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Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1
FEBRUARY 1995

Beginning our second year

In this issue...

**Symposium XXI
Referendum suits
Radical right activity**

Symposium XXI planning underway

by Rebecca Foster
Editor

CARIBOU- Northern Lambda Nord, Maine's oldest community-based gay and lesbian organization, has announced that Maine's 21st Lesbian and Gaymen's Symposium will be held May 26-29 on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle.

The theme of Symposium XXI is "Coming of Age" and will explore the question "how have the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities in the state matured, both politically and personally?" Plans for the event are not finalized but the program will include Saturday evening entertainment by a noted lesbian comic and

continued on page 4

MCLU, GLAD file suit to stop anti-gay referendum

by Terri Jones
Editor

AUGUSTA - Calling the question an "impermissible method of amending the Maine State Constitution", the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) have filed suit in Kennebec County to bar Concerned Maine Families' referendum from being sent to the Maine Legislature. The question, certified for referendum by the Secretary of State's Office in January, would prohibit the Legislature from adding additional classes to the Maine's Human Rights Act, effectively barring a future gay rights law and repealing Portland's Human Rights Ordinance.

The suit, filed on behalf of Lise R. Wagner, James R. Martin and Ruth Blackburn seeks a declaratory judgment that the initiative violates the Maine Constitution because it seeks to amend the Constitution by "arrogating to the people a power neither the people nor the Legislature possess, that is, the power to limit the enactment of future laws." In functional terms, this means that the petition should not be sent to the Legislature for action because the substance of the initiative amounts to a Constitutional amendment. Constitutional amendments can only originate from a Constitutional Convention of the Maine

Legislature and thus cannot be initiated through a citizens' petition.

According to attorney Mary Bonauto of GLAD, co-counsel in the case, "The referendum is disguised attempt to rewrite the state constitution. Under the guise of this law, Mrs. Cosby in fact seeks to tie the hands of Maine voters as well as state and local government so that they will be required to discriminate forever. No one has the right to do that through the initiative process."

Patricia Peard, co-counsel from the MCLU, said that it "has always been

continued on page 4

The radical right's national strategy

By Skipp Porteous

(Reprinted from FREEDOM WRITER, August 1994, a publication of the Institute for First Amendment Studies)

In 1990, "The Freedom Writer announced the "rebirth" of the religious right. At that time, many observers thought the movement had run out of steam. Insiders knew better. "By the end of the decade," declared evangelist Paul Cain, "the whole earth will view the church in a different light. The church will no longer be mocked and despised, but either loved or feared."....

Now, the mainstream media is working hard to bring its reporting up to speed. Recently, "The New York Times" reported on the religious right's efforts to take over the Republican Party. In the Nov/Dec 1991 issue of "The Freedom Writer, Frederick Clarkson wrote that the Christian Coalition "intends to take over the Republican Party from the inside, and elect thousands of right-wing Christians to state and local office—as well as the Congress—through a massive and disciplined bloc of voters." He continued, "At their recent 'Road to Victory' national leadership conference in Virginia Beach, almost every session was devoted to instruction in the mechanics of how to do it."

At that 1991 "Road to Victory" conference, Gary Bauer, of the Family Research Council (an arm of Dr. Dobson's Focus on the Family ministry) set the tone for the conference: "Obviously, this conference is about the 1992 elections," he said. The reason this and all elections are important, Bauer observed, is because "We are engaged in a social, political, cultural civil war."

While effective, the strategy of focusing on local elections and planning for the long-haul is not enough. A movement requires another ingredient. For years, in the shadow of communism, the hard right had a villain....With the fall of communism, however, the hard right lost a valuable element of its crusade. The movement was desperately in need of a new devil. For a while, the hard right rode on the wave of anti-abortion sentiment....

The radical right thinks it has found the missing ingredient, the important social issue to galvanize the movement. It is "the militant homosexuals," or the "gay agenda."

For almost three years now, the majority of fund raising material coming from the religious right has focused on gay rights. These vicious and hysterical fund raising letters are proven moneymakers. Most of the top religious right groups have picked up on this theme.

Groups such as the Oregon Citizens Alliance, and Colorado for Family Values (CFV), started fighting gay rights in their states at the "grass roots." They introduced the term "special rights" to imply that gays and lesbians wanted more than equal rights. Only recently have larger national groups become involved in strategy and planning.

CFV succeeded in passing Colorado's Amendment 2, which denied equal protection for gays and lesbians. Amendment 2, the only statewide anti-gay rights measure to be approved by voters, was struck down by Colorado courts as unconstitutional.

Encouraged by its limited success, CFV held a small conference last year to discuss future strategy. As a result, CFV produced "The Colorado Model," a workbook designed to help anti-gay activists in other states ban gay rights. The \$95 workbook came with nine audio tapes featuring the conference speakers. A newer version comes with two video tapes. Conference speakers appear on one. The other video, "The Gay Agenda" greatly influenced Colorado's vote against gay rights.

Because leaders of religious right groups around the country responded so favorably to CFV's material and leadership in fighting gay rights, the Colorado groups scheduled another conference.

According to a May 19, 1994 article in The Washington Times, "Leaders of anti-homosexual-rights groups across the nation wrapped up two days of top-secret meetings" in Colorado Springs. Representatives for about 35 states and national religious right organizations attended the meeting, according to the article. The

continues on page 11

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Maine Won't Discriminate Update

New chapters forming

New chapters of Maine Won't Discriminate have formed across the state making it easier than ever to get involved. Contact the chapter near you!

- Augusta-Hallowell, Contact Person -**
Scott Cowger 622-2708,
- Aroostook County, Contact Person - Dick Harrison**
498-0900,
- Bangor, Contact Person - Jim Martin 990-3420,**
- Biddeford, 1st meeting, Monday Feb. 13, University of**
New England, Marcil Bldg. Rm. 303, 7-9pm.
- Brunswick-Bath,**
Contact Person - Punnie Edgerton 729-6429
- Hancock County, Contact People - Ruth Blackburn**
276-0503 and Peter Rees 667-2358,
- Mid-Coast, Contact Person - Dorothy Merriweather**
594-7873,
- Portland, Contact People - Steve Addario and Jessica**
Maurer 761-1788,
- Waldo County, Contact Person - Cary Leah MacLeod**
338-4194,
- Washington County, Contact People - Betty Deniston**
546-2007 and Tom 546-7503,
- Waterville/Oakland, Contact Person - Diane Campbell**
465-7574

Contact your chapter for meeting schedules and fundraising events.

General Membership meetings in Portland will take place on:
Feb. 6
Feb. 20

These meetings are open to everyone interested in hearing more about the issues and supporting Maine Won't Discriminate. Meetings start at 7pm at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Call 761-1788 for more information.

Kennebunk House Party will take place on February 3
for more information, call 761-1788.

Referendum Question Text

The legislative provision that will be voted on should the referendum question appear on the November 1995 ballot:
To the 117th Legislature of the State of Maine:

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

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

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

Section 4552-A.
An Act to Limit Protected Classes Under
Maine Law

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

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

!?!?

Editorial . . . Letters...

The "specialness" of equal rights

In an era of heightened competition for everything, the concept of special rights is a political hot potato. The radical right believes if they say something often enough, it will become a part of the backdrop of the fight for gay rights – an unquestioned "reality" that is ideal for sound-bite journalism and the unprobing voter. If you read Skipp Porteous' excellent work on pages 10 and 11, you will see that this characterization is an active, strategic step by the radical right to define the terms of the gay rights debate.

How can we fix this characterization? Testify, come out, write letters to the editor, volunteer and contribute. Tell the Judiciary Committee that the only thing special about what you want is the feeling of safety, includedness, job security and respect you will get from knowing that you will be judged by your contributions to society, economically and otherwise, and not by the gender of the person you love. Tell them the "specialness" about this feeling is not because you are getting something that you don't deserve or that you are getting more than someone else. Tell them that feeling "special" is about being included in the broader fabric of Maine citizens who share common needs for love, companionship, and economic and social justice.

It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of testimony this year. With the referendum looming, we must not squander the media coverage we get. This must be our largest show of numbers ever. It is an excellent opportunity for our community to combat the faulty information that Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families continue to circulate. Her comments about the exaggerated number of hate crimes against gays must be challenged. If you or someone you know has been a victim, it is imperative that you contact MLGPA and make your experiences known to the legislators. Don't let the radical right tell your story and don't let them tell Maine's citizens what you deserve. Please stand up and be counted.

Remember, all that's special about equal rights is that we have never had them....

Dykes To Watch Out For



An open letter to the community

Dear 10% Reader

In my first term as a State Legislator six years ago, I made an effort to meet and come out to as many legislators as I could. I spoke to them, one at a time when possible, about the need for civil rights for gay men and lesbians in Maine. Several of my fellow legislators had the following sorts of reactions at first:

"You're the first one I've ever met."

"I don't have any in my district. That's a Portland issue."

"I support civil rights, of course, but I don't believe there is a real problem with discrimination against gays in Maine."

After a few years, I found almost no legislators making such statements. They had heard from their gay and lesbian constituents, friends and relatives. They knew better. Many log-term legislators, however, have not returned to the State House for the current session.

This year, 46% of the 186 members of the Legislature are newly elected. Who knows what they have been told or may believe about the anti-discrimination bill, about the anti-gay referendum, about the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender community? We need to make sure that this year all legislators have accurate information, so they know the error of the above views; so they are informed about the reality of discrimination in Maine.

As a lawyer, as a lesbian, as a citizen, I think that passage of the anti-discrimination bill is very important. The bill will prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. It assures equal, not special, rights for all, regardless of one's sexual orientation.

1. Have you ever experienced discrimination based on your sexual orientation in employment, housing, credit or public accommodations?

2. Do you know personally of someone who lost a job or promotional opportunity, was denied credit, evicted or denied an apartment, etc. because of their sexual orientation?

3. Do you know anyone who didn't report a hate incident directed at themselves for fear they might lose their job or apartment if it were known that they were gay or lesbian?

4. Do you think gay men and lesbians in Maine are discriminated against? If so, why do you think so?

5. Are you a gay or lesbian or bi-sexual person born and raised in Maine? Do you live in the community you grew up in? If not, does your experiences as a gay, bi or lesbian person have anything to do with why you are not living where you grew up?

6. Would you talk about your experiences to your legislators, or speak to the legislators of the community where you grew up? Will you write letters to your legislators or testify on the bill before the Judiciary Committee? Can you help MLGPA work on the bill?

Governor Angus King recently said in a very different context, "We are all in this together." That statement applies here, too. Please call 1-800-55-MLGPA right now if you can help. We need you.

Sincerely,
Susan Farnsworth
Hallowell

(Susan Farnsworth was a State Representative from 1988-1994. She is currently a lawyer in private practice in Hallowell and a member of the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA).)

10%

Maine's monthly newspaper for lesbians & gay men

PO Box 11265 • Portland, ME 04104

Editors

Terri Jones • Rebecca Foster

Contributors

Douglas Packard • Martha Atherholt II

Laura Smith • Chris Wisniewski

Lise Wagner • Maggie Fournier

Tara K. Luce • Will Sandstead

Cheryl Landry

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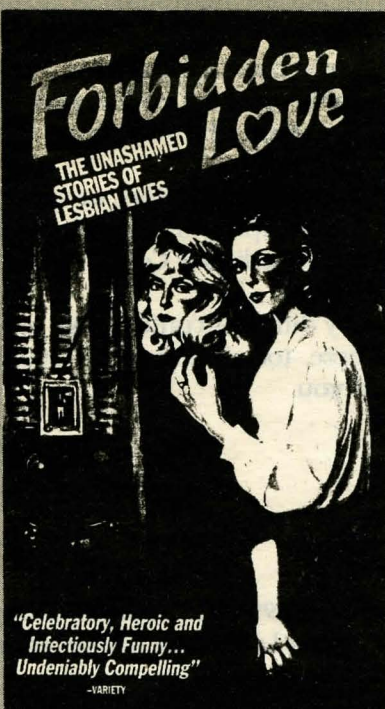
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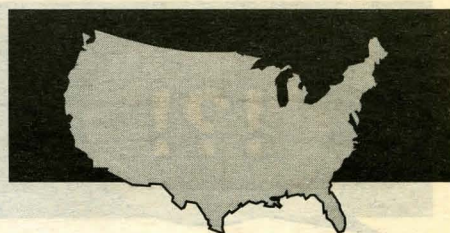
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Maine News



Symposium continued from page 1

a men's choral group as well as a "town meeting" on the November anti-gay referendum.

Northern Lambda Nord is seeking workshop topics, discussion leaders, vendors, organizations and artists to participate in the event. Table space and display space must be reserved in advanced. For more information, write to Symposium XXI, P.O. Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990 or call the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine at (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Admission for the event is \$109 for 3 nights lodging, all meals and all events, \$95 for two nights' lodging, meals and events, \$80 for one night's lodging, meals, \$65 for meals and events and \$25 for just events. Registration received after May 1 will be more. A limited number of reduced-price "work exchange" registrations as well as child care are available if requested in advance. For a registration form, send a self-addressed, business-sized envelope to Symposium XXI, P.O. Box 990, Caribou, ME 04736-0990 or call the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine.

Diversity Commission releases final report, recommendations

AUGUSTA— The Governor's Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine has issued its final report and distributed it to Maine legislators. The Commission was created by Governor John McKernan to examine the shape and scope of diversity in the state and was chaired by Lewiston Mayor John Jenkins.

During the course of 10 months, the Commission developed 21 recommendations designed to reduce the incidence of bias and discrimination in Maine, ensure fairness in Maine's justice system, raise sensitivity about diversity in Maine government, schools, businesses and communities and ensure full participation by members of Maine's minority communities in Maine's economic, housing and workplace opportunities.

Among its recommendations, the report urges that the Maine Human Rights Act be amended to include sexual orientation among its protected classes. Noting that Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island have all adopted similar changes to their human rights laws, the report cites a May 27, 1994 Kennebec Journal editorial which asserted "The hatred on the streets...is, unfortunately, the logical outcome of a system that is unwilling to protect citizens who do suffer discrimination at the hands of others."

The report also recommends reversing staff reductions at the Maine Human Rights Commission which has suffered a 30% reduction in staff during recent rounds of budget cuts. To reverse this trend, the report recommends additional annual funding of \$300,000 to allow the Commission to adequately investigate and enforce civil rights complaints.

The Commission urges similar funding increases for the Civil Rights Unit of the Maine Department of Attorney General which currently operates without specific budget funds dedicated to the investigation and enforcement of civil rights cases. The Commission's report urges the funding of two positions, an investigator and an educator to coordinate school education efforts.

Other measures intended to strengthen Maine's hate and bias crime and response include a peer mediation fund, a statewide hate and bias intervention team, civil rights education for police and the development of alternative sentencing guidelines for hate crimes perpetrators.

A significant portion of the report is devoted to the need for ongoing, permanent diversity work. The report recommends both a permanent, standing commission on diversity and a cabinet-level office on diversity as well as ongoing work in schools and economic development schemes to encourage minority business development.

Referendum continued from page 1

the job of the Courts to safeguard the initiative process." A decision from Kennebec County Superior Court is expected soon. It is assumed that the matter will be appealed to the Law Court by the losing party and resolution is expected within 60 days.

If successful, the suit would stop the anti-gay effort and the question would not appear on the November 1995 ballot. If the question survives the court challenge, the Maine Legislature can choose to adopt the statutory language or take no action in which case it would be up to Maine citizens to decide in November.

The suit follows a month of accusations from Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families alleging that Secretary of State William Diamond was holding up the signature certification to aid anti-referendum groups and a claim that the Attorney General's office had inflated the number of hate crimes against gays to provide justification for a gay rights bill.

Similar referendum language has been rejected by courts in Florida and Cincinnati. (See page 2 for Concerned Maine Families' referendum question).

NGLTF criticizes Elders firing

Washington, DC — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) expressed its deep concerns and regret over the forced resignation of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders. Executive Director Melinda Paras issued the following statement:

"Joycelyn Elders is an outstanding advocate and pioneer for health and public welfare. She has provided a real response to the health and welfare needs of many communities too long ignored by the medical establishment including gays and lesbians. She has been there for us at times when people were afraid to discuss explicit issues of sexuality and sexual orientation. A successful prevention program demands an open discussion.

President Clinton's decision to request Joycelyn Elders' resignation is a painful blow to sound public health policy in the midst of an epidemic. The political agendas of the radical right should never be allowed to interfere with public health.

I am gravely concerned about the repercussions this message will send to health educators around the country. Frank, explicit language on sexual issues, especially among our young people, is important for creating effective AIDS prevention and sound public health policy.

Elders identified AIDS as a priority and pushed for a realistic federal response. Joycelyn Elders is a brilliant, articulate and compassionate leader. She has been exactly what our country needed."

Group asks NBC to kill lesbian kiss

HOLLYWOOD — A conservative pressure group, the Family Defense Council, has urged NBC not to show a lesbian kiss in its upcoming movie "Serving in Silence: The Grethe Cammermeyer Story," which stars Glenn Close. The TV movie, scheduled to air in February, is the true story of Margarethe Cammermeyer, one of the highest-ranking military officers ever to be discharged from service on account of her sexual orientation.

NBC is likely to experience some advertiser fallout on the movie. That has been the case on such productions as "Roe vs. Wade" and "An Early Frost," which addressed controversial themes, or episodes of "Roseanne" and "thirtysomething" that dealt with gay characters. Under similar circumstances last season, Fox Broadcasting opted not to show two men kissing on the series "Melrose Place."

The Family Defense Council says its mandate is to "promote traditional family values."

**VOLUNTEER!! Call
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National News



High Court to decide on gays in Boston parade

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court will decide whether an Irish-American group representing gays, lesbians and bisexuals must be allowed to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston. The group sued after the parade's organizers, the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, excluded them in 1992 and 1993 parades.

A trial judge called the parade a recreational event open to the public and ruled that the gay and lesbian group cannot be excluded just because of its members' sexual orientation.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court agreed, holding that the parade's organizers had violated the state's public accommodation law which bars discrimination based on sexual orientation in public places.

The court said requiring the gay group to take part in the parade would not violate the First Amendment rights of the organizers.

The organizers appealed to the Supreme Court, saying they should not be forced in a privately organized parade to include a message they consider "unwanted and antithetical." Rather than "showcasing a message they deemed offensive," the organizers canceled the 1994 parade.

Last week, a Boston Superior Court upheld the parade organizers' right to bar gay groups from the parade.

An earlier decision by a federal judge in New York refused to require that gays be allowed to participate in that city's parade on St. Patrick's Day.

The Supreme Court will schedule oral arguments in the Boston case, with a decision due before June.

NGLTF names new executive director

WASHINGTON - The Board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) has announced the appointment of San Francisco Health Commissioner Melinda Paras as the new executive director of the organization. Appointed to the San Francisco Health Commission in 1993 by Mayor Frank Jordan, Paras chairs the Budget Committee and serves on the Joint Conference for San Francisco General Hospital.

For the past four months, Paras has headed a transition team at NGLTF, assessing the organization's strengths, challenges and duties, and developing a plan for NGLTF's next two years. The NGLTF board established the transition team in response to the departure of several key staff people, the changing demands of NGLTF's constituents and the altered political atmosphere facing the gay and lesbian community.

NGLTF targets new Congress, radical right effort

WASHINGTON, DC - In an effort to counter the rising tide of anti-gay activity, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) is urging the gay and lesbian community to target Congressional representatives and pro-gay businesses to be sure that each appreciates and hears from gay and lesbian groups. After comments by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-GA) likening homosexuality to alcoholism, NGLTF believes that education is essential to prevent anti-gay activity in Congress.

NGLTF is also turning its attention to an American Family Association (AFA) effort to pressure businesses and media sympathetic to gay and lesbian civil rights. AFA has been extremely vocal and diligent in its attacks on AT&T's pro-gay company policies, public education and community involvement including the company's sponsorship of Gay Games 1994. The AFA is encouraging members and supporters to switch to Lifeline, a long distance carrier that pledges to donate 10% of its billing to groups opposing abortion and gay and lesbian civil rights. In addition, citing the "awesome power...of the homosexual community in Hollywood," in its November activist newsletter, the AFA recently launched a postcard campaign threatening a boycott of companies that sponsor television shows even mentioning homosexuality.

NGLTF is urging all members of the gay and lesbian community and its supporters to send comments to Newt Gingrich and their senators and representatives. Write: US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 and the US Senate, Washington, DC, 20510 - call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Or contact Congress through the toll-free number sponsored by the Traditional Values Coalition, a radical right group directed by homophobe Rev. Lou Sheldon. Created to encourage TVC members to swamp Congress with anti-gay comments, the number is 1-800-768-2221.

To show your support for AT&T's pro-gay policies, contact: CERC, 295 North Maple Ave. Basking Ridge, NJ, 07920. Encourage AFA targets to resist current pressure, contact: Michael Miles, Philip Morris Co., 120 Park Ave., NY, NY, 10017, Michael Quintan, McDonald's Corp., 1 Kroc Drive, Oak Brook, IL, 60521 or (708) 575-3000 and Alexander Trotman, Ford Motor Co., PO Box 1899, Dearborn, MI, 48121.

New AMA policy seeks greater understanding of gay patients

HONOLULU - Reversing a 13-yr.-old policy, the American Medical Association has urged doctors to seek a greater understanding of their gay and bisexual patients. In an AMA report, adopted earlier this month at Honolulu meeting of the house of delegates, the group's policy making body, also dropped the 13-year-old policy of encouraging programs to acquaint gay patients with "the possibility of sex preference reversal in selected cases."

Benjamin Schatz, executive director of the 1,600 member Gay and Lesbian Medical Association called the new policy an "admirable and 'significant' change.

The decision was criticized as a "political maneuver" by Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, secretary-treasurer of the National Association for the Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, whose 380 members treat those who seek to change their sexual behavior.

Dr. M. Roy Schwartz, group vice president of the medical association and chairman of its AIDS task force, said the report's intent was to raise doctor's awareness of sexual orientation.

In a 1981 report, the AMA said some doctors may "harbor traditional anti-homosexual biases...The ethical course to follow is to explain one's dilemma openly to the patient and refer him to another physician."

Under the new policy, doctors are encouraged "to seek out local or national experts in the health care needs of gay men and lesbians so that all physicians will achieve a better understanding."

SF bans discrimination against transsexuals

SAN FRANCISCO - San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan has signed into law the nation's toughest city ordinance barring discrimination against transsexuals and transvestites. It prohibits discrimination based on "gender identity" in employment and housing. Companies breaking the law could be banned from city contracts.

"San Francisco now joins the ranks of Minneapolis, Seattle and Santa Cruz (California) in taking steps to eliminate discrimination based on gender identity," Jordan said in a statement.

"If discrimination is tolerated against one group, it becomes acceptable against others and devalues the quality of life in any community," he said.

The measure was unanimously passed by San Francisco's governing Board of Supervisors on December 19 and adds "gender identity" to race, religion, color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability and place of birth which are already protected from discrimination under city law.

The city law covers around 5,000 San Francisco residents, including transsexuals, whether or not they have had sex change surgery, and transvestites or cross-dressers.

Some transsexuals have complained that they have been fired from their jobs when they changed their sex.

Military board says lesbian officer should stay

SAN FRANCISCO - A military board of inquiry has recommended that a Navy lieutenant who has publicly declared she is a lesbian should remain in the service.

The decision, handed down by the three-member Navy administrative board of inquiry, unanimously recommended that Lt. Zoe Dunning be retained.

"I feel fantastic," said Dunning following the board's announcement. "I was not expecting it. We know of no one who's won one of these hearings before."

Dunning's attorneys said the ruling was the first in favor of a homosexual soldier under President Clinton's controversial compromise "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Under the policy, personnel can no longer be asked about their sexual orientation but can be dismissed for openly acknowledging their homosexuality - unless they can prove they will not engage in prohibited homosexual sex.

Before closing the hearing, Captain Thomas Berns, president of the naval board of inquiry, said there was no evidence that Dunning engages in, intends to engage in, or is inclined to engage in homosexual activity.

Dunning announced she was a lesbian in January 1993 at a rally in support of gays in the military.

In July 1993, a Navy administrative board recommended Dunning be honorably discharged, an action based on the government's previous policy barring gays from the military.

A new board of inquiry was called to judge the Dunning case under the Clinton policy.

A graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., Dunning served on active duty for six years until September 1993 when she transferred to the Naval Air Station Naval near San Francisco. Consistently praised by her superiors, she received notification earlier this month that she has been selected for a promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

The administration board's recommendation will go to the Bureau of Naval Personnel and then to the Secretary of the Navy.

February/March

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

5
Portland
Pride Mtg.

12
Mothers and
Kids Group

19
Let's Do
Brunch

6

13

20
Partners of
Parents

7

14

21

1

8
Lesbian Support
Group

15

22
Gay Visual
Artist League
Lesbian Support
Group

2

9
Matlovich
Valentine's
Party

16

23
Lesbian
Health
Project

3
F.A.T.E. Mtg.

10

17
F.A.T.E. Mtg.

24

3

10

26

27

28

MAR. 1

2

5

6

7

8

"Places of Peace"

9



Crowds at PJ's enjoyed the annual Christmas show, a benefit to purchase holiday gifts for terminally-ill patients. This month PJ's sponsors a benefit for Maine Won't Discriminate.

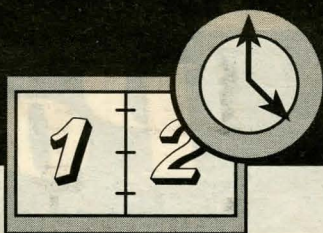
Photos by
Rebecca Foster



The Furies, Portland's Feminist Theatre company performed "I Guess my Name is Scrooge" for the Christmas season. Enthusiastic crowds attended the production at Sisters in Portland. The Furies return with "Lavender Land Utopia" during the Oak St. Theatre's Women's Festival in March.

PJ's Annual Xmas Benefit Show

Listing of Events



Saturday

MLGPA
Dinner

Women's
Dance

18

25

4

11

"Affirming Every Person", the New England conference about lesbians and gay men, February 10,11,12, in Keene, NH. Featuring the Flirtations, visual, arts and theatre with seminars by gay author Gary Stern and others. For more information or brochure, write or call Ken Merrifield, RR1, Box 8, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447, (603) 585-9238.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Love Makes the World Go Round: Matlovich Throws a Valentine Party!", Thursday, February 9, 7:30-9:00 PM. An open mike night bring poems, songs, musical instruments. Refreshments available. Holiday-Inn-By-The-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.

Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance 10th Awards Dinner, Feb. 4, 5pm-12am, Augusta Civic Ctr. see ad this page.

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

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

"Places of Peace: Sources of Spirituality", local clergy discuss the spiritual path in a homophobic world. March 9, 7:30-9:00pm Holiday-Inn-By-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible, free parking.

Portland Pride Mtg., planning meeting for Portland's Pride Weekend June 16, 17 and 18, Feb. 5, 7pm 30 Exchange St.

"Towards a Lesbian Health Agenda: The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine", discussion with Tania Hathaway, project coordinator of the Lesbian Health Project of So. Maine, a pilot project for lesbian focused medical services, February 23, 7:30-9:00pm, Holiday-Inn-By-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.

UPCOMING...

9th Annual "Spring for Life" Art Auction, a benefit for The AIDS Project, Saturday, March 18, Holiday-Inn-By-the-Bay. Art Preview, Fri., March 17, 6-8pm and Sat. Mar. 18 9am-4:30pm, free. Auction, Mar. 18, 5-8pm viewing and silent auction, 8pm live auction. \$10 admission. Artists' Reception, Mar. 18 6-7pm, \$25/person. Tickets and Reservations, call the AIDS Project, 774-6877.

"The National Political Agenda: What's Happening and What It Means to Our Community", a talk by Lisa Keen, Senior Editor of the *Washington Blade*, March 23, 7:30-9:00pm, Holiday-Inn-By-the-Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Wheelchair accessible and free parking.

Symposium XXI, hosted by Northern Lambda Nord, May 26-29, University of Maine at Presque Isle. See p. 1 story for details or call (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Portland Pride Weekend, June 16, 17 and 18. Get involved!!

Are you listed?
Send your non-profit
calendar listings to:

10% Enterprises
P.O. Box 11265
Portland, ME
04104

Include location, contact no., date and time. Submissions are due by the 20th of the month.

The Furies present...

"Lavender Land Utopia"

A new comedy by
Marilee Ryan

an original score by
Cathy Poole and
Kate Austin and
lyrics by Marilee
Ryan

Oak St. Theatre
Women's Festival

March 24 8pm
March 25 10pm
March 31 10pm

Tickets \$10 at the door

The 2nd Women's Film & Video Festival

March 3, 4 and 5
Portland Museum of
Art Auditorium

Weekend Passes \$25, Individual movies \$5 available from Drop Me A Line, Amadeus Music and the front desk of the Portland Museum of Art.

Sponsored by The Portland Museum of Art, the Maine Women's Fund and the USM Women's Studies Department.
For more information, call 775-6148

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance

invites you to the

10th Annual
Celebratory
Dinner/Dance
and Awards
Banquet

Saturday, February 4
5:00pm to 12 midnight
Augusta Civic Center

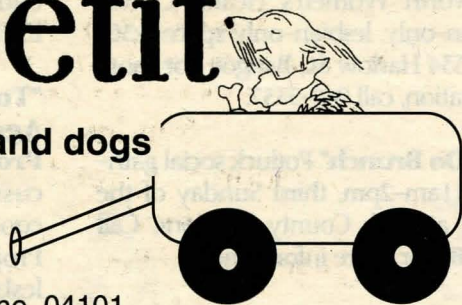
Tickets are \$28 per person or 2 for \$50. Work exchange tickets are available on a limited basis. Please make reservations by January 29.

For more information,
call (207) 871-1555.

We're moving to 2 Free St. on March 1!

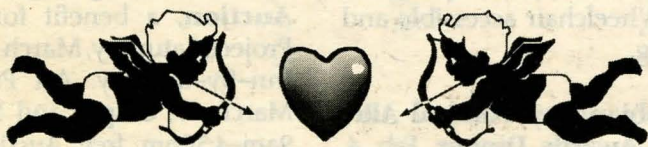
Bone Appetit

A store for cats and dogs



93 India Street, Portland, Maine 04101
telephone 207.871 9442

February 10



"Love Unites Us"

an all-live Valentine's show with comedy,
vocal music, dancing and Ms. Pj's Ileana to
benefit *Maine Won't Discriminate*

PJ's

Tues - Sat 7 pm - 1 am, 80 Water St., Augusta 623-4041

New Lunch Menu featuring...

**New Orleans
Steak & Cheese**

Arriba! Arriba!

Jambalaya and more

FABITHA JEAN'S™

R E S T A U R A N T

94 Free St. Portland 780-8966

New Hours :Tues - Thurs. 10am - 9pm

Fri. - Sun. 8am-10pm

Wheelchair accessible V, MC, AmEx

Poetry

Catch a Tiger by the Toe

Early on the morning of a fast;

A dry mouthed hike to the tip of a mountain,
where thirst caused me to lower myself onto my knees,
spread my hands on either side of the granite,
and lap my tongue in the shallow depressions
where dew had collected.

Heat along my shoulder ridge,
the sun razing the skin along the backs of my calves.
The heels of my hands launch me back and around.
Tendons stretched taut take me over boulders and
into a shallow between the roots of a tree.
Tuck my nose beneath my tail.
Sleep.

Four o'clock sun rises up on an aircurrent.
Light catches the full of my foot.
I shiver and shake out my curls.
Unfurling raises the hairs over my surface.

In my burrow until
I see the dimness of night through my lids.
The pads of my feet find the path.
My breath is cut with sounds.
I start down.
Dirt displaces to take my print,
that smudge there a knee
and this other a hip where I slid.

Bald and ageing branches slide off of me,
There is only the warmth of the scratches
and the thin grooves of blood. Until,
I stumble over and into
jeans and a loose sweater.

The mountain melts into flat horizon;

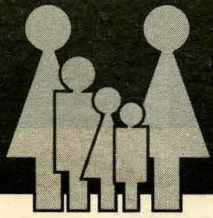
Hanging back in a ditch I take a breath
and another
and then slip out on to the shoulder
timed between passing headlights
I look small to him
when his headlights catch and light me.

Brake lights flush me out.
Gravel and dust grind into red clouds.
I drag my curled lip down into a smile.
Interior lights show a blanket scene frozen in tans and browns.
An Irish Setter and a man, stock to his shoulder
eye following the barrel.
Cloth where my moisture was absorbed.

I look at his shiny new shave and
milk colored teeth, hiding a freshly brushed tongue.
I climb in where he pats the seat.
My smile covers my teeth.

His right lid twitches over one eye,
but his mind can't catch on the way I've trapped him.
Everything looks small to him
until I leave dirt and flecks of blood
when I pull my feet up onto the seat and
lunge.

-Tara K. Luce



Mothers & Child

Keep it simple

by Maggie Fournier
Contributor

With the start of the new, you might be tempted to make a few resolutions. This could lead into list making and pulling out calendars in an attempt to keep track of the whole mess. Make a change in your life this season and throw out the whole idea of resolutions. Instead, keep it simple and use the time you would have spent in planning, obsessing, and feeling overwhelmed to enjoy the winter season with your family.

The holidays always remind me of how precious life is and how quickly time passes when children are growing. As a parent of an active eight year old and having my own hectic career demands, it's easy to get into a rut. Work, school,

The holidays always remind me of how precious life is and how quickly time passes when children are growing.

and more mundane things like doing laundry, cooking dinners, and keeping orthodontic appointments seem to eat up whole weeks. I'm learning to spread out the good times with my family and not, necessarily, leave the fun up to a planned weekend activity. And, while it's fine to make some plans for outings, keeping the door open to serendipity just may lead to a great adventure.

Thus, I offer you these simple ideas for keeping your sanity and sense of humor through the winter months.

*Set up a babysitting co-op. It's easy to do and doesn't cost a thing. We had four couples in ours. Every Saturday night one of the couples would take the kids and the others could plan an evening out. We had only one basic rule and that was that everyone adhere to the time frame of 5-9 pm. The kids became friends and got to do some fun activities and the adults had some well deserved time out which didn't mean paying a sitter at the end of the night.

*Walk every day regardless of the snow coming down or the darkness. On clear nights, look for shooting stars and venus. Make wishes.

*Go sliding. Pack an outdoor picnic and bring along some blankets to cuddle up with. Be angels in the snow.

*Feed old bread to the hardy seagulls on the deserted Maine beaches. Wear scarves to keep your cheeks warm.

*Let your kids plan the menu and cook dinner. Encourage them to be elaborate and use your best dishes and candles. Stay out of the kitchen if they are old enough to handle the stove. Offer to do the dishes.

*Get rid of the T.V. for awhile and see how it feels. Read to your children every night. I love E.B. White and Roald Dahl.

*Call the neighbors for potluck. Try a come as you are potluck breakfast. The kids will love it and you will, too.

*Make do with what you have and be thankful.

*Kiss and hug your partner and children. A lot.

*Do things on the spur of the moment and decide to scratch those time wasters and should dos'. Take off that heavy backpack labeled guilt.

*Eat out, iron only what's necessary, and have a family inservice on how the washing machine works. Clean up and pick up as you go. Have a family chore day followed by a movie and a pizza.

Cherish the season and each other! Happy belated New Year!!

Maggie Fournier is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Southern Maine. She is currently conducting research on the topic of co-mothering and is writing a book on lesbian parenting with her partner, Cheryl Ciechomski. Maggie and Cheryl live in Portland, Maine, with their eight year-old daughter, Emily.

Valentine's Weekend

February 10 & 11

celebrating women, love and sisterhood
Chocolates, flowers, giveaways, dinner and
Maine Mall gift certificates.

Special Friday night music DJ Aimsel
with an evening of women's music 8pm (see p. 2 ad)

Sunday, Feb. 19 - 8pm

Celebrate Sisters' 1st Anniversary with
Sisters' In House Blues Band

dancing and live soul entertainment (see p.12)

SATURDAYS

DJ starts at 6 to ease you
into your top 40 dancing
after 9pm

"LAUGH & SING
ALL NIGHT" ON STAGE
KARAOKE

Wednesdays, 7pm
ZIMA special. We color
the schnapps for free!

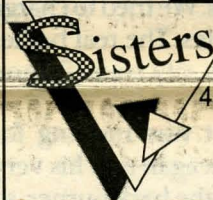
SUNDAY is the day to hang at Sisters
NOW SERVING BRUNCH ALL DAY
free pool and happy hour all day.
9 Ball Pool Tournament

THURSDAYS
All country w/ line
dancing lessons

Fridays and Saturdays
after last call, extend
your night or start the
new day right
with breakfast at
your Sisters!

FRIDAYS - After work
Happy Hour Buffet 4-8pm
DJ starts at 6pm w/requests
and wind down music
Top 40 dancing after 9pm

Now Serving Pitchers
filled with the best
beer at party prices



45 Danforth St. 774 - 1505 Positive ID required Lesbian - owned
Open Wed. - Sun. 4pm - close

No smoking area pool table juke box darts lite menu 2 floors



Dance, Dance, DANCE !

Women's Pre-Valentine's Dance Saturday, February 4

8pm -12 midnight
Temple Beth El
400 Deering Ave.
Portland

Chem-free DJ Refreshments
\$5 in advance \$6 at the door

Advance tickets available
only by mail from:
Wild Iris Productions
P.O. Box 17
W. Buxton, ME 04063

Focus on the Radical Right

The Christian Coalition – an introduction

by Skipp Porteous

Reprinted from the Fight the Right Kit,
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"There is nothing in the U.S. Constitution that sanctifies the separation of church and state."

– Pat Robertson, Founder, Christian Coalition

Christian Coalition, P.O. Box 1990, Chesapeake, VA 23320, (804) 424-2630. Executive Director: Ralph Reed, Founder: Pat Robertson, 1979, Membership: 400,000+, Chapters: 750+, Budget: 10 million/year, Staff: 30

The failure of Pat Robertson's 1988 Presidential bid, the collapse of Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, and the downfall of several major TV evangelists caused many people to breathe a collective sigh of relief. But in fact, the Christian Right itself has been born again. It has reorganized, and is beginning to arise as a major religious and social force. These radicals have not gone, and will not go away.

Having failed in his venture into national politics, Pat Robertson switched his efforts to the local arena. In 1989, Robertson –with the encouragement of Billy

"I believe that the Christian Coalition...will be the most powerful political force in America by the end of this decade."

McCormack, a Shreveport, La. preacher who once backed Neo-Nazi, ex-Klansman David Duke –founded the Christian Coalition.

With a detailed, long-range plan, superb organizing, and millions of dollars in their war chest, the Christian Coalition has taken the nation by storm –although most Americans are still unaware of the group's activities.

According to Ralph Reed, the Christian Coalition's executive director, "The Christian community got it backwards in the nineteen-eighties. We tried to charge Washington when we should have been focusing on the states. The real battles of concern to Christians are in neighborhoods, school boards, city councils, and state legislatures."

Jodie Robbins, assistant to Ralph Reed, said, "When Pat was running for President, and when Reagan was in, we saw that, even with Reagan and his very conservative views, the Christian community was still put on the back burner, so to speak."

Robbins said that the American Civil Liberties Union works on the local level; that is where their strength is the greatest; and she indicated that the Christian Coalition learned from the ACLU's savvy.

While they tried to make their voice heard in Washington, Robbins said, they were losing the battle back in their hometowns. They realized, she said, that "back home," they could "really make an impact." "We can decide who our school councils are going to be, who the board of education's going to be, who our city council's going to be, who the representatives are, etcetera."

Then, in 1990, with the newly-formed Christian Coalition looking on, the religious right in San Diego County, California, covertly ran candidates for 90 county offices. By and large, these people did not advertise their candidacy, or participate in public forums or debates. Utilizing a massive Christian phone bank culled from 100 selected churches, church members were contacted and informed of the identity of the "pro-family" candidates. On the Sunday before the Tuesday election, teams visited church parking lots and placed voter guides on car windshields.

When the smoke cleared on Tuesday, two-thirds (60) of the Christian Right candidates won. This was accomplished with hardly any campaigning, aside from organizing the conservative Christian vote. This strategy has become known as the "San Diego model," and is being replicated in other areas of the country.

In 1991, the Christian Coalition held its first "Road to Victory" political training conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia. About 800 Christian activists from practically every state attended to hear rousing speeches and receive hands-on training in political activism.

At the time of Road to Victory I, about 225 Christian Coalition chapters existed nation-wide. By the time Road to Victory II rolled around in 1992, about 440 chapters were operating in every state except Utah.

In 1992, about 1,500 Christian right activists attended Road to Victory II. Highly motivated and well-trained, these zealots returned to their respective states and began organizing. Now, with over 725 chapters and 350,000 members, the Christian Coalition's goal is to have 1,500 chapters and 800,000 members by the end of 1993. Guy Rodgers, the Christian Coalition's National Field Director, claims that one new chapter is added every day. In addition, in 1993, the Christian Coalition aims to have a full-time staff in 20 states, with 50,000 precinct leaders who will provide grassroots leadership. Also, 25,000 church liaison leaders will work to link the Christian Coalition with local churches and local political precincts.

The annual Road to Victory conference is followed up with local Leadership Training Schools. More than 70 of these two-day intensive training seminars are scheduled for 1993. According to Jodie Robbins, the seminars use "a nuts and bolts manual on how to start a coalition; how to fund raise for your candidate; how to

be a candidate; and how to canvass your voters."

Robertson's goal is to make the Christian Coalition bigger and more superior than any political group on the right or the left. "I believe that the Christian Coalition," said Robertson, "will be the most powerful political force in America by the end of this decade."

Anyone opposing the Christian Coalition's agenda is accused of "religious bigotry." This is a constant theme, both on Robertson's "700 Club" TV program, and in articles in the Christian Coalition's full-color tabloid newspaper, the Christian American.

Typical of the religious right, the Christian Coalition employs deceptive tactics to further their political agenda. For example, Tony Rivera is Deputy Ombudsman of the City of New York. A Democrat for East Harlem, he works in City Council president Andrew Stein's office. Rivera addressed a Christian Coalition meeting in New York City in 1992.

Realizing that most New Yorkers are liberal and moderate Democrats, Rivera endorsed the Christian Coalition's method of concealing its real ideology behind a bland facade. "The majority of our leaders are pro-abortion," he said, explaining how Christians could involve themselves in local affairs. "So, you don't go in there and say, 'I'm an advocate against abortion.' No, you say, 'I'm interested in housing, or development, or sanitation.' And you keep your personal views to yourself until the Christian community is ready to rise up, and then, wow! They're gonna be devastated!"

These words are familiar Christian right rhetoric. In 1985, at a conference in Washington called "How to Win An Election," Michael Carrington admonished the gathering, "Always talk in terms of traditional values...we can get more narrow later..." And Pat Robertson has said, "We have enough votes to run this country...and when the people say, 'We've had enough,' we're going to take over!"

The Pennsylvania Christian Coalition hand book further reveals the deception. In the hand book, members are instructed: "Become directly involved in the local Republican central committee so you are an insider." Then, this caveat: "You should never mention the name Christian Coalition in Republican circles."

Most of the funding for the Christian Coalition comes from its members. Contributions made to the national organization are kept separate from the state organizations. For instance, in New York, membership costs \$35, even though one may be a member of the national group. State and local chapters are expected to raise their own funds. Nationally, the Christian Coalition is operating on a \$12 million annual budget. This doesn't include what state chapters raise.

During the Road to Victory conference in September 1992, members of Robertson's "Inner Circle" were invited to a special reception at his Virginia Beach home. More than a hundred Inner Circle members attended, and experienced a rare privilege –the chance to shake hands with the President of the United States. During the reception, officials of the Christian Coalition circulated among those attending and obtained financial pledges to the Coalition. The short event raised approximately \$160,000 for the Christian Coalition.

The Christian Coalition is still in its developmental/experimental stages. Focus is being placed on starting new chapters and training Coalition members for political activism. These are, however, examples of how the Christian Coalition can sway elections.

In his 1990 reelection bid, Senator Jesse Helms was behind in the polls. He contacted Pat Robertson, and the Christian Coalition swung into action. On the Sunday before the Tuesday election, the North Carolina Christian Coalition distributed 750,000 half-page size voter guides on behalf of Helms. Some were inserted into church bulletins, others were distributed outside in church parking lots.

Helms won reelection by a narrow margin. The Christian Coalition takes credit for Helms' come-from-behind victory. "The press had no idea what we were doing," said North Carolina state director Judy Haynes, "and they still don't know what we did. But it worked."

In 1992, Iowa voters had the opportunity to make the Equal Rights Amendment state law. Polls released the Sunday before the election indicated Iowans favored the amendment 54 to 33 percent. Iowa, however, is a Christian Coalition stronghold.

Long-time Robertson organizer, Marlene Elwell, and her Iowa Committee to Stop ERA, hand-delivered 1,085,000 anti-ERA pamphlets door-to-door in every precinct in the state. The Christian Coalition distributed 600,000 voter guides in Iowa and 45,000 phone calls urging voters to reject the ERA. Pat Robertson mailed a letter to his Iowa supporters in which he said, "The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians."

The Christian Coalition also provided funds for literature drops, radio ads, and a two-thirds page ad in the Des Moines Register the Sunday before the election.

When the votes were counted, the ERA lost, 53 to 48 percent. Again, the religious right, and the Christian Coalition in particular, took the credit.

Some material in this section was first reported by Frederick Clarkson and Joe Conason in *The Freedom Writer*, published by the Institute for First Amendment Studies (IFAS).

To request the complete Fight the Right Action Kit, call NGLTF at 202-332-6483, TTY 202-332-6219.

Focus on the Radical Right

Radical Right continued from page 1

One conference attendee, Patricia Houston of WARRIORS NOT WIMPS FOR JESUS, based in Las Cruces, New Mexico, offered high praise for Jim McDavitt of Kansas. "He was on fire for the Lord!" she told The Freedom Writer. "He had information much further along than anyone else. I learned a lot from him."

According to Will Perkins, the purpose of the conference was "to come out of here with a plan...how we can impact this nation—our groups, our collective voices out there. If we have a good, strong, coordinated approach...they don't know who to shoot at if we have all of us out there."

"We need to hold pastors and churches and denominations accountable," Perkins continued, "who are condoning homosexual behavior. And [we need to] make the public realize that they are condoning adultery, fornication, bestiality, and polygamy...."

John Eldridge, the first speaker, brought "greetings and warm regards from Dr. Dobson of Focus on the Family." "Dr. Dobson," Eldridge told the group, "and those of us at Focus on the Family in the public policy fight, see this issue as one of the key issues of our time. So much hinges on what happens with the full agenda of the militant gay movement."

Eldridge outlined an agenda for the religious right to follow. The agenda must: 1) Change public perception about gay rights, 2) Use ideas and language that appeal to the public, 3) Create the impression that the anti-gay movement is a grass roots movement, 4) Use lay people to keep the anti-gay movement going, and 5) Develop a long-term project to convince evangelical pastors to support the anti-gay movement.

We need to "tell America WHY heterosexuality is best for individuals and society." "That case," he said, "needs to be made strongly, and supported by what Americans consider 'gospel truth'—that is empirical science. That is the high priest of our culture."

"Shrewdly," Eldridge continued, "we need to show why society needs to make certain demands on people sexually." He added that public perception has to be changed. "We must never appear to be attempting to rob anyone of their rights—their constitutional rights. We must never appear to be mean spirited or bigoted. We must be shrewd to get consensus for our position by appealing to shared values and concern, and issues of fairness and justice."

Eldridge stressed that the anti-gay movement must be "perceived as a genuine grass roots uprising." He said that "home rule" is important, because a top-down approach doesn't work. If a community perceives that an outside, national group is behind local activism, the community will rebel against it. So, the perception of grassroots organizing, or home rule, is critical. He explained that this is why Focus

...the anti-gay movement must be "perceived as a genuine grassroots uprising.".. If a community perceives that an outside, national group is behind local activism, the community will rebel against it. So, the perception of grassroots organizing, or home rule, is critical.

on the Family is staying in the background. His national group, he noted, is like an 800-pound giant compared to Colorado for Family Values, which has a half dozen people in a one-room office. (During the conference, Frank York of Focus on the Family admitted that Focus on the Family now has a \$150 million dollar-a-year budget. [Ed. note- Ground Zero readers are directed to the attack by Dr. Dobson on Mel White when he repeated this figure. Dobson claims that the real budget is a mere \$97 million. Obviously, the right hand doesn't know how much the left is taking in at Focus].)

"I would not say this in other cultural contexts," Eldridge explained, "but the gay agenda has all the elements of that which is truly evil. It is deceptive at every turn. It is destroying the souls of those who embrace it."

John Eldridge said several things troubled him greatly. "As an evangelical, there is no question that the church, being a house divided—having Mel Whites, Peggy Campolos, and that sort of thing—is extraordinarily damaging to our movement. (Mel White is the gay ghost writer who formerly worked with Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, and Oliver North. He tells his extraordinary experience in his fascinating book, *Stranger at the Gate*. Peggy Campolo is the wife of the popular evangelical motivational speaker Tony Campolo. The Campolos have expressed sympathy for gay rights.)

More than one speaker, including Eldridge, said that the anti-gay rights movement is being led by lay people, not the clergy. "Pastors are terrified that this issue will split their churches," Eldridge remarked. "The local church is a mess. The pastors are a long-term project."

Robert Skoolrood, president of the National Legal Foundation also expressed ill feelings towards evangelical ministers. "Our pastors don't know anything," Skoolrood declared. "AND MOST OF THEM ARE WIMPS."...

Frank York, another Focus on the Family spokesperson, also addressed the gathering. He focused on computer and fax technology, which he explained "is

an essential part of the battle we're in."

York encouraged the group to use computers and facsimile machines to broadcast communications to: phone trees, congressmen and other politicians, conservative college newspapers, and churches.

Besides using computers to communicate within the religious right, York suggested that computers be used to gather intelligence on the enemy. "You have to know your enemy," he said. "Gays and lesbians are a large part of the Internet."

Monitoring on-line computer services, York said, "is an intelligence gathering operation. They're not aware that you're gathering information. It's very important to gather intelligence this way." He claimed that by monitoring online

The goal is to take over all the legislative bodies in the state, including city councils and the state legislature.... After the designated law-making bodies are taken over, the next step is to introduce new laws that ban gay rights. ...

services he learned in advance of a lesbian sit-in at Focus on the Family.

One speaker, Judith Reisman, a self-professed sex expert, perpetrated the myth that gays try to recruit heterosexuals, bringing them into "the homosexual lifestyle."

"I would suggest to you," she said, "that while the homosexual population may right now be one to two percent, hold your breath, people, because the recruitment is loud; it is clear; it is everywhere. You'll be seeing, I would say, twenty percent or more, probably thirty percent, or even more than that, of the young population, will be moving into homosexual activity."

After all the speakers made their presentations, the group held a series of brainstorming sessions. The final session led to the top two "Primary Strategies."

Comprised of two main parts, the first "Primary Strategy" involves "Information and Data Exchange," and "Media." "Under "Information and Data Exchange," the group aims to establish a computer network using a bulletin board service (BBS) or commercial on-line service such as America On Line (AOL). Focus on the Family, incidentally, is considering AOL, as a way to distribute some of its publications.

The second part of "Information and Data Exchange" is the development of a central clearinghouse, with different organizations handling the following responsibilities—a gay office holders and activists data bank, information resources about ministries to convert gays, record anti-gay successes, record anti-gay defeats, track scientific literature, monitor corporations—who they fund, where they spend their advertising dollars, religious tracking—where evangelical churches and pastors stand on gay rights, monitor people in the media—their stand on gay rights, monitor national and state political candidates and gay office holders, monitor crimes committed by gays and establish a news clipping service.

The second part of the first "Primary Strategy" deals with the media. The group hopes to "get all conservative organizations united to promote a mass-media blitz on Dr. Kinsey's child abuse data, calling for investigation and cessation of all tax money funding sexuality programs, until Kinsey's scientific fraud is proven."

The second aspect of dealing with the media involves writing letters and placing phone calls. The group plans to blitz newspapers with letter, and radio talk shows with phone calls. One aspect is to "ID favorable educators and get them involved with letters to the editor and interviews." They also plan to buy radio ads in order to "access radio programs to reveal truth of homosexual lifestyle vs. heterosexual marriage." Finally, the media blitz involves the development of "a base of letter writers and callers who can respond on a regular basis to editorials and news stories."

The second of the two "Primary Strategies" deals with "Legislative/Legal concepts. First, the anti-gay proponents want to "enact legislation rewarding traditional families with tax rewards." Another long-term goal is to "pass resolutions in legislatures in the 50 states to affirm that the traditional mom and dad family is the superior or ideal model." Their political agenda includes voter guides, precinct organization, leadership development, campaigning, voter education in the area of school board candidates and candidates for state legislatures, and fund raising.

Particular attention should be paid to one area of the anti-gay right agenda. It is the implementation of "Operation Spotlight." This is a highly organized and detailed model currently underway in Ohio. The goal is to take over all the legislative bodies in the state, including city councils and the state legislature. A crucial part of the plan is to identify exactly where every elected official and candidate stands on gay rights. The next step is to get 25% of the voters to sign a pledge not to vote for any candidate who supports gay rights. After the designated law-making bodies are taken over, the next step is to introduce new laws that ban gay rights. ...

Finally, the anti-gay rights movement is developing a litigation strategy. To do this, it plans to share research, resources, and coordinate involvement at the trial level. It intends to offer "legal support for workers being sued by homosexuals. This presumably deals with harassment in the workplace."

In its effort to deny gays and lesbians equal rights with other citizens, the religious right wants to take its agenda all the way to the Supreme Court. Currently, the movement is seeking the best case to take to the High Court. Utilizing "political experts, constitutional lawyers, and public relations experts," it has proposed the formation of an "advisory board to formulate the best case to take to the U. S. Supreme Court."....

Michelle Bolen
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

General Practice Individual & Groups Education & Presentations

Specialties include...
childhood abuse issues anger management women's issues

759-0284

Lise R. Wagner
Attorney-at-Law

General Practice
primarily
Family
Criminal
Estate

53 Exchange St Suite 301
Portland, ME 04101
772-1565

Frederick B. Wolf, M.Div, S.T.D.
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor



180 High Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207)773-0191

Pamela Knowles Lawrason
Attorney at Law

Serving the legal needs of the gay and lesbian community

6 Oak Ridge Road, Cumberland Center, Maine 04021
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**Farnsworth
&
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Attorneys at Law

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

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