

Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 1, Number 9 [no. 11]

MAY, 1994

John Preston, 1945 -1994



Photo by The Mayne Studio

Writer, activist, AIDS educator succumbs in Portland home

By Marjorie Love, Special Reporter

PRESTON — In Portland, April 28, John of Park St. Memorial service Saturday, May 7 at 1 PM at St. Luke's Cathedral. There will be no visitation. Those desiring may make donations to Peabody House, 14 Orchard St., Portland 04102 or VNA and Hospice, 62 E St., So. Portland 04106. Arrangements by . . . (Portland Press Herald, 4/29/94)

Fortunately I didn't learn of John's death from the obituary page. The morning that this "death notice", and a much more satisfying feature article appeared in the Portland Press Herald, I happened to call a mutual friend for a progress report on John. I knew he was very ill and weak. I was ready to send another of my periodic notes, primarily to let John know that I had just finished reading—and thoroughly enjoying—his latest collection of essays, *My Life As A Pornographer & Other Indecent Acts*. But I was also thinking about

including a clipping of a David Broder commentary that scored some points for my side in a political argument we'd been having, and I wanted to know if John had enough energy to enjoy the aggravation, or if I should limit the card to greetings and congratulations on his book. The answer was not what I expected . . . John had died the day before, too late for letters.

But as it happens, I got a call later that day asking me if I'd be willing to write something about John that could be used in this month's issue of **Community Pride Reporter** just before deadline. Willing? You bet. So I made a pile of everything I've read that John Preston has written, and looked again at the pages with the corners turned down, wanting to share with you pieces of his work that made an impact on me, and in so doing, to let John speak for himself. I reached back to

See Preston, page 4

Concerned Maine Families sponsors anti-gay lecture in So. Portland

By: Bruce Balbone, Managing Editor

"I tell the homosexual that I love them to throw them off-balance. It's like in Judo. In order to defeat your enemy you must throw them off-balance. My message of love to the gay community is designed with this in mind." These are the words of the Reverend Charles McIlhenny, an evangelical Presbyterian from San Francisco, who spoke Thursday night, April 14, at the Church of the Nazarene on Highland Avenue in South Portland.

Concerned Maine Families (CMF), led by Carolyn Cosby of 48 Glen Haven Road, West Portland (773-0575) and Don Miller, pastor of Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Lewiston and Treasurer of CMF (and one of the leaders of the anti-EPL [Equal Protection Lewiston] forces), brought McIlhenny and his wife Donna to

Maine as part of an effort to galvanize radical right-wing forces here. They are collecting signatures to get a statewide anti-gay rights initiative on the ballot for 1995.

McIlhenny spoke in Bangor, Lewiston and South Portland. Each meeting had the same format. At 5 o'clock there was a supper-workshop at which a group of about 30 people listened to the McIlhennys discuss tactics and strategy. A larger meeting followed at 7:30.

The main thrust of both these meetings was to convey the message to the anti-gay rights forces that they must couch their assault on gays in a language of love in order to win the political battle. They told their listeners that they will not be effective

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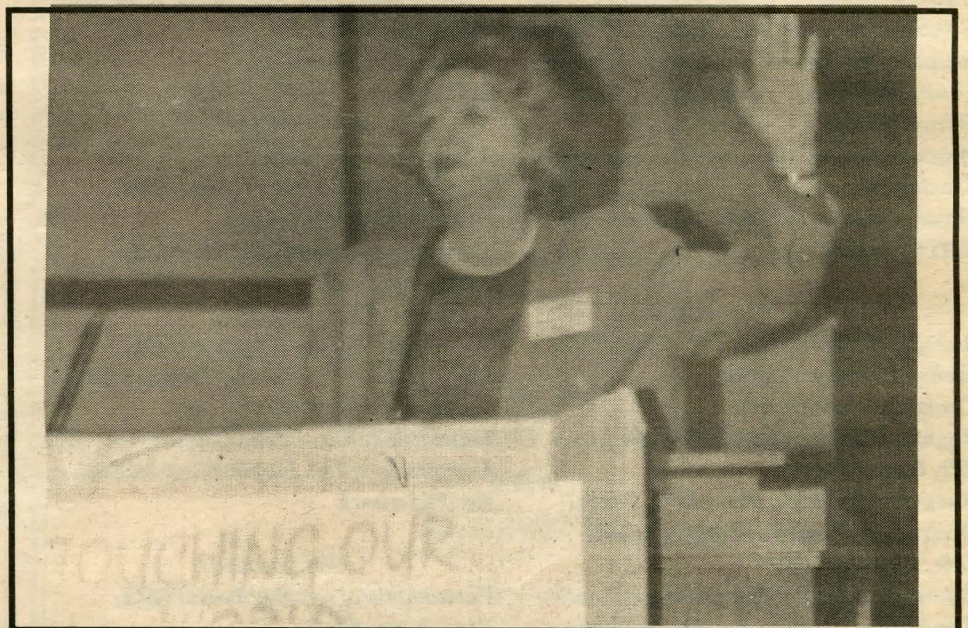


Photo by B. Balbone

Community Pride Reporter

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Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor
Bruce Balboni, Managing 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.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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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Brunswick: Gulf of Maine Books, Touch The Earth, Bookland, The Kitchen, Morning Glory

CPR MAILBAG

Dear CPR,

I would like to respond to Christian Malm, the gentlemen from Portland who wrote a letter to the Editor, (CPR, April, 1994, Vol.1, No.10), but whose message, I believe, was intended for the community at large. I get around to a great many meetings in the state of various groups of queers who are organized or organizing to do a variety of political work. I don't believe I have had the pleasure of meeting you yet, but I look forward to it.

I have heard "leaders" and others make a variety of statements about the direction and scope of our "movement." (Sometimes these statements are expressed as opinion, and sometimes they are expressed as an intent of a particular group or organization to proceed with a specific plan of action.) I have never heard anyone speaking either from opinion or from an organizational plan, make the kind of statements you referred to in your letter. "Time and again we hear 'political leaders' . . . denouncing drag queens, activists, separatists, and liberals . . ." Who said this, and at what kind of a meeting? I would certainly challenge these statements if I was sitting in a meeting and heard them. I'm sure you did.

I can't say and demonstrate enough that there is no room in our movement for the kind of attitude that you say you have encountered from leaders or others. There is room for all people, no matter how you self-identify: transgendered, lesbian, bisexual, gay, straight, or queer. There is room for all people no matter what your situation is: in or out of the closet, 5 or 50 volunteer hours a week, working class or corporate, employed or unemployed, etc. It is the job of each and every one of us to make room for others.

When I read letters like yours, I imagine that all the people out there who are thinking of getting politically involved will decide to stay home because they think it's like you describe. I want them to

know that it isn't that way in the meetings I go to. I don't know what meeting you went to or who made the statements that were so offensive, but you should start going to different meetings of queers because it doesn't sound like the group meeting you went to will ever accomplish anything worthwhile, unless they examine and overcome their own bias and prejudice.

Sincerely,

Karen Geraghty, President,
Maine Lesbian/Gay Political
Alliance

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Dear CPR,

Thank you for being here! Each issue I pick up is better than the last. My straight friends who have seen the CPR are pleasantly surprised by the scope and variety and rational viewpoint they find. (I think some of them expect some kind of sex manual!)

I was pleased to see in the April issue a great review of my friend Martin Swinger's latest tape Singin' OUT! But I was surprised to find myself credited as the author of "Shine On Harvest Moon." This is the way the information on the tape reads, so I have to blame Martin himself, and not your staff writer, Luke Balboni, for the confusion.

The article says, "Harvest Moon," written by Dan Woodward, is an old favorite which Martin adapts for more relevance to gay people." The truth is, I did not write it. It was written in 1908, words by Jack Norworth, music by Nora Bayes-Norworth, a pair of vaudeville performers who were billed as "the stage's happiest couple" (and were divorced in 1913.) I heard Martin and some friends perform this song and I thought, "great song, but it's not gay enough." So I wrote a new second verse and chorus, gave the words to Marof

See MAILBAG, page 3

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EDITORIAL

If you look at the signature box containing information about CPR on page 2, you will notice a new addition. **Community Pride Reporter** now has a Managing Editor. Bruce Balboni, aka Luke Balboni, has been with me since July of 1993 when the first issue was printed, first doing video/movie reviews, and over the months taking on more and more reporting responsibilities. Bruce has a nose for news and his tenacity in turning out a quality story has resulted in some extraordinary pieces.

Bruce has become an integral part of this paper. His help with distributing the finished product in the greater Portland area has been a tremendous help. Over 2500 copies are out locally within four hours. He has recruited volunteer help, researched possibilities for obtaining student interns, made suggestions about improving the paper, and listened to me when my stress level is off the scale.

Equally important, perhaps more important, Bruce shares my level of com-

mitment to this work. He understands what I am trying to do, how difficult it is and will be, as additional phases of my vision are put into motion, and he stands shoulder to shoulder with me. I am proud, indeed honored, that we share a professional relationship which allows each of us to speak freely, disagree zestfully, compromise genuinely, and work together passionately.

"Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor" -- has a nice ring, doesn't it?

Switching gears, now. Friends, we have got to shake the cobwebs of winter out of our heads and regain some focus here around our right to live openly and free from the harassment of those who want us to go back to, or stay in, the closet (nailed shut, with padlocks on it!)

In late April, Carolyn Cosby and an associate named Harry, were on the steps of the Main Post Office building in Portland, collecting signatures on the referendum question. I received a call from

Richard Freed of Act Up/Portland on the morning she was on the prowl.

He was looking for help in countering her rhetoric. I said I would make some calls, and he headed down to the Post Office. None of my calls managed to get Richard any support. I had a previous appointment, some could not leave work, and I didn't know who else to call. Richard remained on duty alone. He was pushed, yelled at and threatened with police action by Cosby and Harry.

We need a list, be it through your local EPM chapters, or by registering with me through the CPR office, of people who are willing, and *might* be able to respond (barring appointments, work load, etc.) when a situation like this arises. None of us should have to stand alone and fight for our cause. Richard was able to dissuade many people, but he witnessed at least 10 people signing in the short time he was there.

One more switch in gears; June 14th

is primary day. Register, if you haven't already, and vote as if your life depends on it. For in fact, a healthy and whole life does.

In solidarity,

Winnie

P.S. In last month's editorial, I stated that CPR has over 50 distribution points throughout the states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. (I must have had "50" on the brain for some strange reason!?) CPR is distributed in over 85 locations with more being added monthly.

PPS: Follow this column down an inch or two for as personal and individualized an invitation as I can issue to all of you. As an added treat, Kathy Poole and Kate Austin will fill the air with wonderful music during the celebration.

MAILBAG, from page 2
and he recorded it.

Thanks to Mr. Balboni for his review. I can only echo his enthusiasm for Martin's work. The music on Singin' OUT! is fun, humorous, touching and uplifting. . . Any music like this which gives us positive reinforcement is important. Music can bring us together, help us communicate . . . and build community. The better we feel about ourselves and know we deserve all the rights we are now fighting for, the closer we are to winning them. I know many people will think this is simplistic, but we'll never get very far as long as we hate ourselves and keep hurting ourselves and each other emotionally.

Music is one source of healing and strength. The stronger and more whole we are, the higher we can hold our heads. Then we can demand respect and love.

My best wishes to all my sisters and brothers.

Dan Woodward
Temple, ME

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Dear CPR,

This is an open letter to lesbians in the greater Brunswick area. I am the woman who "makes the Lesbian-ACOA meetings in Brunswick happen." This letter to you is prompted by changes which

are effecting (sic) the existence of the meeting. The meeting happens because someone opens the door and makes the meeting space comfortable and welcoming for those who attend. The meeting has power and works because there are women at the meeting who share their strength, hope and recovery.

This meeting is open to all women. We draw ideas for recovery from Adult Children of Alcoholics 12-Step books. Please be aware that alcoholism in your family is not a requirement to attend a meeting. Women who were unhappy, out-of-control or desperately wanting their lives to be easier have benefited from this group when they made a commitment to attend regularly. Currently, only two or three women are attending the meetings and a few more are needed to help create a strong healing space. I encourage you, especially if you've been thinking about attending a meeting, to do so in the month of May. Without your support there will be no reason to continue the meetings.

I am also looking for someone with recovery experience to open the meetings, since I cannot be there every week. For more information about the meeting or to volunteer to open the meeting please leave a message at (207) 725-5103. Thank you.

Jo, Topsham, Maine

*You are cordially invited to attend a
Fundraiser △ Open House △ Birthday Party
on Sunday, May 15th from 4 - 9 pm at
Sisters, 45 Danforth Street, Portland.*

*We are celebrating the first birthday of
Community Pride Reporter and
the 50th birthday of CPR founder, Winnie Weir.
In addition to celebrating, we are also trying to
raise some much needed funds to nurture
the important work Winnie and the volunteers
who bring you CPR are doing.*

*(Your emotional support is as crucial as your financial
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PRESTON, from page 1

remember some of my experiences with John, hoping to convey the impact of the man and of the political activist who mentored me through the two years that we were a team (he the Board President, me the Executive Director) at The AIDS Project, and since. And this is what comes to mind.

JOHN PRESTON, THE WRITER

"I began to be a writer because I wanted to capture the stories that helped me create my identity" ("Private Writing, Public Reading" in the newsletter of the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance).

In the introduction he wrote to *A Member of the Family: Gay Men Write About Their Families*, John told the story of the resumption of his interrupted relationship with a brother fifteen years younger than himself, which he had pretty much lost since leaving home. The story hit a nerve for me, reminding me of the two much younger brothers I'd all but parented until I left home at 17, with them six and seven years old. I'd often joked, wistfully, that I would no doubt figure as an important abandonment issue in their mid-life psychotherapy.

Of his brothers, 15 and 17 years younger, John said: "the boys seemed so far removed from my life that I seldom even thought of them . . . the age gap seemed so great I didn't pursue any real relationships with them" (p.5). The visit that rekindles his relationship with the older of the two "boys" also spoke to me and my severed connection with my younger brothers: "I had used part of my memory to dismiss much of who he was to me. Now, seeing him across the table, I remembered more. I remembered those things that had once made me so protective of him that I moved just in order to shelter him" (p.6). John learns that this brother had discovered and read John's angry parting letter to his parents, had blamed him-

self, and "had it as a moment of supreme abandonment" (p.7).

The story he wrote could have been my story. His story is somehow more satisfying, though, because the younger brother speaks up, because they go on to talk through what happened and to rebuild a relationship, and because John tells us what he's thinking and feeling, making explicit what in my family stayed silent and confused. I imagine such resonances are a reason for the popularity of John's books. This story was his gift to me, like to any reader.

Recently I read this quality of good writing described in an article that John wrote in which he quoted W.H. Auden: "The reader responds to second-rate literature by saying, 'That's just the way I always felt'. But first-rate literature makes one say, 'Until now, I never knew how I felt. Thanks to this experience, I shall never feel the same way again.'" (Private Writing, Public Reading)

John and I had some discussions about family. For two years John and I met once or twice a month over breakfast to talk about our mutual work, with brief side trips into romance or vacation trips (catching up on how our lives were going to clear the air for work) or to gay politics. Our other times together, the occasional dinner or exchange of letters, were special but infrequent. It is easy to love someone who is capable of this degree of self-revelation, both to you and for you.

His ability to help us feel and articulate more than we otherwise would have was especially powerful because John turned his attention to various aspects of the gay experience, both social and erotic, including the experience of AIDS. In his introduction to *Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS*, John describes his struggle to rediscover his voice after his own HIV diagnosis in 1987: "Faced with pressing medical decisions and a sense of dread about the repercussions of having AIDS in today's society, it seemed there was no time to create a book, there was no relief from the oppression of the illness. How could one reflect on all that was happening when it was happening now?"

"But, in fact, this collection was one of the means I had at my disposal to come back to life. These articles had helped me fight the feeling that AIDS was overwhelming me. The writers with whom I was working were dealing with the disease . . . The power of their pieces came from their ability not to withdraw from the disaster, but to encounter it, to send dispatches back from their personal trenches, and to give their messages to the world. My response couldn't be to withdraw into my own personal fears. That would mean

MONEY TALK

What is financial planning?
By Peter J. Callnan, CPA

Well, now that we have another April 15th behind us and are looking forward to summer, we can begin to consider ways to better manage the money we earn. That is a very simple explanation of financial planning . . . "managing the money we earn."

The first step in financial planning is setting financial goals. It is important not to be too broad at this point. "I want to be rich," is a financial goal, but is too general. Ask yourself a few basic questions:

What do I want? (OBJECTIVE), When do I want it? (TIME ELEMENT), How do I get it? (METHOD), Why do I want it? (INTENT).

So, maybe a better goal statement would be, "I want to save \$100 a month by having \$25 directly deposited weekly into a savings account so that I will be more financially secure." It has a clear objective, a time frame, suggests a method and states the intent. Try writing your goals out on paper to facilitate the process. Keep in mind that not all financial goals are easily defined. They can seem overwhelming and unreachable. I suggest you start with small ones first, like beginning a savings program. After all, building a financial plan requires some finances to work with. For example, if I were to put that \$100 a month in a savings account earning 5% for 30 years, I would have \$83,226 when I was finished. If I were to put this money into an Individual Retirement Account, I would then be getting an additional savings in Federal taxes of \$180 if I were in the 15% tax bracket, or \$300 if I were in the 28% tax bracket, which, factored over 30 years at 5% would give me an additional \$12,200 and \$20,334 respectively. Gee, that means that I would have \$95,426 or \$103,560 when I was finished. Not a bad nest egg!

Now, I know that everyone always tells me that they cannot put anything aside for savings. Seems no matter what a person earns, that is what they spend. Well, for those of you out there like this, let me give you another monthly bill to pay. This one is to yourself and your future. Pick any dollar amount you want and put it in a savings account with your name on it. A friend's father would always tell me, "Pete, you need to pay yourself for what you do before anyone else. After all, you earn it, why give it all to other people." I always thought that was good advice. Give it a try for a while and who knows, maybe before you know it, it will be a habit, a good one to have. Good luck! ΔΔ

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Concerned Families, from page 1

if they resort to using pejorative language and outright bigotry.

McIlhenny revealed the true purpose of the anti-gay rights crusade. He said "secular humanism" is the real enemy. (Secular humanism is a non-religious world view that exalts humanity.) His mention of this is in keeping with the agenda of the national evangelical movement of Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson who have said that they are using society's homophobia to further the Christian fundamentalists' social agenda.

One of Falwell's associates recalls

responsible for the change of policy were, "the progenitors of ACT-UP and Queer Nation."

McIlhenny and his wife took turns poking fun at and mocking the APA, the idea of homophobia as a mental disorder and the idea that well-adjusted transsexuals are not crazy. In his discussion on whether or not there is a gene for homosexuality, McIlhenny asked, "is there a gene for the homophobe too? What's good for the goose is good for the gander." He concluded by saying, gene or no gene, homosexuality is a sin because the Bible says it is (he says).

McIlhenny and his wife devoted a



Photo by B. Balboni

him saying, "Thank God for those gays. They get me all the publicity I need. If they didn't exist, I'd have to invent them." (Details, p. 121, May, 1994.)

The Christian Right recruits people to their cause through hatred and fear of homosexuals. If you examine CMF's literature closely, you will see there is no message of love. Their bogus statements on homosexuals incite hatred. They make false charges about child molestation and bizarre sexual practices. They state that sexual orientation is a choice, that gay civil rights will restrict the rights of others, that "lesbians are now having babies, conceived by homosexual semen." (Taken from a CMF brochure entitled, "What's Wrong With Special 'Gay Rights'? You Be the Judge!")

EXTREMIST CLAIMS APA is a FRONT for ACT-UP

One of the key weapons McIlhenny suggested Cosby and CMF use against gays is an attack on the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) removal of homosexuality from the List of Mental Disorders in 1973. McIlhenny said that this vote was taken in secret by a minority of APA's members and is, therefore, invalid. Were homosexuality reinstated as a mental disorder, all claims to gender orientation equality would be suspect.

But most incredibly, McIlhenny said that the people in the APA who were

great deal of time to the story about how their gay organist sued them under San Francisco's first-in-the-nation gay-rights ordinance. They fired him for being gay, so he sued them.

The McIlhennys won when the judge exempted religion from the ordinance. They claim they were then terrorized by radical gay people. They consider these events to be a calling from God, a sign that they should fight against gay rights.

(The McIlhennys acknowledged that the Bible is subject to interpretation and that many theologians find nothing in the Bible that condemns homosexuality.)

CMF BROCHURE MISLEADING

Cosby claims, in the CMF brochure, that gays are responsible for one-third to one-half of all molestation cases. That's not true, but even if it were, it means that heterosexuals are responsible for two-thirds to one-half of all child molestations. Yet, nobody is suggesting that because of this fact all heterosexuals should be subject to being fired from a job merely because they are heterosexual.

And are we to believe that heterosexuals do not engage in anal intercourse and that they do not engage in sadomasochistic sex acts. Of course they do, but again, nobody is suggesting that because of this, heterosexuals should be denied equal opportunity in housing.

There is no logical connection between the (false) charges made against gay people by Carolyn Cosby's CMF and the denial of basic civil rights, except for the connection Cosby tries to establish based on fear and hatred.

In discussing their continuing 17 year fight against "this stuff", McIlhenny said that their fight against the domestic partnerships law was the most successful. He advised the audience that they helped defeat this ordinance because they were able to instill a sense of moral indignation in their supporters, and this was done by using Christ to inspire their supporters against gay people (even though Christ said nothing on homosexuality). He told them their political struggles would be more successful if they could instill this same sense of "moral indignation."

Mrs. McIlhenny told the workshop group to adopt a certain mindset when working against gay rights. She advised them not to oppose gay rights on the basis "of wanting our piece of the pie" but to be against them, "first of all because we need to preserve the family and home." Also, she told them to argue, "why should we have laws that allow gay people to kill themselves," referring to CMF's frequent characterization of AIDS as a gay disease. She told them to say, "for the love of Christ and for the love of the homosexual, we can't encourage them to kill themselves."

This strategy is both ironic and outrageous. It reminds one of the vicious cycle of denying legitimacy to homosexuals which forces them underground, and then using the underground nature of their behavior to deny legitimacy. Also, if you consider the high rate of gay youth suicide and its connection to low self-esteem brought on by the denial of civil rights and societal hatred, you can see how Mrs. McIlhenny has managed to twist these facts inside out.

In the strategy session, the See Concerned Families, page 21



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"Homosexual, you can be cured!" Amazing Grace "counselors" visit UMaine, Orono

By Malcolm Smith, Bangor-Orono Reporter

The true spirit of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Awareness Week was unexpectedly demonstrated on April 13th when a group of UMaine Orono students quickly mobilized to protest two religious "counselors" from Portland who were invited to speak at the university about their "cure" for homosexuality.

While the official awareness event of the night of April 13th was a presentation of two gay-centered movies, the real crowd showed up at 7:00 pm at 110 Little Hall in response to the announcement of the "counselors'" presentation. The presentation was first endorsed in a "Maine Campus" editorial column by writer Dana Gray, who advocated "balance" and then advertised the event in the same school newspaper in two half page ads that ran in the Monday and Wednesday edition during Awareness Week. The identity of the group who invited the women to UMO is known only as "A Coalition of Concerned Students." No individual names are known at this time.

The large crowd inside the classroom, including the head of UMaine's Department of Public Safety, numbered approximately 150. Lack of seats forced some of the audience to stand, while other observers were forced to wait outside the room. The majority of the crowd appeared not to support the speaker, who had her own small, but vocal, following in the room.

"I am a former lesbian," Jane Boyer said, after being introduced by fellow "counselor" Penny Merrill.

Merrill said she got involved in her profession when her husband left her for the "homosexual lifestyle."

Boyer told her own story, which ends with her choosing her husband and children "over an empty lesbian lifestyle."

At that time, she also chose to help those who also wanted out.

According to Boyer, the gay orientation comes from emotional wounding, while still a child, from the same sex parent. Homosexuality emerges from a craving for that parent's love, Boyer contends.

"Few men enter the gay world looking for sex," Boyer added.

Boyer rejected genetic evidence of homosexuality, saying that even if it were true, "there are lots of defects that are inborn, that doesn't mean they're normal."

Boyer was allowed to speak with relatively few interruptions, with each pro-gay outbreak met with a loud "let her speak" from the back of the crowded room. At one point an audience member shouted angrily that gays got to talk about themselves all week long, and the speakers should have a chance.

After completing her presentation, the crowd, with many Wilde Stein members in the front, took the women to task. Members told Boyer they were insulted by her attitude.

"You called me names," one member told her.

Wilde Stein member, Jim Gray, was concerned about the possibility of suicide from the confused young gay and lesbian students the speakers were aiming for.

"You are going to be going away and leaving your wreckage," he admonished Boyer. "We as a community are going to have to deal with that."

A physically disabled audience member who said he was straight asked in a loud, angry voice if he was considered defective by the woman. He said her bible was oppressive.

As the crowd grew angrier, a nervous appearing Boyer began pacing from

side to side, finding catches in her throat. She limited question time to 8 pm, which was about 10 minutes away.

Asked about a formal education or license to back up their views, neither women claimed either. Asked what gave her the right to call herself a counselor, Boyer said, "I know what I have been through."

Boyer refused to identify the people who had invited her to speak at the university on such short notice.

"No names," Boyer said, adding, "They were only a group of people."

A UMaine Counseling Center representative said that the center was open to anyone needing help, adding that any therapist advocating a cure for homosexuality was "unethical," as homosexuality is not a disease.

After the speech, Merrill said the crowd's reaction was "just what we expected." Boyer said the cost of the 18 weekly group therapy sessions was \$50 for everything.

The day following the event, students were questioning the legality of people advertising themselves as counselors in the student paper and wondering about all the secrecy regarding the sponsoring group, who is not listed as an official UMaine group. Others questioned the ability of such a group to raise the \$200-\$300 so quickly for the newspaper ad. The group reportedly paid cash for the ads. The following week an ad appeared in the same paper offering a revisionist theory of the Nazi holocaust during WWII. The paper explained it's logic behind running the ads, and did a story on both subjects.

The two representatives of "Amazing Grace Ministries" advertised in "The Maine Campus" during National Coming Out Week last semester. They did not appear on campus at that time. $\Delta\Delta$

Organizing to oppose the referendum

By Patricia A. Peard, Esq.

There will be a referendum fight in Maine in November, 1995. In order to defeat the challenge of the radical right to our basic civil rights, we will have to raise at least \$1.5 to \$2 million. Unfortunately, these are two facts of life that we must all begin to accept and deal with as directly as possible.

The good news is that an organizational structure is already in place and we have begun to raise money. But to be successful, we must have support from everyone. There will be, and there is room for everyone in this campaign regardless of your previous campaign experience or your level

of time commitment.

Equal Protection Maine is organizing in communities across the state, and the organizing has begun here in Portland.

Concerned Maine Families recently held a 3 1/2 hour workshop/prayer meeting at the Church of the Nazarene in So. Portland (Ed. note: see story, front page).

The legal opposition to CMF is in place and well prepared, but we cannot assume that we will win in the courts. We must do all that we can to be ready to fight a long, hard referendum battle for our rights. This is a fight we can win if all of us join in. No one can afford to sit this one out. Please attend a meeting in your area and volunteer in any way you can for as much or as little time as you have available. $\Delta\Delta$

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BUSINESS PROFILE:

Lois' Natural Marketplace, Scarborough

By: P. Hayes, Special Features Writer



Photo by P. Hayes

Lois' Natural Marketplace is the newest of the health food markets in southern Maine. Located in the Scarborough Marketplace just off exit 2 from I-295, about seven minutes from Portland, it's well worth the trip.

Lois' is quickly becoming a regular breakfast stop for those patrons already hooked on the daily assortment of scones or the wheat and dairy free, low fat muffins. Compliment one of these with a fresh squeezed juice of carrot, carrot and ginger, apple/carrot/celery, or create your own, for a tasty, healthful way to break fast.

Owners Lois and Daniel Porta spent years searching for a way to combine their interests. Lois had worked at The Good Day Market in Portland for six years, and Dan worked as an architect. Together, with Lois' knowledge of the organic and health food industry, and Dan's talent for

design, they've set up a clean, comfortable store, supplying a myriad of products.

At the juice bar counter, sipping freshly ground organic coffee, it felt more like a friend's kitchen than a market. The exposed cooking area provides an atmosphere that is friendly, laid back and genuinely inviting.

A variety of offerings are meticulously arranged throughout the store, including one wall boasting a vast array of jarred spices. Perusing the isles, I found a wide range of necessities, from baking needs, pastas, grains, nuts, teas and coffees to paper goods and skin care products and, of course, baskets filled with only the freshest organic produce, all top of the line, high quality products from Maine based companies whenever possible.

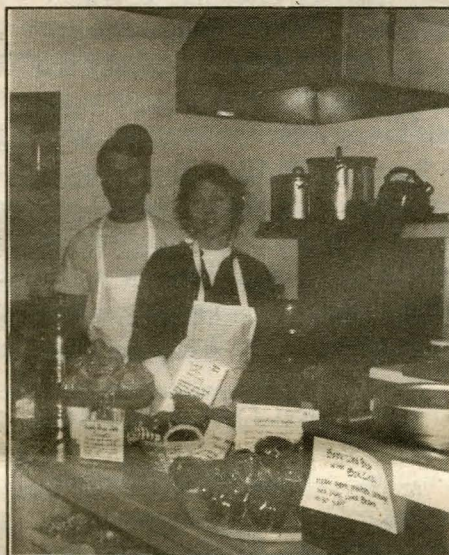
Lois and Dan cater to every taste, from no sulfite wines, including Sow's Ear Cider from Brooksville, Maine, to dairy free Raspberry cream or Berries Jubilee low fat granola. There's even all natural dog and cat food, with a display of vegetarian dog biscuits.

One of the unique features of this health food store is its made-to-order deli sandwiches. Some choices include, wasabi vegetarian or Mediterranean roll ups, black bean burritos and a baked falafel sandwich. Top this off with one of the daily vegetarian soups. Everything is made to order,

using only the best of ingredients directly from the shelves of the market.

Plans in process include summer classes in Homeopathic medicines and organic cooking classes coming in the fall. All classes will be held in the marketplace itself. Watch advertising for more on upcoming classes or visit Lois' Natural Marketplace, stock up for home or relax at the counter with great food and welcoming friends.

Store hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 7:30 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 6:30 pm, and Sunday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. ΔΔ



Daniel & Lois Porta

Photo by P. Hayes

N.H. rights bill defeated

Governor says current laws offer protection

By: Winnie Weir, Editor

"It's a dark day for New Hampshire," said Senator Bert Cohen, D-New Castle, after the defeat of the gay rights bill. After hours of debate and numerous roll call votes, a final vote of 13-10 killed this bill for this legislative session.

Since its passage in the House by a surprising 226-131 vote, the religious right and the Catholic Church rallied with renewed fervor against the bill. Various proposed compromises, and motions to table the bill all failed with close votes that reflected the bitterly divided sentiments of the Senate.

"This isn't a vote on just an issue," said Senator Beverly Hollingsworth, D-Hampton. "This is a vote on people. I am heartsick."

Though a majority of the Senate are Roman Catholic, several disassociated themselves from the adamant position of the Church. "My church," said Sen. Clesson Blaisdell, D-Keene, "is wrong."

This years defeat will not be the end of the fight. Portsmouth lawyer Susie Colt has filed a complaint for a gay truck driver who was harassed and then fired, putting to the test Governor Steve Merrill's contention that discrimination based on sexual orientation is already covered by state law.

In preparation for reintroducing the legislation next year, the NH Coalition to End Discrimination (CED) is urging its members to participate in the primary process. New Hampshire law allows voters to register undeclared, making them eligible to vote in any primary. The Coalition hopes this will allow the gay community to put pressure on potential legislators. Registering or changing to "undeclared" must be done before May 31st. ΔΔ

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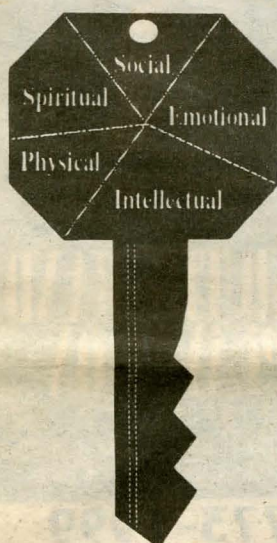
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Condom Survey Stats in from Portland & Deering high schools

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The survey results on whether or not condoms should be made available in both Portland High Schools are in. They are as follows:

Parents: YES-58%, NO-38%,
UNSURE-6%

Students: YES-83%, NO-10%,
UNSURE-7%

Staff: YES-35%, NO-52%,
UNSURE-14%

Beth Huntley, chair of the STD subcommittee, said that only 11% of parents even returned surveys so it's not scientific a study. The STD subcommittee is meeting this week to construct a recommendation concerning condom availability and curriculum which will be brought to the Family Living & Human Sexuality Advisory Board (FLHSAB). The Advisory Board will meet on Monday, May 9, at 7 PM in room 250 at PRVTC on Allen Ave. They will allow public comment at this meeting and they will vote publicly on their recommendation to the School Committee.

Nick Nadzo, Chair of the School Committee may conduct a workshop session with the Advisory Board in order to insure that the Committee understands fully what the issues are. Huntley guesses that this matter will come before the School Committee in some fashion before the end of the school year but any policy changes will not be fully implemented until the next school year.

Huntley thinks condom availability has a lot of support on the School Committee and two of the unopposed candidates for School Committee support condom availability.

Stonewall Diary - Part II: The Issues

By Michael Rossetti

Continuing with the second installment of this series, I want to discuss the goals of the upcoming March on the United Nations.

The first goal is to affirm the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. The second goal is to bring to all the nations of the world the word of our struggle, much as the first Stonewall happening sparked the modern "Gay Liberation" movement.

In developing countries and rural America, the Stonewall rebellion has yet to be felt in the way people can live. In Brazil, a gay person is targeted for murder every 4 days on average. In Nicaragua, President Chomora is considering signing into law a piece of legislation similar to Paragraph 175 under the Nazis which makes it an offence just to be gay or lesbian. In Romania, they already have such a law, where gay men, and presumed gay men are entrapped, jailed and tortured. In Waco, Texas, a gay man is not only murdered for being gay, but tortured and mutilated. In our own backyard, a youth gang on the streets of Portland targets certain gay men, assaults and terrorizes them, while concerned Maine Families denies such discrimination exists. The violence and every day acceptance of discrimination with the promotion of stereotypes by right wing elements to achieve their political goals is universal, whether in Maine or Malaysia.

Throughout the world, however, the definition of sexual orientation for homosexuals goes under many names and concepts. As a result, the International Lesbian and Gay Association voted to title the March as "Gay and Lesbian" in an attempt to make it universally understood. But how do countries who recognize multiple classifications, live with and sell the title to those already feeling disenfranchised as bisexual or transgendered? How does a country like the US not only get thousands of penniless rights activists, under surveillance by their own governments, into this country, assist them in promoting their activism here, and then get them home safely? How can gays and lesbian in this country realize the significance of that effort after a similar mega-demonstration that was largely just a big party? So far, the answers have been to keep addressing the brush fires of dissent and keep on promoting the celebration.

With a budget of over 2 million dollars, inadequate staff, uncooperative local bureaucracies in City Hall, the last thing the Stonewall planners need is the constant criticism of major national political groups

for it being too costly and too close to the last big March. However, the Stonewall celebration cannot be seen in the narrow, US-centric view of the world, nor in the Metro-centric view of this country's big wig gay/lesbian political advisers. The opportunity for much of America's rural gay communities to meet and see the strength of the community is rare. It is not an opportunity that necessarily can happen at the nearest Gay Pride day, as Tim McFeely of the Human Rights Campaign Fund feels, because those events often are too close to hometown homophobia for many rural gays and lesbians. Nor do such Gay Prides in the rural states compare with the excitement and incitement of large city or national marches. As for international results, some 64 countries and thousands of foreign visitors, not in New York for Gay Games, but Stonewall's march, speaks for itself.

At the heart of it all is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which specifies the basic rights that every government is expected to concede to its people. Most of the United Nations countries who have signed it, including the US, pretty much ignore it. Yet, as Amnesty International believes, there is great power in saying to a country, "See, here is your signature on a contract with the world of nations. Other nations will condemn you." And, even though largely only in formal diplomatic statements, other nations do indeed condemn human rights violations using the Declaration as the definition of those rights.

The challenge to the emerging new world of nations, as Bosnia reveals so blatantly, is to establish a world where these specific rights are granted as a basis for human interaction. The challenge to gays, lesbians and all their community, is to establish that we are indeed included in that order. To Stonewall 25's planners, the challenge is addressing all the complaints and misgivings and spark the next generation of activism.

The people of the Stonewall Tri-State Alliance, from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are committed to Stonewall. The Tri-state committee and Massachusetts are bringing a lesbian activist, Lupida Sequioa, from Nicaragua to Stonewall. The Maine portion of the proceeds from a comedy night at Boston's Charles Theater on May 21 will go toward our share of those expenses. Tri-State Stonewall is also looking for march volunteers as health professionals, security, line-up crew, bus guides and performers. The next meeting for the Alliance is on May 8, in Portsmouth. For information about getting to or participating in Stonewall 25, please call in Portland 871-9940, Bangor 866-4320 or in New Hampshire 603-382-9308.

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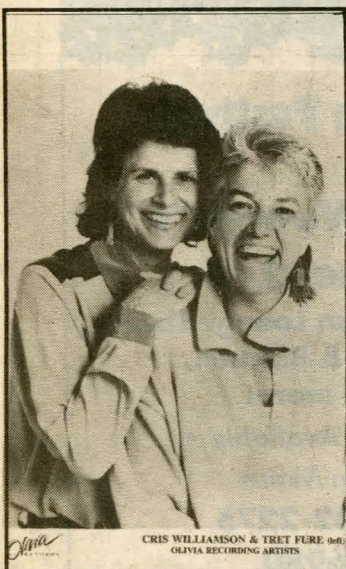
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CHEW ON THIS

It's officially spring! But not all may be well with your world. If you're like me, the cold of winter encouraged you to eat more than your share of mother earth's plentiful bounty. As you take out your spring and summer duds, you might be finding yourself wondering how you will ever get that old 'bod' into them!

Last fall, I wrote about a fall cleansing diet. The same one is good for spring. However, if you're not into a 28 day regiment that will take off approximately 15 pounds, here's another healthy way to lighten up.

First of all, when you go to the supermarket, think light. Keep away from the macaroni and cheese boxes, the cake mixes, and basically all the isles in the center of the store. That's where all the canned goods (Ugh!), high fat boxed foods and frozen goodies are. As you read this, think about the layout of the average supermarket. First you encounter all the fresh fruits and vegetables. The spring produce is starting to come in, so there will be a larger variety to choose from. The asparagus is tender, melons are getting to be reasonably priced and there's lots more colors, textures and types of produce from which to choose.

Next comes the deli department. See the case with all the fresh fish? There's a good place to stop next. You may not be able to afford lobster, but most markets have at least one or two of their fish offerings on sale each week. If it says "previously frozen" on the price indicator, this means you need to plan to eat the fish in the next day or two. Trying to freeze it again just won't work. No, the cheesecake in the prepared food area of the deli department does not count as fresh produce!

While you're at the deli department,

Rose Mary Denman



take note that many of your favorite sandwich meats and cheeses now come in low fat versions. You might want to consider one of these as you take sandwiches to work or school.

Next comes the meat department. If you eat meat, try sticking to chicken or turkey products . . . and when you cook them, do take off the skin if keeping fat totals down is an issue for you. Baking, broiling, steaming or cooking in broth are all low fat ways of preparing fish and meat products.

Now comes the dairy case. Again, think low fat as you stock up on milk, yogurt and cheese. As far as eggs go, the low fat egg substitutes are a good way to cut fat and cholesterol.

The baked goods department comes last. Why not try the thin slices breads? However, do remember, bread and pasta aren't the culprits, it's what we put on them that does them in. No use having thin sliced bread if you're going to slather them with peanut butter and marshmallow fluff! And have you noticed that even cakes and cookies come in "no fat" versions. Of course, you still can't eat the whole cake at one sitting, but a thin slice won't hurt.

Honest, if you can keep 90% or more of your food shopping on the edges of the store, you will be going a long way toward a healthier, leaner eating pattern.

Many health oriented books are also suggesting that we consider one juice fast day each week. This has four benefits: it

See CHEW, page 23

Time Out! for the birds

By Michael Rossetti

Along the eastern seaboard, the flocks of geese and other birds are returning to their summer homes. The marsh areas of the coast or both stop-over and nesting areas for those journeys, where huge numbers of birds set up house, often undetected as the marsh grasses begin to spring back from the press of winter snow. Many of these areas are sanctuaries, and some are managed to allow for human visitors and education.

The biggest concern when exploring the plain-like expanse of tidal marshes, at least from the birds point of view, is not to disturb nesting areas. Nesting birds can often be quite nasty anyway, but some will feign injury to distract your attention from their nest. The primary rule is to simply move away from such areas and use binoculars to check out your feathered friends.

From your point of view, as to why hunt something you won't shoot except with a camera, is to learn about the nesting, feeding and social habits of the planets aerial cultures. It should be noted that marshlands supply much of the basic first links to the food chain from which the ocean life of the world lives. Although watching some species can be surprisingly interesting and often beautiful, what you learn about helping other species survive in a world clearly under assault from humankind could help maintain their place in nature's balance and thereby preserve delicate natural areas.

An excellent learning center for tidal and marsh life education is the Laudholm Farm, Wells Reserve, just off the intersection of Rt. 9 and Rt. 1 in Wells. It's very easy to get to, and open seven days a week 'til 5 pm. It has a marvelous visitor center, See TIME, page 23

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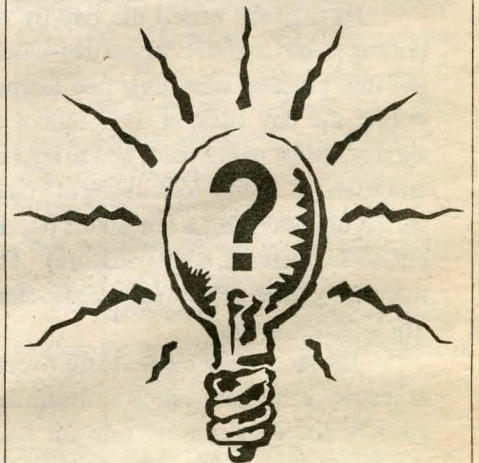
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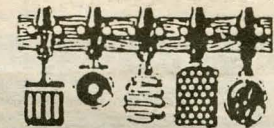


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Conference affirming safety for youth takes groundbreaking step on long journey

By Richard Steinman, Guest Reporter

Several unique features caught my attention at the all-day conference "affirming the place for gay, lesbian, bisexual" and transgendered youth, which took place at the Spare Time Center in Lewiston, April 12th. Its chief sponsors were two departments of Maine government, Education, and Human Services. Schools and social agencies from throughout Maine had to apply to participate. Seven succeeded, five were turned away.

Participants ended the day by reporting to the Conference how they would put into practice what they had learned during the day back at their school or agency. Most participants had to sign up and attend in "teams" consisting of youth, (in the majority) and a few adults (teachers, social workers, administrators). The majority of those present appeared to identify as heterosexual.

The latter point relates to the overall objective of the Conference: to insure that schools and agencies are safe for ALL young people. With this in mind, the

Conference addressed itself not only to sexually diverse youth, but to representatives of those who either endanger them or abdicate from protecting their safety. Hence the Conference's heterosexual majority.

Judging by audience reaction, the three highlights of the day included the keynote address by Diane Elze, sexually diverse youth reporting on their experiences in high schools, and the report by Assistant Attorney General, Steve Wessler, on implementation of Maine's Hate Crimes Law.

Protecting Minority Youth by Means of the Hate Crimes Law

Wessler gave a lecture on this new legislation. Judging by the discussion which followed, his comments were clear to the youth in the audience as well as the adults.

He explained that even though Maine does not yet have anti-discrimination protection for gays in the Human Rights Act, the Hate Crimes Law expressly forbids targeting gays, among other minorities.

The discussion period which followed his speech was quite vigorous, and a good proportion of the questioners were youths, themselves. Wessler assured the audience that his office had the authority to conduct investigations in schools if a hate crime reputedly took place there. He also led the audience through an exacting discussion of the challenge of distinguishing hate speech from constitutionally-protected free speech.

Nurturing the Spirit, Saving Lives

Diane Elze deplored "the most deadly of all possible sins: the mutilation of a child's spirit" (E. Erickson). She dramatized how far we've come by reminding us of several milestones including the 1079 murder of a gay man by three Bangor high school boys, the Tolerance Day controversy at the high school in Madison, Maine, Maranacook High School standing up to the Christian Civic League in 1990, and Mt. Ararat High School's inclusion of sexual orientation in their policies. She stressed that we need to celebrate each other's victories as well as learn from the defeats.

Elze urged adults to give up directing, and instead, to "Listen to those who have experienced the oppression, the kids who know what they need." This is analogous to whites no longer being in charge of the fight against racism. However, Elze and Karen Harbeck, another Conference speaker, stressed the importance of having adults, including straight adults, as allies, just as white allies have been helpful in the

civil rights struggle, but who are no longer calling the shots.

Insurrection Against Dominant Belief Systems

Elze stressed that those in power have immense influence over what we are taught. If the powerful benefit from dismissing the lives of people who are "different," then they propagate belief systems which discount us, or worse. In reaction, we "must recognize an insurrection against it." (Foucault) Elze urged the importance of telling each other our stories because it is the "lived experience" which validates us, rather than the dominant beliefs. The coming-out of gay-lesbian-bi-TG youth is part of that insurrection. Their open presence destroys belief systems such as, "There are no such kids in OUR school" or, "They're just going through a phase" or "They're too young to know about" what their sexual orientation is.

In addition Elze said, "Telling stories to each other helps us figure out what to do." We profit from each other's experience.

Adults' Fears Deprive Youth

While understanding that adults may be targeted for advocating for gay youth, Elze deplored the loss to young people when adult role models are hidden from them. The fears of gay-lesbian teachers are understandable, given the hysteria over "corrupting" youth. However, when adults remain closeted, it seriously deprives youths. It hinders the development of their self-belief and positive identity. Instead, according to Harbeck, gay adults must share with kids the pain they, too, have lived through. In that way, the young people have living proof that gay adults have survived that pain, and succeeded in life as well.

Associated problems surround those non-gay teachers who, out of fear of being targeted, do not reveal their gay-positive attitudes to gay youth, or do so only in secret. Instead they hide behind such phrases as "I don't have the skills to work with those kids." Elze urges such teachers not to be afraid of pain and discomfort. It's part of growth.

Young People's Stories

The entire audience seemed riveted by the stories of a panel of young people, coordinated by James Light and Kathy Kidman, advisors of Outright/Portland.

The panelists included gay men, a bisexual woman, a transgendered person, a gay-positive heterosexual young woman, and a young adult gay black man from the deep south.

The themes that emerged from the experience of their lives to date may be summed up as follows:

See YOUTH, page 20

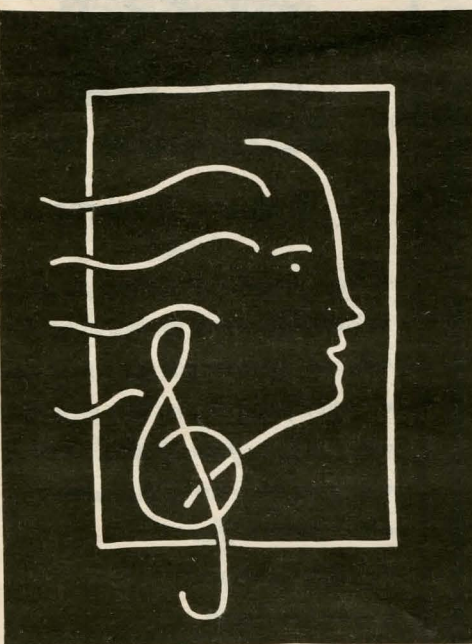


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WOMEN IN HARMONY "SOMETHING ABOUT THE WOMEN"

Concert Information

Place: IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
156 High Street
Portland, ME 04101

Date: Saturday, May 21, 1994

Time: 8 p.m.

Ticket Price: Advance \$10.00
Seniors and Students with ID's \$6.00
at the Door \$12.00

Ticket Outlets: AMADEUS MUSIC
DROP ME A LINE

Handicapped accessible • Signed for the hearing impaired

Questions: Call Sharon at 774-4940 after 4 p.m.

OUT! OF TOWN

Someone recently approached me at the Underground and wanted to know where I got all of my information on travel. After the shock wore off that someone was actually reading my column, I decided that the answer might make a good column.

Any good travel agent will get his/her information from a number of sources. One of the best ways is to actually visit the area in question. Firsthand knowledge is the best and most reliable. But there are limitations. I, as a travel agent, can't possibly visit each and every possible destination in the world, or take every cruise, or fly every airline. But I can gather reasonably accurate information from other sources - from trade magazines to guide books to other clients. This holds true for all travellers, not just gays and lesbians.

I spend a lot of time (mostly when I get into bed) reading trade magazines. Despite the fact that I receive at least one to two magazines a day, I try to keep abreast of what's happening and where. These give me ideas as to what is being offered in various destinations around the world. It also tells me about special prices or events. After a client returns from a trip, I like to call to ask them about their trip, things they liked or disliked. I use this information to help plan for other clients.

Where can you, the gay/lesbian traveller, get information for your trips? Well, don't be afraid to ask your travel agent. He/she should be able to answer your questions, or at least refer you to someone who can.

There are also numerous publications available to the gay/lesbian traveller

Paul T. Bernard



to help. Probably the most well-known publication is the **DAMRON ADDRESS BOOK**, now in its 31st year of publication. It contains addresses and phone numbers for most gay bars, restaurants, hotels, travel agencies, bookstores, hotlines, etc. covering all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. The cost is quite reasonable, \$13.95, and the book is designed to be easily carried when travelling. I never leave town without it! This book will even tell you where the cruisy areas are in each city.

The only drawback to this publication and others like it, is that the information contained in it changes quickly. The book that you buy now was actually compiled and printed last May. So sometimes specific information can be wrong. Another drawback is that these type of books are advertiser-driven. If a business doesn't advertise, then they sometimes get lost in the "listing." This means that there is not much objectivity to what is listed.

In addition to the **DAMRON ADDRESS BOOK**, you will find **FERRARI'S PLACES FOR MEN** (\$13.95), and **FERRARI'S PLACES FOR WOMEN** (\$12). The two guides contain considerably less information on domestic locations, but considerably more on international locations. Ferrari Publications also produces **FERRARI'S**. See TOWN, page 23

NACHAS!

By Rita M. Kissen

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

Something happened last month that may help make the world, or at least our part of it, a little safer for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth. Over 100 students, teachers and social service providers gathered at a conference sponsored by the Department of Education, the Department of Health, P-FLAG, MLGPA, and ten other agencies and organizations. "Safe Schools and Agencies for All: A Conference Affirming the Place of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth" brought together representatives from seven schools and two agencies to explore ways of confronting homophobia and ending violence against sexual minority youth.

"Safe Schools for All" was the brainchild of social workers, education professionals, and HIV educators responding to appeals from lesbian and gay youth and school personnel disturbed by the level of homophobic violence and the urgent need for sexuality education. From a rousing keynote pep-talk by Diane Elze (on loan from her current life in Ohio), to a stirring luncheon address by Assistant Attorney General Steve Wessler, the conference simultaneously inspired and informed.

The highlight of the day was a panel of

lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth from Outright, who were joined by a heterosexual student ally and a gay student teacher from Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School in Massachusetts. All the students spoke powerfully, but the voice that stood out for me belonged to Holly, a 15-year old lesbian who described her experiences as a transgendered person at Portland High School. I first heard Holly speak about a year ago at an Outright panel at the Matlovich Society. Back then she was so shy she could barely be heard. This time, there was no hesitation as Holly described the day-to-day horrors of trying to survive in high school. Going to school meant not using the bathroom all day long because she did not feel safe in the girls' room, and of course she couldn't use the boys' room. Going to school meant seeing students point at her and hearing them jeer, "There's that thing." With dignity and courage, Holly declared to us, "I'm not a thing. I'm a human being."

Other sessions were facilitated by Karen Harbeck, an attorney and professor who specializes in legal issues involving gay teachers, and Al Ferreira, founder and director of Project Ten East at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School. Karen reminded us that though none of us looks forward to the litigation process, the mere threat of litigation may often force schools to pay attention to the needs of gay and lesbian teachers and students. See NACHAS!, page 15

SOMETHING new is happening to gay nightlife in Portland, Maine

KÄOS

opening this Friday, May 6 • 9:00 p.m. - 3 a.m.

It's time to come above ground!

OPEN Thurs & Sun 9 - 1
Fri & Sat 9 - 3

137 Kennebec Street • Portland, Maine
(207) 774-2242

DIRECTIONS: Rte. 295, Exit 7 - Franklin St., take right onto Marginal Way. Next light take a left onto Preble St. After railroad tracks, take a right - KAOS is on right.

GOOD COOKIN'
KATAHDIN

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US

April 8th marked #3

Thanks for your support!

Dan & Gretchen

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

CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1994

Friday, May 6th:

• **7:30 PM** - Raffles Friday Night Presents: Curt Bessette, singer songwriter. 555 Congress St. Cover is \$4-\$7. BYOB. FMI, 774-8911 - Steve Gerlach or 761-3930 - Raffles.

ΔΔ **9:00 PM** - Opening night of KAOS, new gay, lesbian, bi, trans. club. 137 Kennebec St., Portland.

Saturday, May 7th:

ΔΔ Float making party for Stonewall 25/ Maine Pride '94. All day, outdoor event in Auburn. Puppet/banner/flag making materials needed. All welcome: FMI, 871-9940, 795-6219.

Sunday, May 8th:

ΔΔ Time Out Bird Watcher's Mother's Day Breakfast, Gilsland Farm, Falmouth. Early birds should call 871-9940.

ΔΔ **12:noon - 4:00 PM** - UU Church, State St., Portsmouth, NH, Stonewall 25 ME/NH/Vt committees meet for peacekeeper orientation, march planning, and updates. Pot-luck after. Rides available: 207-871-9940 or 603-382-9308. All welcome.

ΔΔ **8:00 PM** - The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland: Pride '94 Party. Stonewall 25 and Gay Games booth, and other specials. Also, Portland Pride slide/archives exhibit. FMI, 772-REAL.

Monday, May 9th:

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland, EPM/Portland general meeting.

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - Seacoast Gay Men, So. UU Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. David Martin will discuss Boston Area Naturist Group. FMI, Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

• **Δ7:00 PM** - PRVTC, Room #250. Human Sexuality & Family Living Advisory Board Meeting to discuss recent survey returns and recommendations on condom availability in Portland High Schools.

ΔΔ **Time & place not provided** - Portland Pride '94/ Stonewall 25 meeting to review and update for June 18th festival. Volunteers needed. FMI, 772-REAL.

Thursday, May 12th:

ΔΔ **7:30 PM** - Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, celebrates its Third Anniversary. David Webb of KLANWATCH (Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama) will be discussing "Hate Groups and Hate Crimes in America: Gays and Lesbians under Attack." Gay activist Crae Pridgen who was attacked by Marines outside a gay bar in Wilmington NC last year will be here. Accessible to mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

Friday, May 13th:

• **7:30 PM** - Raffles Friday Night Presents: Bill Street and Janet Reeves, local jazz legends and USM professors. 555 Congress St. Cover is \$4-\$7. BYOB. FMI, 774-8911 - Steve Gerlach or 761-3930 - Raffles.

Saturday, May 14th:

ΔΔ **Maine State Parade in Lewiston** - "Color Me a Rainbow" contingent sought from the bisexual, transgender, gay, and lesbian community to march, carry banners, rainbow flags, etc. Don't miss this one! FMI, 871-9940 or 795-6219.

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - **Midnight-Seacoast Pride Benefit Party.** Two stepping with Peter Welch, door prizes, refreshments, and a DJ. \$5 admission, more if you can, less if you can't. Proceeds benefit Seacoast Outright, PFLAG, and people with HIV who want to attend Stonewall 25. The Connie Bean Community Center, Daniel St. Portsmouth. FMI-207/439-7085 or 603/433-5987.

Sunday, May 15th:

ΔΔ **4:00 - 9:00 PM** - Birthday/Fundraiser/ Open House celebrating the founding of CPR and the 50th birthday of CPR founder,

Winnie Weir, at SISTERS, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Everyone welcome!

ΔΔ Biking trip in Camden sponsored by TIME OUT! An afternoon, intermediate level loop. FMI, 871-9940.

• **7:00 PM** - First Parish Church, Congress St., Portland. Benefit Concert of acoustic music presented by Kate Schrock & Jo Carpenito appearing with The Boneheads (*Unplugged*) Paul French, and Dan Merrill. Proceeds to Day One for Youth and Families (substance abuse prevention and treatment. Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.

Monday, May 16th:

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - 50 Morning St., Portland, EPM/Portland's Coalition Building Committee meeting.

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - Seacoast Gay Men, So. UU Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. Dick B. Knudson & Bill Gilbert, directors of unique travel club, Gay 'n Gray Partners in Travel, to present illustrated lecture on gay travel in Canada. FMI, Al Santerre, (603) 898-1115.

Tuesday, May 17th:

• **7:00-9:00 AM** - Bike to Work Day Rally. Pancake Breakfast at 7:00 am, rally and speakers follow. FMI, 871-9299.

Wednesday, May 18th:

ΔΔ **Time & place not provided** - Portland Pride '94/ Stonewall 25 meeting to review June 18th Festival plans and June 5th Peacekeepers training. Volunteers desperately needed, please call 772-REAL.

Thursday, May 19th:

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - 510 Cumberland Ave. (PROP offices) EPM/Portland's fundraising committee meets.

Saturday, May 21st:

ΔΔ **10:00 PM** - Charles Street Playhouse, Boston. Stonewall 25 Late Night Comedy Show featuring 3 Boston comics. To benefit ME/VT/NH/MA Stonewall 25 Committees. FMI: 207/871-9940 or 603/

382-9308.

Friday, May 20th:

• **7:30 PM** - Raffles Friday Nights Presents: Michael Danahy's CD release party - progressive folk rock. 555 Congress St., Portland. Cover is \$4-\$7. BYOB. FMI, 774-8911 - Steve Gerlach, or 761-3930 - Raffles.

Saturday, May 21st:

ΔΔ **10:00 AM** - BIC (Building Inclusive Community) meeting at Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston. FMI, 795-6219.

• **12:00 noon** - Book signing & readings by Joan Steinau Lester, author of *The Future of White Men and Other Diversity Dilemmas* at Bookland, Plaza Mall.

ΔΔ **5:30 - 7:00 PM** - UMaine Augusta Library, Gubernatorial Candidates' Reception. \$25 donation per person. Meet the candidates face to face! Ask your questions personally!

ΔΔ **7:00 - 9:00 PM** - Jewett Hall, UMaine, Augusta, Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum. Free Admission. FMI, call 621-2924 or 761-3732.

Sunday, May 22nd:

ΔΔ Evans Notch hike of Blue Berry Ridge. Moderate day hike with exposed summit views. Sponsored by TIME OUT! FMI, 871-9940.

Monday, May 23rd:

ΔΔ **7:00 PM** - Seacoast Gay Men, UU Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. John and Marylou Baumhoff discuss the new interest in Spiritualism in the age of AIDS, and the Church of Spiritual Life. FMI, Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Thursday, May 26th:

ΔΔ **7:30 PM** - The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by The Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wayne Bryant, film historian from Boston, leads a discussion on "Sexual Minorities on Film." Accessible to mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

Friday, May 27th:

• **7:30 PM** - Raffles Friday Nights Presents: Southern Maine Sax Quartet - Jazz and light

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

classical. These folks played the inauguration! Cover is \$4-\$7. BYOB. FMI call 774-8911 - Steve Gerlach, or 761-3930 - Raffles.

Saturday, May 28th:

ΔΔ Mt. Champlain hike with TIME OUT! Near Bar Harbor, this is a beginner level day hike, but with some steep cliff areas. For details, call before Thursday, May 27th, 871-9940.

Sunday, May 29th:

ΔΔ TIME OUT! visits Acadia National Park for a day of biking carriage paths. Bicycle rentals available in Bar Harbor or bring a mountain or wider tire type bike. Only for intermediate level. All day exploring. Call before Thursday, May 27th, 871-9940.

JUNE PREVIEW

Thursday thru Sunday, June 2nd-5th:

ΔΔ Maine-ly For You Womyn's Music Festival, held at a private campground on a pristine lake in Western Maine. See ad in this issue for more information.

ΔΔ Springfest '94 Womyn's Music Festival, held at an 80 acre AAA Campground along the scenic coast of Maine in Lincolnville. See ad in this issue for more information.

Sunday, June 5th:

ΔΔ 2:00-4:00 PM - Equal Protection Maine/Bangor Chapter meeting. Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, EPM, POB 963, Bangor, ME 04402.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

HOUSE TO SHARE

ΔΔ **Reduced rent:** Male, 2 cats and lilacs have Portland home in wooded area, 4 miles from city center. Three bedrooms, garaged parking, separate phone line, woodstove. Willing to exchange your help with household & property upkeep for reduced rent. Call 797-8488. ΔΔ

PERSONALS

ΔΔ G/F, 47, looking for her May Flower. Seeks fem. woman, 40-54 who is discrete, fun-loving, likes to dance, and wants the better things out of life. Reply Advertiser #2186 c/o this paper. ΔΔ

ΔΔ GAY MAN, 44 looking for apprenticeship on MOFGA Farm. Reply, Advertiser #1506, care of this paper. ΔΔ

TRAVEL/VACATION

ΔΔ LESBIAN PARADISE! 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long

Thursday, June 9th:

ΔΔ 7:30 PM - The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Panel discussion on "Substance Use and Abuse in the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Community." Accessible to mobility impaired; free hotel parking.

Friday, June 10th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Building Inclusive Community (BIC) presentation at UU Church, Pleasant St., Auburn. Howard Solomon, Professor of Lesbian & Gay History, co-chair University Task Force on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Issues, Tufts University, co-chair The Matlovich Society, discusses "Our Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Lives: Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?"

ΔΔ Freedom Fest Maine is sponsoring a round trip bus to the Stonewall 25 International March on the UN. The bus leaves Bangor on June 25th, returning June 27th. Cost is \$45. For bus registration form and housing/event information, please contact Malcolm Smith at 866-4320 or write him at POB 624, Orono, ME 04473. First come, first served. A deposit is required by May 15th

ΔΔ Freedom Trail Marching Band rehearses on Tuesday, May 10, 17, 24, 31 at 7:00PM in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for Pride Marches and summer events. No audition required. Open to all lesbigay community. For information, directions, rain location, call Diane: 617/926-9730 or Alec: 617/624-5449.

and mid-week discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

CAMP FOR RENT

ΔΔ CENTRAL MAINE: Very secluded and primitive camp. Long way in. Furnished, fire wood and porch. Facilities can be made available. Beautiful surroundings, lots of wildlife. Ideal get-away. Trout stream nearby. \$125 per week. 924-3679. ΔΔ

FOR SALE

ΔΔ Large, 3'4" x 6' surface, wooden office desk. Great condition. Six side drawers plus file drawer. Large center drawer. Excellent layout or design top. \$150 or best offer. Call 879-1342. Leave message. ΔΔ

INFORMATION, PLEASE

ΔΔ Am looking for information on feminist/lesbian communes or communal living arrangements in the U.S. If you can help me out, please call Cindy at 934-5832.

CPR Personals

by MANFINDER

HOT GUYS ARE WAITING...

MAINE

ME **CENTRAL STATE:** 23 yr old married guy seeks discreet friends for a little adventure. #26412

ME **SOUTHERN COAST:** 5'8", 165, 30. Into guys who like a really good time. Let's get it together. #24573

ME **HAIR HERE:** 30 year old GWM, 5'10", 190 with long black hair, beard and a stache. I am hairy and into camping, hiking and hanging out. #19203

ME **CENTRAL STATE:** Definite tp is hoping to hear from you soon. #19212

Maine **SHOW ME THE WAY:** New to the scene ad interested in a man in his early 30's. I am good looking and in good shape. Help me explore. #16925

Maine **SOUL CONNECTION:** 27 year old is into theater and bicycling in the outdoors. Quiet guy likes to have fun. #13122

Caribou Area **NORTHERN EXPOSURE:** Northern Maine: looking to meet local guys. Let's keep warm. #9254

Maine **OUT OF THE LOOP:** 29 YO, 175, brn/blue. Seeking 18-24 interested in music and sports. I have been out for 4 yrs. #4754

Maine **SOFTER SIDE:** 5'7, brw curly hair, fem. looks, but masc. acting, please be discreet when calling. #1467

Maine **FIRST TIME CALLER:** 23 y/o, gwm, 6'1, 180lbs, great shape, brw hair, hazel eyes, enjoy camping, hiking, movies, bowling, music, enjoy partying occasionally. #4311

Maine **OUR LITTLE SECRET:** 22 y/o, 5'10, 160lbs, atrac., seeks discreet meeting #5092

NEW HAMPSHIRE

603 Area Code **UPPER VALLEY:** 25 yr old seeks guys, 18-26, for hot times. #25438

NH **LIKE A VIRGIN:** 31 yr old exercise nut, 5'9", good-looking. I am a virgin and seeking a discreet guy to bring me along. I like to give. #26076NH **SOUTHEAST:** 24 year old is looking to relieve a little stress. #18501

DOWNHILL RACER: I love dining out and downhill skiing. I am 6'1" with sandy blonde hair and a smooth bdy. 25 years old. #12281

Manchester **MANCHESTER:** 39 y/o, brw hair, hazel eyes, 175lbs, musclr build, seeking guy 21-35 for poss. rel., enjoy skiing, cooking & quiet times. #1665

CLEAN CUT: 25 y/o, gwm, goodlkg, desires good times with fit guys. (no fats/fems please). #5900

INSTRUCTIONS:

To Place Your FREE Printed Ad With VoiceMail, Call 1-800-546-MENN

To Respond or Browse Personals CALL THE 900 # SHOWN, THEN:

- PRESS: 1. Free Personal Ad With Voice Mailbox.
- PRESS: 2. Hear Latest Personals Sorted By Area Code
- PRESS: 3. Respond To A Specific Printed Ad Shown Here.
- PRESS: 4. Instructions & Tips To Talk LIVE!
- PRESS: 0. To Pick Up Messages In Your Mailboxes.

For Customer Service Assistance: 415-281-3183, 24 Hrs.

Central New Hampshire, **NATIVE, TEXAN,** 6'2, 245lbs, short brw hair, clean shaven, new to area, lookin for chat, new friends #3842

Boston **DO IT ALL:** GWM, 26, 5'6", 140, brn hair. Seeking a WM, 18-30. Portuguese/Italian A+. Friends and maybe more. #23928

Boston **SEEKING SHE-MALES:** This top will show you a good time. I am blk and well-built. #24160

MA **PUT ON YOUR TOP HAT:** 5'7", blonde and blue total btm seeks a good timin' top. #24188

Boston **URSA MAJOR:** 25 yr old, 5'8", 210 seeks other bears of any race for fun, hot times. I do it all. #24189

MA **TEA PARTY:** 19 yr old 6', 175, brn/brn. Seeking guys, 18-25 for friendship and maybe more. #24431

Boston **HOW DO YOU RATE?:** 23 yr old, 5'7", blonde and blue. I am an 8. Btm seeks a dom tp. Guys 18-30, please call. #24473

Boston **YOUNGER MAN:** 28 yr old seeks WMs, 30-50, built guys call for safe fun. #25120

Springfield **BOILING POINT:** GWM, 24, seeks tp men for ht and tender times. #24491

Boston **JOCK:** Handsome, clean cut jock. Athletic free-spirit seeks a similar guy who knows the secret of friendship. #230

Boston **APPRENTICE** 1 cut inexperienced guy see 'M, 18-25. Redhead A+. Let's earn together. #23030

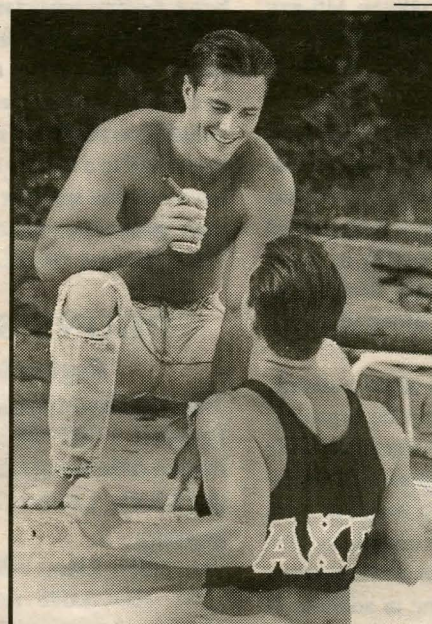
Boston **BOYISH:** Yng looking 34 yr old, brn/hzl and boyishly cute. I have many interests and seeks a masc/aggressive man. #23056

Quincy **DAYTIME FUN:** Top guy is new from San Diego and wants to meet guys in this area. #23085

Boston **BLOWIN' IN THE WIND:** 30 yr old WM, Bi-guy seeks some hot and discreet times. Call me at home. Race is open. Long hair is a turn on. #23537

Boston **FURRY CHEST:** I am into workouts, the gym and travel. I am looking for guys 20-35 who are wholesome and cuddly. #17818

Boston **LIFE IS FOR LIVING:** I love the beach, exercising, music and meeting new people. Call me. #18733



YOU CAN RESPOND TO AN AD BY CALLING:

1-900-884-GAYS

TOUCH-TONE REQUIRED. \$1.99/MIN. OVER 18 ONLY. MFI: 415-281-3183

Merimack, **GOOD WITH MY HANDS:** 34, 6'2, 175lbs, brw hair/eyes, good built, into outdoors, animals, working on things, poke around antique shops, interested? #7280

26, 5'10, 140lbs, goodlkg, brw hair, swimmer's build, enjoy music, beaches, movies, cuddling, friends, seekin sincere guy my age. #4194

Manchester, **SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL:** 23, GWM, 6'1", 168, Brn hair, eyes. Seeking someone about the same. #2777

DADDY DEAREST: bttm boy for daddy sought, #3586

Maldin, **SERVES HIM RIGHT:** WM, seeks BM (N2 bn servcd.) #5252

MELLOW: 32, 5'10, 140lbs, blue eyes, thinning hair, enjoy all musics, stock car racing, seeking guy up to 33. #4351

COLLEGE GUY? need help? finances low? #3301

Manchester Mid-thirties, **INTO WEIGHT-LIFTING.** Call for home #. #1070

Manchester **WRITE ME:** 22 yr old, 6'1, 160lbs, seeks pen friend. #2634

New Hampshire **ALL TIED UP:** 40, 6'1, good shape, tp, seeks like-minded to show me the ropes. #3551

MASSACHUSETTS

MA **32 YR OLD:** seeking a man to get to know. I am new. #25396

MA **MY LATEST TEDDY:** 35 yr old, 5'10", 170. I like to wear sexy lingerie and talk on the phone. #26165

Hyannis Port **PURITAN:** 35 yr old, quiet romantic seeks a relationship based on old-fashioned morals. #26319

Winchendon **TOUCHDOWN:** Cute 24 yr old, 6'1", 175. Football player's build. Seeking guys for friends and fun. #23726

Women Seeking Women?

FEMALE ONLY PERSONALS

There's no charge to leave a greeting:

1-800-326-MEET

To pick-up your private responses or browse:

1-900-884-4297

ADULTS ONLY. MUST BE 18+. C/S 415-281-3183. STILL ONLY \$1.99/min.

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GENERAL

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

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Meetings are 2nd Tuesday of every month at Pride's Corner Church, Westbrook. For resource and meeting information call Rita at 766-5158.

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at Lions Community Ctr., High St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The Phoneline in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/498-2088.

The Matlovich Society is 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. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 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, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm at the Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030.

Out and About is a nonprofit, lesbian (over 18) support and educational group. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. Meets Mondays at 7:00 pm. FMI, call 603/659-2139 or write POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0332.

Lesbian ACOA Meeting, Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm at 7 Middle St., Brunswick (behind the UU Church by the Public Library. FMI, call Jo, 725-5103.

MUSIC

Women In Harmony is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME. 04112, or call 772-0013. **Maine Gay Men's Chorus** is a 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 and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

A new Women's Jazz Ensemble aims to bring women musicians together to sharpen sight reading skills and explore improvisational, compositional and arranging abilities in a non-competitive, nurturing environment. A little knowledge of music, and willingness to commit to a weekly rehearsal schedule and have fun this summer are all you need. For more information write Kate Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

Portland:

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

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

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 2 Monument Sq., 5th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: see Waldoboro

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

*Portland: 766-5158

Waldoboro: 832-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603/623-6023

Plymouth: 603/968-7516

Nashua: 603/880-8709

Manchester: 603/472-4944

Monadnock: 603/547-2545

Hanover: 603/643-8331

Concord: 603/746-3818

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

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

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

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

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Streets., FMI call 603/880-0910.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in-clinic. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8784.

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

Identity Support

Out For Good: Meets Thursdays 7-9 pm, 445 Main St., Biddeford. Lesbian support/discussion group. Free or \$1 donation to help w/rent. FMI write P.O. Box 727, Biddeford, 04005.

Dignity, Etc.: Meets third Sunday at 5:15 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), Portland. All are welcome. Fellowship & potluck supper follow 5:15 pm service. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI, write P.O. Box 8113, Portland 04104.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 622-1888 or 622-4254.

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, providing confidential support, education and social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04101.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for survivors of childhood abuse and/or sexual assault meets every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, safe,

facilitated. For more information and location call 874-6593.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm in all a positive nature of bisexuality and work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referrals available. FMI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME. 04104.

Wilde-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

Lesbian/Bisexual support group: Meets every Tuesday at UM Orono. FMI call 581-1425.

Am Chofshi: A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call Rheatha at 874-2970.

Seacoast Gay Men: Meets Mondays at 7 pm at the South Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth NH. Support, guest speakers, parties, events. FMI call 603/898-1115 or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets every Monday at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring Street in Auburn.

Building an Inclusive Community: Meets to explore ways of building an inclusive and safe community, offering support, activities and education at Andi. Valley AIDS Coalition, 4 Lafayette Street, Lewiston. Call for times at 795-6219.

Parents

Partners of Parents: A group to support gays and lesbians who have partners with children. An informal discussion group addressing issues and situations unique to the non-traditional blended family. Meets every 3rd Monday from 7 to 9 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. FMI call 774-5032.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: For parents who are gay, lesbian or bisexual in the Augusta area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, Me 04332-0013.

Youth Support

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 and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

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

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

RESOURCES, cont.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

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

Tuesdays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focuses on quality of life and empowerment for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Thursdays: Women Living with HIV meets from 1:15-2:45 pm. Men Living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

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

Auburn: Thursdays: People Living with HIV meets at 7 pm at American Red Cross, 70 Court St., Auburn. Call Claire Gelinas at Andi Valley AIDS Coalition at 786-4697.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call Brian at 725-4955.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind Kennebec Valley Regional Health Agency Annex. Call Brian Allen at MASS at 725-4955.

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

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

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

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: P.O. Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0421. Call 563-8953.

AIDS Lodging House: P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, Call 874-1000.

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 786-4697.

Children's AIDS Network: P.O. Box 793, Portland, ME 04104. Call 761-1872.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: P.O. Box 457 Rumford, ME 04276. Call 823-4170.

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6608.

Dayspring: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3432.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box

2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.
Merrymeeting AIDS Support Serv.: P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 4319, Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-2198.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: P.O. Box 113, Paris, ME 04271-0113. Call 743-7451.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME: 377 Cumberland Ave., Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: c/o NMMC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.

The AIDS Project: 22 Monument Sq., 5th flr., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.

Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

NACHAS!, from page 11

dents. She also recalled the dramatic Massachusetts hearings at which lesbian and gay students testified publicly about the abuses they faced in school. Karen herself is about to become a member of Gov. Weld's Commission on the Status of Lesbian and Gay Youth, an official governmental committee formed after those hearings.

Project Ten East grew out of a tragedy that occurred ten years ago, when Al Ferreira

learned that one of his students had committed suicide. The young man seemed to have it all: good grades, a girlfriend, and a bright future. Only after his death did his teachers learn that he had been questioning his sexuality, and was afraid that if his mother, who was ill, found out he was gay, "the news would kill her." So he killed himself instead.

For Al, the young man's suicide was a turning point. Project Ten East (named after Virginia Uribe's Project Ten at Fairfax High School in Los Angeles) began as a safe place for gay students but has developed into an alliance of gay and straight youth who work on ending homophobia in the school.

At the end of the conference day, school and agency teams met to strategize, and each group shared their immediate and long range plans with the rest of us. From interrupting homophobic remarks in the hallways to laying the groundwork for a Governor's Commission on Lesbian and Gay Youth in Maine (watch for more on this in the future), it was clear that everyone had been moved to take the next step.

"Safe Schools and Agencies" was only a beginning. Because of limited space and funding, the conference had to turn away a number of individuals and groups who wanted to attend. We need more conferences and more forums to address the needs of lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgendered youth, whose voices have been silenced for too long. It is up to us, the adults who care about them, to make sure those voices are heard by everyone in Maine. $\Delta\Delta$

Portland Pride Update

Celebrate community and visibility.

Pride weekend starts off with a rally at Portland City Hall Plaza, 7 pm on Friday, June 17. A Stonewall 25 - Maine letter writing reception for Human Rights follows.

Opening ceremonies begin on Pine Street, near Longfellow Square, Saturday, June 18th with music and ribbon cutting. Dykes on Bikes, a balloon arch, and the Stonewall 25-Maine Float will lead off the Parade down Congress Street to the Old Port. The visual presentation will rely solely upon the expression of visibility of the participants. Pride members ask that posters not insinuate threats or dares to homophobes.

Portland Pride is requesting two things: to share the responsibilities of the Parade: at least one peacekeeper from every "group" to attend a June 5 orientation, and a registration fee of \$25 for all participating groups (a float registration is also required) due by June 4. Groups who cannot meet these requests should contact Portland Pride.

The Parade ends in Tommy's Park on Exchange Street for three hours of entertainment. Additional performers are still being sought, and there will be a vendors and information tables area available across the street in Old Post Office Park. Wild Iris Productions will be holding a women's craft fair at First Parish and there's a rumored appearance of Women In Harmony. Finishing the day, get your tickets from the State Theater Box office for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus that evening.

On Sunday, June 19, Time Out will be sponsoring a "bicycle brunch" ride, and Dignity/Integrity Services finish the weekend with services at St. Luke's, 143 State Street, at 5 pm.

Other Pride related happenings: May 7 Stonewall 25-Maine and BIC (Building Inclusive Community) will be building the Stonewall 25 (Maine Pride) float for Lewiston's State of Maine Parade on May 15. Volunteers to carry our float and run the Maine Pride table in Boston on June 11 are being sought. And for the International March in New York City to mark Stonewall 25 on Sunday, June 26, Pride is running one day, chem-free busses with pickup points in Bangor, Waterville, Augusta, Lewiston, Portland, Biddeford, and Wells. Information on Stonewall, Portland's Pride or Bangor's Pride can be had at 871-9940 or 866-4320. See you there. $\Delta\Delta$

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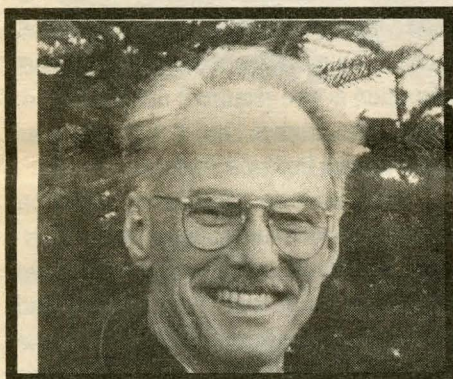
The Gubernatorial Primary: Does your candidate support you???

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

In an effort to find out where the candidates for governor stand on a number of issues of concern to gay people, Community Pride Reporter asked them the following questions:

1. Gay rights: When the gay rights bill is re-introduced will you sign it.
2. Domestic Partners: Do you support full legal equality for gay or lesbian relationships?
3. Adoption: Do you support the right of gay or lesbian people to adopt?
4. School curriculum: Do you support a diversity curriculum in public school that states that homosexuality is fully equal to heterosexuality?
5. The Christian Right: Do you support a denunciation of the Christian Right's tactics and goals?

DEMOCRATS: BOB WOODBURY



Bob Woodbury (D) said that he would not only sign a gay-rights bill he would introduce one because he believes that, post-Lewiston, such a bill needs gubernatorial assistance. Woodbury believes that once we establish fundamental rights issues of equity will follow. He supports such issues in principle and stated that it's not true that gay people's rights are already protected.

He answered "YES" to both domestic partners and adoption but thinks school curriculum is a local issue. He qualified that statement by saying that if he were a local school board member he would support a diversity curriculum. Concluding, he stated that he does see the Christian Right as very divisive and does not approve of their tactics.

TOM ALLEN

Dennis Bailey, Press Secretary to Tom Allen said that Allen would introduce a gay-rights bill and if it came from the legislature he'd sign it. Like Woodbury, Allen believes that it's going to take real

leadership from the top to get such a bill through and he referred to his being on the Portland City Council when EPP went through.

Allen is uncertain of his position on domestic partners and thinks the first priority is gay rights. As for adoption, he thinks that sexual orientation has no bearing on parenting skills. He sees school curriculum as a local issue. He opposes the scare tactics of the Christian Right and sees their use of fear-mongering as a means to further their own agenda. Press Secretary Bailey said, "They're not Christian and they're not right."

DICK BARRINGER



Barringer, like Woodbury and Allen would introduce a gay-rights bill as governor. He opposes Concerned Maine Families petition drive and has urged citizens of Maine not to sign it. Unlike Woodbury and Allen, Barringer does not duck the school curriculum issue but states that, "As Governor I will promote, through the State Department of Education, training in our schools to make sure that tolerance of diversity, especially in the high schools, becomes a quality of Maine education that we can all be proud of."

DONNELL CARROLL



Tony Donnelly, campaign manager, said that if elected, Carroll intends to introduce the gay rights bill. He supports full, legal equality for lesbian and gay relation-

ships, including the right to adopt. In the area of school curriculum Carroll endorses the teaching and awareness of all diversity, not simply homosexuality but for all ethnic groups. In commenting on the Christian right, Carroll said he condemns both sides for violent practices and opposes all inhumane tactics from any side.

JOE BRENNAN



Based on comments made at the MLGPA Banquet, Brennan would make the gay-rights bill a governor's bill. He had not responded to our other questions by press time.

INDEPENDENTS: ANGUS KING

Angus King announced at the MLGPA banquet that he would sign a gay rights bill if the legislature passed one.

JONATHAN CARTER (Green Party)



Carter supports the gay-rights bill. He sees lesbian relationships as fully equal and supports their right to adopt. He endorses the idea of education in the schools concerning the equality of homosexuality and heterosexuality. His Press Secretary, Nancy Allen said, "the tactics and goals of Concerned Maine Families are out of the mainstream of ordinary Maine people."

REPUBLICANS:

PAM CAHILL
Cahill opposes gay rights.

SUMNER LIPMAN



Lipman issued a fax through his Press Secretary, John Bott. Lipman states that he opposes discrimination based on "sexual preference." He said he supported the previous gay-rights bill even though he had reservations about the exceptions permitted under it. He supported the Hate Crimes Bill and fought to maintain the confidentiality of AIDS test results. He did not choose to answer our other questions directly and concluded by saying that before he signs a gay-rights bill he would have to read it.

SUSAN COLLINS

Collins stated that she would support a law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, credit and employment. She did not answer the other questions.

Judy Foss, Jasper Wyman, Paul Young and Charles Webster did not return our phone calls.

May 21st from 7-9 pm
Gubernatorial Candidates
Forum

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"GET OUT OR DIE, FAG!" Is it real or coincidence

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Alan Crocker's home was destroyed, first by the words of hate spray painted on the outside walls of his trailer, and finally, by fire. Thursday, April 28, 1994, a raging

fire completely engulfed his trailer. Initially, law enforcement thought the fire was merely the final blow in a long series of homophobic acts committed against this man. The State Fire Marshal's Office and Department of Public Safety spokesman, Stephen McCausland are now saying that the fire was electrical in origin and not a hate crime.

McCausland stated, over the phone

to me that the media had jumped to the conclusion that the fire was related to the anti-gay harassment. However, it was the authorities themselves who initially termed the fire "suspicious." McCausland himself said there may be a hate crime connection.

Reports that the Crocker home is isolated are misleading. The general area of Readfield is rural, and North Wayne Road is out of town, but Crocker lived in a neighborhood with a house right next door and one directly across the street. If there were raps on his windows, and words spray-painted on his walls, chances are the perpetrators didn't live too far away.

Town Clerk, Martha Gifford was helpful and sympathetic, and said I might find Crocker at the remains of his home. Gifford gave me careful directions, but Crocker was not there. Efforts to contact him have been unsuccessful. Tom



Photo by B. Balboni

Harriman, the Fire Marshal investigating this case, did not return my calls, nor did Steve Wessler of the Attorney General's Office, who is pursuing a possible hate crimes prosecution. Even if the fire really was accidental, Crocker has still been the victim of a hate crime.

Imagine coming home to death threats spray painted on your home. ΔΔ



Photo by B. Balboni

MUSIC ON REVIEW - LIVE CONCERT INDIGO GIRLS: ACHING WITH FREEDOM

By: Aimsel L. Ponti, Staff Reviewer

When the lights finally dimmed and Amy Ray and Emily Saliers took the stage, it was like seeing old friends. It's been a few years, so they gave us a nice hello by opening with "Galileo", a hit from their "Rites of Passage" album.

On Friday, May 10th, the duo's latest album will be released. It's called "Swamp Ophelia" and if you're ever down south, you may see plants called by the same name. This latest album, recorded in Nashville, contains eleven songs that Amy and Emily shared with the 4500 fans packed into UNH's Snively Arena Friday night. The audience was very receptive to the new material and was rewarded by Indigo classics, "Closer to Fine", "Kid Fears" and a few others, often with the fans taking over the vocals. The duo's relaxed, appreciative rapport with the crowd remained

intact.

The most captivating moments of the show were the new songs. Both Amy and Emily's songwriting has reached new levels of poetic and musical diversity. Amy's "Fugitive" looks at the difficulties of somehow blending love, work, and privacy. "I was aching with freedom, kissing the damned." Delivered with the intensity that both old and new fans savor, it makes for one great song.

Emily's "Least Complicated" ponders life patterns, and the way they are broken, or not broken, as well as life lessons, which are learned and not learned.

The most emotionally charged song of the evening was Amy's "This Train (Revised)". Based on an old gospel song, "This Train" was written after Amy visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. The lyrics take a chilling look at the experience of not only the Jews, but also that of homosexuals and gypsies. "At the museum, it's made very clear that although Jews were by far the main victims of the Holocaust, there were many others too," explains Ray. The last line of this song

says it all: "Here is potential, gone for good..."

Other new songs were offered to us Friday night, including "Reunion", "Wood Song", and "Language or the Kiss" to name a few. After performing "Chicken Man", a "Rites of Passage" track, the Girls returned to the stage with electric guitars in hand and blazed through Amy's "Touch me Fall", a moody, brilliant song that may make it to radio airwaves sometime soon, possibly on a hard rock station, can you believe that? The Indigo Girls already have a good thing going, yet they are not afraid to explore new sounds and ideas. By the way, on Emily's "Mystery" be listening for the voice of Jane Siberry. In fact, the entire album is chock full of guest musicians.

Amy and Emily have been playing together for years, having made their first recording on their own "Indigo" label way back in '85. With the up-coming release of "Swamp Ophelia", they continue on their journey through eleven beautiful, eclectic, well-crafted songs.

While you're at the record store pick-

ing it up, go to the "K" section as well. Barbara Kessler opened the show Friday night, and her song about Mary Tyler Moore is reason enough to buy her album.

Indigo Girls' last song of the night was Paul Simon's "American Tune", the same song they sang almost exactly one year ago at the March on Washington. The show was the best way one can preview a new album: live... Look for "Swamp Ophelia" in May and look for Amy and Emily this summer.

The duo referred to this 4 stop stint as the "experimental tour". But soon enough, once the album is released they'll be back on the bus y'all as they launch into a national tour, this time, getting back to basics, just Amy, Emily and a slew of guitars. "Multiply life by the power of two", a line from one of Emily's new songs, perhaps best sums up Indigo Girls' presence in music. ΔΔ

Gay/Lesbian Travel

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VIDEO ON REVIEW: Reflections in a Golden Eye

Directed by John Huston.
Starring Elizabeth Taylor and
Marlon Brando. Based on the novel
by Carson McCullers.
Produced in 1967.

By: J. H. Morgan, Staff Reviewer

"A... drama of obsessive love," the video case read, and I was curious: here was something I could relate to. Somehow, too, I sensed a whiff of queer interest, a wisp of taffeta not quite stuffed into the celluloid closet. The film begins: "There is a fort in the south where a few years ago a murder was committed," and we are drawn into a tale of relations between people whose emotions are hidden and compressed to the point of madness. Brando

and Taylor play Major Weldon Penderton and his wife Leonora, a couple desperately at odds with each other and with themselves.

The Major struggles to control himself and his surroundings as his psyche roils with conflict. His wife Leonora, a member of the military aristocracy who has married beneath her station, contents herself with taunting her husband's desperation, riding her horse Firebrand, and enjoying the company of one of her husband's colleagues, Lt. Col. Morris Langdon (played by Brian Keith).

The Lieutenant Colonel has problems of his own, a disturbed wife who, surrounded by madness, responds with seeming madness of her own. Much of the film's conflict revolves around the enigmatic Private Williams (Robert Foster), a silent enlisted man with an uncanny ability with horses. The Major singles the Private out for his obsession ostensibly because the Private spilled coffee on the Major's

suit two years ago. The Major sets tasks, such as clearing the yard, for the Private's edification. The Major, we learn, "dislikes clumsiness."

Briefly, the action centers on the Major's deteriorating relationship with Leonora and his increasing obsession with Private Williams. Brando portrays the Major's compulsions (he likes to steal small objects and correct the times on clocks) and his alienation from life and death on the base with striking clarity and force. We find him fascinating and frightening in his repression. Taylor conveys her growing distaste for her husband with an amazing economy of motion; a raised eyebrow, or a turned head. The couple focus their increasing hostility through a war of the will concerning Firebrand, and consequently Private Williams, the horse's caretaker. It seems only Leonora and the Private can handle Firebrand. The Major's masculinity is at stake here, for he is no horseman, and cannot approach Leonora's

riding skill. At one unforgettable moment, the Major states, "Firebrand's a horse." Leonora replies, "Firebrand's a stallion." The Major's disastrous attempt to ride Firebrand precipitates the film's final crisis.

Along with the film's other merits that make it worth the rental, the film's gay subtext is obvious to anyone open to see it. In a telling moment, the Major reveals how his thinking has caused his own repression, and his words have special resonance for gay and lesbian viewers. He says, "Any fulfillment at the expense of normality is wrong, and should not be allowed to bring happiness. I'm sure it's better because it's morally honorable for the square peg to keep scraping about in a round hole, rather than to discover and use the unorthodox one that would fit it"

This story explores how repression of fulfillment can fester and destroy life, and its message has a special significance for us. $\Delta\Delta$

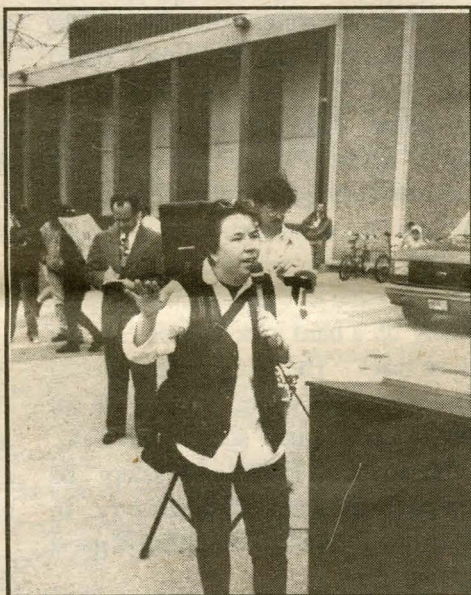
Speak-Out at USM Is it Homophobia???

By: Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Charges of homophobia and lesbian separatism, and counter-charges of sexism and academic incompetence are flying at the University of Southern Maine, Portland campus, in regard to the "Chrises." Chris Reed, an Assistant Art Professor, received a negative recommendation (5 to 2) from his Art department colleagues, regarding renewal of his contract. Chris Castiglia, his partner, and an Assistant Professor of English, has not had his contract renewed at USM.

A speak-out was held on Wednesday, April 20th, at noon, to air this matter. Approximately 100 people attended, and after the speeches, a group of 50 marched on President Patten's office chanting, "We want excellence, we want diversity, we want choice."

Elspeth Brown, partner of Art Department chair, Rose Marasco, took the mike at



Elspeth Brown speaks out Balboni photo

the speak-out and denounced the idea that homophobia had anything to do with the vote against Reed. Her remarks were met with a hailstorm of verbal abuse from the crowd.

Chris Reed addressed the demonstra-

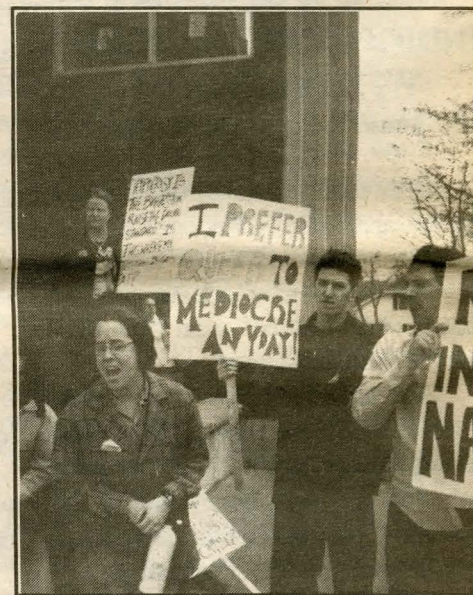
tion and spoke about honoring the "separatist tradition," (though he disagrees with it) in the context of a university being a place that allows for many diverse views. In a particularly tense moment Brown interrupted Reed and demanded to know, "Who's a separatist?" Reed named Julien Murphy, Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Reed claimed that he and Castiglia are the only out-gay men on campus teaching courses on sexuality and gender. He described a schism between an older, separatist identity and queer identity.

Anna R. Kissed, an art student at USM said there is no homophobia in the Art department. Kissed pondered that if homophobia existed at USM why was Reed hired in the first place.

In a brief interview, Reed said, "The older lesbians who are in positions of real power on this campus as Department Chairs, and as Associate Dean, have consistently responded to our feeling that we are in a homophobic environment here at USM by charging in and saying, 'No, no we're lesbians. If there were homophobia, you'd be the first to know. All these decisions are being made on other kinds of bases.'"

Reed does not accept this vote as final. He said, "I absolutely expect them to overturn this at an upper level in the administration."



Pro contingent at Speak Balboni photo

He feels certain of that because, "I'm very good at what I do. I have strong support from the students, particularly the stronger, more ambitious students, and because I have a national and even international reputation as a scholar."

The decision now goes to the Dean, then the Provost and then the President, whose decision is final. Reed claims, "It is almost unprecedented to make that kind of a vote of non-reappointment." He said that if he is not renewed he will initiate legal action.

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HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH:

Vaginitis Demystified - Part I

By Peaches Bass, Health Columnist

The lesbian press has been highlighting a new awareness and activism around HIV and breast cancer. Meanwhile, we still crave information and education on more mundane health concern. This month and next, this column will cover the anatomy and physiology of the vagina, vaginal infections, prevention, and treatment.

Maybe you've noticed that just before your period you develop a cottage cheesy vaginal discharge and worrisome itch which disappear after you bleed; or maybe you and your lover both notice some frothy discharge and burning with urination; or maybe your partner tells you that when she went down on you last night, she noticed a slightly foul odor. If any of these scenarios are familiar to you, then so is vaginitis.

Vaginitis is a catch-all name for several infections of the vagina. The symptoms of these infections are caused by excessive growth of various microorganisms in the vagina. Even though these organisms are normally present as part of the delicately balanced vaginal environment, when they over-populate the area, they cause a lot of discomfort. In order to understand vaginal infections, it's helpful to know a little bit about the vagina, its mixture of cell-life (called "vaginal flora"), its pH (acid-alkaline balance), and its discharge.

A woman's vagina is only a few inches long when she is not sexually aroused. It is formed of collapsed walls of thick mucus membrane tissue, which may feel wet or dry, depending on the woman's hormone levels or sexual excitement (which causes the walls of the vagina to become moist, or lubricated). At other times, the wetness is evidence of ovulation and the vagina's natural cleansing action. Most women have very little sensitivity in all but the lower, or outer third of the vagina, though this can vary. The vagina

is surrounded by pelvic floor muscles, which support the organs of the lower abdomen and can be felt when a woman squeezes to control the flow of urine.

At the top and back of the vagina is an area called the fornix. A little before the fornix is the cervix, the round, muscular opening to the uterus.

At the bottom of the vagina, the external opening is tucked behind two hairless flaps of skin called the inner labia or inner lips, which are very sensitive and subject to sexual arousal. The inner labia are covered, in turn, by the larger, hair-covered outer labia. The labia and other tissue and organs (clitoris, urethral opening, etc.) are called the vulva. People often confuse the vulva and vagina; this article is going to be limited to the vagina and its health.

The vagina is a self-cleaning mucus membrane, and because it is exposed to the outside world, it is not a sterile environment. The vaginal flora are a microscopic combination of bacteria, yeast, and protozoa, existing in a pH of 4-5. (A pH of 7 considered neutral, lower than 7 is acid, above 7 is alkaline.) The vagina's acidity is maintained by the activity of lactobacillus bacteria. Lactobacillus is better known as the agent that turns milk into yogurt. In the vagina, lactobacillus consumes glycogen (a sugar stored in the body) and secretes lactic acid as a by-product. Thus, the acidic pH of the vagina, which keeps the population of yeast, bacteria, etc., under control, provides one of the vagina's protective mechanisms.

As you can see, the vagina is a complicated physical environment that keeps itself balanced and healthy. What then, can disturb this peaceful mucus membrane?

There are three common vaginal infections, each resulting when a particular member of the vaginal community over-populates the area.

Monilia, or yeast infection, is caused by the overgrowth of the *candida albicans* fungus. Yeast infections are typified by intense itching of the vagina and vulva. The vagina becomes red and dry, even during sexual excitement. The itch and inflammation result from a thick, curdy

white discharge, which often flows heavily. The discharge sometimes has a yeasty smell, and urination may be painful due to the irritation. A yeast infection of the mouth is known as thrush. *Candida* may be transmitted between women by oral sex, if the "oral" partner has thrush, though other lesbian sex activities are not believed to pose a problem. Women who have penile-vaginal sex with men can get yeast infections because even though men rarely develop the infection, they can carry *candida* under their foreskins.

Monilia can be caused by too much sugar in the body, such as during pregnancy, with diabetes, use of birth control pills, or during the premenstrual days of the cycle when hormone changes affect sugar metabolism. Wearing panty hose and synthetic nylon-like underwear can trap moisture and warmth in the crotch, creating an inviting environment for yeast. Using alkaline soaps and bubble baths may affect the vaginal pH and contribute to *candida's* growth. After urination or bowel movements, yeast from the rectum or intestines may enter the vagina by wiping from the anus forward, which is incorrect.

Antibiotics are a common cause of yeast infections. The use of penicillin, tetracycline, metronidazole (a treatment for another vaginal infection!), and sulfa drugs will reduce the normal bacteria population, allowing the vaginal fungus to proliferate. Of course, lowered resistance, in the form of fatigue, poor diet, emotional stress, cigarette smoking, or illness can set you on the road to monilia, and even other forms of vaginitis can change the balance and cause a yeast infection.

Women with HIV may have problems with intractable yeast infections due to the weakness of their immune systems. These infections may include severe thrush as well as vaginitis.

The only reliable diagnosis for a yeast infection is to mix a small sample of discharge with a drop of potassium hydroxide (KOH) and examine it under a microscope. In the presence of monilia, the spores and filaments are easily seen. If a yeast infection is mild, a yogurt or vinegar-water douche (3 tablespoons of

white vinegar to a quart of warm water) may effectively treat the problem. Remember not to douche too frequently. (The value of yogurt douching is debatable, according to *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, but some women do benefit from it.)

Some women use acidophilus (*lactobacillus*) capsules, which can be purchased in health food stores, as a vaginal suppository. *Our Bodies, Ourselves* also recommends a suppository made of a peeled (not nicked!) garlic clove wrapped in gauze, or drinking 8 ounces of unsweetened cranberry juice to acidify the system. Another treatment mentioned is to dip a cotton tampon in 3% potassium sorbate (15 grams of dry potassium sorbate to a pint of water) and inserting the tampon at night and removing it in the morning. Potassium sorbate is an inexpensive, commonly used produce in home beer-brewing.

If a home remedy doesn't help within a few days, an over-the-counter medication will usually do the trick. These drugs are anti-fungal vaginal creams and suppositories with names like Monistat, Mycelex-7, and Gynelotrimin. Sometimes Betadine douche or gentian violet will work.

The over-the-counter preparations are expensive, running \$7-\$10 for a full treatment. If you need one of these products, check the coupon rack at the drugstore to see if they have a discount or rebate coupon to help lower the cost. If home remedies and over-the-counter drugs don't help, you should see your health care provider for a prescription anti-fungal (such as Terazol), or for another diagnosis. It could be that your problem isn't monilia.

Very rarely, monilia is chronic. In such cases, a woman should talk to her health care provider about blood sugar tests, and HIV test, or further yeast culturing. Sometimes a partner needs to be treated as well. Nutritional therapies can be helpful for people who have systemic yeast infections, and there are more radical treatments for chronic yeast, but they are almost never needed.

Next month, we'll discuss other types of vaginitis and methods of prevention. $\Delta\Delta$

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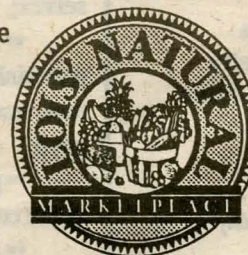
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YOUTH, from page 10

They were deprived of peer support until they found a group such as Outright.

Harassment was merciless in the school environment, and the worst harassment of all occurred in bathrooms.

They tended to adopt defenses such as belligerence or hostility, isolating themselves.

With almost no exceptions, they had no adult protection when in school.

Unprotected, they tended to drop out of school, their only defense. This further deprived them of peer support and of the opportunity for the more positive aspects

of a formal education.

Two of their stories follow. Other personal stories will appear in subsequent issues of **Community Pride Reporter**.

Ed (19 years old)

For a long time Ed had no sense of being a sexual being. Therefore, the day he woke up aware that he was gay, he said to himself, "Wow, I have sexuality!" But when that did happen, it was very important to be straight because he no longer felt safe. ("Will passersby know I'm gay?") For a while, he says, "I lived a life of constant deceit, avoiding involvement with any issues that could give me away. It was depressing." Secretly, he tried to find books on homosexuality in the school library. There was none. "I needed books that told me 'I'm okay!'" Ed did not escape torment. At school he was harassed, verbally. It assaulted him emotionally. Finally he did what seemed impossible. In an interview with a guidance counselor, he led her to finally recognize that he identified himself as gay. He summed up their dialogue as follows: GC: "It's a phase, it's a phase, it's a phase." Ed: "I'm gay, I'm gay, I'm gay."

Finally the combination of peer homophobia and lack of support from adults became so intolerable that Ed dropped out of school.

Kate (20 years old)

Illustrating for the audience the fluidity of her sexual orientation, Kate said, "Today I'm bi because I winked at a cute boy in the Burger King." But to her grandmother, she identifies as a lesbian because, "I don't want her to hope that I'll end up with a boy." Kate is of the opinion that "there was a bumper crop of bisexuals born [when she was] in 1974 because they're now all in college" as Kate is, at Hampshire College in central Massachusetts. She says, " 'How about both?' is my trademark, my motto."

Goals for Changing Schools

California lesbian-bi-gay leaders and education leaders have formulated a "Bill of Educational Rights" for lesbian, gay and bisexual students. One of the most striking things about the presentations of this youth panel was that, in the experience, virtually all facets of the Bill of Educational Rights had been violated.

The Bill says that lesbian, gay and bisexual youth have the right to:

- accurate information about themselves;
- fair, factual and unbiased reading materials in school; materials on art, literature, science, sports, history generated by gays;
- positive role models, both live and in the curriculum;
- an harassment-free environment, "where education, not survival, is the pri-

ority.";

• have adult school leaders demonstrate and enforce respect and dignity for all students;

• be "free of crippling self-hate."

The Conference concluded with spirited, small-group discussions on the part of the teams. They made plans for implementing some of the things they had learned at the Conference upon return to their schools or agencies. Perhaps some of the Bill of Educational Rights will actually be put into practice in several Maine schools. Perhaps it will be met with success. **ΔΔ**

FROM 'THE COUNTY'

No. Lambda Nord news

Aroostook County, Maine - The first of what are monthly planning meetings for next year's annual, state-wide conference, The Maine Lesbian and Gay men's Symposium, was held April 2nd in Presque Isle. Symposium '95 will be hosted from May 26-29, 1995 by Northern Lambda Nord, Maine's oldest community-based organization for lesbian-gay-bisexual people. This will be the fourth time NLN has sponsored the conference. Since 1986, the first time Symposium was held in Aroostook County, sponsorship of Maine's 20-year-old gathering has rotated among three regions in Maine: southern (Portland area), central (Bangor/Orono and mid-coast), and northern (Presque Isle).

The first planning meeting was a brainstorming session. The '95 committee is seeking help from anyone who can suggest ideas for any of the following: theme, keynote speakers (one man, one woman), entertainment, workshop topics, workshop facilitators, leisure time activities, and something never tried before at Symposium.

Please send your ideas and suggestions today to Symposium '95, POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736-0990, or call the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline any Wednesday evening from 7-9 PM, 207/498-2088.

The committee is also looking for information about the 1994 conference, Symposium XXI. They have been unable to find out if anyone is hosting Symposium this year. If you have any information, please contact the above address or telephone number. **ΔΔ**

Caribou UU Church says "NO" to NLN's request for meeting space.

By Winnie Weir, Editor

According to an article appearing in the April edition of Communique, NLN's monthly newsletter, the Caribou Unitar-

ian-Universalist Church established a church policy that will not allow Northern Lambda Nord to meet in their building. "At a recent meeting of the Church members, a decision was made to allow only church organizations to use the Church facilities. Therefore, you will not be able to conduct your meetings at the Church," was the terse response NLN received to its latest request.

This was not the first time NLN requested meeting space from this Church so NLN members could have at least one central, regular location for one of its activities. A request in December of 1991 was met with rejection also, citing fear of losing members (and their money), community backlash, and possible harassment or vandalism as their reasons. While the request was denied, the church also told NLN that they would "undertake an education program in an attempt to dispel the fears, misinformation and stereotyping which lead to homophobia." So much for self-education programs.

After almost two years, NLN decided to repeat their request for meeting space to the Caribou UU Church. In December, 1993 they wrote again. They received a response from Don Collins, current congregation President, who is also a former Maine State Senator from Central Aroostook, asking for a meeting of NLN representatives and the church board. The meeting took place on March 3, 1994 between 10 +/- board members, NLN's Director and NLN member and Treasurer, Dick Harrison.

Attempts to dialogue were met with homophobia at almost every turn. "Don Collins seemed very concerned that one of Maine's gay-lesbian newspapers, *Community Pride Reporter*, was actually available at Mr. Paperback, free of charge, right here in Caribou for anyone to pick up!"

Of course, the question of youth involvement in NLN was raised before long. According to Harrison however, "I found the scariest question came from a man sitting to my right. He was confused by the repeated use of the term, 'homophobia'; he was totally unaware of its meaning... It was scary to realize that the person asking that question was actually the UUA minister! One church member attempted to blame NLN for any eventual split in the church between members who are gay-supportive and those who are not, or a total dissolution of the church.

Lambda's Director received a few phone calls the day after the meeting from supportive church Board members who said that NLN representatives had presented themselves with pride and dignity, adding that the homophobes were made to look foolish. **ΔΔ**



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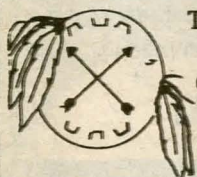
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Concerned Families, from page 5

McIlhennys compared the struggle for gay rights as the same thing as a struggle for child molester's rights. Is being gay the same thing as being a child molester? And why choose that comparison? McIlhenny says he loves the homosexual, that he wants to minister to the homosexual, and yet he compares the homosexual's very existence with child molestation, which he sees as worthy of swift and brutal punishment.

VISITING PSYCHIATRIST SPEAKS TO THESE ISSUES

It's curious that just a couple of weeks before McIlhenny came to Portland with his slanted views of homosexuality, local cognoscenti were able to hear a far saner voice speaking in Portland about the grave reality of being young and gay in America today.

Marshall Forstein, M.D., a psychiatrist at the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston, spoke at Maine Medical Center on March 15, 1994 on the topic, "The Function of an Outlaw Identity in the Psychological Development of Lesbian & Gay People." (The "Community Pride Reporter" obtained a videotape of this lecture.) In his fascinating talk, he touched on many of the issues raised by the bigots associated with Concerned Maine Families. The difference is that he brought some intelligence to the subject.

He pointed out that young people who are gay see a society that tells them they cannot be themselves, that they are not supposed to be who they are, that they are not "entitled legally, socially or politically to similar or equal rights." He pointed out the connection between this perception and the high rate of gay teen suicide, the continuing practice of unsafe sex, as well as anonymous and promiscuous sexual behavior and the difficulty in establishing long-term relationships.

The message is internalized in gay youth as, "It doesn't matter what I do, I'll never have an equal chance." This sense of disenfranchisement, futility and inevitability is precisely the same feeling blacks and other minorities have felt.

GENOCIDE

The message "you're no good" that Carolyn Cosby and the McIlhennys spout about gays is virtually genocidal. According to Forstein, up to 300,000 gay teens attempt suicide annually, and 100,000 of these are successful. These figures are based on a study done in Massachusetts for the Republican administration of Governor William Weld.

Forstein talked about Bobby Griffiths

who committed suicide by throwing himself off an overpass at age 20. At age 10 he wrote in his diary:

"I can't ever let anyone find out that I'm not straight... My friends would hate me. I just know it. They might even want to beat me up. And my family? I've overheard them lots of times talking about gay people. They've said they hate gays, and even God hates gays, too. Gays are bad and God sends bad people to hell... It really scares me now, when I hear my family talk that way, because now they are talking about me. I guess I'm no good to anyone... not even God. Life is so cruel and unfair. Sometimes I feel like disappearing off the face of this earth."

When the McIlhennys and Cosby tell people that God condemns homosexuality, they are engaging in murder. They will quote Leviticus for their divine source, but if you read all of Leviticus, you will see that there is a section on how to treat your slaves, yet CMF isn't pro-slavery. Forstein pointed out that Americans have a knack for being very selective in what they pick and choose from the Bible. The Christian Right uses only what will further its own agenda.

In using Scripture in this way it becomes clear that these fundamentalists are a political organization interested in political power. Their use of religion reduces it to a manipulative tool, not a spiritual guide.

MEL WHITE COMES OUT

This theme of careful selection of Biblical passages is echoed in a new book, *Stranger at the Gate*, by Mel White. White is a former speech writer for Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, and a pastor and biblical scholar in his own right. He is also gay.

After years of struggle and prayer to change his sexual orientation, White came out. His knowledge of the inner workings of the Christian Right combine with his personal story to make a devastating analysis of their motives and tactics.

In another example of selectivity, McIlhenny referred to Supreme Court case law as supporting an anti-gay rights position. Yet, he opposes *Roe v. Wade*. He went on to say that homosexuals do not even qualify as a group subject to discrimination because their income level is above average, because gays are not politically powerless and because you cannot discern by looking at a person whether or not they are gay. This same description applies to Mormons, but you cannot discriminate against them even though they are of a religion, and are well-off and hold political power in Utah.

The McIlhennys made much of the fact that if you claim discrimination on the basis of a trait that can be changed you cannot obtain legal protection for that trait. There are two problems with this statement. One, homosexuality cannot be changed and, two, religion is a protected status that can be changed.

McIlhenny takes particular exception to the wording of the San Francisco gay rights law which states that "to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation poses a substantial threat to the health, safety and welfare of its citizens." McIlhenny states "that is absolutely absurd." The truth is, however, that to allow discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation encourages violence against gay people, as Dr. Forstein discussed at Maine Medical Center. The message that it is OK to mistreat gay people and that gay people have no rights encourages suicide amongst gay youth.

Cosby described how bringing the McIlhenny's to Maine is part of their "two-handed approach." In a thimble, this translates into, 'love the homosexual on the one hand, and fight gay rights on the other.' This explains their "No Room For Hate" bumper stickers designed to confuse people into thinking they are not doing what they are doing.

McIlhenny's true hand was revealed

at the strategy session when one of the more thoughtful ministers asked a question about how to reach the homosexual spiritually. He was taking McIlhenny at his word. McIlhenny had no answer, but instead went on a tirade about gays taking over the school system. When these Christian Right advocates talk about loving the homosexual, they are lying. This "love" is the kiss of death, and is yet another tool serving the political ambitions of this organization.

Cosby announced that their initiative will be on the ballot in 1995 and that they will be through collecting signatures by the end of this summer. Cosby's manner throughout her presentation was upbeat and laughing, as if she were urging people to participate in a bake sale.

She used phrases from Scripture such as "God uses the least of us," to inspire people to work for CMF. She also explained the difference between initiatives and repeal efforts, saying that CMF is striking first because they see a need. In truth, CMF's initiative is reactionary because it would have the effect of repealing the EPP ordinance.

COSBY ADMITS CMF CONTROLLED BY NATIONAL LEADERS

Cosby made a call for urgency by stating that the national gay rights issue, "may be out of our hands in the next two years if citizens like us do not take initiative." She compared the issue to abortion and *Roe v. Wade* and said gay rights is at that point now. She said that before the issue gets into the courts and out of the hands of the people they must act.

She said they should be proud of the people in Colorado who brought us Amendment 2, but noted sadly that it is stalled in the courts on procedural grounds. She pointed out emphatically that, "in Maine, our language [the wording of their initiative] is the only language in the nation that



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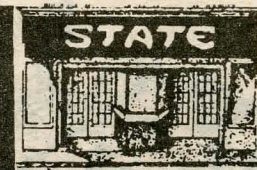
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PRESTON, from page 4

turning myself into a victim who had no will, no affect on what was happening around and to him. It would mean the passive acceptance of the infection as the end of my life. As a writer, I could at least reassert myself as one of the participant/observers. I could be part of recording what this epidemic was doing to my world, only now in a different role than the one I'd first envisioned for myself." (p. xviii)

In that anthology, and in the many self-disclosing essays, articles, and speeches that followed, John found his voice once more and helped many in Maine and the nation find their own levels of AIDS activism. I watched John Preston expand the range of his voice, telling the truth of his experience to audiences as different as those at an activist's conference in Boston and an AIDS Project benefit/party for friends of Frannie Peabody at the Sonesta. Writing or speaking, his message was compelling.

The John Hay Library at Brown University, which houses the works of Walt Whitman, Edgar Allan Poe, and May Sarton (among others) will be home to John's complete manuscripts and papers. If you're not familiar with John Preston's writings, see the partial list, below.

JOHN PRESTON, THE ACTIVIST

"It was that lover's suicide that forced me to become an activist. There was nothing to do but to surrender the way he had, or to change the world. It was that simple. And changing the world didn't mean having pleasant lunches with sena-

tors, or being invited on to prestigious political talk shows, or any of that . . . Changing the world meant bringing everything out into the open and then loving it. It meant throwing your arms around a drag queen and telling him he was beautiful. It meant complementing a dyke on her motorcycle and telling her she had every right to drive it bare-breasted at the head of the parade . . . It meant telling the truth. It meant saying that our lives were sexy and worth living." (*My Life As A Pornographer*, p. 154-5)

I might never have gotten to know John Preston if it were not for our two-year long collaboration in leadership of The AIDS Project. John had a long history of activism, both "in suits" and "in the streets". In the early '70's, John was a founder, first of Gay House, the first gay and lesbian community center in the United States, then of Gay Community Services, the first federally funded gay agency, both in Minneapolis. Later he was one of the founders of the Maine Health Foundation.

In between, he was editor of such publications as *The Advocate* and *Mandate* and he was, as he liked to remind his mainstream fans, a pornographer. He published immensely popular erotic fiction under his own name and such pen names as Jack Hild, Mike McCray, Preston MacAdam, and Jack Prescott. He was a major citizen, activist, and chronicler of the gay leather world:

"Before—and even after—Stone-wall, the first impulse of gay activism, to be a form of progressive and even revolutionary politics, was left behind. In the place of that rebellious attitude, there was

an almost immediate plea for social acceptance. The first line of political defense was to proclaim our ability to have monogamous relationships. The first line of ethical defense was to claim that we were not child molesters. The first line of moral defense was to declare that to have homosexual sex was no different from having any other form of sex.

"The original leather bars were places where men could gather and, in sharp contradictions to those positions, say: *In your face!* Leather was gay sexuality stripped of being nice. It offended. It confronted. It took sex as its own ultimate value. It was a reaffirmation of the revolution, not a dilution of it." (*My Life As a Pornographer*, p. 127-8).

John had a particular gift as an activist of walking fine lines. He was a gay S&M pornographer whose crossover anthologies became Book of the Month Club favorites. He was a gifted political and organizational strategist who built multiple alliances with mainstream community leaders, yet never forgot that gay liberation was meaningless if we had to sell the soul of the gay community to achieve it. As the pornographer who became the toast of Portland, Maine, John was living proof that if we believe sufficiently that who we are is OK, warts and leather and all, others will too.

JOHN PRESTON, THE MAN.

In *A Member of the Family*, John tells us a bit of how he sees himself:

"Being with my brother showed me some of the ways I approach the world, both good and bad. I can see in him my

own stubbornness—no small thing. And I can see the way that we become silent when angry, how we close down, still not in command of all the language that we need to talk to the world. I can also see the tenderness with which we treat children and animals. I can see the patience we display when teaching others. I can see how we really do approach being men in similar ways, wanting to be strong and forceful, yet never wanting to abuse our power." (p. 9).

In recent years, Maine people praising John often noted his leadership of The AIDS Project's board through the important time of TAP's recovery from near financial disaster in the early '90's. What did that leadership mean? A calm hand at the helm, a sense of perspective brought from experience with other nonprofit organizations and other AIDS activism, unparalleled articulateness in explaining the political and organizational issues, and substantial charm in attracting new allies with the resources and talents to be of help.

For me, as Executive Director, John was my number one support and sounding board. I could speak honestly of my worries and he would not overreact. His calm, his trust in me, his political savvy offered sparingly, were a big help. We were a good team.

The man I got to know over those smoky breakfasts at the West Side or the Holiday Inn was, indeed, a patient teacher and tender friend. Our differences—in being, and occasionally in belief—were just accepted. When, in a letter responding to one of mine frothing at the mouth about

See PRESTON, page 23

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has withstood a court challenge. Right now we are [sic] the only language in the nation that is moving forward.

"We've been called by some key legal leadership around the country who have said to us, 'get your petition together, get it on the ballot, because Maine's language is very strong, it's been admitted by the homosexual community that it would be very difficult to challenge in the courts. That is every reason to move forward. We look at Maine with only a million people and wonder how we could affect the national picture but again, 'God uses the least of us.'"

She concluded her introductory remarks with a joke. She said that McIlhenny wanted to be known as a heteroSOCKSual because he had trouble putting on the same pair of socks in the morning. "So, how did you do today, Chuck?" she asked.

It was almost as painful typing this lame comment as it was to have to listen to it in person, never mind the forced laughter that followed. The trivialization of the

suffering this kind of attitude puts gay people through is sad beyond words.

Jim Wise, an activist present at this meeting repeatedly challenged the speakers to include heterosexuals in their statements about sinners. He did so at great personal risk to himself. If you can imagine a Black person at a KKK rally, you have the picture.

For example, during Cosby's introduction of McIlhenny she referred to several hard working pastors as, "pistol packing pastors." She chuckled at her little joke. Wise responded to this designation by chanting "kill, kill, kill." Cosby fell silent and glared at this courageous person.

Mel White quotes a far greater man of God than McIlhenny who spoke to the often disappointing role of the church. "The church at times has preserved that which is immoral and unethical," Martin Luther King reminded us. "Called to combat social evils, it has remained silent behind stained-glass windows . . . How

See Concerned Families, page 23

TIME, from page 9

providing slide shows, an adjoining auditorium for presentations, and an exhibit area. Like many such facilities, it sports a gift shop, but the available books are educational and worthy.

Laudholm offers tours over a seven mile trail system upon some 1,600 acres of land. The weekend tours point out flora as well as animal life. The trails vary over fields, forest paths, marsh and river front areas. Other events include Barn Dances, Crafts Festivals, and Earth Day events. The Farm (Well National Estuarine Research Reserve) may be called at 207-646-1555.

TOWN, from page 11

PLACES OF INTEREST (\$14.95) and **INN PLACES** (\$14.95, a guide to gay/lesbian Bed and Breakfasts).

For more information on international locations, you might also try **ODYSSEUS** (\$21), or **SPARTICUS** (\$30). Both offer extensive listings for Europe and other locales around the world.

In addition to these two, there are many other publications that focus on different countries, like Holland or Spain, or France, or Greece.

There are also a couple of periodicals available. My "bible" is **OUT AND ABOUT** (1 yr. \$48, 10 issues). This newsletter-style publication is probably the most objective resource on the market. The newsletter (now up to 20 pages) contains no advertising. Each issue has one major article on some destination and also contains three city briefs which give a one page summary of things to see and do, and places to go in a variety of cities around the world. Each issue also contains a calendar of upcoming gay/lesbian tours. This section has grown to cover 8 pages in the last issue. Even though the price is steep, I think it is well worth the money, especially if you travel a lot.

Most of the publications listed here can be purchased at a gay or gay friendly bookstore. Some I have found at Bookland, while others I have found at the Treasure Chest. Drop Me A Line also carries them. Probably the most extensive collection of travel publications for gays/lesbians can be found at Glad Day Book Store in Boston.

I always tell my clients "The more you know before you go, the more enjoyable your trip will be."

PRESTON, from page 22

the absurdity of referenda campaigns permitting the rights of a minority to hang on the good will of a majority of voters, John called me "profoundly anti-democratic", I experienced no injury to my often uncomfortably thin skin. It has always felt safe to differ with John, even to be wrong. In *A Member of the Family: Gay Men Write About Their Families*, John said: "This book is not about being a perfect child in a perfect family. This is about life with flaws and accomplishments, hurt and nourishment. It is about being human in our world" (p.14). John let himself—and so me—be human.

Sometimes he made people angry. He was not always diplomatic, not always able to be charming in the face of others' expectations. John sometimes described himself as a curmudgeon. So what! He was not perfect, and he helped me accept the idea that I'm not perfect (but parts of me are excellent, as one of my favorite "political" buttons declares).

JOHN PRESTON, THE MOURNED

"Now he was gone, and it wasn't just that he was gone, but that all these men I had loved were dead and their connection with me was left hanging in the air, their spirits unresolved, the possibilities left unrealized! I became overwhelmed by the numbers of people who were lost—from my own life, from the gay community, from the art world, from all of our lives. As I read these articles, I was able finally to begin to grasp the size and tragedy of AIDS. Its scope awed me. Its scale staggered me. I don't believe I ever really denied that any of this was happening—as a journalist I certainly knew the statistics—but this new reading focused all these issues for me in a way that was far more powerful than the recitation of data. (*Personal Dispatches*, p.xiv).

I'd like to think of John Preston as still available to me as kind of an activist guardian angel. I've thought about what he continues to teach me: be who you are; let go of the need for approval of who that is (let go completely enough and you may even get it); be political first, politically correct only when it makes sense; take a shot at having it all... just don't confuse that with being perfect; write... and speak up... and "act up"; laugh; lust.

"But one had to go on, I explained to Stephen, and the way I'd learned how was to encapsulate the grief, to put it in a special place in my memory so that I could bring it down and open it up when it was important to feel those emotions again (*Personal Dispatches*, p.xix).

A postscript: I know that John Preston the pornographer and "sexual out-

law" is not adequately present in this piece. This is not a product of denial, or of lack of affection for John's darker side, without which I know that our "vanilla" friendship would have lost much of its flavor. I can only write the part of John Preston, man/activist/writer, who I know from my experience. I invite others to write the missing pieces.

Partial List of Books

by

JOHN PRESTON

- Franny, The Queen of Provincetown*, (Alyson) 1983
- Mr. Benson* (Alternate, 1983)
- I Once Had a Master, and Other Tales of Erotic Love* (Alyson) 1984
- Hot Living: Erotic Stories about Safer Sex* (Alyson) 1985
- (with Glenn Swann) *Safe Sex: The Ultimate Erotic Guide* (Plume) 1987
- Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS* (St. Martin's) 1989
- Hometowns: Gay Men Write About Where They Belong* (Dutton) 1991
- The Big Gay Book: A Man's Survival Guide to the '90's* (NAL/Plume) 1991
- A Member of the Family: Gay Men Write About Their Families* (Dutton) 1992
- Flesh and the Word, An Erotic Anthology* (Dutton) 1992

Concerned Families, from page 22

often the church has been an echo rather than a voice, a taillight behind the Supreme court rather than a headlight guiding men [sic] progressively and decisively to higher levels of understanding."

In the early days of the civil rights movement Jerry Falwell referred to Dr. King by saying, "Preachers are not called to be politicians." Falwell opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and in subsequent years was a lonely voice asking for understanding for South Africa's apartheid system.

Such is the nature of Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families. ΔΔ

CHEW, from page 9

helps us loose unwanted weight, keeps our "innies" running smoothly, gives our intestines a day off work each week, and can even help to keep our cravings in check. Doing a juice fast day is simple. Try a tall glass of fruit juice, freshly squeezed and cut by 1/3 to 1/2 with warmed spring water for breakfast. Have a glass of vegetable juice for lunch, again cut with warmed water. Carrot and celery is a great combination. For dinner, have a vegetable broth you've made yourself by boiling onion, celery, carrot, beets and a green in water for about 45 minutes.

So, with these tricks in mind, maybe we will be ready for shorts and bathing suits come the end of June. Happy Spring!

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