

Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 2, Number 4

OCTOBER, 1994

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



Balboni Photo

Susan Collins, Republican candidate for Governor

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 Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families.
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

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:

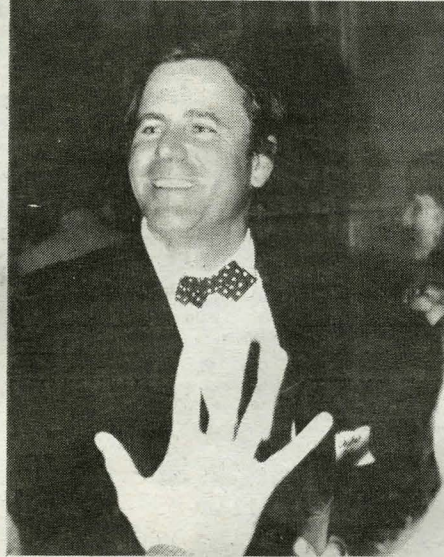
"I not only support the gay rights bill, I'd introduce it. I'd even like to see it really extend beyond the bounds that it's written in right now in terms of guaranteeing all rights, even the rights of adoption and marriage.

I absolutely favor same gender marriage rights. It's clear to me that in this society we should be trying to encourage the love between people, and if people happen to be of the same gender and they love each other, love is love, and we need to respect that and encourage it."

Carter endorsed the idea that domestic partnership benefits should be made available to gay people. He said that he thinks the level of funding for the various AIDS agencies is "totally inadequate. We need to fund AIDS programs much more widely. They need more support and should be more community-based in order to help people who are terminally ill with AIDS."

He responded, "What do you think?" to the question about child custody and, in reference to the query about appointments he said, "Absolutely, I was up in the AIDS center in Ellsworth the other day and what we were talking about was wouldn't it be wonderful to appoint somebody to the executive branch who was gay and who was HIV positive. That could be a symbol that would really start to lead this state in the direction of respect, tolerance and compassion."

I asked Carter if he had any particular individuals in mind. He said, "No, we don't have anybody specifically, but what we're doing is calling on the people in the state of Maine, including the lesbian and gay community, to submit names. We have a committee now that is reviewing possible appointments, and our whole idea is that our executive branch will reflect true diversity. If we're going to respect diversity, the executive branch has to reflect that diversity. We would very much want to have someone from the gay and lesbian community in our cabinet, somebody who was disabled as head of the Depart-



Balboni Photo

Jonathan Carter, Green Party candidate for Governor

ment of Human Services, a Black citizen, a Native American citizen and we are looking for the Franco-American connection as well. I also want fifty per cent of the cabinet and the executive branch to be made up of women. This isn't a matter of quota. It's a matter of principle. Our government should reflect diversity."

Carter continued, "My personal opinion is that condoms absolutely should be available in the prisons, no holds barred. They should also be available in the schools, but I do believe that local communities should be able to decide that issue. I would advocate for it in all high schools."

Please comment on the idea of programs for gay and lesbian youth in the context of the high suicide rate amongst gay and lesbian teens and the fact that these youth do not receive support in their schools.

Carter commented, "I believe we should be teaching diversity from day one in the schools and acceptance of diversity. If we start doing that then a lot of the difficulties that gay or lesbian youth have in our society will dissipate because people will be taught to accept diversity. We ought to be teaching our students about the different sexual orientations and that it is all right to be who you are."

To conclude Carter said that the gay and lesbian community would have, "the 100% support of a Green administration right down the line. We will back up the gay and lesbian community with no strings attached. We need their vote and we can turn this state around in ways it never even believed it could be turned around."

Susan Collins, Republican candi-

date 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'm 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 primaries, 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



Balboni Photo

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

and Brennan say they'll introduce it. Why would the far right go to King?

"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

See CANDIDATES, page 8

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 Washington Blade. The candidates were asked to, "Please answer/comment on ALL of the following issues:"

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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.

Andrews said he favored giving local communities the right to decide on the issue of sex education including con-

dom 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 domicile 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



Tom Andrews, Democratic candidate for US Senate is behind in the polls.

variance with the claim made by Andrews that Snowe would not support non-discrimination in her staff hiring.

Congressional contest: 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 'marriage' 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 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

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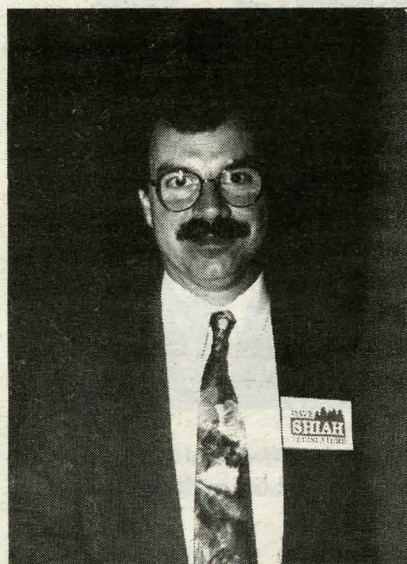
Key races for the Maine Legislature

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 Ruhlin (D)
 District 7, Orono — John O'Dea (D)
 District 8, Milo — Amber Gahagan (D)
 District 9, Bangor — Sean Faircloth (D)
 District 10, Newport — Alton Cianchette (D)
 District 11, Liberty — Susan



David Shiah, candidate for ME House from District 53 - Bowdoinham

Longley (D)
 District 12, North Haven — Rochelle Pingree (D)
 District 14, Belgrade — Richard Carey (D)
 District 15, Augusta — Beverly Bustin (D)
 District 16, Gardiner — Vicki Kelly (D)
 District 17, Farmington — 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 Cleveland (D)
 District 24, Rumford — Eugene Boivin (D)
 District 26, Cumberland — Jeffrey Butland (R)
 District 27, Portland — Paula Craighead (D)
 District 28, Portland — Anne Rand (D)
 District 29, Westbrook — Donald Esty (D)
 District 31, Scarborough — Joan Pendexter (R)
 District 34, West Buxton — Gregory Drew (D)
 District 35, York, Kittery — Mark Lawrence (D)

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 Guillory (D)
 District 21, Scarborough

George Lawson (D)
 District 22, Gorham — Audrey Gerry (D)
 District 25, Cape Elizabeth — Anne Schink (D)
 District 26, South Portland — Peter Cloutier (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 Kontos (D)
 District 44, Yarmouth — Douglas Carr (D)
 District 51, South Harpswell — David Etnier (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 —

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



Dale McCormick, candidate for ME Senate from District 18, Gardiner

Hatch (D)
 District 104, Clinton — Arthur Clement (D)
 District 105, Belfast — Helen Patterson (D)
 District 106, North Vassalboro — Gail Chase (D)
 District 107, Winterport — Joseph Watson (D)
 District 108, Canaan — Louise Townsend (D)
 District 110, Unity — Alice Cheeseman (D)
 District 113, Bucksport — Michael Swazey (D)
 District 114, Hampden — Lenore Mullen (D)
 District 117, Bangor — Charles Sullivan (D)
 District 120, Bangor — Jane Saxl (D)
 District 122, Bangor — Julie Winn (D)
 District 123, Orono — Kathleen Stevens (D)
 District 127, Ellsworth — Ed Povich (D)
 District 128, Blue Hill — Ellen Walker (D)
 District 129, Sedgwick — Paul Volenik (D)
 District 131, Franklin — John Lasell (D)
 District 133, Machias — John Gilmore (D)
 District 138, West Enfield — Vanessa Bruce (D)
 District 145, Presque Isle — Martha Grant (D)
 District 151, Eagle Lake — John Martin (D)

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

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"As you all can see this is one reason why Citizens for Sensible Emission Laws (CSEL) has great concern about joining this organization (Maine Citizens Review Board — MCRB). We do not want to be included in Mrs. Cosby's 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 CSEL.

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.

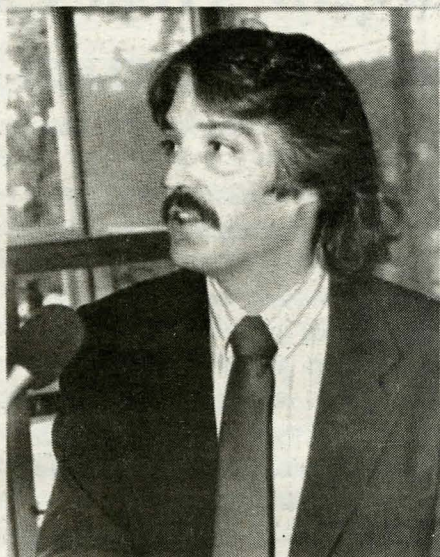
A representative spoke from each group, these included: Concerned Maine Families, Congressional Term Limits Coalition, Maine Libertarian Party, Maine Taxpayers Action Network, Maine Vocals and the Pro Life Education Association. When it was Cosby's turn she asked the press if a written statement would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

Her 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 no 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



Howard Allison of CSEL in Augusta

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 concern about Cosby's tactics

In a private interview outside the state office building, Allison was vehement in his denunciation of Cosby's attempts to coerce his group, Citizens for Sensible Emissions Laws (CSEL), into joining this 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 CSEL. He further acknowledged that Madore is a member of Concerned Maine Families (CMF) but insisted that there is absolutely no connection between CSEL 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 the 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 neces-

sary. 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 been 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: Essentially, 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 know that he's an open advocate of gay rights and we know that this is a petition that opposes the inclusion of special, homo-

sexual 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

See CSEL, Page 9

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

Researched 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 following 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 judgements 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 Burger's opinion and the Court's decision to uphold *Bowers 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 demographics 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 feel-

ings) 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:

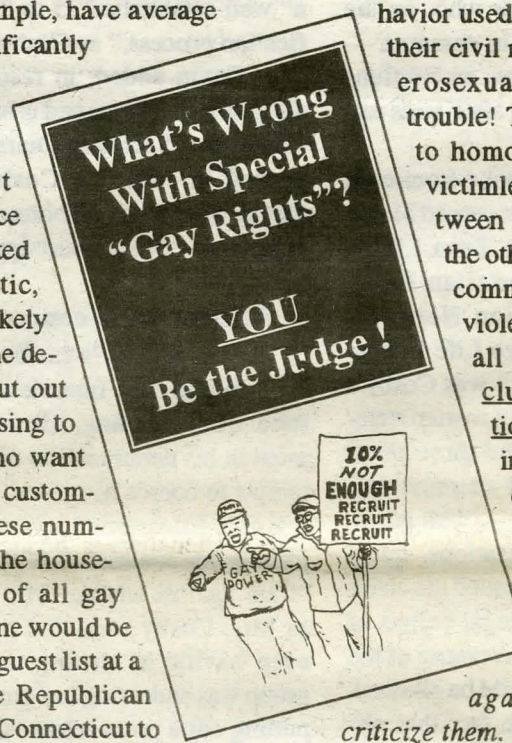
Apparently, anyone who doesn't want to be stomped on by the radical right is an "extremist."

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-



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A study conducted of anti-gay hate crimes in five American cities revealed an aggregate increase in anti-gay violence of 161% during the period 1988-1991. [Source: *Congressional Quarterly Reporter*, 1/93]

You Be the Judge!

centage of charges, a list which includes everything from musculoskeletal diseases to childbirth.

AIDS is definitely a growing medical problem world-wide, but this disease, which first appeared in the gay community, has slowed its progress in that community at the same time it is expanding in every other. This is largely thought to be the result of the excellent organizing and education work undertaken within the gay community. While some heterosexuals have been slow to recognize that AIDS threatens everyone, gay people have been building a national network of AIDS services, research, and activism, all of which has been made available to everyone, regardless of race, sex, financial status, or sexual orienta-

"...nobody has ever convinced me that being gay is damaging to someone else." —
Former U.S. Senator and arch-conservative Barry Goldwater

tion from day 1! Heterosexuals with AIDS benefit directly from the ground-work done by gay people.

MYTH 7: *Homosexuals commit the majority of sex crimes against children.*

FACTS:

Pedophilia is not a crime about sex, but a crime about power and control. It makes no more sense to say that a man who has sex with little boys is "gay" than to say that a man who has 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 any more 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 by a gay adult. [Source: Marilyn Elias in USA TODAY, referring to a July 1994 University of Colorado Health Sciences Center study]

- In a sample of 279 child molesters, only 1.79% were identified as homosexual. [Source: Maine State Prison Sex Offender Project]

- The Director of the Children's Division of the American Humane Association, Dr. Vincent DeFrancia reports, "There are 10 girls molested to every boy; 97% of the offenders are male."

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 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 perpetuated 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 opt out of the system because they simply cannot survive in it. For those who don't think this would be such a terrible loss, I suggest you consider names like Leonard Bernstein, Lily Tomlin, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, and Martina Navratilova (to name a very few) and ponder what our culture would have been like without the universally-acclaimed and unique contributions of these and many other gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

SUMMARY:

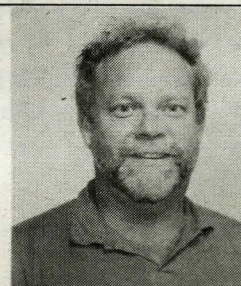
We've tried to set the record "straight" by confronting each of the lies in CMF's pamphlet with reasoned argument and carefully-researched facts. But, it's hard to have a meaningful discussion about a document clearly intended not to inform, but to inflame. From the unflattering caricature of gay people on the front of their pamphlet to the gay-baiting inside, their document

says a lot more about CMF's own sick fears than about the gay people it's intended to defame.

CMF's pamphlet doesn't engage the reader in an argument about facts. Rather, it builds on pre-existing homophobic clichés and distorted images to reinforce hate and ignorance. Their pamphlet has more dubious statistics, specious claims, and deliberate manipulation of the facts than a propaganda film. And, like other propaganda, the CMF pamphlet operates on an essentially irrational level, pandering to the worst instincts of fear and ignorance.

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 strategies 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

Religious groups supporting equal rights for homosexuals include the Lutheran Church, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Unitarian Universalist Church, the US National Council of Catholic Bishops, and branches of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and the American Jewish Committee.

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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 knew 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 position in the Republican Party of socially liberal and fiscally conservative. Do you see yourself as a Weld Republican? Collins replied, "I think I have a lot in common philosophically with Governor Weld, and I worked with him when I was in Massachusetts. We are both fiscal conservatives and social moderates and I think that reflects, overall, the mainstream thinking in Maine. I think I'm very similar to Bill Cohen and Bill Weld. I think Bill Weld has been a terrific governor. I really admire him. I think he's taken some gutsy positions

and he's helped turn the Massachusetts economy around."

Would you elaborate on your statement, "an appropriately drafted gay rights bill," I asked. Collins explained, "There is so much misunderstanding about what is in a gay rights bill. I would sign one that would be identical, or very similar to the one that was vetoed by Governor McKernan. What I want to make sure of is that it's very clear that there is no affirmative action requirement in the bill. I'm opposed to affirmative action period, whether 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 intolerant campaign that Colorado had, and I am very concerned that 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 an 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 the issue 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 strong 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 she 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 an-

swer 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 don't 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 government's role 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 take what I believe was 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 would have signed L.D. #246, An Act to Prevent Discrimination. It is already the policy of the State to protect our citizens from discrimination based on race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, 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 actively oppose it as Governor. Not only would it legitimize discrimination, it would actually make the efforts of a local community to end discrimination illegal."

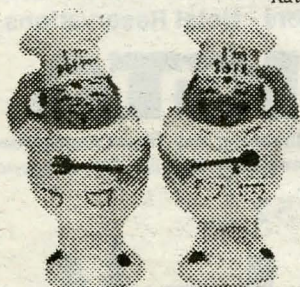
"I am not prepared to support same sex marriage rights at this time and domestic partnership benefits should be resolved between employers and employees as a matter of contract and benefit negotiation."

See CANDIDATES, page 20

"I Will Survive," she said, squirming closer and closer to the incredible sound floating down the wharf.

She was unable to resist the music pulsating from the disco, just like she had heard *On The Radio* when the dive boats came. Something about this music touched her very soul. But more than the sound, she was drawn to the lights. Just like her own! Could there be another? She squelched desire for companionship resurfaced, filling her with hope and she again felt like *More Than A Woman*. Many humans stood in line, with the biggest hair she had ever seen... nothing like the Mermaids at Seaworld! Big funny shoes swept her inside where she saw him high above her. "If I Can't Have You, I Don't Want Nobody Else!" she sighed. He twirled and spun and revelled in his light, bathing the writhing humans. "You've Got To Be Real!" and at that moment she decided to find out. She flapped her fins like never before and flew to the ceiling to be with him. Once closer, she realized he was but a pale imitation of her.

But what a sight to behold from the rafters of this *Boogie Wonderland*. Mesmerized, she spun alongside this orblike creature and *Turned The Beat Around*, showering the crowd below for many, many nights. Then... no one came. When they brought in bales of hay for some other, awful music, she was darkened for what she thought was the last time. She was wrong... years later, she was rediscovered and adored. She reigns again, behind the bar at Katahdin. Sometimes they play the music, but she never pines, choosing instead to bask once more in her uniqueness and the adoration of the patrons at the bar.



Katahdin

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CSEL from page 5

threat to the government power structure as well. Anything that government says, 'this is what we want to do today' and the people come along with an initiative 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 grievances.

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 positions clear. Colorado faced a very similar environment and now I understand that in spite of everything that's been done out 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 resolution among those people who disagree, and I hope that the battle and the campaign 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 successful 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 efforts?

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-



Carolyn Cosby at Augusta Press Conference. CSEL unhappy with her tactics.

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, "special." 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 protected class status." You can't have "special 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 political jump that these 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 legislative 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 lo-

cal 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 doesn't work both ways because every issue shouldn't be decided at the local level. I don't support foreign 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 recognizes 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.

CPR: That is how religion qualifies for protection.

CC: Religion is already, to an extent, an erosion of our civil rights laws. It shouldn't be in there. Religion is already a constitutional right. We already recognize it. It doesn't need to be in the civil rights code. In fact, it shouldn't be there. In fact, we should clean up the law right now before it gets out of control.

But, you said one more question... and I like you... I don't hate you folks, and the more I meet you by individual, and the more you meet me, we find out we have legitimate differences... We shouldn't be hating each other.

CPR: Would you be willing to meet with me for an interview?

CC: Ummm... I don't know. Let me see what you do with this. I've given you a lot today.

CPR: I'll call you.

CC: You can call me, don't harass me. I've had enough of that.

Upon leaving the building a state office worker approached me and asked what all the hoopla was about. I explained the situation in such detail that I could tell it was one of those questions the person now wished they hadn't asked. When I stopped talking the worker said, "I'm glad they have nothing else to complain about." ΔΔ

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EDITORIAL

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 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 inexperience in government is a plus to be cherished by those of us who are sick of the old ruling elites.

Brennan is the ghost of Christmas past, a phantom candidate who refuses to talk to the gay community because

Endorsements for the '94 election

he takes gay votes for granted. He doesn't want to hurt his lead in the polls by soiling 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.

Susan Collins 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 a 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 national 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'Amato) who dominate the Republicans in the Senate would usher in a new Dark Ages. Olympia Snowe would contribute to such an outcome. In fact, she

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 *Bruce*
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 protesting.

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 collaborating, 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 only 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 Chart 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.

Johathan 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, from 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 (health 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 as 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. Nor do I understand the idea that a vote for Brennan out of fear of Collins or King is the most prudent voting decision.

Civil right 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-

See MAIL BAG, page 11

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, heterosexual 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 additional law to guarantee us 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 to the next fallacy which is that laws protecting gay men and lesbians sanction homosexual sexual behavior. The only behavior that these laws are concerned 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 whom-ever 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 sexuality. 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 and oppressed by men. Children would 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 Grahn notes, have social purpose. She says,

"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? $\Delta\Delta$

MAIL BAG, from page 10

dom would like to crush the rights of Americans to choose their own way of life. Now, I don't pretend to know why our communities are so hated by 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:

Has our fight become too personal? Have we, you & I, become so engulfed in our fight that we have forgotten basic mathematics: that every problem has a base figure, a square root if you will? . . . should we begin searching for 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 defense even before a real threat exists. 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 being re-elected, so they will allow 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 correct the world and its fear we must look on our compas-

On Dykes and Fashion

by Dot McMurtry, 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 tony 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

sion to govern how we understand our opposition and to determine what urges them to be aggressive. I propose that a think tank be created by our communities which would consist of members of Cosby's side of the argument and our own, 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 favor but take whatever we can attain 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

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 her own design. I am in something equally slutty. We look hot. As we approach the stairs that lead up to the bar, two burly woods-women, arms folded across flannel-clad chests, block our entrance. "Sorry girls," one of them says, "but you can't go 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 Nation 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 any who may feel differently, but my experience has shown me that one's attire is little more than a costume. Some of the butchest-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

Community Pride Reporter

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04101

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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 seacoast New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word community with renewed meaning and vitality. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to 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 her 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 may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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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 rugby that looked so boyish and cute on 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 there 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.

October 1994 Calendar

Friday, October 7th:

ΔΔ 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 8th:

ΔΔ 9:00 AM-5:00 PM - **Fight the Right Training**, Brunswick Unitarian/Universalist Church, 25 Pleasant St. presented by The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in association with The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance. FMI, 761-2413.

Monday, October 10th:

ΔΔ 4:00 PM-6:00 PM - Meet Susan Collins, candidate for Governor. The Underground, 3 Spring St., Portland. Bring your friends Columbus Day afternoon. Free food buffet & cash bar.

Tuesday, October 11th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center, presents: "An Election Guide" with Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, and B.J. Broder, Treasurer of MLGPA leading the discussion.

Friday, October 14th:

ΔΔ 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 15th:

•Δ 9:00 AM-2:00 PM - Generations in Contrast: Parents of Gays & Lesbians in Dialogue with Lesbian & Gay Adults, an interactive workshop. FMI, The Dialogue Center - 879-9000. See advertisement, this issue.

ΔΔ 2:00-4:00 PM - Women, Music & Power Workshop with Kay Gardner. Belfast Free Library, 46 High St., Belfast. Sliding scale \$15-\$25 pre-registration. FMI, 338-5889.

ΔΔ 7:30 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Ogunquit Chapter Benefit Dinner. Jonathan's Restaurant, Bourne Lane, Ogunquit. Tickets are \$100 per person. Reservations a must. Call 774-5444 FMI.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Save Space Women's Center, Creativity Night. Halloween fun. Bring T-Shirts or trick-or-treat bags to decorate. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM - Kay Gardner in Concert presented by The Women's Center in Belfast at the Belfast Free Library, 46 High St., Belfast. Cost: \$5 - \$10. Refreshments available. FMI, 338-5889.

Sunday, October 16th:

•Δ 9:00 AM-4:00 PM - Spectrum of Health Care Fair for Women, Campus Center, USM Portland. Admission \$2. Speaker on lesbian health issues plus much more.

ΔΔ 1:00-3:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Monthly meeting at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 498-2088.

•Δ 2:00 PM - Oak Street Productions presents jazz at Oak Street Theatre.

Local jazz historian Val Mollineaux presents "Beyond Category," on the life of Duke Ellington with slides and selected rare recordings. Tickets \$6. FMI, call OST, 775-5103.

ΔΔ 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.

Monday, October 17th:

ΔΔ 6:30-8:30 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Symposium XXI Planning Meeting #8 at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI details call 498-2088.

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland Chapter (formerly Equal Protection Maine/Portland Chapter) meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland (across from Mercy Hospital). Parking available in lot on Park St. (behind the church).

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Seacoast Gay Men meeting at Stroudwater Book Store, 775 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth. Stan Clough introduces a monthly discussion of gay writers. FMI, Al Santerre-(603) 898-1115.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, October 18th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center, presents "Artificial Insemination: A Personal Story Laced With the Facts."

Wednesday, October 19th:

•Δ 7:00 PM - Oak Street Productions presents jazz at Oak Street Theatre. Guitarist Gary Whittner and vocalist, Marguerite Juenemann in an evening of latin-influenced jazz and Be-bop. Tickets \$6. FMI, OST, 775-5103.

Thursday, October 20th - Sunday, October 23rd:

•Δ 8:00 PM (2:00 PM on 23rd) - Oak Street Productions presents solo performances: "And Now, Mark Twain!" with Richard Cary. Oak St. Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Tickets \$10. FMI, 775-5103.

Thursday, October 20th:

ΔΔ 6:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Bangor Chapter meets at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, PO Box 963, Bangor 04402 or call 990-3420 or 223-5630.

ΔΔ 6:30 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland, Coalition Building Committee meeting at the Wallace's, 415 Danforth St. Join us! Work with us! FMI-879-1342.

Friday, October 21st thru Sunday, October 23rd:

•Δ 3-day leadership training: **BUILDING BRIDGES**, presented by National Coalition Building Institute on the University of New England campus, Biddeford. FMI, Diane Gilman-207/882-8022, Winnie Weir-207/879-1342.

Friday, October 21st:

ΔΔ 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.

ΔΔ 7:30 PM - "Candidates, Bills, Referendums: The Politics of Diversity," presented by Building Inclusive Community (BIC) of Lewiston. Karen Geraghty, President of Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance and Paula Stockholm from Maine Won't Discriminate. Lewiston Multi-Purpose Center, 145 Birch St.

Saturday, October 22nd:

ΔΔ 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: A panel discussion and workshop on setting directions and success measurements for 1995. Brief Calendar session: Pride, Awareness and other events for 1995. Pre-register: 871-9940 or 772-7325.

•Δ 11:00 AM - Saturday morning children's theater. Krackerjack Theater Company presents "Fisherman's Wife" at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Tickets \$5 general admission. FMI, 775-5103.

ΔΔ 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-defeating behaviors. This is a circle with no judgments or expectations — just be yourself. Fee: \$30 (\$25 members). FMI, 725-7632.

•Δ 8:00 PM - Portland Museum of Art, **3 Divas in Concert**, musical-theatrical presentation. Deborah Hall, Judith James and Marie Pressman performing works originally written for the stage, screen, cabaret and concert hall by Stephen Sondheim, Kurt Weill and Maury Yeston. Edward Reichert accompanist. Tickets \$10/\$5 students. FMI, 773-0634. Reception to follow performance.

Monday, October 24th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Seacoast Gay Men, Unitarian Church, Portsmouth. Dara Jane Brennan will talk about New Moon Visionaries, psychic consultants, mediums, past lives and Tarot. FMI, Al Santerre (603)898-1115.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, October 25th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center, presents: "Substance Abuse in the Gay Community: An Interactive Discussion"

with Betsy Hood, MA, LSAC, and Frank Brooks, LCSW.

Wednesday, October 26th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM - **SPECIAL MATLOVICH SOCIETY**. Patricia Nell Warren, author of *The Front Runner*, introduces the sequel to her 1974 best-seller, *Harlan's Race*, to a special meeting of the Matlovich Society. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired. Free hotel parking.

ΔΔ 8:00-9:30 PM - Lesbian Movie Night at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland. Suggested donation \$5.

ΔΔ 9:00 PM - Reception and book signing for Patricia Nell Warren, following her lecture to the Matlovich Society, at **Drop Me A Line**, 615a Congress St. FMI, 773-5547.

Thursday, October 27th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society: "Celebrate the Anniversary of Twenty Years of the Gay Press in Maine." *Mainely Gay*, our community's first newspaper, appeared in October 1974. Enjoy an evening of story-telling with the men and women who helped create Maine's first gay newspaper. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

Friday, October 28th:

ΔΔ 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 29th:

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

•Δ 11:00 AM - Saturday morning children's theater. Krackerjack Theater Company presents "Fisherman's Wife" at Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Tickets \$5 general admission. FMI, 775-5103.

Sunday, October 30th:

ΔΔ 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, Al Santerre, (603) 898-1115.

Monday, October 31st:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham ME. FMI, 725-7632.

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland Chapter (formerly Equal Protection Maine/Portland Chapter) meets at St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland (across from Mercy Hospital). Parking available in lot on Park St. (behind the church).

A GLIMPSE INTO NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 1st:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center. Substance Abuse in the Gay Community: An Interactive Discussion with Betsy Hood, MA, LSAC, and Frank Brooks, LCSW.

Friday, November 4th:

ΔΔ 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:

ΔΔ 4:00 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.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM - Wild Iris Productions presents:

HOLLY NEAR IN CONCERT! First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. Gen. Adm. \$15/adv. \$17/door.

Sunday, November 6th:

ΔΔ 4:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Bangor Chapter. Peace and Justice Center 359 Main St. FMI, 990-3420 or 223-5630. Join Us!

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Spirituality & Empowerment gathering. Topic: Facing the Dark Time of the Year - Inner and Outer changes. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Monday, November 7th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space

Women's Center: Support Group. Focus is on healing, recovery and self-esteem. Newcomers are always welcome.

Tuesday, November 8th:

ELECTION DAY! VOTE! Your vote can make a difference!

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center. Follow election results in the ABC room.

Thursday, November 10th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents: Sex, Lies, and Videotape: the Radical Right's Media Machine." Come see and discuss the video and print propaganda produced by groups which promote hatred and homophobia under the guise of "family values." Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

Friday, November 11th:

ΔΔ 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.

Sunday, November 13th:

ΔΔ 1:00-3:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting at Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI, 498-2088.

Monday, November 14th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Support Group. Focus is on healing, recovery and self-esteem. Newcomers are always welcome.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Fresh 'n' Up Cleaning Service

P. 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 Entwistle 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 seventeen years collective experience in both the private and commercial cleaning industries makes for a well organized business with a strong base of working knowledge.

A 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 mutually composed 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 us dirt-mongers who just keep sweeping it under the rug.

Beckie and Dori can be reached at Fresh 'n' Up Cleaning Service, 926-4365, (New Gloucester). ΔΔ

CPR Personals

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MAINE

SONY SEEKING MAGNAVOX: Mike, like being called Sunday, I'm a TV - 166 5'10 looking for other TV's-you won't be disappointed #7012

Brunswick CHANGE HAS DONE ME

GOOD: Hi, I'm a 5'10 male to female TS 30 red/brn, thin looking for a special person to be a special friend, health care prof'l - out, open, honest and warm - if you're a special person, call me- #6878

Farmington **23 GWM** 5'11 lkg for another 22-36 like to hike, camping, swimming, movies, just lkg for friendship or more- #6712

ME PAUL, 29 GBM 165, 5'9 int any men that are men, not fem, pref, hisp or black men, any color, for friendship- poss rel- #8581

N. VT **HELLO!** I'm Tom, I live in Northern Vermont- I'm into hiking, biking, boating travelling looking for taller man in late 20's- I'd like to talk to you! #6472

Readsboro **GWM** 19 blnd/blu 6'3, 165, looking for nice looking guy - for friendship and more- #7264

Waterville **I KNOW WHAT I WANT:** 42 yr. old sub male, looking for an assertive male. I am willing to make my and your fantasies come true. #5705

Lewiston **GOOD BI GUY:** Amy yes, I'm looking for a bi man-weird but true- like bi men- they're the greatest- fun enjoy them better than reg men - if you're looking for a friend or whatever, I'm open in my relationships-I'm 18 short blond/blue eyes- #2387

ME SOME ENCHANTED EVENING: GWM 18 into fun in the sun, Broadway show tunes seeking anyone for long term rel- #2023

ME YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL: Mark 5'11 170 must like big, hard and hot- like as much as I can get- #2786

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Roxbury **CRUISE DIRECTOR:** 35 6'1 brn/blu, mustache 175 just moved into area- lkg to meet around my age to get to know the area- #2878

Rutland **THE GAY OUTDOORS:** Joe-30 5'6 180 brn/brn animals, outdoors, camping, hiking, fishing, boating looking for someone 19-45 to share this with- looking to relocate to the Maine/NH area- #2191

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- PRESS: 6. To Pick Up Messages In Your Mailboxes.

For Customer Service Assistance: 415-281-3183, 24 Hrs.

Rutland **MAY/DECEMBER ROMANCE:** Kurt, older man late 40's-looking for a younger man to have hot times with- like to get together with you- #28308

Sanford **BABY, I'M BURNING:** Mark 5'11 170 hot, mustache-like big, hard, hot, men! #3132

to have fun and laugh alot I like to stay in shape. like to meet someone 21-30 to talk and have fun or whatever. #34189

ME LOOKING FOR LITTLE BROTHER: Looking for an athletic clean cut guy. not into drugs or alcohol I like car trips, generous big brother type likes to pay alot of attention to someone I care about. 18+ #34291

Stanford ARM CHAIR

CHAMPION: Indoor sports action buff, 39, 5'11", looking for bi man-to-man action. #33051

Bangor **BACH RULES:** 37 yr. old GWM, Bln/Brn, into classical music, sailing, and sharing special times, looking for someone who is the same and 25-40 yrs. old. #32396

ME DADDY'S HOME: Daddy, 50, looking for a masc young son 18-28 yrs. old. I'll take care of you. #28308

ME NEW TO THE AREA: 37 yr. old, Bln/Blu, GWM, into classical music sailing (slow cruises to nowhere). You are 25-40 yrs. old and share the same passions. #32396

Warren **SHARP AS A TAC:** Bob, looking for Mr. Right. You are down to earth, slim, sharp, 20-30 yrs. old, and financially stable. #32677

Portland **TWO NIGHTS OR MORE:** 5'9", 38 yr. old, clean shaven, musc, into bowling, the beach, gardening, and especially music, seeks men, 5'9" or taller, stach, masc for more than a one night. #31184

Portland **OUT AND ABOUT:** 30 yr. old, GWM, 6'2", seeks men who have something going for themselves. I sing and give great massages. #31554

Portland **THESE FEET WERE MADE FOR WALKIN':** 31 yr. old Bi male into walking in the woods and along the ocean, seeks a man to hang around with once in a while for clean fun. #31585

ME NO SHIRT, NO SHOES, SERVICE: 32 yr. old looking for guys 35 and under. I have lots of interests and am very down to earth. #31923

ME INTO THE WHITE WATER: 6', Brn/Blu, into lots of outdoor activities including rafting. If you are also outdoorsy, give me a call. #32010

VT **HEY BABE-** like to get to know ya big hillbilly guy here in VT like athl clean cut intell disc 18-25 couch potato myself nice guy won't be disappointed- college students welcome go for it dudes! #1925

Battleboro **WE'LL TALK AFTERWARDS:** 37, 5'9, slim, goatie, looking for younger, intelligent men for summer fun and good conversation. #34746

Goosebay Harbor **MAINE-LY OUTDOORS:** Ben-160 6' brn/dk eyes attr, interested in music and outdoor activities, good times. Want to meet people around 20 with similar interests in my area. #34893

Bangor **NELSON,** 6' 165 prof'l ft student to find someone to spend some good quality time together- biking camping skiing together, dining out watching movies quiet eves at home- #34858

ME ERIC Oriental male, 25 5'7 145 seek loving honest resp guy 20-35- #1660

Rutland **PET SHOP BOY:** Kevin 26 5'11 155 own a small pet shop moving to Maine soon looking for friendship or poss more like to hike, camp, dance, #1284

Bangor **TOUJOURS L'AMOUR:** French Canadian looking for someone quiet, nice responsible who knows what they want- someone to camp, hike watch movies, spend quality time together. #34858

Bangor **GWM 27** dk green 5'11 looking for someone to build a rel with who likes hiking, camping and other outdoor activities. #34858

Bennington **BUILT FOR PLEASURE NOT FOR SPEED:** 6'1", 325 lbs, very lonely and very willing to please, looking for guys to share in some time. #33010

Glover **MANHUNTER:** MO, pre-op TS looking for good looking man for a relationship for great summer fun. #34205

ME MAINE MAN: Hi I'm from southern maine 30's 155 brown hair blue eyes i like

ML/GPA re-elects Karen Geraghty as President

By Alan Stearns, Contributor

The Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance held its Annual Meeting in Augusta on September 17. A crowd of forty to fifty people met for three hours, plotting the course of MLGPA for the next year.

In the next year, MLGPA 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 MLGPA will continue to work closely with Maine Won't Discriminate, 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

Women Seeking Women?

FEMALE ONLY PERSONALS

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To pick-up your private responses or browse:

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COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse 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-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbian, 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 Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at Lions Community Ctr., High St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The Phoneline 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 207/773-1209.

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 in Maine. 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 at The Open Hand on School St. Come share your experience and hope. FMI, call 934-5701.

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 eclectic 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 SASE (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 tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 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 in a non-competitive, nurturing environment. A little knowledge of music, and willingness to commit to a weekly rehearsal schedule and have fun this summer are all you need. For more information write Kate Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Project: 1-800-528-NCLR.

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGLY): 1-800-347-TEEN.

Portland:

The AIDS Line: 1-800-851-AIDS or 775-1267. HIV/AIDS related questions, call Mon.-Sat. 9 am-5 pm, Mon. & Wed. evenings until 7:30 pm. Anonymous.

DIAL KIDS: 774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs.

Ingraham Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (774-4357).

The AIDS Project: 774-6877. Located at 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

Oxford Hills: Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network: 743-7451

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: see Waldoboro

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

*Portland: 766-5158

Waldoboro: 832-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603/623-6023

Plymouth: 603/968-7516

Nashua: 603/880-8709

Manchester: 603/668-0741

Monadnock: 603/547-2545

Hanover: 603/763-4603

Concord: 603/746-3818

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 603/668-0741.

Seacoast: Meets 1st Tuesday from 7-9 pm at Stratham Community Church, Emory Lane, Stratham (1st right west of Rte 101 circle), FMI call 603/772-3893 or 5196.

Monadnock Region: Meets 4th Monday from 7-8:30 pm at Unitarian Church, Peterborough, FMI call 603/547-2545.

Nashua: Meets 3rd Thursday at 7:30 pm at Unitarian-Universalist Church, Lowell & Canal Streets., FMI call 603/880-0910.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in-clinic. Low cost, medicaid accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Room 303. FMI call 874-8784.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms!), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 874-1095.

Identity Support

Out and About is a nonprofit, lesbian (over 18) support and educational group. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. Meets Mondays at 7:00 pm. FMI, call 603/659-2139 or write POB 332, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0332.

Out Among Friends: Meets Thursdays 7-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Spring St. Lesbian support/discussion group. Free or \$1 donation to help w/rent. FMI write O.A.F., P.O. Box 727, Biddeford, 04005, or call 799-0297, or fax 676-4433.

Dignity, Etc.: Meets third Sunday at 5:15 pm at St. Luke's Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel), Portland. All are welcome. Fellowship & potluck supper follow 5:15 pm service. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI, write P.O. Box 8113, Portland 04104.

The Appollo Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Circle of Hope: An inclusive Christian community following a model developed by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Meetings are each Saturday at 4:00 PM and will be held at 156 High Street (Immanuel Baptist Church). The Circle of Hope is not affiliated with Immanuel Baptist Church. FMI, S. Smith, PO Box 8606, Portland 04104. Join us.

Lavender Womyn: Lesbian/bisexual women's discussion group. Meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. FMI, call 783-0461

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm. FMI call 622-1888 or 622-4254.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Pizza Get-Together: 1st and 3rd Fridays each month, 6:00 pm. First Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey-594-2957.

Q-Squad: Support group for lesbian, gays, bisexuals, & transgendered. Serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI call and leave message, 778-7380.

TransSupport Group: Meets regularly, providing confidential support, education and social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04101.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse: A support group for survivors of childhood

abuse and/or sexual assault meets every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, safe, facilitated. For more information and location call 874-6593. Sponsored by USM's Womyn's Forum.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm in all a positive nature of bisexuality and work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referrals available. FMI write P.O. Box 10818, Portland, ME. 04104.

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

Lesbian/Bisexual support group: Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 581-1425.

Am Chofshi: A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group, meets monthly. FMI call Rheatha at 874-2970.

Seacoast Gay Men: Meets Mondays at 7 pm at the South Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth NH. Support, guest speakers, parties, events. FMI call 603/898-1115 or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

Lewiston/Auburn: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets every Monday at 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Spring Street in Auburn.

Building an Inclusive Community: A group of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people working to build an inclusive and safe community in Lewiston-Auburn & outlying areas. We explore ways to achieve this goal through social gatherings, educational events, support groups, topic meetings and forums open to sexual minorities, friends and supporters. Your ideas and suggestions welcome. Please join us. FMI, write PO Box 3184, Auburn, ME 04212-3184.

Bangor Lesbian Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each another as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI: 947-5337.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH 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 partners with 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 774-5032.

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 lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

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 16-22. FMI, call 285-7180.

OUTRIGHT/Central Maine: Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 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 young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Station A, Portland, ME. 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portsmouth NH. FMI call Teenline at 1-800-639-6095 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth NH 03801.

COLAGE: a national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:
Mondays: HIV negative partners of people living with HIV, 6:30-7:30 pm.

Tuesdays: People Living with HIV disease and all friends, families, lovers, and caregivers, 10:30 am-Noon.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Living Well focuses on quality of life and empowerment for those living with HIV/AIDS.

Thursdays: Women Living with HIV meets from 1:15-2:45 pm. Men Living with HIV meets from 5:30-7 pm.

The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-851-2437 for more information.

Lewiston: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Women's Support Group. Call Diana Carrigan at The AIDS Project office at 783-4301.

Auburn: Thursdays: People Living with HIV meets at 7 pm at American Red Cross, 70 Court St., Auburn. Call Claire Gelinas at Andi. Valley AIDS Coalition at 786-4697.

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Ser-

vices, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call Brian at 725-4955.

Gardiner: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays: People Living with HIV meets from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind Kennebec Valley Regional Health Agency Annex. Call Brian Allen at MASS at 725-4955.

Biddeford: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: Family and Friends Who Care (about people with HIV disease) meets at 7 pm at Southern Maine Medical Center, Cafeteria #3, 2nd floor. Call Roger LaChance at 284-4102.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7-8:30 pm at Mexico Congregational Church, Main Street, Mexico. Call 364-8603.

Androscoggin Valley Aids Coalition: Thursdays: Support for people with HIV & their families. 7 pm, 70 Court St., 2nd floor, Auburn. FMI call 786-4697.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: P.O. Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04543-0421. Call 563-8953.

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

Androscoggin 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.

Down East AIDS Network: 114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 667-3506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 2038, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.

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

NamesProject/Maine: P.O. Box 4319, Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-2198.

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

People With AIDS Coalition of ME.: 696 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-8500.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: c/o NMMC, 143 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.

The AIDS Project: 22 Monument Sq., 5th fl., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-6877.

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

Classified Advertising

YARD SALE

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

FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

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

ΔΔ MOODY BEACH: Two bedroom apartments. Great for a weekend get-away. Fully furnished kitchen, color cable TV, large porch. Overlooking Moody Beach and the Rachael Carson Reserve. Rent by the week or for two days. Call and ask for Danny evenings. Tel. 207/646-5608 or write Danny Beamis, PO Box 637, Wells, ME 04090. ΔΔ

TRAVEL/VACATION

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

ΔΔ ROMANTIC getaway weekend for couples. Emphasis on intimacy and romance. Lovely Inn by the ocean on the Maine coast. November 4-6. FMI call Gloria, 207/442-7061. ΔΔ

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ΔΔ Be your own boss. Run a Shaklee business out of your home. Set your own

goals and achieve financial security without stress. Earnings depend upon 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 Sauviney, Roger Wilson: 207/725-9790.

SUPPORT GROUPS

ΔΔ Toward a More Positive Identity: Join our gay men's support group Wednesday evenings. Insurance reimbursable. Sliding scale fee. Chris Behan, LMSW; Fred Wolf, S.T.D., M. Div. The Family Institute of Maine. 773-6658 for more information. ΔΔ

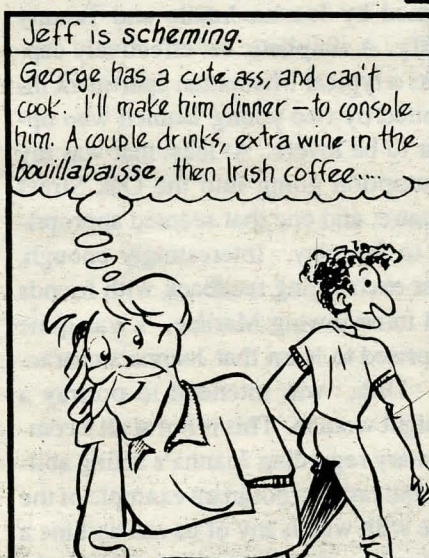
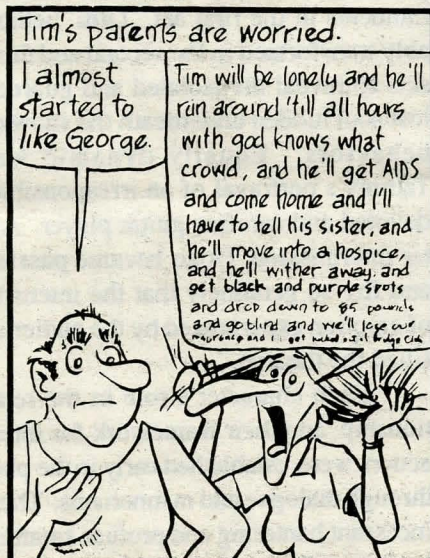
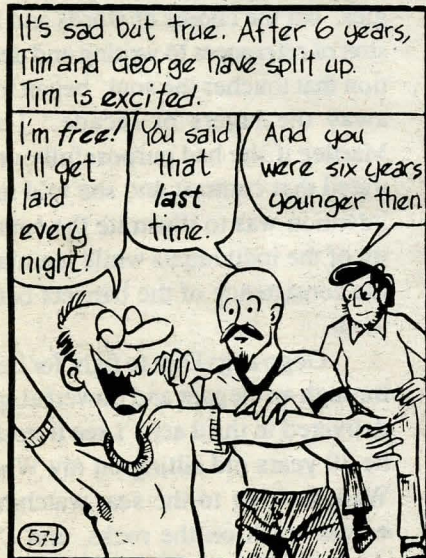
ΔΔ Dream Groups: These ongoing experiential groups will explore members' dreams through many approaches. Day group meets 11 weeks on Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 am, starts 10/5 (closes to new member 10/25); Evening group meets 14 weeks on Thursdays 7-9 pm (has started, but closes to new members 10/26). Members have the option to continue in subsequent "dream cycles." Portland based. \$20-\$40 per session. Call Rick Bouchard, The Dream part of your Spiritual Journey: 828-2031 for interview. ΔΔ

ΔΔ Generations in Contrast: Portraits of Gays and Lesbians in Dialogue with Lesbian and Gay Adults, not necessarily from the same family). Saturday, October 15th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. \$75/individual, \$150/family. Limited partial scholarships available. Call or write Dialogue Center, 95 High St., Portland ME 04101, (207) 879-9000. ΔΔ

PERSONALS

ΔΔ GWM, 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. ΔΔ

MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen

Arts & Entertainment

ARTIST PROFILE: Scott Potter

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 southern 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, but sexually 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 you 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 exquisite 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

CPR: Why not?

SP: Like I said, that was the first time... I never had that... anybody just come up to me like that. And the second time I danced with Nureyev was in Montreal and we just danced. There was a whole group of 35 men so that was a great distraction.

CPR: I like to ask people I interview if there's something they want to



Scott Potter displays one of his decorative art pieces. He donated a similar piece to the AIDS Art Auction.

Balboni Photo

be there.

CPR: Like sexual stuff or just play?

SP: See, you never knew with him. You never knew. I was young, so to me, I was of course, nervous. I had never had anybody do this to me so of course I didn't know how to react.

CPR: Did you sleep with him?

SP: No.

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
Nicole Lee Goodwin, Ass't.
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 ease with which any of us can assume a particular perspective given specific cir-

cumstance 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. Without relying on the typical jargon of the self-help 90s, Didi and Gogo caused us to look at the inanity, 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 passion and fire so genuinely that the intensity of emotion experienced by the audience filled the theatre.

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, but 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 purposefully 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 re-

See "Intreat Me... page 22

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Music on Review: Lara Schuler

by Aimsel Ponti

The Danforth Street stage down at Sisters was home for a lengthy set of 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 included making the inevitable switch to playing with her left hand. "Paul McCartney is left handed, maybe he's got the right idea," said Schuler. "All the teachers tell you to play right handed even if you're left handed because it's easier to buy a guitar and easier to play other people's guitars. "However, when she plays drums, she's a rightie. Sounds confusing but it works quite well for her.

Schuler began singing in her elementary school choir and has always liked to sing. Her first real live appearance was at age 16. Schuler and a friend played during a high school concert. They did a Peter, Paul and Mary tune and a John Denver song. From there, Schuler headed to art school, pursuing theater for a few semesters, and when she

See MUSIC, page 22

Vintage Repertory Company finds home

A conversation with co-founder
Jane Bergeron

By C. J. Sullivan

Jane Bergeron is the co-founder of the Vintage Repertory Company, the new Theatre-in-Residence at the Oak Street Theatre in Portland. Jane, Skip Emerson, the other co-founder, and David Blair, the third member, have planned an exciting season, featuring a number of gay themes and works by gay playwrights. Jane and I recently spent an afternoon talking about 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.

JB: 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 Studies [now affiliated with Portland Stage] with Flash Allen, and Deb Hall of Mad Horse, — I happened to be there during an especially talented year. Then I married and stayed around Portland. At the time I just wanted to travel — I was young, and I would work to get enough money to go travelling again.

CS: When did you start Vintage Rep?

JB: In 1990. At the time I was working at the Theatre Project in Brunswick. I was asked to do an evening's entertainment at the Portland Club, so we put something together and did it. As for the name, "Vintage Rep," Skip and I sat down one night with a bottle of wine and that's what we came up with. We were quite pleased, actu-

ally — by that time we were crocked. We looked up the word "vintage" in the dictionary and it means, "tried and tested." That's what we wanted — plays that hadn't been done in a long time but that were well established. It gives us freedom and diversity to perform things as dark as "The Maids." Our mission is to perform classics and modern plays.

CS: That brings up my next Question, which is, how do you choose plays?

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 David will read it. 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.]

CS: Do you interpret the plays you produce?

JB: I like to think that we stay true to the playwrights of the world — I believe in keeping the purity. In "Under Milk Wood" we chopped it up a bit and suited it to three people, but I think that added to the entertainment value. We

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by Dylan Thomas

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Kiss of the Spider Woman

by Manuel Puig

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like to say, "flexibility is our middle name." At Cafe No, we had to choose pieces that would fit at Cafe No. Our stage was Cafe No, not that 10 x 10 set. But, it got our name out, got us a reputation, taught us to do things and build and make things effective without spending a lot of money, and without sacrificing the quality. We created an atmosphere, and I don't think the audience ever felt gypped.

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

JB: In 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

See VINTAGE, page 22

MOVIE REVIEW: "The Adventures of Priscilla — Queen of the Desert"

by Bruce Balboni

The juxtaposition is the joke — two drag queens and one transsexual in the desert. This concept brings to mind such highly improbable situation movies like "Abbot and Costello Meet Frankenstein," or "The Three Stooges Meet Dracula and the Werewolf," and they're just about as funny. The titles are amusing but trying to build a movie around the idea is difficult, especially when you try to sustain the humor for two hours.

In the case of "Priscilla" there are two juxtaposition jokes. The first is how insanely funny it would be to throw 2 drag queens and a transsexual into the Australian outback and watch what happens. The second, which is less funny and even a bit offensive, is to cast straight men in these roles. Terrence Stamp, the transsexual, is, despite the make-up and glamour, an extremely ugly woman. He has the face and bearing of Sitting Bull and seeing his wise and stone-like countenance under pancake is grotesque.

The young drag queen (played by

Guy Pearce) is handsome, problem is he's also a bodybuilder. (No self-respecting drag queen is a weight-lifter.) The idea may be funny but the execution is not. An attractive young guy with huge biceps in a dress is a good sight gag but the laugh is over in a few minutes. We then have to deal with the fact that this character is unreal, in any universe, and we have almost two hours in which to do it.

There are juxtaposition-joke situation movies that work — My Fair Lady, Coneheads, Blazing Saddles, Starman, La Cage Aux Folles, Brother from Another Planet, Sister Act and Moscow on the Hudson to name a few, and that's because there is something else going on that is true and that captures our imagination or our sympathy or we identify with, this movie doesn't give us any of that.

There is another false note here too and that is the fact that the drag presented in "Priscilla" is Mardi Gras drag, or, better yet — Halloween drag. This

See MOVIE, page 21

Krackerjack Theater to perform at Oak Street Theatre

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

PORTLAND, ME: Oak Street Productions (OSP) recently announced that they have signed a deal with Krackerjack Theater Company (KTC) to present a full season of children's theater at the Oak Street Theater. The program of five shows, to be presented Saturday mornings at 11:00 am from October to early June, will showcase the most popular shows from KTC's six-year touring history. The season, to be produced by Oak Street Productions, will allow Portland audiences a chance to become acquainted with the Portland-based troupe that has performed an average of 250 shows each year in elementary schools, libraries, and theaters from Maine to Virginia. Suitable for grades K-5, the shows will run for four weeks apiece, with the exception of the first show "The

See KRACKERJACK, page 21

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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 snug hat on, and that spot in the back of my neck doesn't get all knotted up.

Within the Christian tradition, it was St. Ignatus 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, and 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 breath.

The fourth phase is the most subtle. During this last phase, try to maintain focus on the entry 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 meditation, 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,

See CHEW ON THIS, page 19

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The Remnant of EPL - Part II

By Rich Austin

Last month we 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 Branham, Finance Manager Jan Welch, Steering Committee members Ray and Kevin Gagnon, Glen Esman 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, Inferfaith 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 to get their hair styled or stopped going out to eat. I hear more often than not from 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 insulted, 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 gays 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. Was EPL 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 made, the repetitious 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. Branham 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 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, "Theirs 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

TIME OUT!

By Michael Rossetti

Some 12 years ago, as one of several versions of the story goes, on the corners of Charles and Beacon Street, Boston, a small group of gay men gathered in response to a calendar item in the Gay Community News. Old time Chiltern Mountain Club members recall that the item was a request for anyone interested to meet there at 7 am to car pool to Mt. Wachusett for a day hike. The hike was sponsored in part by the Lesbian and Gay Concerns group of Boston's Arlington Street UU Church. About a dozen men showed up and the concept of the lesbian and gay outdoor/sports club was established in New England.

For the last twelve years groups have been springing up across the country, as their own entity or as a gay offspring of other groups, such as the Gay Sierran's. In our region of America, on any given weekend, you can find members from nearly a dozen outdoor groups or social groups regularly engaged in an outdoor sport activity. The White and Green Mountains of VT and NH are probably the most popular areas for hiking, canoeing and camping, while Cape Cod wins as a favorite bicycle area with Provincetown as a popular destination.

The most prominent club in the Boston area is Chiltern Mountain Club, with some 1,200 members around eastern Massachusetts. Massachusetts has more specialized clubs like Outriders, specializing in bicycle trips, in particular the Boston to Provincetown ride. There are also several strictly women's clubs in Worcester and Cambridge that do frequent sporting and outdoor events. The Boston area also has a roster of team sport activities like bowling, soccer, and softball.

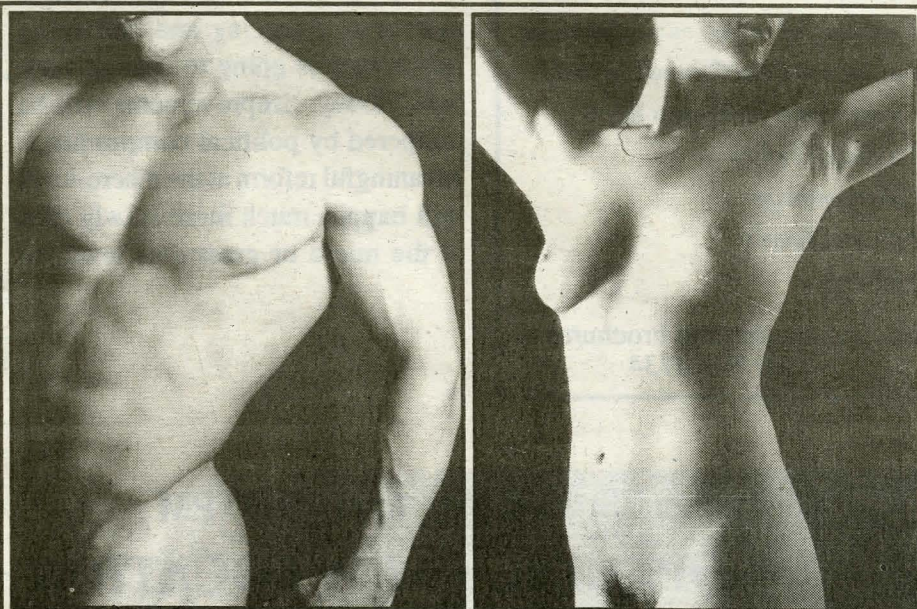
Time Out is a Maine version of many

of the other New England area outdoor clubs. Time Out was started in March of 1992 by several former Chilterner's, as an attempt to address the shortcomings of participating in groups originating out of Boston. The original Time Out members wanted to place less emphasis on developing a high degree of sports ability in favor of providing an outdoor and sport alternative to the bars and indoor social events.

For two years the club amassed about a two hundred person mailing list (membership was granted by simply being on the mailing list). Events were frequently short day hikes, canoe trips and easy bike rides from Portsmouth and North Conway to Bar Harbor. Later the monthly Time Out newsletter started incorporating any social event, making it one of the most complete listings of lesbian and gay events anywhere in Maine.

Time Out has floundered because of a lack of trip leader volunteers. Time Out events, like all other nonprofessional outdoor clubs, depends entirely on the volunteer efforts of its membership. With increasing requests for newsletters, the Time Out inner core found there was a decreasing number of volunteer leaders and a very limited newsletter. In May of this year, the newsletter stopped and a very good, and seemingly popular, idea became dormant.

Over the next few months Time Out is rejuvenating itself by arranging monthly outdoor and pot-luck supper events. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the newsletter, lead trips and stuff the mail once a month. Currently, an October "newsletter" (and membership participation packet) is available by forwarding a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a brief note about your sport interests to: Time Out, PO Box 11502, Portland, Maine 04104.



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CHEW ON THIS, from page 18

into a circle. Picture the four of you in this circle smiling and feeling really well physically, mentally and spiritually. As you picture this circle, mentally repeat the following words: "May we be well. May we be happy. May we progress." Try to elicit feelings of loving kindness for each member of the circle equally.

Practicing the above meditation has a definite effect on us. Somehow, it helps us to develop a warm and accepting feeling toward some of the most unsuspecting people.

I hope this short exposure to these two forms of meditation proves helpful, and that many CPR readers will give them a try. Do write, your comments and questions are always welcome. ΔΔ

Health Care Reform — What's In It For Lesbians? Part Three

by Peaches Bass

Last month this column discussed factors that affect the quality of our health care within the context of governmental and community-based health care reform. This month, we'll examine the question, "How will health care reform address the challenges lesbians face?"

Governmental and institutional reform proposals address better educational training for health care professionals — mostly physicians, nurses, and other medical care providers. There is more emphasis on primary care, like family medicine, and less promotion of specialties. These concepts will improve the provision of care at the community level and can make providers more accountable. Primary care focuses more on holistic care and generally has a progressive, or "liberal" bias. Primary care training is more likely to include sociological and sexuality issues than specialty training.

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 researchers 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-abortion 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 over-

whelmed, 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 Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, P.O. Box 20, Bangor, ME 04402, 947-5337. **ΔΔ**



Pam Anderson

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CANDIDATES, from page 8

"As I have said consistently during this campaign, Maine is in the midst of an on-going budget crisis. Unfortunately, this crisis is not likely to end in the next several years, in part because of recent policies which have pushed unfunded costs out into the future and in part because of the weakened state of our economy. For this reason I cannot responsibly promise an immediate increase in state funding for AIDS programs, justified though they may be. As the economy improves, however, and state revenues grow as a result, I would be open to increasing funding for AIDS programs."

King opposes efforts to deny gays and lesbians custody of their own children. He supports current Maine adoption law and would not consider sexual orientation a bar to state appointment.

On condoms King said, "I support both sex education and access to contraceptive services at health clinics like those provided by members of the Family Planning Association. Condoms are also available to teens at every supermarket and drug store, and I am not yet convinced that our schools and teachers should be in the business of distributing them without some parental involvement."

"I do support the distribution of condoms in the prisons as long as it is deemed appropriate and non-disruptive by corrections officials."

King's final answer was, "As I have mentioned, I cannot promise additional funding for any programs, but I am supportive of programs that support our youth, including lesbian and gay youth. Adolescence can be very difficult, and it is certainly exacerbated when one must learn to accept and understand his or her sexual orientation."

As stated earlier, there is nothing to report from Brennan or his campaign.

ΔΔΔΔ

ML/GPA, from page 13

Cosby's referendum even though they won't vote for a gay rights bill. Maine Won't Discriminate will appeal to a broader base than MLGPA and we can't afford to lose even those who only come half way on board," said MLGPA President Karen Geraghty at the meeting.

Geraghty also pointed out that MLGPA and Maine Won't Discriminate will work very closely together, even though their primary tasks are somewhat separate. "The press coverage of gay rights in 1995 is going to be enormous, and the press might not want to address the differences between Maine Won't Discriminate and MLGPA. Our press campaigns, grass roots campaigns, and coalition building will see a lot of overlap and coordination," said Geraghty.

MLGPA members elected a new Board of Directors as well as new officers for 1994-1995. They are: Karen Geraghty, President; B.J. Broder, Treasurer; Alan Stearns, Recording Secretary; Lauraine Bernier, Membership Secretary; Celeste Gosselin, Vice President.

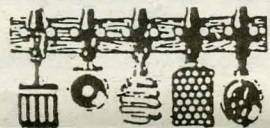
Directors for the same period are: Jody Brinser, Presque Isle; David Cadigan, Hancock; Bliss Gifford, Rockland; Brian Kaufman, Gardiner; Jayson Hunt, Portland; Kate Perkins, Kennebunk; Rita Clifford, Windham; Sturgis Haskins, Sorrento; Paula Stockholm, Cumberland; Jan Welch, Auburn; Barb Wood, Portland; Del Wilson, Portland; Tracy Goodridge, Augusta.

Jim Martin and Pat Peard were also appointed to be Ex Officio Directors.

The membership also voted unanimously to endorse Tom Andrews for the U.S. Senate and John Baldacci and Duke Dutremble for the U.S. House of Representatives. The next MLGPA meeting will be Saturday, October 15, 12:00 noon at the Winthrop Street Unitarian Church in Augusta. **ΔΔ**

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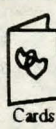
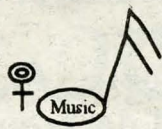
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MOVIE, from page 17

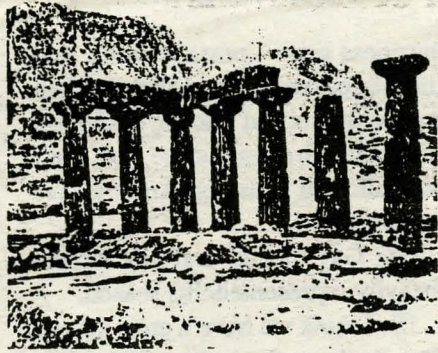
movie is a costume farce (Space Balls comes to mind). The outfits are more the stars of the film than the alleged characters. If you've seen "Queen," the 60's documentary about a drag queen beauty contest in New York you'll realize how far away from drag "Priscilla" really is.

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 misogynistic 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 fiefdom 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, camping it 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 Stephan 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 your 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 Odysseus. 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 stroke 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. ΔΔ

KRACKERJACK, from page 17

Fisherman's Wife" which will be presented for only three. The signing of KTC enables OSP to expand its programming into an 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. ΔΔ

JAZZ AT OAK STREET THEATRE

PORTLAND: Oak Street Productions plans to feature three area artists at two events in October. The first event, to be held on Sunday afternoon, October 16th at 2:00 pm will feature the return of local jazz historian Val Millineaux' presentation on the life of Duke Ellington entitled "Beyond Category." In this piece Millineaux intersperses personal anecdotes of his encounters with Ellington with a series of slides and selected rare recordings from different incarnations of Ellington's band.

On Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 pm, guitarist Gary Whittner will be joined by vocalist Marguerite Juenemann in an evening of Latin-influenced jazz and Be-bop. Tickets for each of the two shows will be \$6 and are available by calling the Oak Street Theatre at 207/775-5103 or at the door one-half hour prior to show time. ΔΔ

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PROFILE, from page 16

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 comfortable with yourself or who you are ... you can do anything you want.

CPR: The way you have experienced being gay and coming out sounds great and rare and 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 it's not, you have to have that acceptance there. Life is definitely not easy but you can live it and enjoy it. ΔΔ

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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, aching 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. ..."

Didi can only respond by saying, "... Look at reality. Wake Up. Earth to Gogo. See me as I am. I can't be your fantasy ... You can't have my soul Gogo."

Rumor has it we may have the opportunity to experience this impacting performance again in March during Women's History month. Watch for it and don't miss it because you simply won't forget it. ΔΔ

Tips for Coming Out Every Day

- 1) Make a commitment every day to tell the truth about yourself to others.
- 2) Join 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 protections 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 urging them to support fairness and equality for lesbians and gays.
- 7) Share your coming out story with local school, church or synagogue 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 as diverse as possible by getting involved and being visible—it truly makes a difference.



National Coming Out Day
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For more information call
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VINTAGE, from page 17

the business side — press releases, season tickets, packaging, and all that. Then Skip does the set and I do the costumes. We alternate directing, since you can't direct while you're acting. And we have guest directors.

CS: Gay themes and gay writers are heavily represented this season.

JB: I think we have a great season — I'm really excited about it, but it's really a coincidence that it's so heavily focused on gay issues. "The Maids" [by Jean Genet] is being directed by a Frenchwoman, Emmanuelle Chaleet, who now lives in Maine. Skip and David will be playing the Maids. When we first decided to do it, I really wanted to play one of the maids, but I grew to feel that they really should be played by men. When Emmanuelle and I discussed it, she said she had been coming to the same conclusion, but hadn't wanted to push me out. So I'll play the character "Madame."

Genet wanted a placard with the names of the actors on it, so that their [gender] identity was unequivocal. He wanted the audience to have a handle on identity while they suspend disbelief. He's very specific in his directions — he doesn't want them played as drag queens or transvestites, but rather played as men. The director wants them to retain their own personae but soften it — so that they're just individuals.

CS: It seems to me that you've just proposed something that's much more difficult for people to accept than clear-cut sexual identity.

JB: 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, but the maids refer to her and discuss her and dress in her clothes.

CS: Tell me something about Vintage Rep's conception of "Kiss of the Spider Woman" — I loved the film.

JB: It's a very powerful play — it's only the two men — the woman does not appear as she does in the film. There's a wonderful lovemaking scene when Valentin makes love to Molina. Valentin is straight, but he loves Molina and he wants to give him a gift. So it was decided that Skip would direct this play — we felt it needed his point of view.

CS: What other plays are scheduled for this season that you'd like to talk about?

JB: I'll be directing the Joe Orton play, "Entertaining Mr. Sloan." His humor is so black, he's the precursor to a lot of the British humor that is so popular in this country (i.e., Monty Python). His work is really powerful social and political commentary — he can make you laugh and think at the same time — he's kind of an Oscar Wilde of the 20th century. The play is about a brother (gay) and sister (straight) who live together and are looking for a lodger. Mr. Sloan comes to stay and he's very handsome and streetwise, and they both fall in love with him.

Then there's "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," which Christopher Price will be directing. He directed "True West" for us last season, and he's worked with many of the theatre companies in Maine. The play is in three acts, and the third act was rewritten for the movie version. I liked the original stage version better — there isn't the upbeat ending where you think that Maggie and Brick are going to work it out. What's really freaking Brick out is that his love [for his college football buddy] isn't "normal." There are so many plot levels in "Cat" — the character Big Daddy keeps saying, "mendacity, mendacity" — he's talking about people who are lying to themselves and what kind of mess it can get you into.

CS: Jane, what's your vision for Vintage Repertory Company?

JB: Everything is going so well — we have a wonderful theatre and we are doing what we want creatively. Our artistic vision won't change — the only thing we need is to achieve some financial stability.

CS: So you'll keep on doing what you're doing?

JB: Yes! ΔΔ

MUSIC, from page 17

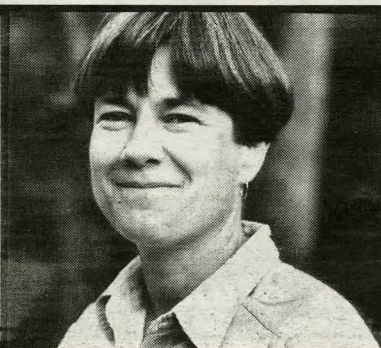
was a sophomore, she wrote her very first song. A long time writer of poetry, she finally pulled it all together and wrote a song called, "Yes."

"Every song that I write is very deliberate," says Schuler, who avoids writing lyrics just because they "fit."

In fact, it is songwriting that is in the forefront of Schuler's talent. Her lyrics are intelligent and well thought out.

Lara Schuler can play guitar, sing and write some very good songs. She is a musician with big dreams and relentless determination. Someday she hopes to be able to pursue music full time and have children. Until then, look for a CD from Schuler next year and a likely return to Portland. Having grown up near New York City, one of Schuler's long term goals is to play Carnegie Hall. ΔΔ

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- 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. Ask your questions. Find out where we stand on all the issues.

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"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

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