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Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 8
SEPTEMBER 1994

In this issue...

Referendum Spotlight
Helms Amendment
Congress hears job
discrimination

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 in-

continued on page 5

Press conferences spotlight referendum opposition

by Terri Jones
Editor

PORTLAND- As Concerned Maine Families' spokesperson Carolyn Cosby 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 Federa-



PHOTO: CHERYL LANDRY

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

tion of So. Maine, Laura A. Fortman, Maine NAACP, Susan Pierter, Manager, Public Affairs and Communication, Moses Sebulny, Vice President,

continued on page 4

Portland representatives oppose referendum

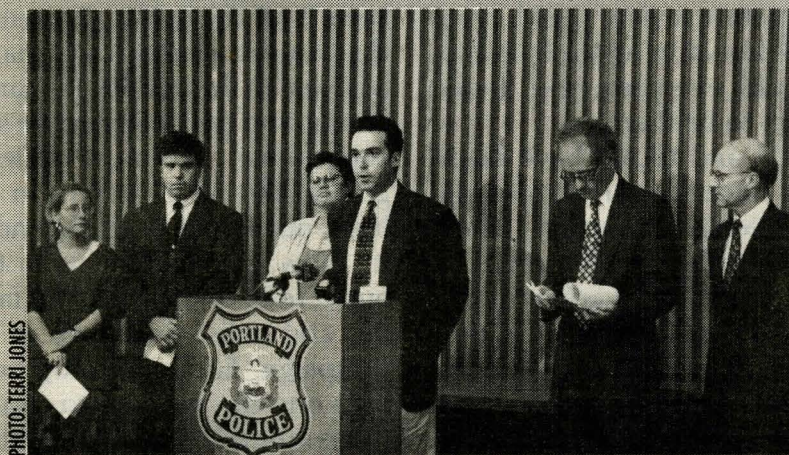


PHOTO: TERRI JONES

Portland community leaders gathered at an August 18th press conference to express their opposition to the referendum effort. Pictured from left to right is Kathy Kidman from OUTRIGHT, Former City Councilors Peter O'Donnell and Barbara Wood, MLGPA Executive Committee member Alan Stearns, Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood and Portland Chamber of Commerce President Joel Russ. For more on the press conference, turn to page 4.

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. Atlanta Cheryl Summerville described her firing from a Cracker Barrel Restaurant.

Need more information on ENDA?
Turn to page 11 for NGLTF's fact
sheet on ENDA...

"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."

Ernest Dillon, a Detroit resident related his experiences of being beaten and harassed at work. Dillon filed an Equal Employment Opportunity claim after the beating only to have his suit dismissed because the discrimination he experienced was not prohibited under federal employment or civil rights laws.

"I turned to my union, my supervisors, my doctor and the court, only to find that, in America, I am not entitled to work without fearing for my life,"

continued on page 11

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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 state-wide 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 1-800-55-MLGPA or MCLU at 774-5444. Our signature review could even kick this initiative off the ballot so please call everyone you know and plan to be there.

MCLU and GLAD have been with us since the very beginning of this referendum action. They have acted as our legal counsel in reviewing all of the various drafts and different wordings that this referendum has had. They jointly filed the challenge that was brought last year to clarify the language of the petitions. They succeeded in forcing CMF to change the title of the petition so that people would know what this referendum intends to do. They are essential members of our campaign team. They need our support now in order to continue their work on our behalf.

On Sunday, September 11th, at Katahdin Restaurant on the cor-

ner of Spring and High Streets in Portland, there will be an informal party from 4 to 7 P.M. to benefit both of these groups. A number of restaurants and caterers will be donating hors d'oeuvres and there will be a cash bar. Suggested donation is \$25 per person. To purchase tickets, either phone the MCLU at 774-5444, or drop a check in the mail payable to GLAD, P.O. Box 218, Boston, MA 02112. Please make your reservations soon.

As you have learned from our press conference announcements, we will be organizing a statewide coalition to fight this referendum. So far, this yet-to-be-formed group has been called in the press "Maine Won't Discriminate: A Statewide Coalition to Keep Maine Citizens Free." We have also contacted a number of organizations who 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 AFL-CIO, 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 horrible 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 does depend 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. We can start by contributing, first, our love for each other to unite this effort.

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"Candles Around the Country" 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 living with HIV/AIDS and 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:

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

!?!?

Editorial . . . Comment...

The petitions are in, time to start educating

The first part of the struggle is finally over – Carolyn Cosby has turned in approximately 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 10%, CPR and Apex, 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% 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 be just 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 Portland Mayor Richard Paulsen 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. Paulsen, 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 Clenott
Peter E. O'Donnell
Anne B. Pringle

10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

PO Box 11265 • Portland, ME 04104

Published by 10% Enterprises, a non-profit organization seeking tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) status.
Contributions will soon be tax-deductible.

10% is published monthly and is available at many locations throughout the state of Maine.

Opinions expressed outside of the editorial above this masthead are those of the individual author and do not necessarily represent the views of 10% Enterprises.

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Maine News

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. Glusker, Pastor, First Radio Parish Church, State Representative Jane Saxl, Bangor, State Representative Sean F. Faircloth, Bangor and Equal Protection Maine-Bangor Co-chairs Jeanine 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.

Commenting on the referendum's impact on the state's hate crimes law, MCLU President-elect Patricia Peard expressed her concern it could result in the dropping of sexual orientation from the statute. The MCLU will be conducting a legal challenge of the collected signatures, according to Peard. The hate crimes law was passed by the Legislature in lieu of a gay rights bill. Its passage was supported by groups as divergent as the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and Jasper Wyman and the Christian Civic League.

Karen Geraghty, president of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance believes that the referendum could be damaging.

"We have seen how the fear and misinformation that is part and parcel of Concerned Maine Families' campaign serves to destroy our communities and increase the incidence of hate crimes. We must not let a small group of radical extremists change the face of the state of Maine," she said.

Thomas Ewell from the Maine Council of Churches echoed others' concern for the Maine community. "This is a matter of justice. Discrimination based on prejudice against some of us threatens the civil rights of all of us."

In a surprising turn of events, both Jasper Wyman, long-time opponent of gay rights and Maine Republican Representative Olympia Snowe have expressed

opposition to the referendum. Wyman characterized the referendum as "sweeping and imprecise." He favored a simpler yes or no vote on the issue of gay rights. Snowe joins Rep. Thomas Andrews and Maine's four gubernatorial candidates in opposing the referendum.

Amid the large number of spokespeople against 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 stances 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 15,000 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 OUT-RIGHT 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.



National News

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 and so disgusting that I can't display them here on the floor of the U.S. Senate." The brochures, designed for AIDS education typically describe sexual activity and advocate the use of latex condoms during intercourse.

Senator Helms echoed Smith's statements 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 rate 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, "remov[ing] the local discretion that is the hallmark of our educational system."

Maine 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 nation's Episcopal bishops have said it is not appropriate 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 Sexuality" was not due to be released until the sect's General Convention on August 24 however, the text of the draft was leaked to the press.

While the letter states, "as it can be for heterosexual persons, the experience of steadfast love can be homosexual persons an experience of God", and that homosexuals are children of God with full and equal claims on the church, it maintains that "physical sexual expression is 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 Scriptures forwarded in the letter. While the letter notes that some people take Biblical texts condemning homosexuality 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 sentiment, a statement in an earlier draft that held that the same ethical principles applied to both homosexual and heterosexual relationships was changed to read that only some bishops hold to that belief. Also changed was a section on ordination that gave informal approval to "dissident ordinations" of gays was changed to read that "all ordinations should follow the standards and norms set forth by the church's teaching."

Some Episcopalians have expressed dissatisfaction with any liberalized church approach to homosexuality. Rev. Todd Wetzel, executive director of the conservative Episcopalians United, says that the document'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 replaced by the term 'discontinuities.'"

The United Church of Christ is the only major Protestant denomination that allows the ordination of gays and lesbians.

AZT study confirms delaying effects but doesn't find cure

CHICAGO—Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco have released a paper that analyzes previous studies on the effectiveness 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 optimum treatment strategy for asymptomatic HIV infection remains undefined and is the subject of several ongoing clinical trials, the current results from the extended follow-up of AIDS...trials clearly indicate 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 1993's National March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, Bi Equal Rights and Liberation.

The report identified several issues for a national gay, lesbian, bisexual 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 targeted by religious supremacists 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 demographic 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, an international Quaker peace and justice organization, to assist organizations and programs working with sexual minority youth and to encourage all other youth-serving organizations 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 calling their Resources Department at (215) 241-7048. For more information about YES, contact Jenie Hall, AFSC Bridges Project Director at (215) 241-7133.

Tales of the City haunt PBS

HOLLYWOOD—PBS' decision not to fund a sequel to the Emmy-nominated 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 strategy for the network quickly launched into a series of pointed questions about the network's decision not to make the sequel despite its high ratings and critically-acclaimed performances.

The rift over *"Tales"* underscores a continuing controversy over PBS' programming, alternatively criticized for being too liberal and then berated for its refusal to widely air gay-themed programming like *"Tongues Untied"*, a look at gay male sexuality. Other groups active in issues ranging from peace to domestic violence to Central American policy have said that PBS is shying away from controversial issues to avoid angering its corporate sponsors.

Observers have commented that the battle for PBS' soul is just one more manifestation of the intensifying cultural war between the right and the left. PBS Executive Vice President of Programming and Promotion Services Jennifer Lawson says the pressure has mounted because "our country has gotten far more polarized" that is manifested by a "lack of tolerance for a diversity of views."

New AIDS policy coordinator appointed

WASHINGTON—President Clinton has named a temporary replacement for the position of AIDS policy coordinator vacated by Kristine Gebbie. The president has appointed Patricia S. Fleming, previously a special assistant to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, will serve in the post until a permanent replacement has been founded.

"Patsy Fleming will make sure we don't lose our momentum," Clinton said, and he feels that his administration has already made "significant strides in the fight against this terrible epidemic." In a prepared statement, he noted that "[w]e've increased our budgets for AIDS research, treatment and prevention and have fought hard to provide health insurance for all Americans, regardless of pre-existing conditions."

Fleming said that while progress has been made, "much more 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 position which is expected to be filled in the next two months.

Kristine Gebbie resigned from the post July 8 amid criticism about her competence and the seeming lack of support for the position within the White House itself. In her resignation letter, Gebbie implied that she had not been given the tools necessary to perform effectively. AIDS activists had expressed displeasure with her appointment to the post repeatedly in recent months.

National News
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September/October

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

EPM Bangor
Mtg.
Portland
Round-Up

Mothers and Kids
Group
MGMC auditions
NLN Mtg.

"Intreat ME"

"Intreat ME"
Partners of Parents

"Intreat Me"

"Intreat Me"

Diversity in
Maine

Love Without Limits

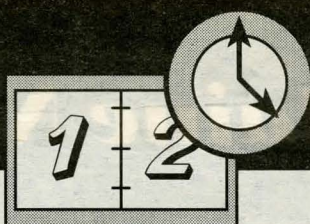
EPM Bangor
Mtg.

Happenings...

Entertainment was the order of the day with live performances by several area personalities and entertainers at PJ's and Sisters, a benefit at 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 (pictured 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 Deeves and Dianna Daniels (center bottom), and Roland Blais and the Sportman's hosted an Equal Protection Lewiston Benefit featuring several area female impersonators. Photos by Rebecca Foster





Listing of Events

Saturday

Portland Round-Up

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, 359 Main St., Bangor, 2-4pm. For more information write to EPM, PO Box 963, 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.

Friday Night Church meets every Friday at 7pm at the State St. Church, 159 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 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 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 947-5337.

"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.

Mothers and Kids Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. On

Sept. 11 meet from 12:30-3pm at the Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Rd., Falmouth. For information, contact Linda Parker at 767-4368.

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 Woodfords' Congregational Church, Woodfords 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 774-5032.

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.

Are you listed?
Send your non-profit
calendar listings to:

10% Enterprises
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Portland, ME
04104

Include location, contact no., date and time. Submissions are due by the 20th of the month.

Joining Together for Justice

The Third Annual Maine Party

GLAD

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

in collaboration with

Maine Civil Liberties Union

Sunday, September 11, 1994

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\$25.00 minimum donation

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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 9pm 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.

|| 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 Pottle is located at 123 Franklin St.

"The Bar" is featuring many activities and events and is open Wednesday through Saturday at 6pm. For more information, call 941-8966.



"The Bar", 123 Franklin St., Bangor.

Mothers and Kids Group

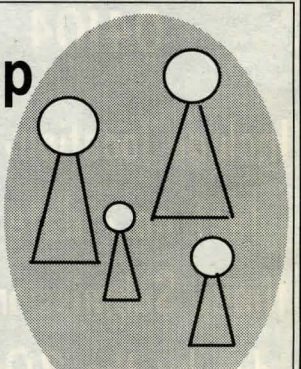
meets

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





Mothers & Child

The summer of '94

by Maggie Fournier
Contributor

Crickets are chirping and the wind is rustling through wet leaves. A hammer is banging on a crude, but charming dog house 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 university 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 overflowing 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 white-washed 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 neighborhood cycling. Riding was tentative at first so I tagged along just to

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

assure myself that she wouldn't fall. She didn't. She just got faster. By summer's end, a confident girl was cycling on the trails of the National Seashore.

She made the decision to have her hair cut. "after all, Mom, I am growing up." Kitty, my hairdresser, gave me a lock of her hair which I've since placed in our safe 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) As the summer flew by, popcicles 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

jump off the board at Riverton Pool. Mr. and Mrs. Fish Camp and swimming at Range Pond and Scarborough Beach filled many carefree days.

On balmy nights, I held her in my arms as we read *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White.

Camping at Mt. Blue provided us with one beautiful night of star gazing and a dazzling show of falling stars. We ate blueberry pancakes in the rain which followed and washed clothes for days after that trip.

We were fortunate to ride the Swan Boats in Boston Garden, walk the Freedom Trail and linger at the Old North Bridge in Concord. Her special aunt and uncle treated her to a day at Plimoth Plantation which was just splendid.

Emily's teacher and her family came for a barbecue. This was a time to give heartfelt thanks to one terrific teacher who has loved and guided our child in her 1-2 class at Waynflete School.

It's been a perfect summer, indeed.

As I reflect on the past few months, it occurs to me that some people have the strangest ideas about who we are as lesbians and gay men. There are many who abhor the concept of our raising children.

The radical right would have you believe that the traditional, heterosexual family, formed within Christian marriage, is by far the preferred morally right one in which to raise healthy, morally fit children. Sharon Bottom's own mother successfully sued for custody of Sharon's son because she is a lesbian and therefore, an unfit mother according to Virginia's courts. (In June, the case was appealed and Bottoms prevailed.) Countless families reject their own daughters and sisters because they are lesbian parents. My eldest sister told me that I didn't deserve to have a child and she abandoned me years ago upon learning of my pregnancy.

I'll never understand why people believe what they do about our community. If they could see us as we are, they'd see parents who love their children more than life itself. They'd see brave and courageous women and men. They'd see productive and law abiding citizens who love their country and their neighbors. We need to let them know.

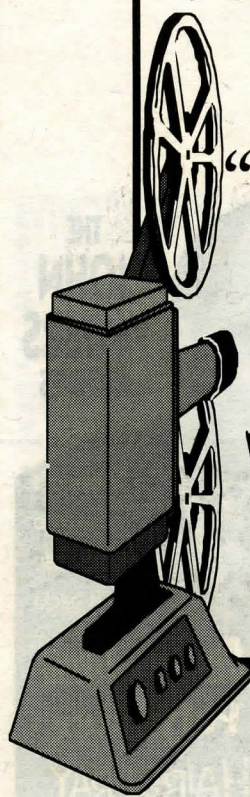
It's our legacy to Emily's generation.

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 Ciechowski. Maggie and Cheryl live in Portland, Maine, with their eight year-old daughter, Emily.

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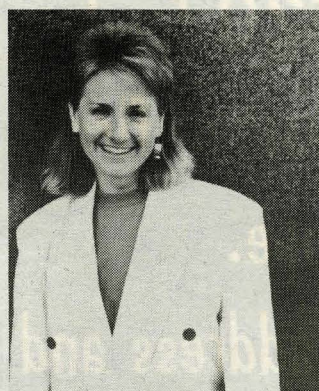
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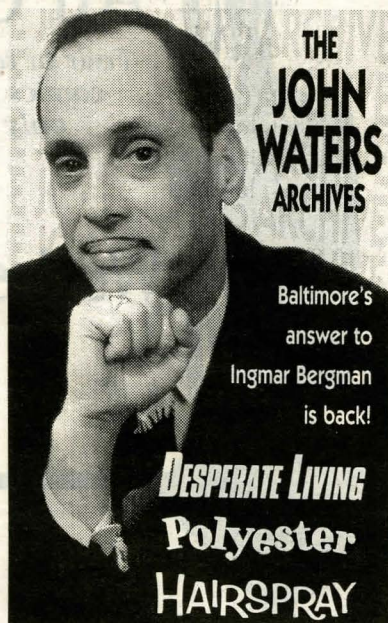
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National News (cont.)

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. Government cannot strip lesbians and gays of their basic rights", she said.

The city will appeal the case. Under its charter, it is legally obligated to defend voter-approved initiatives. The amendment was passed by Cincinnati voters last November.

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."

She also commented on her "controversial" 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 helpline is a one day national outreach event on Thursday, September 1. The helpline will be available from 9:00am to 9:00pm (EDT) by calling 1-800-95-P-FLAG.

Staffing the helpline 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

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P-FLAG in Maine?

For more information about P-FLAG chapters in
Maine, call the following contact numbers:

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180*

Brunswick/Bath: see Waldoboro

Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789*

Portland: 766-5158*

Waldoboro: 832-5859

(*indicates monthly meetings)

Focus on ENDA

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 in passing a federal law to protect me."

In presenting their findings to the committee, the NCEP 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 discrimination against gays," said Carnevale. "This renewed assault on sexual orientation discrimination proves again what we have long known: bigotry is expensive. Taxpayers, consumers and corporations pay for prejudice through the loss in productivity, increased business costs, increased prices and higher insurance premiums. Equal employment opportunity for all should mean exactly that, without exception. As President Clinton said during the campaign: this country does not have a person to waste."

Carnevale's testimony was buoyed by the results of the first economic study of sexual orientation discrimination conducted by University of Maryland professor M.V. Lee Badgett, Ph. D., an economist temporarily on staff for the NCEP. Badgett's and the Commission's review of 20 surveys conducted across the country between 1980 and 1991 showed between 16 and 44% of gay and lesbian respondents faced some kind of employment discrimination.

Using data from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, Badgett also studied the affluence level of gays vs. heterosexuals. Using techniques employed to demonstrate discrimination against African-Americans and women, Badgett found that even after controlling for education and occupation gay/bisexual men earned 11 to 27% less than similar heterosexual men and lesbian/bisexual women earned 5 to 14% less than heterosexual women. These findings call into question the newest of the arguments forwarded by anti-gay forces - that gays are among the most affluent groups in the United States.

According to the NCEP's calculations, even a conservative estimate of the percentage of gays in the workforce, 5% means that significant economic losses to the country's wealth are implicated by workplace discrimination. Using a figure of 42,000 dismissals per year associated with discrimination against gays, losses in training and unemployment costs employers \$47 million per year. By this count, increasing gay productivity by 1% would have added \$1.4 billion to labor output.

Predictably, the Family Research Council and other radical right groups oppose the law arguing that "as one of the most economically advantaged groups in America, gays and lesbians are not in need of equal employment protections." Their assertions are based on marketing survey results that are increasingly being questioned because of the narrow, often homogeneous group they describe.

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

"This historic hearing marks an important milestone on the road to equal employment rights for all Americans," said Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF). "Some of the most important civil rights laws passed in this half century began with hearings before this very committee, which today discussed the problem of job discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans. Congress is giving serious consideration to this bill, and the gay community must do its part to show elected representatives that this issue is of vital importance."

NGLTF responds to ENDA hearings

The following is a statement from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Fight the Right Project about the ENDA hearings:

"Sad as it is to say, stories like those of Ernest Dillon & Angela Romero are not uncommon. Even sadder is that they happen at all. It is an unfortunate fact that in 42 of these 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 Florida, the Radical 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.

The one thing other people of color must understand is that gay rights is not a "white issue". As you've heard today, discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals affects our own people of color communities as well.

The lack of protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation is a gaping hole in America's commitment to equal opportunity. Our sisters and brothers like Mr. Dillon and Ms. Romero are hardworking, competent people who should not fear for their jobs or their lives because of factors irrelevant to their job performance.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act will be a major step forward in making sure that what happened to them does not happen to others. This bill will put us that much closer to protecting the civil rights of all Americans.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act needs the support of not only lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, but of all of those who believe in equal protection under the law. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force urges you to call, write, and visit your members of Congress and urge them to support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act."

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 heterosexuals.
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 on ENDA, call the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's hotline:
(202) 332-6483
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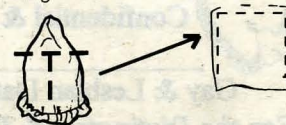
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4. The mouth is a particularly vulnerable area for open cuts and abrasions which can let STDs enter the bloodstream (for example, hepatitis B and HIV).

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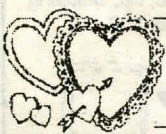
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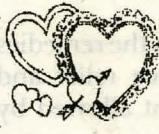
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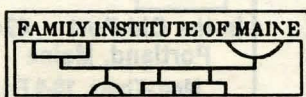
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