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Blade interviews Gingrich

by Rebecca Foster

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.

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 decedent and more corrupted by a big marriage insurance effect," he said. "I don't see any reason for the Legislature to really deal with it."

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.

BOISE - Gay activists in Idaho and Oregon breathed a collective sigh 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 5,998 vote in a count that saw 202,601 voting in favor and 200,693 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 15 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 Bergquist, 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, Idaho anti-gay efforts lose by slim margin

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; Shelia Kuehl, California State Assembly; Ken Cheuvront, Arizona House of Representatives; Tim Van Zandt, Missouri House of Representatives; George Eighmey, Oregon House of Representatives; Cynthia Woolen, Oregon House of Representatives; Susan Leal, San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Tom Ammiano, San Francisco Board of Supervisors; Bonnie Dumanis, San Diego City Court, Terri Schwartz, Los Angeles Superior Court, Tom Chiola, Cook County [IL] Court.

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 9
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 other 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? Do you fear that you are not the person you believe you are? Do you ever feel isolated from others for fear of being "found out"? Do you feel marginalized... hated...judged as gross, degenerate, heartless, devlish, 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

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.

To volunteer, call David Lischer at 871-9188. We need volunteers for the upcoming signature challenge!
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 gay and lesbian 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 legislative bodies. The second will not happen without the first. It is true that salvation comes from within, we must as a community, get it together.

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 then we differ from Carolyn Cosby only in degree rather than in kind.

Editors
Terri Jones • Rebecca Foster

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

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Maine News

Maine News

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 100%, 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 faces a difficult transition (see 100%, 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.

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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.
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 was the gay candidate Leslie Katz and Lawrence Wong have won election to the San Francisco Community College Board.

Cheers! U.S. Congressman Gerry Studds, Wisconsin State Assembly member Tammy Baldwin, Oregon State Representative Gail Shively, and Texas State Representative Glen Maxey have won the right to be the first openly gay man and representative Glen Maxey all won for their sweep and vicious gaybaiting by candidate Karen Burstein and California Secretary of State for the discrimination.

They included several hostile messages to its employees when news of an investigation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to which the CDC had referred the case.

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-whch draws revenue from explicitly sexual personal preference advertising in its publication, saying, "It saddens us to see the word "Christianity" used as a cover for intolerance, bigotry, small-mindedness, and anger.

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For his part, Woodel has had to deal with clients who have canceled their financial benefits.

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.

"This kind of discrimination must end," Egan and Nesbit said. "We are asking the court to recognize the same legal rights that heterosexual couples enjoy." The couple argues that the government's refusal to 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 SCCC 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, SCCC 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 worldwide humiliation 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 were not revised to 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 (AIDS) have increased dramatically in 1995, reflecting the expansion of the definition of illness to include T-cell infection and a type of blood disorder. 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-threatening infections.
December/January

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**Musical Happenings**

**Sisters’ All Star, All-Woman Dance Jam Band**

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

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

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. For more information, call 774-4919.

Coffeehouse at the Gathering, featuring Cathy Poole and Heartstrings with percussion, by Bagels 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 Matlovitch discussion on Dec. 8 at 7-9pm 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., 7:30pm, 87 Spring St, Portland. Wheelchair accessible, information Act-UP/Portland, P.O. Box 5195, Portland, 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. Tickets are $15 with discounts available. For more information and reservations call 621-5209 or 8000-696-6000.

"Good News and Bad: Christian-ity, 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 772-5425.

Maine Won't Discriminate meets in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St, Portland. All-inclusive and wheelchair accessible. Information and reservations call 621-3209 or (800) 696-6000.

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


"Let There Be Music", a holiday concert by the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, Dec. 11 at 7pm and Dec. 16 at 8pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, State St, Portland. Tickets are $10 in advance available from church 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 in Portland every other Monday at 7:30pm at Woodfords Congregational Church, Woodfords St., Portland. Support to lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. For information, call 774-5032.

Mothers and Kids Group meets on the third Sunday of each month at the Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Rd, Falmouth. For more information, contact Linda Parker at 774-7538.


Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting, Dec. 11, 1-3pm, Community Ctr., 398 So. Main St, Caribou, 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.

"Let There Be Harmony", a winter concert by Women in Harmony, January 28, 1995, 8pm, 156 High St, Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland. Tickets $10 in advance, $6 for seniors/students from Amadeus Music, 352 Fore St., and Drop Me A Line, 615A Congress St, Portland. Handicap accessible and sign-interpreted.

"Light Up the Night", a holiday concert by the Maine Gay Men's ChorusDec. 11 at 7pm and Dec. 16 at 8pm, St. Luke's Cathedral, State St, Portland. Tickets are $10 in advance available from church members, Drop Me A Line, Bookland at Mallside in Portland or the State Theatre box office at 879-1112.

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Happy Holidays
from....

Bone Appetit
A store for cats and dogs
93 India Street, Portland, Maine 04101
telephone 207.871.9442.

Christmas Benefit
DECEMBER 16
$4 cover charge
Proceeds to purchase holiday gifts for terminally ill individuals.

7th BLACK & WHITE
New Year's Eve Party
Champagne, hot and cold buffet, noisemakers, hats and a toast at MIDNIGHT
PJ's Tues - Sat 7pm, 1am, 80 Water St., Augusta 623-4041

Womankind Gifts
....intriguing gifts that empower women
Brunswick Crossing Mall, 48 Cushing St. 798-5098
DECEMBER 9-10
FREE VIDEO NIGHT 7pm
Showing "Salmonberries" and a special surprise feature co-sponsored by Coffee Grounds and Big Star Video.

JanUARY 15
TRANSITIONAL BREATH 1-4pm
Physical, emotional and spiritual harmony using breath with Ms. Andy Locke. Free breath analysis

JanUARY 7
NATIVE AMERICAN CRAFTSWOMAN DISPLAY AND DEMONSTRATION with Crazy Bear Productions 4-7pm

DECEMBER 17
LESBIAN JEWELERS, 10-6
Display and sales

An honest love story
Savage Nights
A film by Cyril Collard

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 ADA. 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, "If 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 545350.

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 religiously protected groups, such as racial and ethnic minorities, women and children born out of wedlock. The Court held that the preservation of fiscal resources is not a compelling state interest.

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 government interest."

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 "justifiably 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 thethel isues."

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 (MegaL) and is an associate at Farnsworth & Associates in Hallowell.
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 65,101 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 1995 compared to 1992," Ward said.

AIDS-related illnesses declined slightly among gay and bisexual men in 1995, the CDC said.

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

However, AIDS-related illnesses rose 8 percent among injecting drug users and 25 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 of 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 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.

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

"If you look at the pathologies and weaknesses of America today, - 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.

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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 homosexual is a rather reliable indication as to the direction of one's drive," Steffan's attorney, Mark Wolinsky, said.

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, 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.

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.

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Poetry
by Peg

THE TREE THAT WALKS

the tree that walks like a man
brushes faces
in the light of day
creeps to the beat of untouched mid
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 than 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 pancakes 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 husted
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

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
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

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