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Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 11
DECEMBER/JANUARY

In this issue...

Gingrich speaks
Maine election results

Steffan case

Martina retires

Maine's first gay community
center

Maine teens observe
World AIDS Day

Blade interviews Gingrich

by Rebecca Foster
Editor

WASHINGTON - In a foreshadowing of things to come, Representative Newt Gingrich has told *The Washington Blade* that "it is madness to pretend that families are anything other than heterosexual couples." Gingrich was interviewed in April, but the interview is slated to appear in the November 25 edition of the country's oldest gay and lesbian newspaper.

But at the same time, he says, the Republican Party's position on homosexuality should be "toleration" rather than condemnation.

"I know a number of practicing heterosexuals who I believe are more decadent and more corrupted by a big mar-

continued on page 9

Oregon, Idaho anti-gay efforts lose by slim margin

by Terri Jones
Editor

BOISE - Gay activists in Idaho and Oregon breathed a collective sign of relief after the narrow defeat of anti-gay ballot questions on each state's November 8 election slate.

In Idaho, Proposition One was defeated by a slim 3,098 votes in a count that saw 202,601 voting in favor and 205,699 voting against. About 11,700 voters skipped the question. In Oregon, the vote was more definitive with 618,864 voting against Measure 13 and 583,842 voting for it. Oregon's Measure 13 was supported by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a radical right group.

Proposition One would have barred the state and local governments from

extending civil rights protection based on sexual orientation. Oregon's Measure 13 contained similar prohibitions.

Idaho's No on One Coalition credited its win to sophisticated grassroots and media campaigns and to bipartisan solidarity.

"The common ground (in the campaign) was that discrimination is not something Idahoans embrace," said Brian Berquist, spokesperson for the No on One Coalition.

Despite losing the vote, supporters of Proposition One claimed a moral victory and noted that it may have succeeded in generating support for Republican candidates for the state's legislature. However, sources in the

legislature doubt that the group will be able to move any anti-gay agenda through the legislature. House Speaker Mike Simpson (R - Blackfoot) has said that gay-related legislation is an issue for the voters and they have spoken.

"The people of Idaho have had the opportunity to vote on this," he said, "I don't see any reason for the Legislature to really deal with it."

Oregon voters defeated the measure but sent two Measure 13 supporters to Congress, Jim Bunn and Wes Cooley. Activists cite a huge Republican Party effort that mailed absentee ballots to all registered Republicans in the state as one factor in the close vote.

Meinhold told not to say he's gay

by Terri Jones
Editor

SAN FRANCISCO - The Navy has warned Keith Meinhold, a gay sailor who has fought a long legal battle to stay in the military, that he could face discharge proceedings if he repeats publicly that he is gay. Meinhold said a senior officer had given him the warning shortly before he made a speech to a group fighting proposed anti-gay measures in Washington state.

"The executive officer said that a statement that I am homosexual will require his processing me for discharge," Meinhold said in a telephone interview from Washington state, where he is based.

Meinhold said it was the first time he had been officially told where he stood and he believed the military's tougher line could be linked to Republican gains in last week's elections.

Meinhold, an airborne sonar analyst, successfully challenged the old ban and the Navy has not taken any action against him under the new policy.

Meinhold said he had not mentioned his homosexuality in his speech Thursday night and had not decided what he would say in the future. He said everyone was aware of his sexual orientation and it had not been a problem in his Navy work.

Meinhold, then a 12-year Navy veteran, won national attention in 1992 when he was discharged from the Navy after announcing on national television that he was gay.

Meinhold challenged the discharge in court and won reinstatement.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Appeals Court ruled in August that the Navy cannot dismiss a sailor simply for saying he is gay without expressing a desire to act on "his homosexual propensity."

The San Francisco Examiner said Friday that some Republicans in Washington had said they would try to scrap the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and return to the old ban on gays in the military.

Victory Fund candidates win across country

From a Victory Fund press release

WASHINGTON, DC - 10 November 1994 - Twelve of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's 17 openly gay candidates won their races, a seventy-five percent success rate. According to Victory Fund Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold, the 12 winners are: Will Fitzpatrick, Rhode Island State Senate, Cal Anderson, Washington State Senate, Sheila Kuehl, California State Assembly, Ken Chevront, Arizona House of Representatives, Tim Van Zandt, Missouri House of Representatives, George Eighmey, Oregon House of Representatives, Susan Leal, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Tom Ammiano, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Bonnie Dumanis, San Diego City Court, Teri Schwartz, Los Angeles Superior Court, Tom Chiola, Cook County [ILL] Court.

DeBold notes that this 75 percent success rate for openly gay candidates is especially significant in light of the

campaigns of gaybaiting that were waged against them by their opponents and because of the overall conservative swing of the electorate nationwide.

"Each of our candidates won TWO races last night," she says, "One against their opponents; the other against the Radical Right's distorted image of gay men and lesbians."

DeBold believes these election results send a clear message that the extremist viewpoints that lead to hate campaigns and gaybaiting are out of step with mainstream America. "Our openly gay candidates won because their personal and community values are consistent with those of the average American family values like hard work, responsibility, and respect for others."

Following in the 1990 footsteps of Roberta Achtenberg, Harry Britt, and Carole Migden, openly gay candidates Carole Migden, Susan Leal, and Tom

continued on page 5



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Maine Won't Discriminate Update

Time to get involved

by Steve Addario
Contributor

As we move into 1995, the gay and lesbian community will be facing its greatest challenge yet in the state of Maine - defeating the referendum as put forth by Concerned Maine Families. We will also be making history as we proceed forward with our own civil rights movement. We will be bringing together a community of people in Maine that will demonstrate what most people believe - that all people in this state should support each others' potential growth and achievement as human beings. This means living in a society that not only accepts but actively supports diversity. This means living in a society where homosexuality is regarded as part of normal living.

On February 28, 1994, I decided that it was time for me to get out and see what was happening with Maine Won't Discriminate (then called Equal Protection Maine). I was accustomed to sitting quietly in my own home and reading the news about other people in the gay and lesbian community working for the rights of all of us. At that time, I kept telling myself that I didn't have time to put into a political campaign. In reality, I just didn't know how to be involved. I didn't want to take any time out of my daily routine. I felt that I didn't fit the "activist" profile. I also feared that getting involved would "out" me in a way I wasn't prepared for.

Today, after nine months of work with Maine Won't Discriminate, I feel like I have been involved in a birthing process of our organization. The ideas and plans were seeded several years ago by those "activist types", whom I believe to be very "out". (I believed that they found it easy to deal with the general lack of our sexuality by society. Now I believe that they have the same fears I have. The difference for them, and I guess for me now, is that they are no longer willing to accept being exiled to a life of fear, lies and limited possibilities).

Maine Won't Discriminate has grown to include members of the gay and lesbian community and the straight community. Parents, teachers, lawyers, doctors, civil engineers, carpenters, government workers, churches, business people and more have voiced their support of our organization. From all walks of life, people are eager to support gay and lesbian rights while others seek to broaden human rights to include any and all people that are prevented in any way from a full enjoyable and productive life.

As your year (1994) comes to a close, consider what is happening in your life. Do you keep any part of your life hidden or separate from others? Do you fear that someone may find out about your sexuality and use it against you? ... in your job? ... in your housing? ... in your family? Do you know anyone that lives a life of half-truths and cover-ups or perhaps is isolated from others for fear of being "found out"? Do you feel marginalized... hated...judged as gross, degenerate, heartless, devilish, a monster or a social pariah? It is time for you to challenge the fear and shame that are imposed by hurtful belief systems imposed by much of our society. Join Maine Won't Discriminate in our effort to build a safer community for all gays and lesbians in Maine.

Meeting Schedule

General Membership meetings will take place on:

Dec. 12
Jan. 9
Jan. 23
Feb. 6
Feb. 27

These meetings are open to everyone interested in hearing more about the issues and supporting Maine Won't Discriminate. Meetings start at 7pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland.

Fundraising Committee meetings will take place on:

Dec. 6
Dec. 20
Jan. 3
Jan. 17

Meetings are held at the offices of P.R.O.P., 510 Cumberland Ave., Portland at 7pm.

Coalition - Building Committee will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm.

For more information call 761-1788 or (800) 761-1788 and leave a message and your call will be returned.

To volunteer, call David Lischer at 871-9188.
We need volunteers for the upcoming signature challenge!

"I have a dream..."

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Broadening the Dream II

Saturday,
January 15, 1995

A day-long symposium to promote passage of the civil rights bill and the defeat of the referendum. Workshops, speakers and strategy sessions. For more information, call 623-2349.

Unitarian
Universalist Church,
69 Winthrop St.
Augusta

!?!?

Editorial ... Comment...

Salvation comes from within

Let's face it. The November elections have left the gay and lesbian community with things to worry about - Jesse Helms, Orrin Hatch, Strom Thurmond, Newt Gingrich and even, Olympia Snowe (who voted for the Helms Amendment), now in the majority for the first time. Even though Idaho and Oregon survived an onslaught of radical right activity and last minute direct mail campaigns, the victories were close and probably part of a larger strategy that will force us to fight this battle in every state during the remainder of the decade.

In Maine, 70% of Dirigo Alliance-endorsed candidates were elected to the Legislature and Governor-elect Angus King has promised to sign gay rights legislation. If you examine the chart on page 4, however, it is not a foregone conclusion that gay rights legislation will pass both bodies.

In *The Shawshank Redemption*, the prison warden advises Tim Robbins' character that "salvation comes from within". Perhaps it is time for the Maine lesbian and gay community to consider the meaning of that advice.

At this point, we have 10 months to defeat the referendum. It is possible that the signature challenge will be successful, but still, we as a community must be prepared to fight for the next 10 months. We have 10 months to educate Maine citizens about the mean-spirited campaign being forced on them and 10 months to be sure people know that gays and lesbians are their friends, teachers, parents, siblings, co-workers, neighbors and fellow citizens.

If it is true that salvation comes from within, we must as a community, get it together. It's time for everyone to donate money, volunteer and attend meetings. If we as a community believe that we deserve equal rights and protection from discrimination, we need to show it by fully staffing the organizations and coalitions that have formed to defend our rights. You can rest assured that the radical right gets good meeting attendance. **Is it possible that their commitment to oppressing others exceeds our ability to commit to defending our right to live?!**

At times, the radical right seems seductive. The philosophy can be swallowed whole, and it provides a sense of community (within a very narrow set of roles for men and women). It seems easier to convene than the diverse populations within the lesbian and gay community and it seems to have fewer squabbles about political correctness, elitism, classicism, racism and the other issues that make our community a thinking, challenging and questioning body. But, the one thing they have that we need to replicate is their commitment, from mailings to busloads of voters to meeting attendance and strategy sessions to fundraising to follow through. It's time to get moving and there's room for everyone.

It would be foolish to believe that mere meeting attendance will guarantee victory in November 1995, but it would be equally foolish to believe that a small group of committed individuals will be able to successfully defend Maine's lesbian and gay community. Everyone must become involved and remember the higher mission that can unite our diverse members into a message of fairness and tolerance that Maine citizens understand and believe in.

As a movement, we must look within for the strength we will all need for the next 10 months and that strength comes from the knowledge that all humans possess an intrinsic value that should be respected both by ourselves and by our society's legal system. The second will not happen without the first. We must respect each other enough to deserve the title of a "movement", if we cannot respect each other than we differ from Carolyn Cosby only in degree rather than in kind.

10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

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Editors

Terri Jones • Rebecca Foster

Contributors

Douglas Packard • Martha Atherholt II
Laura Smith • Chris Wisniewski
Lise Wagner • Maggie Fournier
Tara K. Luce • Will Sandstead
Cheryl Landry

Dykes To Watch Out For



Maine News

Maine House and Senate Spotlight

As of November 24, the following individuals have won election to the Maine House and Senate. Some recounts were still going on as 10% went to press. Representatives and Senators with an "N" have expressed opposition to or voted against gay rights legislation in the past. Those with "Y" have expressed support for gay rights legislation on MLGPA's pre-election survey. A "D" indicates that the winner was a Dirigo Alliance-endorsed candidate (a coalition including the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance).

Maine House of Representatives

District

- 1 Kenneth F. Lemont (R - Kittery) N
- 2 David N. Ott (R - York) Y
- 3 John P. Marshall (R - Eliot) N
- 4 Wesley Farnum (R - So. Berwick) N
- 5 Eleanor Murphy (R - Berwick) N
- 6 Howard Chick (R - Lebanon)
- 7 Joseph G. Carleton (R - Wells) Y
- 8 Jack Libby (R - Kennebunk) N
- 9 Mona Walker Hale (D - Sanford) Y/N
- 10 John Tuttle (D - Sanford)
- 11 Richard Nass (R - Acton)
- 12 Michael McAlevey (R - Waterboro)
- 13 Jeffrey Joyner (R - Hollis)
- 14 James Libby (R - Buxton) N
- 15 Theodore Poirier (R - Saco)
- 16 Guy Nadeau (D - Saco) Y
- 17 Steven Joyce (D - Saco)
- 18 Peter Truman (D - Biddeford) Y
- 19 Lloyd LaFountain (D - Biddeford) Y
- 20 George Kerr (D - OOB) Y
- 21 Glenys Lovett (R - Scar.)
- 22 Robert Pendleton (R - Scar.) N
- 23 Janice Labrecque (R - Gorham) Y
- 24 Santo DiPietro (D - So. Port.) N
- 25 Jean Ginn Marvin (R - Cape Eliz.) Y
- 26 Peter Cloutier (D - So. Port.) Y
- 27 Birger Johnson (D - So. Port.) Y,D
- 28 William O'Gara (D - Westbrook) Y
- 29 William Lemke (D - Westbrook) Y
- 30 J. Elizabeth Mitchell (D - Port.) Y
- 31 James Oliver (D - Port.) Y
- 32 Fred Richardson (D - Port.) Y
- 33 Herbert Adams (D - Port.) Y
- 34 F. Thomas Gieringer (R - Port.)
- 35 G. Steven Rowe (D - Port.) Y

- 36 Elizabeth Townsend (D - Port.) Y, D
- 37 Michael Brennan (D - Port.) Y, D
- 38 Thomas Tyler (D - Port.) N
- 39 Carol Kontos (D - Windham) Y,D
- 40 Gary Reed (R - Falmouth) Y
- 41 Burchard Dunn (R - Gray)
- 42 Joseph Taylor (R - Cumberland) N
- 43 Ernest Greenlaw (R - Standish) N
- 44 John T. Buck (R - Yarmouth)
- 45 Harry True (R - Fryeburg) N
- 46 G. Paul Waterhouse (R - Bridgton)
- 47 Richard Thompson (D - Naples)
- 48 Robert Hartnett (R - Freeport) Y
- 49 Edmund Benedikt (D - Bruns.) Y
- 50 Thomas Davidson (D - Brunswick)
- 51 David Etnier (D - Harpswell) Y,D
- 52 Verdi Tripp (D - Topsham) Y
- 53 David Shiah (D - Bowdoinham) Y,D
- 54 Arthur Mayo (R - Bath) Y
- 55 Judith Peavey (R - Woolwich)
- 56 Chester Rice (R So. Bristol)
- 57 Marge Kilkelly (D - Wiscasset) Y
- 58 Charles Heino (R - Boothbay) N
- 59 Robert Spear (R - Nobleboro) N
- 60 Christine Savage (R - Union)
- 61 Richard Simoneau (R - Thomas.) N
- 62 Paul Chartrand (D - Rockland) Y,D
- 63 Gordon Gates (D - Rockport)
- 64 John Underwood (R - Oxford)
- 65 Alvin Barth (R - Bethel) N
- 66 Edward Dexter (R - Kingfield) N
- 67 M. Ida Luther (D - Mexico) N
- 68 Tom Winsor (R - Norway)
- 69 Brenda Birney (R - Paris) N
- 70 Robert Cameron (R - Rumford) N
- 71 Rosalie Aikman (R - Poland) N
- 72 Robert Winglass (R - Auburn) N
- 73 Belinda Murphy (D - Auburn)
- 74 Susan Dore (D - Auburn) Y
- 75 Roy Nickerson (R - Turner) N
- 76 Roland Samson (D - Jay)
- 77 Conrad Heeschen (D - Wilton) Y,D
- 78 Walter Gooley (R - Farm.) N
- 79 Wendy Ault (R - Wayne) Y
- 80 Catharine Damren (R - Belgrade)
- 81 June Meres (D - Norridgewock)
- 82 Elizabeth Watson (D - Farmingd.) Y
- 83 Bonnie Green (D - Monmouth) Y,D
- 84 Nancy Chizmar (D - Lisbon)
- 85 Michael Fitzpatrick (D - Durh.) Y,D
- 86 Roger Pouliot (D - Lewiston) N
- 87 George Ricker (D - Lewiston) N
- 88 Patricia Lemaire (D - Lewiston) Y

- 89 Albert Gamache (D - Lewiston)
- 90 Gerald Bouffard (D - Lewiston)
- 91 Sharon Treat (D - Gardiner) Y,D
- 92 William Guerrette (R - Pittston)
- 93 Randall Berry (D - Livermore)
- 94 Elizabeth Mitchell (D - Vassalboro) Y
- 95 David Madore (R - Augusta)
- 96 Beverly Daggett (D - Augusta) Y
- 97 Dorothy Rotondi (D - Madison) Y
- 98 Pamela Hatch (D - Skowhegan) Y,D
- 99 Ruth Joseph (D - Waterville) Y
- 100 Paul Jacques (D - Waterville) N
- 101 Dan Gwadosky (D - Fairfield) Y
- 102 Marc Vigue (D - Winslow) N
- 103 Thomas Poulin (D - Oakland) N
- 104 Sumner Jones (R - Pittsfield) N
- 105 David Lindahl (R - Northport) N
- 106 Gail Chase (D - China) Y,D
- 107 Robert Tufts (R - Stockton Spr.) N
- 108 Vaughn Stedman (R - Hartland) N
- 109 Walter Whitcomb (R - Waldo) N
- 110 Rodney McElroy (R - Unity)
- 111 Richard Gould (D - Greenville) N
- 112 Ruel Cross (R - Dover-Foxcroft) N
- 113 Joseph Bigl (R - Bucksport)
- 114 Debra Plowman (R - Hampden) N
- 115 Charles Fisher (D - Brewer) Y
- 116 Richard Campbell (R - Holden) N
- 117 Richard Stone (R - Bangor)
- 118 Lisa Lumbr (R - Bangor)
- 119 Hugh Morrison (D - Bangor) Y
- 120 Jane Saxl (D - Bangor) Y,D
- 121 Robert Keane (D - Old Town)
- 122 Julie Winn (D - Glenburn) Y
- 123 Kathleen Stevens (D - Orono) Y,D
- 124 Robert Yackobitz (R - Hermon)
- 125 Donald Strout (R - Corinth) N
- 126 William Reed (R - Dexter) N
- 127 Edward Povich (D - Ellsworth) Y
- 128 Royce Perkins (R - Penobscot)
- 129 Paul Volenik (D - Sedgwick) Y
- 130 Kyle Jones (D - Bar Harbor)
- 131 James Layton (R - Cherryfield) N
- 132 William Pinkham (R - Lamoine)
- 133 Theone Look (R - Jonesboro) N
- 134 Harry Bailey (R - Township 27) N
- 135 Joseph Driscoll (D - Calais) N
- 136 George Bunker (D - Kussuth Twn)
- 137 Clyde Hichborn (D - LaGrange) N
- 138 Priscilla Lane (R - Enfield)
- 139 Jon Rosebush (D - E. Millinocket)
- 140 Herbert Clark (D - Millinocket) N
- 141 Henry Joy (R - Crystal) N

- 142 Dean Clukey (R - Houlton) N
 - 143 Edgar Wheeler (D - Bridgewater)
 - 144 Richard Kneeland (R - Easton) N
 - 145 James Donnelly (R - Presque Isle) N
 - 146 Mabel Desmond (D - Mapleton)
 - 147 Julie-Marie Robichaud (R - Carib.) N
 - 148 Gary O'Neal (D - Limestone)
 - 149 Rosaire Sirois (D - Caribou)
 - 150 Douglas Ahearne (D - Madawaska) N
 - 151 John Martin (D - Eagle Lake) Y?
- Penobscot Nation Rep.** - Priscilla A. Attean
- Passamaquoddy Tribal Rep.** - Frederick Moore

Maine Senate

District

- 1 Judy Paradis (D) Y
- 2 R. Leo Kieffer (R) N
- 3 Michael Michaud (D) N
- 4 Vinton Cassidy (R) N
- 5 Jill Goldthwait (D)
- 6 Richard Ruhlin (D) Y
- 7 John O'Dea (D) Y
- 8 Stephen Hall (R) N
- 9 Sean Faircloth (D) Y,D
- 10 Alton Cianchette (D) Y
- 11 Susan Longley (D) Y,D
- 12 Rochelle Pingree (D) Y,D
- 13 S. Peter Mills (R)
- 14 Richard Carey (D) Y
- 15 Beverly Bustin (D) Y
- 16 Charles Begley (R) N
- 17 John Benoit (R)
- 18 Dale McCormick (D) Y,D
- 19 Mary Small (R) Y
- 20 Albert Stevens (R) N
- 21 Georgette Berube (D) Y -
- 22 John Cleveland (D) Y,D
- 23 Philip Harriman (R) Y
- 24 Norman Ferguson (R)
- 25 Dana Hanley (R) N
- 26 Jeffrey Butland (R) Y
- 27 I. Joel Abramson (R) Y
- 28 Anne Rand (D) Y,D
- 29 Donald Esty (D) Y
- 30 Jane Amero (R) Y
- 31 Joan Pendexter (R) Y
- 32 W. John Hathaway (R)
- 33 David Carpenter (R) N
- 34 Willis Lord (R, recount) N
- 35 Mark Lawrence (D) Y,D

Area teen groups plan World AIDS Day observances

PORTLAND - Three Maine high school groups are planning activities to draw attention to the AIDS epidemic and the need for AIDS prevention education in schools. KISS (Kennebec Individuals for Safer Sexuality), TRAP (Teen Risk Awareness Portland) and SLAM (Scarborough for Latex Availability and Maturity) are teen branches of F.A.T.E. (Fight AIDS-Transform Education) a project of Act-UP/Portland. Each plans unique activities in observance of World AIDS Day on December 1.

At Monmouth Academy, KISS will be handing out informational "zines" promoting prevention, choice and condom availability in all Maine public schools and will attend the Dec. 1 Monmouth school board meeting. In Scarborough, the members of SLAM will go to class six minutes late to symbolize that 1 death from AIDS happens every six minutes. SLAM is asking Scarborough High School to make condoms available and to allow a tolerance/diversity group mandated by the superintendent to happen.

In Portland, TRAP members will be participating in a die-in lasting for 6 minutes to remind students of AIDS deaths and to bring attention to the public hearing and the School Committee final vote on condom availability in Portland's schools.

F.A.T.E.'s mission is to provide teens with the means to fight HIV/AIDS and homophobia in Maine schools. All groups include but are not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. It has issued a call for all Maine schools to provide free latex to students, install condom dispensers in bathrooms stalls so students can get latex anonymously, instructions on condom use, AIDS education, communication workshops for parents and kids, the inclusion of homophobia in all harassment policies, and safe sex counselors.

Maine's first gay-lesbian community center opens, seeks donations of supplies and money

CARIBOU - Maine's only Gay and Lesbian Community Center has entered its second month of existence at its location, 398 So. Main St., in Caribou. The Center is a positive turn after its parent group Northern Lambda Nord faced a difficult transition (see 10%, September 1994). However, equipment and supplies are still needed to furnish the space and provide services.

The Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center of Northern Maine is the new home of the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, a lending library and meeting space. Recent meetings have included the development of operating procedures for the Center.

To date, NLN has received over \$1800 in donations toward the establishment of the Center. Northern Lambda Nord is still in the process of raising money to insure the existence of the Center through its second year and has generated a Christmas wish list. If you have these items or can help with a monetary contribution, please send it to Northern Lambda Nord, P.O. Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990. Contributions to NLN are tax deductible.

Needed items include folding tables, folding chairs, a new photocopy machine, a wall-mounted magazine rack, a compact refrigerator, a four drawer locking file cabinet, an erasable planning calendar, a paper shredder and a trash can.

In addition to the current rented space, NLN continues to raise money to purchase its own building. As of Oct. 16, \$3399.64 has been raised towards an overall goal of \$10,000. Contributions for the fund are also tax deductible.

For more information about Northern Lambda Nord, the Community Center and the Building Fund, call (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).



National News

Victory Fund

continued from page 1

Ammiano have all been elected in a second "Lavender Sweep" for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Adding to the good news in San Francisco, openly gay candidates Leslie Katz and Lawrence Wong have won election to the San Francisco Community College Board.

Openly gay U.S. Congressman Gerry Studds, Wisconsin State Assembly member Tammy Baldwin, Oregon State Representative Gail Shibley, and Texas State Representative Glen Maxey all won reelection to the seats they won two years ago with Victory Fund support.

Other openly gay candidates who won included Maine State Senator Dale McCormick, and Minnesota State Representative Karen Clark.

New York State Attorney General candidate Karen Burstein and California Secretary of State candidate Tony Miller, the first openly gay man and lesbian to run for major statewide office, lost in close races to their GOP opponents. Although Burstein won more votes than defeated three-term Democratic Governor Mario Cuomo, the combination of the Republican sweep and vicious gaybaiting by supporters of her opponent pushed the seat just out of her grasp.

CDC gay group target of hostile E-mail

ATLANTA - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a warning to its employees when news of an in-house gay and lesbian group drew hostile electronic mail.

Eighty of the CDC's employees announced the formation of the Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Employees (GLOBE) in a general E-mail message Nov. 1.

GLOBE, which was approved by CDC directors, got about 100 direct E-mail responses. But a CDC spokesman said they included several hostile messages that characterized homosexuality as perverse sexual deviancy and made crude jokes about the group.

Dr. David Satcher, the CDC's director, issued a memo the next day pointing out that "the use of E-mail to convey inappropriate comments is prohibited and will not be tolerated." The memo also said insulting behavior violates the standards of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to which the CDC belongs.

Hollywood plans lesbian mob thriller

HOLLYWOOD - A Hollywood film studio is planning to make a lesbian thriller about a female ex-con who falls for the mistress of a Mafia money launderer. Dino De Laurentiis Communications has announced that the film, titled "Bound" will begin filming next March or April.

In the story, the women conspire to swindle the mob out of \$2 million by turning the mobsters against one another.

Martina ends proud, illustrious career

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y. - Martina Navratilova's phenomenal career came to an end November 15, after being soundly beaten by Gabriela Sabatini 6-4, 6-2 at the Virginia Slims Championships. The tennis star will be best remembered for winning Wimbledon 9 times (and nearly a tenth this year) and for her position as a visible lesbian athlete.

Her career achievements include 167 singles titles and 165 doubles titles, a number one ranking from 1982 until August 1987, an all-time record 1,438 match wins and more than \$20 million in career earnings. Estimates have suggested that her earnings could have been twice that if she had chosen to remain silent about her lesbianism.

Answering questions about her future, she mentioned other work she would now have time for.

"I'll see what's really closest to my heart and make sure whatever I get involved in that I can make a difference," she said, citing gay rights, women's rights and environmental issues as causes she will have more time to champion.

She will be remembered for bringing women's tennis to a different level becoming the first to "pump iron" and the first to introduce and perfect an aggressive serve and volley style to the women's tennis world.

The Virginia Slims Championship crowd rewarded her with a lengthy standing ovation before her match with Sabatini.

"I never had an ovation like that coming on court," she said.

Of her decision to call it quits after 22 years, Navratilova said: "I'm just glad I had had the choice, that I retired on my own terms, not because the body said, no more."

Asked to describe her own legacy, Navratilova said, "Being the consummate professional, giving everything I have on the court and off the court, always trying to do my best, striving for excellence."

"That I have influenced people who are not even tennis players - you know it's pretty amazing what you can do when you hit tennis balls pretty well."

Ministers oppose AFA censorship activity

SACRAMENTO - *Christianity Today*, a periodical that explores issues in Christianity is reporting that fifty-two Sacramento ministers have come to the defense of an alternative newspaper to protest the actions of David Woodel, state director for the American Family Association.

The ministers purchased a full-page advertisement in the free distribution Sacramento News & Review (SN&R), defending the free-press rights of the publication, saying, "It saddens us to see the word 'Christianity' used as a cover for intolerance, bigotry, small-mindedness, and anger."

The ministers took action after Woodel succeeded in having SN&R—which draws revenue from explicitly sexual personal preference advertising in its classifieds—removed from 16 Burger King franchises last July. "Most business people really don't understand that there's a civil war of values taking place," Woodel says.

SN&R wrote that alternative newspapers are facing "increasing pressure from Religious Right groups that either use existing corporate policy or perceived homophobia in individual communities to in effect censor the newsweeklies." Woodel, an insurance agent, has characterized the gay and lesbian personal ads, as written by "people with sexual addictions who need help. The purpose of the News & Review is to desensitize and legitimize such activity."

For his part, Woodel has had to deal with clients who have canceled insurance because of his "intolerant" views.

Gay couple asks Canadian Court for recognition

OTTAWA - A gay male couple has asked Canada's Supreme Court to give them the same government benefits as heterosexual couples in a landmark challenge under the country's charter of rights and freedoms. James Egan and John "Jack" Nesbit, who have lived together for 46 years, say they should receive the same pension benefit as other spouses. This is the first gay rights challenge to the equality-rights section of Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms asking for same-sex benefits.

"They (the men) do not seek greater rights or privileges or benefits than heterosexual couples, they come to this court with a simple plea they want equality," lawyer Joseph Arvey told Canada's highest court.

The two men, who live on Vancouver Island, are asking for a spousal allowance they were refused seven years ago. The Canadian government says only a man and a woman can be considered spouses and therefore eligible for the allowance. The couple argues that Canada's charter of human rights guarantees them the same government benefits as other couples.

"My clients are a gay couple who have lived together in an intimate, sexual, emotional and financial interdependent relationship for over 45 years, few heterosexual couples can make the same claim," Arvey said.

The men are not asking the court to give them the legal status of marriage but only recognition that their relationship is similar enough for them to receive the government financial benefits.

NGLTF hotline to pressure DOJ on Laurel, Miss.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Representatives at the Department of Justice have said they cannot intervene in the murder investigation of two gay men in Laurel, Mississippi because the 1964 Civil Rights Act does not extend protection to people on the basis of sexual orientation.

Meanwhile, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in Atlanta, has joined the call for a "thorough and independent investigation of the murder case." The SCLC cited disparaging remarks made by Jones County Sheriff Maurice Hooks about homosexuals and a lack of accurate information about the suspect, a 17-year-old African-American male, as strong reason to enlist outside help.

"In view of the history of race and the criminal justice system in Mississippi, we believe an outside, objective investigation is essential," said the Rev. Joseph Lowery, SCLC president.

A hotline has been established to link local activists with Attorney General Reno's office. By calling 1-800-651-1417, individuals may speak to an operator who will add their name and address to a letter urging Reno to intervene in the matter.

"We must keep the pressure on the DOJ now," Radecic said. "The situation in central Mississippi is only a picture of the violence, intimidation and harassment faced by gay and lesbian people throughout the United States everyday. We need a clear message from the DOJ whether we as citizens can expect to receive protection and assistance from the very agency created to do so. If the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not include us as protected citizens, then the Clinton Administration is going to have to tell us who we can depend on when the lives and welfare of our people are at stake."

New definition expands AIDS treatment

ATLANTA - U.S. officials at the Centers for Disease Control believe expanding the official definition of what constitutes AIDS has allowed more people to obtain effective medical treatment sooner and thus live longer.

Reported cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome rose dramatically in 1993, reflecting the expansion of the definition of illness to include T-cell, a type of blood cell, counts. Previously, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not use depressed CD-4 T-cell counts to signify AIDS. The definition was further expanded to include invasive cervical cancer, TB and recurrent pneumonia. However, there has only been a slight increase in the number of AIDS patients with life-

National news
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December/January

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Musical Happenings

Sisters' All Star, All-Woman Dance Jam Band

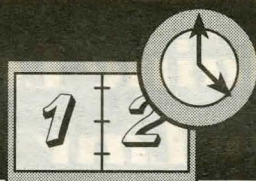


Several area musicians got together for a live music jam November 18 at Sisters.

Holly Near and Catherine D'Amato entertained a large crowd at a November 5 Wild Iris Productions' show



photos by
Rebecca Foster



Listing of Events

Circle of Hope, an inclusive Christian worship group following a model developed by the Metropolitan Community Churches, meets Saturdays at 4pm at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. FML: write MCC, P.O. Box 1671, Portland, ME 04104.

Coffeehouse at the Gathering, featuring Cathy Poole and Heartstrings with catering by Bagelworks and Green Mountain Coffee, 7-9pm, Dec. 20, USM Campus Ctr.. For more information, call 774-4919.

"Discrimination on the Job: Could It Happen to You?", A film and discussion of issues facing sexual minorities in the workplace. A Matlovich discussion on Dec. 8 at 7:30pm at the Holiday-Inn-by-the-Bay. Free parking and wheelchair accessible.

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS-Transform Education, Act-UP/Portland is forming empowering groups for teens and queers. All welcome. 1st and 3rd Fri., 5:30pm, 87 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible, information Act-UP/Port., P.O. Box 1931, Port., ME, 04104 or phone/fax 828-0566.

Flirtations in Concert, music and comedy from the stars of HBO's "Why Am I Gay?", Dec. 9, Jewett Auditorium, UMaine Augusta, 8pm. Tickets are \$15 with discounts available. For more information and reservations call 621-3209 or (800) 696-6000.

"Good News and Bad: Christianity, Culture Wars and Sexual Justice" with Marvin Ellison, professor of Christian Ethics at the Gathering, Dec. 13, 7-9pm, USM Campus Ctr.. For more information call 774-4919.

Maine Gay Visual Artist League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, supportive and creative network for Maine's gay and lesbian artists. For meeting place, call 775-3420.

Maine Won't Discriminate meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. See page 2 for complete details of MWD activities.

Friday Night Church meets every Friday at 7pm, State St. Church, 159 State St., Portland. All-inclusive and affirming service offering a guide to Christian spiritual journey. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 774-6396.

Lesbian Support Group meets every first and third Wed. at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center. Woman-only, lesbian-only space. 6:30-8pm, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. For more information, call 947-5337.

"Let's Do Brunch" Potluck social gathering, 11am-2pm, third Sunday of the month at York County locations, Call 985-2784 for more information.

"Let There Be Harmony", a winter concert by Women in Harmony, Janu-

ary 28, 1995, 8pm, 156 High St., Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$6 for seniors / students from Amadeus Music, 332 Fore St., and Drop Me A Line, 615A Congress St., Port. Handicap accessible and sign-interpreted.

"Light Up the Night", a holiday concert by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, Dec. 11 at 2pm and Dec. 16 at 8pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Tickets are \$10 in advance available from chorus members, Drop Me A Line, Bookland at Mallside in Portland or the State Theatre box office at 879-1112.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance meets on Nov. 16 from 6 to 9pm at the Winthrop St. Unitarian Church in Augusta.

Matlovich Open House, a break from seasonal madness. Bring something tasty to share. Dec. 22, 7-10pm, 28 Colonial Rd., Portland, 773-1209.

Mothers and Kids Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. at the Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Rd., Falmouth. For information, contact Linda Parker at 767-4368.

Northern Lambda Nord Christmas Party and Yankee Swap, Dec. 17, 8pm in Caribou. Bring a gift, get a gift. Call the Rhoneline for details, 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting, Dec. 11, 1-3pm, Community Ctr., 398 So. Main St., Caribou, 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Northern Lambda Nord New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, 8pm, New Sweden. Call the Phoneline for information, 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Partners of Parents meets every 3rd Monday, 7-9pm at Woodfords' Congregational Church, Woodfords St., Portland. Support to lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. For information, call 774-5032.

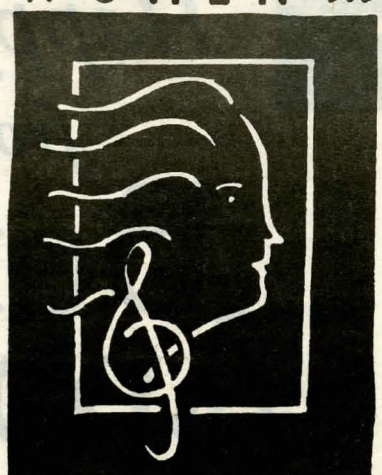
Queer Holidays: Planning alternative celebrations, developing holiday traditions drawing from Pagan, Jewish, Christian and other rituals. Dec. 16, 7:30pm, Unitarian Church, 169 Pleasant St., Auburn.

Sexuality in High School, a talk at the Gathering 7-9pm, Tuesday, Dec. 6 at the USM Campus Ctr., call 774-4919.

Women's Holiday Dance, Saturday Dec. 10, 8:00pm-midnight at Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland. Chem-free, DJ and refreshments. \$6 at the door.

Women's Night at the Gay-Lesbian Community Ctr. of Northern Maine, Dec. 16, 7pm, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. Call 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

WOMEN in



HARMONY

presents a winter concert...

"Let There Be Music"
January 28, 1995 8pm

Immanuel Baptist Church
156 High St. Portland

Tickets \$10 in advance (\$6 seniors/students) from Amadeus Music and Drop Me A Line or \$12 at the door. Handicapped accessible/sign-interpreted

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents...

"Light Up the Night: A Holiday Celebration"

Seasonal music from American, French-Canadian, Jamaican, English, Jewish and Russian composers and the world premiere of "Heroes", a celebration of those who are living with or have died of AIDS.

Dec. 11, 1994 2pm
Dec. 16, 1994 8pm

St. Luke's Cathedral
State St. Portland

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door from chorus members, Drop Me A Line, Bookland at Mallside or by calling the State Theatre box office at 879-1112.

Join Portland's only
feminist theatre
company for a modern, lesbian
adaptation of Dickens' "A
Christmas Carol"

The Furies
present...

"I Guess My Name is Scrooge"

December 13 - 18 8pm
Sunday matinee 2pm

at Sisters, 45 Danforth St.,
Portland, 774-1505

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Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association

National legal developments

by Will Sandstead, Esq.
Contributor

Health Care Benefits, HIV and the ADA

The First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled on October 12 that a plaintiff could maintain a lawsuit against a medical reimbursement plan provider under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for imposing a cap on HIV-related health care benefits. The plaintiff asserted that the benefits cap constituted disability discrimination.

Before the appeal, a lower court held that neither the plan provider nor the plan itself qualified as either an "employer" or a "place of public accommodation" under the Act. It dismissed the plaintiff's suit without reaching the question of whether the HIV benefit cap was forbidden by the ADA.

On appeal, the First Circuit reversed the lower court. It held that it was theoretically possible for the plan provider to be the plaintiff's employer or a place of public accommodation for ADA purposes. It remanded the case back to the lower court to give the plaintiff the opportunity to prove his case.

The appellate court compared this case to other civil rights cases where the concept of "employer" has been treated expansively. The Court decision stated, "[I]f [the plan provider] and [the plan] exist solely for the purpose of enabling entities such as [employers] to delegate their responsibility to provide health insurance to their employees, they are so intertwined with those entities that they must be deemed an 'employer' for the purposes of Title I of the ADA."

The Court decided also that places of public accommodation are not limited to actual physical structures. It used the example of a travel service, where a customer might deal with the service provider entirely through telephone communication. Thus, the defendant could still qualify as a place of public accommodation even if the plaintiff never needed to enter a physical structure to use the defendant's services.

This case is particularly pertinent to us in Maine, since federal cases commenced in this state are appealed to the First Circuit. The case was *Carparts Distribution Center, Inc. v. Automotive Wholesaler's Association of New England, Inc.*, 1994 WL 543530.

State antigay initiatives

On October 11, the Colorado Supreme Court granted a permanent injunction against the implementation of the Colorado anti-gay voter initiative Amendment 2. It was the first state high court in the country to declare such an initiative to be unconstitutional.

The case had already appealed once to the Colorado Supreme Court, where the Court held that the U.S. Constitution protects the fundamental right to have equal access to the political process. It further held that denying lesbians, gays and bisexuals the opportunity to lobby their elected officials to enact legislation protecting their interests denied them equal access. On the initial appeal, the

Court remanded the case back to the lower court for trial.

On second appeal, two questions were at issue. First, whether the State of Colorado could prove any compelling justification for denying equal access to homosexuals, and second, whether Amendment 2 was "narrowly tailored" to achieve such an interest without necessarily burdening the constitutional right to equal access to the political process. The Colorado Supreme Court answered "no" to both questions.

First, the state asserted that Amendment 2 protects the sanctity of religious, familial and personal privacy. While the Court agreed that protecting such privacy is a compelling state interest, it held that Amendment 2 was too broadly drawn to protect that interest. Instead, religious freedom could be protected by including religious exemptions in civil rights legislation.

Next, the Court rejected the State's argument that Amendment 2 preserves limited state resources for the protection of traditionally protected groups, such as racial and ethnic minorities, women and children born out of wedlock. The Court held that the preservation of fiscal resources and administrative convenience are not compelling state interests.

The State further argued that Amendment 2 allowed Colorado citizens to establish public social and moral norms. The Court disagreed and found that there was "no authority to support the proposition that the promotion of public morality constitutes a compelling governmental interest." "[A]ntidiscrimination laws make no assumptions about the morality of protected classes - they simply recognize that certain characteristics, be they moral or immoral have no relevance in enumerated commercial contexts."

The Court rejected the State's argument that Amendment 2 was a legitimate means of preventing the government from supporting the objectives of a special interest group. The Court found that virtually any law could be regarded as benefiting a "special interest group," and therefore, the State's argument would "justify striking down almost any legislative enactment imaginable."

Finally, the Court rejected the State's argument that Amendment 2 would prevent factionalism and divisiveness over the controversy concerning homosexuality by eliminating the "city-by-city and county-by-county battles over [the] issues."

The State of Colorado has announced that it would appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Source: *Lesbian and Gay Law Notes*, November 1994.

Will Sandstead is a board member of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Law Association (MeLeGal) and is an associate at Farnsworth & Associates in Hallowell.



Christmas Benefit

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LESBIAN JEWELERS, 10-6

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JANUARY 7

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National News (cont.)

AIDS definition continued from page 5

threatening illnesses, the CDC said.

Earlier classification of the disease has helped people with weakened immune systems obtain treatment before the onset of AIDS-related illnesses, said Dr. John W. Ward, chief of AIDS surveillance at the CDC.

"It shows the success of early medical intervention in making available to people anti-retroviral therapy, antibiotics and other drugs that delay or prevent the development of these illnesses," Ward said.

"As a result, I think the quality of life for people with severe HIV disease has improved. You have less hospitalization, more outpatient care and I think it's probably also improved survival somewhat."

There were 63,101 AIDS cases reported during the first nine months of this year, almost twice the number of cases reported during the same period in 1992.

The apparent increase is almost entirely due to the broadened definition of AIDS. "The AIDS epidemic increased only 3 percent in 1993 compared to 1992," Ward said.

AIDS-related illnesses declined slightly among gay and bisexual men in 1993, the CDC said.

"There have been definitely some changes in sexual practices among homosexual and bisexual men that have resulted in the decreases in AIDS rates," Ward said.

However, AIDS-related illnesses rose 8 percent among injecting drug users and 23 percent among people infected through heterosexual contact. Ward said the two increases are related.

"The largest proportion of people who report infection through heterosexual contact report contact with injecting drug users," he said.

"Those communities that have problems with HIV transmission among injecting drug users are the same communities that have problems with heterosexual transmission."

Ward said heterosexuals should continue remain alert to the possibility of infection with the virus that causes AIDS. "Every person engaged in heterosexual activity should consider taking precautions if they are uncertain about the history of their sexual partner," he said.

Out & About gives TWA a failing grade

NEW YORK - Out & About, a newsletter for gay travelers, has given Trans World Airlines Inc.'s frequent-flier program a failing grade. The newsletter gave TWA the lowest mark among major U.S. carriers because gay members of its frequent-flier program could transfer awards only to relatives, in-laws or a companion traveling on an identical itinerary.

American Airlines topped the magazine's rankings with an A, followed by United Airlines, which got a B.

Gingrich

continued from page 1

gin than many of the homosexuals I know personally," the Georgia Republican said.

"So then why would I condemn a person who in most things I agree with and think is an honorable, decent person but I may disagree with one part of their personal life?"

Gingrich was interviewed by Chandler Burr, a free-lance writer who was working on a profile of Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wis., for The New York Times Magazine. Gunderson has been in a long-term relationship with another man but declines to answer the question of whether he is gay.

Gingrich - who is a personal friend of both Gunderson and his partner - said the Republican Party's position on homosexuality "should be toleration."

"It should not be promotion and it should not be condemnation. I don't want to see police in the men's room, which we had when I was a child, and I don't want to see trying to educate kindergartners in understanding gay couples."

"Over time, we want to have an explicit bias in favor of heterosexual marriage," Gingrich said. "If you look at the pathologies and weaknesses of America today, re-establishing the centrality of marriage and of the role of a male and female in that relationship is a very central issue of the next 20 years."

Gingrich also says that he believes homosexuality is "an orientation in the way that alcoholism is an orientation."

While acknowledging that there are different schools of thought on whether homosexuality is a choice, Gingrich said, "I would sidestep the issue as a public policy matter, because I feel very confident about the bias in favor of heterosexual marriage and heterosexual couples raising children."

Gingrich's comments to The Washington Blade echo what he has said in other forums about homosexuality. He also said he has no trouble being friends or working with homosexuals. In fact, one of his younger sisters is gay.

National News continues on page 10

Mothers and Child will return in the February issue of 10%.



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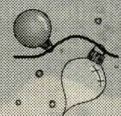
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December 23 & 24

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write or call P.O. Box 5077,
Portland, ME 04101, or 774-HELP

National News (cont.)

Court upholds dismissal of gay midshipman

WASHINGTON - A divided federal appeals court Tuesday upheld the Naval Academy's dismissal of a midshipman who admitted he is gay.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, on a 7-3 vote, said the academy acted properly in dismissing Joseph Steffan in 1987 after he said he was a homosexual, even though he did not admit engaging in homosexual conduct. Steffan sued the government to be reinstated in the academy, but lost in U.S. district court and the appeals court upheld that ruling.

Judge Laurence Silberman, in the majority opinion, said the academy was justified in concluding that anyone who admitted being gay was probably engaging in homosexual acts.

"It is sufficient to recognize that the government's presumption, as embodied in the academy regulation, is certainly rational given that the human sexual drive is enormously powerful and that an open declaration that one is a homosexual is a rather reliable indication as to the direction of one's drive.

"For all the record shows, and for all the pleadings reveal, Steffan declared himself to be a 'homosexual' because he in fact had engaged in homosexual conduct," Silberman wrote.

Three judges disagreed, saying Steffan's dismissal solely on the basis of homosexual orientation was wrong.

"The critical issue posed in the starkest fashion by Steffan's case is whether a member of the armed forces may be discharged on the sole basis of an admission of his homosexual orientation. We believe that he may not and we therefore dissent," Judge Patricia Wald wrote in an opinion joined by two other judges.

"We conclude that the military's discharge of Joseph Steffan on the sole basis of his admission of homosexuality was not rationally related to a legitimate government goal," Wald added.

"For the government to penalize a person for acknowledging his sexual orientation runs deeply against our constitutional grain," she said.

Steffan's attorney, Mark Wolinsky, said he was reviewing the decision before deciding whether to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. He said Steffan was now a clerk for a federal judge and could not comment on the ruling.

He was discharged three months before he was to graduate and become a Navy officer.

Clinton appoints new AIDS czar

WASHINGTON - President Clinton has appointed Patricia S. Fleming to be his AIDS policy director Fleming. Fleming has spent the past two decades as a top aide to liberal Democrats on Capitol Hill and in health and education posts in the Carter and Clinton administrations. Recently, she was Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala's special assistant, helping coordinate that agency's prime role in the AIDS fight.

Clinton, whose first AIDS policy director was widely criticized as ineffective, pledged that Fleming would have "direct access to me" and the Cabinet.

Clinton noted that a quarter-million Americans have died from AIDS. One million have been infected with the HIV virus; more than 400,000 have developed the disease, with 40,000 new infections each year. Fleming said half of all HIV infections occur before age 25, and one in four who become infected contract the virus before their 20th birthday.

"The trends are particularly troublesome among women, people of color and adolescents," Fleming said at the White House ceremony. "While the rate of increase among gay men has lessened, AIDS still tears at the core of that population, particularly young gay men."

Fleming said she accepted the national AIDS policy director job permanently after initial reluctance because "I realized it was not impossible."

"I have power. I have authority. I have access. I can make things happen," Fleming said in an interview before the ceremony, which was attended by leaders of AIDS groups, including some that had demanded the ouster of her predecessor, Kristine Gebbie.

Gebbie, who gave up the job in June after receiving criticism for ineffectiveness from activist groups.

The Clinton administration says public health spending for AIDS programs has risen by 30 percent since Clinton took office. That includes an 82 percent increase in the Ryan White Act, which provides services for people with the disease, and a 25 percent jump in biomedical research. Clinton appointed a prominent immunologist, William Paul, to head a new Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health.

Classified Advertisements

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 in the light of day
 creeps to the beat of untouched mind
 arm ridden man
 palms the moon stocking figures
 left long after dark
 the tree that walks like a man
 left the door unlocked
 yet knocks at the shutter
 hunched over the stoop he watches
 knowing my name better then I do
 he sees your address
 calling tonight
 a girl waits in her yellow flowered bed
 replaying her first talks about sex

THE FOOD PUSHER

on weathered streaked benches
 fluff-nutters on paper towel
 swedish panckaes crepes
 peach tort pies carrot cake
 oreo frito
 lamb mashed potatoes
 bean clam dip
 licking the beater
 always her last spoon
 she made all of these my mother
 who died not of old age
 nor was she busted
 for pushing food

her body was as wax paper
 crumpled transparent
 course we had milk ten gallons
 plates with seconds
 she'd sit with us at meals
 dad was convinced she was fat
 after making bread
 she dieted on tab and water
 he'd say "God loves a fat girl"
 she wrapped his dinners wait for him
 go to bed with the hall light on

in her closet was a velvet theatre dress
 she'd put it on after ten pounds were lost
 standing in front of him, he moves to see the tv
 children fed and shirts starched
 he called her "Mummsie" and never had enough gravy
 her cheese cake shivers
 my mother
 the food pusher
 lost the weight
 while her family watched
 her die
 transparent crumpled
 of a diet of fasting for the love of her husband
 and the stuff that family's
 dream of
 leaving no room
 for seconds

Halloween '94



As always, the Halloween season brings out the best creative minds in the community. 1994 was no exception with revelry at the Underground, PJ's, and Sisters. Of course, no year would be complete without a visit by the Village People.



Photos by
 Rebecca Foster



Rocky Horror Winners



Blackstones' November 12 Rocky Horror Picture Show party kicked off a special showing of the cult classic at Portland's State Theatre. Lucky and creative people won clever t-shirts courtesy of the bar.

Michelle Bolen
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

General Practice Individual & Groups Education & Presentations

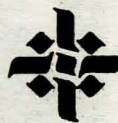
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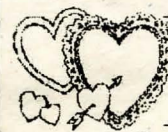
**Farnsworth
&
Associates**
Attorneys at Law

Susan Farnsworth, Esq.
William Sandstead, Esq.
222 Water Street
Hallowell, Maine 04347
(207) 626-3312

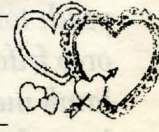
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World AIDS Day
December 1, 1994

401,749 Total AIDS Cases
62,443 reported cases of HIV
A million people are projected to be HIV-
infected

1 in 250 Americans
are HIV-positive

REMEMBER

Referendum Question Text

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

To the 116th Legislature of the State of Maine:

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

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

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

Section 4552-A.

**An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under
Maine Law**

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

This section being necessary for the welfare of the State and the inhabitants of Maine, shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purpose and is not to be interpreted or applied as a limitation or restriction on authority as enumerated in the Maine Constitution.