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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

**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 observed 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...
**Community of Hope**

*a Christian congregation which claims a ministry to gay and lesbian people and which strives to be inclusive of all persons*

**Worship Saturdays** 4pm

Immanuel Baptist Church
156 High St.
Portland

For more information, write Community of Hope,
P.O. Box 1671, Portland, ME 04104

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**Wild Iris Productions proudly presents...**

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**Ann Reed**

_Saturday, March 18, 8pm_

First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland

$13.50 in advance  
General Admission  
$15 at the door

Tickets available from Drop Me A Line and Walkabout in Portland,
Macbeans in Brunswick and JKS Copyprinters in Belfast.

Special Reserved Seating, ($18) available only by mail from:
Wild Iris Productions, P.O. Box 17, W. Buxton, ME 04093.

Worship Saturdays  4pm

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Special Reserved Seating, ($18) available only by mail from:
Wild Iris Productions, P.O. Box 17, W. Buxton, ME 04093.

Sign-interpreted  
Wheelchair accessible

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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, 990-5420, Biddeford, 1st meeting, Monday Feb. 13, University of New England, Marcil Bldg. Rm. 503, 7-9pm.
  - Brunswick-Bath, Contact Person - Punnic Edgerton, 729-6429
  - Hancock County, Contact People – Ruth Blackburn, 276-0505 and Peter Rees, 667-2358
  - Mid-Coast, Contact Person – Dororthy Merriweather, 594-7873
  - Portland, Contact People - Steve Addario and Jessica Maurer, 761-1788
  - Waldo County, Contact Person – Cary Leah Macteod, 338-4194
  - Washington County, Contact People – Betty Deniston, 546-2007 and Tom, 546-7505
  - 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.

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**Referendum Question Text**

_The legislative provision that will be voted on should the referendum question appear on the November 1992 ballot:_

To the 117th Legislature of the State of Maine:

In accordance with Section 16 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 4352-A is enacted to read:

Section 4352-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, marital 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.
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 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 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.

Bykes 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 do you think will talk to them about 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 this characterization is an active, strategic step by the radical right to define the terms of the gay rights debate.

Editorial...Letters...

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).
Warm up with fresh bagels and gourmet coffee

We bake ‘em best!

596 Forest Ave., Portland 775-0718
18 Moulton St., Old Port 774-6704
220 Mall Plaza, So. Port. 773-3238
Mill Creek Shopping Ctr. 767-4786
204 US Rt. 1, Falmouth 781-7234
8 Main St., Yarmouth 846-6909
123 Main St., Westbrook 854-5209
336 Center St., Auburn 777-7007
Mid Mall, Bangor Mall Rd., Bangor 942-0001
106 Pleasant St., Brunswick 725-6007

Maine News

Syposium continued from page 1

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 fact on the streets is, unfortunately, the legalistic 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 50% reduction in staff during recent rounds of budget cuts. To reverse this trend, the report recommends additional annual funding of $500,000 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 perpetration.

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 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 Phoneline of Maine at (207) 498-2088 (Voice/TTY).

Admission for the event is $99 for 3 nights lodging, all meals and all events, $80 for one night’s lodging, meals, $65 for meals and events and $23 for 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 Phoneline of Maine.

NGITF criticizes Elders firing

Washington, DC - The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGITF) 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 and community health professionals. Frank, explicit language on sexual issues, especially among our young people, is important for creating effective AIDS prevention programs 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 Greta 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 “Rose vs. Wade” and “An Early Frost,” which had 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 1-800-55-MLGPA
High Court to decide on gays in Boston parade

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court will decide whether an Irish-American Reversing a 13-yr.-old policy, the American Medical Association A military board of inquiry has recommended that a The Board of the National Gay and Lesbian The court said requiring the gay group to take in 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 anti-gayitarian." Rather than "showing 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.

NGLIT names new executive director

WASHINGTON - The Board of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLIT) has announced the appointment of San Francisco Health Commissioner Melinda Paraiso as the new executive director of the organization. Appointed to the San Francisco Health Commission in 1995 by Mayor Frank Jordan, Paraiso chairs the Budget Committee and serves on the Joint Conference for San Francisco General Hospital. For the past four months, Paraiso has headed a transition team at NGLIT, assessing the organization's strengths, challenges and duties, and developing a plan for NGLIT's next two years. The NGLIT board established the transition team in response to the departure of several key staff people, the changing of NGLIT's constituents and the altered political atmosphere facing the gay and lesbian community.

NGLIT targets new Congress, radical right effort

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In an effort to counter the rising tide of anti-gay activity, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLIT) 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-Georgia) likening homosexuality to alcoholism, NGLIT believes that education is essential to prevent anti-gay activity.

NGLIT 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 can prove they will not engage in prohibited homosexual sex.

NGLIT is also concerned that the Commissioning Task Force of the House Armed Services Committee is considering a policy change that would allow military personnel to be openly gay if they can prove they will not engage in prohibited homosexual sex.

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 considered 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 president of the 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 covers approximately 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 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 1995 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 1995 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

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**The Furies post successful 2nd production**

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

PJ's Annual Xmas Benefit Show

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.
“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, RRI, Box 8, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447, 603-585-9258.

Community of Hope, an inclusive Christian worship group following a model developed by the Metropolitan Community Churches, meets Saturdays at 4pm at Immortal Baptist Church, 136 High St, Portland. FMC: 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 queer. All welcome: 1st and 3rd Fri, 3-5pm, 87 Spring St, Portland. Wheelchair accessible; information Act-UP/Port., P.O. Box 1511, 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 775-5420.

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, 139 State St., Portland. All-inclusive and affirming service offering a guide to Christian spiritual journey. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 774-6596.

Lesbian Support Group meets every third Wed at the Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, Woman-only, lesbian-only space: 6:30-8pm, 354 Harlow St, Bangor. For more information, call 947-5537.

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

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

Moms 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 767-6568.

Partners of Parents meets every 3rd Sat at the Washington Inn-By-the-Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland. Support to lesbian and gay men who are parents with children. For information, call 774-5052.

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.

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

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) 877-1555.

List of Events
**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

**TABITHA JEAN'S**

**RESTAURANT**
94 Free St. Portland 780-8966
New Hours :Tues - Thurs. 10am - 9pm
Fri. - Sun. 8am-10pm
Wheelchair accessible  V, MC, AmEx

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**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 racing 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
Keep it simple
by Maggie Fournier

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, 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, 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.

*Makewishes. 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 scrape 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.

Cling to 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.
Focus on the Radical Right

The Christian Coalition - an introduction

by Skippe 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: 600,000+, 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 Graham - began an organizing campaign to oust pro-choice candidates from the Virginia House of Delegates. The Christian Coalition took over 60% of the seats. The Virginia General Assembly passed several new laws to ensure the rights of the pro-life movement. The five-week campaign cost $2 million. Virginia became a Christian Coalition stronghold.

The Christian Coalition's goal is to have 1,500 chapters and 800,000 members by the end of this decade. Robertson aims to have a full-time staff in 20 states, with 50,000 precinct leaders who provide grassroots leadership. Also, 700 clubs will be set up in cities across the country. The Christian Coalition aims to have 1,500 chapters and 800,000 members by the end of this decade.

"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-Klanman 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 into 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 he was in Washington, we tried to have grassroots leaders in the states. The real battles of concern to Christians are in neighborhoods, school boards, city councils, and state legislatures."

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 $140,000 for the Christian Coalition.

The Christian Coalition is still in its developmental/expertimental 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 700,000 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 55 percent. Iowa, however, is a Christian Coalition stronghold.

Long-time Robertson organizer, Marlene Elwell, and her Iowa Committee to Stop ERA, hand-delivered 1,065,000 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).

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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 Mel White is the gay ghost writer who formerly worked with Jerry Falwell, Pat

According to Will Perkins, the purpose of the conference was "to come out of here with a plan. However, we can't do it alone. Our collective voices are not adequate. If we have a good, strong, coordinated approach, they don't know who to shudder 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 on 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."

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

Eldridge stressed that the anti-gay movement must be "perceived as a genuine grassroots 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 being led locally, that community will rebel against it. So, the perception of grassroots organizing, or home rule, is critical. He explained that this is why Focus 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 act sort of things is extraordinarily damaging to our witness."

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 of having to live a double life a second marriage. He says that he was on the edge of raping 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 Spirit", 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 contact the voter and direct him to a form letter 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.

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

Frank York, another Focus on the Family spokesperson, added that 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." By putting on-line computer techniques, churches and other community groups can develop a monitoring program. They're not aware that you're gathering information. It's very important to gather intelligence this way." He claimed that by monitoring online...
Michelle Bolen
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

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Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

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Portland, Maine 04101
(207)773-0191

Pamela Knowles Lawson
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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