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Gubernatorial candidates speak...

Brennan repeatedly refuses to answer

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The Community Pride Reporter tracked down all four candidates for governor and asked them the following questions. It must be noted at the outset that Joseph Brennan (D) had the opportunity to answer these questions several times. CPR approached Brennan at the Dirigo Alliance banquet, September 16, and asked for a brief interview. He said he would not answer any questions and referred me to Al Caron. Al Caron did not return my calls. We then submitted a fax to the Brennan campaign and told them we would accept any response at all — none came. Jonathan Carter, who was also present at the Dirigo banquet agreed to answer my questions.

The areas of inquiry are a combination of local and national concerns, some of which were suggested to us by the Washington Blade. The candidates were asked to, "Please answer/comment on ALL of the following issues:"

1. The anti-gay rights referendum in Maine and the tactics of Concerned Maine Parents (CMP) were asked to, "Please answer/comment on ALL of the following issues:"

2. Same sex marriage rights
3. Domestic partnership benefits
4. AIDS funding
5. Do you oppose efforts to deny lesbians and gays custody of their own children?
6. Adoption rights
7. Will you appoint openly gay and lesbian people to your state jobs?
8. Condoms in high schools
9. Programs to support lesbian and gay youth

Jonathan Carter, independent candidate for governor who is running on the Green party ticket, was eager to answer these questions, and despite the commotion at the Dirigo banquet he sat down with CPR and gave the following responses:

"I don't oppose same sex marriage rights. It's clear to me that in this society we should be..." (Continued below)

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

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Joseph Brennan, Democratic candidate for Governor at Dirigo benefit where he refused to grant an interview.

"There are a couple of reasons. One is that there has been much more focus on my position on gay rights and Angus hasn't talked much about his position. I believe in standing up for what I believe in and for not trying to obscure my views or to hide the fact that I would sign an appropriately drafted gay rights bill."

Susan Collins, Republican candidate for Governor, agreed to a face-to-face interview with CPR. Robin Lambert, longtime activist in the gay community, works for the Collins campaign and helped arrange the interview. Collins spoke to us on September 26, and provided the following answers/comments:

"There is no doubt that I am the underdog in this race. I have far less money than either Joe Brennan or Angus King, and when you combine massive amounts of television time it does make a difference. In addition, there's no doubt that my stand in favor of an anti-discrimination bill has hurt me in my own party, and a lot of the far right is going to Angus King rather than to me. But I'm still convinced that I can win this. I came from way behind in the primary, and I know I can do the same thing."

I noted that Angus King's support for the gay rights bill is similar to your own. What we see is a division along the line of who will sign such a bill versus who will introduce one. King appeared at the MLGPA banquet in May and said he would sign a gay rights bill. 'You've said you would sign it. Carter
PATRICIA NELL WARREN
Harlan's Race
A NOVEL

LONG-AWAITED SEQUEL
TO THE LANDMARK CLASSIC
The Front Runner
FROM WILDCAT PRESS  JUNE 94
U.S. Senate and House candidates respond to CPR

by Bruce Balboni

The Community Pride Reporter questioned the candidates for national office. Olympia Snowe, Republican candidate for the Senate and James Longley (R) and Dennis Dutremble (D), candidates for Maine's Congressional District 1, answered by fax. Tom Andrews, the Democratic candidate for the Senate, agreed to a telephone interview from Washington, D.C. with 10% and Community Pride Reporter, September 23.

The areas of inquiry are a combination of local and national concerns, some of which were suggested to us by The Community Pride Reporter, September 1994. The candidates for national office, Olympia Snowe, Republican candidate for the Senate and James Longley (R) and Dennis Dutremble (D), candidates for Maine's Congressional District 1, answered by fax. Tom Andrews, the Democratic candidate for the Senate, agreed to a telephone interview from Washington, D.C. with 10% and Community Pride Reporter, September 23.

The areas of inquiry are a combination of local and national concerns, some of which were suggested to us by the Washington Blade. The candidates were asked, "Please answer/comment on ALL of the following issues:"

1. The anti-gay rights referendum in Maine and the tactics of Carole Harlan — the author of "Harlan's Race: The Front Runner and The Fancy Dancer"

2. Same sex marriage rights

3. Domestic partnership benefits

4. AIDS funding

5. Do you oppose efforts to deny lesbians and gays custody of their own children?

6. Adoption rights

7. Will you appoint openly gay and or lesbian people to your state jobs?

8. Condoms in high schools AND prisons

9. Programs to support lesbian and gay youth

Andrews commented on the anti-gay rights referendum and Concerned Maine Families by saying, "This attempt by this organization (CMF) is a tremendous disservice to everyone in Maine. It is trying to win by hate, by divisiveness, by misinformation and mischaracterization of the truth. It is a campaign that needs to be confronted, fought and defeated."

On the issues of same sex marriages and domestic partnership benefits Andrews said, "I think that the government should respect the wishes of individuals as they establish obligations among themselves, and I have voted consistently for the domestic partnership law for D.C. every time it has come up and my opponent has consistently voted against it."

Andrews answered the question of child custody and adoption by saying, "I do not believe that someone should be systematically excluded from adoption or from the basic rights and responsibilities of raising a family because of their sexual orientation."

Andrews said he has always been willing to appoint people to his staff regardless of sexual orientation and he will continue to do so. He referred to a statement circulated by the Human Rights Campaign Fund to every member of Congress to pledge non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation which he signed, but which Olympia Snowe (R) refused to sign.

Anders said he favored giving local communities the right to decide on the issue of sex education including condom availability in the schools and he favors the distribution of condoms in prisons.

Snowe offers a statement

Olympia Snowe responded with a statement rather than a point-by-point answer:

"I have concerns about the wording of the referendum which has been initiated by Concerned Maine Families on the issue of gay rights. I believe the question would have a negative impact on local decision-making and would repeal legislation, such as the Hate Crimes Act, which I support."

"I believe that we must continue to support AIDS research funding, as well as educational efforts to increase awareness of the disease and how it is spread. During my time in Congress, I have consistently supported increases in the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for biomedical research, including AIDS."

"With regard to appointment to my staff, my only employment consideration is merit and the qualifications to do the best job for the people I represent. My office policy states that: "This office will not discharge or refuse to hire any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual’s race, color, religion, sex (including marital or parental status), handicap, age, sexual orientation or national origin, but may take into consideration the domestic or political affiliation of such individual."

"This language is taken from the "Discrimination" section of the House Ethics Manual, Rule 43, Clause 9, Code of Official Conduct for Members of the House. My office added the phrase "sexual orientation.""

This last statement seems to be at variance with the claim made by Andrews that Snowe would not support non-discrimination in her staff hiring.

Congressional context: District 1

James Longley (R) responded to the questions point by point.

"Someone’s sexual orientation is, and should remain, a matter of personal privacy." Longley does not support special rights legislation and would oppose any attempts to further involve government in matters that are best left to individual conscience or the private sector. He opposes same sex marriage rights and on the issue of domestic partnership benefits he says it is a matter for the private sector to decide.

On the question of AIDS funding, the response was, "He has been involved with and aware of many AIDS issues for over ten years and believes that every reasonable effort needs to be made to eradicate the threat of that horrible affliction from the face of the earth at the earliest opportunity."

As a general rule, Longley supports the rights of biological parents to custody of their own children subject to the assumption that any decisions pertaining to the custody of minor children should be made with reference to the best interests of the child to a healthy, physically safe and moral environment.

Again, as a general rule, Longley believes that any decisions pertaining to the custody of minor children should be made with reference to the best interests of the child to a healthy, physically safe and moral environment. This response was to CPR’s question about adoption rights.

As to whether he would appoint openly gay and lesbian people to state jobs, his response was "Any personnel decisions should be made strictly on merit." He does not support condoms in the schools and said that programs to support lesbian and gay youth was a matter for the private sector.

The closing statement on Longley’s response said he appreciates the invitation to share his views with the gay community. No group should be stereotyped and he makes no assumptions that there is only one point of view on any of these issues.

Dennis Dutremble, Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress from District 1, also responded point by point.

"I find the anti-gay rights movement and the words of its leaders disturbing and disappointing. Being Franco-American, I know that discrimination and bigotry is not limited to skin color or sexual orientation. As a State Senator, I have supported anti-discrimination legislation in the past and will continue to do so in Congress."

"The term "normal" has historical and other connotations. I would support a union between committed gay and lesbian couples that guarantees the rights inherent in a traditional marriage. I would also support benefits for domestic partnerships."

With regard to AIDS funding, Dutremble said, "AIDS is a terrible disease that affects us all. I would support increased federal funding for AIDS."

He opposes efforts to deny lesbians and gays custody of their own children. As for adoption rights, "I believe that the most important criteria in a family are love, support and understanding. If a parent or parents are able to support See US CONGRESS, page 21
Key races for the Maine Legislature

Researched by Landon Smith
The following legislative races focus on districts in which there is a clear choice between candidates who support the gay rights bill and those who do not. If both candidates in a district either support or oppose gay rights legislation, they are not mentioned. The following list of candidates constitutes CPR's endorsements for the 1994 Maine State Legislature:

State Senate
District 1, Frenchville, Caribou — Judy Paradis (D)
District 2, Easton — Carolyne Mahaney (D)
District 4, Easton — George Townsend (D)
District 5, Sargentville — Glenith Gray (D)
District 6, Brewer — Richard Rahlin (D)
District 7, Orono — John O'Dea (D)
District 8, Milo — Amber Cahagan (D)
District 9, Bangor — Sean Faircloth (D)
District 10, Newport — Alton Chanelette (D)
District 11, Liberty — Susan

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Maine House Candidates
District 1, Kittery Point —
William Bailey (D)
District 9, Sanford —
Mona Walker (D)
District 13, Alfred, Hollis Center Randa Thomas (D)
District 11, Acton —
Lorraine Yeaton (D)
District 15, Saco —
Robert Guillery (D)
District 21, Scarborough

District 12, North Haven —
Rochelle Pingeue (D)
District 14, Belgrade — Richard Carey (D)
District 15, Augusta — Beverly Bustin (D)
District 16, Gardiner — Vicki Kelly (D)
District 17, Farmingdon — Mary Flint (D)
District 18, Gardiner — Dale McCormick (D)
District 20, Lisbon Falls —
Michael Huston (D)
District 21, Lewiston — Georgette Berube (D) — this is a "must win"
District 22, Auburn — John Cleve land (D)
District 24, Rumford — Eugene Boivin (D)
District 26, Cumberland — Jeffrey Butland (R)
District 27, Portland — Paula Craighead (D)
District 29, Westbrook — Donald Eady (D)
District 31, Scarborough — Joan Pendexter (R)
District 34, West Buxton —
Gregory Drew (D)
District 35, York, Kittery — Mark Lawrence (D)

District 22, Gorham — Audrey Gerry (D)
District 25, Cape Elizabeth Anne Schink (D)
District 26, South Portland —
Peter Cootier (D)
District 27, South Portland Birger Johnson (D)
District 28, Westbrook — William O'Gara (D)
District 34, Portland — Annette Hoglund (D)
District 36, Portland — Elizabeth Townsend (D)
District 37, Portland — Michael Brennan (D)
District 39, Windham —
Carol Kenteros (D)
District 44, Yarmouth —
Douglas Carr (D)
District 51, South Harpswell —
David Emser (D)
District 53, Bowdoinham —
David Shiah (D)
District 54, Bath — Arthur Mayo, III (R)
District 55, Bath — Maria Holt (D)
District 56, New Harbor —
Lauri Gilbert (D)
District 60, Washington —
James Bowers (D)
District 61, St. George —

James Skoglund (D)
District 62, Rockland —
Paul Chartrand (D)
District 64, Norway —
Walter Bennet (D)
District 66, North Anson —
Mesa McGlocklin (D)
District 72, Auburn — Constance Cote (D)
District 74, Auburn — Susan Dore (R)
District 77, Dryden — Conrad Heeschen (D)
District 79, Wayne — Wendy Ault (R)
District 80, Manchester — Elaine Fuller (D)
District 82, Farmingdale —
Elizabeth Watson (D)
District 83, Monmouth — Bonnie Green (D)
District 85, Durham — Michael Fitzpatrick (D)
District 88, Lewiston — Patricia Lemaire (D)

District 90, Lewiston — Gerard Bouffard (D) — a "must win"
District 91, Gardiner — Sharon Treat (D)
District 92, Hallowell — Jill Duon (D)
District 94, Augusta — "Libby" Mitchell (D)
District 95, Augusta — Patrick Paradis (D)
District 96, Augusta — Beverly Daggett (D)
District 97, Athens — Dorothy Rotond (D)
District 98, Skowhegan — Pamela

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Citizens for Sensible Emissions Law denounces Cosby’s efforts to hijack their group

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"As you might reason why Citizens for Sensible Emissions Laws (CSERL) has great concern about joining this organization (Maine Citizens Review Board — MCRB), We do not want to be included in his efforts here to push her agenda. She is obviously more concerned with furthering her agenda than with the Maine Citizens Review Board's agenda," said Howard Allison, spokesperson for CSERL.

Allison was speaking in response to charges against Secretary of State, William Diamond, made by Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families (CMF), the anti-gay rights group. A hastily called press conference was convened by MCRB outside the Secretary's office in Augusta, September 13, 1994. MCRB is a coalition of political action groups who, on the surface, have one thing in common — the gathering of signatures on petitions for the purpose of forcing state-wide referenda.

A representative spoke from each group, these included: Concerned Maine Families, Congressional Term Limits Coalition, Maine Libertarian Party, Maine Taxpayers Action Network, Maine Families and Pro Int'l Education Association. When it was Cosby's turn she asked the press if a written statement would suffice. The three press people present answered affirmatively. She read it aloud anyway — with gusto.

A series of accusations, questions and declarations included the claim that since "petitions are legal ballots of a certain type," public observance of the qualification process should be allowed. Cosby is referring to the fact that observers are required to be present when votes are counted. Cosby claims that Diamond's refusal to let her watch "continues to raise questions of justifiable suspicion."

Cosby's charges got nasty when she stated that Diamond is tainted with scandal — in three ways. The first is his "public position as an outspoken advocate for so-called gay rights." The second is that Diamond was Secretary of State when "ballot-gate" went down, (the ballot-tampering scandal involving Speaker Martin's underlings) and the third is that Diamond oversaw an election in which he was a candidate (District 1 primary — Congress).

Cosby tied these three allegations together, her speculations became fact, and she further slandered Diamond by charging, "Because you are so seriously burdened with election related improprieties, or near-improprieties, it seems inconceivable that you would choose to delay your qualification of Concerned Maine Families' signatures to a time as late as February of 1995, when all processing of signatures is customarily completed in this state within more than thirty days from the date of submission of the signatures."

Chip Gavin, a research associate in the Secretary of State's Office stated flatly that there is no such "custom." He said that the Secretary's office may have qualified some petitions within a certain period of time but there has never been a "well-established 25 to 30 day qualification process," as Cosby claims.

Gavin added, in response to the allegation that Diamond is biased against Cosby, that Secretary Diamond has appeared in court on Cosby's behalf. Gavin would not elaborate on the circumstances of the court appearance.

Allison voices concerns about Cosby's tactics

In a private interview outside the state office building, Allison was vehement in her denunciation of Cosby's attempt to coerce her group, Citizens for Sensible Emissions Laws (CSERL), into joining that coalition (MCRB). He said, "I am against anyone who uses tactics as Mrs. Cosby used and that was, not even having in writing that a certain group was endorsing her group, and then putting out a press release that we were part of this coalition without our permission. She was totally out of line to do this. We weren't even given a copy of the press release. I have a problem with her behavior. It's not good business. It's not the way things should be done."

Allison confirmed that the notorious, homophobic bigot Paul Madore is a part of CSE. He further acknowledged that Madore is a member of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) but insisted that there is absolutely no connection between CSE and CMF. Allison seemed determined to distance himself from CMF. He said, "Just because you support two or three petition drives doesn't mean you agree with them all."

Cosby dominates press conference — says she will accept "a loss"

Back inside Cosby ran roughshod over the other coalition members and continued ranting against Secretary Diamond. She claimed, "The real issue here is that we are going endlessly, endlessly, endlessly through judicial review, processed by Secretary of State for the purpose of frustrating the will of the people."

Cosby declared, "All of us (members of MCRB) are willing to take our issue to the people and to lose if necessary. If I can't make a convincing, persuasive argument and I lose my issue, if it's a fair game, I'll take a loss — but I'm not willing to be silenced."

Cosby then marched down to the Secretary of State's office and ceremoniously presented her letter denouncing Diamond to one of the Secretary's staff people. She said, "I need it stamped 'received.'"

CPR questions Cosby

CPR took advantage of this rare opportunity to speak directly to the nemesis of the lesbi-gay community, "Carolyn, can I ask you a couple of questions?" I inquired. "No, the press conference is over... What is on your mind?" Apparently our mutual curiosity got the better of our natural aversion.

CPR: Were you originally told that you were going to have the signatures back by a certain date and then there was a change?

CC: (Carolyn Cosby) No, but it's always customary that [signatures are back] within 30 days or 25, actually. We thought we would be grandfathered because we fell in before the new law was passed. But, it's always been done that way.

CPR: Essentialy, one of the main points you made out there was that the Secretary of State's personal opposition to your petition explains his delaying tactics.

CC: Right. I don't know whether it is or not, but certainly, his office should remove all suspicions of such. We don't know that he's an open advocate of gay rights and we know that this is a petition that opposes the inclusion of special, homosexuality rights within the Maine Human Rights Act. He should make a special effort to make sure that it is very clear... he should be bending over backwards to make it very obvious, that he will not be a partisan in this particular case because of his own personal opinions. Instead, we find the opposite happening.

CPR: Would you say he's shown that same partisanship with some of these other groups?

CC: Obviously so. That's why there's a unity among these groups that have decided to join the Maine Citizens Review Board. Clearly, we're not being singled out in the sense that there is one issue that he obviously objects to. Clearly, Congressional term limits is a

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What's Wrong With CMF's Hate Campaign Against Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People?

Researchers and written by D.O. Cook

We thank Concerned Maine Families (CMF) for the format of this article. Some time ago, CMF released a pamphlet that purported to debunk some “myths spread by ‘gay activists’”. We have adopted the same format to debunk a few of CMF’s own myths; we hope they’ll remember that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

MYTH 1: The U.S. Supreme Court does not recognize homosexuals as a true minority group.

FACTS: It depends on which judge you talk to. In the 5 to 4 Hardwick decision, Justice Harry Blackmun wrote the dissenting opinion in reference to the Georgia lower court’s decision to prosecute two men for homosexual sodomy. “That certain, but by no means all religious groups, condemn the behavior at issue gives the state no license to impose their judgments on the entire citizenry.” And Thomas Clark, author of “Secularism and Sexuality: The Case for Gay Equality,” makes the case that, since there is no secular basis upon which to demonstrate harm from gay behavior, any argument which purports to do so must be religious in nature. Therefore, Justice Blackmun’s opinion and the Court’s decision to uphold Bower vs. Hardwick violates the principle of separation of church and state. [Source: The Humanist, May/June 1994]

MYTH 2: Homosexuals are economically, educationally, and culturally well-off.

FACTS: Can you call people “well-off” who are the focus of an unrelenting campaign of hate from the radical right? Gay people suffer from the results of homophobia and the institutionalized discrimination it causes, including isolation, ostracism, rejection by their families, and negative stereotyping. In addition, they do not enjoy benefits which married heterosexuals take for granted — like joint health insurance, child-rearing and inheritance rights. Furthermore, they are limited to jobs where their lifestyle cannot be used against them (Many gay people who would like to teach do not do so because of fear of false accusations of child molesting.) And, even then, there are plenty of documented cases of gays losing their jobs or their housing, once their sexual orientation becomes known. [See, for example, Newsweek, 9/14/92, 2/14/94]

CMF’s use of “recent marketing studies” to claim that gays have an average household income in excess of $55,000 is dubious. First of all, it assumes a uniform distribution of income throughout the gay community, when, in fact, income level is quite varied. Lesbians, for example, have average incomes significantly lower than gay men. Naturally, CMF doesn’t list their source for their inflated income statistic, but, it most likely comes from the demographic put out to sell advertising to companies who want to attract gay customers. Using these numbers to infer the household income of all gay people in Maine would be like using the guest list at a $1000-a-plate Republican fund-raiser in Connecticut to determine the household income of all farmers in Iowa.

But the entire issue of gays being well-off is just another excuse for gay-baiting — and a particularly disturbing one at that as it brings to mind the scapegoating of Jews by the Nazis in World War II Germany.

MYTH 3: Homosexuality is a “learned deviation” and can be cured.

FACTS: There is widespread agreement that sexual orientation is largely set by the age of 5 and that sexuality cannot be changed or “cured” later on. [Source: “Straight Talk About Homosexuality,” Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County, NY]

And, according to a 1992 Summary of Empirical Research Findings on Homosexuality by the Oregon Psychological Association, “homosexuality is neither a mental nor a psychiatric disorder.” Furthermore, in 1973, the American Psychiatric Association stated that homosexuality implies “no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational abilities” and has not changed its opinion on this. Psychologists generally agree that people who accept and integrate their sexual orientation (i.e. accept and behave consistently with their inner feelings) are psychologically better off adjusted than those who do not. Thus homosexuality oriented people can refrain from disclosing their sexual orientation to others, but only at a substantial cost to their personal well-being. [Source: same as above]

MYTH 4: Homosexual behavior is not just like heterosexual behavior, so gays shouldn’t have the same rights as heterosexuals.

FACTS: No, homosexual behavior isn’t “just like” heterosexual behavior. But, since when is a group’s sexual behavior used as a basis to withhold their civil rights? If it were, heterosexuals would be in big trouble! The practices attributed to homosexuals by CMF are victimless and performed between consenting adults. On the other hand, heterosexuals commit the vast majority of violent crimes, rapes, and all other sex crimes, including child molestations. Yet, no one is making a case to deny their civil rights.

MYTH 5: “Homosexual extremists” want special legislation against people who criticize them.

FACTS: Apparently, anyone who doesn’t want to be stomped on by the radical right is an “extremist.” Gay, lesbian, and bisexual people do not want special rights; they simply want what everyone else takes for granted: fairness in hiring and housing and safety in their homes and persons from attack by others.

MYTH 6: Insurance and tax rates will soar if gays get the medical benefits of protected class status.

FACTS: CMF seems to think that gay behavior in general and AIDS in particular is the biggest cause of medical expense in the state. But, at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Maine, AIDS does not even make the list of the top 20 medical diagnostic categories in terms of per-
You Be the Judge!

You will be about macho male behavior directed at girls. Girls will tell you about date rape, about being molested by men or adolescent boys related to them, or close to them and about the domestic violence they have experienced in their homes, or social circles."

[Source: Address before Maine State Judiciary Committee on 3/24/93 by Ms. Lucky Hollander, Executive Director, Cumberland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council] (Editor's Note: Lucky Hollander previously told CPR that she shared these facts with CMF, but that they decided to ignore them.)

MYTH 8: Civil rights for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people will cost Maine taxpayers big bucks.

FACTS:
Gay civil rights don't cost the taxpayer money, but homophobia does. Quite apart from the loss in terms of human dignity, there are real, tangible dollar costs associated with hate, especially the kind perpetrated in the CMF brochure. Every gay-bashing wastes thousands of dollars in police field and administrative time, and often in ambulance services and hospital and physician services as well. Some (in many cases all) of these costs are born by the taxpayer.

Then there is the mounting cost of mental health services provided to human beings who have developed emotional problems that result from being steeped in a society that rejects them because of who they are. These people have been subjected to rejection by their families and peers, fired from jobs, evicted from their homes, or beaten up on the streets.

Last there is the intangible cost in terms of the loss to society of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people who do not represent gay normalcy anymore than adult men who have sex with girls represent straight normalcy.

A child is more than 100 times as likely to be sexually abused by the heterosexual partner of a relative than adult men who have sex with little girls is "straight." At this level of disturbed behavior, conventional labels of sexual orientation are meaningless.

Adult men who have sex with boys do not represent gay normalcy anymore than adult men who have sex with girls represent straight normalcy.

If we are wanting to protect our children, we are looking at the wrong group — just gather a random group of teens together and discuss sexual harassment and the stories they will tell you about macho male behavior directed at girls. Girls will tell you about date rape, about being molested by men or adolescent boys related to them, or close to them and about the domestic violence they have experienced in their homes, or social circles."

If you are wasting our money on legalizing the rights of those who commit these crimes against children, the taxpayers, big bucks.

In These Times: Living with Homophobia

David Smith

Why keep gay men and lesbians invisible? What does non-gay society gain by pretending that we don't exist and/or are sick? Why do they accuse us of being "In their face" with our sexuality? What is the social purpose of homophobia? Let's look at these issues and gain a greater understanding of our opponents while we forge the best possible strategy to gain our civil, emotional and human rights.

Since the whole question of human sexuality in our culture is based on the sexism of the patriarchy - Man owns woman, men and women own children — by acknowledging the existence of homosexuality, society threatens a basic, often unchallenged core belief. That core belief is that the purpose of sexuality is procreation. By demanding our rights, lesbians and gay men point out the flaws in the kinship patterns of patriarchal societies.

See Homophobia, page 11

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CANDIDATES, from page 1

bill. I think that Angus is trying to play all sides of the issue. In fact, I know he is.

Secondly, Angus left his own party in order to run for office, and I'm convinced he did that because he knows Joe Brennan would beat him in a primary. But Angus doesn't have to contend with an element of a party that disagrees with his views. I'm a Republican and I'm proud to be a Republican, but there is a fairly strong element in my party who do not share my views on anti-discrimination laws whereas Angus is a man without a party at the moment, so he's not seen as moving away from his party on this issue.

I commented that Governor Weld (R) of Massachusetts has staked out a fairly strong element in my party who disagrees with him on all sides of the issue.

Do you see yourself as a Weld Republican, particularly liberal and fiscally conservative, on the issue of a gay rights bill, I asked. Collins explained, "I am opposed to affirmative action, period. It's for people of different races, religions or sexual orientation. When I talk to people about the gay rights bill, frequently I find they think it means affirmative action or some sort of special privileges, when in fact it's saying it's wrong to discriminate. One of my disappointments with the Maine press is that they have not helped to educate people about what's really in that bill. I would sign a bill that banned discrimination in employment, public accommodation, housing and credit. I think those are basic civil rights.

In reference to Concerned Maine Families, Collins said, "I oppose and have taken a public position against the referendum and I did it very early on. I'm very concerned that there is so much misunderstanding. That referendum is so broad, it not only would preempt local control and Portland's ordinance, but it would also jeopardize the Hate Crimes Law.

"I don't want to see Maine have the kind of bitter, divisive intolerance campaign that Colorado had, and I am very concerned that's what we may be heading for. If we had a vote in the 1960's for civil rights for Blacks in Mississippi, I doubt very much we would have had affirmative vote, and yet it was extremely important to have that Civil Rights Act. I think it is up to people who want to be in positions of public leadership in the state to help educate the public and to speak out against intolerance and fear and bigotry and that's what I've done. It's the right thing to do, and I'm going to continue to do it, but I've clearly paid a political price for doing it.

What you just said about Mississippi brings up the whole question of voting on the civil rights of minority groups, I interjected. Would you say that because of civil rights belongs to the courts?

"People have the right to take issues to referendum. What I'm pointing out is that public officials have a special duty when dealing with civil rights to take a stand," Collins said, "I do not support the state legalizing same sex marriages. I think the state ought to be focused on preventing discrimination. I think that society is not ready for same sex marriages. I just don't see the state playing a role in that, and I think the question of domestic partnership benefits should be up to the individual employers."

On the question of AIDS funding, Collins said, "I'll say what I've said to every group. I can't promise additional resources in any area because we clearly have a structural deficit in our budget and revenues are very tight, but I was on the first inter-departmental AIDS commission. I was part of the group in state government that worked on that early on. I know that AIDS is a tremendous problem. I've been looking at the report that assesses needs that the new AIDS Community Partnership put together. I'll be looking at this report for guidance.

On the question of gays and lesbians having custody of their own children Collins said, "My view is that those decisions need to be made the way they are now in Maine, with the focus on the best interests of the children. I think the current system works well and I wouldn't want to change it. It is focused on the child and that's where it should be. The sexual orientation of the parent is irrelevant.

As far as adoption is concerned, Collins said that sexual orientation is currently not a bar to adoption in Maine and she knows someone who is a lesbian who has adopted. However, she opposed the idea of the state encouraging, through legislation, adoption by gays and lesbians. She said, "I'm not an advocate of gay couples adopting children."

Collins pointed to the openly gay members of her campaign staff to answ er the question of appointment to state jobs. She considers sexual orientation irrelevant and would hire "the best person for the job."

She is, "opposed to the distribution of condoms in high schools and prisons. I think there is an availability problem with high school kids and I don't see it as an appropriate role for schools."

I pointed out that availability is the problem in prison. Collins said, "I don't see it as necessary for me to be promoting sexual activity in prison. But, "as AIDS prevention," I countered. She replied, "I know it's an issue but I just can't support it."

On the issue of gay youth Collins said, "This is an area that I don't know a lot about. I know that Governor Weld has had a task force looking into this so I would talk to him about their findings. I think teenage suicide in general is a problem so I would look at it as a broader issue."

Collins concluded by saying, "I hope that gay men and lesbians will take a hard look at my campaign. We obviously aren't going to agree on every issue and my primary focus as governor is going to be to try to improve the economy, but of all the candidates, it was most difficult for me, from a political standpoint, to know what I believe in a courageous and principled decision. I hope people will respect me for having taken that position and that they'll give me their votes in November."

Angus King submitted his answers by fax. They are as follows:

"As Governor, I will be committed to the preservation of human rights for all of Maine's citizens. I find discrimination abhorrent, and counter to the interests of Maine and our citizenry. Therefore, I believe it to be the duty of the State to provide a policy whereby all Maine citizens are guaranteed equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination.

As Governor I have signed L.D. #326, An Act to Prevent Discrimination. It is already the policy of the State to protect our citizens from discrimination based on race, color, sex, ancestry or national origin and age. Likewise, it should be the policy of the State to prevent discrimination based upon sexual orientation. The issue here is not about granting special rights to a particular group. The issue is equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination for all of Maine's citizens in these fundamental areas. It is time for Maine to end discrimination in all forms, and move beyond this issue.

"I am opposed to the Concerned Maine Families referendum question and will vigorously oppose it. Not only would it legitimate discrimination, it would actually make the efforts of a local community to end discrimination illegal."

"I am not prepared to support same sex marriage rights at this time and do not believe domestic partnership benefits should be resolved between employers and employees as a matter of contract and benefit negotiation."

See CANDIDATES, page 20

"I Will Survive," she said, squirming closer and closer to the incredible sound floating down the wharf.
threat to the government power struc­
ture as well. Anything that government
says, 'this is what we want to do today
and the people come along with an ini­
tiative and it seems to be getting in the way . . . well, they move against it. What we're saying very simply is that the peti­tion process was meant for the people, not for the government to administrate, to say, 'get out of the way. We don't like the issue.' The people have a right to pursue their own redress of griev­
ances.

CPR: Would you care to comment on the apparent disagreement with the Auto Emissions group?

CC: We don't have any disagree­ment with them. It was a misunderstanding. The invitation to join the Maine Citizens Review Board is open. If they don't want to join—fine—don't join.

CPR: Are you willing to debate members of Equal Protection Maine (EPM) on television?

CC: Of course.

CPR: What is your reaction to the way the mainstream press has handled news about your petition drive and refer­endum?

CC: We don't expect to find that the press would necessarily be favorable. They've come out and made their posi­
tions clear. Colorado faced a very simi­lar environment and now I understand that in spite of everything that's been done there, 60% of the people would still vote to uphold Amendment 2. This is an issue where the people are speak­ing, and I hope that when you have two opposing forces in the political arena, when you come to some conclusion in the battle, there has to be some reso­
lution among those people who disagree, and I hope that the battle and the cam­
paign for each position would not be­come so antagonistic that when it's over there cannot be resolution.

CPR: What will you do if the vote goes against you?

CC: My answer to you is that I don't think it's going to. I have to tell you that I think we are going to be suc­
cessful in the campaign, but I hope we also can go on to be successful in a re­construc­tion period, because this is such an area of mixed emotions, those who are on the extreme ends—I hope there can be a reconstruction period where we can come together and recognize that I don't hate you folks—you know that I don't.

CPR: Would you accept a nega­tive vote as the final word on your ef­
forts?

CC: Ummm . . . Again, I don't think there is going to be a negative vote. I think that I'm making plans at this point to try to figure out how there can be some reconstruc­tion for those people who dis­agree with the general will of the public . . . the real point of this . . . you could go on to the courts as well, you know you folks want many more rights than you're asking for . . . there simply is not recognition in the courts for homosexuality as a special civil rights classifica­tion . . it's not there . . you know it and I know it. So, what it has to be that the homosexual is looking for is accep­
tance, that was made clear by Peter O'Donnell in his article in the Maine Sunday Times (August 28, 1994). I think that the people are ready to give him that and you are better off to follow what Jonathan Rausch is saying to you people and stop seeking the special pro­tected class status—look for another way to get along in society.

CPR: Speaking of the word, "spe­
cial." You realize how controversial use of that word is. The phrase "special rights" is a sound bite which is part of the anti-gay propaganda.

CC: Well, you could say "special status." The legal term is "special pro­
tected class status." You can't have "spe­
cial protected class status" without seek­ing "special rights." Status won't get you anything, you've got to get "special rights." So you can easily make the po­
litical jump that those are "special rights" because it's recognized by the courts that civil rights that confer minority status are "special rights."" CPR: The goal is equal status.

CC: You're saying that the gay rights law would only give equalness but actually it would give specialness because of the special result of affirmative action, minority contracts, special rights, job quotas — those are all special rights. Now, we realize job quotas are not law­ful any longer, but they're being done in a de facto manner. We know how that's being done.

CPR: But none of those provisions are in the gay rights laws.

CC: Then I would come back to you and say . . . what do the homosexu­als really want?

CPR: People do not want to be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation in housing, credit, employment and public access.

CC: How can your lobby make that claim when the governor (McKernan) offered them that narrow protection at the end of the last legisla­
tive session and they said "no?" They wouldn't take it. They said they wanted the special rights of special classifica­tion . . . that's far, far broader.

CPR: What about the issue of lo­cal control?

CC: How can you legitimately be out pursuing a national gay rights bill and then scream about local control. You can't have it both ways. That's as dis­honest as it can be.

CPR: That works both ways—if you support local control . .

CC: No it didn't work both ways because every issue shouldn't be decided at the local level. I don't support for­
eign policy decisions being made at the local level either. An issue as grave and as serious as civil rights should at the very least be decided at the state level. Even our Maine Human Rights Act rec­
ognizes that we should follow federal court case law. Because the whole pur­pose of the 1964 Civil Rights Act was to establish universally fair treatment throughout the country so there wouldn't be pockets where Black people could be harmed and other pockets where they could dominate—this is the whole pur­pose of universal treatment. I never said that I was in favor of local control to the extent that I wanted our federal govern­ment eliminated.

CPR: You raise the issue of the courts repeatedly. The Supreme Court case in question is the Hardwick deci­sion which was 5 to 4. Court decisions are not written in stone, they can change with a couple of strategic appointments.

CC: Go to Colorado . . . Yes, they can change but admit the fact that it isn't just a couple of votes, admit the fact that you're re-writing civil rights law be­cause you're now admitting groups un­der a whole new definition. Now you're saying we'll recognize groups based on what they think or their commonality of behavior.
EDITORIAL Endorsements for the '94 election

Third party candidates and Independents are often ignored or dismissed as people who simply can't win. The prevailing wisdom suggests that if they're not elected, they cannot govern because the entrenched parties in the legislature will not cooperate with them.

We dismiss these self-fulfilling prophecies of doom. Fortunately, Maine has a tradition of supporting Independents as does most of New England. Connecticut has Lowell Weicker, a liberal Republican turned Independent, as its governor. And Vermont has Bernie Sanders, a Socialist turned Independent, as its lone Congressperson.

We encourage people who believe in justice, honesty and integrity to add Jonathan Carter's name to the distinguished list of successful Independent candidates. There is absolutely no question that Carter is the best candidate for Governor among the current crop of four. We endorse him without reservation.

Carter has the most passion for the job. He has the boldest ideas, and the most comprehensive plans to improve the quality of life in Maine. His ineffectiveness in government is a plus to be cherished by those of us who are sick of the old elite political class.

Brennan is the ghost of Christmas past, a phantom candidate who refuses to talk to the gay community because he takes gay votes for granted. He doesn't want to hurt his lead in the polls by soliciting himself with the stain of contact with homosexuals.

We're told to be quiet and help elect Brennan and then he'll be there for us. The hypocrisy of his closet candidacy is unacceptable. He should be rejected by the voters.

Collins' Diines and Angus King are respectable people. Collins particularly has shown great courage in bucking the tide of a Republican Party gone mad with anti-gay hysteria. We simply cannot endorse either one of them because their support for gay-related issues is passive. They would merely sign an anti-discrimination bill. That is far cry from leadership.

Carter is our choice - no question!

The vote you cast in the contest to replace George Mitchell in the US Senate is the most important vote you have on November 8th. Tom Andrews is the clear choice for Maine voters who care about equal rights, jobs and a rational nation government. The possibility, however remote, of the Republican party gaining control of the US Senate should make every decent citizen fearful. The neanderthal thugs, (Helms, Thurmond, D'Amaro) who dominate the Republican party, gaining control of the US Senate should make every decent citizen fearful. The neanderthal thugs, (Helms, Thurmond, D'Amaro) who dominate the Republican party, gaining control of the US Senate should make every decent citizen fearful. The neanderthal thugs, (Helms, Thurmond, D'Amaro) who dominate the Republican party, gaining control of the US Senate should make every decent citizen fearful.

We urge your support for Bernarde in her State Senate race and for Bishop in his battle with Susan Madore for the Maine House.

We in the sexual minority community need a Governor who not only honors our dignity and rights, but one who may even cause it. She's already shown her disregard for Maine and her contempt for the nation when she voted for Newt Gingrich to a leadership post in the House. Gingrich's opposition to the President in the Congress borders on treason.

In the race for the House seat being vacated by Tom Andrews, we endorse Dennis (Duke) Dutremble over James Longley. Longley was kind and thoughtful in his reply to our questionnaire, but Dutremble's support for issues of importance to gays and lesbians is deeper and broader.

Although we didn't hear from either candidate in District 2, we support John Baldacci over Richard Bennett because we know that Baldacci supports an anti-discrimination bill in Maine and Bennett does not.

Our hopes are also with the people of Lewiston. Residents there face the prospect of a husband-wife tandem team of bigotry. Paul Madore and his wife, Susan, are running against Georgette Berube and Gerard Bouffard respectively. We urge your support for Berube in her State Senate race and for Bouffard in his battle with Susan Madore for the Maine House.

In Solidarity, Winnie Weir

Bruce Balboni Publishing Editor Managing Editor

CPR MAIL BAG

To the Editor:

The lead story in September's CPR, Carolyn Cosby's attempt to further the idea that diversity is something to be afraid of and that promoting violence is okay as long as you don't hate anyone, sound alarmingly similar to the Walworth and Gabriel article on transsexual protest.

We are a nation of diversity. Those of us who are described as a 'minority' are frequently also described as not worth knowing, working with, living next to, dating, or attending a music festival. I see little difference between Carolyn Cosby promoting hate and violence through discrimination and the exclusionary policy supported by the owners of the Michigan Music Festival, Lisa Vogel and Barbara Price.

Our energies need to be in collaboration, in strengthening ourselves through acknowledgment that we are all entitled to equal protection, equal respect and equal opportunities. Creating reasons to further discriminate only serves to encourage the very same discrimination we all pledge to stop.

Rita LaBarbera, Portland

To the Editor:

As a civil rights activist and member of the Maine Gay Men's Chorus, I am writing to urge all readers to vote for the openly pro-gay and lesbian candidate for Governor.

I am talking about a candidate who had the courage to walk in the Bangor Gay Pride March in June. He is a candidate who was not afraid to go to the Church Room with me, despite a long day of statewide campaigning, and talk with all gathered there one evening earlier in September.

This candidate is Jonathan Carter.

Jonathan Carter is the only candidate to publish a current position on gay and lesbian issues. He is not only in favor of and would sponsor the Blaine House, the amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation as a protected class, but goes far beyond any other candidate.

Jonathan would push to:

• legalize same-gender marriages in Maine;
• legalize gay and lesbian adoption rights;
• legalize gay and lesbian domestic partnership job benefits through insurance, family leave, and so forth;
• legalize gay and lesbian banking and property rights, such as inheritance of a house.

We in the sexual minority community need a Governor who not only honors our dignity and rights, but one who pro-actively nurtures us. When I heard Jonathan speak at the monthly NAACP meeting on September 20th in Portland, he said that we must have a government, that is a model of the diverse society we truly are.

This translates into jobs for gays and lesbians, African-Americans, Native Americans, people with disabilities and women in a Carter government.

He added that his campaign is a model of the diversity he seeks to honor Maine's next governor. For example, women are his press spokesperson, his Congressional District 2 manager, his treasurer and scheduler.

I cannot wait for crumbs handed out from the other candidates, where human rights clearly recedes from being emphasized. Not do I understand the idea that a vote for Brennan out of fear of Collins or King is the most prudent voting decision.

Civil rights advances by voting your heart not your fears. Vote Carter for Governor.

Ivan Suzman, Portland

To the Editor:

I am writing to give our wonderful communities some food for thought. As we all know there is a large movement led by another comedian named Cosby, who, in her self-conceived infinite wis...
HOMOPHOBIA, from page 7

By granting human rights to us, the larger society has to discard or change some of its beliefs. That’s why they want to keep us invisible. If they pretend we don’t exist or that we are just sick, they don’t have to look at themselves. That’s also why they feel we are in their face. In reality, we ask them to look in the mirror and see who they are.

For gay men and lesbians, the larger homophobic heterosexist society is in our face. I’m so tired of the messages of the media that show heterosexual love and sex as the only way to be. I don’t want to have that shoved in my face every day, everywhere. Why are so many things in society only oriented to the man and woman concept? Why not relate to man and man or woman and woman? Did you ever see those boxed wedding bands in jewelry stores? They have one large and one small ring. How about having boxes with two large or two small rings? But perhaps we shouldn’t, as gay people, want to copy heterosexual traditions like wedding rings.

The current arguments by the radical right accuse us of wanting special rights or sanctioning homosexual sexual behavior. Let’s look closely at the fallacies in these arguments. First, civil and human rights laws for gay men and lesbians are not special rights, just an addition to the rights of all Americans. If there hadn’t been such hatred and violence directed at us we would not need the laws. The purpose of law is to correct the discriminating behavior. That leads us to the next falacy which is that laws protecting gay men and lesbians sanction homosexual sexual behavior. The only behavior that these laws concern with is the discriminatory and hateful behavior of bigots.

The current homophobia denies us some very basic things such as:

- the right to know about our history
- the right to freely love whomsoever we want
- the right to housing
- the right to a job of our choice
- the right to express our emotions openly
- the right to raise our children
- the right to live free of fear and violence

How and why are these simple rights so threatening to so many people in our society? I would suggest that in affirming our sexuality many of us are responding to a knowledge and truth that exists within our core of being. We are responsible to ourselves and not an arbitrary definition of morality. If we are allowed to do this, it would make sense that all people would be allowed and encouraged to listen to their inner voices. Women would reject being owned by the their choices and oppressed by men. Something equally want the love and nurturing they know they need. Men would freely express their emotions. How radical!

The gay rights movement to end homophobia is a human movement. It serves all people. We are in the vanguard of social change and, as Judy Gran notes, have social purpose. She says, "If the world is divided, and there is economic and social unhappiness, this is even more critical. We are the vanguard of social change and we have to be the vanguard of social change."

"We hold leadership positions - unofficially, even wildly - whether we're aware of doing this or not. This happens to the extent that a gay person speaks from his or her inner being of knowing, as the dykes and faggots at the core of our culture usually do. They know that to lead means to locate your own pole - your faggot's or witch's wand - and stick it in the ground. See what kinds of fires are kindled around it, in the minds of men and women."

It's a big job for all of us - fighting homophobia. But who better than us to lead the way? AA

MAIL BAG, from page 10

don would like to crush the rights of Americans to choose their own way of life. Now, I don't pretend to know why our community is so hateful to so many, but of course there are many schools of thought on the reasons behind the hatred.

I applaud the efforts of all who are attempting to fend off the unconstitutional enslavement of the rights of all Americans, not just the gay/lesbian & transgendered community. I would, however, like to encourage all involved to ponder this: Is our fight to become too personal? Have we, you & I, become so engulfed in our fight that we have forgotten basic mathematics: that every problem has a solution, only the situation is complicated. Let's look closely at the solutions to our differences with our opposition by returning to the basic roots of the equation?

Simple fear... is a reaction to the unknown and it can breed an action of fear. Can there be a solution? Yes, I believe that there is. In the hearts of all there is a soft spot that when touched can change the spirit of all and the way that all is perceived. Our politicians are afraid of not having to look at themselves. That’s all that they themselves to be bullied by those who themselves are afraid. We need to return to basics.

One - in any fight it is always better to be on the offense than the defense. Two - every problem has a simple solution, only the situation is complicated. Three - in order to control the world and its fear we must look on our companionship to govern how we understand our opposition and to determine what urges them to be aggressive. I propose that a think bank be created by our communities which would consist of members of Cosby's side of the argument and our own side, and that it be moderated by a middle person or a person who both sides can mutually agree on, and that we not seek an all out referendum in our community but take whatever we lead us to the next and remember that you build one brick at a time. And this concession on our part can become the first brick. We must move in a manner that does not threaten those who are already afraid. It only provokes more fear. We cannot leave this up to the politicians because they are the ones who are more afraid than anyone and they just cannot help...

Laurie S. Dell, Brunswick

On Dykes and Fashion
by Dot McManus, Contributor

It's the winter of 1972 and I'm standing on Newbury Street in Boston. I see two beautiful women in full-length fur coats emerge from a tiny jewelry shop and come towards me down the sidewalk. They've linked arms and they're laughing, and almost in front of me they stop and exchange a soul kiss. Wow. I thought. Wow. I didn't think it was possible to be queer and glamorous at the same time.

Ten years later, in the depths of central Maine, my girlfriend and I are preparing to go out dancing in one of the area's only gay bars. Operating on the theory that getting there is half the fun, we've spent the evening sipping wine, trying on clothes and making up each other's faces. With her long legs and long blonde hair, she's stunning in a leopard-skin cat suit of two beautiful women in full-length fur coats. With her long legs and long blonde hair, she's stunning in a leopard-skin cat suit. She says, "In here. This is a LESBIAN bar." We pushed by them as I remarked, "Is there a secret handshake?" It was beginning to dawn on me that if clothes make the man, I'd better play along or be viewed with suspicion by the Fashion Police.

Comedienne Sandra Bernhard got into deep doo-doo with the Lesbian National Network for her well-publicized remark, "Why is it so hard for lesbians to achieve a fashion moment?" I loved it. Why indeed?

And here we're not talking femmy fashions either — a butch in a suit can set my heart a-fluttering as well. To me, butch and femme have meant no more than what I choose to wear that day. My apologies to anyone who may feel differently, but my experience has shown me that one's attire is little more than a costume. Some of the butchiest-looking women I know have proven to be "butch in the streets, femme in the sheets."

Lots of our more crunchy sisters eschew make-up as being very incorrect. Dressing as a woman invites unwanted male attention. How about you trying to capture my attention? The idea of a woman dressing to attract me is subtly erotic, as many of you know who secretly wear those Vic's Secret satin things under all that denim and leather.

People like to comment on the clone look as if it was some cultural phenomena among homosexuals. The truth is much less interesting, as anyone who's ever been in a relationship knows. It's a rainy Sunday and you're out shopping. That striped rug that looked so boyish and cute for her at the Bean outlet looks equally good on you. Lucky they have it in your size, too. Resist the temptation to wear them on the same day!

I know that out in our community are scores of closet clothes-horses, longing to be set free. Pretend that you live in Montreal or New York or anywhere where women dress fearlessly. Dazzle me.

Community Pride Reporter
142 High Street, Suite #324
Portland, ME 04101
Phone 207/879-1342

Our Mission
Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinion by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and southeast New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of influencing the word community with renewed meeting and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute to positive ways in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Our Editorial Policy
Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors only. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at its discretion.

Submissions Welcome
CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher agrees to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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I know that out in our community are scores of closet clothes-horses, longing to be set free. Pretend that you live in Montreal or New York or anywhere where women dress fearlessly. Dazzle me.
Local jazz historian Val Mollineaux presents "Beyond Category," on the life of Duke Ellington with slides and selected rare recordings. Tickets $6. FMI, 401-OSW 775-5103. 

7:00 PM - Maine Won’t Discriminate/Ellsworth Chapter meets at the Unitarian/Universalist Church on the Bucksport Road, Ellsworth. FMI call Peter Rees, 667-2358.

Sunday, October 17th: 

6:30-8:30 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Symposium XXI Planning Meeting #8 at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 598 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI details call 498-2088.

7:00 PM - Maine Won’t Discriminate/Portland Chapter (formerly Equal Protection Maine/Portland Chapter) meets at St. Luke’s Episcopal Cathedral, 141 State St. Portland (across from Mercy Hospital), Parking available in lot on Park St. (behind the church).

7:00 PM - Sea-coast Gay Men meet at the big complex in Salem, NH. FMI, Al Santerre, (603) 898-1115.

11:00 AM - Saturday morning children’s theater. Krackerjack Theater Company presents “Fisherwoman’s Wife” at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Tickets $5 general admission. FMI, 775-5103.

1:00-4:00 PM - Self Esteem Workshop. Safe Space Women’s Center, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Learn to celebrate yourself! We will explore techniques to recognize self-degrading behaviors. This is a circle with no judgments or expectations — just be yourself. Fee: $30 ($25 members). FMI, 775-5103.

Friday, October 21st: 

7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center Open House: informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts and ideas or simply kick back and relax. 67 Main St., Topsham ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, October 22nd: 

10:00 AM-5:00 PM - Constructing our Visibility. One of three forums to be held on building supportive communities for Maine’s sexual minorities. Sponsored by The Pride Committee/Portland and Building Inclusive Communities (BIC), Lewiston. AVAC Community Center, 4 Lafayette St., Lewiston. Forum One: Parental Involvement and Methodologies, setting directions and success measurements for 1995. Brief Calendar session: Pride, Awareness and other events for 1995. Pre-register: 871-9940 or 772-7332.

9:00 AM - Sunday morning influencer. Newcomers always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, October 28th: 

8:00 PM - Sea-coast Gay Men to celebrate Halloween at America’s Stonehenge, the eerie and mysterious megalithic astronomical 4000 year old complex in Salem, NH. FMI, 498-2088.

11:00 AM - Saturday morning children’s theater. Krackerjack Theater Company presents “Fisherwoman’s Wife” at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Tickets $5 general admission. FMI, 775-5103.

Sunday, October 30th: 

1:00 PM - Seacoast Gay Men to celebrate Halloween at America’s Stonehenge, the eerie and mysterious megalithic astronomical 4000 year old complex in Salem, NH. FMI, 498-2088.


9:00 AM - Sunday morning influencer. Newcomers always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, October 30th: 

8:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Halloween Costume Party in Van Buren. BYO beverage, NLM members free; $2 for non-members. Prizes for best and most original costumes. FMI, 498-2088.

11:00 AM - Saturday morning children’s theater. Krackerjack Theater Company presents “Fisherwoman’s Wife” at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Tickets $5 general admission. FMI, 775-5103.

Sunday, October 31st: 

1:00 PM - Sea-coast Gay Men to celebrate Halloween at America’s Stonehenge, the eerie and mysterious megalithic astronomical 4000 year old complex in Salem, NH. FMI, 498-2088.


9:00 AM - Sunday morning influencer. Newcomers always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

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A GLIMPSE INTO NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 1st:
issan 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM’s Portland Campus Center.
rsdtsr Substance Abuse in the Gay Community; An Interactive Discussion with Betsy Hoid, MA, LASC, and Frank Brooks, LCSW.

Friday, November 4th:
H 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center Open House: informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas, or simply kick back and relax. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, November 5th:
7:00 PM - Circle of Hope. An inclusive Christian community following a model developed by Universal Fellowship of MCC. Using space at Immanuel Baptist Church (no affiliation with Immanuel Church), 156 High St, Portland. Meets weekly.

Sunday, November 6th:
7:00 PM - Wild Iris Productions presents:
HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT!
First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Gen. adm.$15/adult, $17/door.

Sunday, November 13th:
12:00-3:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting at Gay Lesbian Community Services Center, 67 Main St, Portland. FMI, 498-2088.

Monday, November 14th:
7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women’s Center: Support Group. Focus on healing, recovery and self-esteem. Newcomers are always welcome.

BUSINESS PROFILE:
Fresh ‘n’ Up Cleaning Service
C. Hayes
My home and I have had the recent good fortune to make the acquaintance of two entrepreneurial young women. Their commitment to perfection and enthusiasm for cleaning rivals only my own loathing of it.

Fresh ‘n’ Up Cleaning Service is run by Beckie Hill and Dori Beasley. They began their home-based business out of Gray last July and their growth is setting a fast pace, covering accounts from Greater Portland to Lewiston/Auburn.

With the help of John Enright at the Small Business Development Center in Portland, Beckie and Dori were able to put together a solid business plan and turn their vision into reality.

Beckie jokingly describes the partners as the “Brain and the Brawn.” Beckie’s history in accounting and business management coupled with Dori’s seven-year’s experience in the industry allowed both the private and commercial cleaning industries makes for a well organized business with a strong base of working knowledge.

Fall or Spring cleaning in a private home involves six to eight hours of labor by two people, providing meticulous floor to ceiling cleaning at a very reasonable rate. Commercial rates are determined by the size of the office and time commitment involved. Both can be scheduled as weekly services.

Fresh ‘n’ Up Cleaning Service is fully insured, bonded and a member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. All inquiries are met with a job cost estimate followed by a monitored completed work order and legal contract to be evaluated by both parties after 30 days of service.

It is the vision of Dori and Beckie to expand Fresh ‘n’ Up beyond their own partnership and provide employment opportunities for others as members of a rapidly growing team, a team providing an invaluable service to the chaotic lives of lit muscle narrators who just keep sweeping it under the rug.

Beckie and Dori can be reached at Fresh ‘n’ Up Cleaning Service, 926-4565, (New Gloucester). ΔΔ

ML/GPA re-elects Karen Gerachy as President
By Alan Starns, Contributor
The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance held its Annual Meeting in Augusta on September 17. A crowd of sixty to fifty people met for three hours, planning the course of ML/GPA for the next year.

In the next year, ML/GPA will again be the principal group lobbying the Maine legislature for an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act in order to provide gay men, lesbians and bisexuals protection from discrimination. While ML/GPA will continue to work closely with the Maine Human Rights Commission a.k.a. Equal Protection Maine, it was clear from discussion at the Annual Meeting that the referendum campaign and the legislative campaigns will be separate organizations.

“There are many people in this state who will vote against Carolyn” See ML/GPA, page 20
COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL
MAGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LGB issues. PRIDE is a community organization in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, educate candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MAGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. See complete listing under PHONE SUPPORT for contact numbers.

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at Lions Community Club, High St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by the Telephone in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/498-2088.

The Matlovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/773-1207.

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter. Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm at the Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030.

AA Gay and Lesbian Speaker/Discussion meeting every Thursday, 7:00 pm in Saco. Great meeting place on School St. Come share your experience and hope. FMI, call 934-7510.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General 626-8844.

MUSIC
Women In Harmony is an a cappella choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send your name (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME 04112, or call 772-0013.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social equality and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-4099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

A new Women's Jazz Ensemble aims to bring women musicians together to sharpen sight reading skills and explore improvisational, compositional and arranging abilities. A little knowledge of music, and willingness to commit to a weekly rehearsal schedule and have fun this summer is all you need. For more information, write Karen Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.

PHONE SUPPORT
Region by region
National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Corps: 1-800-528-NCLR
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.
DIAL KIDS: 744-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 years.
Ingraham Volunteers: Call 744-HELP (7753)
Bangor: Battle River AIDS Network 990-3626
Waldrof: Waldrof-Knox AIDS Coalition 338-4176
Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995
Bangor: Community AIDS Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 - 725-4995
Runford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4176
Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697
Waterville: DaySpring: 626-3452
Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3586

gina:
Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)
Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings)
Augusta/Townsend: 625-2549
Bangor: Community AIDS Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 - 725-4995
Brunswick/Bath: see Waldoboro
Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789
Portland: 766-5158
Wellsboro: 823-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire
FMI call 934-5701.

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings
Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 630-668-0741.
Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham. (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), FMI call 703-372-3983 or 5196.
Manchester Region: Meets 4th Monday at 6:45 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Manchester, FMI call 677-3497.

SUPPORT GROUPS
Medical Support
Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's. Free, confidential, contact STI, 744-6593.
Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm in all positive nature of bisexuality and work toward greater acceptance in the community. Confidential, no membership required. Support and referrals available. FMI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME 04104.

White-Stein Club: Meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm at Memorial Union, Sutton Lounge, UM at Orono.

Lesbian support group: Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 pm at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 514-1852.

Out and About: A support group for lesbians (over 18) support and educational group. Newsletters & calendar of local, current monthly events. Meets Monday at 7-8 pm, FMI, 580-639-2319 or write P.O. Box 352, Portland, ME 04008.

Out and About: A support group for women over the age of 50 who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. Call for information and support group meetings. Portland, ME.

Out and About: A support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people working to build an inclusive and safe community in Lewiston-Auburn and outskirts area. We want our lives to have meaning beyond the identity of sexual orientation. For more information, call or visit our website. Phone: 774-5031, Portland 04101.

Out of the Closet: An inclusive Christian community following a model developed by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Meetings are each Sunday at 10:00 AM on the second floor of the High Street Emmanuel Baptist Church. The Circle of Hope is not affiliated with Emmanuel Baptist Church. FMI, S. Smith, PO Box 8113, Portland 04104.

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Corps: 1-800-528-NCLR
Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.
DIAL KIDS: 744-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 years.
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Lesbian support group: Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 pm at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 514-1852.

Out and About: A support group for lesbians over 50. Meets every Monday at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring Street in Auburn.

Building an Inclusive Community: A monthly gathering to provide support and community for the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people in the greater Portland area who get together for potluck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/925-1034.

Let's Do Brunch: Potluck social gathering from 11:00 am-2:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month at a York County location. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news and information. FMI, 985-2784.

Parents
Partners of Parents: A group to support gays and lesbians who have parents who support children. An informal discussion group addressing issues and situations unique to the non-traditional blended family. Meets every 3rd Monday from 7 to 9 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. FMI call 542-4254.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: Meeting in the Augusta area the Augusta area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, ME 04332-0013.

Mothers and Kids Group: Social events and group support for lesbians and their
children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbian and gay youth in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04101.

Youth Support
OUTRIGHT TOO: Sundays, 6 pm at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Harlow St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-21. FMI write 225-7180.

OUTRIGHT/ Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 12 years and under. Call “First Call” at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4402 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning youth. FMI call 747-TALK or 747-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Station A, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Saco: Meets every Friday from 1-4 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call Teenline at 1-800-658-6975 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE: National support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or Jewish parents. FMI COLAGE, 2300 Mackworth Island, #165, Dept. P, Saco, ME 04072, or write to 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor, Auburn, FMI call 766-4697.

Maine AIDS Alliance
Member Organizations
AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: P.O. Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0421. Call 953-8953.

AIDS Lodging House: P.O. Box 3820, Portland, ME 04101-3820, Call 874-1000.

Androco2gyn Valley AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 786-4697.

Children's AIDS Network: P.O. Box 793, Portland, ME 04104. Call 761-1872.

Community AIDS Awareness Program: P.O. Box 457 Rumford, ME 04276. Call 823-4170.

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6608.

Dayspring: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3432.


Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 283, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.

Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: P.O. Box 57,Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4955.

Names Project/Maine: P.O. Box 4519, Portland, ME 04107. Call 774-2189.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: P.O. Box 113,Parsonsfield, ME 04271-0113. Call 743-7451.

People With AIDS Coalition of ME: 596 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8050.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: 141 Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3535.


Waldo/Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.

YARD SALE
Saturday, October 8th at 26 Deering St., Portland. Great buys on clothes, tools, collectibles and more.

FOR SALE
Photos of Gay Games IV and Stonewall. Toan Maine and color prints of the physique show (men and women) held at Madison Square Garden available. Call CPR office, 879-1342.

FOR RENT
RICHMOND: Two lesbians looking for another to share spacious antique cape in Richmond, Main. Easy access to I-95. Lots of garden space. Pets negotiable, sense of humor a must. $275/month + 1/3 utilities. Call 737-8153.

MOODY BEACH: Two bedroom apartments. Great for a weekend getaway! Fully furnished kitchen, color cable TV, large porch. Overlooking Moody Beach and the Rachel Carson Reserve. Rent by the week or for two days. Call and ask for Danny evenings. Tel. 207/646-6508 or write Danny Beamis, PO Box 637, Wells, ME 04090.

TRAVEL/VACATION
LESBIAN PARADISE! 10 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/staking trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180P, Bethel, NH 03744, (603) 699-3978.


BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
Be your own boss. Run a Shaklee business out of your home. Set your own goals and achieve financial security without stress. Earnings dependent on your efforts. Rewards include unlimited income, travel, and cars. Prosper by helping others to succeed. Shaklee nutritional, personal care and household products are in harmony with nature and good health. FMI, please call Judy Sauvignier, Roger Wilson: 207/725-7990.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Dream Groups: These ongoing experiential groups will explore members' dreams through many approaches. Day group meets 11 weeks on Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 am, starts 10/5 (closes to new member 10/25); Evening group meets 14 weeks on Thursdays 7-9 pm (has started, but closes to new members 10/26). Members have the option to continue in subsequent 'dream cycles.' Portland based. $30-$40 per session. Call Rick Bouchard, The Dream part of your Spiritual Journey: 828-2031 for interview.

Dream Generations In Contrast: Portraits of Gays and Lesbians in Dialogue with Lesbian and Gay Adults, not necessarily from the same family. Saturday, October 15th, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm. $75/individual, $150/family. Limited partial scholarships available. Call or write Dialogue Center, 95 High St., Portland ME 04101, (207) 879-3000.

PERSONALS
AG WM, late 30's looking for persons from 18 to late 30's for occasional get-together, watch a video, lend a hand, safe-sex only. Contact Box holder, PO Box 4229, Portland ME 04101.
by Bruce Balboni

Scott Potter is a dancer with the Portland Ballet and a visual artist. He also teaches dance to kids in Portland schools. A Scorpio, born October 30, 1962 in Fall River, Massachusetts, he lives with his new partner, Mark, in Portland. He spent his early years in southwestern Maine (South Sanford, Limerick), and started his dance career at age 10. At the age of 17 he auditioned for the New Orleans Ballet—they offered him a contract. Scott allowed CPR to invade his privacy. He permitted an interview in his beautiful East End home.

CPR: Did your family support your decision to be a dancer?
SP: My mother was a dancer so she did, and since I was the youngest in my family, the baby boy, my brothers love me, so they did. I did get a little bit of ridicule at school.

CPR: Was your decision to be a dancer part of your coming out process? Are you gay?
SP: Yes. And it was frustrating because I think I've always been gay. I realized that when I was very young.

CPR: Were you sexually active in high school?
SP: I was attracted to a lot of men in high school. Sounds generally active... no, not really, and not even when I went to New Orleans because I was so much in the studio and I was tired, but the interest was there. There were a lot of people who wanted to tell me about the birds and the bees.

CPR: When did you start to get into the visual arts?
SP: New Orleans was the influence. There is so much beautiful architecture. It's very rich in culture. It was a nourishing backdrop for me.

CPR: How would you describe your visual art work?
SP: It's a revival of an old art form which comes from an 18th century decorative art form similar to decoupage but far more complex than that. The technique was used in castles in England and Ireland.

CPR: Are your political?
SP: In my own way. When the referendum came up, I felt, "Gee, here are a group of people who are trying to take away my right to be a human being. That's not a special right. So for me when rights are taken away I think you need to stand and confront that.

CPR: Aside from the referendum what are your political leanings?
SP: I'm not really attached to any one thing. Politics to me, as an artist, is a waste of time. There's so little time in this world, and people talk and talk and talk, and that whole day is wasted. I like to be very direct, get that job done and move on to the next. I think politics is very boring. It's such a process of waste. Unless it deals with me directly, I don't want to be involved.

CPR: Who are your heroes?
SP: Anthony Dowell, he's an exquisitely male dancer. He's one of those types of people who you don't even want to meet.

CPR: What about Nureyev?
SP: I danced with him, twice.

CPR: What was that like?
SP: Well, (Clears throat) first, I was frightened because he would chase me around backstage calling me, "pussycat." And then I was like... in awe... this man is like a God on stage and yet he was chasing me. I was young, I was very young at that time.

CPR: Chasing you in what sense?
SP: Well, he'd come and you know, directly, and say, "Hey, pussycat, c'mere," and things like that, and I was... I'd be in one spot changing and he'd say or if there was a question they expected to be asked and weren't... SP: I think you wanted to know more about how I became gay or my experiences and it's very funny because... my experiences are all good ones, a few bad ones, but all I remember are the good things about being gay. If I had to be straight, I don't think I'd have all see PROFILE, page 22

THEATRE REVIEW:

"Intreat Me Not To Leave Thee"
Marilee Ryan, Writer/Director
Edit Hoffman, Producer/Director

Reviewed by Faith Worthley

"Intreat Me Not To Leave Thee" is a powerful play written and directed by Marilee Ryan and brilliantly performed by Joanna Amato and Tammy Duffy. A simplistic set effectively captures a typical Manhattan apartment inhabited by two young women who appear to be lovers. At least that was my assumption going into the Oak Street Theatre, and one that seemed appropriate to the play. Interestingly enough, after exchanging feedback with friends and interviewing Marilee, I was quite surprised to learn that Joanna’s character, Didi, was intended to portray a straight woman. This is not at all a commentary regarding Joanna’s acting ability, but rather a poignant example of the case with which any of us can assume a particular perspective given specific circumstance and setting. The multitude of messages offered were not lost, however, as this play humorously demanded the audience to intensely ponder all of the complex dynamics inherent in relationships. With out relying on the typical jargon of the self-help gurus, Didi and Gogo caused us to look at the intimacy, the passion, the fear and the joy that we share with one another as friends as well as lovers. Joanna’s exquisite delivery of an arrogant, independent and anal computer queen was not without her fun moments in the first act. Didi believably transformed in the second and third acts to reveal the isolated and guarded lost soul hidden underneath the show of behaviors. Equally dynamic was Tammy’s portrayal of an irresponsible, devoted and carefree guitar player. After intermission, Gogo became passionate and fire so genuinely that the intensity of emotion experienced by the audience filled the theater.

Each character’s role in the relationship, and their framework for interaction, were established early in the play through dialogue and mannerisms. Their incessant bantering and profuse smattering of profanity seemed redundant as I found myself asking, “Is this really the way young dykes live together?” While reflecting outside during intermission, I wondered if the remainder of the play would continue on in this fashion, as I felt the illustration of extreme dysfunction, however typical, had clearly been made.

The vivid contrast eased its way in during the second act as the language used in dialogue shifted to uncover the history between Gogo and Didi. The bantering continued, emphasizing how rigidly we become stuck in our strategies, the choice of words and inclusion of references to writing and description that touches the soul, began to strip away the layers of facade. I asked Marilee if she had purposely orchestrated that contrast and she told me her intention was to illustrate the complexity of the individuals while maintaining the consistency of the barriers between them.

Gogo begs Didi to fight for her soul through an elegant and powerful speech delivered in third act. “I see it now. I’ll be 70 years old sitting on my Widow’s Walk looking to the sea, watching the waves crash on the rocks, and I’ll remember...”

See "Intreat Me... page 22
Music on Review: Lara Schuler
by Ainsel Ponti

The Danforth Street stage down at Sisters was home for a long while to a live "progressive acoustic" music from Boston's Lara Schuler. The crowd was respectable, especially when you consider the monsoon-like weather we had the night of September 23rd. The next day, with the weather still dreary, Lara and I drove around Portland with a tape recorder and she told me her story.

Lara Schuler is not a household name, but you may find her cassette, "Sunday Night" in the local music section of a few stores in Boston. Schuler hopes to record a full-length compact disc next spring; although born in Iowa, Schuler spent the better part of her younger years in New Canaan, Connecticut. She started playing guitar at age eight, and at age twelve she bought a Beatles song book and taught herself to play along. Since then, she has had formal instruction, which she says has been invaluable.

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"I'm from London, and I have my Bachelor's degree in education from London University. I've spent around twelve years in Portland; studied at the USM Theatre department and the Center for Performing Arts. I've worked with the company and its plans for the season, and the future in general.

CS: Jane, tell me a bit about your background and how you came to start a theatre company in Portland.

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CS: When did you start Vintage Rep?

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JB: The language is what draws me to a play — it doesn't have to be beautiful — it's the power of the language. Language can have beauty, power, poetry, rawness. The language in "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" and "True West" is streetwise and everyday, but it really gets to you. [Note: both are contemporary plays Vintage Rep performed last season]. Skip and I have a predisposition to absurdity and black comedy. I like it when tragedy and comedy are juxtaposed in one piece.

As for actually choosing the plays, Skip and I read them. If one of us likes a play, then the other one will read it, and if Skip and I both read it, then that will be read. We read plays and discuss them, and we choose plays that excite us and our audience. The season is balanced with plays that are meaty. For our first full season at Oak Street, we're doing plays that we couldn't do at Cafe No, so for us they're "dream" plays. [Note: Cafe No, a jazz club and restaurant in a loft-type space, used to be on Danforth Street. It housed the Vintage Rep until last year.]

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CS: How about your costumes, sets, and other stage business? Are those collaborative efforts?

JB: It's theory. It's a group effort. Skip and I work really hard at arriving at a concept of the play. We read all the plays and do the research. David does the rest and we present five-play season.

Krackerjack Theater to perform at Oak Street Theatre

Popular touring children's theater will present five-play season

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by Ainsel Ponti

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CHEW ON THIS
By Rose Mary Denman

Last month, I began a discussion on stress. I also mentioned some of the ways we can deal with the stress that comes into our daily lives. I would like to take one of these ways, meditation, and discuss it in more detail.

Regardless of our religious affiliation, meditation can be incorporated into our daily lives in such a way that it aids in relieving stress. Meditation can actually ward off the effects of stress before they happen. When I use meditation on a daily basis, I notice that my shoulders don't get tight, my head doesn't feel as if I have a snag hat on, and that spot in the back of my neck doesn't get all knotted up.

Within the Christian tradition, it was St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, who first introduced a guide for meditation. The Buddha taught his followers to meditate some fifteen hundred years before Jesus of Nazareth was born. In the past fifty years or so, many have learned meditation from outside any religious tradition. TM and other "secular" forms of meditation have offered millions a way to learn this ancient art.

For those who approach meditation as a spiritual discipline, it is seen as a way to become empty of self in order to be able to recognize the divine at work within us. As a more secular discipline, meditation is taken on as a way to calm frayed nerves and come closer to the center of our own being. Actually, for those who want to split hairs, I guess we need a "religious" and a "secular" definition of meditation. Personally, I see it all as spiritual work, regardless of who or what we believe we are trying to reach through the practice. Spiritual work is that which helps us to heal ourselves at our very core...our "souls" if you will.

There are many forms of meditation. I would like to expose you to two that I have found helpful in my own life. The first is simply called "Mindfulness of Breathing." If you try this one and want to know more, I would suggest reading one of Thich Nhat Hanh's books. "The Blooming of the Lotus" is one of his more recent books. They are readily available in bookstores.

There are four steps to the classic Mindfulness meditation, so it would be good to divide your total meditation time into equal segments; twenty minutes is a good place to begin. For the first five minutes, count your breaths from one to ten as you inhale. If you lose your place, simply begin again. Concentrate on your breathing and count.

After five minutes, make the transition into the second phase of the meditation, counting from one to ten as you exhale. This may sound as though there is no difference between the first and second phase of this practice, but there is a very subtle pause between the end of the exhale breath and the beginning of the inhale breath. In the first phase, you are counting at the end of this pause. In the second phase, you are counting at the beginning. Again, as with the first phase, simply continue counting from one to ten slowly over and over again.

If you lose your place, begin again. As you count, be aware of your breath. If your mind wanders, it will gently bring it back to the counting.

For the third phase of Mindfulness of Breathing meditation, drop the counting and simply watch your breath as it enters your body, fills your lungs and slowly comes out again. This has a very calming effect. If your mind begins to wander, again, bring it back to watching your breathing.

The fourth phase is the most subtle. During this last phase, try to maintain focus on the entrance and exit point of the breath, the point just below your nose on your upper lip. As with the other three phases, if your mind wanders, bring it gently back to focus.

Often, when folks first begin to meditate, they think they have failed because of the number of times they have found their minds wandering. This is not failure, but the real work of meditation.

The second meditation I would like to introduce is called "Metta Bhavana, or "The Development of Loving Kindness." This is a five phase meditation, so, again, divide your time so that each phase has equal time.

In the first phase, picture yourself alone in a place that brings you comfort and joy: the mountains, by the seashore or babbling brook...any place that when you think of it, you find yourself wanting to smile. As you picture yourself in this place, mentally repeat the following words: "May I be well. May I be happy. May I progress." Continue keeping this picture of yourself in your mind while you mentally repeat these words for the first whole phase of the meditation.

For the second phase, picture someone near and dear to you, but not someone for whom you have sexual feelings. (This would only serve to take you into other kinds of mental pictures.) Picture this person in a pleasant setting and mentally repeat the words: "May s/he be well. May s/he be happy. May s/he progress.

In the third phase, bring to mind someone for whom your feelings are completely neutral, someone you may not even know very well: your mail carrier, bank teller, grocery checkout person, etc. Try to get a clear picture of this person in a pleasant surrounding and, again, repeat the words: "May s/he be well. May s/he be happy. May s/he progress.

The fourth phase is a bit tough. In this one, you bring to mind someone with whom you have a problem. Please, don't choose your worst enemy for your first meditation. It could prove to be a bit more than you bargained for. Anyway, as with the other phases, try to get a clear picture of this person in a pleasant surrounding and, again, repeat the words: "May s/he be well. May s/he be happy. May s/he progress.

During each of these four phases of the meditation, as you picture yourself and, in turn, the others, do try to elicit warm and loving feelings from your heart.

The fifth and final phase consists of seeking to bring all four of you: yourself, your dear friend, the person toward whom you feel completely neutral and the person with whom you have ill feelings, together. If you can do this, you will have learned a profound step in the development of loving kindness.

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See CHEW ON THIS, page 19.
The Remnant of EPL - Part II
By Rich Austin

Last month began an in-depth look at the history of the Equal Protection Lewiston campaign as it struggled to uphold a city council enacted ordinance that would have prohibited discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. EPL. Spokesperson, Celeste Bromham, Finance Manager Jan Welch, Steering Committee members Ray and Kevin Gagnon, Glen Bisam and Roland Blais spoke with this reporter about their experiences.

Another element of the campaign that the remnant of EPL believes was ultimately part of the reason for failure was the fact that the EPL campaign was defensive in posture, not offensive, and members and volunteers never went out among the people and discussed the issues. In retrospect, they believe that canvassing in the residential community should have been an important part of the plan.

SUPPORT
While Madore and CMF drew direct support from legal, media and religious organizations around the country, EPL also made their fair share of connections. The Maine Civil Liberties Union, Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance, National Lesbian/Gay Task Force, People For the American Way, Human Rights Campaign Fund, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Haymarket People’s Fund, Interfaith Clergy Group, and many other organizations either endorsed EPL’s effort for human rights in Lewiston or actually lent a hand by providing volunteers or donations.

Yet with support from the statewide and national gay community, there was a disturbing lack of support from the gay community in Lewiston, both gay citizens and gay business owners. R. Gagnon thinks that it is just part of the double standard in Lewiston. "Most hair dressers in this town are gay, most waiters in this town are gay. Everybody knows it, nobody cares, nobody's stopped going just got their hair styled or stopped going out to eat. I hear more often from not the average person who lives here, 'how great so-and-so is who works here, even though he is like that.'"

Support from the religious community in Lewiston was also a mixed blessing. R. Gagnon said, "The only support they gave us was in saying all sins are bad, and homosexuality was just another sin. Their whole message was that you should not judge it any harsher than any other sin. We as gay people started to get more and more inspired, wondering how many more times we were going to get this thrown in our face." Then, two weeks before the vote, the Vatican issued a Papal Encyclical, to be delivered from every Catholic pulpit, stating homosexuality was an abomination, and there was no room for it in the Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic population of Lewiston responded at the polls accordingly. Though the priests in Lewiston supported EPL, the Diocese in Portland stated they would remain neutral: homosexuality was an abomination, but they didn't approve of discrimination, either.

DISUNITY IN EPL
Internal rifts in EPL were no less disheartening. One major rift was over what the profile of the campaign was going to be. EPL was going to be out and visible, responding to the right's wild allegations, or was EPL going to repeat over and over, "Discrimination is always wrong?" In the end, though the decision was never stated, the repetitions message stood alone. Also, the presence and aid of the Lesbian Avengers, though very effective at a grass roots level, was controversial among the members of the EPL steering committee. Bromham stated, "They (the Lesbian Avengers) did a lot of hard work for us and I'm not sure they were treated with the respect that they should have been there. There were also concerns about straight people being involved in the management of EPL, as there had been in Portland. Ultimately, gay and straight worked together, but in retrospect, the remnant of EPL thinks there should have been more openly gay and lesbian people in the forefront of the campaign. The gays and lesbians actually involved were not hidden by campaign management, but were not put in the forefront either.

Press coverage of the fight for human rights in Lewiston was by and large objective, with certain notable exceptions. The Portland Press Herald supported EPL, as did the Bangor Daily News, the Kennebec Journal, the Sentinel, and most every major newspaper in the state, with the exception of Lewiston's own Sun-Journal. Welch said, "Their's was a position of giving coverage to the opponents. It was evident in the reporting in the paper. The day after the vote they had a front page photo of Paul Madore popping a bottle of champagne in his living room. There was nothing from our concession speech, no photographs, and we were buried in the article." National press coverage was sparse. During the EPL campaign The Advocate ran a story on one incident of gay bashing in Lewiston, but never covered EPL's campaign. "When Portland won it was in all of the press. When Lewiston lost it was nowhere," said Welch. "For as important a campaign as this was because of the demographics of the city, we didn't get the kind of coverage that we really should have gotten. Because when you really look at Lewiston, we're a perfect litmus test."

Part III in the November CPR
Some health care reform proposals include more stringent quality assessment of health care providers. While this is driven by economic forces, it will uncover some malpractice and inappropriate care that now remains hidden. Health care providers who don’t properly treat their clients and patients contribute to the high cost of care, so it’s to our benefit to root out practitioners whose homophobia or ignorance leads to otherwise unnecessary treatment. And, we might be willing to get help sooner, when it is less complicated and costly, if we could see providers without fear of discrimination and exploitation.

It is not very likely, though, that governmental health care reform will sufficiently improve the delivery of care to substantial numbers of lesbians. This is where the grassroots lesbian health movement plays a leading role. We will have to address the need for consumer advocacy, community based clinics, better professional training, and lesbian visibility in the health care setting.

Our lesbian advocates and leaders will have to continue pressing re-searchers and the government to fund research that includes lesbians and addresses sexual orientation. It’s our role as individuals to support our advocates in these efforts, as well as in their work to ensure that health care reform won’t drive community based lesbian health projects and feminist women’s health centers out of business.

It seems likely that our country’s system of financing and delivering health care is going to change very, very slowly. Improvements will be tempered by political compromises. Meaningful reform at the macro-level will happen much more slowly than at the micro or grassroots level, so our attention has to have a dual focus. We have to encourage gay and lesbian organizations to work with non-gay organizations and vice-versa, and we must constantly remind our advocates to remember the grassroots.

Our traditional civil rights issues, like anti-discrimination requirements, domestic partner benefits, parenting and custody rights, the protection of our youth and elders, pro-bation efforts, and adequate funding for public health (including HIV programs), all contribute significantly and concretely to better, more affordable and more accessible health care for lesbians.

If the details of the governmental proposals leave you feeling overwhelmed, skeptical, or confused, remember that there is plenty we can do as individuals. The more of us who can come out, the better our health care will be.

If you are interested in getting more involved with health care reform in Maine, contact Consumers For Affordable Health Care, P.O. Box 2490, Augusta 04338, 622-7045, or contact the Lesbian Health Project at the Wadsworth Women’s Health Center, P. O. Box 20, Bangor, ME 04402, 947-5337.
MOVIE, from page 17

movie is a costume farce (Space Balls comes to mind). The outfits are more the stars of the film than the alleged characters. If you've seen "Queen," the '60s documentary about a drag queen beauty contest in New York you'll realize how far away from drag "Priscilla" really is.

Transvestites like to dress up and they are feminine and glamorous but the whole idea is to "pass" as women. This idea simply does not exist in "Priscilla." There isn't a scintilla of a chance that these clowns could pass as women. And in that sense this film is not only misgendering it is also homophobic. It manages to make fun of women and of homosexuals in ways that its makers aren't even aware of.

Camille Paglia said that masculinity resides in homosexual men, particularly in leather guys, because they so revere what is butch — especially since straight men are trying to soften their image. The same can be said for femininity. It is preserved by transvestites because they so adore it, and many women, in their efforts to achieve equality with men, so readily flee what is feminine to embrace that which is masculine, thus leaving the field of femininity to the transvestite.

The problem with the guys (girls) in "Priscilla" is that they are not feminine at all. They substitute the "bitch" for women and try to be funny snapping their fingers, tapping up and laying on lame joke after lame joke, until it hurts. Straight audiences love this movie and that is no wonder — it's a parody. There is nothing going on here that threatens their concept of gender which of course transvestism and transsexualism does. "Priscilla" is a joke, a bad one.

There is one sequence that this reviewer found amusing and that is the "I Will Survive" routine done with the aborigines. Aborigines in drag!! Now, that's funny ... Written and directed by Stephen Elliott. Now playing at Hoyt's.

From the Oracle...

Dear Pythia,

My lover likes to watch X-rated movies about lesbians while we're having sex. I'm not sure how I feel about this. Does he think I'm a woman? (I'm not. Am I settling for less? Signed, Uncertain homosexual

Dear Uncertain,

If you're uncomfortable about something you lover is doing and you accept it then you're settling for less. In your case it's obvious that your lover is treating you like an object. These so-called "lesbian pornography films are not about lesbians, they're fodder for heterosexual males. Make a change for the better.

Pythia

Dear Pythia,

Since so much of a gay man's social life is spent at the bar, where do I go to meet people now that I'm sober and in AA? Signed, Sober but Dazed

Dear Sober,

First of all, get involved in groups that are centered around activities you would do for yourself anyway. Not only will you meet gay men in any group you get involved with, but they'll share interests beyond sex. Secondly, pick up one of the travel guides like Ferrari, Damron or Odyssey. They cover a lot more than just bars. If you want to make a break with the past you're going to have to get active about it.

Pythia

Dear Pythia,

If coming out in the gay world was such a hard ordeal for most of us, and feeling the emotions of rejection, fear and discrimination are what most of us in the gay community have experienced, then why do we discriminate, reject and look down on others who come from other walks of life and try to get comfortable in their own skin?

It seems to me that even in the gay community many of us feel as if we are Queens on a chess board as the pawns strive for a step forward. Signed, Shamed

Dear Shamed,

You are basically asking why people do what was done to them. I'll give you a brief, arguable, but correct answer. For individuals it validates the persecutor, for groups it validates the group. There is hope for individuals but not for groups. Morality is the province of individuals. Groups of people have a pronounced tendency to persecute other groups and stoke themselves. You include yourself ("many of us") in the group of people who are acting hypocritically. Your excellent point serves no purpose unless you personally raise yourself out of the trap you describe.

Pythia

US CONGRESS from page 3

a child, financially and otherwise, I believe they should be able to do so," he responded.

The Field Director of my campaign, Peter O'Donnell, is openly gay. Dutremble responded to our query on appointing openly gay and lesbian people to staff positions. "He has been a superb asset and one of our finest staff members. I believe that the only important factors in hiring someone are their competence and qualifications. The only time a person's orientation would matter to me is if they were being denied their rights because of it."

On the matter of condoms, Dutremble said, "Although I believe it is a local issue for individual municipalities to legislate, if I were asked as a school board member, I would allow condoms in high schools."

On our last question, Dutremble responded, "This question is vague and I am not sure what you are asking. I would have to see the specific legislation before I decided to support it, but as my record will show, I am concerned with and supportive of issues important to gays and lesbians.

Congressional Contest: District 2

Richard Bennett, the Republican candidate, did not respond to our questions. John Baldacci, the Democratic candidate, supports gay rights legislation, but did not respond to our questionnaire.

KRACKERJACK, from page 17

Fisherman's Wife" will be presented for only three. The signing of KTC enables OSP to expand its programming into a exciting new area for Portland audiences: adaptations of some of the world's best loved literary favorites into children's theater presented by professional adult actors.

The first show of the season, "The Fisherman's Wife," will open on Saturday, October 22, 1994 and run for three weeks until November 5, 1994. This show, adapted from the Brothers Grimm, will showcase the antics of Isabel, Clarence, and the enchanted flounder. While laughing at their outlandish behavior, children will watch the colorful set magically transform three times while learning lessons about greed, impatience, appreciation — and saying "no." Using humor and strong visual effects, this audience-participation play conveys a relevant message without departing from the original story. Characters are comic and non-didactic; situations are non-threatening and never heavy handed. Children understand subtle themes of addiction, resistance to peer pressure, and self esteem.

Tickets to performances will be $5 for all ages and will be available by calling 775-5103. All seating will be general admission in the 90-seat Oak Street Theatre. Located at 92 Oak Street in the heart of Portland's cultural corridor, the Oak Street Theatre offers a variety of entertainment options at reasonable ticket prices.

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Goose

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this inspiration and creativity and energy. I think that would be... I hate to say it, but, a curse (we laugh). I do like women, but not in a sexual way. I do enjoy their company and I like them. I like learning from them.

CPR: Are you saying there is a connection between your creativity and your sexual orientation?

SP: Being gay and having the experiences I had gave me the opportunity to choose. I'm not saying that this is being gay... but, if you're straight, everything is like a regimen. Being gay and coming out sounds rather ideal. Most people have a difficult time in their coming out process. A lot of gay people get married, they go through all kinds of contortions to fit in, to not be who they are and that twists and distorts their being. So it sounds quite fortunate and even ideal that those things didn't happen to you.

SP: I know... that's what I hear from people who have had to struggle. It's very hard for me to relate. I can't say, "Oh, yes, I understand," because I don't. I haven't experienced those type of problems or situations. The only thing I can say is I never put a square peg in a round hole. If it's meant to be, it's meant to be. If you don't, you have to have that acceptance there. Life is definitely not easy but you can live it and enjoy it. ΔΔ

Building community in measurable ways.

Paula Craighead
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★ Better Schools
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"INTREAT ME... from pg. 16
member you. And a young woman who reminds me of me will ask my advice. I'll see her heart burning to love, achieving for passion, yearning to take a risk on something. And I'll remember. And I'll have no regrets because I'll have done everything I could to make my dreams come true. And I'll tell her to go forward and never look back. To always follow her heart whatever risk necessary. She may fail, she may fall, she may take a beating, but she'll never regret and her heart will always beat with the rhythm of her own soul. She will never lose her soul..."

"Tips for Coming Out Every Day
1) Make a commitment every day to tell the truth about yourself to others.
2) Use a national gay and lesbian organization.
3) Include your partner in all of your holiday and family events.
4) Come out in the workplace and encourage your employer to include celebrations and benefits on the basis of sexual orientation.
5) Organize a visibility event on National Coming Out Day.
6) Write letters to local and national elected officials asking them to support fairness and equality for lesbians and gays.
7) Share your coming out story with local school, church, or community groups.
8) Volunteer with and support local and community organizations.
9) Support gay and non-gay companies that support the gay community.
10) Help make the identity of the gay community diverse as possible by getting involved and being visible—-this is called difference.

"INTREAT ME... from pg. 16
and dress in her clothes."

"Yes, it's not classifying or stereotyping. The two maids are really meant to be personifications of Genet's selves. The character I play, "Madame," doesn't enter the play until really late, and the maids refer to her and discuss her and dress in her clothes."

"STATE POLICIES MUST REFLECT THE CITIZENS' PRIORITIES. I CAN MAKE THAT HAPPEN."

Paula Craighead
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Jonathan Carter for Governor

Diversity

Justice

Equality

Jonathan Carter and The Maine Greens fully support and affirm the right of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people to live in dignity and security. We honor their contributions to society and welcome their participation in our Administration.

The Carter Administration will work to:

- Address issues of HIV/AIDS including education, prevention & long-term care
- Encourage education on sexuality & sexual orientation
- Grant adoption rights to gay, lesbian & bisexual families
- Stop discrimination in housing, credit, employment & child custody

Jonathan Carter and The Maine Greens need your support to win the Blaine House. Visit our Portland office at 142 High Street, Suite #220; or call 879-7524 to volunteer or to make a contribution.

Saturday, November 5th
Seatings at 5:15 and 6:30

The Carter Administration will work to:

- Address issues of HIV/AIDS including education, prevention & long-term care
- Recognize same-gender marriages
- Encourage education on sexuality & sexual orientation
- Grant adoption rights to gay, lesbian & bisexual families
- Stop discrimination in housing, credit, employment & child custody

Jonathan Carter and The Maine Greens need your support to win the Blaine House. Visit our Portland office at 142 High Street, Suite #220; or call 879-7524 to volunteer or to make a contribution.

VOTE YOUR HOPES, NOT YOUR FEARS

Paid for by the Carter for Governor Committee, Luisa Volpi, Treasurer

"Although some in her party have counseled Susan Collins to modify her pro-abortion and pro-gay rights stands in order to appeal to more conservative voters, Collins says there will NOT be any changes. Those views are fundamental beliefs of mine and I think they are shared by the majority of Maine people, she says. The government ought to stay out of personal decisions. I view the gay rights issue as one of discrimination. I belong to the party of Lincoln, and that ought to mean something."

The Maine Times, September 16, 1994

SUSAN COLLINS

a bold and courageous
Maine Woman
who has stood up to her party
to support equal rights for
lesbians, gay men, heterosexuals & bi-sexuals,
who supports full reproductive rights for women,
who has the vision and understanding
to bring the new information technologies
to Maine's workforce and businesses
and establish a solid economic base
for ALL of us.

SUSAN COLLINS

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