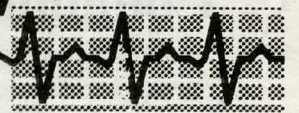


Community Pride Reporter

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



VOL. 1, Number 9

MARCH, 1994

TRANSGENDERED: What does it mean?

A presentation by Leslie Feinberg to The Matlovich Society

By: Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

"I grew up with an Ozzie and Harriet view of men and women. There are women and there are men, and women are feminine and men are masculine and that's just the way it is. There are just these two polar opposites and anything else just falls into a void in between. I'm using 'transgender' to mean everyone who falls in between." So spoke Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues*, during her riveting presentation at the Matlovich Society on February 10, 1994.

Ms. Feinberg added, "There's a more specific term for 'transgender', and that is for those who talk about 'transsexuals', meaning those who are assigned a sex at birth and redefine by choice their sex later in life. That's what I'm using as being transsexual. There are those who specifically define that as being different from 'transgendered' meaning, 'I'm a woman. I was assigned to be feminine at birth. This

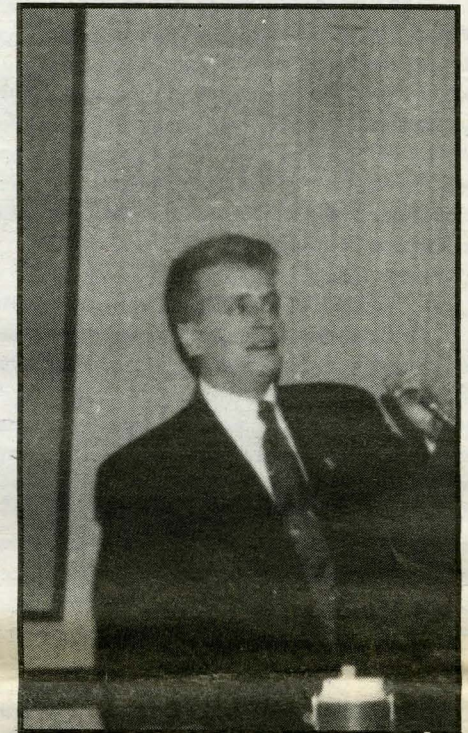
is my gender identity." Why do you think there's a contradiction between the two?

"So there is that specific term. You see, sometimes TS/TG, transsexual 'slash' transgender, that 'slash' is the unity. And 'transgender' is also used by the movement for an umbrella term which unites an entire diverse community of transsexuals, transvestites, drag queens, drag kings, androgynies, cross-dressers, bearded women, people who have so many differences in how they identify as opposed to each other. But, when we're at the 7-11 at midnight, or on the D train platform at 3 AM and some group of guys says, 'There's one of them now,' 'transgender' means, 'That's one of them now.' It's that broad umbrella term for people who are considered gender-benders, for people who have defied the man-made boundaries of sex and gender, and it's in that broad umbrella term that I'm using the word 'transgender' to-

night."

While almost all homosexual people fall somewhere between the stereotypical opposites of masculine and feminine, it would seem that the term 'transgendered' is reserved for people who are identifiable as not fitting one of the two societally established gender roles. Whether or not a person "passes" as a different gender than the one assigned at birth is irrelevant because the individual in question knows themselves and is doing what they want and identifying themselves as they choose.

In listening to Ms. Feinberg, and in writing about her (Ms. Feinberg identified to the audience as a lesbian), one comes square up against the limitations of our language. The pronouns especially limit us and, as Ms. Feinberg pointed out, "That's no accident." Language serves to enforce, and reinforce, the predominant power structure, and attempts to define the



Leslie Feinberg

Photo by L. Balboni

relational possibilities between that society's members.

See FEINBERG, page 5

UM Farmington group threatened

Letters to Gay and Straight People's Educational Alliance prompt rally and show of support

By: Winnie Weir

Hate continues to rear its ugly head, this time on the campus of the University of Maine in the town of Farmington. According to an education major attending UMF, (who feels compelled to stay in the closet for many reasons) the organization, GASPEA (Gay And Straight People's Educational Alliance) has received three hate-letters from a student over the last two months.

The first letter, complete with "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" greetings, talked about a "bad incident with a lesbian" which caused this person to withdraw their "support" for lesbian and gay rights. "Lesbians have to be punished,"

the letter went on.

In subsequent letters and phone messages left on the organizations information line, violent acts were threatened against the organization, individual members, and the two co-advisors, Tony Victor, a resident life staff member, and Dr. Brian Kaufman, an openly gay Assistant Professor of Psychology at Farmington.

The second letter was more explicit in the possible methods to be used in carrying out the violence. The writer indicated a full range of weaponry at his/her disposal from hand guns to rifles, knives, strong hands, [and a closed mind]. The

See GASPE, page 4

Battering in the Lesbian Community... Shhh!!!

By: Tania Hubacher, Special Feature Writer

Abuse in intimate lesbian relationships is a newly discussed issue that has, in the past, been in silenced existence. There are lesbians who have been beaten, raped, tortured, stalked and murdered by their intimate partners. The prevalence of abuse within lesbian relationships is hard to estimate, as no formal, accurate, reliable surveys have been done. Claire M. Renzetti writes in her book, *Partner Abuse in Lesbian Relationships*:

"Colman (1990) studied the prevalence and severity of violence among 90 lesbian couples who were recruited for the research through advertisements, news-

letters, fliers, contacts with psychotherapists, support group facilitators, and community organizations, and by snowballing. Based on participant's responses to a 12 page questionnaire, Coleman characterized 42 couples (46%) as violent and 48 as nonviolent. Loulan (1987) arrived at a considerably lower figure of 17% in her survey of 1,566 lesbians, whereas Lie, Schlitt, Bush, Montagne, and Reyes (1991) in a survey of 169 lesbians, found that 73.4% reported experiencing acts defined as physically, sexually, or verbally/emotionally aggressive in at least one previous lesbian relationship, and 26% reported ex-

See BATTERING, page 8

Community Pride Reporter

142 HIGH ST., SUITE #634
PORTLAND, ME 04101
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Winnie Weir
Publishing Editor

The **Community Pride Reporter** will serve as a source of local, state, national, and international news, information, ideas, and opinions by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people of Maine and the seacoast of the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area. We will strive to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word *community* with renewed meaning and vitality.

EDITORIAL POLICY

CPR considers all material that contributes in positive ways to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people of our coverage area. Views and opinions appearing are those of the authors only. CPR will present political information and opinion to assist our readers in making informed choices. We will also endorse candidates whom we feel represent our community most completely. Guest editorials from readers are encouraged.

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All material submitted for publication must be signed and include an address and/or telephone number for verification. CPR reserves the right to edit material as necessary. Contact names are required on all articles requested to run anonymously.

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To Readers of CPR:

MaineShare is a federation of statewide organizations which cooperatively raise funds through workplace payroll deduction campaigns in a manner similar to that used by the United Way. Last year MaineShare raised about \$70,000 which will be distributed in 1994 among its 21 member groups, which range from the Maine Peace Fund to the Maine Coalition Against Rape to the Maine AIDS Alliance to Displaced Homemakers Program to the Coalition for the Psychiatrically Labeled of Maine to the Maine Civil Liberties Union Foundation.

I am writing NOT on behalf of MaineShare, but as an individual who also has been on MaineShare's board of directors since its inception in 1988. Since those early days, MaineShare has sought to include one or more groups representing the interests of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals among its members. It continues to be one of our priority issues, one which we still seek to include within MaineShare's membership.

The primary requirements of membership in MaineShare are that the organization be statewide, that it be tax-exempt--being designated a 501 (c)(3) organization by the IRS--and that it contribute 72 hours per year to MaineShare to help implement workplace campaigns.

MaineShare recently received a membership application from Northern Lambda Nord to fund its phonenumber. After an agonizing and difficult discussion, we concluded that, although we supported the idea of a statewide lesbian-gay-bisexual phonenumber, that NLN was not a statewide group and was not able to make the phonenumber services accessible to people, especially youth, around the state. NLN has done incredible work over the years and is to be honored for its persistence and accomplishments, but it was decided not to accept its application because MaineShare needs to maintain its focus on statewide organizations and impact.

Over the years, I have spoken with several people involved in lesbian/gay/bisexual civil rights issues and encouraged them to have a group that does tax-exempt work not only for MaineShare membership but also to accept larger donations and to promote non-legislative civil rights and pride work such as legal defense of those who were bashed, a statewide phonenumber for youth questioning their sexuality, and/or pride marches and events. People have agreed that having a tax-exempt group is a good idea, but no one has yet done it.

My hope is that one or more statewide groups will become MaineShare

members and receive \$2-3,000 or more each year through MaineShare membership for their work.

MaineShare is also seeking to hold workplace donation campaigns throughout the state. If you would like to have MaineShare as a choice for payroll deduction in your workplace or want to know more about organizational membership in MaineShare, contact MaineShare, POB 2095, Augusta, ME 04338 or call 622-0105.***

signed Larry Dansinger,
Monroe, Maine

*Following is an edited Commentary written by Dick Harrison in **Communique**, a publication of Northern Lambda Nord, containing his thoughts and feelings around MaineShare's denial of NLN's request.*

At the end of November, 1993, Northern Lambda Nord applied for inclusion in MaineShare, ... whose 21 member organizations work "for social equity, economic opportunity, environmental protection, and a non-violent world." This year they were giving "special attention" to a variety of applicant organizations, including those which address gay and lesbian issues on a statewide level ... It is with this in mind that Lambda applied for funding for our singular statewide program, the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber.

The Phonenumber funding request was targeted at expanding the awareness of people throughout Maine to the existence of this 12 year old peer support, educational, and informational program. We requested money to pay for a white pages listing for Phonenumber in every NYNEX book in the state, plus money to place display ads in weekly newspapers ... The Phonenumber is already listed as a statewide resource in many of the travel and informational guides published by and for lesbians and gay men.

In her letter detailing the reasons why MaineShare would not fund the Phonenumber, membership committee chair Jeanne Davis expressed two concerns: (1) the proposal "for an expanded phonenumber [did not meet] the criteria we have established", i.e. having "a demonstrably statewide program," and (2) "our member groups focus on advocacy and education rather than direct service (in contrast to the United Way), and while we recognize that NLN has undertaken activities that fall within those categories, the phonenumber project in itself does not seem to."

At the February NLN Steering Committee meeting ... we discussed the application and MaineShare's response. Ms. Davis See **LETTERS**, page 2

EDITORIAL

With this month's edition of **CPR**, we take a look at a subject that has for too long been taboo in same sex relationships: battering. Through the combined efforts of feature writer Tania Hubacher, and The Network, a Boston based grassroots organization that addresses the issue of lesbian battering, the door on this closeted subject has been opened a crack. While the articles, the poetry, and the questions and answers are written from a lesbian perspective, it should be said clearly and loudly that battering also occurs in the gay male community.

Physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual violence and abuse crosses all stereotypical lines. Women do it to other women, men to other men, and men and women to each other. It's a serious problem whose proportions are just beginning

to break through the surface of "not in my community."

There are resources listed with these articles. If you read this feature and it speaks to your situation, use the resources suggested, or call me at the **CPR** office, 879-1342, and I will make every attempt to connect you with the proper resource for you.

Also in this edition we take a look at a subject that is all too familiar in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities: hate mail, threatening violence and intimidation because we are who we are. [See UM Farmington story, page 1] The emotional terrorism these students and advisors face is once again a reminder to everyone of the need for state and national legislative protection of our civil rights as gay, bisexual, lesbian, and trans-

gendered Americans.

The positive side of this story is the response of Interim President Sue Hauseman and her staff, along with overwhelming outrage and support from straight students. As I write those words, my brain is screaming, "But of course, that's how it should be." Right. How about sending letters of support to the Gay and Straight People's Educational Alliance, c/o University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, ME 04938.

Finally, I received a call at the office recently from an individual looking for a plumber and an electrician "who is a family member." This is not the first time such calls have been received. The caller wanted to know if perhaps these businesses advertised in **CPR**. (I wish!) I would like to publish the company names of people who

provide services we all need from time to time, like plumbers, electricians, mechanics, painters, wallpaper hangers, roofers, etc., etc.

In order to compile a Services Directory, I am offering free advertising space in the Classified Section, up to 40 words, for the next two months, to anyone who provides services we all need. Just write it up, or send in your business card to Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101. Here's to us as we continue to build community!

Δ In solidarity,

Winnie Wei

LETTERS, from page 2
pointed out in her letter that "the mission/statement of purpose as written on your application indicates a focus on Northern Maine and New Brunswick" rather than statewide.NLN provides activities and programs for this region. But the application also says, in the section entitled "Geographic Area" that "the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber, for which MaineShare funding would be used, serves anyone who has access to a telephone or a TTD; the focus area of the Phonenumber services is the entire State of Maine."

Let me address the issue of "advocacy and education" which MaineShare feels the Phonenumber does not undertake. The Phonenumber itself does not advocate for anything or educate anyone. It is only when someone calls and can speak with an out gay man or lesbian that advocacy and education can take place. MaineShare says they fund organizations which "encourage self-help and community empowerment." Then let's think about the fearful, closeted, self-oppressed gay person who heard someone at work talk about the "fag phone" that they saw listed in the phone book. After looking for themselves and trying several times to call, only to hang up repeatedly when someone answer, this person finally has the courage to talk with a proud and unashamed lesbian or gay man on the other end of the line.

This peer support, which Phonenumber volunteers provide, can lead to the lifting of the negative feelings with which the caller is burdened, and thus help to make her or him feel better about being queer in a homophobic society. Is not this process which takes place

when someone calls the Phonenumber "encouraging self-help and community empowerment?" Doesn't a supportive response from the Phonenumber help people do what the NLN mission statement says - and applies to the Phonenumber as well - "to help members of this community to divest themselves of negative, homophobic and self-oppressive attitudes"? Isn't this a prime example of the self-help and empowerment which MaineShare helps foster?

It seems that there's a type of "catch 22" in order for us to receive MaineShare funding. They want us to be a "demonstrably statewide program", but in order to be known statewide, we need funding to get the word out, but we can't get funding because they say we're not statewide.

The Phonenumber is based in Caribou and is only listed in the Aroostook County phone books. The calls we receive from other parts of Maine are from callers who are most likely already in touch with the organized lesbian-gay community in the state. They found the number in one of the gay and lesbian travel guides, which list the Phonenumber as a statewide resource. Or they read one of the Maine lesbian and gay monthly publications.But how do we reach a closeted gay man or lesbian, or a parent or friend, or anyone who may want to call for peer support, education, and information. They won't know it's there unless they have an Aroostook phone book. But, here's an idea. Perhaps we can get listed in all the books throughout the state, then more people will know about us. Now, where can we get the financial help to do that? ??? ...

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NH Anti-discrimination law clears first hurdle

Large majority surprises many

Article provided by Eric Murphy

By a vote of 226 to 131, the New Hampshire House of Representatives passed House Bill 1432 to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. To become law, the bill must now be passed by the Senate and signed or accepted by the Governor.

The decision of the house of Representatives came after hearings and a supportive vote (14-4) by the 21 member Judiciary Committee. The January hearing lasted nearly three hours as 30 witnesses testified, all but two of them favoring the bill. Supporters included legislators, labor and women's organizations, clergy, and people who told their own personal stories of discrimination, or those of others too vulnerable to appear in public.

The testimony, and an unprecedented number of calls and letters to committee members were so persuasive, that several members known for conservatism and usually written off by progressive groups became strong supporters of the bill. For

example, republican Representative Gilbreth of Franklin told of a coffee shop conference with five constituents, "all blue collar veterans," who told him they thought the bill was the right thing. Gilbreth later spoke against anything that might "water down" the bill. The Committee did make one harmless addition (with the approval of the sponsors), adding a disclaimer that the bill was not an endorsement of any particular beliefs, behavior, conditions, or characteristics of any particular person to whom it may apply.

The surprise came day later, on the evening and morning just before the vote of the full House. Governor Merrill and his chief of staff started calling Republican legislators asking them to back a crippling amendment to be offered by Rep. Richard Kennedy and Francis Riley. The Governor even went personally into the GOP morning caucus meeting to ask for support. However, by that time, the House members were already persuaded and not in the mood for last minute political manipulations. They had heard from unprecedented number of people by letter and phone, lesbian and gay people, parents and friends, straight neighbors who cared to speak up.

See NEW HAMPSHIRE, page 17

third letter (see box) served as the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back. While Campus Police and the President's office had been apprised of this hate mail early on, this letter led to students taking action and calling for a rally of support and education. It was held on Friday, March 4th "on the beach" in the Student Center. (CPR will have a follow-up report in our April issue.)

According to the student reporting these events, Bill Geller, Head of Student Life at UMFarmington, wrote and posted copies of a letter saying this type of discrimination and hate will not be tolerated at UMF. He went on to say in the letter that the lesbian and gay community is a vital and important part of student life at Farmington.

"All during the day students gathered around reading the letter and they were disgusted!", said the student reporter. "The campus was in an uproar over this on Tuesday." She also noted that there was an outpouring of support from straight

students who helped post notices about the rally and copies of Geller's letter around campus. Many straight students also offered verbal support to gays and lesbians. "Some support came from people I never expected to be supportive. I'm still scared, and so are many others. It's an awful feeling."

The most recent threats have been brought to the attention of Asst. Attorney General, Steven Wessler, Sally Sutton, Director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and Pat Ryan, Director of the Maine Human Rights Commission. Ms. Ryan, unable to attend Friday's rally, will send a statement urging passage of legislation to protect Maine's homosexual population from discrimination.

GASPE Alliance is a student group which provides educational and cultural programming for the campus community and has inspired other campuses nationwide to encourage tolerance and cooperation among homosexuals and heterosexuals. ...

HATE LETTER TO GASPEA

Dear GASPEA,

I am very sorry to be the one to have to tell you that there was nothing meant personally to harm any of your members. Oh, I'm sorry, the deeds have not yet happened, have they. But, nevertheless, they will happen because you are all sick and demented. You have no sense of reality, only your personal lusts which, in the end, will condemn you.

But in the meantime I will have to put a damper on your life-style. My goal is to make you afraid of coming out of the closet (where you belong). You will learn that your life-style is not normal and not welcome in a heterosexual society. If you want to be accepted, then I suggest that you go elsewhere, like a country that accepts it.

Please don't take this personally, I am only doing what's best for the society. I am truly sorry to the homosexual who must pay for your sins. But I guess that in every movement someone must get hurt. Maybe Tony can be the one to take the punishment for the rest of your sick people. You will learn though that same sex love, homosexuality, gays, lesbians, faggots, queers, or whatever you want to be called, I call you sick faggots, even though faggots means something else. I call you this because it's a more insulting word.

Good-bye and good luck dodging what is the right thing to do.

Safe Schools and Agencies for All:

A conference affirming the place of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth

LEWISTON: Under the sponsorship of fourteen Maine organizations including the Maine Association of Child Abuse & Neglect Councils, Maine Youth Shelter Network, ML/GPA, Norther Lambda Nord, Maine Association of Group Providers, Outright/Portland, PFLAG and others, a conference affirming the place of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth will be

held in Lewiston on April 12th.

The goal of the conference is to train teams from agencies and schools in an effort to improve the level of safety and acceptance of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth while in these settings. The workshops are designed to support developing ideas into plans for programs and policies to be implemented in schools and organizations.

If your agency or school is interested in attending, please contact Kate Perkins at 985-2784 for more information. ...

GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

I've just put the pot roast in the oven and thought I'd sit down to write an ad for this week. I have to do it myself because Dan is down basking in the Florida sunshine right about now. I'm not too jealous because I go on vacation when he gets back. Of course, I'll be spending my time ripping the shingles off my house. Outside. In the cold. But, I'm not jealous. Not me.

We've had a cold winter, but our customers have been braving the weather and coming to Katahdin. You might say it's their refuge from the cold and a way to prevent cabin fever. The surroundings are cozy, and our friendly waiters and waitresses will soon make you forget that it's March outside. Our piping hot chowders and steaming platefuls of food will also help to get the chill out of your bones. Dinner at Katahdin isn't exactly a trip to Florida, but it's cheaper, quicker, and I guarantee you won't get a sunburn here.

We are now showing some of the works that will be in the Spring for Life AIDS Auction. The last auction was a resounding success, and we're sure this one will raise even more money for The AIDS Project. It's going to take place at the State Theatre on Saturday, March 19th. Be there, or be square!

It's always exciting when a new business opens in the neighborhood. I'm sure Dan joins me in welcoming Sisters, the new women's bar on Danforth St. I understand that the place was packed on opening night. Continued good luck!

I'd like to close by reminding you that no matter what the occasion, be it a play, a concert, a sports event, or a night out on the town, you can make it special by stopping in beforehand or afterwards for some of our Good Cookin'. Come give us a try!

774-1740 • SPRING AND HIGH STREET
MON - THURS 5PM - 10PM • FRI AND SAT 5PM - 11PM

FEINBERG. from page 1.

Ms. Feinberg said, "We're taught [that determining] sex is very simple, you hold up a baby, look, and that's the sex. Isn't that the first question anyone asks, 'Oh, what a beautiful baby. Is it a boy or a girl?' Well, I hold with those who would answer, 'We don't know. It hasn't told us yet.'"

Ms. Feinberg cited a study done on female to male transsexuals in the Pacific Northwest. "40% self-identified as gay and bisexual men. That tells us that the whole emergence of this transgender movement is going to rock human consciousness, the way the women's movement did and the way the lesbian-gay movement did. It's going to make us have to separate out sex and gender identity and sexual preference, and not collapse them all in together. Now, if later we want to bring it all together and call it 'queer' and fight back, that's one thing. But first we gotta kinda separate out and respect, and even enjoy, our differences."

Ms. Feinberg moved into a historical discussion of gender in which she declared that the partition of the sexes was a relatively recent development and that in some Native American cultures there were five or more pronouns.

She said, "I grew up being taught, 'women are feminine, men are masculine.' Two polar opposites. If you don't fit either here or here, you're just out of the picture, you're out of the universe. But the way I look at it is, OK, there are women who are feminine, women who are androgynous, women who are masculine; and there are men who are masculine and androgynous and feminine. A circle. On a circle of gender expression, everyone can find their place. You don't have to be one or the other, and you can change...I'm fighting for the concept of a circle of gender freedom as opposed to two polar opposites."

Ms. Feinberg went on to discuss inter and intra movement issues. She said, "The relationship between the lesbian-gay community and the transgender community is a very misunderstood question societally, not just within our own movement. For a long time there has been a misunder-

standing that any woman who veers towards masculinity or any man who veers towards femininity is gay. You even hear people say, 'So and so looks gay.' Looks gay? How do you 'look gay.' Look at this room and how many ways there are to be gay."

She discussed the make up of the bars pre-Stonewall, and the highly stylized forms of gender expression therein. She emphasized that she and others, the tip of an iceberg, were the part of the gay population that was always visible, and that society would make assumptions about their sexuality without knowing with whom they slept. And it was these people who were the majority of the people in the bars at this time, so no wonder that society thought that that's what gay meant. It was also what they themselves thought gay meant.

"But we were also on the front lines of battles that helped mid-wife the modern lesbian-gay movement, and now the coalition with the bisexual movement. And what happened was this whole iceberg began to emerge, and for the first time, historically, we could see how many ways there are to be gay, with gender diversity, racial diversity, and class difference within this whole population of 'gay.' But, there was still a misconception that those of us who are like I do, or are drag queens, were like an embarrassing cusp of the lesbian-gay movement. 'It's the "old way." We don't do that anymore.' It's sort of like Jurassic Park, 'They'll go away after a generation.'"

"Well, when I go to the bars now I see whole new generations of young butches and young drag queens. In fact, there's another earthquake going on. There's another iceberg emerging, and that is this huge gender population, and now what we're beginning to see is how many ways there are to be transgendered, and that being transgendered doesn't determine who you're attracted to. It doesn't determine if you're a top or a bottom. Ninety per cent of cross-dressers are presumed to be heterosexuals, but are they 'straight'? Can we really apply these terms to the gender community? It's really important to define a gay population especially when there is such defined oppression, but we can't really be defined by our sexuality. This really is a queer coalition."

"I see them as two huge circles, these populations. A lesbian-gay population, and a transgender population, and they partially overlap. And I'm one of those people in that overlapping part. I'm one of those people who has a foot in both communities. I feel like a bridge, but I also feel like somebody who has one foot in each of two rowboats. I have an extreme desire for

them not to go in the opposite direction. And I really believe it's not that we have identical oppressions, all of us, but we have common enemies."

"I remember someone who I knew well who was macheted to death in Brooklyn by bashers, a transvestite. And as she died, the guys were yelling, 'Die faggot, die.' And her wife was home cooking dinner, waiting for her. See, to our enemies, we're all queer. And when I hear people say, 'We're not all like that' and they try to tell our opponents, 'We're just like you,' I say, 'No I'm not. I'm not like them. I'm queer. I don't wanna be like them.'"

In these comments, Ms. Feinberg has taken on one of the most divisive and troubling issues of the gay rights struggle. The large, established gay rights groups want to be accepted so badly that they become more mainstream and bourgeois than the society they wish to join. And in the process, these groups are not only willing, but eager, to sacrifice 'marginal' types on the altar of acceptance. They are forgetting that it was the transgendered people who fought back at Stonewall, and in so doing made it safe for 'mainstream' gays and lesbians to have bars to go to. This convolution of identity (and self-hatred) produces the incredible result of the 'gay Republican,' perhaps the most perfect oxymoron.

Ms. Feinberg introduced the slide show, *In Our Own Voices*, by saying, "There are two points I want to make with this slide show. The first is that we have been taught what I consider to be the Fred Flintstone School of Human Anthropology." She told us that this show was a prehistoric cartoon version of the *Honey-mooners* which was really more than a cartoon. It was a way of saying that the way things are now is the way they've always been. "And what's the message in that—don't bother to try and change the world. It's always been this way. Bigotry, racism... that's just human nature. You can't do anything about that."

"Well, there's a wise African proverb that says, 'Until the lions come to power, the hunters will write the history.'" Ms. Feinberg states that digging up our history is a political act. It is activism, and that without it we can't fight oppression.

She continued, "I want to show you tonight [in the slides] that although gender has been expressed differently in diverse historical periods and classes and regions and nationalities, that there has always been gender diversity, and people have always redefined their sex. But, we haven't always been hated, hunted and reviled for it. In fact, there was a time in which we were held in high esteem. I put the onus for

See FEINBERG, page 22

What next? How can I help? Granite State's lesbians, gays, bi's, and allies ask.

One of the most useful and easy things to do is write or call the three people listed below. This was a crucial factor in the House of Representatives, and now that it's clear we are strong, we will have to balance an expected surge of negative letters from opponents.

Cards or letters are better right now, and a follow-up call later in March would be good. Have some friends and relatives do it too. Nothing fancy is necessary. You only need say that you think HB1432 is fair, moderate, and necessary. If you know there is discrimination, say so. You don't need to come out, but if you are comfortable with that, it can't hurt, and may help. Remember we are trying to persuade, not intimidate or vent.

Who to write: (1) Senator Eleanor Podles, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee, Legislative Office Building, Concord, NH 03301; (2) Your own Senator (ask your Town Clerk if you don't know); and (3) Governor Merrill, Room 208, Statehouse, Concord, NH 03301.

If you want to volunteer or make a contribution, to the NH Coalition to End Discrimination, write to CED, P.O. Box 74, Concord, NH 03302-0074, or call the Networking contact at 603/536-4011, or the Public Relations contact at 603/622-3749. ...

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TIME OUT!

By: Michael Rossetti

Well, spring is just around the snow pile, and as soon as the ice recedes, we'll all get our bicycles tuned up and rolling full speed again.

Building up your 'bicycle legs' is a year 'round commitment for some of us, even here in Maine. Most cyclists are moderate distance people who think of a fifty or sixty mile ride as an expedition rather than a day's fun.

But, if you are at all interested in enjoying your bike (particularly we road warriors, as opposed to mountain or trail bikers), a potential goal is to do a trek. Some are called centuries, because they are 100 mile rides. A lot of group bike events are even more, i.e. cross country weekend events. All of them require prior work, not only in bike prep, but in building stamina and stronger ankles and knees ('bicycle legs').

Group bicycle events are great fun, particularly less strenuous ones. There's a lot of mutual bicycle primping and admiration. The starting point for not-competitive events is usually a mass social hour, lots of stretching, laughing, and the inevitable passing of the Gator Aid bottle, a sort of bicyclist's peace pipe.

In preparation for longer rides in the early summer, less aggressive cyclists will have been building leg by attempting progressively longer, local rides approaching, though not needing to exceed, the length of their goal biking event. These rides help to build, not only 'leg', but also confidence, body comfort or tolerance, and general bicycle repair skills and street smarts. All of these elements are essential to actually enjoying long distance rides. May, April, even March, are good months to get out on short runs for less frequent bike riders if you set your goal on a group long distance event.

One annual gay and lesbian bike event is the Boston to Provincetown ride scheduled for September of this year. Some 200 cyclists from around north America ride about 130 miles from Boston down Cape Cod in one day. The route is very pretty and largely flat. The weekend is in Provincetown, so enough said about the fun aspects.

TIME OUT! is planning a similar event for July. It would loop from Ogunquit along country roads and spectacular shore line, then back to Ogunquit. It will be a century (100 mile) ride, but will have cut-offs for shorter loops. It will be a Friday, Saturday, Sunday social event, but the ride will be on one day, Saturday.

The International Lesbian and Gay Outdoors Organization will be invited, so the goal number of bicycles is between 50 to 100. The ride will end with a party in Ogunquit and a beach party the following Sunday. Non-cyclists will be needed to drive follow-up vehicles and person pit stops to distribute water and sandwiches. It will be a great first annual event that will be given area wide attention.

Our first planning meeting will be at TIME OUT's Annual Meeting on Monday, March 21st., at the Board Room, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Come on by and help us start a great new, local event. ...

SISTERS OPENS IN PORTLAND

New bar for women debuts to rave reviews

By: Winnie Weir

On the evening of February 19th, the community of Maine women, particularly lesbians, were given a warm, friendly, well configured and decorated 'space of our own' in which to dance, play pool, hang out, eat, drink, and be merry. It's called *Sisters*, and is located at 45 Danforth Street in Portland. Spread out over two floors, with an outdoor patio for warmer weather use, one can feel cozy in a variety of seating arrangements. There is a stage, and a full kitchen for serving up culinary delights. It is definitely a bar, but it is definitely something more.

Owners, sisters Mary Anne Brown and Sue Pierce, have instituted community dialogue night on the first Tuesday of the month in order to give customers a forum whereby customers can tell them what they like, don't like, and what they would like to see. Creating a spirit of community is certainly high on the priority list of Mary Anne and Sue. This priority was also evident in the interactions of all staff with customers on opening night.

The energy was awesome all evening

long. Women filled the dance floor most of the night as Lisa Vaccaro pumped out energetic tunes. This is another area where the owners are looking for community input. Should they have a wider selection of music, special music nights offering something for everyone's musical tastes? They really want to know.

The policy of smoking only on the second floor was instituted in response to those who want the opportunity to dance and meet friends, but who can't deal with the smoke. Many women commented on this feature and thanked Mary Anne and Sue. Future events will include live performances, discussions around issues of concern to women, opportunities for children and parents to attend special programs, guest DJ and bartending opportunities for those of us who have 'always wanted-to-do-it, but were-afraid-to-ask'.

This establishment promises to be a significant addition to the entertainment scene in Portland. As with all businesses, the support of the focus group will determine the viability of this business. This writer hopes we don't blow it again. ...

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STONEWALL 25 / PORTLAND PRIDE

By: Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

On February 13, 1994, I attended a Stonewall 25/Maine Freedom Fest presentation in the Somerset Room of the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. Due to extremely poor weather conditions, attendance was low but that gave me the opportunity to interview Flora Piterak, National Executive Committee Member for Stonewall 25. Michael Rossetti and Suzanne Ward, delegates from the north-east region to that committee, were there, as were Richard Fried and Tara Lawrence from Portland Pride.

Flora is from Danville, New Hampshire and she attended this meeting, "to talk about what Stonewall is, what Stonewall 25 really is, and about the international aspects of the March." Michael (Portland Pride, Steering Committee Member) is responsible for Maine and Suzanne Ward (NH. Pride, Steering Committee Member) is responsible for New Hampshire. There is also a Tri-State Alliance whose purpose is to co-ordinate northern New England's participation in the March.

Planning for Stonewall 25 has been underway since 1985 and is designed to get as many people as possible from all over the world to the March on the United Nations on June 26, 1994. In tribute to this historic March, New York City Pride has chosen not to have a separate Pride March this year, but to devote full energy to Stonewall 25.

For those who may be unfamiliar with this milestone in gay history the following is quoted from the Stonewall 25 brochure:

"The rebellion began early in the morning of June 27, 1969 when the New York City Police and the Alcoholic Beverage Control board agents made a routine raid on a gay bar, The Stonewall Inn, on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. Allegedly there to look for violations of the alcohol control laws, they made the usual homophobic comments and then, after checking ID, threw their customers out of the bar, one by one.

"Instead of quietly slipping away into the night as gay men and lesbians had done for years, they resisted. The commotion drew more people to the area. Drag queens and drag kings, many of whom were Afro-American and Latino/a, held their ground against the police. A parking meter was used to barricade the door of the Stonewall, trapping police and agents inside. They called for reinforcements as the crowd continued to grow and the resistance increased.

"The Rebellion lasted three days and

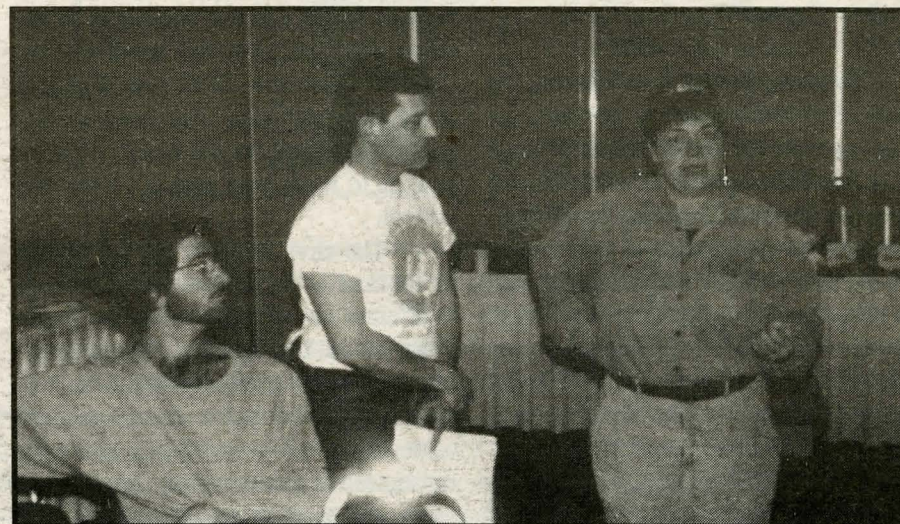
three nights, and, for the first time, the chant, 'Gay Power' rang out.

"No one there could have imagined how they were changing the course of history. Suddenly, our ancient burden of oppression was transformed into anger, self-affirmation, pride—and action. The call for gay liberation reverberated around the world. And today, our movement ranks among the great forces in the struggle for human rights.

"As lesbian, gay, and bisexual people our history is rich and inspiring. It is studded with acts of courage and bravery, with heroes and heroines, in the fight for basic human rights for gay and lesbian people everywhere. The Stonewall 25 March and Rally will remember, commemorate, and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the occurrence that is generally credited with beginning the modern-day gay and lesbian rights movement, the Stonewall Rebellion."

Stonewall 25 is sponsored by ILGA (the International Lesbian and Gay Association). "ILGA, a worldwide federation of more than 300 gay and lesbian groups in 50 nations, is the only gay group to be officially recognized by the U.N., having been awarded roster status in July, 1993. The status allows ILGA to submit written statements to the U.N.'s economic and social council, which deals with economic development and human rights issues, and to send observers to the council's meetings." (Advocate, 12/14/93)

The Sunday, June 26th March on the United Nations is a part of the 16th Annual



Richard Fried and Michael Rossetti of Portland Pride, with Flora Piterak, National Executive Committee Member, Stonewall 25

Balboni photo

ILGA World Conference, which starts Friday, June 24th, with a Disabled People's Pre-conference. Saturday, June 25th is a Women's Pre-conference. Sunday is the March. Monday, June 27th is a People of Color Pre-conference, and from Tuesday, June 28th through Sunday, July 3rd is the World Conference itself. Information on registration etc. can be obtained by writing: 16th Annual ILGA World Conference, Stonewall 25/New York, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th Street, N.Y., N.Y. 10011 or by telephone at: (212) 620-7310 or (212) 439-1077 or fax at: (212) 924-2657.

In addition to the ILGA conference there will be several other events during June in New York City. The 1994 Global Calendar of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Events will list them. To obtain a copy, call (212) 626-6925. For information electronically:

contact the Backroom BBS at (718) 951-8256 (modem).

The Stonewall Ball, the premier drag event of the decade, will be held at the New York Hilton on June 24. Call Empress Nicole at (619) 692-1967 for details.

The Stonewall/25 Awards Gala will honor 25 lesbian, gay, bisexual, drag, and transgender people who have made a difference. It will be held at the UN on Friday evening, June 24. Call the Stonewall/25 office for information.

The Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival is an international Olympic-style sporting and cultural event open to all. 15,000 athletes and thousands of cultural participants are expected to participate in 31 team and individual sports. Gay Games IV will take place from June 18-25 at sites throughout the New York metropolitan area. See PRIDE, page 21

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BATTERING from page 1

periencing such acts in their current relationships." (page 17)

These figures are disheartening, regardless of their accuracy. Any woman being abused is a concern, and any woman being abused in a same sex relationship is a concern for the community as a whole. Having been in an abusive relationship with another woman, and deciding to take the risk of speaking about my experience, I have found that most of the other lesbians with whom I share my story have their own stories of feeling abused by either their current or a previous partner.

I believe in women, and I believe in lesbians. I believe we have the capacity to create relationships based in healthy, loving and respectful intimacy. I believe that from these relationships, we can create communities that thrive and are inclusive. However, until we look at the skeletons that are hiding in our own community's closets, we cannot hope to achieve the satisfaction that we so rightly deserve. I think that to look at these skeletons is going to be a challenge, and will take courage, dedication and commitment from all involved.

One of the challenges facing us is finding a way to communicate about what we are seeing, and naming the intentions of the perpetrators. The Power and Control Wheel was first developed by the Deluth Abuse Intervention Project, Deluth, Minnesota, and addressed issues concerning "battering" in heterosexual relationships.

Barbara Hart, in her article, "Lesbian Battering: An Examination," appearing in K. Lobel's book, *Naming the Violence*, defines lesbian battering as a "pattern of violence (or) coercive behaviors whereby a lesbian seeks to control the thoughts, beliefs, or conduct of her intimate partner, or to punish the intimate for resisting the perpetrator's control." (page 173). With permission, I have adapted the Power and Control Wheel by including categories and examples that specifically address issues relevant to battering in same-sex relationships.

The Power and Control Wheel on page 9 is a visual representation of the tactics used by a person wishing to dominate another person within a relationship. The hub of the wheel is the central goal of the abusers intentions. The spokes radiating from the hub are the tactics used by abusers to reach their goal of power and control.

The circles embracing the spokes are the final tactics used when the first lines of offense (i.e., Using Intimidation, Emotional Abuse, Isolation, etc.) are not eliciting the desired response for whatever reasons. In other words, if an abuser's original tactics to gain power and control meet with resistance, the abuser will increase the severity of the method is used in order to gain and maintain control of their partner. As the resistance increases, so the severity increases to ultimately include physical and/or sexual violence.

Just as the spokes of a wheel are held together by an outer rim, so the abuser's tactics of emotional and psychological abuse are held together by the outer rim of physical and sexual violence. The wheel is suspended in a general atmosphere of hatred directed internally and externally from society as a whole. This hatred may come disguised as homophobia, racism, ableism, classism, speciesism, or any other way of oppressing another living being. This hatred allows people to use abusive behavior without accountability, and thus, abuse can continue to be perpetrated.

Discussions around this issue of abuse within lesbian relationships needs to be centered in honesty and encapsulated with compassion. There are many issues, many lives, and many reputations at stake. If we do not address the issues of abuse, there are even more lives and reputations at stake. There is our own future as a community at risk, a community that is violated daily by homophobia, a community that must find its supports rooted in its own integrity. Our community does not have the support of the American culture as a whole. The fact that we attempt intimate, same sex relationships, and are successful any amount of the time, is something that we should be

proud of. The heterosexual community is encouraged in their expressions of love with rituals, economic securities, and family support (to name just a few). The rate of abuse amongst heterosexual couples is horrific. Those of us struggling in same-sex relationships need to applaud our efforts regardless of our success or failure. We battle against violent forces that wish to obliterate us. Our successes are achievements that we need to continue to incorporate and grow with. With compassion and understanding we can face our own projections of hate and complicity, both individually and as a community, and achieve the kind of intimacy and relationships that we so desire and deserve. ***

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

1. **The Gathering: Domestic Violence in Gay/Lesbian Relationships**, March 15th, 7 PM, USM Campus Center.
2. **Naming The Violence. Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering**, Edited by Kerry Lobel for the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Lesbian Task Force.
3. **Partner Abuse in Lesbian Relationships**, by Claire M. Renzetti.
4. **Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them** by David Island, Ph.D, and Patrick Letellier, MA.
5. The Network, Box 6011, Boston, MA 02114, 617/424-8611.
6. Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, 1914 North 34th Street, Suite 104, Seattle, WA 98103. 1. 02114, 617/424-8611.
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Outreach Offices:

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Bath: 207/442-0424

Bridgton: 207/647-8501

Abused Women's Advocacy Project -

Auburn: Hotline: 207/795-4020 or 1-800-559-2927

Family Violence Project - Augusta:

207/623-3569

Spruce Run - Bangor:

207/947-0496

Womencare - Dover-Foxcroft:

207/564-8165

Womenkind - Machais:

207/255-4785 (days), or 1-800-432-7303 after hours

Next Step - Ellsworth:

Hotline: 207/667-4606, or 667-0176 (office)

Battered Women's Project - Caribou:

1-800-439-2323

New Hope for Women - Rockland:

207/594-2128

Caring Unlimited - Sanford:

207/324-1802 or 1-800-488-0688 (after hours)

Safer Families - Bethel:

207/824-3600, or 207/824-2193 (office)

Victim Witness Advocate - Portland PD:

207/874-8300 (Phyllis Hanson)

OUT OF STATE:

Sexually Assaulted Males (SAM)-MA.: 617/437-9663.

Male Rape Hotline - 1-800-338-6172

Network for Battered Lesbians - Boston:

Hotline: 617/236-7233 or 617/424-8611 (office answering machine).

Battered Women's Hotline - MA.:

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Power & Control Wheel

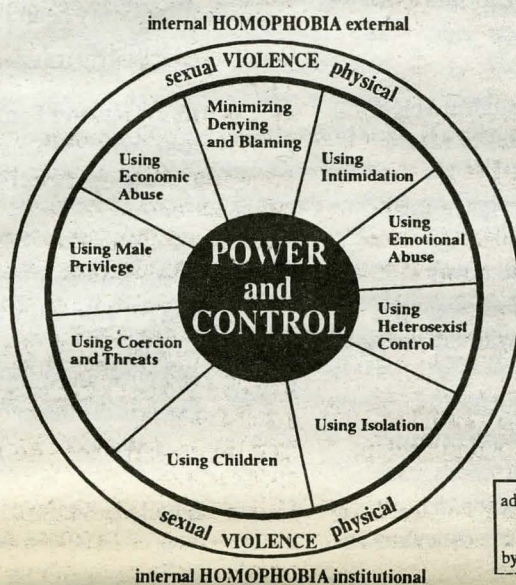
USING ECONOMIC ABUSE: preventing her from getting or keeping a job, making her ask for money, giving her an allowance, taking her money, not letting her know about or have access to family income.

MINIMIZING, DENYING AND BLAMING: making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns seriously, saying

her, using her political beliefs against her.

USING HETEROSEXIST CONTROL: threatening and or revealing lesbian/gay/bisexual identity to family, neighbors, employers, ex-spouses, or city, state, and or federal authorities.

USING ISOLATION: controlling what she does, who she sees and talks to; what she reads, where she goes, limiting her outside involvement, restricting her involvement in the gay/lesbian community, using jealousy to justify actions.



adapted from The Duluth Abuse Intervention Project
by: Tania Stute Hubacher

the abuse did not happen, shifting responsibility for abusive behavior saying, "she caused it."

USING INTIMIDATION: making her afraid by using looks, actions, and or gestures, smashing things, destroying her property, abusing pets, displaying weapons.

USING EMOTIONAL ABUSE: putting her down, making her feel bad about herself, calling her names, making her think she is crazy, playing mind games, humiliating her, making her feel crazy, using her recovery from alcoholism, addictions of any kind, abuse, etc., against

USING CHILDREN: making her feel guilty about the children, using the children to relay messages, using visitations to harass her, threatening to take the children away, not giving visitation when no legal recourse is available.

USING COERCION AND THREATS: making and/or carrying out threats to do something to hurt her, to leave her, to commit suicide and/or homicide, threatening to report her to welfare, making her drop charges, making her do illegal things.

USING 'MALE' PRIVILEGE: Treating her like a servant, making all the big decisions, acting like the "master of the castle", being the one to define the roles.

Women Battering Women: Q & A's, Fact & Fiction

By: Debra Borkovitz & Beth Leventhal-The Network for Battered Lesbians

I have been conducting workshops on lesbian battering for the Network since we began in 1989. When we first started, we usually found ourselves trying to convince people that women really did batter other women and that it was a serious problem. We still often need to do this, but over the years more and more participants have accepted the issue as serious and have struggled to understand it and incorporate it into their work and consciousness. This article addresses some of the most common concerns, and how I respond to them at workshops. These thoughts have been developed overtime, and they are not mine alone. I hope this article leads to future dialogue, and I welcome responses.

"What do you mean by battering? Is there such a thing as domestic violence among women? Is it really that bad?"

Yes! Battering is a pattern of behaviors designed to get and keep control over one's partner, and involves any combination of physical, emotional, sexual, economic, homophobic and/or biphobic abuse. Although homophobia and biphobia make it impossible to know with 100% accuracy how many lesbians and bisexual women there are, let alone how prevalent battering is, preliminary research indicates that battering among women occurs at the same proportion as in straight relationships. We do know that woman-to-woman battering is just as serious and just as dangerous as straight male battering. There is nothing that straight men have done to their partners that lesbians and bisexual women have not done to their partners, including murder.

Some people think that because two women may be more equal in size or strength that the battering can't be that bad, that it is somehow more mutual. By definition, battering is not mutual. The term 'battering' implies that there is a power imbalance between the partners. Batterers may or may not be bigger, stronger or more butch than their partners. It makes no difference. The key to defining battering is not who the batterer is or how she looks, but whether or not she is trying to control her partner. Battered women may fight back in some way, but this is not mutual abuse. Violence on the part of the batterer, whether physical or emotional, is one piece of a whole pattern of behaviors in which the batterer tries to control the thoughts, feelings, beliefs, or actions of her partner. Fighting back is an attempt not to control

the partner, but to stop the abuse.

"Isn't the problem really alcoholism?"

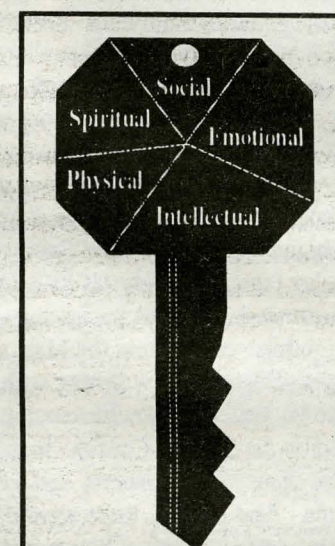
No! That drugs or alcohol cause abusive behavior is one of many myths about battering. Although some batterers use them as an excuse for the abusiveness, many batterers are not substance abusers, and many substance abusers don't batter. Sobering up is no guarantee of non-abusive behavior. Batterers are not out of control when they are battering, whether they're drunk, high or completely sober. Battering is a choice which they always have control over. And, if someone knows that their behavior is worse when drunk or high, and they continue to use, then they are choosing to be abusive.

Other myths about battering are that it only happens in the clubs, it only happens among women who were abused as children, or who are not feminist, or who practice S/M, or are of certain races, classes, or religions. In fact, battering cuts across all lines and can be found in all parts of women's communities. There is no way to tell that someone is battered or a batterer just by looking at them.

"What are the similarities and differences between women battering women and men battering women?"

I think there is something called battering that is essentially the same for everyone. Women whose lives are very

See WOMEN, page 18



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NACHAS!

By: Rita M. Kissen

(NACHAS: a Yiddish word meaning "pride," pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, which rhymes with "Bach.")

It has always seemed to me a happy coincidence that my daughter Michelle's birthday falls one day before International Women's Day. In the United States, March is Women's History Month, and women's history means celebrating the bonds between mothers and daughters, sisters, lovers and friends.

I discovered Women's Studies in the 1970's, when I was a high school English teacher. Somehow, I learned that there was an organization called the National Women's Studies Association, and that they held an annual four-day conference. My department chair would only allow me two days of personal leave, but during that brief time I discovered a world that would change my life forever. It was a world where women talked about theory and practice in the same breath, and where straight women and lesbians talked to each other, often in anger, but always in hope. It felt like coming home.

Later, when my daughter and I were longing for feminist companionship in rural Nebraska, we began attending regional women's studies conferences as well as the national NWSA. There I found a sustaining community of teacher-scholars, and Michelle discovered NWSA's lesbian caucus. While I exchanged syllabi with colleagues from other universities, she would listen wide-eyed to debates over lesbian theory and join her "foster mothers" at late night parties where she wasn't even old enough to order a drink.

Back then, NWSA conferences were a combination of academia and summer camp, with an ambiance somewhere between a university classroom and the Michigan Women's Music Festival. In one day I might find myself listening to a forum on lesbian S&M, presenting a paper on feminist curriculum for high school English classes, and watching with pride while Michelle led a panel discussion sponsored by the Student Caucus. In the evenings there were concerts and cultural events. And always, there were dances, where straight women like me danced with other women for the first time in our lives and you couldn't tell who was a lesbian and who wasn't—and for a brief, miraculous time, it didn't matter. One night Michelle and I slow-danced to the music of "That's What Friends Are For." Even now, the sound of that song takes me back to that perfect moment of our com-

munion within a world of women.

For most of my NWSA years, I served as a member of the Coordinating Council. This group of 30 women, representing all the geographical, ethnic and cultural constituencies of the organization, conducted the major administrative business and helped plan each year's conference. We were a loving, contentious bunch, who insisted on doing everything by consensus. Like the stubborn feminists we were, we would spend hours hashing out our differences, which is why we acquired a reputation for holding meetings that ran until one o'clock in the morning.

At one such meeting, on the last night of a conference, the tensions dividing us were so deep that I doubted we'd ever be able to resolve them. Just when it seemed that we had reached a dead end, one of our oldest and most respected members, the delegate from the Black Women's Caucus, began to speak. Every year, she told us, she and her husband looked forward to the time when all their children and stepchildren would come for a visit. And then, just before it was time to say good-bye, they would all find themselves in the midst of some hideous argument. "It's because we can't bear to leave each other," she said. And she went on to remind us that tomorrow we'd be leaving the safety of our women's community and returning to a world where the fragile alliances we'd built at NWSA would be challenged daily by racism, sexism, classism and homophobia. Was it any wonder that we were all feeling the pain of separation, and that we sometimes projected our pain on to each other?

When she finished, there were still tears in a lot of eyes. But when the meeting ended shortly afterward, there were the old familiar hugs and farewells.

I haven't attended an NWSA conference since I moved to Maine in 1990. The organization has gone through a lot of changes, and I've found a new feminist community in the Women's Studies program at USM, where for the past two years I've been serving as Programming Chair. On March 8, we'll be hosting our annual International Women's Day dinner. We'll have African and Caribbean food, a panel of international women students, and live music to follow. I hope many of you will come too.

Note: for tickets and information about the International Women's Day Dinner at USM, please call Women's Studies at 780-4289. ...

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The Writer's Block

This space is made available for submissions of creative writing, from poetry to prose. Please send copies only as we cannot return submissions. Sharpen up those pencils, or warm up those computers and share your creativity with the CPR readers. Submissions should be 300-500 words in length.

THE REALITY

Words explode through the room
Insults attack my heart
Your eyes peer like a vulture
desiring to devour my love
Doors slamming, fists to walls
I crumble, shaken,
small and scared.

Where's the beautiful voice
that weaves notes of nature
into harmony?
Or were they songs of lies?

I try to calm you down
to understand your anguish
but like a lock with the wrong key
I fumble
trying to find the fit
to stop this ambush of insult.
My soul's heart weeps tears
as I begin to understand,
YOU hold the key to your own
anger.

Love was my being for you
Empathy was my advisor
I continued to try
Hope was my commander
and so I stayed past my curfew
and when your violence erupted
and spewed through my life
I learned an invaluable lesson:
In the eyes of abuse
and the voice of threats
self-defense is an expression of
integrity.

—Tania Stute Hubacher

LEAVING and LEARNING

In my leaving I am learning
that I do not have to settle for abuse.
I can stand up for my boundaries

and make my feelings a priority.

In my leaving I am learning
to say good-bye with respect and
integrity
leaving my love for you in tact.

In my leaving I am learning
that I can love you and leave
understanding that my first loyalty is
to myself.

In my leaving I am learning
that tomorrow's promises of change
are irrelevant
if today my heart is being bruised
with pain.

In my leaving I am learning
tomorrow's whispers of hope
can only be heard when the land is
calm.

In my leaving I am learning
that for a time my day may turn to
dusk
as I walk an empty beach.
Dusk is the dawn of the moon of
romance.

So

In my leaving I am learning
that I am arriving.
—Tania Stute Hubacher

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Spring for Life

8th Annual Art Auction to benefit The AIDS Project

Interview with Roberta Wright, Auction Chairperson

By: Luke Balboni

The 8th annual **Spring for Life** Art Auction will be held on Saturday, March 19th, at the State Theater, 609 Congress Street, in Portland. The event is Maine's largest charity, with all proceeds benefiting The AIDS Project (TAP).

Works to be auctioned will include paintings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and jewelry from over 150 contributing Maine artists. The public can preview the art at the State Theater on Saturday, March 19, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, free of charge. Doors will re-open at 5:00 PM and general admission, which includes a bidder's number, will be \$5.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The auction will begin at 8:00 PM with Rob Elowitch of Barridoff Galleries as auctioneer.

There will also be an artist's reception, to be held at the Portland Museum of Art, 6:00 to 7:00 PM. The gala reception will feature hors d'oeuvres from Portland's finest restaurants, as well as complimentary champagne and beverages. Tickets for this pre-auction celebration are \$20.00, which includes admission to the auction, and can be purchased at the door, or by calling TAP at (207) 774-6877.

I asked Roberta Wright, Auction Committee Chairperson, how this year's auction would differ from last year's. She answered, "Hopefully, it will be on the day it's scheduled to be on.... But primarily, the location of it in the State Theater is going to add a sense of spectacle that maybe wasn't there last year. The State Theater, in and of itself, is a work of art. For those who haven't been in it, they should come just to see the State Theater."

"Also, the artist's reception is going to be in the Grand Hall of the Art Museum, which again ties another element of the artistic community to the auction. Della Parker of Della's Catessin is co-ordinating that particular element."

Roberta confirmed that clients of the AIDS Project will receive free passes to all these events.

I asked Roberta to explain how the State Theater could accommodate the auction's need for space as effortlessly as did the Holiday Inn. She said, "It presents some challenges. There's no question about that. In the permanent seating area that you see at the State Theater, that's where, primarily, everyone will be seated. There's a space between the permanent seating area and the first railing. There'll be more rows of chairs put in there. The

auctioneer will be on the second level (looking from the stage). And then we're going to display the art on panels on the first level and down into the orchestra pit, with overflow onto the stage.

"From a logistics perspective, it presents some challenges, but we've pretty much got a grip on them. One of the joys of this auction is that it's gotten so large



Roberta Wright, Chairperson, Auction Committee

Photo by L. Balboni

and there are very few places in Portland that can accommodate us, and we've been through them all. We've walked warehouse spaces trying to come up with the ideal location for this auction. The Holiday Inn was not available this year. I don't think we would have moved if the Holiday Inn had been available."

This is Roberta's first year as Chairperson of the Auction Committee, but her third year of involvement. Last year she was in charge of floor logistics, so if last year's smooth-running operation is any indication, then this year's auction should be equally stunning, if not more so, success.

When I asked Roberta to name some of the more outstanding people on the Committee who are going the extra mile to make this event happen, she didn't hesitate to say that everyone on the Committee has done that and she wants them all named. They are: Mary Anderson, Becky Bearden, Larry Bliss, Paul Draper, Kathleen Krukowski, Ed Mansing, Judi Mansing, Karla McGowan, Della Parker, Michael Quint, Susan Tremblay and William York.

She added that it's been a joy to work with these people and she attributes their dedication to, "the cause."

"We have all lost very dear people, and this cause really unites us in a spirit of camaraderie and a spirit of really wanting to make a difference. Everybody on this Committee has experienced those losses and they know that this is one of the things

they can do to help a little bit. It's been that way all three years I've worked on the Committee. I've done a lot of special events in this community and I've never worked on one that's as rewarding as this one is."

Roberta told me that they pay a reduced rate for the State Theater. The Holiday Inn space was donated, but

that the community can be extremely proud of. "People come together from all elements of the community, from all walks of life to support this. It is a real effort of love and commitment. I'm personally very proud to be associated with it and I think everyone on the Committee feels the same way."

I asked Roberta to share with me her personal involvement with AIDS. "My husband and I actually met while we were traveling with the Ice Capades in 1980. I have always had a number of very dear friends from the gay community, both male and female. I know a number of figure skaters in the Ice Capades who are in varying stages of this horrible illness. One in particular was David Fee, a star skater, a very dear friend. He passed away in October of 1992 and had been HIV+ for a long time. Even after we left Ice Capades we maintained our friendship because David was one of those people you just adored, everybody adored him. When he died I just said, 'David, I'm gonna do whatever I can to try and make a difference and it's for you.' And whenever things get a little difficult, I think of him."

Roberta said that her work on the auction has been one of the major pieces of working through her grief. She concluded by saying, "We've got to stop it (AIDS). And people who are involved in this cause are in it for personal reasons. This disease has touched people in all walks of life. This is not a gay disease, this is a disease that has touched all of us and it will touch more and more people before we're done. People need to realize that they need to take some action."

I next spoke with Susan Tremblay, Development Assistant at TAP, and Paul Draper, TAP's Development Coordinator. Any questions about the event can be called in to Susan at 774-6877.

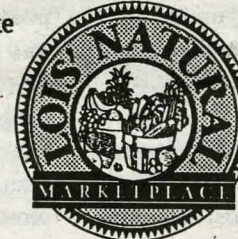
Susan and Paul reiterated Roberta's enthusiasm about the State Theater as the new location for the auction despite its logistical challenges. Paul hopes to exceed last year's proceeds and he hasn't perceived any insurmountable obstacles, but assembling the art and cataloging it are

See LIFE, page 20

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CALENDAR FOR MARCH 1994

Saturday, March 5th.

Δ5:00 PM - MLGPA Banquet, The Atrium, Cook's Corner, Brunswick.

Sunday, March 6th.

Δ2:00 PM - Organizational meeting for Bangor Pride '94. All welcome!. Meet at Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI call Malcolm Smith, 866-4320.

Monday, March 7th.

•1-4 PM - Women's Center Open House, 40 Payson Smith, Portland campus, USM. The Women's Center exists to support the diverse USM and greater Portland area community by facilitating connections among people. FMI: 780-4996.

•7 PM - Reiche School auditorium, Portland Coalition for Fair & Affordable Housing. Will identify obstacles to fair and affordable housing for all and devise constructive solutions to the city's housing problems. Housing Helpline: 775-0150.

Tuesday, March 8th. - Int'l Women's Day

Women's Health Equity Day at the State House, Augusta, Maine - WHEC phones: 623-2729, 621-0713, or 622-7524 in Augusta. 874-1100 or 774-5444, Portland or 873-0878, or 873-2122 x236, Waterville.

•8:15-10:00 AM - A Breakfast Forum featuring National Leaders. Sharing of personal health care experiences and perspectives. Room 113, State Office Building.

•10-10:30 AM - Lobby Training Workshop reviews helpful lobbying tips. Room 334, State House.

•10:30-12:00 - Meet Your Legislators. Participants and WHEC staff gather at the Legislature to discuss health care reform and access issues affecting women with our legislators. Third floor, State House.

•12:00-1:30 PM - Lunch With Your Legislator. A prime opportunity to provide valuable info to your legislators. Call in advance to make lunch date.

•4-5:30 PM - International Women's Panel, Campus Ctr. Amphitheater, USM. Women from around the world speak about their lives as students at USM and as members of the diverse international population in southern Maine.

•5:30 PM - International Women's Day Dinner, USM Campus Ctr. rooms A/B/C. FMI: 780-4289.

Δ7-9 PM - **The Gathering**, USM Campus Center, Faculty Lounge. Presentation & discussion topic: Ex-Lovers & Small Community: Maintaining Connections.

Wednesday, March 9th.

Δ7 PM (ME), 8 PM (N-B) Northern Lambda Nord Open House at the Phoneline, Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.

Thursday, March 10th.

Δ7 PM - 502 Luther Bonney, Portland campus, USM, Donna Penn, PhD Candidate in American Civilization, Brown University, presents "Historical Production and the Queer Subject."

Δ7:30 PM - The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. RITA KISSEN, Prof. of Education at USM, discusses her interviews with classroom teachers from all over the country. "Voices from the Glass Closet: Lesbian & Gay Teachers Talk About Their Lives." Accessible to mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

Friday thru Sunday, March 11th-13th.

•7:30 PM - "Quilters" A play about pioneer women, based on the book **The Quilters: Women in Domestic Art**, Russell Hall, Gorham campus, USM. Produced by the Theater Dept. For tickets & info call 780-5483.

Friday, March 11th.

•6:30 - 8:00 PM - Greater Portland YMCA Family Night with arts & crafts, swimming, activity room, gym activities. Free for members, \$5 for non-member families.

Δ7 PM (ME), 8 PM (N-B), Northern Lambda Nord **Night at the Races**, at CHAMPS Grill and Bar on State St. Presque Isle, for a night at the OTB parlor, 2nd floor.

Saturday, March 12th.

Δ8:00 PM - Wild Iris presents Yagottawanna, Heartstrings, & Kim Volk in concert. First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. \$10.50 adv., \$12 at the door. FMI: 929-3866 or 247-3461.

Sunday, March 13th.

•10 AM - 5 PM - The SPECTRUM of Health Care Fair, USM Campus Ctr, Bedford St., Portland. Free admission. Dozens of health care practitioners, from Physicians and Chiropractors to Massage Therapists and Yoga teachers will be on hand for a day full of information, demonstrations, talks, and health care products. 30 speakers scheduled throughout the day. FMI: 773-1782

Δ1-3 PM (ME), 2-4 PM (N-B), Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting, Lions Community Ctr. High St., Caribou.

Monday, March 14th.

Δ6-8 PM - Stonewall 25/Pride '94 Portland committee meets at Ferrante's, 2nd floor, 30 Exchange St. FMI: 871-9940.

•6-9 PM - The Rape Crisis Ctr. sponsors a Sexual Assault Advocacy Training program to run for six weeks/40 hours. Covers issues of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, medical, police, and legal protocols. Upon completion, people will

be prepared to volunteer on the Rape Crisis Hotline. FMI: Anne Marie at 799-9020.

Δ7-9 PM - Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Lecture: "How Militarism Wages War Against People of Alternative Sexual Orientation" by Howard Solomon. Sponsored by **The Dove**, a Maine published quarterly newsletter committed to advancing peace and justice through war tax redirection. FMI: Tess, 828-0401.

Δ7 PM - Panel discussion on the old and new military policies on sexual orientation with a focus on recent court cases and anticipated future constitutional challenges. Panelists: Mary Bonauto, Esq., of Boston's Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), & Prof. Merle Loper of UM School of Law. Middle classroom, UM School of Law, 246 Deering Ave., Portland. Sponsored by UM School of Law Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Law Caucus. FMI: 871-9940.

Tuesday, March 15th.

•12 Noon - Women's Film Series: USM Campus Ctr. Amphitheater - "Guerrillas in Our Midst" (35 min.) [Guerrilla Girls] & "Delirium" (23 min.) [Women and madness]

Δ7-9 PM - **The Gathering**, USM Campus Center, Faculty Lounge. Presentation & discussion topic: Domestic Violence & Gay/Lesbian/Bi Relationships.

Wednesday thru Saturday, March 16th-19th.

•2:30-4:00 PM - Campus Ctr. Amphitheater, USM Portland campus. Leigh Gilmore, Prof. of English, USM presents **Autobiographics**, her new book published by Cornell University Press. Book signing & reception follows.

•7: PM - Port Hole Lounge, Portland Hall, 645 Congress St. "The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter" video presentation.

•7:30 PM - "Quilters" A play about pioneer women, based on the book **The Quilters: Women in Domestic Art**, Russell Hall, Gorham campus, USM. Produced by the Theater Dept. For tickets & more info., call 780-5483.

Wednesday, March 16th.

Δ7 PM (ME), 8 PM (N-B), Northern Lambda Nord Fold & Stuff the April calendar and newsletter at the Phoneline in Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.

Thursday, March 17th.

Δ12 Noon - Women's Film Series: USM Campus Ctr. Amphitheater - "Thank God I'm A Lesbian" (55 min.) [Lesbian identities]

Δ6:30 PM - **Chuck Roy** brings his comedy act out of the closet at DiMillo's Restaurant with a fund-raiser to benefit Maine Pride

'94's Stonewall 25 Project. FMI: 871-9940.

Friday thru Monday, March 18-21.

ΔUSA Steering Committee meeting of Stonewall 25 in NYC. For carpooling or further info, 207/871-9940.

Saturday, March 19th.

ΔMaine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) meeting. Call 1-800-55-MLGPA for meeting time and place.

ΔNorthern Lambda Nord St. Patrick's & First-Day-of-Spring Party & Barbecue. FMI: 207/498-2088.

Sunday, March 20th.

Δ3 PM - The Gay Men's Chorus presents "Isn't It Romantic" Nordica Hall, University of Maine/Farmington. Tickets: \$10, \$8 students.

•5:30 PM - "Quilters" - A play about pioneer women based on the book **The Quilters: Women in Domestic Art**, Russell Hall, Gorham campus, USM. Produced by the Theater Dept. For tickets & more info., call 780-5483.

Δ5:15 PM - Dignity, Etc. Worship Service followed by fellowship and potluck supper. St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), State Street, Portland.

Monday, March 21st.

•7-9 PM - Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Lecture: "How Militarism Wages War Against Women" by Jane Midgely, MA: writer, activist, former Exec. Dir. Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom-US section. Sponsored by **The Dove**, (see March 14th.) Δ7:30-9:30 PM - Time Out Spring Planning events meeting. Plan for Ogunquit Int'l Bike Ride in July. All Welcome! Board Room, 2nd floor, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. FMI: 871-9940.

Tuesday, March 22nd.

Δ7-9 PM - **The Gathering**, USM Campus Center, Faculty Lounge. Presentation & discussion topic: Long Term Companions: The Politics of Gay & Lesbian Families. Karen Ludwig & Catherine McConnell.

Δ7 PM - Panel discussion on every-day legal issues which should be of concern to same-sex and unmarried couples, including public housing, mortgages, leases, wills, and powers of attorney. Panelists: Wm. H. Sandstead, Esq. of Farnsworth & Associates, and Alyson Cummings, Esq. counsel for the ME. State Housing Authority. UM School of Law, 246 Deering Ave., Portland. Sponsored by UM School of Law Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Law Caucus. FMI: 761-2413.

Wednesday, March 23rd.

•2:00-3:15 PM - 319 Bailey, Gorham campus, USM, "Is Sisterhood Global?:"

Current Research and Activism of Women in Mexico with Eileen Eagan, Prof. of History, USM.

•7 PM - USM movie premiere, "Anchor of the Soul" Luther Bonney Auditorium, Portland campus, USM. A documentary about the African-American community in Maine, as told by members of the Green Memorial AME Zion Church, the oldest black church in the state. Co-producers: Shoshana Hoose & Karine Odlin. Discussion to follow. FMI: 780-4629.

Δ7 PM (ME), 8 PM (N-B), Northern Lambda Nord Open House at the Phoneline in Caribou. FMI: 207/498-2088.

Thursday, March 24th.

Δ7:30 PM - The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. JAYNE SPORTELLI, independent film maker/producer, leads a discussion on "Sexual Minorities in TV and Film: An Insider's View." Accessible to mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

Saturday, March 26th.

Δ9 AM - 5:15 PM - A Conference entitled, "Children From The Shadows: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Youth at Risk" - held at the University of CT. School of Social Work, West Hartford, CT. FMI: 203/483-9651.

Δ8 PM - The Gay men's Chorus presents "Isn't It Romantic", their Spring Concert. First Parish Church, Congress St., Portland. Tickets: \$10 adv., \$12 door.

ΔNorthern Lambda Nord - A night out

playing pool, Wizard's Pool Hall, Main St., Presque Isle.

Thursday, March 31st.

Δ6-9 PM - 1st Annual Great Chef Auction, Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland to benefit The AIDS Lodging House. FMI: 874-1000.

APRIL PREVIEW

Saturday, April 2nd.

ΔNorthern Lambda Nord Easter Party & Midnight Breakfast.

FMI: Call 207/498-2088.

Monday, April 4th.

•7-9 PM - Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland.

Lecture: "How Militarism Wages War Against People of Color" by Clayton Ramey, NY: former War Resisters League staff, anti-militarist activist. Sponsored by *The Dove* (see March 14th.)

Tuesday, April 5th.

Δ7-9 PM - **The Gathering**, USM Campus Center, Faculty Lounge. Presentation & discussion topic: The Politics of the "Gay Gene": An Historians View. Diana Long, USM Women's Studies Program Director & History Professor.

Saturday, April 9th.

ΔDay long conference on lesbian health sponsored by the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Bangor. Meeting place: Airport Marriott Hotel, child care available. FMI, Call the Health Center - 947-5337.

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PERSONALS

ΔΔ Bisexual man, 43 with 3 1/2 year old son, 23 years experience with mostly vegan diet, and 13 years experience in organic vegetable farming. Other interests include intentional community, world peace, justice, and wisdom. Seeking long term, committed loving, happy relationship with bisexual woman who is interested in a work at home life-style, as I am, and committed to creating a peaceful, just and wise planetary consciousness. I am non-promiscuous and expect the same. Young child OK, but no dogs or cats. Have home, farm to share in beautiful NH White Mountains. Someday hope to live in an intentional community. Write R.R. #1, Box 418, Moultonboro, NH 03254. ΔΔ

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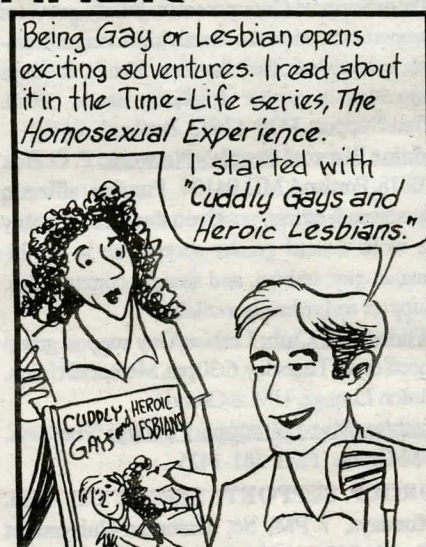
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by Kurt Erichsen

RESOURCES

ML/GPA: a statewide, non-partisan organization, formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals: to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop & review legislation, endorse candidates, build coalition, & oppose anti-gay legislation & referenda. Meetings: 3rd Saturday every month in Augusta. Call 1-800-55-MLGPA for time and place.

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

Women's Chorus: An eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation is now formed. If you want to become a member, or can volunteer organizational skills, send SASE to P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME. 04112. Include your telephone number, or call 772-0013. ••

Spiritual Group: Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a volunteer community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative musical entertainment. FMI, 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104. ••

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

The Matlovich Society - an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meeting on the second and fourth Thursday, monthly, 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Contact (207) 773-1209. ••

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

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

PHONE SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

AIDS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Bangor - 990-3626 - Eastern Maine AIDS Network

Belfast - 338-1427 - Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition

Brunswick - 725-4995 - Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services

Bridgton - 583-6608 - Community Task Force on AIDS

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

Rumford - 823-4170 - Community AIDS Awareness Program

Lewiston - 786-4697 - Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition

Waterville - 626-3432 - Dayspring

Ellsworth - 667-3506 - Down East AIDS Network

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

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

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

Augusta/Hallowell - 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer - 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath - see Waldoboro

*Lewiston/Auburn - 783-9789

*Portland - 766-5158

Waldoboro - 832-5859

* - Monthly meetings held

P-FLAG CONTACTS - NH

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

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

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

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

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

Nashua - 603/880-8709

Manchester - 603/472-4944

Monadnock - 603/547-2545

Hanover - 603/643-8331

Concord - 603/746-3818

GROUP SUPPORT

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

Out For Good: Thursdays 7-9pm, 445 Main St., Biddeford. Lesbian support/discussion group. Free/\$1 donation to help w/rent. FMI call Bobbi-247-3461.

Rumford/Mexico Area AIDS Support Group/Phoneline: Mondays, 7-8:30pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main St. Call 364-8603.

Androscoggin Valley Aids Coalition: Thursdays, 7pm, 70 Court St., 2nd floor, Auburn. Support for people with HIV & their families. FMI, call 786-4697

Dignity, Etc.: Third Sunday of the month at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), 5:15 pm. All are welcome. Fellowship & potluck supper follows 5:15 pm service. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI, write POB 8113, Portland 04104.

OUTRIGHT TOO: Sundays, 6 pm at Peace & Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI, call 285-7180.

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

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

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

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

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

TransSupport Group meets regularly, provides support, education, social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI: TransSupport, POB 17622, Portland, 04101.

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

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

Lesbian/Bisexual support group: Tuesdays, UM Orono. FMI: 581-1425

GROUP SUPPORT: Seacoast Gay Men, Mondays, 7 PM, So. Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. Wkly guest speakers, parties, events. FMI, 603/898-1115, POB 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394. ••

HIV & RELATED SUPPORT MEETINGS

Portland at THE AIDS PROJECT:

Mondays: HIV negative partners of people living with HIV, 6:30-7:30pm.

Tuesdays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30-12:00 noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well, focusing on quality of life and empowerment.

Thursdays: Women living with HIV, 1:15-2:45. Men living with HIV, 5:30-7:00 pm.

Above support groups meet at 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 if you would like further information.

Lewiston: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Women's Support Group. Call Diana Carrigan at The AIDS Project office - 783-4301.

Auburn: Thursdays: People Living with HIV, 7:00pm, American Red Cross, 70 Court St., Auburn. Call Claire Gelinas- AVAC - 786-4697.

Brunswick: Family and friends who have loved one with AIDS or HIV, 5:00 - 6:20pm, Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln St. FMI on meeting day, call Brian 725-4955.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 1:30-3:00pm, People Living with HIV. Physicians Building behind KVRHA Annex. Call Brian Allen (M.A.S.S.) - 725-4955.

Biddeford: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: 7:00pm Support Group for Family and Friends Who Care (about people with HIV disease), Southern Maine Medical Center, Cafeteria #3, 2nd floor. Call Roger LaChance - 284-4102.

Maine AIDS Alliance Member Organizations

AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: 563-8953 PO Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0421

AIDS Lodging House: 874-1000

PO Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697, PO Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243

Children's AIDS Network: 761-1872

PO Box 793, Portland, ME 04104

Community AIDS Awareness Program:

823-4170, PO Box 457 Rumford, ME 04276

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.:

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

Dayspring: 626-3432

32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330

Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

PO Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.: 725-4955

PO Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057

Names Project/Maine: 774-2198

PO Box 4319, Portland, ME 04101

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

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.:

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

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: 834-3355

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

04743

The AIDS Project: 774-6877

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

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

PO Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915

OUT! OF TOWN

Well, spring isn't quite here yet, but let's start thinking about the good weather that's on its way. Someone recently asked me about inexpensive trips for spring and summer, so I thought I would give you some ideas of places that are within a reasonable drive of the Portland area.

BOSTON - Boston is always accessible, and can be a lot of fun. Many of the hotels in Boston offer weekend packages that can save you considerable money. Once you arrive in town, there are many cultural and social things to see and do. In addition to things like the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science, there are several others that deserve mention. The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, located on the Fenway, is modeled after a Venetian Palace and contains many beautiful works of art. Also, there are several museums located in Cambridge associated with Harvard and MIT.

Theatre offerings are varied, as there are numerous theatre groups all over the city. The best place for current information is the entertainment section of the Boston Sunday Globe. Boston's social scene includes about 25 gay/lesbian bars covering a wide range of tastes from leather,

to disco, to piano bar. **TIP:** Be sure to see the Maparium (a walk through stained glass globe) located at the Christian Science Church off Boylston Street near the Prudential Center. Ignore the propaganda if it's not your cup of tea, but do visit this free attraction.

MONTREAL - About a six hour ride from Portland, Montreal offers all that Boston has and more. Montreal is a great place for a weekend escape. You'll get to sample the French-Canadian culture, along with the food. Montreal is known for its wonderful food, from French cuisine to Cajun, to Italian, to Chinese, to Mexican. The French-Canadians love to eat, and it is quite evident in Montreal.

Don't worry if you don't speak French. Most people there can speak English. They do appreciate it, however, if you at least attempt to speak the language. A "Bonjour" (hello) and a "Merci" (thank you) will go a long way. The gay/lesbian scene in Montreal is quite open. With approximately 30 bars and restaurants, there is a lot to do and see. Many of the bars offer live entertainment, including nude dancers, and most bars are open until 3 AM. **TIP:** Park your car at the hotel and take the Metro. Montreal's subway system is clean, efficient, and relatively inexpensive. It's your best bet to get around.

NEW YORK - The Big Apple has it all: the city that never sleeps...home to Greenwich Village and Christopher Street. In order to see most of New York, you will need about a week. But you can still do a lot in a weekend. Hotels there also offer weekend packages that are generally cheaper than during the week. If you have never been to New York City before, there are a few "touristy" things that you should do. First, take the boat out to the Statue of Liberty. It costs about \$4 and is worth the ride. You can also stop at Ellis Island where millions of immigrants arrived in the U.S. through the early '50's.

Don't forget the World Trade Center, (Yes, it's open again!) and take the ride to the top - 110 floors above the city. After walking around the enclosed observation deck, head up the escalator to the roof for an open-air view of the city. Next, continue uptown to Macy's. It's the largest department store in the U.S. and is worth checking out. Then catch a subway back to Christopher Street. Wander around the village, sample the food in its many ethnic restaurants, and shop the world. There is so much to see in this one area. Come back later in the evening to check out the bar scene. Every corner has a bar. There are many to choose from.

TIP: Check out the theatre offerings. You can buy half-price tickets for same day performances at two locations:

Paul T. Bernhard



Times Square or the World Trade Center. The Times Square ticket office has more tickets to sell, but the lines are definitely shorter at the World Trade Center. ...

1st Annual Great Chef Auction

Event to benefit The AIDS Lodging House

By: Winnie Weir

In their continuing efforts to raise much needed funds, The AIDS Lodging House has organized a tasteful event to take place on March 31st. at the beautiful Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street in Portland.

The 1st annual Great Chefs Auction will enable food connoisseurs to sample delectable culinary delights prepared by the chefs of your favorite dining establishments. Auction participants will then bid for a veritable feast for four, served in your home, by the successfully bid upon restaurant's chef.

The chefs are donating their time and expertise, and the restaurants are donating the food and equipment in an effort to provide a bit of fun while raising funds for this worthy cause. The AIDS Lodging House is a four unit building which currently provides safe and affordable housing to 5 persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Portland Police Chief, Michael Chitwood, and News Center 6 Alive Anchor, Diane Atwood, will present and call the Great Chef Auction of '94. Let your mouth water as you bid on these fine restaurants: Rib Room, Sonesta Hotel; Seamen's Club, Portland; Village Inn Family Restaurant, OOB; Diamond's Edge Restaurant, Great Diamond Island; The Roma Cafe, Portland; The Snow Squall, So. Portland; Chebogue Inn, Chebogue Island; Sportsman's Grill, Portland; Old Grist Mill, Kennebunk, plus many more.

The door prize is an overnight stay and brunch for two at the Sonesta in Portland. There will also be a raffle for "Spend a Night in the 90's" at the Samoset Inn in Rockland! This package includes overnight accommodations, dinner for two at Marcel's Restaurant, tax and gratuities. Plan on a fun evening. For more information, call 874-1000. ...

The Maine Connection

By: Malcolm Smith, Staff Reporter


In response to a lack of communication in several parts of Maine's gay community, a small group in Orono is planning a workshop called **The Maine Connection**.

"It is in its most tentative stages," Bob Coffey, one of the organizers, said.

Plans currently call for a weekend of workshops, information sharing, and fun. Organizer Jen Kintner said that the organizers really need people from different areas as contacts, especially in the more northern areas of Maine, as well as contacts from other universities and colleges, plus various Outright groups.

This workshop is being planned in response to what Coffey and Kintner, along with others, see as a lack of communication in many of Maine's gay communities, including the Bangor/Orono area, and the entire UMaine school system.

Originally scheduled for mid April, the workshop has been rescheduled for the fall to allow more time to organize. For more information, contact Bob Coffey or Jen Kintner at 581-8759. ...

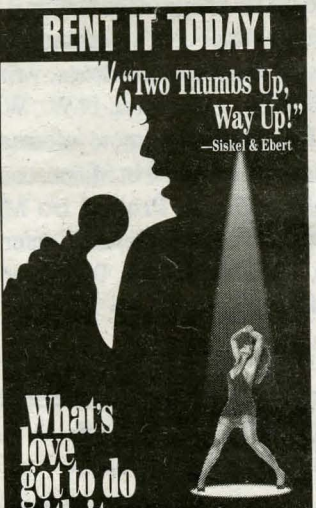


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Lesbian health activists formulate National agenda, Part two

By: Peaches Bass

Last month's column described the development of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's **Lesbian Health Issues and Recommendations (LHIR)** and some of its background content. This month, we'll discuss LHIR's "Action Plan for Lesbian Health," with specific recommendations and their potential affect on lesbians at the local community level.

Because LHIR was developed to present to federal health officials in the bureaucracy, its recommendations are grouped according to which federal agency has responsibility for which health services. Those recommendations are preceded by six general recommendations that are of interest to all lesbians:

1. Include lesbians as subjects, reviewers and principle researchers in all women's health research initiatives.
2. Include lesbians as specific subgroup of women in all treatment and prevention initiatives for women's health care sponsored by the Dept. of Health and Human Services.
3. Include lesbian consumers on issues being researched by research teams.
4. Include questions on sexual identity and activity in all surveys and questionnaires.
5. Fund trainings on homophobia and lesbian health care issues for federal employees and researchers and staff of funded services.
6. Create a position and develop a budget for a fully funded office on Lesbian Health Care, including appropriate staff and resources for research and/or services, to oversee and monitor implementation of the recommendations set forth in LHIR.

LHIR has set forth some particularly remarkable recommendations in the rest of the Action Plan. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is advised to conduct research into the causes, affects, and behavior patterns of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use; to investigate causes and prevention of mental health problems, and to fund community based mental health and substance abuse services for lesbians.

SAMHSA is also advised to fund training on homophobia and lesbian health for mental health and substance abuse professionals.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) is advised to develop and monitor guidelines to increase lesbian inclusion in research grants and clinical practice, and to fund research to increase access to health care for all lesbians (lesbians of color, lesbian moms, low-income lesbians, etc.). The Action Plan also recommends that AHCPR fund homophobia and lesbian health training, especially for OB-GYN and Family Practice physicians and their staff.

The Action Plan contains several recommendations targeting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These focus on including lesbians in the CDC's initiatives on tobacco use, breast and cervical cancer, HIV, other STDs, and national health surveys.

The Food and Drug Administration is advised to include specific information for lesbians and its women's health efforts around breast implants, clinical trials, mammograms, etc.

There are six recommendations for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). HRSA funds many programs that provide community based primary care, including rural health centers and Ryan White grants for HIV. The Action Plan recommends that HRSA fund training of health care providers and HRSA's funding recipients on homophobia, heterosexism, and lesbian health; expand Ryan White funding to lesbians in institutions and rehab programs, fund community based lesbian/gay health clinics, and fund public health clinics to include lesbians in their services.

Two recommendations for the Indian Health Service (IHS) include IHS sponsoring a lesbian health roundtable to identify issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native lesbians and providing homophobia trainings to IHS grantees. Similarly, the Office of Minority Health and Immigration and Naturalization Ser-

vice are advised to sponsor lesbians of color roundtables and provide lesbian-oriented outreach and technical assistance for agencies that service immigrant populations.

Two of the Action Plan's recommendations target the National AIDS Program Office (NAPO), sometimes known as the "AIDS Czar." One recommendation is that NAPO sponsor a lesbian and HIV roundtable and that NAPO compile and distribute lesbian HIV/AIDS information and research to community based and public sector HIV groups and health care professionals.

The Office of Population Affairs, which oversees family planning programs, is advised to fund homophobia and lesbian health training for its federal grant recipients. The Plan recommends that the Office of International Health (OIH) sponsor a forum on lesbian health for the World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization, and that a list of demands developed at the 1992 International AIDS Conference be officially adopted by OIH.

Even the National Vaccine Program was attended to in the LHIR Action Plan, with a recommendation that lesbian mothers and immigrants be targeted for a special awareness campaign on the need for immunizations.

While much of this seems to be in the realm of the out-of-touch bureaucracy, these recommendations can have a positive effect for the average lesbian living, in whatever sense, far away from the federal government.

As these recommendations are acted on, there will likely be a subtle, trickle-down improvement in those health initiatives that are funded or administered by the federal government. This is not unlike what we've seen in the publicly funded

STD and family planning clinics, where HIV has resulted in an improvement in services for gay men.

Similar progress could follow for lesbians. In this era of health care reform, public health leadership may set new professional treatment standards that lesbians stand to benefit from. Perhaps the one recommendation that has little chance for implementation is the one to create and fund a federal Lesbian Health Care Office. It will remain the responsibility of the activists to monitor the government.

Activists and individuals are not just responsible for watch-dogging the bureaucracy. Most enduring social change occurs from the bottom up. By the time the government acts, it is usually in response to the will of the people. Lesbians at the local level are poised to take a leadership role by implementing these recommendations at the community level. For example, we can wait for the federal government to mandate training for family planning clinics, or we can offer it ourselves, at the local level. It can be done, and, in Maine, it is *being* done.

We have gained inclusion in the state's breast and cervical cancer screening program (which is federally funded, by the way), simply by approaching the program manager and asking to participate. In fact, as lesbians in Maine continue to organize around health, the more likely it is that we can develop and implement our own Action Plan, with more immediate and visible impact.

To obtain a copy of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's **Lesbian Health Issues and Recommendations**, write to NGLTF, 1734 14th Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 20009. For more information on lesbian health efforts in Maine, contact the **Lesbian Health Project**, c/o Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, P. O. Box 20, Bangor, ME 04402, or call 207/947-5337. ...

Gay/Lesbian Travel

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Lessons From The Epidemic - Part VIII

As we look into the mirror of the epidemic, a painful reality stares back at us. People are dying of AIDS. Young people are dying! There is often nothing we can do. Watching those we love and care about suffer and die is a reality that many of us are not prepared for.

One of the most poignant lessons of this epidemic is that loss is a part of life. Grieving is the process we use to deal with our losses. But so often we have ignored death - it has been moved out of the home and into the hospital. We fear death - the death of a loved one and our own death. It has been said that the one difference between humans and other animals is the knowledge of our impending death.

There have been symbolic deaths as well in this epidemic. One of the most powerful happens for gay men. Semen, cum, gism - has historically had literal and figurative life-giving properties for men. As gay men we swallowed cum, smeared it on our bodies, relished it and rejoiced in it. With HIV, however, semen was transformed from a life giving - sustaining fluid to a toxic waste, a gigantic and often unspoken loss of this epidemic.

For many, the freedom and liberation in the years after Stonewall was our first breath of fresh air - after years in the closet. The radical religious right used the epidemic to accuse God of punishing us. While we know that is not true, those rumors are powerful forces that we have to deal with. Lesbians and gay men have had to deal with a new, more virulent homophobia during this epidemic and we lost some of the spontaneity of liberation.

Loss hurts. Pain is inevitable. Grieving is the path through loss and pain.

By grieving, we have, as individuals, and as a community, become stronger. We are more able to move on with our agenda. Yes, we have an agenda. It's simple. It calls for an end to the oppression of systemic homophobia.

The bitter reality and power of loss is expressed by Prior, a character in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*.

Prior: Then I'm crazy.
The whole world is, why
not me? It's 1986 and
there's a *plague*,
half my friends are dead
and I'm only 31, ...
Maybe I am a prophet.
Not just me, all of us
who are dying now. Maybe
we've caught the virus of
prophecy. Be still. Toil no
more. Maybe the world has
driven God from Heaven,
incurred the angel's wrath.

How many of us have felt these feelings and thought these thoughts? Living in this epidemic has meant sustaining loss after loss. In the midst of loss, it's hard to understand the reasons for death. What sense is made of these deaths? These are age-old questions given new meaning in our times. The multiple deaths and losses of this epidemic challenge us daily. Each loss needs to be grieved, each death tended to. So many deaths, so little time to grieve. We are shell shocked. HIV has created a war-like environment with too few respite.

Yet we do grieve. We give the world our wisdom and gracefully live through the epidemic. The Names Project is a masterpiece of folk art started in the Castro by men and women with more loss than they could easily cope with. But cope they did, and in such a powerful way, setting an example that millions have benefited from. We are teaching the world with our lessons from this epidemic.

Buddy programs and support groups have emerged as institutions that help with the dying part of this epidemic. We have much to be proud of in the systems we have set up to allow individuals with HIV to die with dignity and in the way they feel most comfortable. We are learning that dying is to be respected, that dying is part of living.

Again, people with AIDS have taught us a great deal. When a person allows another individual to experience his process as he dies, he offers a great gift. For those of us who have worked with people who have died of AIDS, we have often shared this solemn gift. The women and

David
Smith, Ed.D



men who give freely of their peace at death have taught us that we don't have to fear death - that death is natural. These are powerful lessons for a culture which often sees death as a final accounting that could spell terror and pain for eternity.

Grieving and loss, death and dying are the great sobering lessons of this epidemic. We are provided with wonderful opportunities for personal growth while experiencing our losses.

And all we can do, in the end, is to pay attention to the pain of loss... Stay in the moment and live our lives. We grow stronger even though it's sometimes hard to see that through the immediate pain of the death of a loved one. We do go on. This too shall pass. ...

NEW HAMPSHIRE from page 4

Several people in the Coalition to End Discrimination and P-Flag reported as many as fifty people off each of their contact lists confirming that they had called or written their representatives. Representatives with gay or lesbian children or nieces or nephews came out and talked frankly to their colleagues. By the time of the Governor's shabby shenanigans, a very large portion of the House had concluded this was not politics, but justice, not votes, but real family values.

His failure to make the issue go away may sober the Governor a bit, but there is as yet no indication what he will do next. The consensus among the groups working for the bill is that it is going to take more to get him to go along with the bill--more political pressure. However, the pressure must be publicly polite, not-personal, and on the point. Handling a peevish Governor with the veto power is a little like talking to an armed drunkard--it doesn't help to be right, and seldom works to threaten or lecture. We have to maintain discipline and keep our tempers so long as there is a chance of avoiding a veto. (By the way, it is extremely hard to overcome a veto. It takes a two-thirds majority of both houses.)

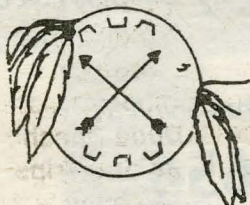
It is not fair or right, but this governor is like most recent NH governors in his willingness to put his own preferences

ahead of those of the elected representatives, so we are stuck with persuading him that going along with the bill will be positive reporters and political "experts" who said HB 1432 had no chance in the House are now saying it will be easy going in the Senate. *Not so.* Democratic Senators like King and Bourque from Manchester, and Disnard from Claremont, will be under tremendous pressure to vote against the bill. Of Republicans, only McLane of Concord (a sponsor) is sure.

Further, the size of the Senate vote will make a major difference to the Governor. It's easy to veto a bill with only a 12 to 10 or 11 split in the Senate. It begins to look like unbridled arrogance if both houses have passed it with over 60%. We need to run up the score. If some middle of the road Senators start thinking about this bill the way, for example, conservative Representative Donna Sylock of Salem thinks about it, they will really go to work for it, and the Governor will have to take notice.

Activists from all over the country have been amazed at what has already happened in "conservative" New Hampshire. At a time when we are on the defensive in many states, and getting beaten by the radical rights in so many places, the giant Republican-dominated New Hampshire House of Representatives has voted, after full debate, and with their eyes wide open, to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

If we muster enough work, talent, and luck to get this past the Senate and Governor so that it becomes law, it could be a national turning point. ...

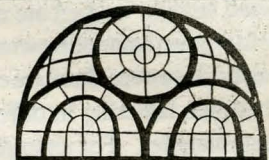


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WOMEN, from page 9

different recognize themselves in each other's stories. Although the words and actions differ, the dynamic and the feelings are the same. Someone has tried to control our lives, as if we existed only for them.

Homophobia plays different roles in heterosexual and same-sex battering. A man might call his wife or girlfriend a dyke when she exhibits too much independence, or he may tell her that if she goes to a shelter, the lesbians there will attack her. On the other hand, a woman batterer might threaten to tell her lover's employer, ex-husband, or landlord that she is lesbian/bisexual. If this is her lover's first relationship with a woman, she might tell her that this is just how lesbian relationships are. She might tell her partner that if she talks about the abuse, no one will believe her because she's queer.

It's important to note that homophobia is not the only institutional oppression used by batterers. For example, both white batterers and batterers of color often use racism, and their use of racism differs based on the identities of the abuser and the victim.

Heterosexual and same-sex battering occur in different contexts, and homophobia greatly affects the context for battered lesbians/bisexual women. Family and friends might pressure a heterosexual battered woman to stay in her relationship, whereas family might tell a lesbian or bisexual woman that battering proves how sick lesbian relationships are, and friends might tell her that women don't batter. A closeted lesbian/bisexual woman might not know any other lesbian or bisexual women besides her batterer; she might be trying to hide the existence of the relationship as well as the abuse, making her far more isolated than a heterosexual battered woman. Resources available to battered straight women are often not available to women battered by women.

Once again, however, there are commonalities between battering in different oppressed communities. For example, a battered lesbian might be unwilling to call the police because she doesn't want her lover abused by homophobic and sexist police officers; a heterosexual woman whose batterer is in the country illegally might be unwilling to call because she doesn't want her batterer deported.

"I know that women really batter women, but it's just too horrible to think about. Everyone knows that men can be dangerous, but I can't stand the thought that I'm not safe with women."

There's nothing wrong with wanting to be safe, but we can't create safety by declaring a particular group safe, but we

can't create safety by declaring a particular group safe just because we really need and want it to be. Whether the group is a women's community or a nuclear family, denying abuse cannot create safety. The impulse is perfectly understandable, but it's dangerous.

We all know that women can be abusive in their roles as parents, teachers, employers, therapists, doctors, personal care attendants, etc. for some women, the need to create a refuge from male violence has led them to ignore and minimize women's violence and abuse.

For women who have put their hopes and dreams into building women's communities, accepting lesbian battering often requires a grieving process. The payoff is the truth, and with the truth we can begin to create communities that are really safe, based on something other than denial.

"It's true, I know that women abuse kids. Why has this never been incorporated into a feminist analysis?"

The amount of male violence against women is overwhelming. The fact that women are also violent doesn't change that. Feminists were the first to analyze rape, battering, and incest as political problems. So much new ground was broken.

Feminist analysis, however, has often suffered from a white, middle-class, heterosexual bias, concentrating on the ways women are oppressed but not on the ways women are oppressive. For some, the idea that men's violence oppresses women translates into the idea that women never do anything violent or oppressive that really matters. Thus, white women don't have to deal with racism, heterosexual women with heterosexism and homophobia, middle-and upper-class women with classism, etc.

Besides, not dealing with institutional power, many of us do not want to look at our own personal abusiveness or deal with the fact that we could be in danger because of another woman. Many women's groups fall apart because of abusive behavior. Often the abusers stay, not confronted, and everyone else quietly drops out. There are batterers working within the battered women's movement itself, and the movement has yet to adequately recognize and deal with this travesty.

"Does the existence of female batterers negate the feminist analysis of battering?"

Yes and no. We live in a society with a long history of male violence against women. The feminist analysis that makes connections between battering and misogyny is helpful for understanding male battering of women; it does not, however, explain all battering.

In this culture, power is very often associated with domination. The one who dominates is seen as strong, objective, rightful, and not responsible; the one who is dominated is seen as weak, deserving, humiliated, and disgusting. This view of power underlies interpersonal, institutional, and international abuses of power, from battering and child abuse to sexism and racism, to imperialism and colonialism.

This view of power is so pervasive that when anyone has some power, abusing it is an option, often the default option. Domination can also be used to obtain power. Battering and other abuses of power take place in many kinds of relationships, and the abuser may or may not have more social power outside the relationship. If we pretend that men abusing women is the only abuse of power worthy of analysis, we ignore many people's experience.

"How am I supposed to know what really happened in someone else's relationship? What about false accusations?"

Battering is an extremely messy issue, one that destroys lives and communities. It's important to remember that the problem is battering, not talking about battering. When no one talked about battering in woman/woman relationships,

there were no false accusations, but there was still battering. There is absolutely no way to prevent false accusations without silencing everyone.

Since batterers usually feel victimized and victims sometimes use violence in self-defense, it can seem impossible on the surface to distinguish batterers from battered women; but in practice it is often clear cut. Educating oneself about battering is the best way to start.

Dealing with accusations of battering is essentially a legal problem, similar to dealing with accusations of sexual harassment. Finding a good system requires legal methods (either official or alternate) capable of addressing battering in a way that the current legal system in this country does not. Needless to say, this is an extraordinarily difficult task.

"Female batterers are still women, and I'm uncomfortable just writing them off. They're oppressed as women and as lesbians/bisexuals, many are incest survivors. Can batterers change? Isn't it easier for women batterers to change?"

It's important to make sure that these questions are not based on minimizing the reality of lesbian battering. Female batterers do everything that male batterers do. Ev-

See WOMEN, page 22

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Chew on This

It's been a long winter for many of us. As I write this article, I can hear the weather forecast for the weekend coming from the television. Even the promise of warmer temperatures is causing me to have a resurgence of hope that there will, indeed be an end to this 'gawd-awful' cold, snow and ice!

This has been a particularly difficult winter for me. Five weeks ago I broke my leg in three places. After surgery, with seven pins and a plate installed, several casts and many hours in front of the TV later, I am four weeks away from being able to drive once again, to walking on both feet, and to gaining back my independence; something I had very much taken for granted before falling on the ice.

One of the most difficult things for me to accept in this situation has been the amount of care I have needed. I have seen with glaring clarity just how much having control of my life has been an issue for me; far more than is healthy or rational, actually. As friends have responded with loving graciousness to my needs, I have had to fight back tears of frustration for needing so much. After all, independence has been lifted up as a mandatory prerequisite to being a worthwhile human being in our society.

My friend Roy used to call an experience like this "another fuckin' growth opportunity!" Now that the level of co-deine it takes to keep me relatively comfortable has been decreased considerable, and the fog is beginning to lift from my brain, I am coming to see that I can, indeed, use this unfortunate accident as an opportunity for growth. Might as well ... I'm stuck in a cast anyway, so why not try to get some growth out of it?

One of my favorite movies is **GROUNDHOG DAY**. In it, Bill Murray seems to be caught up in a sort of time warp. Each morning he wakes up only to find that he is reliving the same day over and over again. At first he gets a little crazy, and then he begins to go through other stages: trying to manipulate the circumstances and people around him in order to satiate his own greed and self-centeredness; getting to the point of despair and killing himself over and over again; and finally, deciding to make the best of the situation by working on himself and his own growth.

Isn't that what life is really all about? At some point, each of us comes to a place where we feel we are spinning our wheels. Life feels like "same old, same old." At first, this drives us a little crazy, just like it did Murray. Then we try to **MAKE** things happen. We begin to think that if we try

Rose Mary Denman



another approach, take a different road, perhaps then we can make happen what we want to have happen in and for our lives. Some of us may succeed with this approach. However, for many of us, it only leads to more frustration as we begin to realize that the world around us simply will not bend to our wishes.

Unfortunately, the next stage for some is commonly labeled "the self-destructive" stage. This is the point at which we stop trying and get into some negative behavior and mind-set, often manifesting itself in the letting go of good habits and the taking on of not-so-good behaviors: no more exercising and lots more eating, leaving off times with good friends and isolating. This list of self-sabotaging is long and varied.

For the lucky few, we finally come to the end of our rope, throw up our hands and say, "I give up." Perhaps this is the most positive place we can come to, especially if the "giving up" means that we are willing to stop trying to shape the world around us and start trying to shape the world within us.

Each day I wake up to the same old broken leg and bulky cast. I've certainly had my days of frustration. I've also done my share of trying to manipulate, "Hey, Doc. If I'm really careful, can I drive with my cast on?" Now I think I've finally come to the point of throwing up my hands and giving up ... giving up the manipulating, giving up the boring acting out of frustration, and come to the place where I am ready to muse about how I might begin to shape the world within myself so that I might learn something valuable from this lousy situation.

Not all of us have broken bones that force us into a place of re-evaluation, but

each of us probably does have a situation we have been trying to change. I guess I'm simply suggesting that perhaps it's not the situation that needs to change, but our way of looking at it.

I wish you deep and happy musing!

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MONEY TALK

Who are my dependents?

By: Peter J. Callnan, CPA

Last month we looked into which Federal tax form is the best to file for maximum savings of tax and time. This month we will explore the issue of dependency and how it relates to filing your Federal taxes.

For any person to be claimed as a dependent, which allows you to deduct a personal exemption of \$2,350, there are five tests which must be met.

1. Their gross income must be less than \$2,350, unless they are your child and under 19 or a full time student under 24. A dependent must file his or her own return, even if you claim them as a dependent, if they have earned income of \$3,700, OR \$1 or more of unearned income (interest or dividends) and their gross income is more than \$600 OR they have self employment income of \$400 or more.

2. You must provide **MORE THAN HALF** of the dependents' total support. Support includes most general living expenses such as lodging, clothing, education, medical and dental care, entertainment, transportation, food, etc. Some specific rules apply to multiple support agreements; contact a tax advisor for these.

3. The dependent must be one of the following:

- Your child, grandchild, stepchild or adopted child
- Brother, sister, half-brother or sister, stepbrother or sister
- Mother, father, ancestor of either, stepmother or father
- Niece, nephew, aunt, uncle or in-law relative

• Anyone who, during the entire tax year, lives in your home and is a member of your household

4. Generally, the dependent must not file a joint return with a spouse.

5. They must be a citizen, national or resident of the U.S., a resident of Canada or Mexico at some time during the year, or an alien child adopted by and living with a U.S. citizen or national.

So, now that you know who is and isn't a dependent, you may want to review your filing status to see if you're using the one most beneficial to you. NOTE: an unrelated individual who can be claimed as your dependent will not qualify you to file as head-of-household. Sorry. Also, you cannot claim someone as a dependent if someone else is claiming them. Only one per person. As always, if you have further questions, contact a tax professional, or submit you questions to **MONEY TALK**, c/o CPR and I will attempt an answer in an upcoming column. Good luck! ...

The AIDS Lodging House

"Comfort At Home" Update

In an article appearing in the February issue of **CPR**, the "Comfort at Home" concept in fund-raising was introduced. This is a unique fund-raiser for the AIDS Lodging House of Portland whereby an individual or group can sponsor a monthly operating bill of the AIDS Lodging House. Standard operating bills include electricity, phone, water, etc.

When you sponsor one or more of the monthly operating bills, you will be contributing to the safety, comfort, and peace of mind of the tenants living at ALH. Call in your pledges and receive some wonderful incentives generously provided by Ferrante, Cut Above, Drop Me A Line, Raffles, Terra Firma, Suitsmi, Levinsky's, Message Therapy, Green Mountain Coffee Roaster, and others.

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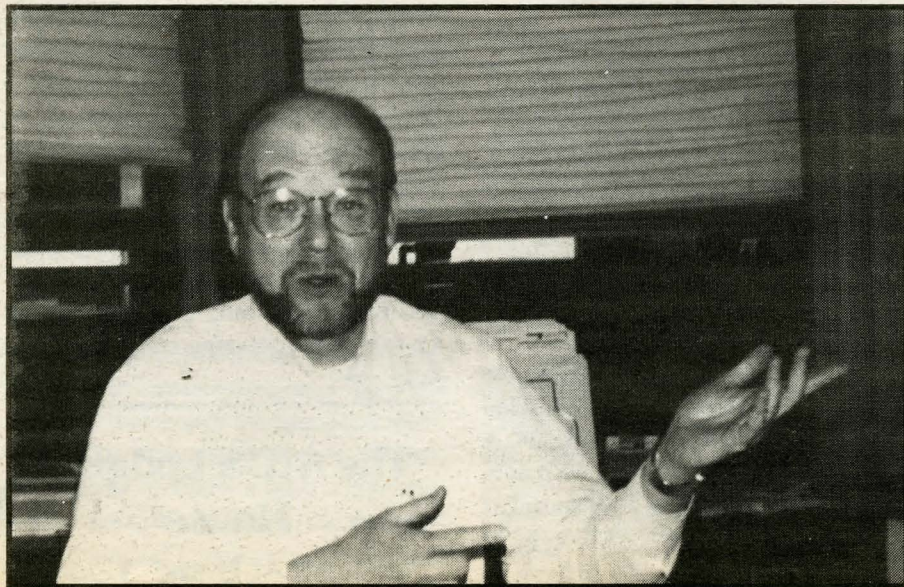
big jobs.

Susan emphasized that, "Spring for Life has become an extremely important community event, involving people from all walks of life. It draws amazing support and is the Project's primary fund-raising event of the year. Therefore it is crucial that we increase the level of support."

Last year the auction raised over \$60,000 for TAP and is their chief source of funds. The amount raised has increased steadily over the last three years.

Paul added, "I think it's important to

recognize that it is the leading public event of the Aids Project to help the community at large to get to know our prevention and education programs and our care programs, our constituent care programs. It's a wonderful public forum for that and to that extent, the more people who come, the more people who join us, and the more people who buy art the better, because it really helps that work. It makes the community a better place to live for all concerned. That's really what it's all about." ...



Paul Draper, Development Coordinator, The AIDS Project

Photo by L. Balboni

THIS WAY OUT

By: Luke Balboni

This Way Out is an award winning international news and information radio show for the gay and lesbian community which airs twice a week on WMPG-FM, 90.9 (USM radio) on Thursdays from 11 to 11:30 AM and on Sundays from 3 to 3:30 PM. According to Joanne Lafferty, Office Manager at WMPG, and Jim Rand, Program Director, they obtain the show from Pacifica News Service in Los Angeles where it is produced by Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle. Mr. Rand read to me from the fall issue of Program Notes, WMPG's newsletter, "This show has received an outstanding achievement award from the Gay and Lesbian Press Association."

Suzanne Wakefield is the DJ and on-air programmer for **This Way Out** and for the **Women's Music Festival**, a pro-lesbian, pro-feminist program which follows on Sundays from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Ms. Wakefield was very forthcoming in providing me with the background information about this program.

This Way Out has been broadcast from WMPG for at least the past five years and Suzanne states that, "Their show presents a good balance between issues of interest to gay men, lesbians and people of

color, plus lots of information on AIDS."

The show is taped in California and received by MPG the same week for broadcast on Thursday and Sunday so the news items are relatively current. To get their information the producers depend on a large volunteer staff, free-lance reporters and a lot of research, which they do themselves. Suzanne emphasized that this show is only available on MPG and is not carried by Public Radio (WMEA-FM, 90.1).

In an exclusive telephone interview with Greg Gordon from Hollywood, California, I learned that **This Way Out** has been in existence since April of 1988. Greg will be sending **CPR** more information which we plan to feature in our next edition, but he did want to emphasize the incredible potential of gay radio in terms of rapid communication, and especially in terms of reaching non-gay or closeted people who do not buy gay publications.

Greg says, "Radio is the community's tribal drum," and he feels it is not appreciated. Both the **Advocate** and **Out** said they would do articles on **This Way Out**, but did not, and the leadership of the national gay organizations in Washington do not utilize this tool. Greg stated that the electronic media (radio and TV) is saturated with broadcasts by the Christian Right

THE CAMPUS CORNER:

University of Maine at Orono Report from the Wilde-Stein Club

By: Malcolm Smith, Staff Reporter

Harassment in the classroom, in the dorms, and on the athletic field were stories told at the February 10th meeting of the Wilde-Stein Club, a student organization dedicated to providing support and education to the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community at the University of Maine at Orono.

The night's topic was homophobia, and to break the ice before the discussion, the club's two co-chairs, Liz Butler and Harrison Scott Ankers, asked attendees to tell the most unusual event that had happened to them during the week. Responses were varied, some very emotional.

This evening's discussion of homophobia started with the incident of the pink and black triangles that had been anonymously painted on campus sidewalks last year. Over some of the triangles, someone has sprayed "God says to kill fags."

Audience members questioned why, when the triangles appeared, school officials went immediately to the Wilde-Stein Club, yet religious groups on campus were not questioned about the hate slogans.

The treatment by school officials of street preacher "Brother Jim," who appears on campus periodically preaching religious intolerance to crowds outside the popular Memorial Union was discussed. Members questioned the treatment that gay groups verbalizing in the same manner might expect from school officials. Co-chair Ankers observed that if both sides in both situations could sit down and talk logically, things would be more productive.

A UMaine athlete spoke of her reluctance to "come out" because of homophobia within the athletic community. She said she was warned by a school official that, in certain situations in that community, "Word of mouth will get around."

Another story involved a woman

who, while discussing lesbian issues, had been unknowingly eavesdropped on by a classmate she knew. The classmate spread the word through the class and the athletic community that this woman was gay. After that, she said, the woman she car-pooled with stopped riding with her, and her lab partner asked to be reassigned.

The extent to which this homophobia was manifesting itself worried the woman. "I felt kind of stalked," she said.

Co-chair Butler spoke of an incident where someone left a message on a dorm bulletin board, intended for comments on Hillary Rodham Clinton's recent UMaine visit, that said "Health care only for heterosexuals." She said she was going to meet with the dorm residents the following week, and explain that this was hurtful. (A few days later Butler said this meeting has gone well.)

A call was made for solutions, and it was quickly pointed out that these problems were not going to be solved all at once, but did need to be addressed.

"Now we're talking civil rights, and we need to do something to make these rights happen," club advisor Cheryl Daly said.

She said reporting and following up with these and other incidents was needed, and that club members needed to ask themselves what support they could offer these two women, and anyone else who needed it, so that reporting these incidents was possible.

One member of the audience said she felt angry.

"I see it as people making war on me and my friends," she said, adding that she felt, in some situations, violence was needed to fight violence. She said that she spoke only for herself.

Member Jim Gray said that he favored education, suggesting that groups of club members speak to various campus dorms and organizations. "We need to get what's in this room out of this room," he said.

The Wilde-Stein Club meets weekly at 6:30 for socializing, and holds its meeting at 7:00. Meetings are held at the Sutton Lounge, Memorial Union, UMO. They can be reached at 581-1596. ...

and other enemies of gay-rights. He feels that an opportunity like radio, to educate and to inform, should be embraced and promoted.

Because they cannot ask for donations on the air, Greg asked me to notify the public that **Overnight Productions, Inc.** is the official name of his non-profit corporation, and they qualify for 501(c)(3) tax-deductible donations which are sorely needed. Your donations and comments

can be sent to:

This Way Out, c/o Greg Gordon, P.O. Box 38327, Los Angeles, CA 90038. Much more on **This Way Out** next issue!

Plus, why doesn't WMEA-TV (ME's public station) show **In The Life**, a gay and lesbian half-hour of news and information shown once a month and produced by WNYC (New York City's public TV station). Call Harry Wiest at WMEA-TV at 874-6570 and ask him. ...

PRIDE, from page 7

area. Call: (212) 633-9494.

"The March is a serious, serious affair," said Flora Piterak. "There'll be direct action at each of the U.N. Missions the week preceding the March. Of course, there'll be civil disobedience after the March. So, this has really been in the planning stages for a very, very long time all around the world. Many international organizations are involved. It's exciting, it's wonderful and I think what every region is doing is just trying to get word out, saying, 'This is happening. You've gotta be there, this is gonna change the way we function forever.' We're one of 160 countries. ONE! and it's a very different way of looking at organizing. We're becoming part of the international community."

Flora added that one of the main goals of Stonewall/25 is to raise enough money to sponsor people from other countries to come to the March. She emphasized, however, that the overall goal of all these efforts is to have lesbian and gay people included in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the General Assembly of the U.N. in 1948.

That Declaration reads as follows:

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust,

non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. Slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The fact that this Declaration has existed since 1948, and the fact that it has been universally ignored, should offer the lesbian and gay communities no illusions about what being included in it might mean. Nevertheless, adoption by the U.N. of the March Demands cannot help but improve the status of gays and lesbians throughout the world.

The March Demands are as follows:

We call upon the United Nations, its agencies, its member states and its affiliated non-governmental organizations to take all necessary action to assure that:

1. The promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights not be denied to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and drag/transgendered people.

2. The rights and freedoms of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights be fulfilled to all people, including lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and drag/transgendered people, without distinction of any kind, such as race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, religion, ethnicity, language, age disability, socio-economic status and national or social origin.

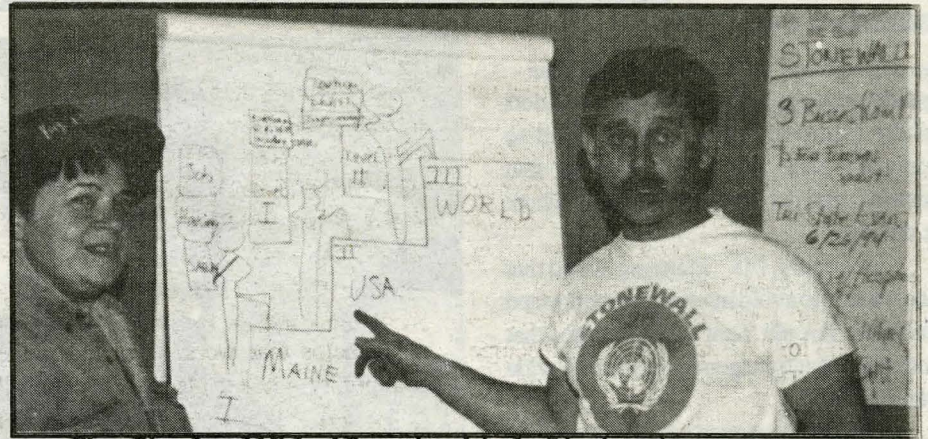
3. The agencies of the UN and non-governmental organizations affiliated with the UN undertake to report on violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and drag/transgendered people.

4. The promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights not be denied to people who have AIDS or are HIV positive.

5. The promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with regard to the right to health care not be denied to people with HIV/AIDS, nor to lesbian, gay, bisexual or drag/transgendered people, including those who desire to engage in reproduction.

6. The global effort to combat HIV/AIDS be intensified.

7. The member states of the UN adopt a protocol to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to define as a crime of genocide the intended destruction of any of the targets of the Holocaust, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and drag/transgendered people, and the intentional destruction of any population group based on that group's race, gender, sexual orientation,



Flora Piterak and Michael Rossetti explain the 'big picture'

Photo by L. Balboni

gender identification, religion, ethnicity, language, age, disability, socio-economic status and national or social origin.

8. The agencies of the UN not deny non-governmental organizations recognition or consultative status on the basis of their support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, drag/transgendered people, or people who have AIDS or are HIV positive.

9. The General Assembly of the UN proclaim an International Year of Lesbian and Gay People (possibly 1999).

10. The UN and its agencies not discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual or drag/transgendered people in matters of contracting, hiring, employment conditions and termination.

11. The member states increase the funding of the human rights agencies of the UN to accelerate the progress toward realizing the promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

12. The right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and drag/transgendered people to create families be recognized and protected, and that our family relationships with each other and our children be celebrated in 1994, The International Year of the Family.

We call upon the United Nations, and the people of the world, to join us in affirming the dignity and legitimacy of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and drag/transgendered people as participants in the rich mosaic that constitutes the diversity of the human family. (Copied from Stonewall 25: Organizing and Outreach, page 46.)

Flora said that there are many international organizations that support ILGA's demands, but that the support of Amnesty International is most important. The moral authority of this group is legendary and they have documented the persecution of lesbian and gay people throughout the world.

She has had the struggle for gay rights put in perspective by this effort. She has learned that there are fundamentalists throughout the world who condemn and discriminate against gay people, and that members of the far right from this country

travel overseas and preach for the eradication of gay people from the face of the earth.

Flora emphasized the ground-breaking aspect of this particular March. She envisioned the impact of representatives from every country in the world marching past the UN with a sign indicating their nation. "It's very, very powerful, it's different. This is the first international March, ever. This is territory we haven't covered before. This is so new, so different and so powerful."

Bringing all this home, Flora explained that the Tri-State Alliance (Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont) will attempt to, "put some comfort level around the people who are going from these areas." She said that even though Portland is a metropolitan area, the bulk of the region is rural, and they want to assist people in the logistics and possible fears around a trip to New York.

They have a Hospitality Committee for people unfamiliar with New York and G.O.A.L./New York is helping with safety tips. (GOAL is Gay Officers Action League featured in our February edition).

One of the Tri-State Alliance's main purposes is to raise enough money to provide a free or reduced-rate bus from each

See PRIDE, page 23

Sister Creations

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the pogroms and the demonization of transgendered people squarely on the shoulders of the European ruling classes. And so tonight's slide show will examine that history...and put the blame squarely where it belongs."

Secondly, Ms. Feinberg stated that she wanted to avoid interpreting oppressed cultures, but did want to show slides that indicated that transgender is a world-wide phenomenon.

The slides proved an acceptance and celebration of transgendered people among Native Americans that was extensive and complete. They show the first Europeans setting dogs on the Berdache (a Native American word for transgendered people), and Ms. Feinberg thinks that the answer to why the Europeans acted this way has to do with the class struggle underway in Europe.

Ancient societies that were communal and had no concept of private property, had no problem with transgendered people. In fact, many of them became the shamans, especially male-to-female people. These cultures were matrilineal, but with the advent of private property and patriarchal society, these attitudes changed.

The parade of images had an overwhelming effect. As Ms. Feinberg stated, every picture here means that there are "tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands" of other stories not known. The slides did indeed show that since before the beginning of recorded history down to the present day and all over the world, there have been transgendered people, sometimes celebrated, sometimes persecuted, but present in every culture and in every time.

One of the slides in the show was a picture of Marsha P. Johnson. Seeing her up there was an especially difficult moment for me because Marsha was a friend of mine from the late seventies in New York. I had read about her death in the Village Voice some time ago and did not believe for a moment that it was a suicide. Marsha was a transvestite or a male-to-female transgendered person, or just a beautiful and loving human being. I don't really know how she defined herself. I do



The three women responsible for bringing Leslie Feinberg to Maine: Naomi Falcone, Penny Rich, and Madeleine Winter.

know that she fought back at Stonewall and that she fought everyday to be herself. I am proud to have known her. She chose her own name. The middle initial "P" stood for "Pay It No Mind."

Ms. Feinberg concluded her presentation with the statement, "I believe that each of us deserves a society in which those of us who do the work of the world can live in dignity and respect, free from poverty and hunger and racism and all forms of bigotry. Isn't that a world worth uniting and fighting for?"

Ms. Feinberg took questions from the audience, the first of which was, "How autobiographical was your book?" She said that she gets this question a lot and answered by saying, "I chose to write a novel because I wanted to tell the whole truth....Stone Butch Blues reflects the spirit of my life, but is not autobiographical. But, everything I want you to know about my life is in that book."

We learned that Ms. Feinberg is writing another novel entitled, Drag King Dreams, and she is working on turning Stone Butch Blues into a screenplay.

In answer to a question about language, Ms. Feinberg stated that for her, language is a tool, but she realizes that she is working with a language that does not recognize her existence. She was skeptical when "Ms." was introduced and is now pleased to see its use. She hopes for future changes in our language to accommodate transgendered people.

Someone asked her to opine on the issue of the "women born women only" policy at the Womyn's Music Festival at Michigan. Ms. Feinberg said that this year five transsexuals were kicked off the land. She distilled the controversy down to, "Are the women there more threatened by five transsexual women in the camp or by a policy in which a security team can confront you and define whether you're

woman enough to be on that space? I really believe that this a question that all women have to take up.

"We're not talking about Clint Eastwood in drag coming into that camp and threatening those women. We're not talking about anyone threatening the women in the camp, and I would argue that there are no men in that camp when those five transsexual women are there. There are no men there and there are no threats to the women there. You don't have to have herbal tea with the women, you don't have to bond. But, if you really are gonna support the security team kicking them out on the basis of defining who is woman and who has male energy, and who is selling out to the patriarchy, you're opening up a Pandora's Box in which a lot of women are going to be hurt." (Applause!)

I taped Ms. Feinberg's presentation, and in listening to it I was overcome by the significance of her life's work, the importance of her message, and by the enormity of her mission. Her talk, including the slide show, was at once history, herstory, personal anecdote, and a call to arms. She is an excellent speaker with the power to inspire, to enrage, to make you laugh and to make you cry, but most importantly, she has the power to uplift. Her courage is awesome and her understanding and love for the community is real. ...

everything. Often we want to believe that lesbian battering is just a misunderstanding, that perhaps the batterer can go to a weekend workshop on communication skills and everything will be all right. I find it helpful to check whether I'm minimizing by asking myself whether I'd say the same things about male batterers.

Of course it's possible for batterers to change, but at this time, there is no evidence that large numbers of female or male batterers are stopping their behavior. In this culture, battering works.

Feminists often use incest, homophobia, or other oppressions to explain women's battering. With different particulars, others explain men's battering similarly. There is often a backwards reasoning process: the worse someone behaves the more oppressed s/he must be, the more terrible her/his childhood must have been. This approach reinforces abusive behavior while being disrespectful to those who are just as oppressed or whose childhoods were just as terrible, and who make clear and conscious decisions to not behave violently and abusively.

Battering is a choice. Oppression and abuse create intense feelings, but an individual still decides how to respond to these feelings. We live in a culture where battering is often an option, but it is never the only one. Making excuses for batterers will not help us create the world we want to live in. Ultimately, it's far more humane to everyone to say that no matter how unfairly people have been treated, they are still capable of choosing their own actions and are still responsible for their behavior. Battering is not acceptable, period. If a person is unable to be in a relationship without being abusive, s/he can and should choose not to be in one.

Feeling sorry for batterers is often misplaced compassion, compassion that is not extended to their victims. I'm not saying that batterers should be "written off," but at the moment, this is happening to the victims, not the batterers. ...

Reprinted with permission from The Network News: The newsletter of the Network for Battered Lesbians, Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1994.

The Network was initiated in 1989 by formerly battered lesbians to address battering in our communities, to provide support to battered lesbians and bisexual women, and to work toward the elimination of violence against women.

For more information, write The Network, P.O. Box 6011, Boston, MA 02114, or call 617/424-8611 (office) or 617/236-SAFE (Hotline). ...



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PRIDE, from page 21.

of the three northern New England states for people who cannot afford to go. She said that plans now provide for the three states to stage and march together so that the contingent won't be sandwiched between much larger groups, and can, therefore, be more unified and rowdy.

Michael Rossetti wanted to encourage people who want to help to get involved early. He said that, characteristically, there are plenty of people to help on the day of the event, but that you can't plan effectively that way. He strongly urges people to come to the next meeting of Portland Pride on Monday, March 14th from 6 to 8 PM at Ferrante's, 30 Exchange Street, 2nd floor, Portland. This meeting, and others to follow, are for the dual purpose of planning for the Portland Pride March, Maine Freedom Fest and Maine's participation in the Stonewall 25 March.

Following are important dates to remember:

Stonewall Night, Thursday, March 17th at 8 PM at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant on the Portland Waterfront, featuring COMEDIAN CHUCK ROY from the HBO Comedy Channel and Carolyn's Comedy Shop. There will be a cocktail hour and special menu from 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Tickets are \$8-\$10. (Fund-raiser for the busses to New York.)

PORTLAND:

-**Tues/Wed, June 6 & 7**, State of Pride (Maine) Float Making Party

-**Sunday, June 12**, Marshal Training Session

-**Wednesday, June 15**, Gay Games Send Off Reception

-**Thursday, June 16**, Matlovich Society

-**Friday, June 17**, Pre-March Rally, Marshal's Party

-**Saturday, June 18**, 10 am to noon: line up and Pre-march stage, Pine street. Noon: March from Longfellow to Post Office Park. Festival: 1 to 4 PM, Post Office Park. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus concert location is yet to be determined.

-**Sunday, June 19**, Casco Bay Cruise

BANGOR:

-**Saturday, July 9**, March and Festival/Rally

OGUNQUIT:

-**Saturday, July 16**, Freedom Coast Century, a 100 mile Bicycle Loop, sponsored by **Time Out** and the **International Lesbian and Gay Outdoors Club**. Friday Night-Welcome Party, Saturday Night-Victory Dinner.

PRIDE DATES AROUND NEW ENGLAND:

Boston: Saturday, June 11, starting location to be announced, (Rally at the

Hatch Shell).

New Hampshire: Friday, June 17, Concord

Connecticut: Saturday, June 18, Hartford

Rhode Island: Saturday, June 18, Providence

Gay Games: NYC, June 18-25
STONEWALL 25/INTERNATIONAL MARCH NYC:

-**Saturday, June 25**, Christopher Street Fair and Dance, Fireworks from 10 to midnight. Pre-March Candlelight Celebration, "Passing the Light" to the Stonewall Bar in Sheridan Square.

-**Sunday, June 26**, International March on the U.N. Formation areas: 8th Ave and 13th St., Christopher and West Sts., 7th Ave and LeRoy St. Step off at noon.

The March will follow several different routes, but all will converge on Central Park, where a rally, unprecedented in magnitude, will unfold. There will be diverse talent from our worldwide community to entertain, inform and inspire, and this spectacle will last throughout the afternoon. (Info from Stonewall/25 brochure.)

In a late breaking development, Michael informed me that Portland Pride has obtained two busses for the trip to New York, one from Portland and one from Bangor. These bus trips will be down and back on Sunday, June 26th with no overnight in New York. The round trip fare from Portland will be approximately \$35.00 (\$45.00 from Bangor). For further information call or write: Freedom Fest Maine, P.O. Box 11502, Portland, ME 04104, (207) 871-9940. In Bangor call Bangor Pride at 866-4320.

I am skeptical of the UN's ability to achieve the purposes contained in the March Demands. Their adoption will not automatically result in an end to local and state initiatives to deny gays and lesbians their rights. In fact, there could be a jingoistic backlash in which the far right mobilizes people around the idea that "We're not going to let the UN tell us how to behave." Such a reaction to UN resolutions would not be new to the U.S. political scene.

Nevertheless, in the long run, UN recognition and support will help gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and drag/transgender people achieve our rightful places in world society. ...

VIDEOS ON REVIEW

By: Luke Balboni

In keeping with some of the themes raised by the article on Leslie Feinberg and Stonewall 25/Portland Pride, I would like to direct your attention to four videos available at Videopoint. They are: **Before Stonewall**, **The Times of Harvey Milk**, **Whoever Says the Truth Shall Die** and **Hate Crimes** (rented for free).

It is essential that the gay community know its history. Leslie Feinberg stated that digging up our history and referring to it is a political act. **Before Stonewall** provides the means to this end. Narrated by Rita Mae Brown, this film won the Best American Independent Feature Film award from the Los Angeles International Film Exposition.

This video documents the experiences of American homosexuals from the 1920's to the present. We see gay servicemen and servicewomen in WW II and during the McCarthy period; and learn about the formation of the first organizations, the Mattachine Society for gay men and the Daughters of Bilitis for lesbians. All these events are tied together with excellent vintage footage, interviews and newstape, and culminate in the June 1969 riots at Stonewall, which marks the beginning of the modern lesbian and gay civil rights movement. You will feel proud knowing that you are part of a courageous legacy whose only purpose is justice.

The Times of Harvey Milk is an Academy Award Winner (Best Documentary). This film will make you cry and make your heart burn with indignation. Narrated by Harvey Fierstein, it is an inspiring call to action about the first openly gay man to be elected to political office in California. Interviews, news films and home movies document Harvey's life in all its complexities. We hear a taped will he made in anticipation of his assassination, and we see the justifiable outburst of anger resulting in serious rioting when San Francisco's gay men and women

rose in revolt to the numbing injustice of Dan White's (Harvey's murderer) light sentence (9 years). Be sure to watch the credits to the very end—there's a surprise there.

Whoever Says the Truth Shall Die is a film about the life and murder of one of Italy's greatest poets and filmmakers, Pier Paolo Pasolini. We must realize that oppression of homosexuals is a worldwide phenomenon (listen to This Way Out on WMPG, 90.9 Thursdays at 11 AM or Sundays at 3 PM). This video examines the life of an outspoken homosexual in a European context.

Salo: 120 Days of Sodom, The Gospel According to St. Matthew, The Decameron, Arabian Nights and Canterbury Tales are among his greatest films. This documentary introduces us to this enigmatic personality who was hounded by authorities in Italy and repeatedly brought up on morals charges, but never convicted. Finally, in 1975 at the age of 53, he was found dead on the beach at Ostia, (near Rome). A 17 year old hustler was blamed (convicted and released from prison in 1983) but a convincing case is made that a conspiracy of Mafia, neo-fascists and government officials had him tortured and murdered.

My final entry in this quartet is **Hate Crimes**, a Channel 13 News Special. This compilation of newsfilm and interviews documents a gay-bashing here in Portland and the murder of Charlie Howard in Bangor back in 1984. Jim Baines, one of the murderers who killed Charlie Howard is interviewed. He, and the other two responsible for Howard's death, served two years in the Maine Youth Center for their crime. We hear the chilling account of an adult who came up to him at the conclusion of this trial and shook his hand saying, "You did good."

After viewing these films, you should have no illusions about the extent of homophobia, the danger to your very life that it imposes on you, and the necessity to come out as gay men and women to fight for our "inalienable rights." ...

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