Community Pride Reporter, 10/1994

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Gubernatorial candidates speak . . .

Brennan repeatedly refuses to answer

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

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

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

1. The anti-gay rights referendum in Maine and the tactics of Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine
2. Same sex marriage rights
3. Domestic partnership benefits
4. AIDS funding
5. Do you oppose efforts to deny lesbians and gay community custody of their own children?
6. Adoption rights
7. Will you appoint openly gay and lesbian people to your state jobs?
8. Condoms in high schools 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 don't 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 appointees, 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

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

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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.

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Andrews commented on the anti-gay rights referendum and Concerned Maine Families by saying, "This attempt by this organization (CFM) is a horrendous 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 condom availability in the schools and he favors the distribution of condoms in prisons.

Snowe offers a statement

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

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

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

"With regard to appointment to my staff, my only employment consideration is merit and the qualifications to do the best job for the people I represent. My office policy states that: "This office will not discharge or refuse to hire any individual, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex (including marital or parental status), handicap, age, sexual orientation or national origin, but may take into consideration the 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 variance with the claim made by Andrews that Snowe would not support non-discrimination in her staff hiring.

Congressional context: District 1

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

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

On the question of AIDS funding, the response was, "He has been involved with and aware of many AIDS issues for over ten years and believes that every reasonable effort needs to be made to eradicate the threat of that horrible affliction from the face of the earth at the earliest opportunity." As a general rule, Longley supports the rights of biological parents to custody of their own children subject to the assumption that any decisions pertaining to the custody of minor children should be made with reference to the best interests of the child to a healthy, physically safe and moral environment.

Again, as a general rule, Longley believes that any decisions pertaining to the custody of minor children should be made with reference to the best interests of the child, "maybe physically safe and moral environment."

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 gay men 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 their child, I would support that."
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 — Glenthi Gray (D)
District 6, Brewer — Richard Rahlin (D)
District 7, Orono — John O’Dea (D)
District 8, Milo — Amber Gahagan (D)
District 9, Bangor — Sean Faircloth (D)
District 10, Newport — Alton Chinette (D)
District 11, Liberty — Susan

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George Lawson (D)
District 22, Gorham — Audrey Gerry (D)
District 25, Cape Elizabeth Anne Schink (D)
District 26, South Portland Peter Clooster (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 Koentos (D)
District 44, Yarmouth — Douglas Carr (D)
District 51, South Harpswell — David Emser (D)
District 53, Bowdoinham — David Shah (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 —

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 Guilyer (D)
District 21, Scarborough

Lawley (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 — George Berube (D) — this is a "must win" District 22, Auburn — John Cleaveland (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)

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

District 90, Lewiston — Gerard Bouchard (D) — a "must win"
District 91, Gardiner — Sharon Treat (D)
District 92, Hallowell — Jill Duoson (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

Paula Craighead, candidate for ME Senate from District 27, Portland

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 Swazy (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 Volinik (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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Dale McCormick, candidate for ME Senate from District 18, Gardiner
Citizens for Sensible Emissions Law denounces Cosby's efforts to hijack their group

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"As a young reason why Citizens for Sensible Emissions Laws (CSEL) has great concern about joining this organization (Maine Citizens Review Board — MCRB). We do not want to be inclusive of his effort 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 Parents and Teachers 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 (CMF) just as you did the previous time as late as February of 1995, when all processes of signatures is customarily completed in this state within more than thirty days from the date of submission of the signatures."

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

Allison confirmed that the notorious, homophobic bigot Paul Madore is a part of 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 necessary. If I can't make a convincing, persuasive argument and I lose my issue, if it's a fair game, I'll take a loss — but I'm not willing to be silenced."

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

CPR questions Cosby

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

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

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

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

CC: Right. I don't know whether it is or not, but certainly, his office should not 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, homosexual 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?

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: "In view of the growing dissenting opinion in reference to the Georgia lower court's decision to prosecute two men for homosexual sodomy, "That certain, but by no means all religious groups, condemn the behavior at issue gives the state no license to impose their judgments on the entire citizenry."

And Thomas Clark, author of "Secularism and Sexuality: The Case for Gay Equality," makes the case that, since there is no secular basis upon which to demonstrate harm from gay behavior, any argument which purports to do so must be religious in nature. Therefore, Justice Burger's opinion and the Court's decision to uphold Bower vs. Hardwick violates the principle of separation of church and state. [Source: The Humanist, May/June 1994]

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

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

CMF's use of "recent marketing studies" to claim that gays have an average household income in excess of $55,000 is dubious. First of all, it assumes a uniform distribution of income throughout the gay community, when, in fact, income level is quite varied. Lesbians, for example, have average incomes significantly lower than gay men. Naturally, CMF doesn't list their source for their inflated income statistic, but, it most likely comes from the 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 $1,000-a-plate Republican fund-raiser in Connecticut to determine the household income of all farmers in Iowa.

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

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

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

And, according to a 1992 summary of Empirical Research Findings on Homosexuality by the Oregon Psychological Association, "homosexuality is neither a mental nor a psychiatric disorder." Furthermore, in 1973, the American Psychiatric Association stated that homosexuality implies "no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational abilities" and has not changed its opinion on this.

Psychologists generally agree that people who accept and integrate their sexual orientation (i.e. accept and behave consistently with their inner feelings) are psychologically better off adjusted than those who do not. Thus homophobia 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 uphold 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 stumped 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-

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 orientation.

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

You are looking at the wrong group — just gather a random group of teens together and discuss sexual harassment and the things 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 steepered 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.

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 molestors, 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 DeFrancis 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 says a lot more about CMF's own sick fears than about the gay people it's intended to deflate.

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.

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

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 owning 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.

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

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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. I'm convinced he did that because 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 fiscally 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, 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 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 gay rights are not something 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 position."

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 an admission 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 as a guide for gay 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 answer 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 an appropriate 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."

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

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

As Governor I have signed L.D. #246, An Act to Prevent Discrimination. It is already the policy of the State to protect our citizens from discrimination based on race, color, age, 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 at this time. I believe that domestic partnership benefits should be resolved between employers and employees as a matter of contract and benefit negotiation."

See CANDIDATES, page 20
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 theit posi­tions clear. Colorado faced a very sim­i lar environment and now I understand that in spite of everything that's been done there, 60% of the people would still vote to uphold Amendment 2. This is an issue where the people are speak­ing, and I hope that when you have two opposing forces in the political arena, when you come to some conclusion in the battle, there has to be some 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 be. 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 con­struction period, because this is such an area of mixed emotions, those who are on the extreme ends -- I hope there can be a construction 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: Umm... 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 your 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 accep­tance, 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 Rauch 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 go for "special rights." So you can easily make the po­litical jump that those are "special rights" because it's recognized by the courts that civil rights that confer minority status are "special rights."" CPR: The goal is equal status.

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

CPR: But none of those provisions are in the gay rights laws. CCP: Then I would come back to you and say... what do the homosexu­als really want?

CC: 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 lobbyist 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.

CC: CPR: What about the issue of lo­cal control?

CC: How can you legitimately be out pursuing a national gay rights bill and then scream about local control. You can't have it both ways. That's as dis honest 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 me I 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
The Reporter's commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using results in the paper having a recycled paper sometimes to "Color ME Green."

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The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to responsible use of our earth's resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in the paper having a toned down or grayish tinge. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to "Color ME Green."

Endorsements for the '94 election

Third party candidates and Independents are often ignored or dismissed as people who simply can't win. The prevailing wisdom suggests that if they're eligible 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 Congressman.

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 ineptness 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 he takes gay votes for granted. He doesn't want to hurt his lead in the polls by soliciting himself with the stain of contact with homosexuals.

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

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

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

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. Jonathan Carter is the only candidate to publish a current position on gay and lesbian issues. He is not only in favor of and would sponsor, 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-sex marriages in Maine;
- legalize gay and lesbian adoption rights;
- legalize gay and lesbian domestic partnership job benefits through insurance, family leave, and so forth;
- legalize gay and lesbian banking and property rights, such as inheritance of a house.

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

In the race for the House seat being vacated by Tom Andrews, we endorse Dennis 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 doesn't.

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

In Solidarity,
Winnie Weir
Bruce Balboni
Publishing Editor
Managing Editor

CPR MAIL BAG

To the Editor:

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

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

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

Rita LaBarbera, Portland

To the Editor:

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- 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 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 and that a vote for Brennan out of fear of Collins or King is the most prudent voting decision.

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

Ivan Suzman, Portland

To the Editor:

am writing to give our wonderful community one food for thought. As we all know there is a large movement led by another comedian named Cosby, who, in her self-conceived infinite wisdom, See MAIL BAG, page 11
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 community is 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: Can there be a solution? Yes, but only if clothes make the man, then we have to find another way. How about using the power of the government to protect our rights? 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 ad


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 definition of seriousness. 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 begin to use strength and courage and express emotions. How radical!

The gay rights movement to end this is inhumane. 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 us of fighting homophobia. But who better than us to lead the way? AA

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're 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.

Opera­tion on the theory that getting there is half the fun, we've spent the evening sipping wine, trying on clothes and making up each other's faces. With her long legs and long blonde hair, she's stunning in a leopard-skin cat suit of her own design. I am in something equally sluty. We look hot. As we approach the stairs that lead up to the bar, two burlu 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 them by as 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 feminine fashions either — a butch in a suit can set the male attention. How about you trying to woman dressing to attract me is subtly

butchest-looking women I know have experienced has shown me that one's attire is little more than denim and leather.

Dressing as a woman invites unwanted male attention. How about you trying to dress up the politicians because they are the ones who are more afraid than anyone and they just cannot help.

Laurie S. Dell, Brunswick

Mail Bag, from page 10
October 1994 Calendar

Friday, October 7th:
Δ7:00-9:30 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:
Δ9:00 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:
 Δ4:00 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:
Δ7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center. - Refreshments available. FMI, 338-5762.

Wednesday, October 12th:
 Δ6:30-9:30 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Symposium XXI Planning Meeting #8 at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 598 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI details call 496-2888.
Δ7:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Ellsworth Chapter meets at the Unitarian/Universalist Church on the Bucksport Road, Ellsworth. FMI call Peter Rees, 667-2358.

Thursday, October 13th:
Δ7:00-9:30 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, 725-7682.

Tuesday, October 17th:
Δ7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center, presents: "An Election Guide" with Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, and Association Director of MLGPA leading the discussion.

Friday, October 14th:
Δ7:00-9:30 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:
Δ9:00 AM-2:00 PM - Generations in Contrast: Promoting Lesbians & Gay Young Adults in Dialogue with Lesbian & Gay Adults, an interactive workshop. FMI, The Dialogue Center - 879-9000. See advertisement, this issue.
Δ7:30 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Ellsworth Chapter hosts Benefit Dinner. Jonathan's Restaurant, Bourne Lane, Ogunquit. Tickets are $100 per person. Reservations a must. Call 774-5444 FMI.

Thursday, October 20th:
Δ7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Creativity Night: 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.
Δ11:00 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.

Tuesday, October 25th:
Δ7:00-9:00 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, 725-7682.

Sunday, October 29th:
Δ8:00 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.
Δ11:00 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.

Monday, October 31st:
Δ7:00-9:00 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, 725-7682.
Δ7:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland 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.


Friday, October 11th:
Δ7:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Ellsworth Chapter meets at the Unitarian/Universalist Church on the Bucksport Road, Ellsworth. FMI call Peter Rees, 667-2358.
Δ7:00 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).

Δ7:00 PM - Sea Coast Gay Men meet at 775 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth. Stan Clough introduces a monthly discussion of gay writers. FMI, AI Santerre (603) 898-1115.
Δ7:30-9:30 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, 725-7682.

Thursday, October 20th:
Δ7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center, presents: "Artificial Insensation: A Personal Story Laced With The Facts." FMI, 775-5103.
Δ7:00-9:00 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, 725-7682.

Tuesday, October 20th:
Δ7:00 PM - Oak Street Productions presents jazz at Oak Street Theatre. Guitarist Gary Whittner and vocalist, Marguerite Juenneman in an evening of great jazz and re-bop. Tickets $6. FMI, OST, 775-5103.

Thursday, October 20th - Sunday, October 23rd:
Δ8:00 PM - Portland Museum of Art, 2, Disc, A Conceptual Exhibit. FMI, 338-5889. 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 other Broadway luminaries.

Friday, October 21st:
Δ7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center Open House: informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts and ideas or simply kick back and relax. 67 Main St., Topsham ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, October 22nd:
Δ10:00 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: Building and discussion on setting directions and success measurements for 1995. Brief Calendar session: Pride, Awareness and other events for 1995. Pre-register: 871-9940 or 772-7322.
Δ11:00 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.
Δ1:00-4:00 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.
Δ6:00 PM - Portland Museum of Art, 2, Disc, A Conceptual Exhibit. FMI, 338-5889. 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 other Broadway luminaries.

Friday, October 24th:
Δ7:00 PM - Sea Coast Gay Men, United Church, Portsmouth. Dara Santerre (603) 898-1115.

Saturday, October 29th:
Δ8:00 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.

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A Glimpse into November

Tuesday, November 1st:
Δ 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, LSAIC, and Frank Brooks, LCSW.

Friday, November 4th:
Δ 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 enjoy. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, November 5th:
Δ 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.

Tuesday, November 8th:
Δ 4:00 PM - Wild Iris Productions presents:

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

Sunday, November 6th:
Δ 4:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Bangor Chapter. Peace and Justice Center 359 Main St. FMI, 990-2420 or 223-5630. Join Us.

Thursday, November 10th:
Δ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Spirituality & Empowerment Topic. Facing the Dark Side of the Year - Inner and Outer Changes. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Monday, November 7th:
Δ 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.

Thursday, November 10th:
Δ 7:00-9:30 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.")

Friday, November 11th:
Δ 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:
Δ 1:00-3:00 PM - Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting at Gay Lesbian Community Service Center, 306 Main St., Caribou. FMI, 498-2088.

Monday, November 14th:
Δ 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 Becky Hill and Dori Beasley. They began their home-based business to provide gay men, lesbians and bisexuals protection from discrimination.

While MLGPA will continue to work to provide gay men, lesbians and bisexuals protection from discrimination, the Maine Human Rights Act in order to provide gay men, lesbians and bisexuals protection from discrimination. 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, planning 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 MLGPA, 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, planning the course of MLGPA for the next year.

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PHOTO SUPPORT
Region by region
National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth
2-1st & 2nd Weekends of every month at
4:30 pm at the Augusta Area Resource
Center, Augusta.

PHONE SUPPORT
Lupine Line: 1-800-55-AIDS or 775-1267.

AIDS Services: 1-800-347-TEEN.

1-800-221-2747.

FRONTLINE: 1-800-347-TEEN.

The AIDS Project: 774-6855.

Support Services: 725-6995.

Community AIDS Task Force on AIDS:
833-6608.

Community AIDS Awareness Program:
833-4170.

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition:
768-4697.

Waterville: 632-2644.

Bangor: 652-2610.

FMI: 581-1425.

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children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth ages 16-22. Call Sandy Titus at 774-6877 or 1-800-639-6095 or write P.O. Box 842, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meetings every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Safe and supportive discussions for and with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth. People living with HIV meet from 1:30-3 pm at the Physicians Building behind Kennebec Valley Regional Health Agency. Call Brian Allen at MASS at 774-4955.

Biddeford: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: Family and Friends Who Care (about people with HIV disease) meets at 7:30 pm at Southern Maine Medical Center, Cathedral Floor. Call Roger LaChance at 284-4102.

Rumford/Mexico Area: Mondays: AIDS Support Group/Phoneline meets from 7:45-8:30 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 503-8953.

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

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04249. 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 04261. Call 583-6088.

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


Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 284, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 900-3626.

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

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


People With AIDS Coalition of ME: 596 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 733-8500.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: c/o NMHC, 146 E. Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.


Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 950, Belfast, ME 04915. Call 338-1427.
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: Were you sexually active in high school?
SP: I was attracted to a lot of men but I was straight. I didn’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, (Cleary throat) first, I was frightened because he would chase me around backstage calling me, “pussycat.” And then I was like... in awe... this man is like a God on stage and yet he was chasing me. I was young. I was very young at that time.

CPR: Chasing you in what sense?
SP: Well, he’d come and you know, directly, and say, “Hey, pussycat, c’mere,” and things like that, and I was... I’d be in one spot changing and he’d say or if there was a question they expected to be asked and weren’t... 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

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 care with which any of us can assume a particular perspective given specific circumstances and setting.

The multitude of messages offered were not lost, however, as this play humorously demanded the audience to intensely ponder all of the complex dynamics inherent in relationships. With out relying on the typical jargon of the self - help 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 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 facet. 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 Wall looking to the sea, watching the waves crash on the rocks, and I’ll remember...”

See “Intreat Me...” page 22
Music on Review: Lara Schuler
by 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 morose-light 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 jokes about 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 with your right hand, which is what I'm 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 then she told me her story.

"The Adventures of Priscilla - Queen of the Desert"
by Bruce Balfour
The juxta-position is the joke - two drag queens and one transsexual in the desert. This concept brings to mind situations movies like "AABBott 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 situations 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

Krackerjack Theater to perform at Oak Street Theatre

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 Theatre. The program of five shows, to be presented Saturday mornings at 11:00 am from October through 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 Wild Few Productions presents Annie"

with John Barchino and Special Guest - Catherine W'Amotu Meyrl Troop - Interpreter

See KRACKERJACK, page 21

See MOVIE, page 21

MOVIE REVIEW: "The Adventures of Priscilla - Queen of the Desert"
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See KRACKERJACK, page 21

See MOVIE, page 21
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 neck 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. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, who first introduced a guide for meditation. The Buddha taught his followers to meditate some 25 centuries ago. In the Christian tradition, it was St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, who first introduced a guide for meditation. The Buddha taught his followers to meditate some 25 centuries ago.

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 the center of our own being. The first is simply called "Mindfulness of Breathing." If you try this one and want to know more, I would suggest reading one of Thich Nhat Hanh’s books. "The Blooming of the Lotus" is one of his more recent books. They are readily available in bookstores.

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

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

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

For the third phase of Mindfulness of Breathing meditation, drop the counting and simply watch your breath as it enters your body, fills your lungs and slowly comes out again. This has a very calming effect. If your mind begins to wander, again, bring it back to watching your 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 meditate, they think they have failed because of the number of times they have found their minds wandering. This is not failure, but the real work of meditation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The fifth and final phase consists of seeking to bring all four of you: yourself, your dear friend, the person toward whom you feel completely neutral and the person with whom you have ill feelings, together to the center of your own being. 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.

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The Remnant of EPL - Part II
By Rich Austin

Last month began an in-depth look at the history of the Equal Protection League 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, Collette Brannham, Finance Manager Jan Welch, Steering Committee members Ray and Kevin Gagnon, Glen Ensam and Roland Blais spoke with this reporter about their experiences.

Another element of the campaign that the remnant of EPL believes is 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, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, Haymarket People’s Fund, Interfaith Clergy Group, and many other organizations either condemned EPL’s effort for human rights in Lewiston or actually lent a hand by providing volunteers or donations.

Yet with support from the state-wide 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’s hair’.

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 made to say the repetitions message stood alone. Also, the presence and aid of the Lesbian Avengers, though very effective at a grass roots level, was controversial among the members of the EPL steering committee. Brannham 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, “There’s 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 articles.”

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 I 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 outdoors/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 Siemans. 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 sports 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 Providence 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 Providence ride. There are also several 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 Portland 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.

In a matter of weeks YOU could be shooting and developing beautiful figure studies like these.

- I have the models
- I have the studio and darkroom
- I have the expertise

For more information call:

STUDIO 101 • 879-2560
Still accepting MF models - $25.00 hourly

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CHEW ON THIS, from page 18

- circle a 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. Somewhat, it helps us to develop a warm and accepting feeling toward some of the most unsupporting people.

But the 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. △

OCTOBER 1994 - PAGE 19
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 overwhelmed, skeptical, or confused, remember that there is plenty we can do as individuals. The more of us who can come out, the better our health care will be.

If you are interested in getting more involved with health care reform in Maine, contact Consumers For Affordable Health Care, P.O. Box 2490, Augusta 04332, 622-7045, or contact the Lesbian Health Project at the Wadsworth Woman's Health Center, P. O. Box 20, Bangor, ME 04402, 497-5337. ΔΔ

VOTE!!

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 Maine adoption law and would not consider sexual orientation as a 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. ΔΔ ΔΔ

MLGPA, 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 all 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 Stears, Recording Secretary; Lauraine Bernier, Membership Secretary; Celeste Grosselin, 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; Brian 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 Dumont 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

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

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

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

From the Oracle...

Dear Pythia,

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

Am I settling for less?

Signed, Uncertain homosexual

Dear Uncertain,

If you're uncomfortable about something 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 Odyssey. They cover a lot more than just bars. If you want to make a break with the past you're going to have to get active about it.

Pythia

Dear Pythia,

If coming out in the gay world was such a hard ordeal for most of us, and feeling the emotions of rejection, fear and discrimination are what most of us in the gay community have experienced, then why do we discriminate, reject and look down on others who come from other walks of life and try to get comfortable in their own skin? It seems to me that even in the gay community many of us feel as if we are Queens on a chess board as the pawns strive for a step forward.

Signed, Shamef

Dear Shamef,

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

Pythia

US CONGRESS from page 3

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

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

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

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

Congressional Contest: District 2

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

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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 a exciting new area for Portland audiences: adaptations of some of the world's best loved literary favorites into children's theater presented by professional adult actors.

The first show of the season, "The Fisherman's Wife," will open on Saturday, October 22, 1994 and run for three weeks until November 5, 1994. This show, adapted from the Brothers Grimm, will showcase the antics of Isaac, 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.

The holidays are coming. Celebrate the Solstice or Christmas with:

Balsam fir Christmas trees - all top to 5' tall
Wreaths - 24" decorated or plain
Garland - white pine or balsam

Creamy white sheep pelts,

Meat: Lamb - whole or half Goose

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 16 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 interperses 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 19 at 7:00 pm, guitarist Gay Whitmer will be joined by vocalist Marguerite Jaenemann 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.

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CPR October, 1994 Page 21

Balsam fir Christmas trees - all top to 5' tall
Wreaths - 24" decorated or plain
Garland - white pine or balsam

Creamy white sheep pelts,

Meat: Lamb - whole or half Goose
people have a difficult time in their connection with your creativity and your sexual orientation?

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

SP: Being gay and having the experience I had gave me the opportunity to choose. I'm not saying 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.

CS: 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 be not 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 not, you have to have that acceptance there. Life is definitely not easy but you can live it and enjoy it.

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 activities.
4. Come out in the workplace and encourage your employer to include directions 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 gay men.
7. Share your coming out story with local schools, churches or synagogues.
8. Volunteer with and support local and community organizations.

CS: Tell me something about Vincent Repertory Company?

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," meant to be personifications of Genet's identity was unequivocal. He didn't want them played as drag queens or transvestites, but rather played as men. The character 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: 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 not, you have to have that acceptance there. Life is definitely not easy but you can live it and enjoy it.

Remember the Annual Fund of The AIDS Project
22 Monument Square
5th floor
Portland, ME 04101

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.

"Paula has my strong support. Please vote for her so we can work together!"
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Jonathan Carter and The Maine Greens fully support and affirm the right of all lesbian, gay and bisexual people to live in dignity and security. We honor their contributions to society and welcome their participation in our Administration.

The Carter Administration will work to:

• Address issues of HIV/AIDS including education, prevention & long-term care
• 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.

VOTE YOUR HOPES, NOT YOUR FEARS

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

*Although some in her party have counseled Susan Collins to modify her pro-abortion and pro-gay rights stands in order to appeal to more conservative voters, Collins says there will NOT be any changes.

Those views are fundamental beliefs of mine and I think they are shared by the majority of Maine people, she says. The government ought to stay out of personal decisions. I view the gay rights issue as one of discrimination. I belong to the party of Lincoln, and that ought to mean something.*

The Maine Times, September 16, 1994

SUSAN COLLINS

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

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