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Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 1, Number 10

APRIL, 1994

ADOPTION: An Inclusive approach

By P. Hayes, Special Features Writer

International Adoption Services Centre is the brainchild of Barry Nickelsberg, an American philanthropist and fundraiser for non-profit organizations around the world.

On a business trip to China in 1992, Nickelsberg learned the truth around rumors of baby killing. Though denied by the Chinese government, infanticide is very real. Because male children are highly valued by the Chinese, a female baby's umbilical cord often is not tied off, allowing the child to bleed to death. Thus, the parents have another chance to have a male child and still be in accordance with the Chinese law of one child per family.

Nickelsberg, appalled by what he's learned, was driven to find a way to help save these lives.

In the fall of 1993, Nickelsberg

organized the International Adoption Services Centre Inc., a fully licensed non-profit agency in Alna, Maine. The agency opened its doors in January of 1994, and is currently working with sixteen countries. The hope is to make possible fifty to one hundred adoptions each year.

The staff of IASC includes Grace Brace, a licensed clinical social worker, as Director of Social Services. Grace has over ten years experience in the adoption field. She is a biological, adoptive and foster parent herself.

Michael Heath is Director of Communications, holding a Masters Degree in teaching. He has written and directed numerous innovative programs and workshops for the public school system. Mike brings a wealth of knowledge to the Centre. He is also an adoptive parent.

Martha Beckford Naber is Director

of Educational Services with twelve years experience providing adoption related training. Martha is completing her Doctoral Degree in Child and Youth Studies and is the adoptive mother of three children.

Barry Nickelsberg, Administrator, is known as one of the world's leading experts in international fund-raising and philanthropy. For thirteen years, Barry headed an international fund-raising consulting organization with offices around the world.

According to Nickelsberg, IASC has a three part mission: facilitating adoptions for American families, providing a full range of pre and post adoption education programs and information, and most notably, "adopting" orphanages around the world.

Since not every orphan will be adopted, IASC provides donated medical supplies, children's clothing, blankets, diapers and other needed items to orphanages so that all children can live more comfortably and with dignity.



Barry Nickelsberg and Grace Brace of the International Adoption Services Centre

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Spring For Life sets all-time record

By Luke Balboni

The AIDS Project's 8th Annual Visual Aid Art Auction set a new fund-raising record of over \$70,000, up from last year's receipts of \$61,000. The AIDS Project (TAP) achieved this new standard with fewer art pieces (208 pieces donated by 150 artists) than last year, so this accomplishment is doubly remarkable and is a reflection on the quality of both the art and the event.

The evening kicked off with a celebration hour at the Portland Museum of Art with entertainment by the Tony Boffa Trio, and hors d'oeuvres and champagne donated by area businesses. The exquisite floral arrangements were donated by Harmon's & Barton's. Spirits were high, and the joyous mood set the tone for the whole evening. The State Theater looked

resplendent in its mix of Spanish and art deco glory, characteristic of the late 1920's, and the nearly 700 attendees filled this landmark structure with class and sparkle.

Leo LaPlante, President of the Board of Directors of TAP, opened the event by thanking various people who made the auction possible. In what was perhaps the most moving part of his brief talk, he dedicated the auction to John Preston, the renowned author. Mr. Preston is a literary figure who looms large on the Portland landscape, and indeed, in the arts and literature of the English-speaking world (no doubt he's been translated, too). This tribute to John Preston the man, and John Preston the author, was especially fitting and well-deserved.

Mr. LaPlante then introduced
See SPRING, page 11

Newly opened women's bar robbed

By Faith Worthley, Contributor

On Friday night, March 25th, Sisters on Danforth Street was robbed and vandalized. The robbers got away all the CD's, money from the pool table and about \$300 in other cash. It could have been more, but the vandals were foolish enough to lock themselves out before finishing the job. Piled inside were the sound system, all the alcohol, and the TV, which they intended as their second load. Left behind were smashed cash registers and a violated space.

A second break-in occurred the following night, Saturday March 26th, this time from the outside in. After closing, the front door locks were broken, and alcohol was stolen. They got away with what they could carry.

End of story? Unfortunately not.

Another violation last Wednesday, March 30th. This time resulting in a broken CD player, alcohol, and hamburger meat taken.

Sue Pierce, Co-owner of Sisters, said other restaurants in the area have also been hit with the same MO and similar results.

So what is this about? A personal vendetta, small time theft, supporting a habit? Ultimately it matters not, other than the responsibility all individuals have to support the entrepreneurship of the people who are trying to make a go of these local businesses; a responsibility obviously not felt by whoever is threatening the livelihood of these folks.

MaryAnn Brown, Co-owner of Sisters, said, "We have had an outpouring
See SISTERS, page 3

Community Pride Reporter

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Winnie Weir
Publishing Editor

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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THE CPR MAIL BAG

Dear CPR:

For the second time in as many weeks, I have been asked not to take photographs at a gay event. The first time was at the recent Gay Pride fund-raiser where one of the artists, a very talented lesbian musician/comedian, politely asked me not to photograph her, since she wasn't "really out yet." (Naturally, I acceded to this request.) She then proceeded to sing a humorous series of songs about lesbian pride.

The second time was at the bi-weekly meeting of a local gay group where I photographed the woman who opened the meeting and who had just received an appointment to a state commission on diversity. She had been exhorting us to think about a way for gay people to participate in next year's St. Patrick's Day celebrations. When she sat down, a general announcement was made by the male co-chair of the group about not taking pictures of anyone at these meetings except the speakers and then only with explicit advance permission.

Later, I spoke to the woman whose picture I had taken and she felt fine about it. Yet, clearly, I had transgressed some rule of behavior, the existence and purpose of which I could only have guessed at. As a result of these experiences, I began wondering what we mean by Gay Pride here in "Maine, the way life should be."

The issue for me is not our individual right to privacy. Rather, it is what this whole business says about how we feel about ourselves. There are people in our community who have put themselves on the line by taking strong public stands on gay issues and by fighting for our rights every day simply by being open about who they are and by confronting homophobia in their friends, their fellow workers, and themselves. So I can't help wondering what is going on in the hearts and minds of people who attend gay pride celebrations, consider marching in St. Patrick's Day parades, attend open meetings on gay issues, and then worry about their photo-

graphs being taken.

There's a bumper sticker that says "You cannot simultaneously prepare for and prevent war." In the same fashion, I do not think you can demand respect while acting furtive. We have passed the 25th anniversary of Stonewall and, as a community, have given a lot of lip service to gay pride. Yet it seems to me that there is a dissonance between who we say we want to be versus how we act.

Sincerely,

David Cook, Portland

△ △ △ △ △ △

Dear CPR,

As a community, we have a wealth of political diversity from which we can draw. Are we, however, ignoring this diversity in exchange for bureaucracy? Are we intentionally excluding our own community from the fight for civil rights? And are we ignoring the fact that the community is actually allowing this by our own refusal to combat personal bigotries?

It seems we are actively replacing an ambiguous community with an inadequate, bureaucratic organization where individuals are not only excluded from the process but discriminated against in the name of the fight for civil rights. Time and again we hear "political leaders" in our community denouncing drag queens, activists, separatists, and liberal individuals in all parts of the community as being hurtful to the community's advancement. "We don't agree with their tactics," they say.

Didn't the gay liberation movement start with a diverse group of bar patrons who fought back and happened to do so violently? Where has the loyalty to the WHOLE community gone? Have we replaced it with a bureaucracy aimed at the advancement of the political careers of the "chosen ones?"

Whereas there needs to be an increase of activity in the upper levels of politics, we are forgetting that this needs a strong base, starting with the individual

See MAIL BAG, page 3

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Bookland
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EDITORIAL

With the promise of Spring in the air, comes another promise--the promise of re-birth, re-newal, or re-creation. It's a time for new beginnings as the cold, darker days of winter yield to the warmer, lighter days of spring and, dare I say it, summer!?! It's hard to believe that a year has passed since the decision was made to begin publishing **Community Pride Reporter**.

The lease is up on our office space at the end of this month. While our first edition was not printed until July, work began much earlier. It continues to be an exciting and challenging endeavor. There are two new reporters and a photographer on staff. A syndicated comic strip, *Murphy's Manor*, by Kurt Erichsen, and a syndicated column by Ace Lundon, author of *The Closets are Empty . . . The Dining Room's Full*: Ponderosa Publishing House, have joined the pages of **CPR**. (Mr. Lundon's column will debut next month.)

Our monthly printing is up to 5000 copies, and we have expanded to 24 pages. We have over 50 distribution points throughout Maine, coastal New Hampshire, and a few in Massachusetts. Our subscriber list is close to 200. The growth

we have experienced is a two-edged sword, in that costs of printing and mailing **CPR** have increased at a faster rate than advertising dollars and subscriptions. Additional sales personnel are working on that. I remain optimistic and committed to this work.

As Publishing Editor, I am proud of what has been accomplished in a relatively short time. I want to celebrate! So, I'm throwing a party and you are all invited! It's going to be a combination 50th birthday party for me (yes! The big 50!), first year birthday party for **Community Pride Reporter**, a fund-raiser for **CPR**, and a chance for you to meet the staff who bring this publication to you month after month.

The party will be held at **Sisters**, 45 Danforth St., Portland, on Sunday, May 15th from 4:00 - 9:00 pm. There will be a cash bar, food, fun, and music. Now, birthday parties usually mean gifts, and who am I to alter tradition! In lieu of personal gifts, donations to **Community Pride Reporter** will be gratefully accepted.

Let me hasten to add, however, if you are not in a position to make a donation, please don't stay away. Who will

help me eat the birthday cake?

Switching focus now--It was a pleasure to attend the MLGPA Banquet on March 5th. It was a GAYLA affair to be sure. Listening to the various candidates tell those of us assembled at the 'press conference' how much we deserved equal rights and how they were going to insure we got them, was crazy-making. Yes, this was a first time experience for me, and perhaps my inexperience is speaking here, but I already know that I deserve equal rights. I already know that I am a good person, a worthwhile person. I don't need political candidates telling me what I already know. I need political candidates for governor, national and state office, who will tell those who DON'T think I deserve equal rights or who think I am NOT a good or worthwhile person because I'm a lesbian, that I AM. Preaching to the converted has always boggled my

mind.

It was gratifying to hear co-emcee, BJ Broder welcome all "our brothers and sisters in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community" to the Banquet. Keeping in mind that we are at that renewal, rebirthing, and re-creating season of the year, I call on the MLGPA board to look at the important, life-changing work it does for all "our brothers and sisters" in the state, and to renew or re-create its commitment as an organization to inclusivity.

There is room for everyone, there is enough love and support for everyone. No one group or person, particularly in the bisexual or transgendered community, needs to be oppressed or left out. We are bigger than that.

In Solidarity,

MAIL BAG, from page 2

and grassroots organizations.

Edvard Kardelj, a political ideologist in the 50's said it well when he said that bureaucratic development "leads to a whole series of negative phenomena, such as doing things by formula, conservatism in methods and organizational forms, strangling of creative initiative from below, education of bureaucrats without backbones, stagnation of ideas . . ."

By allowing this to go on, we are intentionally hurting the fight for civil rights, disempowering our community, creating in-

ternal wars and setting ourselves up for failure. There needs to be a replacement of this bureaucracy with a creative combination of all the voices in the movement. From the grassroots activist to the high-ranking politician; each one can have a positive effect on people of different backgrounds and demographics.

By organizing those individual efforts, we can increase our visibility, position, and impact on equality in our modern society.

Sincerely,
Christian V. Malm, Portland

SISTERS, from page 1

of support and are stronger than ever in our commitment to keep this bar open."

Support has come in many forms, one of which has been a donation by a local DJ of his duplicate copies of music. Community members are watching and looking out for the bar, driving by and checking the building after closing time.

Is this enough? Does the violation stop here? Evidently not. Also on Saturday night, the 26th, one of the bar tenders had her tires slashed, and the other was followed home.

While the outpouring of support has been wonderful, continued support is

needed to protect this new space and the people who are working so hard to make it available. The police are keeping watch, and anyone who knows or sees anything should report that information.

Let's continue to pull together to realize the vision of a safe space to gather.

Donations of CD's have been received. A raffle was held Saturday night, the 26th, with a \$25 gift certificate from Sister Creations in Freeport awarded to the winner. Laurie Holt, the recipient, opted to turn it back to the bar so more CD's could be purchased. A collection was also taken and \$170 was raised. ΔΔ

GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

Katahdin is within walking distance of most of Portland's gay night spots. The Underground is a couple of blocks down on Spring Street, Sisters and Blackstone's are a five minute walk away, and the Chartroom is right next door. So the next time you go out on the town, consider a stop at Katahdin--you can enjoy our Good Cookin', go out dancing, and not even have to move your car.

Our regular menu hasn't changed much over the past year, and for good reason. We believe our customers have a right to expect certain dishes to be available to them when they come in. Appetizers on our basic menu include Lobster Spring Rolls, Grilled Duck Sausage served with Spoonbread, & Shrimp & Corn Fritters.

Dinners on our regular menu include Pot Roast, Pan Fried boneless Rainbow Trout, Crab Cakes, Medallions of Pork Tenderloin wrapped in Bacon, grilled and served with Jalapeno butter. We also serve two very popular pastas.

Our other menu lists the Chefs' Specials. It changes daily and reflects what we receive from the fish mongers, the farmers, and our other sources of fresh local produce. There are two main reasons we have a Chefs' Specials Menu: we would be bored if we had to cook the same thing every other night, and we want to offer our regular customers something new to try no matter how often they eat here.

At this time of year, we realize many of you may be from out of town. If you're unfamiliar with the Portland area and don't know where we are, just close your eyes, click your heels, and repeat these words: "There's no place like Katahdin, there's no place like Katahdin." If that doesn't work, call. We'll be happy to give you directions.

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Guest Editorial: We are all in this together

By Tara Estra

In the fall of 1991, I walked into a local store to inform the merchant about The Daedalus Project, an upcoming AIDS Benefit/Variety show which I was directing and producing at the Waterville Opera House. Before I had completed my spiel, I was asked to leave, as the merchant informed me, "I don't do business with your kind."

This was shocking news to me, a native New Yorker, despite the fact that I had been warned that many Mainers didn't like dealing with "outsiders." Even though I had been in Maine for a year, I guess my New York accent still came out. I knew I wasn't in Kansas anymore.

That was the first of many instances of discrimination I have faced since I have been here in Maine. While that may be the more painful side of the issue, the promising side is more powerful and inspiring. There has been a tremendous change in attitude, acceptance, compassion and support for AIDS and homosexuality. That is where we should be focusing our efforts.

The 1991 Daedalus Project was a major test. The easier part of the test was actually putting together such an immense show, and it wasn't that easy. Getting people to commit to a project was next to impossible. Getting people involved with an AIDS benefit was even more difficult. In many respects it was a one-woman

show - from organizing, to publicizing, to hanging lights and sets. The more difficult part of the test was getting people to attend. Some people told me no one would show up. Others asked if I had arranged for security guards. That question made my worries about running a smooth show seem negligible.

Two-hundred fifty people showed up for The 1991 Daedalus Project. That's quite a few people, but not when you consider the Waterville Opera House seats 938. And the show was spectacular. Some people have told me the Daedalus Project is the best show that occurs at the Opera House.

At the end of the night, when the set was struck and the small crew was leaving to go home, all I could do was cry. I was crying for friends I had lost to AIDS. I was crying because there were only 250 people in attendance. I was crying because those 250 people were the most concerned, supportive and dedicated people I know. I was crying because many people in the lesbian, gay and bi communities in Maine were afraid to attend for fear of being labelled.

The only reason I put myself through the grueling ordeal of producing, directing, designing, etc. another Daedalus Project was because it *needed* to be done. The Second Annual Daedalus Project was attended by 750 people. It was wonderful to look out into the audience and see people from all communities. Every one felt comfortable and part of one community, a community that was aware, supportive and educated about AIDS. More important than any funds that had been raised, we had raised awareness.

This tremendous growth between years reflects how society, and maybe more importantly, the media has embraced the issue of AIDS. Elizabeth Taylor said it best: "Changing the homophobic mentality of people everywhere is a task we must all assume. Until people fully understand that we are all in this together - homosexual and heterosexual alike - and that we all have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities to one another; we can never hope to beat this insidious disease."

Twelve years into the plague of AIDS and into the pre-production phase for the Third Annual Daedalus Project, I am more optimistic about the issues surrounding AIDS here in Maine. Granted, I am not in Kansas anymore, but New York City was not necessarily an ideal either. One difference between New York and Waterville is that in New York, the Daedalus Project would be a guaranteed sell-out and ticket prices would have been upwards of \$250. But in New York, people go to AIDS benefits because it is the hip, trendy, social

thing to do. People attend the Daedalus Project because they genuinely care. They come from the heart whereas New Yorkers come from the pocket.

I am hoping to pack the Waterville Opera House this April 23rd. That is not to say that if only one person showed up it would not be a success. That would simply be the one person who was dedicated, supportive and aware. But we are all in this together - and the Opera House seats 939 of us.

The Third Annual Daedalus Project will be held April 23rd at the Waterville Opera House, Waterville, Maine. Doors open at 7 pm for the silent auction. The program begins at 8 pm. A donation of at least \$8.50 is requested. If you would like to get involved, or would like more information, please contact Tara Estra at 877-4142. ΔΔ

Syndicated comic strip joins CPR

TOLEDO, OH: *Murphy's Manor* is a comic strip syndicated to local gay and lesbian newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. The series began in 1982, and has now passed strip number 500. In those eleven years, it has appeared in some sixty local papers, plus reprints in *Gay Comics* (the book), *Gay Comix* (the comic book), a Lambda Rising book catalogue, and in all but two of the sixteen *Meatmen* books.

Murphy's Manor is the longest running syndicated gay/lesbian cartoon. The artist, Kurt Erichsen, attributes that mostly to stubbornness. The strip is weekly, but most local papers are monthly or bi-weekly, so a story line in the usual sense is impossible. Even though every strip has to stand on its own, a few plot threads pop up as the characters try to take Gay Liberation into their own hands.

Murphy's Manor won awards from the Gay and Lesbian Press Association in 1985 and 1988. Kurt is an alumnus of the Clarion Science Fiction Writers' Workshop, and a Professional Engineer. ΔΔ

Freedom Fest Maine / Bangor

Organizers plan 2nd Bangor Pride parade & festival

By Malcolm Smith,
Bangor-Orono Reporter

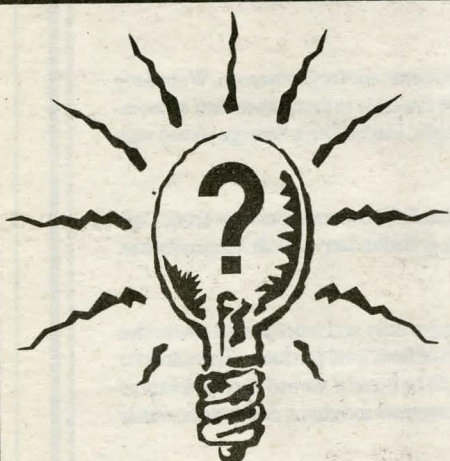
Freedom Fest Maine is organizing the second Bangor Pride March and Festival for Saturday, July 9th in Bangor. The parade will start at noon in downtown Bangor, and end at Paul Bunyon Park, where an all day festival is planned. To make this event happen, the Bangor Pride Committee currently needs:

- Δ Parade Marshals (training will be provided)
- Δ Medically trained personnel
- Δ Volunteers to set-up/clean-up
- Δ Entertainers
- Δ Vendors
- Δ Informational Booths
- Δ Craftspeople
- Δ Farmers
- Δ Businesses
- Δ Donations (made payable to "Pride Committee")
- Δ Your ideas, your participation, and your spreading of the news of this event

Short organizational meetings are being held the first Sunday of every month at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main Street in Bangor at 2:00 pm. Your input and support is invaluable to your community. For more information, contact Malcolm Smith at 866-4320, or write to P.O. Box 624, Orono, ME 04473. ΔΔ

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Ninth Annual MLGPA Banquet draws array of politicians seeking support from our community

Lisa Keen, Sr. Editor of Washington Blade is Keynoter

by Luke Balboni

The ninth annual Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance's Celebratory Dinner/Dance and Awards Banquet was held Saturday, March 5, 1994 at the Atrium at Cook's Corner, Brunswick. A press conference, featuring the candidates for governor and Congress, was the first item on the evening's agenda.

Alan Stearns introduced the political contenders, Bob Woodbury (D), Jim Howanec (D), Jonathan Carter (Green), Donnell Carroll (D), Dick Barringer (D), Tom Allen's wife Diane (D), Jean Hay (D., 2nd Cong. Dist.), and David Costello (D., 2nd Cong. Dist.). Other candidates, including former Governor Joseph Brennan, showed up later.

Karen Geraghty, MLGPA President, addressed the press conference stating that this past year was particularly important because, for the first time in 18 years, both houses of the legislature passed the gay civil rights bill. Despite this historic achievement, McKernan vetoed the legislation. Karen pointed out that we now must mobilize behind a gubernatorial candidate. "who will support our issues in

Augusta." Karen added that, "The second initiative for MLGPA this year is to identify candidates in legislative districts who will also support our issues. We're trying to take a much more pro-active stance this year."

State Representative Gerry Conley spoke next, followed by Jan Welch and Kevin Gagne from EPL. Mr. Stearns then introduced the various candidates, allowing them a "one minute sound bite" and reminding them "to keep in mind that all of us want to go out, start mingling and having cocktails."

The candidates then proceeded one by one to the lectern and announced their support for lesbian and gay rights. No surprises here. You could have safely bet that if they were at the MLGPA Banquet, they were at least going to do that much.

The only distinguishing factor between the gubernatorial candidates was whether or not they would merely sign a gay rights bill, or whether they would make it a governor's bill. Those candidates who specifically said they would make it a governor's bill are: Dick Barringer, Jim Howanec (who has since

withdrawn to run for Congress), Bob Woodbury, and Joe Brennan.

Once the banquet itself got underway, emcee B.J. Broder asked everyone in the hall who held political office, or who was running for political office, to come up and identify themselves. In addition to those already mentioned, the following politicians were in attendance: John Bachman, campaign manager for Republican Sumner Lipman; candidate for governor, Dick Spencer, State Senate candidate; Fred Richardson, State Rep.; David Shia, State Rep. candidate; Sophia Pfeiffer, State Rep.; Susan Longley, State Senate candidate; Paula Craighea State Senate candidate; Angus King, Independent candidate for governor; Anne Rand, State Rep. and candidate for State Senate; Sharon Treat, State Rep.; Eliza Townsend, State Rep.; Dale McCormick, State Senate, not seeking re-election; and Susan Farnsworth, State Rep. not seeking re-election, though Ms. Farnsworth indicated that this will not be her last contribution to public service.

Senator McCormick and Representative Farnsworth were greeted with thunderous applause in appreciation for their tireless work on gay rights legislation.

Karen Geraghty addressed the assembled guests, numbering close to 400, noting, among other things, that MLGPA must organize against Concerned Maine Families' efforts to put an anti-gay, pro-discrimination referendum on the ballot in November of 1995.

Ms. Geraghty tackled a particularly divisive issue from past referendum battles and acknowledged the need to heal wounds and build alliances. She added, "We recognize that marginalizing members of our own community is a tactic that the extreme right feeds to us. They use their rhetoric to separate us. They continually refer to some of us as militant, extreme or radical, and then they also refer to some of us as the wealthy, politically-powerful mainstream. And by the way, they fear and oppose all of us in whatever category we are. They use



Lisa Keen, Keynoter

L. Balboni photo

our differences to try and divide us, but we believe that our differences make us strong and we are becoming strong together... Paul Madore, candidate for State Senate must be stopped. Concerned Maine Families' anti-gay referendum must be stopped, and let's not forget Jasper Wyman. He will be stopped."

Attorney Pat Peard informed the audience that the Christian Coalition was in Maine and was doing trainings that same weekend in Portland and Bangor, designed to elect Christian candidates throughout the state. Also, even though Carolyn Cosby did not get enough signatures for a referendum this year, the ones she has are good through August. If she gets the under 20,000 that she needs, there will be a referendum in November of 1995. Ms. Peard warned that Cosby may well get the signatures.

Pat pledged that she and Mary Bonato of GLAAD (Boston) will do everything legally possible to block the referendum from happening. She noted that there is good news in the Florida State Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down a similarly worded referendum. Pat offered

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VIDEOPORT
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Bangor man convicted in 1992 murder

Defense attorney failed in his attempt to use homophobic rhetoric to sway jury

By Malcolm Smith,
Bangor-Orono Reporter

After trying different defenses, a 25 year old Bangor man has been convicted of the murder of a 44 year old banker from Lubec. The victim picked up this hitchhiker who subsequently murdered him.

A jury took two and a half hours to find Dale Wood guilty of the August 8, 1992 slaying of Zachary Walston, whose body was found in a ditch along a deserted part of the Finson Road in Bangor.

During a hearing in December of 1992, defense attorney John Nale of Waterville and Portland asked for funds for a psychological autopsy of the murder victim, who Nale suggested was a "predatory homosexual."

Nale theorized that the victim "preyed on helpless males to gain his sexual satisfaction, and in this case, the male he preyed on was not so helpless."

Nale's motion was denied, and at the beginning of Wood's murder trial on March 9th of this year, his defense changed to that of an accidental shooting during a drunken robbery attempt.

Nale did not reply to this reporter's phone call, and questions left with his paralegal in his Portland office as to what he meant by the term "predatory homosexual," or what evidence he had to back that claim up, were unanswered at deadline.

During the trial, Nale contended that Wood was drunk the night of the murder after splitting two cases of beer with a friend. The friend testified they had been drinking on a different night, and they had only split a 12 pack.

Roger Cote of Lewiston testified that Wood had been bragging to him at The

Tavern in Bangor in the fall of 1992, that Wood had "offed somebody," and said "if he had know it was a banker, he'd be richer."

Other witnesses linked the murder weapon to Wood, and Wood's taped confession to Bangor police on November 23, 1992 seemed to damage his case. In the confession, Wood said Walston picked him up hitchhiking, and after taking him to the store to buy beer, Wood directed Walston to pull over so he could urinate.

While out of the car, Wood pulled the gun out of his pocket and turned back around with the gun in his hand. Walston attempted to escape, but was stopped near the rear of his car by Wood, and ordered to raise his hands.

"He put his hands in the air. I checked his pockets, got his money, his wallet... I told him to get in the bushes. I had my gun pointed on him all the way. I told him to get down, and when he got down, that's when it went off," Wood told police. He said he only meant to scare Walston.

Dr. Henry Ryan, Maine's chief medical examiner, described the murder scene. He testified that Walston was found in a kneeling position with his head on the ground, his right hand clasped around a tree branch. Walston died of a single gunshot wound to the back of the head according to Ryan. A single shell casing was found next to the body.

Dr. Edward David, a neurologist and deputy medical examiner, testified for the defense regarding the effects of alcohol on the human body. Under cross examination, however, he said it would have been impossible for Wood to be so drunk that night, then have such a clear recollection of the events during his confession three months later.

"No, you can't do that because of the way memories are formed," David testified.

Three defense witnesses were not allowed to testify because their names had not appeared on the witness list. They were

See MURDER, page 23

Gay Men's Chorus draws crowd at UMF despite threats, protest

By Brian Kaufman,
Farmington area Reporter

Almost 200 music aficionados packed stately Lillian Nordica auditorium on Sunday, March 20, to listen to and show support for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. The enthusiastic crowd came in spite of widespread rumors that local churches could demonstrate to protest the

quested, but I had not been informed that the university itself was the source of information about the demonstration.

In all, only eight anti-gay protestors carrying the usual "Homosexuality is a sin" signs began their vigil about an hour before the performance was scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM, and were gone within half an hour of the show's start. Audience members, reflecting the diversity of the greater Farmington area, responded to the protestors with disgust and occasionally witty retorts. The most frequent response to the offer of free literature deploring the "homosexual life-style" was, "Why don't



Two of the small group of protestors at UMF

Photo by Robert Diamante

presence of the homosexual music-makers.

Widespread news coverage of recent letters threatening the safety of the campus' lesbian and gay students prompted UMF director of facilities to warn chorus president Marc McDonald that members of a local Baptist church were planning a peaceful demonstration as they had for each lesbigay event held in the past. Mr. McDonald was then assured that campus police would be on duty two hours earlier than usual, and would make sure that the parking areas were kept safe for chorus and audience members alike.

Members of the chorus, notified to expect the protestors, began speculating about the magnitude of the demonstrations and possible violence, resulting in a deluge of phone calls to this reporter as a gay UMF professor and MLGPA board member. I acknowledged that extra security was re-

you save the homeless?" A trash receptacle at the scene was filled with torn literature that audience members had ripped in half to show their support for lesbians and gays.

The presence of the Gay Men's Chorus was a coup for UMF's Diversity Committee, bolstering visible signs of support for campus lesbian and gay students. The entire cost of the performance was underwritten by the Gay and Straight People's Educational Alliance, the Campus Residence Council, Student Activities, and the Program Board.

The Gay and Straight People's Educational Alliance is going to continue with the remainder of its scheduled programming, including a panel discussion featuring MLGPA President Karen Geraghty and a coffeehouse where internationally acclaimed gay folk artist Martin Swinger will debut his new gay album. ΔΔ

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Elimination of PBS called for American Family Association cites airing of "homosexual propaganda" as reason

By Malcolm Smith,
Bangor-Orono area Reporter

The Rev. Donald E. Wildmon and the American Family Association of Tupelo, Mississippi, are calling for the total elimination of the Public Broadcasting Service because of PBS's airing of "homosexual propaganda," and PBS in Bangor is already hearing from Wildmon's followers.

"Your Tax Dollars Used to Air Pornographic, Profane, Homosexual TV Series," reads the headline of the AFA's March Action Page. "It's time to put an end to taxpayer financed homosexual propaganda like Tales of the City, continues the rhetoric.

The monthly AFA mailing includes a sealed envelope warning of enclosed offensive material. Inside is a sheet of paper with pictures from Tales of the City, including scenes with exposed breasts (covered with black strips) and two men kissing.

The paper also lists a sampling of "profane and vulgar" language used, including "queer," "knock you up," and "hell," and a list of "objectionable" situations, that includes various sexual, religious, and drug scenes.

"It's our Judeo-Christian values

which PBS continues to attack and defame," Wildmon writes.

The AFA, which enclosed pre-addressed and written postcards for U.S. legislators (see box), urges followers to call both their representatives and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to express their outrage.

Maine Public Broadcasting, aware of the AFA's mailing, is already receiving calls and letters from possible AFA members. Mary Lou Colbath, WMEB's director of corporate communication in Bangor, said that her station had received two calls reiterating the AFA's objections, including the "free love life-style" of Tales.

"In neither instance had the people seen the program," Colbath said. "There were things [scenes in Tales the callers were asked about] the callers were not able to answer quite specifically." She said the callers complained about some show content that had not happened.

Colbath said her station adds viewer advisories to shows such as Tales.

"I think we're always cautious about what we air," Colbath said. "Nothing is aired just casually."

Other PBS shows listed as objectionable by the AFA include: Portrait of a Marriage, In The Life, Out, and The Lost Language of Cranes. AFA's criticism of Cranes, "The men [a father and son, each dealing with his own sexuality] are clearly presented as admirable and courageous for going public with their homosexuality and taking pride in the homosexual life-style."

In his urging for contributions, Wildmon says that without the AFA, "No one would stand up and defend our families and our children from the onslaughts of those who wish to impose their hedonism on the rest of society."

"We're fighting to restore America's moral foundation, to maintain society and civilization, to preserve the family and the

Text of AFA Postcard to Senators

Dear Senator:

I'm writing to ask you why Congress continues to give my tax dollars to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)? With a \$4 trillion, and growing, federal deficit, wouldn't this be a great place to save the government \$1.1 billion over the next two years?

Can you explain to me why America needs PBS when there are four major TV networks and approximately 500 cable stations available for viewing? None of those stations and/or networks receive federal funding, why should PBS?

Please explain why tax dollars were used by PBS to air "Tales of the City" featuring nudity, homosexual lovers, drug use, and extreme profanity. Records show that PBS has agreed to promote the homosexual life-style and agenda. This is an outrage and an affront to all Americans who try to raise their children in a solid, moral climate.

Thank you for responding to my concerns. Respectfully yours,

values which made our country great. It's time to shut down the Public Broadcasting Service," Wildmon concludes. AA

"A SAFE NIGHT FOR WOMEN"

Annual event brings noted author
to city

PORTLAND: The YWCA of Portland, Maine, Inc., and Rape Crisis Center, Inc. will mark National Sexual Assault Awareness Month with the first annual "A SAFE NIGHT FOR WOMEN" on Friday, April 15th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the

Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland.

Alice Vachss, author of Sex Crimes: Ten Years on the Front Lines Prosecuting Rapists and Confronting Their Collaborators, will be the featured speaker. Vachss, whose experience includes work as a counselor for violent teenagers, and as a criminal defense attorney for indigents, joined the Queens, New York District Attorney's Office in 1982. A strong advocate for fair treatment in the judicial process, Vachss is known as an outstanding speaker and crusader who took on the toughest cases of rape, incest and child sexual abuse. A question and answer period will follow her keynote address.

A SAFE NIGHT FOR WOMEN will be emceed by Kim Block, news anchor for NewsChannel 13 WGME-TV, and Rape Crisis Center Board member. The event will also spotlight Lauretta Gregoire, senior ranking female Black Belt in the American Hapkido Association and performer-instructor in the powerful new video by film maker Polly Bennell, "Self-Defense Strategies for Women: A FIGHTING CHANCE." A short clip from the video will be shown.

Tickets for the event are \$10 per person. Early registration is encouraged. Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

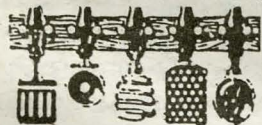
The Portland YWCA has been serving the Greater Portland community since 1869. A mission-based membership organization, the Portland YWCA works toward the advancement and empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of racism.

Rape Crisis Center, Inc. provides crisis intervention, advocacy and support groups for victims and survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, and their families and friends.

For more information, contact Joanne Sullivan at 874-1130. AA

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NACHAS!

By Rita M. Kissen

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

The premiere of the documentary "Anchor of the Soul" last month was a wonderful opportunity to think about how liberation movements are both the same and different. Shoshana Hoose and Karine Odlin's powerful film tells the story of Black history in Maine, with particular attention to Portland's Green A.M.E. Zion Church and its role as an "anchor" for the Black community over the years. As a member of the panel that responded to the film after the USM showing, I found "Anchor of the Soul" an especial challenge.

To begin with, this story of race relations and Black survival in northern New England reminded me that the particulars of racism are unique. No other minority in this country saw its people kidnapped and chained in ships, to be bought and sold in a land whose economic base depended on their slave labor. And just as the oppression of African Americans has its own particular dynamic, so Black culture, with its miraculous triumph over that oppression, is unique and special.

Yet if racism is different from other oppressions, it is also true that they are all part of the same sickness—the hatred and fear of those who are different, and the abuse of power by the strong against the weak. As many in the audience observed during the question-and-answer period that followed the USM showing, racism, sexism, anti-semitism and other forms of discrimination usually appear together, and when one group is targeted, persecution of other minorities is not far behind.

The audience comment that provoked the most intense response involved the connection between racism and homophobia. One panelist objected to the gay rights movement's "piggy-backing" on the Black Civil Rights movement. Gerry Talbot, the first Black legislator to serve in Maine and a key source of much of the historical material in the film, responded

by recalling that he had been one of the first legislators to speak out in favor of the Gay Rights Bill because he believed that discrimination was wrong no matter whom it was directed against. Others emphasized the connections among all people, Black and White, gay and straight, who, as Green Memorial Church's Rev. Margaret Lawson reminded us, are all children of God. In my response, I chose to focus on what I thought was the real concern behind the first panelist's remarks. What I heard her saying was, "Value my Black identity and the struggles my people have waged. Don't ignore the reality of racism when you work for the civil rights of other minorities." But though I acknowledged the importance of her Black heritage, I went on to express my belief that even as we celebrate who we are, we cannot survive without building bridges to others. In the words of one of my favorite slogans, "no one is free while others are oppressed."

"Anchor of Soul" taught me a great deal about the history of racism in Maine and gave me the opportunity to hear the strong voices of real people in my city whose lives are a testament to survival and liberation. Yet the part of the film that affected me most did not involve Green Memorial Church at all. It was a scene describing how some White abolitionists helped former slaves escape to Canada by boat, after the passage of the Fugitive Slave law. The image of dark water and night sky evoked a story I had heard from my parents in my earliest childhood. It was story of how the ordinary Christian people of Denmark—fishermen, housewives, and shopkeepers—rescued nearly all of Denmark's 7000 Jews from the Nazi death camps by ferrying them in secret across the narrow strait of water separating Denmark from neutral Sweden.

Like the White Mainers who risked their own safety by working with the Underground Railroad, the Danes had made the decision to act as rescuers—as allies. Being an ally is often uncomfortable. It may even be dangerous. When we become allies, we give up some of our own privilege and power to join with those who have less of both. Those of us in Maine who are not members of the Black community have

an excellent opportunity to begin the process by seeing "Anchor of the Soul" (it's being shown at several other Maine locations and is for sale at Bookland) and educating ourselves about a part of Maine history that has been hidden for too long. △△

OUT! of Town

This month's topic is cruising --- not the type you do at the mall or the bar, but the type you do on a ship. There are many cruise options available from gay or gay-friendly cruises to 'straight' cruises.

About six years ago, a group of guys formed a company in Minnesota called R.S.V.P. They started marketing cruises for gays and lesbians. Initially, they would buy blocks of cabins on various cruise ships and then market them to gay/lesbian clients around the country. The results were beyond belief. They sold out every time they offered a cruise. Their business was so good, in fact, that 18 months ago they purchased their own cruise ship.

Now, in addition to gay cruises on big cruise ships, they market gay/lesbian only cruises on their 100 passenger ship called the Sea Spirit. They offer several different cruise destinations on the Sea Spirit. During the winter months, they offer cruises in the Caribbean, covering St. Martin and St. Thomas. In spring they move the ship to Miami to cover Miami to Key West. During the summer months they run the east coast with stops in New York and Provincetown. Prices for these cruises run from \$695 to \$1395 plus airfare.

For those with a yen for seafaring adventure, you might want to consider a 6-day cruise on Windjammer Cruise Lines. They run seven different sailing ships ranging from an 85 passenger, 3-masted ship to a 150 passenger, 4-masted ship. They operate in the Caribbean with each ship covering a different destination. Although primarily operated as 'straight' cruises, several different gay agencies book all-gay cruises on their ships during different times of the year.

I've taken two of these cruises, both 'straight.' The first was on the SS Polynesia, which covered the St. Martin-St. Barts-St.

Paul T. Bernard



Kitts area. The second was aboard the SS Fantome, which sailed through the British Virgin Islands. If you are looking for a real party atmosphere, you might want to try one of these.

Contrary to popular belief, these windjammer cruises are **not** working cruises. You are not required to hoist sails or swab the deck, unless you want to. You can even help steer the ship. But most important, you can sit back and do nothing. Most of the ships sail during the night, thus leaving you the daytime hours to explore whatever island you are anchored near. The food on the ships is incredible, and you are sure to meet some new friends.

Although both cruises I went on were 'straight', there were gays and lesbians aboard ship, and everyone was made to feel at ease. The atmosphere is very relaxed, so much so, that often there would be "clothing-optional" sunbathing and swimming aboard ship. Evenings were spent either around the bar on the ship or in a local night spot on one of the islands. Prices for one of these cruises runs about \$1000, plus airfare.

That brings us to another category, the regular cruise. There are several cruise lines that offer exceptional cruises, and to almost any destination you can think of: Europe, Scandinavia, Mexico, South Pacific, Hawaii, Alaska, and the Caribbean to name a few. Some of the better cruise lines are Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Carnival Cruise Lines, and Princess Cruise Lines (the original Love Boat). Many are offering discounted rates. For instance, Royal Caribbean is offering cruises at up to 40% off their regular prices, but you must book your cruise at least 6 months in advance. I have a group going to the Caribbean in November aboard Royal Caribbean's Sovereign of the Seas. It is priced out at \$1,075 to \$1,250 per person and includes round-trip airfare from Portland. △△

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Bisexuals and allies of northeast to meet

Montpelier, VT, site of April 29 &
30th event

CAMBRIDGE, MA: For the first time in New England, bisexual people and our allies will gather to meet, network, share resources and begin to get organized within our communities and states. Come join this historic event at Christ Church, 64 State St., Montpelier, Vermont. One of the primary goals of this regional community meeting is for bisexuals to break down our individual and collective isolation as bisexuals.

Our burgeoning communities on a local, regional, national and international level are constantly changing because of our own emerging needs, our growing pride in our self-identity, and our rallying together as a coherent group around this pride. In the face of constant attacks by conservative factions, negative stereotyping in the media and continuing invisibility in mainstream and queer communities, the time has come for us to dialogue and network as bisexuals in the northeast region.

The proposed agenda for the community meeting will focus on specific issues each of us will bring to the table on the 29th. There will also be more general

discussions around local and regional outreach and organizing. Suggested discussion topics include breaking down the isolation as bisexuals, the strategies and struggles of urban and rural organizing within our communities of color, support for married peoples and those in alternative relationships, coming out issues, addressing internalized oppression in the bisexual community, and HIV/AIDS.

The current structure for the day involves open dialogue, facilitated small group discussions and working groups developing work plans for the future. We are also looking at caucus time for a variety of groups such as rural communities, individual states, women, people of color, young people, students, drag and transgendered people, older people, people with disabilities, people with AIDS, and other who would like to meet as a group.

On Friday, April 29th, there will be informal social space. Meet at Christ Church, 64 State Street, between 6 and 7 pm for information. On Saturday, April 30th, registration for the community meeting will begin at 9 am. The meeting runs from 10 am to 5 pm with lunch provided. An informal dinner will follow. Child care and ASL interpretation will be provided. The church is wheelchair accessible. A small donation will be requested, but is not required.

Planning for this momentous event is still under way. In terms of setting the agenda, everyone's input is necessary. How can a meeting of this nature be helpful to you as an individual and/or for your organization and community. If you would like to participate in this crucial gathering, your help is needed in mobilizing bisexuals in your area, wherever that may be. Please call either your local contact or the northeast BiNet regional reps., Laura Marina Perez (617) 282-3537 or Stephanie Berger (617) 666-3149.

This meeting is co-sponsored by The National Bisexual Network, (BiNetUSA). The purpose of BiNet is to collect and distribute information regarding bisexuality and to facilitate the development of bisexual community and visibility; to work for the equal rights and liberation of bisexuals and all oppressed peoples; and to work to eradicate all forms of oppression inside and outside the bisexual community. $\Delta\Delta$

The Northeast Bisexual Community Meeting can be contacted through P. O. Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140.)

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MY OSCAR by TOM HANKS

By Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

Tom Hanks won Best Actor for his portrayal of Andrew Beckett in *Philadelphia*. I was watching that night and was surprised by Hanks' winning. It was a great moment. The night looked like a sweep for *Schindler's List*. Philadelphia wasn't even nominated for Best Picture, Jonathan Demme wasn't nominated for Best Director and Denzel Washington wasn't nominated for Best Supporting Actor.

Bruce Springsteen's song "Streets of Philadelphia," was nominated and won Best Song. Mr. Springsteen was his usual modest and uncomplicated self in accepting his award.

Mr. Hanks, on the other hand, seemed tortured by his victory. He struggled to discuss what he referred to as his "dilemma." Giving up on it for a minute, he sought to express his problem by making a bold statement about a high school teacher he had had, along with a friend from back then who were both gay, and who had changed his life for the better. He expressed hope that his own children would be lucky enough to have such people in their lives.

But, back to the "dilemma." We then heard about there being "too many angels in heaven" and that we "know their names." True enough. But what really was the "dilemma?"

I think it is this: a gay man, playing this role, would never have won the Oscar. I think Mr. Hanks knows this and felt a bit of a fraud up there, not that he didn't deserve the award. A straight actor can play gay roles and receive awards. A gay actor, openly gay, cannot play straight roles, never mind receive awards for it.

To his credit, Mr. Hanks at least recognized the absurd contradiction in what was happening, and yet why did he consider Denzel Washington's participation in this movie a threat to his (Mr. Washington's) career?

Perhaps he recognizes the reality which states that straight actors who get involved in gay subject matter risk something important in their careers. Mr. Hanks is not responsible. Yet since he's the one who brought it up, he's tainted by it.

I'm glad to see Tom Hanks win that Oscar, not just because he's a good actor. However, the politics behind this award feels a little bit like relieving consciences all over Hollywood. $\Delta\Delta$

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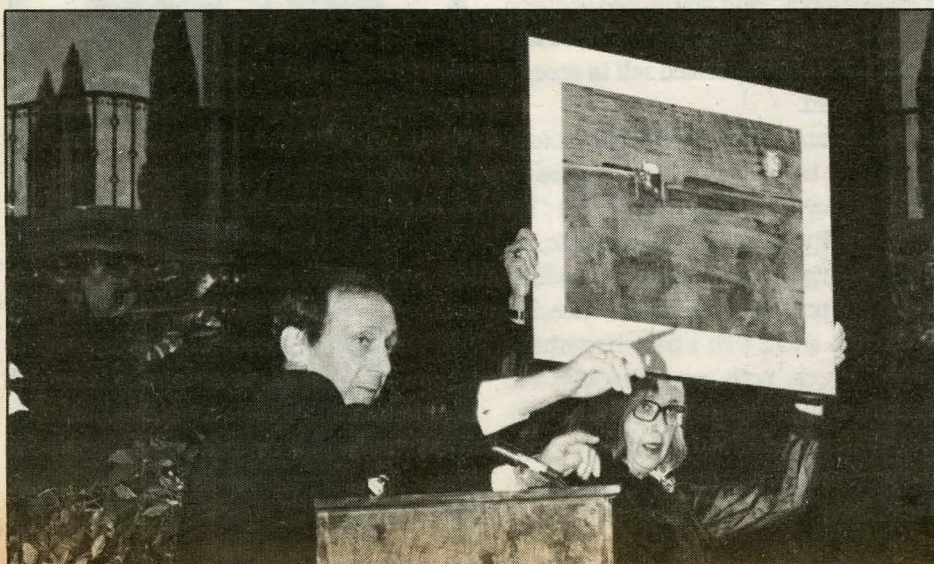
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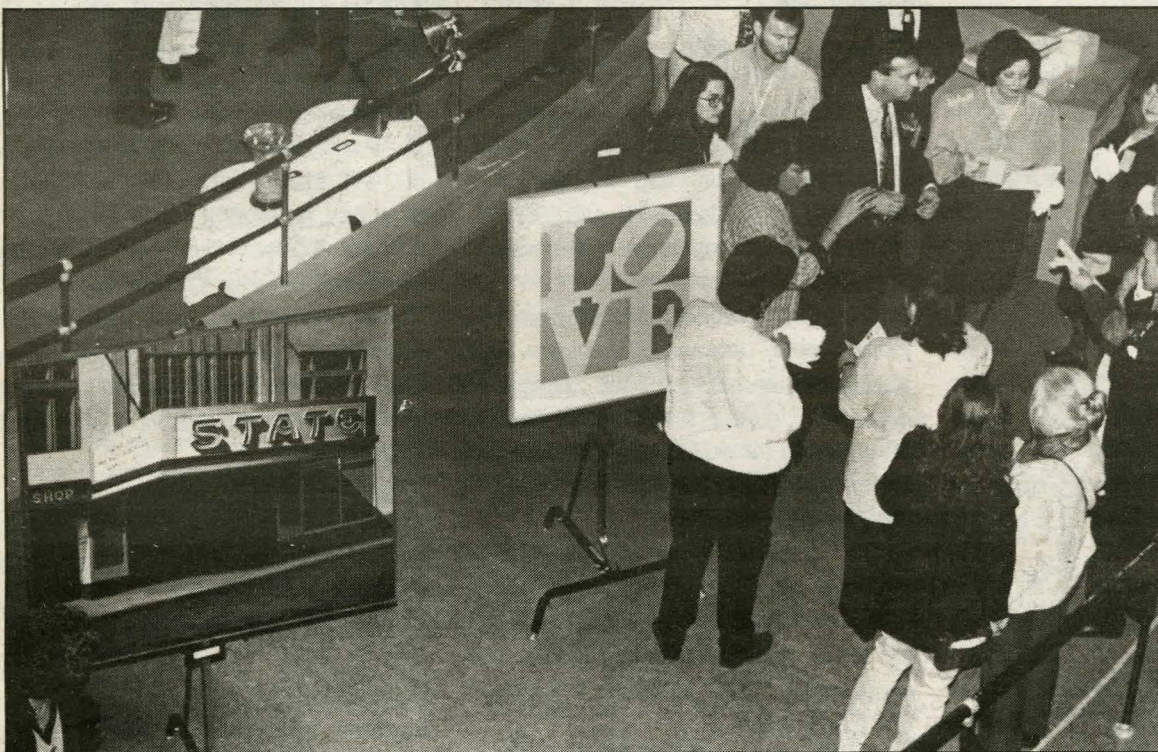
SPRING FOR LIFE : The AIDS Project's 8th Annual Art Auction is a stunning success !

"We all mourn the individual and collective losses we have faced because of AIDS, but tonight, we have the opportunity to celebrate the lives of our brothers, sisters, friends and lovers who have gone on ahead of us."

---Roberta Wright, Chair of the Auction Committee



A photographic essay of the Auction by Everett Horr and Jason Fontaine of Studio 101



SPRING, from page 1

Roberta Wright, Chairperson of the Auction Committee. Ms. Wright's remarks were especially important and are excerpted as follows:

"As chair of the 1994 Spring for Life Art Auction, I have a few thank you's I would like to add to Leo's list. The support of this event by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine cannot be overemphasized. We are extremely grateful for your continued commitment to this very special night.

"We must also remember that without the generous support of the artistic community, this event simply would not be possible. We extend our heartfelt thanks to every artist who contributed to tonight's auction. We applaud your generosity to the AIDS Project and to the hundreds of clients served in central and southern Maine.

"Special thanks to Thomas Connolly, whose extraordinary painting, *The State*, was featured on this year's posters and invitations, and is available for sale tonight."

(Note: The bidding war for this painting was the most dramatic moment of the auction. The high bid had reached \$2600 when that bidder voluntarily raised her own bid to \$3000 amid the cheers and applause of the entire theater audience.)

"Thank you to the staff of the State Theater, Kelley Graves, Steve Bailey, Dave Herrman and Charles Phillips, for their advice and support throughout the last few months.

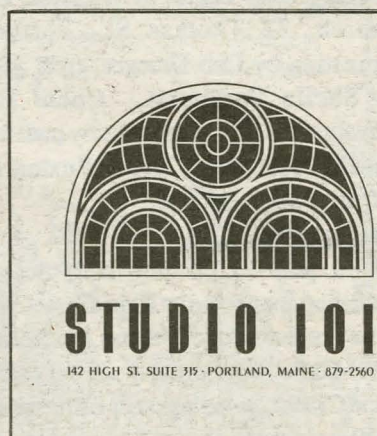
"My sincerest personal thanks to the members of this year's auction committee: Mary Anderson, Ed and Judy Mansing, Becky Beardon, Karla McGowan, Larry Bliss, Della Parker, Paul Draper, Michael Quint, Katie Krukowski, Susan Tremblay, Bill York

"Their generous contribution of time, talent and never wavering enthusiasm made this year's auction a reality.

"But, the commitment and spirit of everyone associated with tonight's event is to be expected. It is the cause that unites and drives us.

"Individually, we have all felt helpless and overwhelmed by the magnitude of AIDS. Tonight, as a group, we should feel empowered. The money we raise from the sale of this magnificent fine art insures that when a young man, who has just been diagnosed, lies alone and afraid in a hospital bed at Maine Medical Center, a John Bean will be at his side as counselor, friend and advocate throughout the course of his illness.

"When a school committee begins the debate of AIDS prevention education and condom availability in the schools, the



See SPRING, page 22

page 11

CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1994

Wednesday, April 6th:

ΔΔ6:00pm: Northern Lambda Nord Policy Meeting/Job descriptions, at the Phoneline in Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Saturday, April 9th:

ΔΔ12:00 noon - 5:00 pm: Training for Referendum Campaigns, Univ. of ME, School of Law 246 Deering St., Portland. FMI, 1-800-55-MLGPA or 761-3732 in greater Portland.

ΔΔ8:00 pm: Benefit Dance hosted by Wilde-Stein Club for Eastern Maine AIDS Network, UMO Ram's Horn. Admission: \$2 Club members, \$3 general public.

Sunday, April 10th:

ΔΔ1:00 pm: Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting, Lions Community Center, High St., Caribou. FMI, 207/498-2088.

Monday, April 11th:

ΔΔ7:00pm: Seacoast Gay Men/UU Social Concerns Committee present Hans Johnson, national spokesman for People for the American Way out of DC, speaking about the radical Christian agenda on gays, abortion, and schools. So. Unitarian/Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI, Al Santerre, 603/898-1115.

ΔΔ8:00 pm: "The Right Response: Gay and Lesbian Organizing in the 90's" by Sue Hyde, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. UMO, Dam Yankee. Free & open to the public.

ΔΔ7:00 pm and 9:30 pm: FILM: Philadelphia, UMO, Hauck Auditorium. Admission is \$1.

Tuesday, April 12th:

•9:00 am - 4:00 pm: Safe Schools and Agencies for All: A Conference Affirming the Place of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Youth. By registration/invitation only. FMI, Kate Perkins 207/985-2784 or Joni Foster, 207/287-5920.

ΔΔ7:00 - 9:00 pm: The Gathering, USM Portland, Campus Center, Faculty Lounge. Topic: Gender Dysphoria, Cross-dressing, and Transsexualism: Personal Accounts.

Wednesday, April 13th:

ΔΔ7:30 pm: FILMS - Honored by the Moon and Forbidden Love, UMO, 100 Donald P. Corbett Bldg. Free & open to the public.

Thursday, April 14th:

5:00 - 8:00 pm: Greater Portland YMCA registration night at 70 Forest Ave. for all summer programs. Summer camp programs include Critter Camp, Sports Camp, Intown Camp, Running and Endurance Sports Camp, Outpost Camp, Adventure Camp, and Otter Pond Wilderness Day Camp. FMI, call 207/874-1111.

ΔΔ7:00 pm: WILDE-STEIN OPEN HOUSE, Sutton Lounge, UMO. Free and open to the public.

ΔΔ7:30 pm: The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. The View from DC: Rosemary Dempsey, Activist/Attorney and Vice-President of NOW speaks on "The State of Emergency on Lesbian and Gay Rights." Accessible to the mobility-impaired. Free hotel parking.

Friday, April 15th:

••6:00 - 9:00 pm: 1st Annual A SAFE NIGHT FOR WOMEN hosted jointly by the YWCA of Portland, ME, Inc. and Rape Crisis Center, Inc., with Alice Vachss, front-line sex crimes prosecutor in Queens NY DA's office, author of Sex Crimes, as Keynote speaker. Tickets \$10, FMI call Joanne Sullivan, 207/874-1130.

ΔΔ8:00 pm: Colby College, Waterville, Romanovsky and Phillips In Concert. Donations accepted. FMI-581-1596.

ΔΔTime?: Showing of Before Stonewall at Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI call 871-9940.

••7:30 pm: Friday Night Music Series at Raffles, 555 Congress St., Portland, featuring local jazz master Gary Wittner. Cover is \$5. FMI, call Raffles, 207/761-3930 or Steve Gerlach, host and organizer of the series at 207/774-8911.

Saturday, April 16 - Sunday, April 17th: ΔΔFirst Annual Gay & Lesbian Business Expo at the Meadowlands Convention Center, Harmon Meadow, Secaucus, NJ. FMI, 1-800-243-9774.

Saturday, April 16th:

ΔΔ1:00 pm: Library Time with Northern Lambda Nord members & friends. 6:00 pm: NLN Pot Luck Supper. 8:00 pm: NLN Game Night. Call 207/498-2088 FMI and locations.

ΔΔ8:00 pm: Libby Roderick In Concert, UMO, Hauck Auditorium, Memorial Union. Admission \$4 UM students, \$6 general public.

ΔΔ8:00 pm: Wild Iris presents a Two Step Country Line Dance at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Instruction by Deb Klueger, great music by Sheila Parkhurst. Chem free, refreshments. \$5. in advance by mail from Wild Iris, P.O. Box 17, West Buxton, ME 04093 or \$6. at the door.

Sunday, April 17th:

••9:00 am - 1:00 pm: Self-defense workshop sponsored by Rape Crisis Center at the Portland Police Station Auditorium, 109 Middle St., Portland. FMI call the Rape Crisis Center business office at 799-9020.

ΔΔ1:00 pm: Libby Roderick leads

workshop, "We Are All One People: A Celebration of Unity in Diversity", Bangor Lounge, Memorial Union. Admission-\$2 general public.

Monday, April 18th:

ΔΔ7:00 - 9:00 pm: Partners of Parents support group meets at Woodfords Congregational Church, Portland. Group lends support to gays and lesbians whose partners have children. FMI, call 207/774-5032 and see announcement in this edition of CPR.

ΔΔ7:00 pm: Seacoast Gay Men present Lizzy Poole, director of the new Free Radical, to speak about the courage to dare. So. Unitarian/Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI, Al Santerre, 603/898-1115.

Tuesday, April 19th:

••6:30 - 8:30 pm: First of eight weekly meetings of support group for women survivors of incest sponsored and facilitated by Rape Crisis Center. Free and confidential. Call 774-3613 FMI and Portland location.

ΔΔ7:00 - 9:00 pm: The Gathering, USM Portland, Campus Center, Faculty Lounge. Educator/Activist/Historian Howard Solomon speaking on "Queer History: Stonewall and its Aftermath."

Wednesday, April 20th:

ΔΔ7:00 - 9:00 pm: Northern Lambda Nord at the Phoneline to answer calls and Fold & Stuff the May Newsletter and Calendar. FMI, call 207/498-2088.

Thursday, April 21st thru Sunday, April 24th:

•ΔMoonlight in Manhattan weekend and Dinner/Dance sponsored by the Greater New York Gender Alliance. Open to cross-dressers, T/S's, T/V's, T/G's, drag queens (kings), significant others & allies. FMI, (212)213-6335, Monica Ann Pedone. Or write to TransSupport (see Resource listing).

Saturday, April 23rd:

•9:00 am - 5:00 pm: New Directions in Diversity sponsored by Equity Institute, Maine Chapter. Portland Regency Hotel. FMI, call Harriet Lutes - 207/774-9185.

ΔΔ7:00 pm: Silent Auction & Third annual Daedalus Project AIDS benefit variety show. Waterville Opera House. Minimum donation of \$8.50 is requested. All proceeds benefit the Maine AIDS Alliance. FMI, call 207/877-4142.

ΔΔ7:00 pm: Libby Roderick Concert, Dover High School Auditorium, Dover, NH. Tickets \$12-\$20. FMI, 603/436-7924.

ΔΔ8:00 pm: SPRING OUT! DANCE, Unitarian/Universalist Church, Elm and Pleasant Sts., Lewiston. Chem free. Sponsored by the lesbian, gay, bisexual,

and transgendered communities for the communities. LET'S PARTY!! \$3.adm.

Monday, April 25th:

ΔΔ7:00 pm: Seacoast Gay Men present Stan Clough, speaking on Walt Whitman and masculinity, a poetic biography. So. Unitarian/Universalist Church, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH. FMI, Al Santerre, 603/898-1115.

Tuesday, April 26th:

ΔΔ7:00 - 9:00 pm: Coffee House & Dance sponsored by The Gathering, Campus Center, Student Lounge, USM. Featured performers: Cathy Poole and That Eternal Desire. DJ Deb spinning tunes. Catered by Barbara's Kitchen & The Coffee Grounds, Inc.

Wednesday, April 27th:

ΔΔ7:00 - 9:00 pm: Northern Lambda Nord members staff the Phoneline in Caribou. FMI call 207/49802088.

Thursday, April 28th:

ΔΔ7:30 pm: The Matlovich Society, Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. State Senator Gerard P. Conley, Jr., sponsor of the 1993 Maine Human Rights Bill, reflects on politics, activism, and human rights: Join us for "An Evening with Jerry Conley." Accessible to the mobility-impaired. Free hotel parking.

ΔΔ10:00 pm: Stonewall 25 Sixties Sit-In, multi-media, live re-creation of the Stonewall era. Love beads, 60's music, fashions and flower power. SISTERS, 45 Danforth St., Portland.

Friday, April 29th - Saturday April 30th:

ΔΔNortheast Bisexual Community Meeting, Montpelier, Vermont. FMI, call regional reps Laura Marina Perez, 617/282-3537 or Stephanie Berger, 617/666-3149, and see article in this edition of CPR.



Gay Games IV

Gay Games IV
19 W. 21 St. Suite 1202
NY, NY 10010
212-633-9494
Fax 212-633-9488

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

ΔΔ **Home-sharing:** Looking for female to share home in the country. \$250 monthly plus 1/2 utilities. Must like animals. Nice location, easy commute to Portland or Lewiston. If you like walks in the woods and barbecuing in the summer, call 926-4130. ΔΔ

PUBLICATIONS

ΔΔ **GOLDEN THREADS:** Contact publication for Lesbian women over 50 (and younger). World-wide. Sample mailed discreetly, \$5.00. **OR** send SASE for free information to GOLDEN THREADS, P O Box 60475, Northampton, MA 01060-0475. ΔΔ

PERSONALS

ΔΔ **LESBIAN**, 40's, trim, 'outdoorsy', from Ellsworth-MDI area. **AFFECTIONATE**, considerate, and sensitive Romeo seeking the right woman to enjoy Acadia with, and more. All letters answered. Write to Advertiser #1358, c/o this paper. ΔΔ

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

INVESTMENT HELP

ΔΔ Investment help needed by a talented, stable, gay couple to realize our dream of owning a business. If you are financially capable and want to foster gay entrepreneurship, call 1-800-750-4252. ΔΔ

ΔΔ **Community Pride Reporter**, a growing and important resource for the lesbian, gay, transgendered, and bisexual communities, is looking for financial assistance to take publication to next levels of growth. Expanding format and distribution limited only by funds. Call 207/879-1342. ΔΔ

TRAVEL/VACATION

ΔΔ **LESBIAN PARADISE!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and mid-week discounts. **HIGHLANDS INN**, Box 1180P, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. ΔΔ

FOR SALE

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

VOLUNTEER HELP

ΔΔ Available weekdays between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm? Have a car or truck? Telephone skills? Volunteer! The AIDS Project. Call 774-6877. ΔΔ

Send in calendar listings 30 days prior to publication for free listing in both the monthly preview and the monthly Calendar.

Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ

Send in your classified ads by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Cost: \$8 for first 40 words, 10¢ each additional word. Add \$2 for box number on Personals.

MUSIC ON REVIEW

SINGIN' OUT by Martin Swinger

By Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

Martin Swinger's first gay album is terrific. It is stirring and joyous; political yet tender; knowing and wise.

Side one opens with "Military Ditty," a brief statement on gays in the military. This segues perfectly into "Give Us Our Own" which pleads for justice and fair treatment. "Our own" is simply what everyone gets to have in life if you're straight.

Uncle Bonsai wrote the next piece entitled, "I Want a Man" in which Martin cheerfully contradicts himself about what he's looking for in a partner. The image is amusingly mythical and by high speed recording we hear how impossible this dream man would be.

Next is a song called "Heteros Don't Know" the tune is a bit familiar, but the sentiments are not. The sadness of having to hide any expressions of same-sex affection is no joke. This is a stirring, sing-along, folk tune that is especially warm.

"Sweet Apple Man," is another Swinger original, and it speaks of loneliness and searching, and the poignancy and tenderness of that search. This song is beautifully rendered and gives full expression to Martin's rich and haunting voice.

Dr. Seuss gave us "Waltzing with Bears," and Martin sings it for us in his fun, slightly-altered and high-spirited manner.

The last two songs on side one are also Swinger originals. "Tex's Lullaby," is offered in a slightly country twang that Martin does very well. "Man Who Loves Men," is about coming out to the people in your life and speaks of the risks and fears in doing so, but it also speaks of courage.

"Homophobia," written by Romanovsky & Phillips, is the first selection on this side, and it documents the

pervasiveness of this social disease as it tackles the question of our being told not to flaunt our sexuality, even though we've had to put up with an avalanche of heterosexual imagery all our lives in every conceivable medium.

The next song is a particular favorite of mine because it adapts a song written by Bill Staines (an superb singer-songwriter), "Rose Hill Fair" renamed by Martin to "Gay Pride Fair." Mr. Swinger does an excellent rendition, and the changed lyrics brings these touching sentiments all the way home to us.

"Something Like Good-bye," is a haunting ballad about lost love, which highlights a different quality of the Swinger voice. It has a choral, almost ethereal grace and beauty. The layering of tracks here is especially effective, even orchestral, and it is truly amazing to realize that all the voices and instrumentation are from Martin.

"Harvest Moon," written by Dan Woodward is an old favorite which Martin adapts for more relevance to gay people. This one is also great for sing-along possibilities.

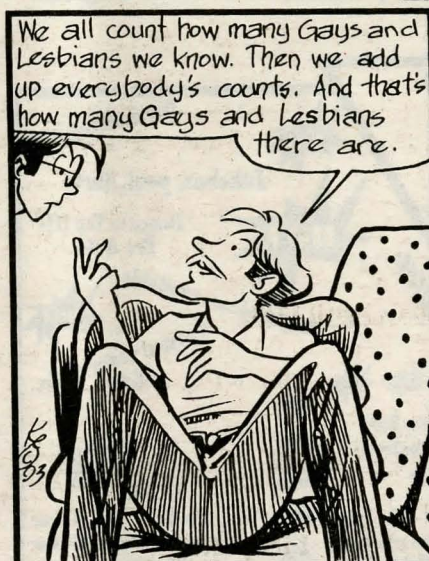
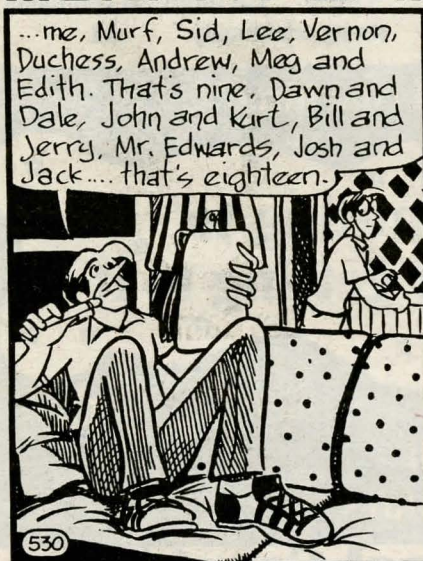
Next is "Watermelon," an original tune which has a bluesy feeling to it and again serves to showcase Mr. Swinger's versatility.

Wrapping things up is a tune entitled, "Don't Put it in Your Mouth," (another by Uncle Bonsai) which cleverly uses double entendre to discuss what I believe to be... a penis, among other things.

Martin Swinger is a great talent ready to enter your world. His energy will inspire you, and the gentleness of his soul will speak to you. This tape should definitely be in your collection. You can order it from: Martin Swinger, P.O. Box 647, Farmington, ME 04938, or call 582-2725 or 778-7379. ΔΔ

MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



THIS WAY OUT

Award-winning weekly gay & lesbian radio program aired on WMPG

By Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

"Dear This Way Out, I am 17 yrs. old and I am a homosexual. I am also very proud of what I am. I get teased a lot at high school, and two weeks ago I was beaten by a bunch of rednecks yelling 'die you fucking faggot, die' and other vile remarks. But I am alive and I contacted the police but they have not found my attackers. As usual, at first I thought I was alone, and suffered a nervous breakdown and attempted suicide when I was 16, so I dropped out of high school. My last grades were all F's, but in January I going back ready to succeed. But thanks to the lesbian and gay hotline in St. Louis, MO. I got in contact with the "Growing American Youth" (GAY) and am now getting support and they recommend that I listen to your radio show. I loved it. Now I know about news that may affect me all I do is tune in and listen. It's like finding an oasis in the middle of the desert being a tiny midwest town called Mexico. The only thing for gays here is the highway to leave this hell hole and This Way Out. Sincerely, (name deleted) P.S. Think straight, Be gay!"

The above letter and the following one were sent to THIS WAY OUT, the gay and lesbian news and information radio program broadcast in the Portland area on WMPG, 90.9 FM on Thursdays from 11-11:30 am and on Sundays from 3-3:30 pm. These letters, from isolated gay youth, speak convincingly of the need and importance of this kind of communication. (The letters have been edited slightly to assist in easier reading.)

"Dear Brothers and Sisters, I am 15 going on 16 years old and of course gay. I live in a small town, Pomona, California. When I started knowing about my homosexuality I wanted to learn more about me

and people like me. I have read and I am still reading magazines, newspaper clippings and watching television programs that deal with or talk about us. After learning some about myself I began becoming proud: And was outraged with the way some people treated us. I always listen to the radio and I would constantly turn the dial until I heard a gay radio station. I wish it would come on every day of the week. I listen to your program every Sunday with my earphones so nobody will hear me listening.

The reason (the main reason) I am writing is, well, I am still in the closet, although many people at school and home suspect I am gay.

I get the regular teases and name calling from people but I just ignore them. One thing is for certain. I will not be macho or get a girlfriend. Oh, sure I have lots of girlfriends but not the way the kids at school think. I am frightened to come out to people and my parents. Although one day I am going to. I am at the point now where I feel it's time for me to come out. And if I could just know that there was somebody out there who cares and understands it could ease the pain of feeling so isolated. If you have some suggested organization I could contact please, please let me know. And I know I can trust you to take this into consideration. Thanks for taking the time to listen. Sincerely, A gay fan. P.S. Please answer (It's our little secret)"

These poignant pleas for help will impress all, save those with hearts of stone.

The letters and other materials were provided by THIS WAY OUT's co-producer, Greg Gordon, so that CPR could do a follow-up to last month's introductory article. According to their press release, "THIS WAY OUT is the award-winning, internationally distributed weekly gay and lesbian radio program, currently airing on over 80 stations in six countries. Each weekly half-hour edition of THIS WAY OUT, presented in a 'radio magazine'



format, includes Newsrap, a summary of some of the major news events in or affecting the lesbian/gay community, compiled from a variety of publications and broadcasts around the world. Conversations with authors and performers, news feature stories, AIDS updates, humor, poetry, media criticism, readings from lesbian/gay literature, and other production features round out each program, all punctuated with a wide variety of music (especially recordings by openly-lesbian/gay performers, which rarely receive commercial radio airplay").

Some examples of the items carried on a typical THIS WAY OUT program include: New Zealand Parliament adds sexual orientation to their human rights law; Roberta Achtenberg becomes first open lesbian to be confirmed for a top-level government position by the US Senate; Denver Judge Jeffrey Bayless issues temporary injunction preventing implementation of Colorado's Amendment 2; an interview with singer Janis Ian; interviews with Lon Mabon and other Oregon Citizen's Alliance members; and, San Diego's invitation to gays and lesbians to live in one of their neighborhoods.

Because radio is available to all, gay radio reaches non-gay listeners in a way that gay publications do not. For this

reason, as well as the need to inform our own community, people need to be alerted to the existence of this program so they can listen to it or can work to have it broadcast in their area.

For example, WMPG's broadcast area is quite limited, but, "The program is available free of charge each week to almost 300 public/community radio stations throughout the US on the National Public Radio Satellite System's Channel 12 every Monday from 2:30 to 3:00 pm (Eastern time)."

SO, WHY DOESN'T MPBN CARRY THIS PROGRAM???

In a letter dated January 26, 1994, and provided to CPR by Greg Gordon, State Senator Dale McCormick, District 18 in Maine, thanked Mr. Gordon for promotional material regarding THIS WAY OUT, and told him that she would be urging Maine Public Radio to carry this program. Concerned people need to follow up her efforts and contact MPBN at 65 Texas Avenue, Bangor ME 04401, and demand that they air this show.

THIS WAY OUT welcomes contributions to its show. Write to Greg Gordon at P.O. Box 38327, Los Angeles, CA 90038 with any questions. In the meantime, listen to THIS WAY OUT on WMPG. "An informed community is a strong community." ΔΔ

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but never getting to it

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Stonewall 25/Portland Pride Fund-raiser

By Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

A very poorly attended fund-raiser was held at DiMillo's on Thursday, March 17th. It is truly lamentable that the southern Maine Lesbian and Gay community refuses to support the efforts of its activists. Where to lay the blame—location, apathy, poor planning, lack of publicity, finding the audience, lack of commitment, timing, bad hair night? Regardless of the reason, let's just say.... it sucks!

Michael Rossetti, event organizer, stated that there was an overall financial loss of \$30 to \$40, but he considers the event a success in that it engendered a tremendous amount of publicity for Stonewall 25/Portland Pride. Notices and articles appeared in the Portland Press Herald and Casco Bay Weekly and Steve Gerlach's photo appeared on the cover of GO, the Portland Press Herald's weekly entertainment magazine.

If you had gone, you would have been enjoyably entertained (for the most part). Unfortunately, this writer missed the opening act—Steve Gerlach. Steve's



Kevin McLellan, poet

Photo by DOC

press informs us that his brand of music is "aggressive folk" and that he's had extensive billings all over the Portland area, as well as clubs in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

A poetry reading by Kevin McLellan followed. Mr. McLellan read



Maria Esposito, emcee

Photo by DOC

his original poetry from his book An Unmade Bed. Intensely personal and delivered with emotion and conviction, these poems dealt with a wide range of issues affecting the gay community. His poetic diction is flawless and he has a commanding presence.

The evening's festivities were emceed by a surprise appearance from Maria Esposito, a British Lesbian comic. She was hilarious. Maria was visiting friends here and was asked at the last minute to help out. She made fun of herself as a "vanilla dyke" and one of the "Amish people of the lesbian world." She noted how gay men's personals have no words, they are all full of numbers, letters and measurements whereas lesbian personals are the touchy, feely, earth-bound, tea and bonding type.

We then heard from the very talented Kim Volk, a folk singer of extraordinary power and range. Ms. Volk had the audience travelling with her on her roller coaster of images and moods. Her concluding anthem, "I am a L-E-S-B-I-A-N," was especially inspirational.

And finally, Chuck Roy. Mr. Roy may be the perfect example of how irrelevant being gay can be. It's no surprise to me that, as he said several times, he does better with straight audiences. Basically, he makes fun of the fact that he is gay, and he makes fun of being gay in general, a shtick I imagine a straight audience would really go for.

Some of it was amusing, most of it simply wasn't funny. When we didn't laugh, he made fun of us. I felt tense. ΔΔ

Susan Farnsworth elects a time out

Three term legislator turns
energies to business and personal
re-energizing

By C.J. and J.C., Contributors

In a couple of weeks, the State of Maine's 116th legislative session will be over. Come the November elections, district 91 will no longer have the option of sending Susan Farnsworth to represent them in the Maine House. At the end of this, her third term, Susan will take a well deserved rest from working on the judiciary and taxation committees. Her odometer reading won't have the many extra miles per month, nor will her phone bill reach \$1000. Susan will be devoting her enormous energy and talent to her private law practice.

While we are mourning the loss of her presence in Augusta, however, we can depend on her "personal politics" to work to implement fair and just laws.

Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, expressed sadness at "losing the presence of an open lesbian and such an effective communicator for lesbian, gay, and bisexual civil rights." Susan herself describes her greatest accomplishment, as well as her worst defeat, in the legislature as working to get the anti-discrimination bill through the House for the first time ever in 1989 only to have it fail in the Senate. And then in 1993 working successfully for its passage in both houses, only to get a Governor's veto. "It's so hard to know you have to come back," she says. "You feel you've put everything you could into it, but it wasn't enough."

Asked if she ever felt discrimination or bias directed at her in the legislature, Susan responded that, "some folks literally jumped back with fear when I told them I was gay." For the most part Susan "would speak with people individually and privately, and a valuable, personal connection would be established eventually." She did feel that bias might have resulted in some loss of support when she ran for Majority Leader. As the first "out" legislator, Susan often found herself in the role of educator, helping to teach some of her colleagues about gay, lesbian, and bisexual existence and issues. Her own awareness of the responsibilities of being an "out lesbian" caused Susan to consistently "push to be the best."

We asked Mary McPherson, former lobbyist for the Maine Women's lobby, and Chair of MLGP's Legislative committee, what her favorite, most fun work done with Susan was.

"If you call work, focus, and getting results fun, that's the greatest part of it. Making social and economic positive change. Making facts and figures translate



into individual lives, putting faces on legal language, creating credibility with all kinds of people, reconciliation and diplomacy. These are Susan's talents. She has an ability to stick to her principles and get to the common ground."

Ms. McPherson's views are reflected in the breadth and number of issues with which Susan has been concerned. Some of the more outstanding ones have dealt with oil spill preparedness, the reproductive privacy act, accessibility for differently-abled people, modification to medical malpractice law and the proposed Passamaquoddy casino which she has taken from a two page to a 50 page bill in coalition with Indian Tribal representatives and other legislators.

When asked what she would say to other gay hopeful candidates, Susan described the Maine legislative process as "very open" and "an incredible learning experience. I feel grateful I got to be there." She concluded, "we gay people have a lot to offer. . . Believe you can do it."

"Be honest with yourself and about yourself. Focus on your work and face your fears. I've never stopped peeling off layers of my own homophobia." ΔΔ

4TH N.E. Festival for Womyn
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Lessons From The Epidemic - Part IX

As we continue to use the epidemic as a mirror to look more closely at ourselves, our society and our beliefs, we learn more about ourselves and our institutions. A very important lesson from the epidemic has to do with the way health care is delivered in America and, more importantly, our beliefs about medicine. We have angrily and painfully learned in this epidemic that medicine and/or science does not have all the answers.

While this appears to be a simple truth that all would understand, in reality we did not. In the 1950's, we believed that science and medicine could cure everything. That was the message of the Salk vaccine. As a little child standing in line for sugar cubes, I learned that. Doctors were powerful and could cure anything. We were promised an unlimited future of health and happiness, a time when disease would be controlled and we would live longer. The epidemic changed all that. We had a disease that they couldn't cure and we were dying of it and dying young!

As disturbing as this was, we also learned that the medical community was not staffed by the likes of Dr. Kildare and Marcus Welby. Medicine is a business! Doctors are among the highest paid Americans. We learned, in this epidemic, that medical care is available for those who can pay for it. This is particularly true when one wants the type of quality care needed to fight HIV infection.

With the myriad of decisions that a person with HIV must make about his/her medical treatment, we found that physicians and health care providers were often not willing to share the decision making process with the patients. Traditionally, patients were told what to do. They were not partners. Yet, we found that they needed to be partners. Being empowered to make decisions about your health care correlates with long term survival in this epidemic.

But even more importantly, doctors are beginning to learn that they need to listen to their patients. Often, individuals know how a drug affects them, what relief they need, how they would respond to a regimen of treatment. AIDS researcher-physicians learned that listening to their patients was critical. At the Sixth Annual AIDS update in San Francisco last October, Dr. Paul Volberding of San Francisco General Hospital said that we need to ask our patients about any treatment and listen to them in order to learn what works. People with AIDS who have taken charge of their treatment, and their disease, have been great models to all of us. They have

David Smith, Ed. D



taught us that we alone are responsible for our health.

Most importantly, we have learned that our system of western medicine has serious limitations. The historic separation of body, mind and spirit doesn't work well when combating disease, especially HIV disease. Through the AIDS epidemic, we have clearly seen that people need a whole array of services: medical, psycho-social, and financial, to cope with the impact of HIV. And their families, lovers and friends need services also.

As communities dealing with AIDS, we have begun to look at alternative therapies and different philosophical systems of care to meet the needs expressed by people living with HIV. Chinese herbal medicine, acupuncture, massage, vitamins, and nutrition are just some of the adjunctive therapies we have used to support traditional western medicine.

We have learned that individuals need support services ranging from counseling to transportation, including meal delivery and access to all forms of medical care. Medical services, traditional and non-traditional, are of no use if one can't access them - physically and/or financially.

The emotional needs of those living with HIV, in a society that often discriminates against people with HIV, are as significant as medical care. We have learned that the quality of life of people with HIV is more important than life expectancy. All of these lessons from the epidemic apply as well to so many other medical problems we have in our society.

Medicine isn't perfect. Health care is available to those who can pay for it and access it. Science doesn't have all the

answers. These are the truths of this epidemic. And yet, there are many individual practitioners who have stretched the rules, changed the system and improved the quality of life of their patients. This is also a powerful truth of the epidemic. As we move forward together, people with AIDS and medical providers are learning together about what is needed to survive and thrive with AIDS. This is a good lesson for all of us. ΔΔ

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STONEWALL DIARY Part I - THE MARCH

By Michael Rossetti

Amid shouts and high emotions, the delegates to the final Stonewall International March conference worked out their plans to insure that the International March on the United Nations to Affirm Lesbian and Gay Human Rights will not be just another media event whose energy simply dissipates once people go home.

The intent of the March is noble: to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people in the United Nations work for human rights. However, the planners have the DC memory of long hours of standing in the sun, pointless speeches by milk-toast TV talk show hosts, and a monster demonstration on the verge of chaos with which to contend. The fear that this March comes too soon after, and sounds too much like a largely ineffective party in Washington, is something of which the International March planners are keenly aware.

The major difference in this demonstration is that New York City is a living, inhabited crossroads of international cultures by its nature, an active international human rights forum, and the largest media center anywhere. DC is a cold series of monuments and offices closed on weekends. New York is seen internationally as the port of opportunity, while domesti-

cally it is the biggest and most influential gay and lesbian community in the country, certainly in this hemisphere.

If an event of the magnitude of Stonewall 25 happens in New York, it will be international news with a message that reaches into the villages of Indonesia and Africa as certain as it reaches into the living-rooms of middle America. That message, as Amnesty International is encouraging, will be that love is a basic human right which all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people must be accorded.

The sponsoring organization is the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), and an advisory status group to the UN General Assembly. ILGA made it clear to conference delegates that life for gays and lesbians outside the U.S. is similar or worse than what life was for gays and lesbians here before the 1969 riots in New York's Greenwich Village. It became easy to understand the importance of the Stonewall riots in relation to international struggles for human rights, and why our American freedoms are so envied. Stonewall was the most notable battle against the oppression of gay people anywhere. It was a rebellion that has resulted in twenty-five years of domestic rights activity and rippling international activity. We, as Americans, cannot fully appreciate this fascination with the Stonewall Rebellion until we are once again as frequently arrested or tormented for being gay as our foreign brothers and sisters.

The March from the UN will be a demonstration of mythical dimensions, with an initial lineup area of over 50 blocks, easily twice the size of the Washington Mall. Contingents are requested to register so that an order, and realistic lineup and stepoff times can be provided (something not done effectively in DC). The route is three miles from New York's East Side, moving west toward the center of Manhattan, then north to the far end of Central Park's "Great Lawn," where a rally for an estimated one million (a portion of the marchers) will start at 5 PM.



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Originally, there was to be an alternative "spontaneous" route for the overflow and crowd control. It was a 6 mile route from the Stonewall on the western side of New York, up to Central Park. This overflow route was specifically set aside for Stonewall veterans, early movement groups, drag and youth groups, while all others met at the UN. Thanks to the international delegates at the conference and the emotional advice of several Stonewall veterans, it was made clear that this route could be so well attended as to make it a powder-keg of catastrophes. Therefore, it was decided that the International March on the UN was given a complimentary route from the Stonewall in Greenwich Village that would be planned out and structured for safety's sake. The two routes, in fact, poetically express the dual nature of the event: that the former is from where we have come, and that the latter is where we are going.

The organizer's intent is to provide every possible service to marchers to assist them in maneuvering the streets and mysteries of New York City and participating safely in the March. This includes having assigned welcoming people meet registered contingents at the point of entry, whether airport or bus station. It means having information guides stationed at every major subway location and all major intersections. It means literature written and information spoken in any of the six UN official languages. It means providing child day care, extra porta-potties, non-uniformed gay and straight security personnel, first aid and trolleys for the tired or disabled. There is even a committee advising on how contingents can best deal with the mental strain of being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the event. The organizers are planning for absolutely anything that could happen. To allow Stonewall to assist, there are three options. Contact Portland (871-9940) or Bangor (866-4320) Pride Committees or call the New York Host committee at 212 / 439-1077 and

request a Hospitality packet. For accommodations and travel that supports the event, call 1-800-216-1880.

The other side of the services coin is that there is a call for volunteers. Volunteers are needed, not only to help with March presentation, but also to do administrative tasks before and after the event. No one volunteer will be asked to work more than a two or three hour shift, unless they insist. Anyone who will be in New York at anytime for the week before, during or after the event can be of help. The volunteer coordinator is Marc Rubin, 212/741-0132, or call the New York host committee.

Ultimately, what does this mean for us in terms of accomplishment? Surely, 2 million gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people filling the streets of New York City, embassy after embassy being the sight of forbidden folk dances, kiss ins, and more pronounced demonstrations, the corridors of the United Nations building being overwhelmed with gays and lesbians dressed in their tradition garb from tunics to saris, confronting the ambassadors of some of the world's worst dictators, all of this cannot go unnoticed in a city that controls much of the world's media nerves, and all of the world's national representatives. The world will be watching, and human rights will now become a topic of discussion when considering persecuting gays and lesbians internationally.

Locally, it means that we have an opportunity to make our case for civil rights on the coattails of this colossal international event. In addition to arranging bus convoys from Bangor and Portland to NYC, there are those who are planning a summer of events in Maine to continue to enthusiastically promote the visibility of our communities, and to emphasize the Stonewall messages. In Portland, from June 17-19, the usual 45 minute Pride March has progressed to work on a true street festival, and a celebration of community, with the emphasis not on speeches by politicians, but on the strengths and talents of our artisans, musicians and businesses. The Portland Parade, complete with floats and Dykes on Bikes will start at Longfellow Square and end up at a Festival on Exchange Street. Registration is requested for Portland's march, and peacekeepers are required of all groups marching for a June 5th training session.

In Bangor, PRIDE is re-established on July 9, with it's second Parade and festival, hopefully, heralding a renewal of activity in community building. The Bangor March will start off with a rally in the downtown area and head out to a fair in Paul Bunyon Park. In Lewiston, we're planning an international float to be part of the Maine State Parade and a state-wide

invitation to participate. Elsewhere, we are talking with smaller communities to commit to an annual "pride" festival. All in all, the summer of '94, the commemorative year of the Stonewall spark, will be one of movement and growth for Maine, as well as the birth of a new international movement. $\Delta\Delta$

Health Activists Successful—Lesbians will be included in National Health Research

By Peaches Bass, Lesbian Health Columnist

The December 1993 issue of *CPR* reported that the National Institutes of Health were resisting efforts to include information on lesbians in a new \$600 million women's health research project. In response to this resistance, lesbian health advocates across the country implemented a campaign to convince Dr. William Harlan, the Women's Health Initiative Coordinator, to reverse his previous decision.

In a somewhat surprising development, the National Center for Lesbian Rights has announced that after months of organizing, letter writing, meetings and rabble rousing, the NIH has decided to include lesbians as a visible part of the largest women's health study ever undertaken.

The Women's Health Research Initiative, which will recruit 160,000 postmenopausal women for a study focused on the incidence of and remedies for heart disease, osteoporosis and gynecological cancers, will now include questions designed to allow researchers to determine whether there may be different risks or reactions to treatments among lesbians. The questions, which like all questions in the study are voluntary, will ask women

about sexual behavior and identity.

"This is a tremendous victory for lesbians because it establishes a precedent for including lesbians in future health research, and because it has far reaching implications for addressing lesbian health in the future," said Paula Ettlebrick, public policy director for the National center for Lesbian Rights. "Lesbians' health concerns have been ignored for too long. This proves that when we organize, we can affect national policy and demand that our tax dollars address our health needs both as women and as lesbians."

Attention was first drawn to lesbian exclusion from the health study by Dr. Kate O'Hanlan, a lesbian gynecological surgeon at Stanford University, who brought her concern to the attention of Dr. Harlan and Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. The National Center for Lesbian Rights joined Dr. O'Hanlan in a grassroots campaign of lesbian health projects across the US to ask that Secretary Shalala intercede and follow up on her expressed concerns for lesbian health care needs, as presented to her by a group of lesbian health advocates during last spring's March on Washington.

Letters poured into Shalala's office from groups as diverse as the North Carolina Lesbian and Gay Health Project, Seattle Lesbian Cancer Project, Boston Women's Health Collective, Lesbian Avengers, and the Vice President of Clinical Affairs for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

While several small scale studies seem to indicate that lesbians may be at risk for certain cancers and heart disease, the findings of the nine-year Women's Health Initiative, which begins this month at 45 sites around the country, will provide the most statistically valid profile of the top three causes of illness and death for women. In addition, all future governmental research funding, health services,

See RESEARCH, page 22

starting soon . . .

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Act Up / Portland sets stage for community debate on condom availability in Portland high schools

By Luke Balboni, Staff Writer

On Monday, March 28th, the brave activists of ACT-UP/Portland staged a daring and effective demonstration in favor of condom availability in the high schools. They held their mock School Board meeting and "die-in" at Monument Square. Approximately 50 students precipitated, including people from Biddeford, Portland and South Portland High Schools.

The demonstration drew several bystanders, and some ACT-UP/Portland personnel stood with signs facing the moving traffic on Congress Street. There was thunderous response from passing motorists who blasted their horns in support, some even leaning out of their windows to voice encouragement.

There was a massive police presence

forces of ignorance firmly on Ms. Soychak's side.

What is it exactly that she objects to in these pamphlets? Apparently, it is the depiction of an erect penis and a vagina. The depiction of these two body parts, common to us all, is purely for the purpose of demonstrating how to use condoms and latex dams.

In a shockingly stupid comment, Ms. Soychak states, (quoted from the PPH) "students learn about condoms and AIDS in their health courses." But she said "the lessons are given in a 'tasteful, appropriate manner' that does not include demonstrating how to put on condoms..." So, students are educated about condoms, but are not shown how to put them on.

For the sake of propriety, Ms.

thank Spirit for ACT-UP/Portland, and acknowledge a heavy debt of gratitude to them for their courage. They make me proud!!

Sue Enos, ACT-UP/Portland member and die-in organizer, said that the reason for the direct action was that "the condom debates are finally coming up in the Portland School Committee this week, [Tuesday and Thursday nights.] Various members of the School Committee and the Portland administration have said that students are not expressing an interest in getting condoms, but we are all here because we know that's NOT true. So we're going to do the die-in today and some street theater to dramatize the school board's inability to deal with this issue."

Ms. Enos then read the demands, twelve in all, using a bull horn, repeating the refrain, after each demand, "because School Board—Your Time Is Up". The crowd roared its approval.

The mock School Board meeting followed. Several students sat together facing the crowd holding a sign which read, "School Board." Students then stood in front of the "Board" and said, for example, "I'm a student in your school and I need condoms and I need HIV education because all my friends are dying. I want them now. Aren't you listening to me? Aren't you going to listen to me? I'm a student and you're the School Board. Aren't you supposed to listen to me? If you keep ignoring me, I'm going to die."

This student then dropped to the ground in a mock "death".

Another student, visibly angry, expressed the permanent generational conflict thusly, "You know, when you were young it wasn't as hard. When you were kids you didn't have as many things to worry about... You don't know how difficult it is to be a kid in today's society

... because you've been brain dead for generations. Give us condoms, give us information, help us! Do you even care?"

Other students then addressed the "Board" in similar fashion until the Square was littered with "dead" bodies. Finally, a member of the "Board" told all those who remained standing, "... the real problem we have is that we're too shy to talk to you about sex, we don't want to admit that our kids are having sex, we don't want to hear about it, we certainly don't want to hear about you hanging out with those queers in ACT-UP... So we in the Portland School Board sentence you to death from AIDS. So you can just die now."

All the "Board" members started to chant, "die, die" and the crowd of about 30 high school students fell to the ground. Someone played "Taps" on a kazoo.

Then the resurrection took place as Richard Fried, ACT-UP/Portland member said, "Arise and get your latex." The students got up and gathered around Richard and reached into a bag in which were the "obscene" pamphlets containing a condom and a latex glove.

When the rally was over, I spoke to Sue Enos of ACT-UP/Portland to discuss the genesis of the event. She said, "They (high school students) know what they want, they know what they need, and it's about time they get it." Ms. Enos stated that most of the students were straight. She continued, "ACT-UP/Portland is predominantly queer... a few of the students are bi." She said that she did not believe Portland High had an organization for its gay and lesbian students. "Someone tried to get a gay group started at Waynefleete High and she's been denied several times."

Ms. Enos explained that the students were not recruited to attend the rally. "We didn't really recruit them, they came on their own cognizance. We go to their



Demonstrators in action

Photo by DOC

with Monument Square virtually surrounded by cops and paddy wagons. There were no incidents.

Earlier that day, ACT-UP/Portland distributed pamphlets containing condoms and a latex glove and in which there were photos on the proper use of these materials, to students outside South Portland High School. In an article in the Portland Press Herald, Tuesday, March 29th, the Principal of South Portland High, Jacqueline Soychak, is reported to have contacted police for the purpose of prosecuting the pamphleteers for distributing "pornography to minors." She considers the photos in the pamphlet to be obscene.

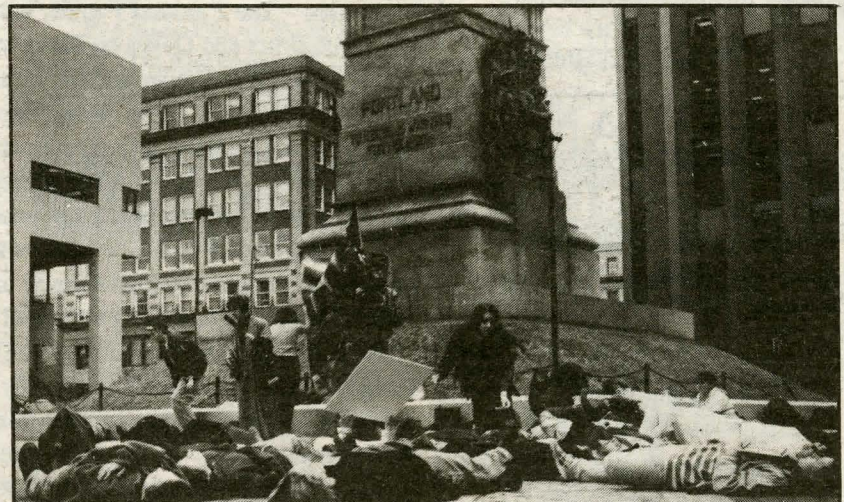
Rather than fear her efforts at intimidation, ACT-UP/Portland should realize that if ever such a trial took place, it would be the greatest publicity they could ever get. Such a witch hunt on the part of myopic school officials would take on national media attention and become another Scopes Monkey Trial, with the

Soychak is willing to risk the lives of her students. The kind of sex education Ms. Soychak describes is criminally inadequate to fulfill its proper function. Death from AIDS is obscene, photos of human body parts in an educational context is not.

ACT-UP/Portland performs an important function in our community. We need such an organization to confront the Soychaks in power and force them to go public with their ignorance so that it can be fought.

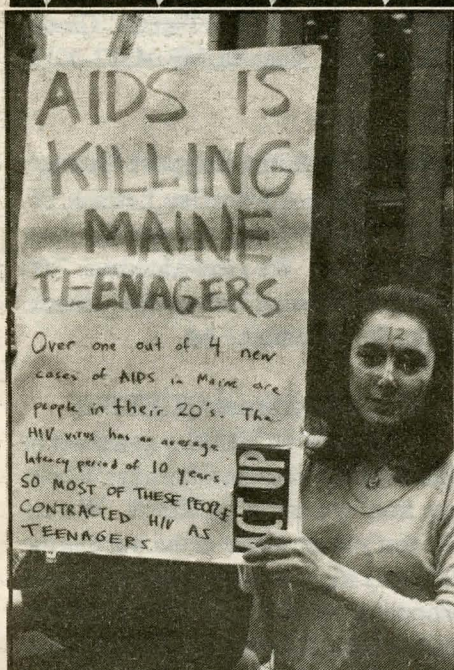
Members of the lesbian-gay community who oppose ACT-UP/Portland should take a broader view of its role in the over-all struggle for civil rights. Every civil rights struggle has had its radical element. Malcolm X was considered a radical, today he is considered a hero.

The "problem" with ACT-UP/Portland is that they speak the truth, the unvarnished, perhaps not "tasteful or appropriate" truth, but the truth nevertheless. A lot of people don't like the truth. I, for one,



Act Up /Portland Die In

Photo by DOC



The sign says it all Photo by DOC

schools with these "zines," and hand them out. We gave one person, who goes to Portland High, flyers and she put them up, but during class they [the flyers] got taken down, the flyers were put back up, students kept putting them up."

Three students from Biddeford High who participated in the die-in told me that there is no condom availability there, and that sex education is inadequate. "They ignore the real questions that we want to know. It's all book work, that's it." These three students happened upon the die-in, but they thought it a great idea and they had to stay. All three were among its most active participants. "We feel really strongly about this. They tried bringing something like this, a rally, at the High School from Thornton (Academy), but it didn't turn out that cool."

Richard Howland, a writer for the Bulldog Edition, the student newspaper for Portland High School, was present at the rally. He had just written an article on the issue of condom availability and found that students are as divided as adults. He thinks that the die-in is unnecessary because, "it's (the committee process) going along nicely and the people who are trying to do it, [the demonstration]... ACT-UP... act a little over-extreme sometimes. It's a good cause, but they might cheapen the aim of the condom availability and people might not take it that seriously."

He stated that the sexual education curriculum at Portland High consists of a four week course that takes place during freshman year. "Courses go over sexual intercourse, condoms, how to put them on, how to use birth control methods... It could use some refining, because it doesn't cover anything to do with homosexual sex. I think they should work on that a little bit."

I asked him if they address homosexuality at all. Mr. Howland answered, "A snippet... they say it's alright... as

such... they say nothing's wrong with it, it's completely normal. There's no homophobia among the teachers."

On Tuesday, March 29th, at 7:00 pm, the Human Sexuality and Family Living Advisory Board met at PRVTC to elicit "testimony from those who live and work in Portland about the role of condoms in STD/HIV prevention in Portland schools." (Quoted from a News Release from the FLHSAB.)

Lucky Hollander, an Advisory Board member, read a document discussing STD's which included the various points of view surrounding the role of condoms in STD/HIV prevention.

Those opposed to condom availability cite the failure rate of condoms, the mixed message that is being given in the context of an abstinence based sex education curriculum, and they ask what the legal ramifications are for the schools in making condoms available. Opponents are also concerned about the impact on student-parent relationships, the financial implications, whether or not it is the role of the school to make condoms available, and what is the balance between information and the right to privacy?

Those in favor of condom availability also cite the reliability of condoms, and even though it is conceded that abstinence is the only sure way to prevent HIV and STDs, they say one must confront the reality, which is that many young people are sexually active.

The Board requested that participants confine their questions to the following three: 1) Do you support condom availability in schools? 2) If yes, how would you like to see it done? 3) If not, what should schools be offering regarding



FLHS Advisory Board members

STD/HIV prevention?

There were many speakers on both Tuesday and Thursday night who attempted to cram their opinions into the three minute time limit allowed. The arguments, both pro and con, began to take on a certain hypnotic repetitiveness.

One voice in opposition was Steve Helker. He said, "My wife and I have 3 children in the Portland Public Schools. I'm a teacher at Memorial Middle School



Participants in community forum in South Portland.

Photo by DOC

"I'm opposed to authorizing the schools to purchase condoms to make available to our children. Though the word "wrong" seems to be politically incorrect today, I must tell you that this idea is "wrong" for several reasons."

"It is wrong to send a mixed message to students..."

"It is wrong to encourage irresponsibility. "AIDS isn't the biggest problem around here, refusal to accept responsibility certainly is..."

"And it is wrong for schools to openly contradict the values of families whose children attend there. To condone sexual activity tacitly by calling it 'safe sex' is to place many students in unnecessary conflict with their families who are teaching them that recreational sex is not only risky, it is wrong..."

A sample of the arguments in favor of condom availability would include:

Sarah Riback, who was the second of a group of three female students who spoke Thursday night. All three of these students spoke very intelligently, and were in fact, the most articulate participants.

Sarah said, "First of all, I'd like to begin by saying I'm sixteen years old, I'm a thinking person, and not a walking hormone, and I want to be treated like the former and not

the latter.

"About condom availability in schools. I think it's not just an act. It's a message that parents and teachers send to the students that tell us that you believe we are decision-making... we are thinking, capable people..."

"By not distributing condoms, you're showing this disapproval of any sexual activity we might be engaging in, and so the kids can't talk to the adults... lastly, I'm a sexually

active teenager also, and I think it was a responsible choice I made. I'm in a long-term, loving relationship and I think that should be respected just as much as an adult's relationship. And I do practice safer sex."

Steve Huntley spoke next, making one of the most persuasive arguments in favor of condom availability. He said, "Our daughter's going to be entering Portland High School in the fall... I'm a scientist who works to predict human health risks associated with chemical exposures and exposures to other agents."

"I'd like to say that I fully support the unrestricted availability of condoms in Portland High Schools. We all know that abstinence is the only 100% effective method for the prevention of STD transmission. However, abstinence is only effective for those who do not engage in sexual activity... latex condoms are the most effective means of preventing transmission of STDs including HIV."

"Whether or not you choose to believe it, if you are a parent of a high school student, the odds are that your young adult child will engage in some form of sexual activity before their four years are up... These at-risk young adults must have greater accessibility to condoms."

"The high school is the optimal institution to facilitate STD prevention. AIDS is the public health epidemic."

In a telephone interview with Beth Huntley following these two meetings, I learned that there would be one more public forum where the Board will solicit public opinion about the sex education curriculum in general (April 4th). She warned that there may be a staff position cut in sex education from 3 educators to 2, so they'll be looking for lots of public input as to where the curriculum should focus.

The Advisory Board hopes to vote on its recommendation to the School Committee on April 25th. They may allow public comment at that meeting. Ms. Huntley is not sure how the School Committee will handle this issue. There may have been a public forum, and they will vote on these matters in public.

Ms. Huntley said, "There have been good points on both sides." She's, "glad that the public has taken these issues so seriously" and said that the forums have "been going really well, very civil and calm." AA

Miscellaneous Stuff... aka: Public Service Announcements

Greater Portland

Bike to Work Committee:

The Portland Bike to Work Committee is sponsoring a bicycle Conference on Monday, May 16th at 7:30 pm at USM's Luther Bonney Auditorium, as part of its week long celebration of bicycling. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

Bike to Work Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 1994. Everyone in Portland is encouraged to ride their bicycles to work on that day and to join us at Monument Square on Tuesday morning for a rally celebrating bicycling. For more information or to become involved, please call Mouzelle Soule at 871-9299. ΔΔ

The Counseling Center:

Straight? Lesbian? Transgendered? Gay? Bisexual? Don't know? A group using art, drama, and music to find comfort in sexuality is forming. "Exploring and Empowering Sexuality" is what the group is about. Sound interesting? Call 780-4050 for more information. ΔΔ

From The Rape Crisis Center:

The Rape Crisis Center, Inc. is sponsoring a facilitated support group for women survivors of incest. The eight week group will begin on Tuesday, April 19, 1994 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The group is free and confidential. For more information, call 774-3613. ΔΔ

The Rape Crisis Center, Inc. and Womyn's Forum are sponsoring an open support group for women survivors of childhood and/or adult sexual abuse. The group meets each Wednesday from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. This group is free, facilitated, and confidential. For more information, call 874-6593. ΔΔ

The Rape Crisis Center, Inc. is sponsoring a self-defense workshop on Sunday, April 17, 1994 from 9:00 am to 1:00

pm, at the Portland Police Station Auditorium, 109 Middle Street in Portland. Workshop leader and black belt karate instructor, Lauretta Gregoire, will cover sexual assault awareness, personal safety, and risk reduction. Self-defense and break-away techniques will be demonstrated and practiced. Pre-registration is \$25. (\$35 at the door.) For more information or to register, call the business office at 799-9020.

The Rape Crisis Center provides crisis intervention, advocacy and support groups for victims and survivors of sexual assault and child sexual abuse, and their families and friends. If you or someone you know are a victim, call the 24 hour hotline at 207/774-3613. Collect calls are accepted. All Rape Crisis Center services are free and confidential. ΔΔ

Freedom Fest Maine/Bangor Pride:

Freedom Fest Maine is sponsoring a round trip bus to the Stonewall 25 International March on the United Nations, which is being held on Sunday, June 26th. The bus leaves Bangor on June 25th, and returns June 27th. The price is \$45. For bus registration forms and housing/event information, please contact Malcolm Smith at 866-4320, or write P. O. Box 624, Orono, ME 04473. First come, first served. A deposit is required by May 15th. ΔΔ

Partners of Parents:

Partners of Parents is a group formed to lend support to gays and lesbians whose partners have children. This self-led group meets to discuss situations unique to non-traditional blended families and the issues that commonly arise, (those of accommodation, finances, definition of roles, managing demands, family dynamics, etc.) as well as sharing a mutual understanding of the joys and rewards of shared parenting.

We meet every third Monday of the month at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. For more information, call 774-5032. ΔΔ

Equal Protection Maine/Bangor:

Plan to attend Bangor's contingent of Equal Protection Maine which will meet from 2:00 - 4:00 pm on the first Sunday of every month at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main Street, Bangor. For more information, contact EPM, P.O. Box 963, Bangor, ME 04402. ΔΔ

Building an Inclusive Community (BIC):

A group in the Lewiston-Auburn area is forming to explore ways of building an all inclusive and safe community for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender population. We will explore means to achieve this goal through entertainment, activities, support groups, education, topic meetings, forums, etc. We wish to be a visible part of the greater community in all forms and identities. We meet at the Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, 4 Lafayette Street, Lewiston. All are welcome to attend. We welcome as diverse a representation as possible. FMI, call 795-6219. ΔΔ

San Francisco Bay Times available:

A note from Bob Gordon, activist in gay rights work, formerly of Portland now of San Francisco, informs us that the San Francisco Bay Times is now available at the Portland Public Library. This lesbian, gay, bisexual newspaper features news and events for the Bay Area. Check it out, especially if you're planning a trip to San Francisco. Thanks for the tip, Bob. ΔΔ

Parents Group in Augusta:

A monthly support and informational group for parents who are gay, lesbian, or bisexual is meeting in the Augusta area. For information on meeting times, dates,

and places contact GLB Parents' Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, ME 04332-0013. ΔΔ

Lewiston-Auburn Support Group:

Lewiston-Auburn Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Support Group is a weekly, open support group. We meet Mondays, 7:00 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, Spring St., in Auburn. ΔΔ

From Grassroot QUEERS:

Grassroot QUEERS, a group out of Philadelphia, writes the following: "Greetings from Grassroot QUEERS. We are sure that you are aware of the war that the Religious Right is waging against sexual minorities, feminism, multi-culturalism, and freedom of expression. Pat Robertson and his "Christian Coalition" is one of the powerful political forces leading this war. Our group is initiating a national campaign to have households block out Pat Robertson's "Family" channel on their cable boxes. If the block out is successful, the number of viewers will greatly decrease. This, in turn, will make his station less appealing to advertisers. Please spread the word; with all our combined resources, we can make this block out a success. ΔΔ

PAWS: Pets Are Wonderful Support:

A note from Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator of PAWS: "I am writing to introduce you to PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support). PAWS is a volunteer organization that helps improve the quality of life for persons with HIV/AIDS by offering them emotional and practical support in keeping the love and companionship of their pets, and by providing information on the benefits and risks of animal companionship.

The Maine chapter of PAWS is presently at the formation stage, while assessing the needs of our client base, as well as contacting friends of the community, such as yourself. If you or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a mem-

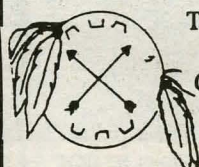
See AKA, PSA's, page 21

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BANQUET, from page 5

to travel anywhere in the state of Maine to train people to oppose Cosby's efforts, and she vowed that we would beat CMF in November of 1995.

Larry Bliss, treasurer of MLGPA, made an impassioned plea for new members and contributions to support the scholarship fund and the other important functions of the organization.

Peaches Bass, Executive Director of the Maine AIDS Alliance, pointed out that the Christian Right raises \$213 every year to fight gay rights, and we fight back with only \$13 million. She echoed Mr. Bliss' call for more financial support.

Dale McCormick spoke next (amid chants of..."run Dale run..."), thanked Gerry Conley for his work on the gay rights bill and added great praise for Representative Farnsworth, indicating what a loss it will be for us when she steps down.

Senator McCormick then introduced Lisa Keen, the evening's keynote speaker, who is the Senior Editor for the Washington Blade, the nation's oldest gay and lesbian newspaper. She noted Ms. Keen's ground-breaking journalistic achievements adding, "Our community is at the nexus of this moment in history that America is waking up to. It is un-American what is happening to us. It is anti-constitutional... and because of the efforts of people like us, and reporters like Lisa Keen, the Judiciary is waking up to the fact that you cannot ask the majority to vote on the rights of the minority."

Ms. Keen's speech was a discussion of the status of anti-gay initiatives around the country. She said that we in Maine can be thankful for Cosby's recent fumbling of CMF's referendum drive, but that, nationally, gay rights are in big trouble.

"The clearest sign that gays are in trouble is a simple look at the score-card. In 1992, there were six battles: Colorado, Oregon, Portland, Tampa, and two Oregon cities; we won three and lost three.

"Last year, there were 19 separate ballot offensives launched against us and we lost every last one of them."

Lisa outlined the three most effective strategies used by the radical right. "First, they'll argue that the Bible hates us, so the law should allow them to hate us, too, as an exercise of religious freedom.

"Second, they'll create an image of us as child molesters, sexual deviants and disease-ridden sluts.

"And third, they'll convince voters we are trying to get special rights."

Ms. Keen joked that Leviticus reads, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind. It is an abomination. Well, first of all, most of us Lesbians have no intention of lying with mankind as with womankind."

She then disposed of the other arguments convincingly, noting that Leviticus not only damns homosexuality, it proscribes, among other things, the eagle as a symbol, which happens to be on every dollar bill, and the eating or touching of swine, so, no more hot dogs or football. She finally pointing out what we all know to be true. The Bible's call for mercy and understanding supports us when it states elsewhere in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 13, "You shall not oppress your neighbor."

She said she was puzzled by why the tactic of painting us as child molesters, sexual deviants and promiscuous and disease-ridden people was working when the facts are actually on our side. Cosby attempted to shock and disgust people with these lies, and that attempt failed in Portland, Maine, but it succeeded elsewhere.

The facts are these:

"The April 1993 issue of Family Planning Perspectives reported that a national survey of men found some had over 900 vaginal sexual partners in their lifetime;

-a Hite report found that two-thirds of married men have had extra-marital affairs;

-a 1992 Health People report from the U.S. Health and Human Services Dept. surveyed students in the 6th-9th grades in Rhode Island and found that 65 percent of boys think it's acceptable to force a girl to have sex.

-a survey of 100,000 married women by Redbook magazine found that 43% had engaged in anal intercourse. Hey, and they have to do that with a heterosexual partner, of course.

-numerous studies have found that more than 90% of young married couples engage in oral sex-that's sodomy, of course. And,

-the 1993 Janus Report on Sexual Behavior surveyed over 1,500 married adults, and found that 58% had between 11 and 100 sexual partners."

Keen zeroed in on one of the most damaging charges, that of child molestation by stating.... "But the image of child molesters seems to be a particular favorite. In some of these states, the proposed initiatives are even being called "Child Protection" acts. But when it comes to child molesters, the greatest dangers come not from some dark, shadowy homosexual figure lurking around the school playgrounds. More often than not, it lurks in the home of the traditional family.

"This point was driven home most dramatically during the Colorado Amendment 2 trial last October. The state of Colorado had argued in its briefs to the court that one reason it needed to retain Amendment 2 as law was to "protect" children. To try to combat this classic myth about gay people, attorneys challenging Amendment 2 called to the stand a physician and child advocacy professional named Carol Jenny. Dr. Jenny said she remembered being startled during the campaign for Amendment 2 to hear the Colorado Family Values group say that gays were child molesters. In her practice, she said, she had just never seen anything to support that notion. So she undertook a study and examined every case of child abuse her agency had dealt with in the past year. There were 269 cases where the abuser had been identified. Out of 269 cases, only two involved an adult who was homosexual.

"The largest category of perpetrators," said Jenny, "are fathers, stepfathers, and mothers' boyfriends. Children," she said, "are 100 times more likely to be molested by the heterosexual partner of a relative than by a gay or lesbian relative."

Senior Editor Keen then addressed what she felt was "the single most effective argument our adversaries have used against us.... that gays are seeking 'special rights.'"

Her analysis of the effectiveness of this 'weapon' is, "Like with so many of our

AKA, PSA's from page 20

ber of our committee volunteer group, please let us know.

Organizers hope to begin assisting clients in meeting their needs in the near future, in combination with AIDS Service providers throughout the state. You can be a part by offering donations of pet supplies, pet sitting, or Veterinary care with a discounted fee (not in excess of 50%).

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major issues and political campaigns, the average American relies on the quick soundbite to make a decision. And the only soundbite they're hearing on this is 'special rights.' Gays are getting special rights. And they don't like that."

Lisa continued, "Our adversaries have completely controlled the debate in this area and they have very effectively convinced many Americans of an absolute distortion."

"Back in Washington, our national gay leaders are desperately seeking their
See BANQUET, page 22

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BANQUET, from page 21

own soundbite to counteract this argument. In our end-of-the-year survey in December, we at the Blade asked readers to take their own stab at coming up with a soundbite."

Ms. Keen mentioned two: "It's equal rights, stupid!"

and, "Equal rights are special rights."

The latter one appeals to Ms. Keen because she thinks, "Equal rights are special because they're in the constitution. They're special because our early ancestors fought enormous odds against the British to secure them for a new nation. They're special because, in the 1860's, we fought each other to secure them for everybody."

Returning to the subject of allowing people in a democracy to vote on the political rights of specified groups, Ms. Keen referred to a Congressional floor debate that took place in 1854. She suggests it has relevance to our struggle.

"There was a bill on the Senate floor that would allow new states entering the union to decide for themselves whether to approve slavery or become free states. The Senator who proposed the measure portrayed the issue as one of popular sovereignty. 'That's democracy,' he said, 'rule by majority vote.'

"But another Senator pleaded with his colleagues that democracy was much more than majority rules. 'It is, first and foremost,' he said, 'equality for all.'

"His name was Salmon Chase, from Ohio, and he lost that vote. He knew he would. You could tell from his remarks on the floor. He used his closing remarks to rally the people outside the halls of Wash-

ington, and I hope you'll find them inspiring tonight:

"Let all of us protest, earnestly and emphatically, by correspondence, through the press, by memorials, by resolutions of public meetings and legislative bodies, and in whatever other mode may seem expedient, against this enormous crime.

"For ourselves, we shall resist it by speech and vote, and with all the abilities which God has given us. Even if overcome in the impending struggle, we shall not submit."

Ms. Keen concluded her speech on a positive note, but not without an implied warning:

"I know Maine seems far away from Washington on the weather map. But on the political map, you are in the eye of the storm. You are organized, and you have been in this fight long enough to win some important victories: defending against a statewide anti-Gay initiative, passing a statewide anti-discrimination bill again, and, more importantly this year, helping elect a governor who is willing to sign the bill this time.

"The good news, I think, is that you have the Bible on your side, you have the facts on your side, and you have the Constitution on your side. The whole movement is watching. And having clocked a lot of hours on the phone over the past 10 years with such important leaders as Dale McCormick, Lois Reckitt, Kate McQueen, and now Karen Geraghty, I must say, my heart and soul feel attached to your fight. So I wish you the best of luck and thank you very much for inviting me here tonight."

The audience leapt to its feet and delivered Ms. Keen a lengthy standing ovation.

After a bit of stretching, the festivities continued with the presentation of awards. They are as follows:

- Δ Larry Connolly Award-Gerard Conley, Jr.
- Δ Cameron Duncan Award-Frances Peabody
- Δ Great Pioneer Award-David Becker
- Δ F.E. Pentlarge Award - Ms. F. E. Pentlarge
- Δ Community Service Awards (Outstanding Service to the Lesbian/Gay Community)-Equal Protection Lewiston, Jean Stickney, Dayspring, Michael Quint
- Δ Presidential Awards (Outstanding Service Within the Alliance)-Paul Aboud, Rita Clifford, Carol Shoreborn.

This remarkable and sparkling evening of inspiration and hope concluded with an enthusiastic session of robust dancing. ΔΔ

RESEARCH, from page 17

and educational efforts will emanate from the results of this study.

"A most important feature of this study is that it will finally give us a scientifically significant picture of lesbian health so that we know what is going on in our own population," said Paula Ettelbrick. "It will also set the stage for us to draw attention to other related health concerns, such as health care provider's hostility against or insensitivity toward lesbians, and the identification of lesbians as a population with special needs under the President's new health care proposal."

It is essential that lesbians volunteer to participate in the study. To participate, lesbians must have gone through menopause and be in the age range of 50 to 79 years. The nearest research site to Maine is in Boston. If you, or lesbians you know, meet the guidelines for participation, you are strongly encouraged to contact Joanne Manson, MD, at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Her number is (617) 278-0872. More sites may be added in the future. For more information about other sites, contact the National Center for Lesbian Rights at (212) 343-9589.

Lesbians' visibility in this study is vital to our efforts to break down the health care barriers that have always existed for lesbians. This is one of those times when an individual's commitment can make all the difference for our health, our future, and our community. ΔΔ

(This article prepared with the assistance of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.)

NH Senate Judiciary Committee hears testimony

CONCORD, NH: The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on March 28th in support of HB #1432, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

A large crowd gathered to hear the testimony of NH citizens who have been discriminated against. Legislators, religious leaders, legal experts, and labor unions testified in support of the bill.

"How can we promise to respect the dignity of every human being and then stand idly by and not support an end to this senseless and unfair discrimination?" asked Bishop Douglas E. Theuner of the Episcopal Church.

"People are being denied homes and livelihoods. Are we going to put a stop to it, or are we going to duck the issue. Some may hold that homosexuality is an abomina-

SPRING, from page 11

money we raise tonight helps to insure that a Cathy Kidman will be there to remind parents that ignorance means playing Russian roulette with their children's lives.

"The money we raise tonight makes a difference in people's lives.

"We all mourn the individual and collective losses we have faced because of AIDS, but tonight, we have the opportunity to celebrate the lives of our brothers, sisters, friends and lovers who have gone on ahead of us.

"I leave you with the words of my dear friend David Fee from a letter he left to be read upon his death from AIDS: 'I want so much for you to remember the joy and beauty of my life. I firmly believe that there is no such thing as death. There is only transition to new life. I am there with you as you are with me.'

"Our friends are here with us tonight. The balcony of this majestic theater is filled with angels. They are willing us to celebrate the joy and love that was their life, and they are expecting us to embrace the challenge before us by opening our hearts and our checkbooks. Let's make them exceedingly proud."

Ms. Wright then introduced Rob Elowitch the auctioneer, and his wife, Annette, both of whom did an excellent job of generating enthusiasm, humor and sustained momentum.

It appears that the attendees met and exceeded the challenge laid down by Chairperson Wright. Commenting a few days later, Ms. Wright and Susan Tremblay, Development Assistant at TAP, said that the auction was an unqualified success and what few problems they had were minor and overcome by auction time.

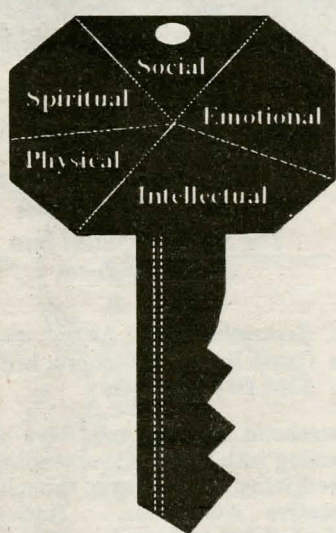
Ms. Tremblay said that the site of next year's auction is uncertain at this time. She also remarked that the committee will be looking into ways to diversify the event. ΔΔ

tion. I hold that discrimination is a greater abomination," said Rep. Thomas Houlihan (R-New London).

Testimony stated that there is no protection under current law. After being discriminated against, people who contacted both the Human Rights Commission and private lawyers testified that they were told they have no legal recourse.

After a year of increased responsibility and recognition as a manager of twelve, Ron Lambert's sexual orientation became known. He testified, "In a conversation that lasted fifteen seconds, they told me I was not the man for the job, handed me a check, escorted me to my office, then to my car."

The bill is still in committee. ΔΔ



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ADOPTION, from page 1

What sets IASC apart from other adoption agencies is its focus on being *inclusive* rather than being exclusive. IASC encourages and welcomes those who are most often discouraged or flatly refused as adoptive parents.

Minorities, gay and lesbian, mixed racial and handicapped couples, and singles are all seen as prospective adoptive parents subject to meeting IASC's criteria, as well as the requests of the country providing the child.

To quote Nickelsberg, "I know a lot of gay parents who are wonderful parents. I know a lot of straight parents who are horrible parents. Sexual orientation has nothing to do with it."

Nickelsberg feels so strongly about his principle of inclusiveness that he recently accepted the resignation of one board member rather than bend on his values.

The adoption process begins with a one evening informational meeting and then a weekend training session. This is then followed by a Homestudy.

The Homestudy includes a minimum of fourteen hours of interviews with the prospective parent or parents, and extended family and siblings when applicable. This part of the adoption process also covers financial standing, references and an educational component.

The educational component seeks to understand the adoptive parent's basic values and beliefs, assess parenting skills and provide the necessary support and education where needed.

The average cost of the adoption process, including travel expenses and the Centre's fee, ranges from \$9,200 to \$17,700, depending on the child's birth country.

IASC is a breakthrough in adoption possibilities for gay and lesbian couples and singles who wish to be parents and raise families. It is a leader in its inclusive approach to adoption that clearly recognizes and respects the untapped resources of love in minority communities.

If you wish to contact IASC, they are located in "The Octagon", Rt. 218, Alna, Maine, or call 207 / 586-5058. ΔΔ

OBITUARIES

John Alexander of Yarmouth, Maine died of AIDS, gently and peacefully, on January 30, 1994.

On Saturday evening, March 26th, part of John's cremated remains were scattered at a sweat lodge located at Walnut Hill in southern New Hampshire. John had enjoyed the sweats there and requested that half of his ashes be scattered there and the other half on his beloved gardens around his Maine home.

A group of over twenty men, including many Radical Faeries, gathered to honor John's request. While the rocks for the sweat lodge were heating in an open fire, the men formed a circle centered on this blaze. As a talisman was passed around the circle, one after another shared how they knew John, and how John's loving, welcoming spirit had affected them. All during the circle, an orange, full length, strapless evening gown hung on a tree. John had worn it on several Faerie occasions, a statement to John's Faerie nature.

One by one, the men in this circle helped place John's ashes throughout the woodland setting.

Afterwards, the sweat lodge was prepared by moving the glowing red stones into the pit for the evening sweat. The sweat was followed by a potluck supper.

While not all the participants were Radical Faeries, this was a Faerie memorial service. The Radical Faeries is a spiritual movement in the greater Gay Culture.

In keeping with John's commitment to and support of **Community Pride Reporter**, John requested that memorial donations be made to CPR in his name. The address is 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101. ΔΔ

Harley H. Hamilton, Jr. of New Gloucester, Maine died of AIDS on March 17th. He was 44 years of age. Harley was the former manager of Regis Hairstyling Salon at the Maine Mall and a former Portland resident.

He won many awards for outstanding accomplishment while employed by Regis. A memorial service was held at the New Gloucester Congregational Church on March 19th. ΔΔ

MURDER, from page 6

expected to testify that Wood had not worked the day of the murder.

During closing arguments, the defense asked jurors to search their hearts.

"Justice has a heart," Nale said.

The prosecution said Wood "joked about ratting on himself and collecting the \$10,000 reward offered by the victim's family." On Friday, the jury found Wood guilty of murder and robbery. His sentencing is scheduled for May 2nd.

The defendant said the witnesses had lied. Nale suggested the defendant's pre-trial incarceration (he had previously escaped) and lack of money were the cause of his client's conviction.

Walston's family, who attended every day of the trial, said the conviction was a "hollow victory."

On his way out of the courtroom, Wood winked to bystanders and said, "I get to live, though." ΔΔ

Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ Δ

larly fail to come to any understanding of one another. In a very real sense, the characters do not speak the same language, and their misunderstanding culminates in an impasse resonant with meaning for us in the light of recent disasters of communication breakdown. Its subtlety makes it a slippery work that's difficult to position easily, and its lack of a comfortable and comforting closure reflects the play's burden back onto us, the audience, forcing us to come to our own conclusions.

Is the play simply didacticism in its worst form, a morality play outlining the lot of both the politically incorrect and the martyrs to the cause? Or does its refusal to take sides, its insistence on showing us this conflict rather than telling us who's right, save the work from becoming a sermon with a "message"? There are no easy answers here, and the play's questions are hard ones. ΔΔ

ON REVIEW: *Oleanna*

By Joseph H. Morgan, Guest Reviewer

Oleanna, running at the Portland Stage Company from March 13th to April 9th, examines the misunderstanding between a professor and a failing student and their ensuing struggle for power. Set entirely in the professor's office and staged in two acts, *Oleanna*'s action is tense and terse. The actors manage their roles skillfully and convincingly, with Richard Thompson as John, a professor seeking tenure while lecturing to his students that education is a form of institu-

tionalized hazing, and Lisa Benavides as Carol, a painfully earnest student desperately seeking "to understand." As the balance of power shifts in the course of the play from one to the other, the actors give a performance which succeeds in the demanding task of holding attention while playing unsympathetic characters.

Definitely not art as entertainment, *Oleanna* is a demanding work questioning the nature of power, the value of education and the possibility of communication in our complex world. In this play we see two individuals, trapped in the circumscribed roles of professor and student, spectacu-



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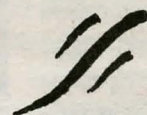
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