony as part of the consideration of "The Employment Non-Discrimination Act" (S. 2238 and H.R. 4636) and were the first ever Senate hearings on equal rights for lesbians and gay men.

The NCEP is an independent federal agency charged with advising the President and the Congress on employment issues.

The Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), heard testimony from two people who described discrimination they experienced because of their sexual orientation. Atlantaan Cheryl Summerville described her firing from a Cracker Barrel Restaurant.
Equal Protection
Maine Update

The fight has begun

You certainly know by now that Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families turned in over 61,000 signatures to the Secretary of State on Monday, August 22, 1994. While we have been meeting for over a year in various groups across the state there is an awful lot still to do to create the campaign structure that we will need to fight such a huge statewide battle.

The first major action we will take is to challenge her signatures. This will require setting up a full time staff and office in Augusta for two or three weeks or longer. We will need dozens and dozens of volunteers. We will need some people to work during the day at the Secretary of State’s office photocopying petitions. We will need many more people to work around the clock checking the petition photocopies for any possible disqualifying errors. The Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) will be directing this essential effort.

We need your help desperately. We expect to begin the signature project in the third or fourth week of September. If you can volunteer a week, a day, or some evening hours please drop a postcard with your name, day and evening phone numbers, and the days or times you can volunteer to either MCLU - Petition Challenge, 97A Exchange Street, Portland, ME 04101 or EPM - Petition Challenge, P.O. Box 8124, Portland, ME 04104. You may also call the MLGPA toll free number at 1-800-440-1566 or MCLU at 774-5444.

You can also volunteer by your local anti-referendum group. We have worked with us on past anti-discrimination campaigns and have asked again for them to join us in our campaign to defeat this referendum. These groups include the Maine Council of Churches, the ACLU, the Jewish Federation, the Maine Chamber of Commerce and industry, the Women’s Lobby, Maine NAACP and Bath Iron Works. This is obviously only a start to developing a coalition. In the next weeks we will be making decisions about the nature of an overall campaign structure. Please be sure to attend the meetings of your local anti-referendum group to have a say in these important decisions.

It is time for all of us to face this horrific referendum as a reality even though we will still try to keep it off the ballot. Remember that you are a lesbian, gay man or bisexual in the middle of a caring, strong, and politically active state community. We must come together like never before in our lives, our future depends on it. Now is a time for us to turn outward to our friends and families and enlist their help in our campaign. Each of us must begin on a one-to-one basis to educate those around us in our neighborhoods, at work and in our social groups. We must all be prepared to stand up and be counted, whether it be by our private or public efforts. We must support this campaign to defeat this anti-gay referendum with everything we have.

For information about participating or making a donation contact:

The AIDS Foundation of America
P.O. Box 322
Augusta, ME 04332
623-1566 or 1-800-440-1566

Lesbian-owned, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Wed.-Fri. 4pm-11pm

No smoking area Darts Pool table Juke Box

Lesbian-owned, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Wed.-Fri. 4pm-close, dancing all night

"No Karaoke" Sundays
Happy Hour all day! Dance all day with DJ Julie

No smoking area Darts Pool table Juke Box

Lesbian-owned, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Wed.-Fri. 4pm-close, dancing all night

Next early Saturday 6-9pm Favorite oldies
9pm-close dancing all night

"No Karaoke" Sundays
Happy Hour all day! Dance all day with DJ Julie

No smoking area Darts Pool table Juke Box

Lesbian-owned, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Wed.-Fri. 4pm-close, dancing all night

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October 7, 1994

On October 7, 1994 at 9pm EST "Candles Around the Country" will form a human chain linking 31 states. Participants will lock arms and light candles in honor of those who have died from the disease.

A $10 donation will secure your place in the chain and will benefit local AIDS organizations and a museum to honor those who have died.

For information about participating or making a donation contact:

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The petitions are in, time to start educating

The first part of the struggle is finally over - Carolyn Cosby has turned in 61,000 signatures. It is heartening to see that all media reports of her efforts (and Concerned Maine Families) featured only her face and her voice. No crowds cheered her announcements and no other sources or quotes from the Concerned Maine Families group surfaced in any media reports.

In marked contrast to Cosby's announcement, representative after representative came forward to criticize and oppose her effort. Business leaders, organized labor, religious groups, politicians, lesbian and gay groups spoke about the ill-conceived and dangerous potential of the ballot question.

With her effort, Cosby finds herself on the opposite side of the state's law enforcement officials, businesses, Portland citizens who voted to keep its ordinance, local control advocates and fair-minded citizens. She even lost Jasper Wyman and Olympia Snowe and so far has yet to produce any other individuals who will come into the light of day to express their reasons for supporting the initiative.

Some things haven't changed. The campaign of half-truths and deception continues. She is still alleging provocation by 100/o CPR and Axon, that the gay press has incited illegal activity by reporting on her efforts. Unfortunately for her, the gay press will be continuing to report facts as they are available and as guaranteed by the 1st Amendment.

As we begin the education process, it is important to remember some of the half-truths and the answers to respond to them.

1. Gays and lesbians don't need protection because we are among the most affluent groups in the U.S. Well, turn to page 1 and read the finding of the National Commission on Employment Policy. We are still behind financially and this bigotry hurts the economy as a whole.

2. Gays and lesbian are asking for "special rights". Ask Joel Russ, Michael Chitwood, Olympia Snowe and the Portland City Council if they are feeling generous and have decided to support the extension of "special rights" to our community, and since when is the right to be judged on our job performance, credit history, public conduct and responsibility, a special right? At last glance, these "special rights" have also been granted to individuals who have experienced racial, religious, gender, and age discrimination - would Carolyn Cosby dare call those protections "special rights"?

3. Gays and lesbians recruit children. If that's the case, no one would be gay because 99/o of society is heterosexually orientated. If mere messages create sexual orientation, no one would ever "want" to be gay in a society that has been and remains homophobic in many instances.

4. If we pass this law, Maine will just be like San Francisco and horrible things will happen. The use of deception and extreme examples has always been a tactic for the radical right. It's easy to find an unsavory photo and try to portray it as the norm for any group or to play on peoples' fears and ignorance. As Portland leaders pointed out on August 18, the dire consequences predicted for Portland as a result of the Human Rights Ordinance have failed to materialize.

These answers must be provided and repeated to combat the already-demonstrated knack for deceit that undercuts the sincerity of Carolyn Cosby's argument. Let's be heartened by the noticeable lack of crowds cheering her on but let's not assume that we don't have to fight. And let's keep reminding her that by this past week's standards, the only person "out of touch" is her. Even the Senate is holding hearings on discrimination against lesbians and gays.

Educate, come out, organize, volunteer and donate. Let's defend our right to be true to ourselves.

Portland City Council responds to referendum

The following letter is the full text of an August 18 statement read by former mayor Thomas Allen on behalf of current Mayor Richard Paulson and the undersigned current and former members of the Portland City Council:

In May of 1992, the Portland City Council adopted an important ordinance which protects Portland residents, employees and visitors from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Portland voters overwhelmingly supported this ordinance in November of 1992 after Carolyn Cosby and others forced the ordinance to a referendum vote.

Last week, Concerned Maine Families announced their intention to file a petition which would attempt, among other things, to repeal the City of Portland Human Rights Ordinance through a statewide vote.

While we recognize Concerned Maine Families' legal right to call for a referendum, we strongly oppose this new repeal effort; the voters of Portland have already spoken. Unfortunately, Portland residents of all sexual orientations will find themselves once again drawing lines among friends and relatives as they begin to campaign to protect Portland's recognition of human dignity.

The human rights granted to Portland residents will now be the subject of a statewide repeal effort. We will all work individually to continue to guarantee that Portland's anti-discrimination laws survive this most recent attack.

Signed:

Current Councilors:
Mayor Richard W. Paulson, Jr.
Thomas Allen
George N. Campbell, Jr.
Philip "Jack" Dawson
Orlando E. Delogu
Charles Harrow
Cheryl Leeman
Keri D. Lord
John McDonough

Former Councilors, Seated when the Portland Human Rights Ordinance was adopted:
Linda Abromson
Esther Cienaott
Peter E. O'Donnell
Anne B. Bringle

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Opponents

continued from page 1

tions, Bath Iron Works, Patricia Peard, President-elect, Maine Civil Liberties Union and Karen Geraghty, President, Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance.

A similar press conference was held the next day in Bangor featuring Priscilla Attean, State Representative, Penobscot Nation, Dr. David L. Guskir, Pastor, First Radio Parish Church, State Representative Jane Saul, Bangor, State Representative Sean F. Faircloth, Bangor and Equal Protection Maine-Bangor Co-chairs Jeanette Crockett and Jim Martin.

Assistant Attorney General Wessler expressed concern that the referendum would make victims of anti-gay violence less likely to press charges for fear of losing their jobs or housing. Wessler said that 25% of the hate crimes reported to the Attorney General’s office involve victims who are gay. He pointed out that gays and lesbians are the only minority group in the state who could be fired or evicted for filing a hate crimes complaint.

“It’s already difficult and this will make it harder,” Wessler said. “This law would have tragic results.”

In a Portland Press Herald interview, Attorney General Michael Carpenter has echoed this sentiment and said his office will continue to speak out against the referendum because of its effect on the state’s ability to enforce the hate crimes statute. He believes it is important for Maine citizens to understand the law enforcement implications of the referendum.

Concerning the referendum’s impact on the state’s hate crimes law, MCLU President-elect Patricia Peard expressed her concern that it could result in the dropping of sexual orientation from the statute. The MCLU will be conducting a legal challenge of the referendum’s constitutionality.

The hate crimes law was passed by the Legislature in lieu of a constitutional amendment from the statute. The MCLU will be conducting a legal challenge of the referendum. Carolyn Cosby was the lone spokesperson for the referendum in report after report. Responding to press questions about the anti-referendum positions of all four of Maine’s gubernatorial candidates, Cosby characterized the referendum as “out of touch.” She was also quoted in the Portland Press Herald (8/17/94) as saying that Attorney General Michael Carpenter should stay out of the debate and is “totally out of line.”

Cosby has said that Concerned Maine Families has collected over 67,000 signatures, approximately 13,000 more than needed to place the issue on the ballot.

Press conference shows Portland City Council, Chitwood opposition

PORTLAND—An August 18th press conference at the Portland Police Station provided an occasion for past and present city councilors and community leaders to express their opposition to the Concerned Maine Families’ anti-gay initiative.

Introduced by Alan Stearns a member of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance’s executive committee and a former steering committee member of Equal Protection Portland, former councilors Peter O’Donnell, Tom Allen and Barbara Wood, who ran for and won a council seat as a lesbian, made statements stressing that the ballot question is written to repeal Portland’s Human Rights Ordinance as well as prohibiting future state efforts.

Allen read a statement from the current City Council members and four councilors who were seated when the Portland Ordinance was passed. The letter stressed that Portland had already decided on this issue, “while we recognize Concerned Maine Families’ legal right to call for a referendum, we strongly oppose this new repeal effort; the residents of Portland have already spoken. Unfortunately, Portland residents of all sexual orientations will find themselves once again drawing lines among friends and relatives as they begin to campaign to protect Portland’s recognition of human dignity.” (The full text of the letter appears on page 3.)

Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood also voiced his opposition to the ordinance along with Portland Chamber of Commerce President Joel Russ and Cathy Kidman, a spokesperson for OUTRIGHT an organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth.

Maine News continues on page 8

Referendum Spotlight

On August 22, Carolyn Cosby submitted over 60,000 signatures to place the anti-gay referendum on the November 1995 ballot. If the signatures survive both the Attorney General’s scrutiny and a signature challenge by the MCLU, the question will be placed on the November 95 ballot. In an effort to promote understanding of the referendum’s wording and intent, the following excerpt is the full text of both the petition question and the Act that may be on the November 1995 ballot.

The petition question was as follows:

Do you favor the changes in Maine law limiting protected classifications in future state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status and marital status, and repealing existing laws which expand these classifications as proposed by citizen petition?

The legislative provision that will be voted on should the referendum question appear on the November 1995 ballot:

To the 116th Legislature of the State of Maine:

In accordance with Section 18 of Article IV, Part Third of the Constitution of the State of Maine, the undersigned electors of the State of Maine, qualified to vote for governor, residing in said State, whose names have been certified, hereby respectfully propose to the Legislature for its consideration the following entitled bill: An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under the Maine Human Rights Act.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

5 M.R.S.A. Section 4552-A is enacted to read:

Section 4552-A. An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under Maine Law.

Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter or any other provision of law, protected classes or suspect classifications under state or local law human rights laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, charter provisions or policies are limited to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status and marital status. Any provision of State or local law, rule regulation, ordinance, charter provision or policy inconsistent with this section is void and unenforceable.

This section being necessary for the welfare of the State and the inhabitants of Maine, shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose and is not to be interpreted or applied as a limitation or restriction on authority as enumerated in the Maine Constitution.
Amendment continued from page 1
cluded Senator Smith's display of pamphlets and brochures he said are purchased by school districts and distributed to students. He said some were so graphic as to do "nothing else but (that) I can't display them here on the floor of the U.S. Senate." The bro-

chures, designed for AIDS education typically describe sexual activity and advocate the use of latex condoms during intercourse.

Senator Helms echoed Smith's statement as he described books like Heather Has Two Mommies and Daddy's Roommate as the type of "disgusting, obscene material that's laid out before school children in this country every day."

Opposition to the amendment stressed the needs of gay and lesbian students. Senator Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) characterized the amendment as "mean-spirited" and noted that it would forbid the counseling of gay and lesbian students who face a suicide risk, two to three times higher than the average teenager.

Senator Edward Kennedy. (D-Mass.) said that the amendment would replace local decision-making about curricula with federal control, "removing" the local discretion that is the hallmark of our educational system.

Neither Senators Cohen (R) and Mitchell (D) split their votes with Cohen supporting the amendment and Mitchell voting against it.

Hollywood begins production on "The Celluloid Closet"

HOLLYWOOD-HBO has begun production on VIto Russo's book, "The Celluloid Closet," an examination of Hollywood's portrayal of lesbian and gay characters in the movies. The production is expected to be aired in 1995 and will be directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, who produced and directed the Oscar-winning "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt."

Thus far, studios have cooperated with the project by providing film clips of the movies to be examined. Proceeds from the non-profit project will benefit the industry's HIV/AIDS awareness organization, Hollywood Supports.

Episcopal bishops send conflicting messages

NEW YORK—In a final draft of a pastoral letter, the national Episcopal bishops have said it is not appropri-
ate to ordain "practicing homosexuals" at the same time that it urges its membership to "welcome gays and lesbians."

The letter, "Continuing the Dialogue: A Pastoral Teaching of the House of Bishops to the Church as it Considers Issues of Human Sexual-
lity" was not due to be released until the sect's General Convention on August 24, however, the news of the draft was leaked to the press.

While the letter states, "as it can be for heterosexual persons, the expe-
rience of steadfast love can be ho-

mosexuals as an experience of "God," and that homosexuals are chil-
dren of God with full and equal

claims on the church, it maintains that "local sexual standards are appropriate only within the lifelong, monogamous union of husband and wife."

That the subject is still unsettled in the minds of is apparent from two contradictory views of the Scrip-
tures forwarded in the letter. While the letter notes that some people take Biblical texts condemning homo-

sexuality literally, others argue that the text were written when less was known about homosexuality and therefore should not be applied to modern society. Despite this sent-
mence, an article in an earlier draft that held that the same ethical principles applied to both homo-

sexual and heterosexual relationships was changed to read that only some bishops hold to that belief. Also changed was a section on ordi-
nation that gave informal approval to "dissonant ordinations" of gays was changed to read that "all ordi-
nations should follow the standards and norms set forth by the church's teaching."

Some Episcopali ans have ex-

pressed dissatisfaction with any lib-

eralized church approach to homo-

sexuality. Rev. Todd Wetzel, execu-
tive director of the conservative Epis-
copali ans United, says that the presi-
dent's nonjudgmental gives tacit approval to the ordination of homosexuals and the blessing of same-sex unions. Wetzel points out that the word "sin" has been placed by the term "discontinuities."

The United Church of Christ is the only major Protestant denomination that allows the ordination of gays and lesbians. AAZT study confirms delaying effects but doesn't find cure

CHICAGO—Researchers at the Uni-

versity of California at San Francisco have released a paper that analyzes previous studies on the effective-
ness of the drug zidovudine (AZT). The study, presented at an American Medical Association briefing at the World AIDS Conference in Yokohama, Japan examined other studies' data compiled from 1,565 HIV-infected subjects. The researchers found that the drug delayed, but did not prevent, the onset of AIDS in HIV-infected people when subjects were given daily doses of AZT of 500 milligrams or more. The analysis also confirmed that AZT effectiveness diminished over time. Study author Paul Volberding wrote, "While the opti-
mum treatment strategy for asymptomatic HIV infection remains unknown and is the subject of sev-
eral ongoing clinical trials, the cur-
rent results from the extended fol-

low-up of AIDS trials clearly indi-

cate that there are benefits as well as limitations to prolonged zidovudine monotherapy and there is an urgent need to continue to explore new agents and secondary treatment strategies."

Youth empowerment report released

PHILADELPHIA—On August 3, a national group Youth Empowerment Speakout (YES) released its report on issues and concerns expressed by over 600 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. The group gathered the input during the first ever National Youth Empowerment Speakout held during the April 1995's National March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

The report identified several is-
sues for a national gay, lesbian, bi-

sexual and transgender youth agenda, including suicide prevention, safe schools, AIDS education and leadership training. Bridges Project Director Jenie Hall expressed concern for the health and safety of the nation's youth. "Increasingly tar-
geted by religious fundamentalists and ignored by the larger gay, lesbian bisexual and transgender communities, youth issues, now, more than ever, need national leadership and recognition."

The report also included demo-

graphic information gathered by YES as well as youth quotes and insights.

YES was founded in 1992 as part of the American Friends Service Committee's Bridges Project to raise interna-
tional Quaker peace and jus-
tice organization, to assist organiza-
tions and programs working with sexual minority youth and to en-

courage all other youth-serving or-

ganizations to respond to the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth.

A full copy of the report can be purchased from the Americans Friends Service Committee by call-
ing their Resources Department at (215) 241-7048. For more informa-
tion about YES, contact Jenie Hall, AFSC Bridges Project Director at (215) 241-7155.

Tales of the City aunt PHS

HOLLYWOOD-PBS' decision not to fund a sequel to the Emmy-nomi-

nated miniseries "Tales of the City" based on Armistead Maupin's series of books drew fire at a July 26 press conference. The press conference, called by President-CEO Ervin S. Duggan to announce his broad strat-
gy for the network quickly launched into a series of pointed questions about the network's decision not to make the sequel despite its high rat-
ings and critically-acclaimed perfor-

mances.

The rift over "Tales" underscores a continuing controversy over PBS programming, alternatively criticized for being too liberal and then be-

rated for its refusal to widely air gay-

themed programming like "Tales United" a look at gay male sexuality. Other groups active in issues rang-

ing from peace to domestic violence to Central American policy have said that PBS is shying away from contro-

versial issues to avoid angering its corporate sponsors.

Observers have commented that the battle for PBS' soul is just one more manifestation of the intensify-

ing cultural war between the right and the left. PBS Executive Vice Presi-
dent and Promotion Services Jennifer Lawson says the pressure has mounted because "our country has gotten far more polarized" that it is "lack of tolerance for a diversity of views."

New AIDS policy coordinator appointed

WASHINGTON- President Clinton has named a temporary coordinator for the position of AIDS policy coor-
dinator vacated by Kristine Gebbie. The president has appointed Patricia S. Fleming, previously a special assis-
tant to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, will serve in the post until a permanent re-

placement has been found.

"Patsy Fleming will make sure we don't lose our momentum," Clinton said, and he felt that his adminis-
tration has already made "significant strides on this terrible epidemic." In a prepared state-

ment, he noted that "we've increased our budgets for AIDS research, treat-

ment and prevention and have fought hard to provide health insur-

ance for all Americans, regardless of pre-existing conditions."

Fleming said that while progress has been made, "much remains to be done" and that she accepted the position "to help smooth the transition."

Fleming has said that she is not a candidate for the permanent posi-
tion which is expected to be filled in the next two months. Kris-
tine Gebbie resigned from the post July 8 amid criticism about her com-

petence and the seeming lack of support for the position within the White House itself. In her resigna-
tion letter, Gebbie implied that she had not been given the tools neces-
sary to perform effectively. AIDS ac-
tivists had expressed displeasure with her appointment to the post re-

peatedly in recent months.

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| MLN Mtg. |          |         |           |        |

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| Partners of Parents |           |           |           |

| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| EPM Bangor Mtg. | Love Without Limits |         |           |        |
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**Happenings...**

Entertainment was the order of the day with live performances by several area personalities and entertainers at PJ's and Sisters, a benefit for the Sportman's Athletic Club and the opening of a new bar in Bangor (see p. 8 for details).

Pictured, clockwise, is Lisa McCormick who shared Sisters’ stage with Mona Perkins (picted center), Ms. PJ's Ileana who created a "Caribbean Night" for PJ's patrons, bottom row, Bangor musician Erika Gilbert entertained Sisters' as did Lynn Davies and Diana Davis (center bottom), and Roland Blais and the Sportman's hosted an Equal Protection Lewiston Benefit featuring several area female impersonators. Photos by Rebecca Fowler.
Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition meets every Tuesday from 7:30-9pm at Lafayette St., Lewiston. Drop in any Tuesday or call 786-4697 for more information.

Equal Protection Maine meets in Bangor on the first Sunday of every month at the Peace and Justice Center, 539 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. For more information, call 1-800-ML-GPA.

Monday Night Church meets every Monday at 7:30pm at the State St. Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME, FMI, Larry Godfrey 594-2957.

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 774-6396.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Pizza Get Together, 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 6pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME, FMI, Larry Godfrey 594-2957.

"Getting the Story Out: The Queer Press in Maine": panel discussion with the editors of Community Pride Reporter, Apex and 10% Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians and gay men. A project of the challenges of serving Maine's lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community. 7-9pm, September 8 at the Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking available.

Sponsored by the Matlovich Society

"Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee", local director Marilee Ryan's tragic comedy about two women living together in New York, September 18-21 at the Oak St. Theatre, Oak St., Portland.

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. 6:30-8pm at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Ctr, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. For more information, call 947-5537.

"Love Without Limits", presentation by Dr. Debra Anapol, author of Love Without Limits: Responsible Non- Monogamy and the Quest for Sustainable Intimate Relationships, 7-9pm, September 27 at the Gathering, USM Campus Ctr, Bedford St., Portland.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is holding open auditions, Sunday, Sept. 11, 1994 at the First Parish Church, Congress St., Portland, ME. New member orientation will be held at 7pm that evening. Auditions are informal and supportive. To schedule an audition call Bruce at 839-4506.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets has its annual meeting to regroup and elect new officers on Sept. 17, 12 noon at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. For more information, call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets its annual meeting to regroup and elect new officers on Sept. 17, 12 noon at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. For more information, call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Mothers and Kids Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. On Sept. 11 meet from 12:30-5pm at the Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Rd., Falmouth. For information, contact Linda Parker at 767-4568.

Northern Lambda Nord's Monthly meeting is on Sun. Sept. 11, 3-5pm, location to be announced, call (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY) for more information.

Northern Lambda Nord Annual Membership Drive and Dance, Sat. Oct. 1, location to be announced. Call (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Partners of Parents meets every 3rd Monday, 7-9pm at Woodford's Congregational Church, Woodford St., Portland. Support to lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. The group is self-led and meets for discussion. For more information, call 774-5052.

Portland Round-Up 10th Anniversary Celebration, Sept. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St. Sponsored by Sober Gay and Lesbian Members. For more information write to The Portland Round-Up, P.O. Box 5245, Station A, Portland, ME 04101.

"What's the Status of Diversity in Maine?" The Hon. John Jenkins, Mayor of Lewiston and Chair of the Governor's Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine, discusses its recommendations. 7:30pm, Sept. 22 at the Holiday Inn-by-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.
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Maine News (cont.)

Northern Lambda Nord searches for new home, funds
CARIBOU– The closing of Loring Air Force Base and the relocation of the individual housing Northern Lambda Nord's Phoneline has resulted in a serious search for a new location for northern Maine's 12-year-old gay and lesbian phoneline.
The Phoneline answers calls on Wednesday evenings between 7 and 9 pm providing support and information for 200 callers thus far this year.
The house that is currently the physical location of the Phoneline is being sold, necessitating a move to another location. With the glut of space in Aroostook County due to the September closure of Loring, NLN has found an opportunity to rent very affordable space to house the phone and its lending library. Efforts are underway to raise the approximately $1500 annual rental ($125/month) and utility fees needed to sign a one-year lease. Donations can be made to Northern Lambda Nord, P.O. Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990 or call (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY). NLN has asked that individuals make pledges soon so that its Steering Committee can make a decision before its September deadline.
As of July 19, NLN had received pledges to cover three months of rent.

Mothers and Kids Group meets the second Sunday of the month,
12:30-3:00pm Lunt School
corner of Middle and Lunt Rd., Falmouth
For more information, contact Linda Parker 767-4368

New bar opens in Bangor
BANGOR– A new bar called "The Bar" had its first evening of business August 3 and will be having its grand opening, September 1. "The Bar", owned by Ken Drake and managed by Dale Poitie is located at 125 Franklin St.
"The Bar" is featuring many activities and events and is open Wednesday through Saturday at 6 pm. For more information, call 941-8966.
The summer of '94
by Maggie Fournier

Crickets are chirping and the wind is rustling through wet leaves. A ham­mer is banging on a crude, but charming, device which my daughter, Emily, is constructing for her Sheltie. This has been a summer of change, of building, and of risk taking. It's been a summer of E.B. White and Roald Dahl. It has been a perfect summer, one which will remain in my heart forever.

"M", I said, "I'm not teaching this summer. Emily is eight. I want her to be a regular kid and I want to be a full time mom for awhile" Being a univer­ sity professor has few perks, but one of them is a nine month contract which gives me the gift of time with my child.

There is a kind of magic about being eight years old in the summertime.

On a crisp morning in June, with a cup of decaf to warm my hands. I cheer on Tony's Donuts Softball Team and my kid, the beautiful one in long braids with a sharp eye on the ball. Her other Mom reminds me not to cheer so loud. I quietly acquiesce. It's so much fun watching her play. I can't believe there are so few parents in the bleachers.

On another day in early June, Emily and her best friend, Nicole, planted the children's garden. It's now over­ flowing with hues of purple and pinks. You can't help but smile when you see it. It's so pretty and it's all hers. In July, the picnic table got a paint job and then, primary colors were used to paint a mural of her home and yard. Another reason to smile. Another job by Emily.

One day, she decided that this would be the summer to let go of the training wheels. New limits were set for neigh­ borhood cycling. Riding was tenta­ tive at first so I tagged along just to jump off the board at Riverton Pool.

It's been a perfect summer, indeed...

I love her new hair cut, much to my surprise. I think I can let her grow up. Kitty, my hairdresser, gave me a look of her hair which I've since placed in our safety deposit box. And do you know what? I love her new hair cut, much to my surprise. I think I can let her grow up. But not too fast. Emily is the sum­ mer of '94. Popsicles and Dairy Queen seemed to keep the neighborhood kids happy and cool. Hose games have tripled our water bill and I've been on both the giving and receiving of major soakings.

Swimming lessons gave Emily the courage to swim on her back and

It's been a perfect summer, indeed...

assure myself that she wouldn't fall. She didn't. She just got faster. By the end of the summer she is a confident girl was by Emily.

Swimming lessons gave Emily the courage to swim on her back and

It's been a perfect summer, indeed...

Tamara, our water bill and I've been on both

The giving and receiving of major soakings. 

Swimming lessons gave Emily the courage to swim on her back and

It's been a perfect summer, indeed...

Soaking in the summer's rain and cool. Hose games have tripled our water bill and I've been on both

The giving and receiving of major soakings. 

Swimming lessons gave Emily the courage to swim on her back and
Federal judge overturns Cinn. anti-gay measure

CINCINNATI—U.S. District Court Judge S. Arthur Spiegel overturned a Cincinnati City Charter Amendment that would have barred the enacting and enforcement of any law against discrimination based on sexual orientation. It also eliminated sexual orientation as a basis for discrimination complaints.

Spiegel's ruling found that the amendment was unconstitutionally vague and that it violated the First Amendment rights of gays and lesbians to participate in the political process.

Suzanne Goldberg, a Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorney who helped present the challenge to the amendment praised the ruling. "The majority cannot deprive the minority of fundamental rights." She also commented on her "counter-cultural" activist role as a parent of a gay son. "I feel that sexuality is up to the individual—it's not for the rest of us to decide. What goes on in someone's bedroom is really none of my business. I don't feel that policymakers and decisionmakers should worry about anyone's bedroom but their own."

She also commented on her "counter-cultural" recent interview with the Advocate. She defended her choice to give the interview despite its controversial potential, "I feel I am everybody's surgeon general, and my responsibility is to promote the best possible health for all Americans. I give interviews to heterosexual magazines, black magazines and white magazines. Why shouldn't I talk to the Advocate? I would do it again."

Elders also disagrees with the Boy Scouts and their refusal to admit gays. She said that the Boy Scouts should admit gays and "girls who are lesbians should be allowed to join the Girl Scouts. None of us is good enough, or knows enough, to make decisions about other people's sexual preferences."

One-day National P-FLAG Hotline set for September 1

SAN FRANCISCO—Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) has organized a "Family to Family Helpline". The hotline is a one-day national outreach event on Thursday, September 1. The hotline will be available from 9:00am to 9:00pm (EDT) by calling 1-800-99-P-FLAG.

Staffing the hotline will be 125 parents of gays and lesbians who have gathered in San Francisco for the 13th Annual International Convention of P-FLAG. One of the volunteers, P-FLAG national President Mitzi Henderson explained why the helpline will be happening. "As the mother of a gay son, I know the emotional turmoil and confusion that comes from learning a loved one is gay," said Henderson. "My husband and I didn't know what to think when we learned our son is gay and it was a tremendous relief to be able to meet other parents and talk through the multitude of feelings we were experiencing. The process helped us to confirm what we already knew, that we loved our son and that this honesty about his sexuality would eventually lead to a stronger, healthier relationship between us."

The P-FLAG Convention is anticipating 1,000 participants for five days of seminars, workshops and presentations.

Elders speaks candidly

NEW YORK—Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders’ August 21 interview with USA Weekend confirmed her sometimes controversial support for several issues ranging from teenage pregnancy to gays and lesbians.

When asked by interviewer Sandra McElwaine about her view towards gays, she replied, "I feel that sexuality is up to the individual—it's not for the rest of us to decide. What goes on in someone's bedroom is really none of my business. I don't feel that policymakers and decisionmakers should worry about anyone's bedroom but their own."

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ENDA hearings
continued from page 1

Dillon told the committee: "I want every other American wants -- the ability to work, to be treated fairly, to be judged by who I am, and to be free from discrimination and harassment. I look to Congress for leadership in stopping the pain, prejudice, and pain that the federal law to correct it." In presenting their findings to the committee, the NCP stressed the economic loss to the United States as a result of discrimination in the workplace.

"America's economic well-being and its value on equal employment opportunity are both at stake with continued employment discrimination. The American economy, particularly the affluent groups in the United States, it is not illegal to fire, refuse to hire, deny promotions to, or otherwise treat unfairly people who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

In Oregon, Idaho, and Hawaii, the Radial Right is trying to use the voting booth to pass laws that require discrimination against gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals. They say that gay, lesbian, and bisexual people are already protected under existing legislation and that we want rights above and beyond what everybody else has. The truth is that lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals are not covered under this country's existing civil rights laws. We want equal protection under the law: nothing more, nothing less.

Groups like the Human Rights Campaign Fund suggest that elected officials be contacted to express support for a federal workplace non-discrimination law.

The ABCs of ENDA

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has provided the following fact sheet on the "Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 1994":

1. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1994 (ENDA) prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation. ENDA extends fair employment practices -- not special rights -- to lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people.

2. Federal law currently protects employees from discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, and disability. ENDA remedies a gap in federal non-discrimination protection.

3. ENDA prohibits employers, employment agencies, and labor unions from using an individual's sexual orientation as the basis for employment decisions, such as hiring, firing, promotion, or compensation.

4. Under ENDA, employers may not subject an individual to different standards or treatment based on that individual's sexual orientation (real or perceived) or discriminate against an individual based on the sexual orientation of those with whom the individual associates.

5. The "disparate impact" claim available under the employment section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII) is not available under ENDA. An employer is not required to justify a neutral practice that may have a statistically disparate impact based on sexual orientation.

6. ENDA exempts small businesses with fewer than fifteen employees, as does Title VII.

7. ENDA exempts religious organizations, including educational institutions substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations.

8. ENDA prohibits preferential treatment, including quotas, based on sexual orientation.

9. ENDA does not require an employer to provide benefits for the same-sex partner of an employee.

10. ENDA does not apply to the relationship between the U.S. government and the armed forces and thus does not affect current law on lesbians and gay men in the military.

11. ENDA incorporates the remedies of Title VII (injunctive relief and damages) to the extent allowed by Title VII.

12. ENDA applies to Congress with the same remedies as provided by the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

13. ENDA is not retroactive.

For up-to-date information call the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's hotline: (202) 332-6483 ext. 3410.
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