

FREE

Community Pride Reporter

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



VOL. 2, Number 2

AUGUST, 1994

Clinton to Maine, "When the chips were down, Tom Andrews didn't blink."

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

President Clinton came to Portland, Maine, July 18, to raise money for Democratic candidates, but foremost on his agenda, revealed in his speech at the Sonesta to 250 party faithful who paid \$100 each to be there, was to boost Tom Andrews' chances of beating Olympia Snowe for George Mitchell's Senate seat.

The president gave an enthusiastic speech highlighting the economic achievements made since he took office and of the dire need for health care reform. He particularly focussed on the one-vote margins, in both houses of Congress, that passed his budget. He said, "When the chips were down Tom Andrews didn't blink," but the Republicans, every one of them, including Snowe, took their orders from their party leadership and voted NO.



"I need Tom Andrews in the Senate, but more importantly, Maine needs him there."

An Andrews victory is of great importance to the White House, not only because it is Mitchell's seat being filled

but because the Democrats are in real danger of losing control of the Senate. If the Republicans take control of the

Senate that would elevate Jesse Helms, Strom Thurmond, Orrin Hatch and Alfonse D'Amato among others, to committee chairmanships.

Thurmond, the nonagenarian racist from South Carolina, would head the Armed Services Committee. Does the phrase 'southern justice' mean anything to you? Helms, the rabid, homophobic racist from North Carolina, would head the Foreign Relations Committee. Hatch, from Utah, would take over Judiciary and D'Amato (New York), perhaps the most corrupt man in the Senate, would actually become Chairman of Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs — talk about a fox in the henhouse. Olympia Snowe's election to the Senate would bring about this nightmare in the national government.

Clinton's remarks on health care

See CLINTON, page 3

Gessner to use alleged sexual abuse as defense in murder trial

by Bruce Balboni

Pat (Pasquale) Perino, Mark Gessner's lawyer, said that when Gessner worked for Melvin Henderson, a 74 year-old Bath florist, 14 years ago, Henderson sexually abused Gessner "more than once." Gessner was 16 at the time. Interviewed in the parking lot of Sagadahoc County courthouse in Bath following Gessner's arraignment, July 14th, Perino outlined his defense strategy. He entered pleas of innocent and innocent by reason of insanity for his client.

The entering of these two pleas gives Perino two options. If Perino thinks the state's case is weak he will ask for a two-stage trial. If Gessner is found guilty in the first part of the trial Perino would then try to have him found not responsible by reason of insanity. The other option is a one stage trial in which all the evidence is presented and the jury decides if he is guilty, innocent or innocent by reason of insanity.

Perino said that the state cannot provide a motive for the killing which is why the retaliation for alleged sexual

See Gessner, page 2



Militant fundamentalists harass Bangor's Pride marchers.

Photo by Jim Martin

Bangor Pride remembers . . .

by J.B. Andrews, Contributor

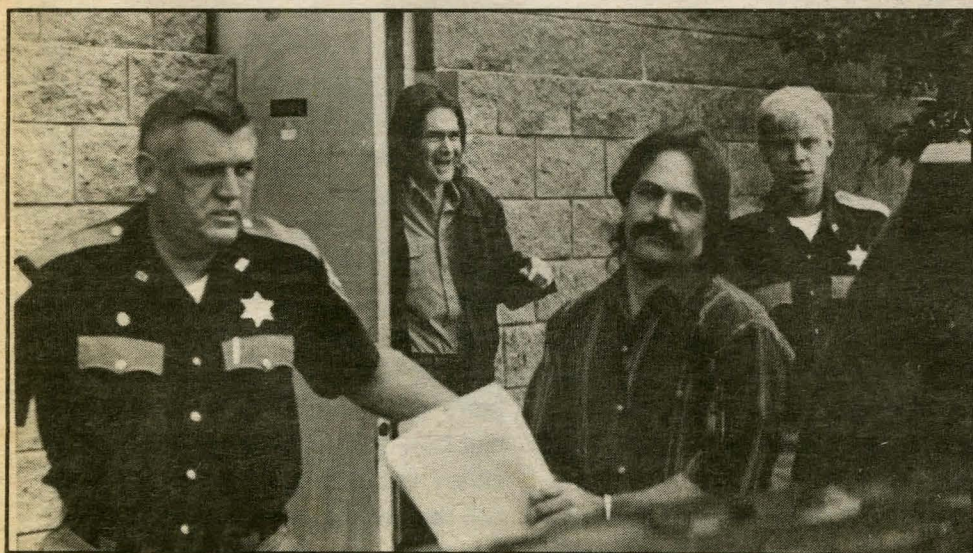
"We gather here 10 years after the death of Charlie Howard to recognize the diversity of members of our community." So said Bangor's Mayor Don Soucy at the city's Pride Festival in Paul Bunyan Park, July 10. Nearly 300 gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their supporters were gathered in the park following their march through the downtown district, a route that took them within a block of the site of Howard's murder.

Martin Swinger greeted the march-

ers as they filed into the park with songs most easily described as gay folk. Later the African drumming group Inanna had the crowd on its feet calling for more.

Even the presence of the fundamentalist protestors from a church in Brewer didn't seem to darken the celebratory mood. The suit-and-tie-clad protestors, who had lined the parade route shouting bible verses, arrayed themselves on a hill overlooking the festival when the parade was finished.

See PRIDE, page 2



Following his arraignment, Mark Gessner is taken from Sagadahoc County Courthouse to be returned to Kennebec County jail in Augusta.

PRIDE, from page 1

During the parade, some marchers responded by blowing whistles to cover the preaching, by handing the protestors a flower, or laying one at the feet of those who refused them. At the festival, they attracted little attention, and soon left. One attendee said it seemed like the men came looking for a fight, but when they realized they were being ignored, "they picked up their toys and went home."

Attendance was nearly double that of the parade held here two years ago according to Jim Martin, one of the event's organizers. He attributed the high numbers not only to the anniversary of Howard's murder, but to new attacks by the right on the civil rights of gays and lesbians. In his remarks to the crowd, he asked, "Has society truly addressed the issues of homophobia, bigotry and hate? All you have to do is look at Concerned Maine Families to see that not a whole hell of a lot has changed" in the last decade.

Martin, co-chair of the Bangor chapter of Equal Protection Maine (EPM), the group that sponsored Bangor Pride, said one of the goals of this year's event was to make people aware of CMF's threat to their rights.

The focus of the Mayor's comments to the crowd was hate crimes. He said the city's hate crimes division is committed to eradicating the problem, but they needed the gay and lesbian community's help. "In order to solve

the problem... hate crimes must be reported," he said. He went on to say that though many hate crimes are being committed, "very few are reported, since your rights are not specifically protected by the State of Maine," adding that many victims fail to report their attacks out of fear of repercussions. In his request for gays and lesbians to report any hate crimes, he assured them that all investigative reports are kept confidential.

The most powerful speaker of the day was Peg Cruikshank, Visiting Professor of Gay and Lesbian Studies at the University of Maine in Orono. She urged the crowd to remember their accomplishments, which she listed as survival, "We didn't go away," education, "We're teaching America about sexuality," and improved media coverage. She also urged them to speak up, to come out, "to say to those demonstrators on the hill that we are their brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, mothers and fathers."

Cruikshank applauded the crowd for its role in the greater struggle for gay and lesbian rights on a national level. She said celebrations such as Stonewall 25 in the power centers of New York and San Francisco were important, but that the future of the movement is with places like Bangor. "This is where the battle will be won, this is where the liberation will have to take root... places with the energy and the vigor to get the message out to America, 'We're here, we're queer, and we're proud.'" ΔΔ

GESSNER, from page 1



Site of the murder of Melvin Henderson on North Street in Bath.

Balboni Photo

abuse is the likeliest defense. This defense presupposes that Gessner did indeed shoot Henderson. Perino would not elaborate on the alleged incidents of sex abuse but said there were several, that they occurred while Gessner worked for Henderson and that there was another person involved in the abuse.

This other person is the "other queer" Gessner was threatening to kill when he confessed shooting Henderson to his friend Darrell Ricker. Perino claims to know the name of "the other queer" but would not divulge his identity.

Perino said that Gessner hadn't seen Henderson for years and that the Channel 13 series on child sex abuse entitled "Child Lures" aired prior to the incident may have triggered a flashback which led to the shooting. Perino, who is one of Maine's leading attorneys in the area of insanity defense, said that this killing and the defense for it is precedent-setting, i.e., murder because of sex abuse flashbacks.

Ricker gives conflicting stories

On the day of the shooting Gessner went to the house of his friend, Darrell Ricker, and asked for a gun to shoot "the other queer," stating that he had already shot one. Ricker called police. Community Pride Reporter contacted Darrell

Ricker shortly after the May 5th shooting and at that time Ricker refused to talk to the press. Since then he has given two interviews to the *Portland Press Herald*. The first appeared on July 15th and at that time Ricker stated that Gessner had told him years ago of the alleged sexual abuse committed by Henderson. In the next interview, on July 22nd, Ricker said that that statement is inaccurate.

In the latest development, on July 28th, Gessner was denied bail. At the hearing, the State police revealed that they had recovered the murder weapon and that Gessner's fingerprints are on the barrel. In denying bail, Judge Bruce Chandler said, "I am satisfied beyond any question at all that there is probable cause" to believe Gessner killed Melvin Henderson. The trial date has not been set.

Among the most baffling aspects of what is already a bizarre case and Bath's first murder in 22 years is the statement of Henderson's daughter which she made at her father's funeral. "My father died as he lived — violently, and full of deep, deep anguish." She has steadfastly refused to explain this assertion. In any case, Perino's plan to use sexual abuse as a defense for murder, 14 years after the fact, is bound to be explosive. ΔΔ

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More Bangor Pride on pages 4 & 5

Peabody House benefit canceled

by Winnie Weir, Editor

Recent telephone calls to the Community Pride Reporter office confirmed that the "Red Ribbon Restaurant Night" benefit has been cancelled for the time being.

The benefit was planned for August 20th between 12 noon and 10 pm at area restaurants. A portion of the proceeds from eating out at participating restaurants was going to be donated to Peabody House, located at 14 Orchard Street in Portland.

Peabody House is an AIDS hos-

pice and assisted living home for PWA's which has recently been opened after undergoing extensive renovations and improvements.

CPR was not able to find out why this benefit has been put on hold, but we hope it will not be long before we can carry the announcement that it will happen. In the meantime, if you would like more information on Peabody House and how you might make independent contributions to their important work, call their business office at 774-6281.

Clinton, continued from page 1

were perhaps his most impassioned. He reminded the audience that it was none other than President Richard Nixon who once offered a plan for health care reform similar to his own and that Republicans now brand these ideas as "liberal."

Clinton drew comparisons between himself and Harry Truman in terms of the bitterness of the criticism he receives and he artfully drew the connection between skyrocketing health care costs and not having enough money to spend on education, technology and housing.

The president avoided any detailed discussion of the various health care reform plans but alluded to protesters who claim he is trying to introduce socialized medicine to America which he said is not true because he is relying on private insurance.

Ironically, the protests in Portland were in support of the single-payer system which is similar to the Canadian health insurance plan which many refer to as socialized medicine.

ACT-UP greets Clinton with a pointed message

Sue Enos, a member of ACT-UP/Portland (ACT-UP = AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) who was at the Holiday Inn to protest in support of single payer health care said that, "single payer is the only plan that would cover everybody with comprehensive health insurance, unlike managed care which would leave gaps and not provide equal care." Enos said that rich communities would have better health coverage than poor under a managed care system.

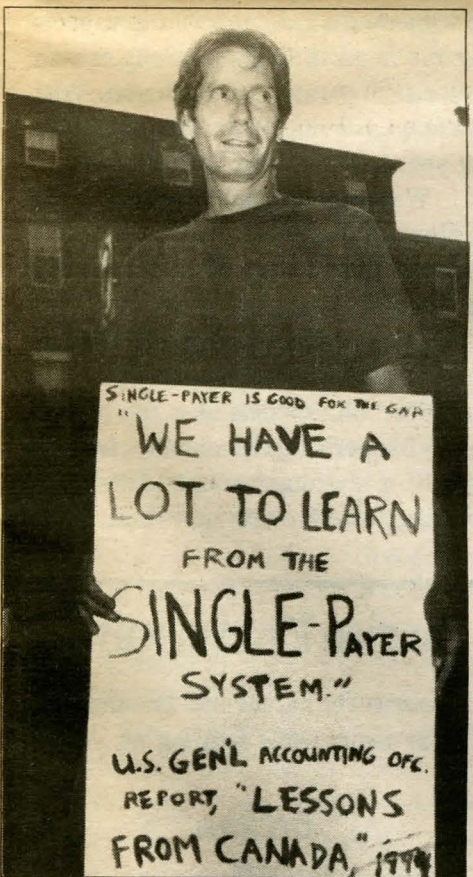


Photo by DOC

Protestor greets President

ACT-UP is involved in this struggle because PWAs (People With AIDS) are routinely denied health insurance under preexisting conditions restrictions or their health insurance is canceled because health care for AIDS is so expensive. Enos stressed that the single payer plan would put an end to both these practices.

She added that one of the reasons that health care for PWAs is so expen-



Clinton arrives at Portland' Jetport, July 18, 1994.

Balboni Photo

sive is because of the strangle hold the large pharmaceutical companies have on our health care system. These are the same groups who lobby so heavily against any health care reform.



Clinton and Brennan greet supporters.

Press denied access to President

This reporter had hoped that the press passes obtained from the White House press office for CPR would have allowed access to the president so that questions relevant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community could be asked, but even though press passes get you in to these events, access to the president himself is strictly limited. No opportunity for questions was permitted. During his speech, Clinton did not mention the AIDS crisis nor did he refer to the anti-gay referendum drive now underway in this state.

Mitchell and Clinton argue for the courage to "change"

One of the central themes of Clinton's speech as well as of the introductory remarks of the other politicians present was the need for "change." Retiring Senate Majority Leader, George Mitchell, said in his introduction that Clinton has been subjected to inordinate criticism, hostility "and personal vilification by those who fear change." Mitchell said that because of Clinton's courage and ability to lead, our nation

has been turned in the right direction.

Mitchell described the great economic benefits achieved under Clinton and said that the economy has expanded so rapidly the Federal Reserve Board has had to raise interest rates 4 times in the past year. The crowd booed. Mitchell laughed saying that he'd never heard the Fed get such a reaction and said he would tell Alan Greenspan.

Mitchell went on to say that Clinton is the first president in a quarter century to tackle health care and that with his leadership there will be universal coverage. He then introduced Clinton to thunderous applause. ΔΔ

CMF's signatures to face challenge

by Winnie Weir

During a radio interview on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition" news program, Carolyn Cosby, President of Concerned Maine Families, alleged that her organization has indeed collected 60,000 signatures to force a referendum question on the November 1995 ballot which will attempt to codify discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people in Maine.

Cosby has indicated that the signatures will be turned into the Maine Secretary of State's office sometime on August 15. Once the signatures are turned in, Attorneys Pat Peard, Vice President of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, and Mary Bonato of Boston's GLAD, in conjunction with Equal Protection Maine volunteers from around the entire state, will be challenging signatures collected thus far.

Equal Protection Maine continues to organize and mobilize to counter this blatant attack on our community. Find out how you can help in this effort by contacting the local EPM chapter in your area: Portland - EPM, P. O. Box 8124, 04104-8124; Bangor - EPM, P.O. Box 963, 04402-0963 or call 990-3420; Caribou area - contact Northern Lambda Nord for information - P.O. Box 990, Caribou 04736-0990, or call the Phoneline 207/498-2088. ΔΔ

GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

We hope you have noticed that you haven't heard from us in a while. Quite honestly we ran out of things to say, and rather than bore everyone to death we had some friends help us with our ads. But, that's all changed. (For now.)

So much has happened up here on our end of town. While the councils, boards and bureaucrats have been busy snoozing with their noses buried in studies by expensive consultants, our neighborhood has blossomed. All it took was a bunch of shopkeepers with good ideas and lots of energy. What a shock!

Bella Bella, Jim Leduc's new restaurant around the corner on Congress St., has an antipasto that's not to be missed, Allen and Mary Allen's Coffee By Design has a quadruple espresso designed by David Cedrone that will keep you awake for at least a week. (Does the inspiration for David's paintings come from hallucinations caused by caffeine overdose?) And they also have wonderful pies and muffins made by our neighbors at Gervais & Son. Woodford's Cafe has some new owners who are doing some sprucing up and continue to have the best burgers in town.

But, most exciting of all, we have had the opportunity to restore two buildings on Spring Street at the corner of Park Street. Mark Ward and his construction crew are truly miracle workers.

The delightful Sara Cox is opening her own gallery in the storefront at the corner of Park Street on August 15. All of us in the neighborhood are very excited for her. Sara's Delilah pottery has had very successful showings at Nancy Margolis and June Fitzpatrick Galleries. Congratulations to Sarah and her studio mates Louise and Lacy.

Speaking of June Fitzpatrick, how nice it is to be able to run next door for a minute in the afternoon for a quick look at work by some of Maine's foremost painters and sculptors. And from what we can see through the kitchen window, her openings every other Thursday have got to be one of the best invitations in town. And, by the way, we continue after three years to have the freshest, fairest priced dinners in town.

Kate & Dany

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A "Wise" View of Bangor Pride '94

by Bruce Balboni

Jim Wise, a 43 year-old activist who helped to initiate the first run of ACT-UP in Portland in 1989-1990, attended this year's Bangor Pride March on July 9th. Jim lived in Bangor when Charlie Howard was murdered and he knew Charlie.

During the march, Wise confronted the radical religious bigots who carried signs containing "texts of terror," as he calls them. There were eight, white, middle-aged men carrying these signs. Wise's position is that queer Christians need to stand up and confront these people non-violently.

Wise states that the Christians "harassed and hounded us halfway into the march. They were positioned on top of the hill by the bridge that goes over to Brewer, holding their signs and yelling and screaming scripture at us as we marched by on our way to the park."

"I chose to blow whistles and shout back at them. They all gathered in one group as we were marching into the park, and I marched right up to them and through them and one of them engaged me and said something to the effect that I needed to repent. I said lesbians and gay men are part of the body of Christ if they choose to be and then I walked on. There was a bigger group of people (10-12) who surrounded one or two of the picketers and shouted "shame" at them."

One fundamentalist was shouting scripture. Jim went up to him and blew his whistle so no one could hear him. The preaching stopped whereupon Wise said, "God bless you" and walked on.

Wise thinks it is important to state his motive for these confrontational acts. He refers to a book entitled "Jesus Acted Up" by Robert Goss, who is an ex-Jesuit priest and member of ACT-UP, Kansas City. Wise quotes from this book to show that there is a rational foundation for the behavior of those who choose to be confrontational. He states firmly that there is a reason for the shouting and that much of that reason can be found in the aforementioned book. He reads,

"Queer Christians need to follow the steps of Jesus. They need to act up against the churches and stop the hatred.

Queers need to stop the churches before the churches stop queers. It is a life and death struggle. Gay men and lesbians are dying and suffering at the hands of fundamentalist Christians in the name of Christ. They are denied their civil rights in the name of a national campaign to restore traditional family values. They are discriminated against in employment, housing, the legal system, foster care and so forth. Just as the churches are bringing their campaign of hatred into politics, so queer Christians must bring the battle for truth back to the churches.

"When a priest or minister gets up in the pulpit and condemns queers, queer Christians need to stand up and demand gospel justice. It is just and right to blow whistles during homophobic homilies. It is appropriate to bring the battle for queer truth into the churches, into the pews and into the altars. The battle against church hatred requires a commitment to justice. Queer Christians need to intensify their presence within the churches. Invisibility harms the gay and lesbian movement and ignores Jesus' practice of justice-doing. Closeted gay and lesbian clergy need to come out. It is only by coming out and affirming our sexual diversity that we can change the churches. Many clergy who have followed in the footsteps of the queer Christ have suffered exclusion, silencing and discrimination."

Wise confronted the Christian fundamentalists at Bangor Pride and at the Concerned Maine Families meeting at the Church of the Nazarene in South Portland last May in order to challenge them to live up to a more authentic Christianity. Wise cites the fallacy that Sodom and Gomorrah was one big gay city—that never happened. Wise states that the true meaning of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah is lack of hospitality, not anal intercourse.

Wise thinks that if proper translations and interpretations of the bible are made, there is an answer for the gay movement in theology. He thinks that if the bible is read correctly, gays and lesbians are not excluded and con-

demned, and that queers should use the bible and theology to fight back. Wise says that same sex practices are not of predominant concern in biblical tradi-



Jim Wise and Wolfie. Wise is a long-time gay rights activist.

tion. However, fundamentalists base their condemnation on 10 or 12 inaccurately translated biblical texts.

I pointed out that many people believe that looking for an answer to a political question in the bible is not the way to go. Regardless of the bible's teachings, this is still a secular society, and its laws should be outside the influence of religious writings. Wise still thinks it is effective to defeat the "fascist" fundamentalists on their own turf, and even though he supports separation of church and state, he sees one aspect of this struggle as a question of faith. His faith is in a queer Christ.

In commenting further on Bangor Pride, Wise speculated that if lesbian and gay activists were present at a Christian rally the cops would have cornered them in one spot, or removed them from the area, "These men (the fundamentalists) were allowed to circle the festival

and hold up their protest signs."

Wise recalls Charlie Howard

Wise said the march was especially important to him because this is the 10th anniversary of Charlie Howard's murder and Charlie was a friend of his. Wise says, "You can't tell me the police didn't know what was going on in that part of town." Wise says that back in '75 and '76 an incredible change occurred in Bangor. A cruising area had come into being in the downtown area (there was no gay bar). This area and the people who frequented it were subjected to a rampage of homophobic vandalism in full knowledge of police who did nothing to stop it.

Wise said Howard was a stand-out. He was very pretty but was just trying to be himself. The same men who murdered Howard had assaulted Wise a week earlier but he fought them off. These three "had been down there (the cruising area) for months and I think the police knew it and I think the cops let them do it (the vandalism). They were there for months breaking windshields, putting cars in neutral to let them roll down the hill and pulling guys out of their cars. Three of them surrounded me and some of them knew karate but I'm husky so they left me alone."

Wise connects the homophobic teachings of Bangor area churches with Howard's murder. He recounts that right after the murder there was a candlelight march to the police station and the cops were very put off by it. Wise recalls the homophobic reaction of police in the Bangor Bagel Shop when he and other protesters at Howard's murder trial gathered there. He then links it to today, 10 years later, when during the Pride march he witnessed a Bangor police man shaking his head in disgust, along with a motorist, at the sight of the march. Wise challenged them, "Why are you shaking your head?" They looked away.

Wise came out publicly in the wake of Howard's murder. Howard's death changed Wise's life. Wise recalls that the Bangor Police would yell "faggot" at him as he walked the streets of Bangor and he speculates that they let these kids terrorize homosexuals as a rite of passage. Bangor's fundamentalist churches have been teaching hatred and their kids continue to be brought up to hate. ΔΔ



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Gay Pride March, Bangor July 9, 1994

by Ron King, Contributor

Just another Gay Pride March. I would go, no doubt about that, but I was not all that excited. My partner and I had planned to go together. I was looking forward to that but on the morning of the march he decided not to go and I was not sure if it was because he was mad at me, over a pretty stupid thing I had done, or was not feeling well enough to go.

On the way to Bangor I was thinking about all the other Pride marches I had been to over the past 25 years. I thought, "here we go again." Even though I had been to many Pride marches I was looking forward to sharing this event with two friends that had never been to one before. Sharing the march with them would make the day even better.

The march was to gather at Fleet Bank at 11:00 AM. As I pulled into the parking lot there were many queers starting to gather. It felt great gathering on the side walk on Exchange Street. I was reminded of the incredible diversity of our community, all the different kinds of folks. I greeted many old friends with a hug and a kiss. Watching my two friends watch all the 200 or so queers gather was great fun.

There were lots of banners of the various groups of queers. There were Unitarians, AIDS groups, social groups, education groups and men in drag in a limousine. Lots of boas. Someone gave me a rose and told me to give it to a protester if I saw one. I said I would rather throw it over the bridge for Charlie Howard if the Pride route took us over THE bridge. After a bit of milling around we got started.

There were a few spectators either just looking at the queers or giving us the thumbs up or applauding. My feelings alternated between, "what the fuck is this all about," and, "look at me motherfuckers, here is a real queer, now you can't say you have never seen one."

I was walking with my friends who had never been to a Pride march before. They seemed to be having the time of their lives. As we started up the hill towards the intersection of Union and Main Streets, we saw the Christians. There were maybe half a dozen people carrying signs with quotes from the bible or something like that. Some were waving bibles in the air. The one I gave my flower to was reading from a bible.

I have lots of mixed feelings about how to react publicly to those bible-wielding fools. I feel that any energy I use, even to acknowledge them, gives them power and that is the last thing I want to do. On the other hand, I appreciate the symbolic gesture of confronting them in public. I am not sure where my feelings comes from. Is it because I am a pacifist and any confrontation is abhorrent to me, or is it because I am a sissy? They remind me of all those bullies from the playing fields of my childhood. Whatever it is, most of the time, I just want to get away.

Climbing that hill was not fun for me because of my arteries, nor for my

friends, because of their emphysema, but we made it over the hill and then continued on to Paul Bunyan Park. At the park there were booths selling queer stuff. We heard speeches by queers and a welcome from the Mayor of Bangor. There was entertainment and a general good time. It felt great to be in a group of queers at least a couple hundred folks strong. I felt less vulnerable than when we were all strung out in the March.

It turned out to be a great day. It was cloudy and cool enough to avoid sweating. It was good to be there to show your face. It does not seem to me that we will ever stop having such marches. Even after laws are passed to protect our rights, I am not sure I want to assimilate. This community feels just right to me. ΔΔ

Bangor Pride shines despite protestors

by Michael Rossetti, Contributor

On Saturday, July 9, some 500 people celebrated Bangor's 2nd Gay and Lesbian Pride. The event featured a parade down Main Street, speakers, and a festival in Paul Bunyan Park.

The parade was exceptionally noisy and festive. With a large contingent from Mount Desert, members of MLGPA, P-FLAG, Bangor's UU group, and others. The marchers shared Main Street with the Bangor Sidewalk Art Festival and a small but vocal (if not routine) group of "religious" protestors. Some of the protestors were walking about taping the marchers with video cameras . . . No incidents occurred, due largely to the forethought and planning of the march organizers.

The festival that followed the march featured some exceptional folks. The Mayor of Bangor spoke in glowing support of the community and equal protection, noting the anniversary of Charlie Howard's murder. Progressive folk singer Martin Swinger led the music off with a well received set of songs. The vibrant drumming group Inanna also enlivened the stage. Some dozen or so vendors sold everything from tofu hot dogs to hand made earrings.

The protestors were largely ignored but held out through the event. During the march, marchers carried flowers, many of which they left at the feet of the anti-gay fanatics. Later, during the festival, the protestors stood for about an hour on a hill behind the stage, holding large signs and citing biblical quotes and personal opinions. Earlier they had leafletted cars and passers-by with a pink flyer entitled "What Jesus said about Homosexuals." Strangely, the flyer had no quotes from Jesus, but cited many Old Testament lines that the protestors thought applicable.

The Bangor event was co-sponsored by Equal Protection Bangor, which circulated pledge sheets for the walking distance of the march. EPM/Bangor managed to raise over \$1,000 to help start the battle against ignorance and hate in the 1995 anti-gay referendum. ΔΔ

Bangor Pride on Parade

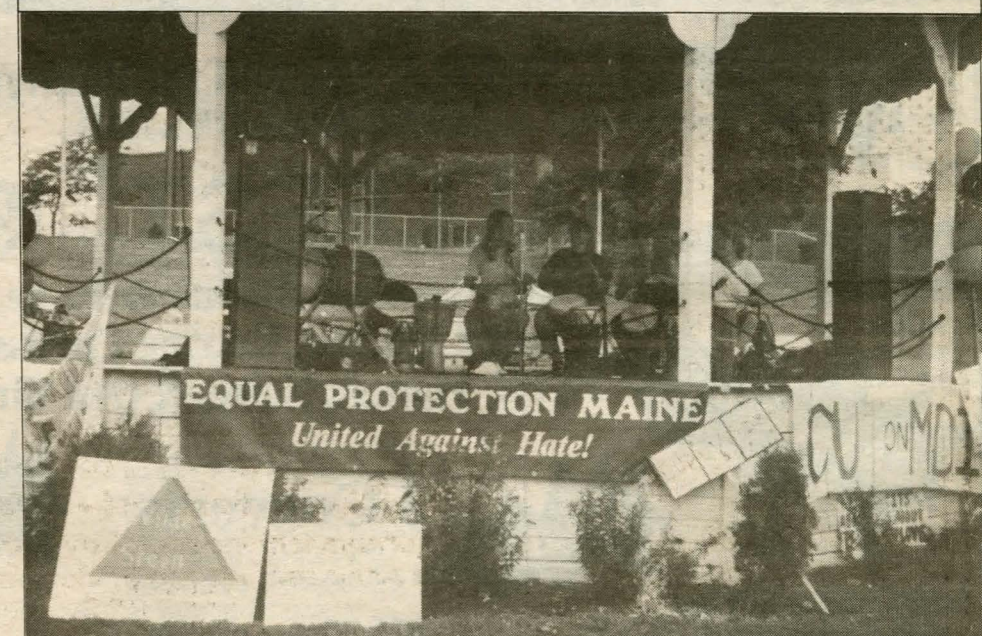
Photos by Jim Martin




Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are building their rainbow . . .



The crowd listens to Martin Swingers beautiful folk music.

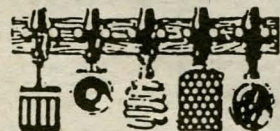


The festival at Paul Bunyan Park provided a variety of entertainers.

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The deafening sound of silence

Jim Martin, Contributor and
 Co-Chair EPM/Bangor

I can't remember exactly what I was doing on July 7, 1984, but I was probably enjoying my recent graduation from high school and making plans for the upcoming voyage to my new home, Maine. Unknown to me at that time was a man named Charlie Howard, a faceless image who would ultimately set me on a life's journey beyond my expectations.

It was the reality of a life cut short that acted as the catalyst to my coming out process. At the first memorial service for Charlie, a friend and minister mentioned a conversation they had a couple of weeks before the brewing ignorance in three young men erupted into hateful violence.

"Why can't you just tone things down a bit," the minister questioned with the good intentions of a concerned friend.

"I can't participate in my own oppression," was the reply of the man who lived life flamboyantly, marching to the beat of his own drum.

It wouldn't be until later that day, once home and away from the company of many gay and lesbian brothers and sisters in my new community, that these words would take hold and set me on a new path of freedom and self-respect.

As we remember the tenth anniversary of Charlie's death, there has been much attention in the press about how things have changed since three men took it upon themselves to rid the world of one homosexual. At first glance, much seems to have improved.

In 1992 Maine amended its Hate Crimes Act to include sexual orientation as a recognized minority who are victimized by acts of hate-biased crimes. For the first time in Maine history, murdering someone because he or she was perceived to be gay became a more serious crime than murder itself.

In 1993 the Maine legislature over-

came years of homophobia and passed the Human Right's amendment, making it illegal to discriminate in employment, housing and credit on the basis of sexual orientation as well as on the bases of race, gender, marital status, ethnicity, age, and mental and physical disability. The celebration came to a crashing halt, however, when Governor McKernan caved in to pressure from the radical right and vetoed the bill after making promises during his campaign that he would allow it to become law.

But now it's 1994. Ten years have passed since that fateful night. While laws are on the books and police officers are instructed to prevent hate crimes, the perpetrators are still amongst us. Somewhere in the late 1980's, the radical right pulled in its forces and created the hate crime of the '90's. Today gay, lesbian and bisexual people face not only the deadly baseball bat and doubled-up fist, victimization has expanded into the political arena.

In an attempt to comply with "political correctness" and more appropriate social behavior, the radical right worked with much zeal to alter society's perception of them as "witch hunters." They recognized that "disgust" campaigns did not work with the American people. They had to find a new tactic which would achieve their ultimate goal, the total annihilation of our voice.

They portray themselves as martyrs doing the Lord's work as they try to kill gay rights. They call it a campaign of "love." Suddenly, they didn't think of the homosexual as sick and inhuman, just confused and in need of help. And, of course, the best medicine was to strip the homosexual of any human dignity, including his or her rights. Hence, the emergence of the political victimization we know today as the ballot initiative.

Under the pretense of preventing "special rights," the radical right preached the message of nonviolence. They did not hate us anymore, they just wanted the special right to legally discriminate against us. But, as it often is in the political arena, certain realities had

See SOUND, page 21

Around the Nation

Congressional Hearing Focuses on Harassment of Camp Sister Spirit in Overt, Mississippi

Jackson, Miss — The Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights of the House Judiciary Committee went to Mississippi to hear testimony from interested parties including Brenda and Wanda Henson, the lesbian couple who founded the feminist retreat known as Camp Sister Spirit. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) openly gay member of the House of Representatives, led the often lively hearings in which many local officials testified. James Hendry leader of Mississippi for Family Values said that the Hensons created the campaign against them for publicity. Among the things that the Hensons supposedly did to themselves was the slaughtering of animals and nailing the carcasses to their mailbox and front door. Mississippi for Family Values is an organization similar to Concerned Maine Families.

Senator William Cohen (R-Maine) votes in support of discrimination against homosexuals.

Washington - On Monday, August 1, the Senate, led by Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Bob Smith, R-N.H., voted to deny federal funds to school districts that teach acceptance of homosexuality. Maine's Republican Senator, William Cohen, voted for this measure. George Mitchell (D-Maine), the Majority Leader voted in opposition. The vote was 63-36.

The vote was on an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which provides \$12.5 billion to the nation's public schools. If President Clinton signs this bill, it would cut funds to districts that support homosexuality as a "positive life-style alternative." That includes distribution of instructional materials and counseling.

Congress defies Washington, D.C. voters.

Washington, D.C. is not a state. The U.S. Congress is, in effect, their legislature. The problem is that no one in D.C. gets to vote for any of their "representatives."

For the last two years Congress has blocked D.C. from implementing its domestic partnership law. Congress simply prohibits the spending of any money for domestic partners. Because D.C. issues do not affect their home constituencies, members of Congress often use debates about D.C. to grandstand on gay issues for the press back home.

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Health Care Reform—What's In It For Lesbians - Part One

by Peaches Bass

During the brief breaks between reports on what O.J. Simpson ate for breakfast and updates on changes in Clinton's policy on Haiti, you may have caught a passing reference to federal health care reform. Then again, maybe not.

Health care reform is a highly technical, detailed, and politically sensitive topic that defies easy coverage by the news media, and even though everyone wants it, most of us don't know what it really is. We just want our health care to be high quality and low cost, and if health care reform makes that happen, great—just wake us when the governmental debate is over.

Every possible special interest group and lobby has taken a position on health care reform. Hospitals, physicians, insurance companies, retired people, feminists, the Catholic Church, chiropractors, AIDS activists, civil libertarians—everyone, it seems, has been lobbying Washington to ensure that health care reform addresses their needs. Everyone, almost, except lesbians. At a lesbian health conference held this past April in Bangor, almost 100 lesbians expressed everything from ignorance to confusion to outrage over health care reform and the needs of lesbians.

Though lesbians express a range of concerns when it comes to their health care, the concerns generally fall into one of two categories—affordability and quality. Let's take a look at these concerns in more detail, and then see how, and if, governmental efforts at health care reform will have any effect.

The driving force behind health care reform is economics. The cost of every aspect of health care is affected—the cost of exams and office visits is increasing, the cost of medications and treatments is increasing, the cost of "health" insurance is increasing, and the benefits are decreasing, or "capped." When Congress or the White House talk about access to health care, they are probably referring to financial access, and when they talk about universal access, that means that everyone should have access regardless of their economic status or ability to pay.

What does the concept of

affordability, or universal access, mean to lesbians? As it now stands, most lesbians express concerns about the expense of health care. As women, our incomes are lower than men's. Unpartnered lesbians are in the same situation as single heterosexual women, in other words struggling. If they have children, their economic status, regardless of sexual orientation, is likely to be low income, perhaps poverty.

As lesbians, our family incomes are lower than heterosexual family incomes, despite the assertions of anti-gay rights propaganda. Most insurance policies don't cover unmarried partners, or those partners' children. This forces a lesbian couple to carry two separate policies. If they're fortunate, they may be working for employers who provide health insurance. But if one of them isn't working, or works a job that doesn't offer insurance, then the lack of domestic partner benefits means one of them isn't insured, or they have to carry a second policy paid for out of pocket.

Even with insurance coverage, deductibles—the amount you must first shell out each year before insurance will pay for anything—can be prohibitive. On top of deductibles, most insurance requires you to co-pay. A co-pay means that even once your insurance begins to pay, it only pays a portion of the cost, around 80%. You pay the rest. The bottom line is that having insurance, even if paid for by an employer, still requires a considerable cash contribution, and that's rough on lesbians.

Lesbians are also frustrated by the lack of coverage for expensive health care needs that we often don't consider "medical," including eyeglasses, dental care, substance abuse treatment, or mental health counseling. Lesbians often favor alternative, non-allopathic, and holistic health care, which is usually not covered by insurance and is also expensive. We notice, too, that healthy foods, as opposed to highly processed and non-organic foods, are much more expensive.

For lesbians with chronic, long-term, or catastrophic health conditions, the benefit limits, called "caps," may result in the insurance running out, leaving the woman in need of government

assistance to cover her health care costs. Of course, before she can qualify for government assistance, she has to "spend down" her assets. In other words, she must impoverish herself to get government-supplied health care assistance.

All this boils down to the fact that lesbians experience decreased, or limited economic access to health care. When our access is limited, we delay health care or do without it, and that contributes to diminished personal and community health.

So how will health care reform affect our access to affordable care? Well, if the reform includes universal coverage, it should help. If that coverage is financed by eliminating the insurance paperwork bureaucracy through a single-payer system (one agency pays everybody's bills) that would help. But if universal access is dependent on purchasing alliances with restrictive definitions of "family" coverage, some of us may not benefit.

If the financing relies on mandating individuals to buy their own policies, that won't help at all, and it won't be universal. If the reform focuses on requiring employers to contribute, that will help some, but where the rest of the money comes from will also matter.

Raising certain taxes, like tobacco or alcohol taxes, will put the burden on those who use those products. Some argue that this is fair, since these products are statistically linked with a large percentage of our country's health problems and medical costs. Others, especially the producers and consumers of these products, aren't in favor of this method of financing universal coverage.

There are also proposals that replace paying an insurance premium with a health care tax as part of our income tax. As long as the tax is progressive (based on income and ability to pay) and is lower than what we'd pay for health care out of pocket, that would help.

Absolutely nothing has been completely settled. At the national level, Congress and the White House are still politicking around the details of financ-

From the desk of :

P-FLAG NH: Seacoast

STRATHAM, NH: "Building a commitment to better understanding between Portsmouth's gay, lesbian and bisexual community and the Portsmouth Police Department (PPD)" is the topic planned for P-FLAG NH: Seacoast's next support meeting on Tuesday, August 2nd at 7 pm. Small support groups will begin promptly at 7 pm., followed by refreshments and the program at 8 pm.

A panel from Portsmouth's Sexual Minority Advisory Committee (SMAC) will report on recent training sessions for Police Officers, gays, lesbians, and P-FLAG parents. The group will discuss what each training group learned from the other in the mutual exchange of information. Also, a second goal of the PPD and SMAC meeting will be to establish an assisted access program with the Portsmouth Police for the reporting of hate crimes and related incidences.

P-FLAG NH: Seacoast meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Stratham County Church on Emery Lane (just south of the junction of routes 108 and 101) in Stratham. For more information on P-FLAG NH: Seacoast call (603) 772-5196 or 772-6221.

P-FLAG meetings are safe, confidential and caring. A lending library of books, audio and video tapes along with pamphlets dealing with gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues are also available. The meetings are friendly and newcomers may talk as much or as little as they wish. All are welcome.

P-FLAG NH: Seacoast is one of more than 250 chapters and contacts of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, an international organization whose mission is to provide support for families, to educate members and the public about gay issues, and to advocate for full civil rights of all, regardless of sexual orientation.

In New Hampshire, monthly support meetings are held in Concord, Nashua, Peterborough, Hanover, and Plymouth. For more information, call the numbers listed for your area in the RESOURCES page of this publication. ΔΔ

See HEALTH, page 21

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Stratogen Health to care for HIV & AIDS patients

by Rich Austin

Stratogen Health, a primary care medical practice specializing in the treatment needs of HIV and AIDS patients, will begin seeing patients at 110 Auburn Street in the Northgate area of Portland, beginning in mid-August. The first of its kind in Maine, Stratogen Health in Portland joins a small, but national organization of Stratogen Health Care Centers numbering three in Florida and one in Rhode Island.

The name Stratogen means "strategies for healthy living." The first part of the strategy at Stratogen is a unique coordinated health care program that the HIV or AIDS patient helps tailor to their needs. Components to a patient's care can include primary and specialty medical care, nursing, laboratory services, nutritional counseling, health education, mental health counseling, confidential HIV testing with pre- and post-test counseling, pharmacy services, IV therapy and alternative therapies including massage therapy.

Stratogen is also involved nationally in clinical trials and investigative protocols, giving HIV and AIDS patients access to the most up-to-date treatment options. "For me it's about meeting people where they are," says Sandy Titus, Stratogen's Practice Manager. "The whole person is our concern."

Doctor Laureen Biczak, D.O., an Infections Disease Specialist, and Doctor Gwendolyn O'Guin, D.O., a

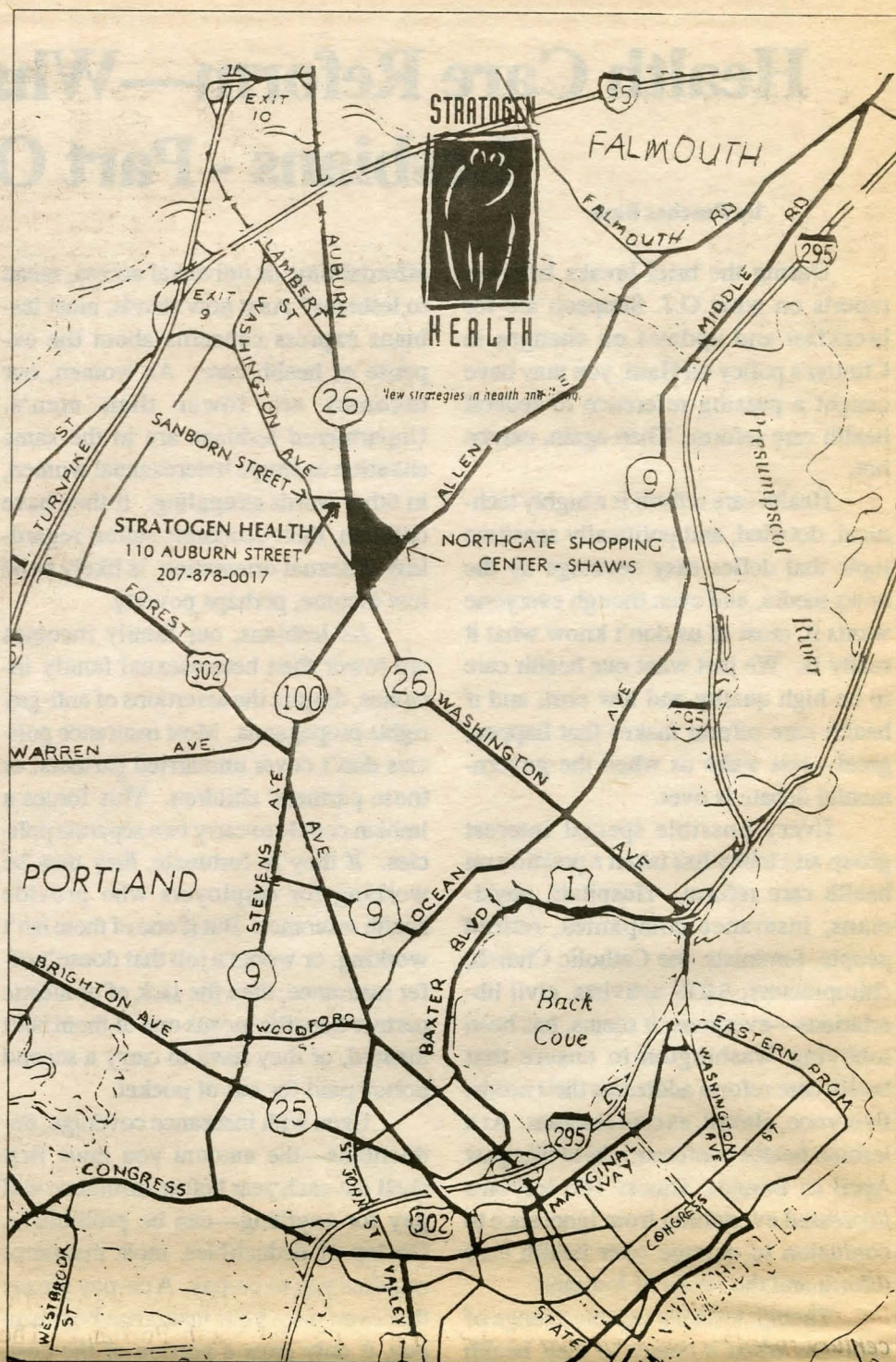
Primary Care Physician, head up the medical staff at Stratogen. Each has an extensive private practice specializing in HIV and AIDS treatment, and will continue to carry their practices while working with patients at Stratogen.

Sandy Titus, RN, former support services coordinator with The AIDS Project in Portland, and Long Term Hospice Nurse will become Stratogen Health's Practice Manager. Also joining the staff are Debbie Pepper, Registered Dietician, and Tammy McLellan as Office manager. Kathy Coleman, Nurse Practitioner, will come on board in September.

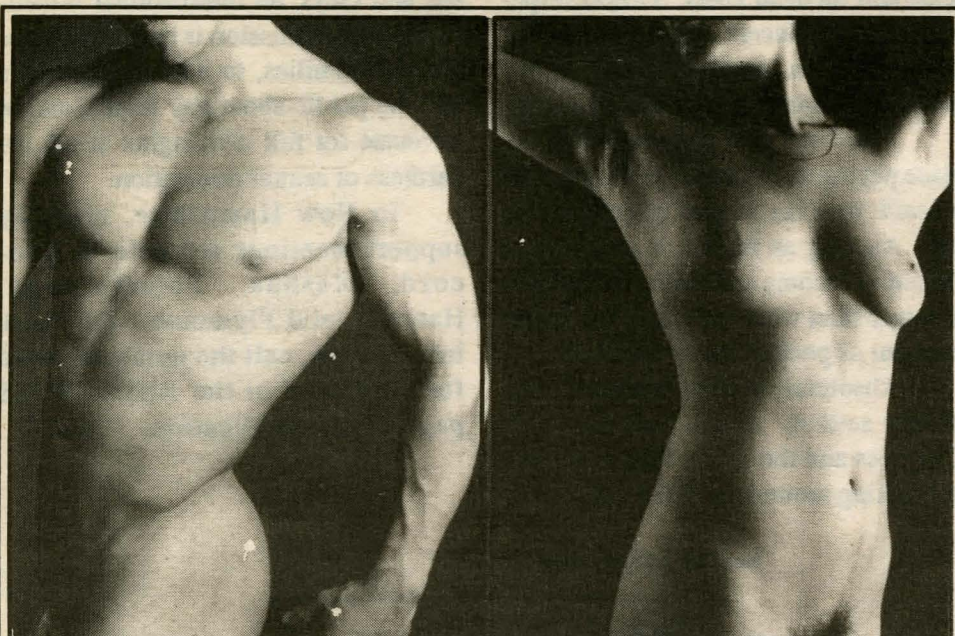
Another perk at Stratogen is the building that the health care center has moved into. On the corner of Auburn and Sanborn Streets, diagonally across from the American Boy Scouts building, Stratogen has both floors of the building, allowing them to tailor their decor and services to the specific and private needs of their patients. Comments Titus, "There are plenty of windows; it's comfortable, very bright and beautiful."

The second part of the strategy at Stratogen Health is people. Real people caring for real people. "We deal openly and take a lot of risks to be who we are," says Titus. "It's hard enough being sick, but if you can be in a special place with special people, it makes it easier, I hope."

For more information on Stratogen Health, call 878-0017 during business hours. ΔΔ



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Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance plans Annual Meeting

by Richard Steinman, MLGPA Contact

The Annual Meeting of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance will take place on Saturday, September 17th, beginning promptly at noon, at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta, Maine.

All members of our community are encouraged to attend. The board elected on this occasion, as well as the committees formed, will be of vital importance in the year ahead.

The year 1995 will be a particularly crucial one for our community because of the anti-gay referendum, and because of the Civil Rights Bill to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. With a new governor, the chances for passing the bill are greatly enhanced. At the same time, up to 40% of the new legislature will consist of those elected for the first time. MLGPA and its allies will need to do extensive work with these newcomers, with the veteran legislators, with the legislative leadership, and with the Governor's office.

Action on the Civil Rights Bill in 1995 will provide a stellar opportunity for all these elected officials to give a slap in the face to Concerned Maine Family's referendum campaign to deprive our community of its civil rights.

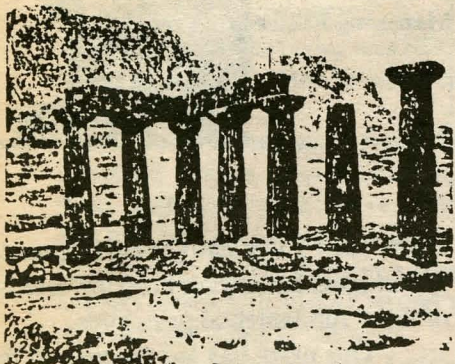
Provided our community is active and committed, 1995 can really be the year of victory for the bill. Such a victory will provide a key boost in the battle against the anti-gay referendum.

At the September 17th Annual Meeting we're looking for folks with renewed energy to make the kind of commitment that will help win this crucial victory. Toward this end, we need people to work on fund-raising, legislation, media relations, increasing our paid membership, coordination of volunteers, grassroots organizing and education—of both the public-at-large and our own community.

We welcome hearing from you at 800-55-MLGPA.

Even before the September annual meeting, all members of our community are encouraged to attend our regular monthly meeting on August 20th (at the same time, same location listed above for the Annual Meeting). ΔΔ

From the Oracle...



Greetings,

I assume that most readers, if not all, have questions concerning CPR's new ORACLE. The rumors... are any of them true? Is it a group of women living in the Temple of Apollo at Delphi practicing obscure rituals? A young priestess, sitting beneath a 20 foot statue of answers to foot sore supplicants? I wish I could share such information with you without breaking my arcane vows, but it would just be too uncouth. All I can say, in good faith, is that I'm a fourth century B.C. lesbian who has been selected by CPR to provide any and all advice in the omniscient manner which its readers have a right to expect. From Kierkegaardian angst to housemate disputes over wall posters, this is your chance for sage advice and impartial dispute resolution. Am I acclimated to the 90's yet, am I up to late-twentieth century speed? Give me a chance and send in your letters to CPR...

Pythia

An unpersuasive reader asks:

My parents are coming to visit me for the first time in 8 years. I'm not out to them, but my lover refuses to 'straighten up' our home, or himself for that matter, for their brief visit. I can't convince him. What should I do?

Dear unpersuasive,

Forget your parents, are you out to yourself yet? Why haven't your parents visited you in eight years anyway?

Seriously though, your lover is in quite a bind. While I'm sure he would rather be sensitive to your wishes than appear to create a painful dilemma for both of you, the reality is he can only choose between two evils. He must either refuse to meet your express wishes, or he must choose to witness, and even help you engage in, a self-degrading, humiliating and ultimately unnecessary deception. We all know in our hearts that the only love worth having is founded on honesty, so why not let your parents stand up on their own two feet. True, it would mean passing up on the exquisite pleasures attendant on a clichéd bout of epic anxiety over the anticipated parental reaction. On the other hand, you could make up for your sacrifice by realizing how lucky you are to have a lover who cares enough to try and save you from your own Hollywood-induced acting ambitions.

Prophetically,
Pythia

KÄOS

undergoes renovations



Michael Riley, Manager of Portland's newest gay dance club, explains the changes in hours and format to Winnie Weir, Editor of CPR. The new video bar, will be open every night from 4:00 PM to 1:00 AM. Call KAOS for more information, 774-2242. Check it out!

Suspect indicted in Sisters break-in

According to a recent report in the Portland Press Herald, a Cumberland County grand jury has indicted a 28-year-old transient in connection with 13 break-ins at businesses in Portland's West End, Westbrook, Falmouth, Yarmouth and South Portland. The break-ins occurred in the spring of this year.

The report goes on to say that the crime spree happened during the late-night hours between March 21 and May 8. Charles E. Jones is accused of breaking into a cluster of businesses in the Danforth Street area, including Alberta's Cafe, Suitsmi clothing store, Mr. Scissors II, Woodfords Cafe, Ruskie's Lounge, New England Imports and Sisters bar.

Sisters was broken into twice during this time, leaving the owners and the community shocked and angry. Support from the community has enabled Sisters to replace many of the stolen items. ΔΔ

Support group for lesbians offered in Bangor

According to a recent press release, the Lesbian Health Project of the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center is now offering a support group for any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. In this woman-only, lesbian-only space created by forming this group, women will be able to explore their issues and affirm themselves and one another as lesbians.

Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are requirements for the support group to thrive and meet the needs

of participants.

This group will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow Street (In Town Plaza, Bangor). If you would like more information, you are encouraged to call 947-5337. ΔΔ

Symposium XXI Update

from *CommuniQue* - newsletter of Northern Lambda Nord

The Maine Lesbian and Gay men's Symposium XXI, whose theme is "Coming of Age," will be held Friday through Monday, May 26-29, 1995 on the campus of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. A small, but dedicated planning committee has been meeting regularly to put together this event.

Committee members met with representatives of the University Conferences Office and reviewed our campus needs for the Symposium. Rather than use classroom spaces in Folsom-Pullen Hall, where workshops and films were held at the three previous Symposia at UMPI, the 1995 event will take advantage of the new Campus Center. Campus officials gave Symposium Committee members a tour of this new facility, which promises to offer spectacular new spaces for many of the workshops, films, Saturday evening banquet and dance. Even Kelly Commons, the dining hall attached to the Campus Center, will have undergone renovations in time for Symposium. Emerson Hall, the dormitory, will be used again to house conference participants.

The planning committee has prepared a preliminary budget, is working on a grant application to help fund the conference, and is contacting several possible keynote speakers and entertainers. More details will be available when plans become finalized. ΔΔ

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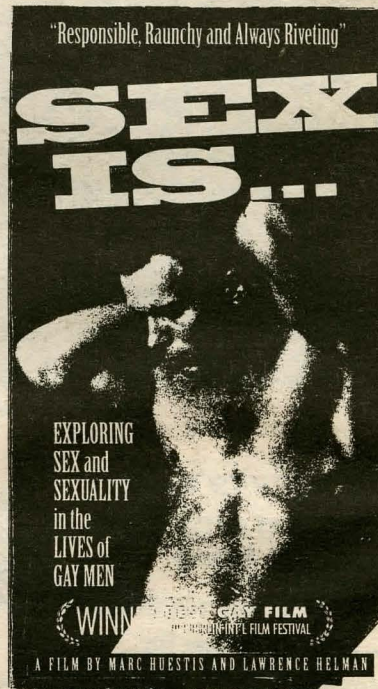
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EDITORIAL:

Radical right hijacks Republican Party

The Republican Party was hijacked in the late 19th century. What started off as the political tool of the abolitionists in the 1850's and 60's, became the political tool of big business and the wealthy in the 1880's and 90's. And so it remained until very recently, when its swing to conservatism was again hijacked after the 1964 Goldwater campaign by the radical religious right.

The intellectual (if such it can be called) ancestry of the radical religious right is not found in the Republican Party at any time in U.S. history. If you're looking for the roots of what they call "traditional American values" you need look no further than the Know-Nothings of the 1850's and the presidential candidacy of Millard Fillmore. This group was the first to announce what became known as Nativist views. Among these were anti-immigration, anti-semitism, anti-Catholicism and racism. These "Christians" thought of themselves as the only "real" Americans and endowed themselves with the idea that they would be the gate-keepers of America and that God agreed with them, or better put, that they agreed with God. I wonder if God really thinks about U.S. immigration policy.

The Know-Nothings were a complete subversion of what the Founding Fathers intended for America. The radical religious right maintains, and furthers, this subversion. The America of Jefferson, Washington and Madison is not the America the radical religious theocrats plan for us. The framers of our Constitution were devoted to the idea of separation of church and state. The radical religious right is attempting to establish a theocracy (a political state governed by religious law, like Iran) — a direct contradiction of the framer's intentions.

It is disturbing, in the wake of Oliver North's victory in the Virginia Republican Senate primary, to see mainstream Republican leaders like Senator Bob Dole, former Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and former Secretary of Education, William Bennett declare their

allegiance to this lunatic fringe.

In a recent editorial in the *Portland Press Herald* Bennett claims to have been an ally of this movement for over a decade. He charges that the criticism of the radical religious right is bigotry. The irony is unbearable . . . but, it's an old trick — you accuse your opponent of what you yourself are guilty of. Who, anywhere on today's American political spectrum, is more guilty of bigotry than the radical religious right?

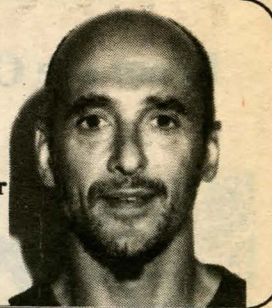
Bennett has the reckless bad taste, especially considering what Christian bigots say about PWAs (People with AIDS), to say that homosexuals are not as vilified as are fundamentalists in today's political debates. Bull. He goes on to say that Christian conservatives only want, among other things, "non-intrusive government." In making this claim, Bennett has hit upon the fundamental contradiction facing Republicans and all alleged conservatives.

Barry Goldwater, former Republican Senator from Arizona and author of *Conscience of a Conservative*, spoke to this contradiction in an editorial in the *Portland Press Herald* which appeared shortly after Bennett's. (Both were reprinted from *The Washington Post*.) The title of Goldwater's piece is, *We must protect gays on the job*, (see page 13 for complete text) but in the article he points out that, "The conservative movement is founded on the simple tenet that people have the right to live life as they please, as long as they don't hurt anyone else in the process. No one has ever shown me how being gay or lesbian harms anyone else."

What legislation is possibly more intrusive than that which tells people what to do with their bodies, when to bear children or with whom to have sex, and yet this is the agenda of the radical right. Bennett would have us believe it's just plain old conservatism — it is not. It is thinly disguised totalitarianism dressed up in religious garb.

Goldwater goes on to say, "I am proud that the Republican Party has always stood for individual rights and lib-

Bruce Balboni
Managing Editor



erties. (sic) The positive role of limited government has always been the defense of these fundamental principles.

"Our party has led the way in the fight for freedom and a free-market economy, a society where competition and the Constitution matter — and sexual orientation shouldn't.

"Now some in our ranks want to extinguish this torch. The radical right has nearly ruined our party. Its members do not care enough about the Constitution, and they are the ones making all the noise.

"The party faithful must not let it happen. Anybody who cares about real moral values understands that this isn't about granting special rights — its about protecting basic rights."

Are you listening Bennett, Dole and most of all — Carolyn Cosby?

Hijacking is a crime. The hijacking of the Republican Party, while not criminal, would threaten our national identity. This hijacking is underway, but it is by no means complete. If Republicans who embrace the radical right are defeated whenever they stand for election, the hijacking may be thwarted.

Politics is about power. All the rest of the talk is bunk. If the radical right is denied political office in this country, then they will go the way of other fringe groups. If their message does not translate into electoral success, you'll see how fast Bennett, Dole and Cheney can't recall ever supporting the radical Christian agenda (to the best of their recollection). When someone wins political office in America, they must swear to uphold the Constitution — that is an oath the radical right cannot keep.

In Solidarity,

David X. Smith



Andrews is running for U.S. Senate, Brennan for Governor and Dutremble for Congress.

Balboni Photo

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Classified Advertising

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brunswick: Meetings for family and friends who have loved ones with HIV/AIDS at Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services, 8 Lincoln Street. FMI on meeting days and times call Brian at 725-4955.

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

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

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

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

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

△△ Blue collar queers! Working class and poor gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and transsexual people! What is "Gay Community" and how do you fit in? An anthology is accepting submissions that explore the relationship between class background and queerness. Using life experience work, poetry, short stories, theoretical essays and cultural commentary, this anthology will challenge the sometimes narrow definition of gay and lesbian community by revealing voices whose experience of class combined with race, gender, age and ethnicity does not always mirror the expected image. Write for guidelines to: Susan Raffo, Anthology, P.O. Box 8939, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Deadline is October 1st. △△

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

△△ Lesbian or bisexual women to do a short interview for a research paper. Anonymity guaranteed! Topic of paper is "Difficulties of women living in a male dominated society." Call Suzen, 799-1951. △△

FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

△△ PORTLAND: Large, sunny one bedroom apartment, 2nd floor, Victorian home. Pets negotiable. Heat, hot water and electricity included. \$500/month + security deposit. Available immediately. Call Kim or Stacy at 773-0119. △△

△△ PORTLAND: Whimsical view of Back Cove, plenty of sunlight, on the cusp of Munjoy Hill & Intown: Two bedrooms, dining room, double living rooms, hardwood floors, off street parking. Washer/dryer hookup. \$500/month plus heat. Available immediately. Enjoy gay neighbors. Call 775-0015. △△

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

MASSAGE

△△ Higher Ground Massage. Masseur available for a pleasant, relaxing massage. 207/761-1924. Keith Braine. One-half to one hour; flexible rates. M/F. Counseling available. △△

HELP WANTED:

△△ A good use for some old or discarded

co-dependent behaviors-attachment-and energy for a routine of fun and healthy walking, hiking, biking, bowling (!) - (yours . . . ??) - camping (!), sailing. I don't like to do these alone all the time! Bring along your friend(s)! Additional requirement: Humor. Call 775-0015. △△

△△ A "Northern Exposure" Seeks Generous Benefactors: Northern Maine's 14-year-old gay, lesbian, bisexual organization has 1000-volume lending library, group office, and operates statewide phoneline-each located in private homes through the region. Needs to establish central Community Center. Financial backers needed. Call or write for specifics: Northern Lambda Nord, PO Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990, 207/498-2088 (voice/TDD). △△

△△ ADVERTISING MANAGER & REPORTERS: Community Pride Reporter needs additional staff. Advertising manager needed to coordinate and implement advertising strategy. Compensation negotiable. Also looking for reporters, particularly in Bangor, Houlton, Lewiston, Auburn, Augusta and Farmington. Please submit letter of interest with writing sample and qualifications to: CPR, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland ME 04101.

△△ DISC JOCKEY WANTED: Northern Lambda Nord needs a DJ for an October 1st dance. Must have your own equipment and excellent dance music. Call or write with your requirements: Northern Lambda Nord, PO Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990, 207/498-2088. △△

TRAVEL/VACATION

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

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

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

△△ Attention lesbian and bisexual business and professional women. If you are a business owner, serve in sales, or are directly involved as a professional within the business community, we should get together and explore the benefits of forming our own community organization. The objective of this organization would be to establish an

information network to better serve our community and assist each other. (A lesbian/bisexual Chamber of Commerce?? WHY NOT!) If you are interested in exploring options around establishing our own business organization, call Carolyn Jalbert at 879-5247, or Winnie Weir at 879-1342. △△

ALTERNATIVE PRACTITIONERS

△△ Looking for women practitioners and food vendors for the SPECTRUM OF HEALTH CARE FAIR for WOMEN, presented by Webwork (Gloria Krellman) with contributing sponsors: USM School of Nursing, Women's Studies, and The Odyssey. Sunday October 16th, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Campus Center, USM, Portland. Practitioners table \$50. Vendors \$100. Space limited. Reserve early. Call Gloria at 442-7061. △△

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

△△ Be your own boss. Run a Shaklee business out of your home. Set your own goals and achieve financial security without stress. Earnings depend upon your efforts. Rewards include unlimited income, travel, and cars. Prosper by helping others to succeed. Shaklee nutritional, personal care and household products are in harmony with nature and good health. FMI, please call Judy Sauviney, Roger Wilson: 207/725-9790. △△

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

△△ Ongoing Dream Group: This closed experiential group will explore members' dreams through many approaches: Jungian, Gestalt, and Sculpting. Attention also paid to Lucid Dreaming, Dream Incubation, Active imagination, and Spirituality. Thursday evenings, 7-9 pm, 14 weeks with the option to continue in subsequent "dream cycles." Portland-based. Begins September 15th. \$20-\$40 per session. Call Rick Bouchard at 828-2031 for interview. △△

CLASSIFIED AD RATE:

\$8.00 for the first 40 words.

10¢ per word over 40. Mail your ad to CPR, 142 High St., Suite #634, Portland ME 04101.

Arts & Entertainment

Welcome again to the CPR Arts section!

by J. H. Morgan

Despite the summer heat, we've managed to rustle up a review or two of remarkable exhibits, movies, videos and books. As summer gradually begins to wind down, take note of a few events, coming up and continuing, to mark down on the calendar. There's still a lot going on of interest to the community, whether you call Maine home or Vacationland.

You may want to seek refuge from the late summer heat at the Portland Museum of Art and see the Rodin exhibit (see the article in this section) and perhaps check out the recently-opened Museum Café.

Spend a summer evening at the Oak Street Theatre's "Woman in a Suitcase" by Peaks Island's own Julie Goell, running from August 11th to the 13th and 25th to 28th. This one-

woman show combines mime, Commedia Dell'Arte and European clowning techniques to tell its story. Call 775-5103 for times and tickets.

If these last days of Maine's short summer make you wax poetic, perhaps you'll want to consider the National Poetry Competition sponsored by the International Library of Famous Poets. But hurry; entries must be postmarked by midnight, August 15th. To enter, send one poem, 20 lines or less to: National Poetry Competition, 421 N. Rodeo Dr., Suite 455, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. Grand prize is a cashier's check for \$1000!

Remember, these are our community's art pages. If you know of an event of interest, or have ideas for reviews, articles, or other things for these pages, please let us know. Call the Arts Editor, Joe, at 874-0419, or the CPR office at 879-1342.

Music on Review: Disappear Fear: Fixing our Lives

by Aimsel L. Ponti

There are several musicians on my list of "where's the new album?" Annie Lennox and Shawn Colvin (hers is out real soon) and certainly the Baltimore based duo of two sisters: Disappear Fear.

I received a post card announcing the news of a new album and tour. I bought it at the neighborhood record store as soon as I could. There are eleven new songs on this self-titled album from Rounder records. The band's first three releases were on their own "Disappear Records" label. Rounder had the wisdom to sign them to their "Philo" label and will soon be re-releasing their last two, "Deep Soul Diver" and "Live at The Bottom Line." Rounder records also had the wisdom not to ask Sonia Rutstein to change her bold, fearless and politically charged style of song writing. The final product is eleven fiery, passionate, inquisitive, intelligent and enjoyable songs.

So here's the brief deal with Disappear Fear. They are two sisters: Cindy Frank and Sonia Rutstein as well as five other musicians and various guests. They are perhaps best known for a song from a few years back: "Sink The Censorship." On this new album listen for the guitar and voice of Janis Ian as well as the familiar sounds of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, the Indigo Girls. Oh, and by the way, Sonia is a lesbian and Cindy's straight, a fact that neither one

of them has ever been in the closet about.

Sonia writes most of the songs and deals with lesbian and gay rights, AIDS, and prejudice. And love.

The song, "Fix My Life," is a reality check woven into a love song in a way that only Sonia Rutstein can do, "... that Ron ignored and George abandoned, I'm the queer and voiceless champion and I live inside you."

"My name is America but I pronounced it George. Some people think I'm rich but I am mostly poor, and I cover it up to get you to fight in my war" proclaims "Washington Work Song".

There's something about being sisters that makes their harmonies all the more pleasing and sincere. Sonia can also dazzle with her guitar and harmonica. Their live show captures her essence best. The music thrives off Sonia and she off it. Her vocals are crisp and clear and can be powerful yet gorgeous. Add Cindy's vocals on top of this and it's a sound to behold.

"Disappear Fear." You could call them a lesbian band or a political band, but it seems to me that they just want to play their music. "How many of us can get the nowness of this tune just enough to enlighten all the skies." This line from "Play the Music" perhaps says it all.

This new album will have you dancing and may bring you to tears. I would recommend you listen. A line from the classic "Sink the Censorship" says, "Someone shot imagine up my veins." With this new album it is evident their supply remains ample. ΔΔ

ON REVIEW:

RODIN: The Ultimate Outsider

by Alexander Wallace

In a day when artistic expression has again become the target of political demagogues and religious fanatics united to deprive everyone - artist and citizen - of their free speech and free thought rights, it is more than appropriate that THE PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART is presenting a major retrospective of the sculpture of AUGUSTE RODIN, the most provocative, sexually disturbing, subversive and revolutionary artist of his time.

In a pre-electric light age, where paintings and sculpture were the television and movies of the day, paintings and sculptures were the popular entertainment. Artists were the rock stars and sports heroes of The Rodin Age. Fans were as passionate about art then as fans are about soccer today. Galleries and museums were as crowded as Stallone flicks. Fans waited on line as if it were Dylan at The State. The awarding of a major commission by a city or nation to this or that artist to create a monument to a great national hero or artist, was passionately debated on the street, in town councils and in parliament. The placement of a major commission was as hotly debated as Health Care. The yearly Salons of art and sculpture were thronged the way auto shows used to be.

France dominated the art world in Victorian times, and Paris was the Mecca. Paris and France were, in turn, dominated by the Ministry of Fine Arts, a government agency, which doled out huge commissions; the Institute de France, "... the official watch-dog of

French culture . . .," and the Academie and the Ecoles des Beaux Arts, which ran the "acceptable" schools and the annual Salons. Acceptance by these groups meant instant fame and fortune; rejection could mean disaster. They were conservative to the point of constipation, but "in charge," with the full support of the Establishment, the Church and the New Capitalists. France was still ardently Catholic; the Anglo-French Establishment, fanatically, hypocritically, religious and proper.

An acceptable pattern of behavior lay like a shroud over the Victorian world. Lift it, display the truth - the infinite variety of life - and suffer the fate of an Oscar Wilde. The Patriarchal Principle, supported by Church and State ruled: women were still property, sex was for men only; deviation from the "norm" was unthinkable. "Immoral" art was ruthlessly censored and homosexuals routinely imprisoned. But this smug, bourgeois establishment was rapidly being challenged by the likes of Monet, Emile Zola, Isadora Duncan, Anatole France, Andre Gide, Nijinski, Shaw, Cezanne, Duse, Landowska, Proust and countless others: new artists who had new things to say and new ways to say them, who would not be held back by polite convention, religious dicta or smug provincialism. In the visual arts, none had the impact of Auguste Rodin. He was the giant, the Prometheus, who (finally) towered over the age.

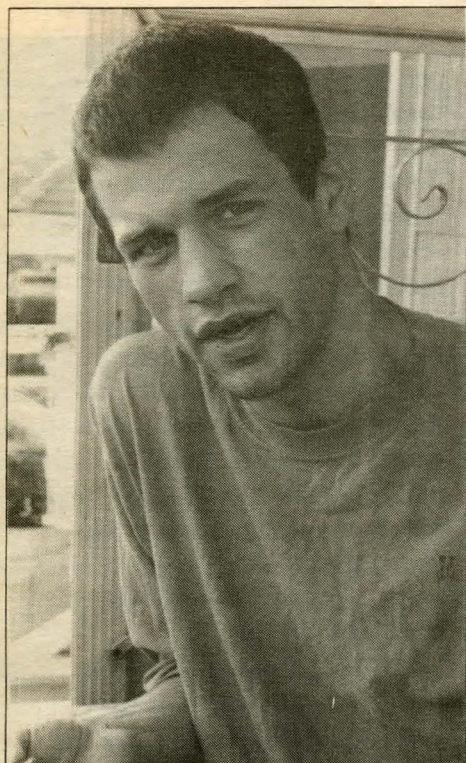
Into this world of prim, religious Victorian propriety, where even Parisian women were buttoned to the chin, the

See Rodin, page 23



Rodin's "Iris, Messenger of the Gods," from the rear. See her in all her "profane" glory at the Portland Museum of Art.

Photo courtesy of PMA



"People can look at my artwork and have a completely different idea of it than I do, and that's totally OK." - Sean Hasey.

Artist Profile — Sean Hasey

by Bruce Balboni

Sean Hasey is a 4 year resident of Portland who is originally from Bangor. He is currently a student at USM and has weathered the storm of his embattled professor, Chris Reed, from whom he has learned a lot about art. Hasey, a painter and musician, plans to add sculpture to his repertoire as well as a minor in Women's Studies during his last two years at school. After that he plans to check out warmer climes like Albuquerque or San Francisco. You can hear him perform at Raffles Cafe in Portland on August 26th.

Q: Is there any way in which there is a connection between your work and your sexuality?

A: I wasn't surprised that you asked to do this interview because I have been sort of dealing with the issue of my sexuality for the last... who knows how long... and I've finally come to terms with it in the last six months or so. I had two art history classes last year with Chris Reed that dealt with a lot of gay and lesbian issues and feminist issues. Gender identity in modern art was the subject of one of the courses. I guess I'm not sure where the connection is in my art work but I've learned a lot about where the connection is in other people's art work.

Q: How have you come to terms with your sexuality?

A: I guess the big question for me was — am I gay, am I bisexual, am I heterosexual and the conclusion that I came to was that... for myself... I am heterosexual... but I guess I wouldn't, I don't know how to word it... it doesn't... Do you encounter this a lot, people going... umm... umm... umm...?

Q: Sure, not only when asking other people but even when discussing it myself. I have always felt a resistance to being defined, not wanting to accept a label. I've had relationships with women, some of which lasted up

See PROFILE, page 22

Thin Fire

Author: Nanci Little
Madwoman Press,
227 pp, \$9.95

Reviewed by: D.O. Cook

"... I think almost every woman, sometime in her life, has a physical attraction to another woman. Some of us act on it. Some don't. Some of us accept it. Some don't. Some of us embrace it. I did."

The cover blurb of *Thin Fire* says, "In this vivid, provocative and sexy book, you will meet many unforgettable women, and discover experiences you might otherwise never know." This is, if anything, an understatement. The first third of the novel takes place in the mid-70s within the confines — physical and spiritual — of the U.S. Army's "2nd Armored Division Replacement Detachment," at Fort Hood Texas. In this setting, the protagonist, Elen McNally, meets two of the women who are to change her life — permanently. The first, Nikki Cole, is a feisty lesbian who becomes Elen's roommate. Nikki is attracted to Elen from the moment she lays eyes on her and, although Elen is straight, she is definitely not narrow, so the women quickly become friends.

Life in the army has much of the stress you'd expect, but for women there is the additional ever-present pressure of being judged by a different standard — of intelligence, military competence, and sexual availability. One consequence of this reality is the popular male assumption that women are in the army mainly to satisfy the carnal needs of the men. Elen, who is trying to fill a void she isn't even totally aware of, plays into this belief by spending off-hours balling many of her fellow GI's, until one good ole' boy forcibly sodomizes her. This event sets in motion a series of irrevocable changes in Elen's life and in the lives of the women close to her.

While Elen's relationship with Nikki is chaste, the emotional connection between them is powerful and deep. For example, when Elen, who is beginning to understand the specialness of the friendship of another woman, says, "It's not like with the guys, is it... It's way different from that." Nikki answers "Way different... Loving women is as different from the guys as we are from the other women in this shitty place..." Sadly, the weight of Nikki's unrequited love for Elen and the social consequences of her attempts to exact revenge from the man who raped Elen, lead Nikki to a decision which affects them both forever.

The second Woman of Great Importance in this book is Major Kare Dillinger, the Executive Officer who has a deserved reputation for toughness and enforcement of army rules and discipline, but who also has a carefully hidden side that catalyzes the development of Elen's self-awareness and sexuality. The Major's kindness, modulated and concealed under the guise and etiquette of army discipline, helps Elen to heal both from her experience as a sexual

object and from the loss of Nikki as a support. But there is much more to Elen's relationship with Kare and, as it grows and deepens, the reader is pulled along on a wave of feeling that seems much too intense to be vicarious.

Eventually, the Army makes a decision about Major Dillinger's posting that catapults Elen into yet another phase of her growth, which takes her back home to Maine, and brings her to friendship with another important woman in her life, Nina Pinero, her advisor and mentor at UMaine, Presque Isle. It is in this setting that Elen begins a reconciliation with her family and, ultimately, the reclamation of her own intellectual, spiritual, and sexual power.

Thin Fire (the title comes from a line in a Sapphic poem) defies easy pigeon-holing; on the face of it, it's a romantic, lesbian, coming-out novel. It also contains powerful wisdom about being ourselves in a world that is so oppressive that we are often led to oppress ourselves. First, there is the very real look at the life of a lesbian in the military. As when Nikki is crying out the pain of her love for Elen and of the rejection she feels from her peers, she says "... this whole fucking place has treated me like some fucking freak since — they want women in the Army sure they do! To cook and type and ball the men, but give them something different, let me break the fucking curve and I'm a freak..." But the author also reveals scenes of tolerance and kindness such as those with Colonel Bill Buckman who practices don't ask, don't tell in the kindest way possible. We're not sure if "Bucky" knows and doesn't care that his Executive Officer (Kare) and Operations Clerk (Elen) are slightly bent, or whether he is truly oblivious. But, after taking a photograph of them together "... only for a memory of that good friendship..." he believes that "... the picture exemplified what leadership could and should be; he saw an officer and an enlisted person in a moment of deep personal respect." Wow!

And, when Elen returns to civilian life and Maine, we are introduced to more and more facets of her character and of the complexity she faces in realizing who she is and what she wants. In the following passage, for example, Nina shows us that we carry powerful personal myths about who we are, what strengths we are given, and how we appear to others: "You've openly embraced the difference of which your Nikki spoke when she spoke to you of loving women; you grasp that difference, intimately and innately, on its intellectual levels — but you politicize and romanticize and call it a life-style as if it were a choice. You're one of the most respected radical lesbian feminists on campus, and yet you have so little experience in the day-to-day emotional and physical intimacies that comprise a real-world lesbian relationship — why, you're virtually a virgin." This revelation intersects with Elen's history and helps to propel her and us through the remainder of her journey.

I read *Thin Fire* almost straight

See THIN FIRE, page 23

VIDEO ON REVIEW:

"Sex is..." directed by Mark Huestis

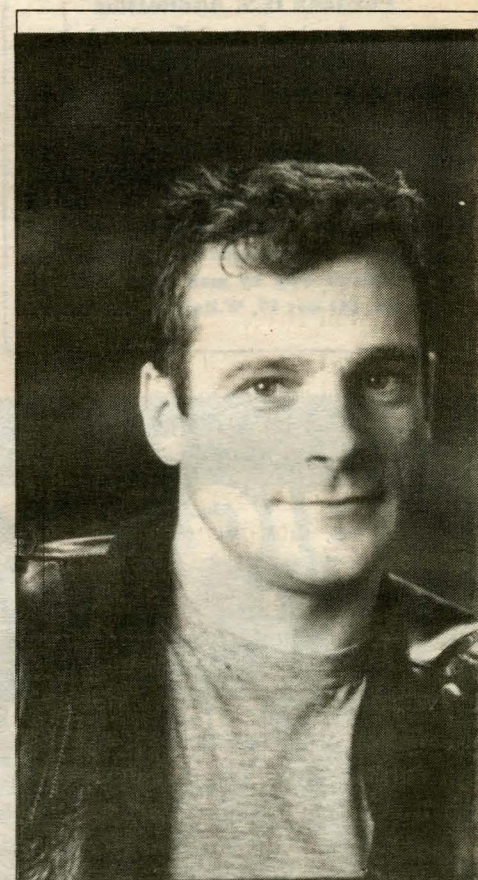
by Jason Salvatore, Guest Reviewer

"Sex is..." was the winner of Best Gay Film at the 1993 Berlin International Film Festival, it is directed by Mark Huestis. This documentary has broken box office records in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles and Seattle, and with good reason... it is riveting. The film has its Maine premiere in Portland on August 21-23, at the Movies at 10 Exchange Street, and is also available on video at Videoport.

Huestis contacted Community Pride Reporter and provided us with a copy of the film. The first section of "Sex is..." deals with the morals of finding oneself in a time when homosexuality was hush, hush. The gay men who are interviewed describe their first sexual experiences, good or bad, and their comments are pretty wild though not uncommon. These discussions are interspersed with graphic sexual footage which some people will undoubtedly wish were of longer duration. Ah, the exquisite pleasure of yearning.

This film should not be mistaken for a history of gay sexual experience. Everything shown is still happening, though under the cloud of AIDS. People who are not gay men and who view this film should maintain an open mind and suspend judgment. Homosexuality presents deep personal and emotional conflicts, not only for the homosexual, but also for other men wherever they fall within the circle of sexual orientation.

"Sex is..." is one of the most down-to-earth and realistic representations of what it was, and is, to be a sexually active gay man. ΔΔ



Director Mark Huestis also appears in "Sex Is..."

Photo by Daniel Nicoletta

Equal Protection Lewiston: still here, still needs support

by Rich Austin

In an effort to raise funds, Equal Protection Lewiston held car washes in two locations on Saturday, July 23rd. Only a handful of people volunteered to help as washers, and the turnout of 'washees' was dismal. After getting no bites in the parking lot of Jabbers Pub on Minot Avenue in Auburn, the whole crew moved over to the parking lot of Christy's on Main Street in Lewiston.

One potential customer pulled up to the group and rolled down his window to find out who was sponsoring the car wash and how much it would cost. A volunteer explained that the wash was to raise funds for Equal Protection Lewiston and... that was all the man needed to hear. He held up his hand in a gesture for silence, indignantly rolled up

his window and sped off down the road. Jan Welch is an Auburn resident who helped found EPL, and is one of the handful who has remained committed to the organization since the November vote. She was the volunteer at the window of the car. This incident, she says, is a typical response and an accurate barometer reading of the climate of hate in Lewiston.

"The atmosphere in Lewiston is worse than it was before," Says Welch. "The November loss was a traumatic event to the community. Gay people in this city have been pushed so far back into the closet they're going to turn into garment bags pretty soon." The grand total raised from the Saturday car wash was \$65.

In the aftermath of the "vote for hatred" in Lewiston last November, Equal Protection Lewiston has found itself saddled with debt from last year's anti-discrimination campaign. The bills that remain, according to Welch, also EPL's Campaign Finance Manager, are

fees to political consultant Al Caron, Workman's Compensation Insurance premiums, and EPL's telephone bill. Totalled up, the debt is very close to \$1,200.

As of press time, a Variety Show to benefit EPL is planned for the Sportsmen's Club on Bates Street in Lewiston on Saturday, July 30th. The entertainment is set, many items are set to be raffled, the word is out and the show will go on. However, not a soul has stepped forward to help at the door or with other tasks thus far.

This lack of interest and participation on the part of the community is a direct result of the spirit of hopelessness that has descended over Lewiston's gay, lesbian, and bisexual community, contends Welch.

"We want to pay off our debts. We don't want to be unfair to anyone, but having no finances or resources to support this effort isn't fair to the gay community," Welch says that the remnant of EPL looks forward to lending sup-

port to local friendly legislative candidates, State Senator Georgette Berube and Maine House candidate, Gerald Bouffard. Senator Berube squares off against Paul Madore in State Senate District 21. Bouffard will oppose Susan Madore in House District 90.

The challenge in supporting the legislative candidates is much the same challenge as was faced last year - to educate people so they know who they're voting for and why. "Education with no money is hard, but it seems like people aren't listening anyway! Portland is listening, and I think Bangor is listening, but Lewiston is not listening," says a frustrated Jan Welch.

Equal Protection Lewiston implores people in Lewiston, Bangor, Portland, and points north, south, east and west to call, contribute and volunteer. The fight is not over, the work is not done. Donations and inquiries on how to help may be directed to: Jan Welch, 8 Royal Oaks Drive, Auburn, Maine 04210, or call 782-5253. ΔΔ



SUEDE

Saturday, Sept. 10th, 1994

Portland H.S. Auditorium
284 Cumberland Ave. Portland, Me
GENERAL ADMISSION

\$12.50 in advance \$14.00 day of show

TICKET OUTLETS: Amadeus Music and Walkabout in Portland, Macbeans in Brunswick, JKS Copyprinters in Belfast and Lady Iris in Portsmouth, NH. Tickets will be in outlets on 1 August 1994. Special Reserved Seating (\$17.00 each) available only by mail from: Wild Iris Prod., Inc. PO Box 17, W.Buxton, ME 04093.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus Auditions

PORTLAND, ME: The Maine Gay Men's Chorus will hold open auditions on Sunday, September 11th at the First Parish Church, Congress and Temple Streets in Portland. A new-member orientation is scheduled for 7:00 pm the same evening. Auditions are relaxed and supportive, and take place with the director and accompanist only. Musical experience or music reading ability is not a requirement, but a willingness to work hard and have a lot of fun is.

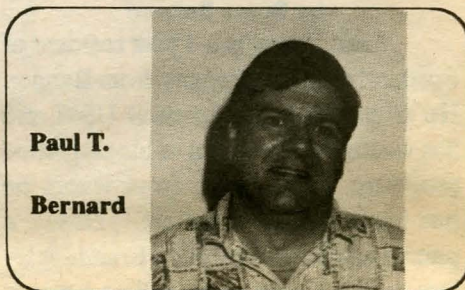
To schedule an audition time or for more information, please call Music Director Bruce Fithian at 839-4506. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus of gay men from all across the State of Maine. Performing since 1992, MGMCM has become a supportive and caring family of singers who spread the message of love, tolerance and diversity by making beautiful music together. ΔΔ

OUT! OF TOWN

Can you believe it? Summer is almost over. It won't be too much longer before we start to see the reds, the yellows, and the oranges of fall foliage. The fall is actually a great time to travel.

Fall is the "off-season" to a lot of destinations. No crowds. No kids. Just peace and quite - and reasonably good weather. My favorite for Florida is mid-to-late October. The weather is still quite warm - but not blistering hot - and the humidity is not as bad. Because it is the off-season, there are usually bargains everywhere. Hotels in the Orlando area frequently advertise rooms for \$25 per night. There aren't any crowds at the major attractions like Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios, or Busch Gardens. It's the one time of year when you won't have to stand in line for your favorite ride. Even restaurants will offer off-season specials. And because it is one of the slowest seasons for the airlines, there have been numerous fall fare-wars.

Likewise, another good destination is Europe. Like Florida, it is the off-season. No crowds and pleasant weather. You don't normally see tremendous savings in airfare in the fall, but there have been international fare-wars in the fall. One of the highlights of the fall off-season is Oktoberfest in Munich. (Every year, I make a vow to go... but I never quite seem to get there - maybe this year!). The weather in Europe that



Paul T.

Bernard

time of year is very much like it is here. Warm days and cool evenings.

Even the Caribbean is a good choice during the fall. The only drawback here is that it is also hurricane season. There are many specials available for the fall. You can go to Antigua for 7 nights from \$599 per person, Cancun for 7 nights from \$499 per person, Cozumel for 7 nights from \$579 per person, St. Martin for 7 nights from \$549 per person, or Aruba for 7 nights from \$569 per person. All of these prices include round-trip airfare from Boston and are based on double occupancy.

For those of you who are interested in casino gambling, there are several options for you to consider. The newest addition to casino gambling is Montreal. The Province of Quebec legalized gambling by several native Indian tribes. They have established several casinos - one in Montreal, one in Quebec City and several smaller ones outside of Quebec City. The one in Montreal is located in the former French Pavilion for the Mon-

See OUT! page 21

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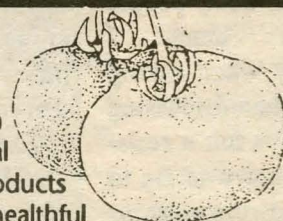
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Gays and Lesbians invade beaches to promote visibility

PORTLAND: More than 650 gay men and lesbians occupied an area of the Ogunquit oceanfront this past Sunday to show support for the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) and to increase the visibility of homosexuals in Maine. Ogunquit, a well-known vacation destination for gays and lesbians, was selected as a rallying site for Maine's own homosexual community to encourage community education and political involvement.

Sunday's fine weather attracted thousands of gay men and lesbians to Ogunquit from many Canadian provinces and northeastern states. A large group from New Hampshire was among the several hundred that joined with MLGPA at a huge rainbow banner where they exchanged insights and strategies regarding state-wide equal rights protections for all sexual minorities.

Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, stated that she was overwhelmed with the response to the invitations that were sent to MLGPA mem-

ber amendments to Maine's human rights laws under a more enlightened governor."

Brian Kaufman, an organizational psychologist and MLGPA member, explained that "visibility increases understanding and destroys popular stereotypes about homosexuality. People fear the unfamiliar. When ordinary neighbors, friends and co-workers decide to 'come out' (confirm their sexual orientation), false stereotypes and fears are replaced with the truth — that homosexuals share a range of life-styles just like heterosexuals." Kaufman added, "the most fundamental difference is that the homosexual life-styles all include the constant fear of discrimination, violence and harassment."

Kaufman referred to a New York Times poll in which it was shown that "visibility campaigns like these are effective." He said, "The survey, conducted nationally, showed that individuals who know at least one lesbian or gay man are twice as likely to agree that ex-



Brian Kaufman, (seen here with F.E. Pentlarge) MLGPA member, explains that "Visibility increases understanding ... individuals who know of least one lesbian or gay man are twice as likely" to support anti-discrimination laws for gay people.

bers for this event. "When more gay men and lesbians find the courage to come out of their closets to relate their experiences of isolation and discrimination, every citizen having moral decency and compassion will enthusiastically support equal rights legislation. We proved that with the passage of LD 246 (a law that would have barred discrimination in employment, housing and credit) by Maine's legislature last year, and we will continue to work for simi-

isting civil rights laws do not adequately protect all citizens from discrimination."

As the day drew to a close, rally participants showed their appreciation for the hospitality shown to them in Ogunquit by staging a "gay shopping spree" at area restaurants and shops. Similar "visibility days" have been discussed for Popham Beach and Mt. Desert Island. Dates have not been disclosed for fear of further harassment and violence by anti-gay fundamentalists. Δ

Chew On This

Last month, I began a discussion of Candida Albicans, especially as it affects the intestinal tract. I also listed some of the symptoms of this yeast infection when it is present in the intestines. This month, I would like to discuss one of the strategies involved in the treatment of an intestinal yeast infection, namely, diet.

As I have studied this disorder, and prescribed diet for its treatment, I have been dismayed to find that, in some areas at least, some of the guidelines are conflicting. However, there are many things about which all the books agree.

It might be easier to begin this discussion by listing the foods one can eat on the Candida diet. Fresh vegetables head the list. Root vegetables and leafy greens are especially favored, and garlic is encouraged because it is a highly effective antifungal agent. If you can afford to purchase organic produce, this would be best. No use adding chemicals and insecticides to your already compromised system. However, my reading thus far suggests that all produce be soaked in a solution of one tablespoon of Clorox bleach to two gallons of cool water. Soak produce for fifteen minutes, then rinse thoroughly in plain cold water.

The one problem I've discovered thus far is that soaking the produce all at once and then storing it in the refrigerator won't do the job. The purpose of the soaking is not only to get rid of the chemicals and insecticides, but also the mold which naturally grows on fruits and vegetables. It is just as important to get rid of the mold on a Candida diet as it is to eliminate as many of the chemicals and insecticides as possible. Therefore, it is necessary to bathe the produce in the Clorox solution just before consumption.

If you are a meat eater, meats are also allowed in the yeast free diet. But the suggestion is that they be consumed in moderation. Moreover, as is the case with vegetables, try to find meats and fish which are less apt to be contaminated with toxic chemicals, antibiotics and/or hormones. This means organic! There's no way around this one with the Clorox bottle! Most health food stores sell a limited variety of meat, and there are also a few organic farmers in Maine. It would be well worth your while to scout your local area to find a good supply of organically grown meat. As for fish, well there's not much you can do

Rose Mary Denman



about water pollution. According to the literature, it's best to eat a variety of fish to lower the chances of your ingesting too much of any one toxin found in our waters. (Fish live at various depths and therefore pick up different toxins.)

Whole grains are also allowed on the yeast free diet. But again, try to vary the kinds you eat so that you don't build up an intolerance to any one of them by overconsumption. Amaranth, Quinoa and Buckwheat flours are a good alternative to white flour. I've also discovered tapioca flour, which is excellent in making waffles!

Water is the beverage of choice for the yeast free diet. But again, tap water usually contains chemicals which may disagree with you and play a part in causing your symptoms. So the recommendation is filtered, distilled or bottled water. All the books warn that if you get bottled water, be sure it is stored in glass containers because chemicals leach into water in plastic bottles.

Now you know what you can eat, let's look at what's off limits. Milk, cheese, yogurt and other dairy products are to be avoided, as are eggs or egg-containing foods. So are foods containing wheat or rye, white flour products, all sugar, even natural sugars like honey, molasses or maple syrup, chocolate and colas, yeast-containing foods, coffee and alcohol, soy products, peanuts, coloring and additives. Fruit is also off limits, especially during the first few weeks. Wow... that's a long list. However, there is some mercy here.

Although the books say to stay away from sugars, fruit and fat, my own doctor, knowing my limits as she does, and also knowing that this diet needs to be doable, especially since it is going to take one to two years to clear the intestinal candida problems, has given me some leeway. First, she has allowed me a maximum of two fruits a day. Fruit should be eaten alone, and at least one hour before consuming other foods, and two to three hours after other foods have been consumed. Also, she has allowed

See CHEW, page 21

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In These Times: Living with Homophobia

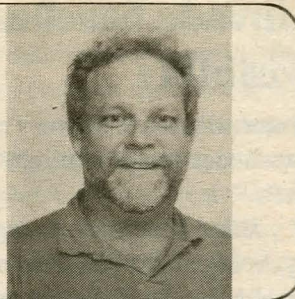
by David Smith

Homophobia always hurts. We maneuver through life hoping to minimize its impact on our lives. Some days we are successful, some days we aren't. When homophobia is expressed by those we love and cherish, the pain can be devastating. Such denial of who we are by those we trust and expect to be there for us can even lead to death. For some of us, our families of origin inflict this pain on us. This month I want to examine the many situations within the families of origin of lesbians and gay men that can unleash a particularly hurtful and cruel form of homophobia.

For sure, some gay men and lesbians have wonderful families of origin made up of mothers and fathers, siblings and cousins who actively support them as they come out and live openly in the world. The family depicted in the movie "Philadelphia" is one such family. Yet, the most often heard criticism from gay people of that movie was that no gay person has that kind of family! While I disagree because I have known families like that, this comment was made too often for there not to be truth in it. And what is a gay person's reality like if he or she believes that no supportive family can or does exist? Most families probably exist somewhere on a continuum that goes from rejection—to loving support. Where does your family of origin fall? Write and tell us of your experiences.

There are many ways that families express their homophobia. One man wrote and told of not having a relationship with his sons for many years because his ex-wife poisoned them against

David
Smith



him - just because he's gay. He regrets his decision to be forthright and honest with her. Many times children have been taken away from lesbian or gay parents due to cultural homophobia. But more importantly, many gay people are denied the right to have children just because we live in a heterosexist society that makes children chattel of parents. Kahlil Gibran writes, "Your children are not your children, they come through you but are not of you." Only in a patriarchal society, where children are owned by men (heterosexual) and women does society lose its children. In many cultures children are seen as being a part of the entire culture, not belonging to anyone, and they are parented by everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. We are denied children in many ways. And so many of us have parents who have abandoned us just because we are gay.

That problem is seen so clearly with homeless youth - many of whom were thrown out because they are gay. The streets of urban centers are crowded with too many gay children who have been discarded by families of origin. The suicide rate also shows us the effect of this homophobia. Over 35% of all completed suicides among teens are by gay and lesbian youth.

In the book *Coming Out Within*, O'Neal and Ritter point out a significant loss experienced by gay men and lesbians in our society. This is the loss of inter-generational bonding. Along with a life vision, a sense of belonging

to the world, we need to be connected to the generation that came before us and the one that comes after us. For heterosexuals this is accomplished by the current system. But for us, it's different. Our parents often tolerate our homosexuality, but give more value and support to our siblings who marry heterosexually and produce children. Some of us lose that connection entirely as we see in the case of discarded gay youth, some maintain and work at a less than ideal relationship with our parents, (and its often very hard work - work that is mostly left to us) and too few of us have loving, caring and supportive parents. Homophobia in our families of origin is sometimes the hardest to deal with.

That is why so many gay and lesbian people just choose never to come out formally. It is never discussed. I know two lesbians who go home to their respective families of origin for the holidays. They never go as a couple. They have been living together for years. Their parents rarely visit and when they do, these women sleep in separate beds. Birthdays of lovers, partners and significant others of gay men and lesbians are often ignored by families of origin. The coming out process so often gets snagged when we try to think of ways to tell our parents we are gay.

What do you know of the ways to come out to families? What is the gentlest way a gay person can do this? I would be very interested in hearing about this from you. I would also like to hear about any aspect of homophobia in your lives. We can try to make this column a dialogue. Let's hear from you. Write to David Smith, c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, Maine 04101. ΔΔ

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SOUND, from page 6

to be ignored...

In Oregon, in a matter of 6 months of gathering signatures for Amendment 9, hate crimes increased 22%. Colorado faced a 300% increase in hate crimes in the 2 months following passage of their Amendment 2. While our own radical right perpetrators are fond of quoting 'facts,' they conveniently overlook the reality of the message these ballot initiatives send to a confused and misinformed general public.

During this 10th anniversary of Charlie Howard's death, my real hope is that this young man did not die in vain. Concerned Maine Families' ballot initiative will not only prevent the gay community from ever attaining equal civil rights, it will repeal the Maine Hate Crimes Act by removing sexual orientation from the list of protected groups. It would effectively send the message that hunting season has begun on this newly formed second class citizenry.

The radical right in Maine does not feel it necessary to even keep track of the level of violence against those who are perceived to be gay, lesbian or bisexual. They certainly don't want you or I to know the extent of the problem. And, of course, the legislature would not need to know these "unimportant" factors when and if they ever again considered the issue of civil rights for gays.

While citizens and politicians were examining how much we, as a society, have changed since Howard's murder, Concerned Maine Families remained conspicuously elusive. They made no statements condemning the violence against the gay man they now claim to love. There was no expression of public sorrow for the tragedy of a young man's life being cut short. There was, however, the deafening sound of their silence. ΔΔ

**HEALTH from page 7**

ing. There are several federal proposals being considered this summer. This makes it difficult for the average person to keep up. It's no wonder we're obsessing about O.J. Simpson—that's an easy story to follow compared to health care reform!

Financing is only part of the issue for lesbians. There are other concerns that affect the quality of the health care that we receive. Next month, we'll look at these concerns and see how, and if, government reform will have any benefit. ΔΔ

Pass along this copy
of CPR to a friend

CHEW, from page 19

me one tablespoon of sweetener a day, provided it is natural, like honey, molasses, rice syrup, or maple syrup. I'm on a low fat diet, which means she allows me between 30 and 40 grams of fat each day. After hearing all the "no's" and "can't eats", I felt like I was being given the moon with these few reprieves.

While this diet may seem very rigid, and that's because it is, the payoff is well worth it. I continue to encourage you to explore your health issues. We often settle for less than optimum health, usually because our symptoms don't seem to be interrelated, and we give up trying to figure out what's really happening.

Next month, I will discuss some of the finer points of the yeast free diet. In the meantime, be good to your body! ΔΔ

**OUT! from page 18**

treel Expo '67 and houses over 1500 slot machines and over 90 gaming tables. In addition to these casinos, there is a large casino called Foxwood in western Connecticut - this one run by one of the states Indian tribes. There are several tour operators running gambling tours to these destinations at reasonable prices.

In future columns, I would like to answer questions and concerns that you may have. Please feel free to write to me with your questions. Please send any correspondence to me in care of this newspaper. ΔΔ

**Faux Pas from the best of them - Part II**

Columbia Journalism Review

The following newspaper headlines or phrase are printed here exactly as they originally appeared in some of America's newspapers. Comments in parentheses have been added for the sake of humor.

- Death ends life of Senator Cummings (Death tends to do that)
- Mrs. Nixon buys pajamas for President, China for Julie
- Cahill welcomes proposals to end crowing in jails
- Nixon to seek lunch money (Pat spent it all on China.)
- Three dead boys were taking friends to big community celebration
- Capital punishment bill called "death oriented"
- Twelve on their way to cruise among dead in plane crash
- Bike-a-thon nets \$1000 for ill boy
- Squad helps dog bite victim (Dog said he was doing okay by himself, but he appreciated the help anyway)
- Firebombing jury takes weekend off
- Less mishaps than expected mar holiday (too bad)
- Men form rape group
- Missouri deer kill near 50,000
- W.T. Wylie stimulated Shakespeare
- Sunny, cold tonight
- Did Pope suspect plot to murder the Queen?
- Judge orders Sirhan to die
- Cutting off supply will stem drug flow

From around the world

- Continuing along the mall lined five people deep, she (Margaret Thatcher) stopped periodically to shake hands, or stooped to kill and embrace small children. (Western News, Vancouver)
- The new British library - sitting comfortably on large piles (New Scientist, England)
- Tracey, age 21, pictured above waking up at Crest Hotel, Cardiff, today won the votes of the judges with her stunning blonde hair, blue eyes and 34-34-34 figure. (South Wales Echo)
- While the steel band from William Penn Comprehensive School entertained, the Bishop (of Southwark) walked among the crowds eating their picnic lunches. (Southwark News, England) ΔΔ

Where Can I Find Community Pride Reporter ?**Portland & So. Portland:**

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Center-Portland, Portland Hall, Powers	
House-Women's Forum	
Westside Restaurant	Big Star Video
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Green Mountain	Coffee Roasters
SMTc, Student Union	Christy's
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Ben & Jerry's	The Movies
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 Bangor: The Rage, Pro Libris, Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Mr. Paperback (2)
 Brunswick: Gulf of Maine Books, Touch The Earth, Bookland, The Kitchen, Morning Glory
 Biddeford: UNE - Lifestyles Alliance, Bookland
 Blue Hill: Left Bank Cafe
 Freeport: Sister Creations
 Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network, Mr. Paperback
 Bar Harbor: Mr. Paperback
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 Farmington: UMFarmington Bookstore, Mr. Paperback
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 Millinocket: Mr. Paperback
 Brewer: Mr. Paperback
 Camden: Stone Soup
 Damariscotta: Maine Coast Books
 Orono: Wilde-Stein Club
 Caribou: Northern Lambda Nord, Mr. Paperback
 Gardiner: The Circle Shop
 Waterville: Railroad Square Cafe, Railroad Square Cinema, Treasure Chest, Mr. Paperback (2)
 Belfast: The Coop, The Green Store, JKS Copyprinters, The Fertile Mind Bookstore, Mr. Paperback
 Bridgton: Bridgton Books
 Ogunquit: The Front Porch, The Club

NH Locations:

Portsmouth: Lady Iris Books, Gifts, Stroudwater Books, Seacoast Gay Men
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PROFILE, from page 17

to two years so I guess that makes me bisexual, but I know that the primary turn-on for me is male, so where do I fit? And then I think, well, fuck it all, I'm attracted to whomever I'm attracted to. Leave it at that.

A: I guess that would define it pretty well for me, that I'm attracted to who I'm attracted to and that I can envision myself having sexual relationships with guys, but I never have. I've had sexual relations with women.

Q: So, getting back to your art work, did the questions about your sexuality find an expression in your work or was it an obstacle to your work?

A: I don't know that my sexuality has been integrated with my art work.

Q: Would you say it's irrelevant?

A: I don't know if I'd say it's irrelevant... It's pretty nonexistent in my art work right now.

Q: From what little I know about post-modernism even the selection of the images (in your collages) would be related to your sexual identity. A psychologist, or if there is such a thing as an art psychologist, would be able to look at some of your collages and draw conclusions about why you picked this image or that image and that it is in fact inescapably related to your sexuality. Isn't that one of the thrusts of post-modernism, the inescapable connection between the artist's sexuality and his or her selection of images?

A: I feel like a lot of times when I'm doing my art work that on some level I'm conscious of what I'm doing. The self-portraits that I showed you (photo collages) really sort of did themselves. I took the photographs, but all the other images around them... I gave myself a certain group of images to choose from

which happened to be photographs of myself, my family and different people I've been in relationships with... just happened, and they're inexplicable, and if a psychologist wants to look at it and analyze it...

Q: So maybe "irrelevant" is not the right word; "unconscious" is better. In other words, it's not that there's no connection, it's just that you're unaware of the connection, it's so ingrained.

A: I haven't had a psychologist look at my art work to figure out where the sexual overtones are...

Before I took Chris's class, I felt like art was a totally subjective experience in that when I looked at a piece of art work it was how I felt about it and that was all, and I still feel that way to some degree... and I guess part of what Chris helped me to understand was that it's also a cultural experience in that the person who created the piece is working out of his cultural experience, and that you can look at a piece of art work and also understand what's going on around that person. But I still feel to some degree that it is a completely subjective experience in that when I look at a piece of art work, I can take away my meaning and that might have nothing to do with what that artist is thinking or feeling, or what's going on around them, and I think that people can do that with my art work as well... People can look at my art work and have a completely different understanding of it than I do and that's totally OK.

Q: So the motive behind your work may be unknown to the viewer?

A: Yes, but they can see something else. There's something to be said for the artist's intentions, but there's also something to be said for the intentions a viewer gives a piece.

Q: Right. I've had artist friends

whose work you would look at and verbalize your reaction and the artist would say, "huh, I didn't see that." So would you say there's not so much message in your work?

A: No, I think there's message in my work. It's just that my message might not be the one you see, or it might be. In the essays we read (in Reed's classes), people were coming up with all kinds of messages. You could come up with 80 different messages for one piece of art work. I mean, it's endless.

Q: The daily grind is difficult for everyone, but for an artist it can be worse. What obstacles have you overcome in order to pursue your dream?

A: What is my dream?

Q: What are some of your influences, artistically?

A: When I was in high school, I liked the Italian Renaissance, Michelangelo, Albrecht Durer - but that was a little too heavy to aspire to. Since then my influences come from a much wider spectrum, including music and poetry.

Q: What media have you progressed through?

A: I painted a lot between the ages of 16 and 21, I also wrote a lot during my late teens, and in the last two years I've concentrated on music. I've been writing songs since I was 16 but recently I got it together enough to have a band.

Q: What kind of band is it?

A: Usually when people ask me what kind of music we play I say rock 'n' roll.

Q: What do you do in the band?

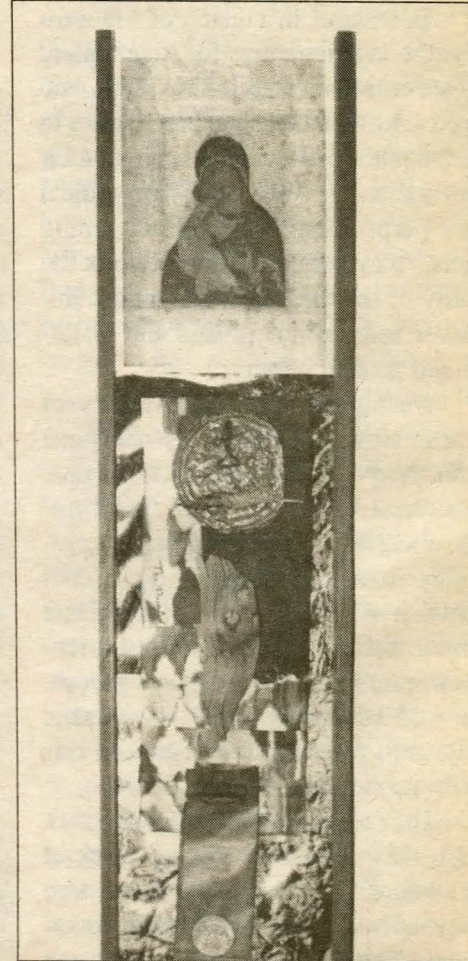
A: I sing, play guitar and write.

Q: Does it have a name?

A: It's called "Ganesha."

Q: What does that mean?

A: It's the elephant-headed man



"Whose breast is Dismantled to Create Your Life?" A collage by Hasey. Balboni Photo

in the Hindu religion; Shiva's son, the remover of obstacles.

Q: Have you been a victim of homophobia?

A: I've been called a fag a hundred thousand million times, but it hasn't happened as much as it used to.

Q: Do you have anything to add? Is there something you expected I'd ask but didn't?

A: I didn't really have any expectations. I kind of hoped it would turn out this way. I'm honored. ΔΔ

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SHOPPING from page 11

ter has become a marketing strategy, and this is ominous. In the 70s, the feminist movement became packaged and marketed. (Remember the Virginia Slims ads?) It marked the beginning of the backlash against the women's movement in the 1980s. (Now a shocking number of women no longer identify themselves as "feminist".) Will the Stonewall commemoration be a catalyst for activism, or a new idea for a T-shirt? Will "Unity 94" and the Gay Games be remembered as a time of coming together, or another opportunity for Naya Water, Miller Brewing, and AT&T to reach an untapped market? Lesbians and Gay men continue to live under siege in our nation, yet sometimes the best we can do is open another bar or invent another logo.

I define "Gay Pride" as a rejection of those persons, institutions and prod-

ucts which are sick and harmful, or which marginalize and demean me. If every homosexual person in this country withheld their taxes until national equal protection legislation was passed, we would bring the government to its knees. If all of us refused to buy products or give money to institutions which did not offer benefits to same-sex partners, the issue would be solved tomorrow. If every queer constituent made one phone call to their legislator, Congress would be overwhelmingly pro-gay. And to think that any one of these political actions would require less time and effort than putting on an international sporting event...

But alas, I dream! The term "Gay Community" continues to be an oxymoron. We can't even surmount the "isms" within our own ranks. We play GAMES!

RODIN

wrists and the ankles, burst Auguste Rodin, with his blatantly naked "St. John the Baptist Preaching" and his "Age of Bronze", which was accused of having been cast from life. Curiously, in Victorian times, nude, but chaste statues of women were okay, but naked, ballsy men were a scandal. (At the PMA show, it's a good idea to first visit the Sculpture Court, with its Victorian era marbles by Franklin B. Simmons: chaste, mythological figures, rendered as smoothly as icing on a wedding cake; polished, finished, prim-and-proper, highly acceptable cemetery sculpture: typical of Establishment taste, pre-RODIN).

Rodin unleashed into Victorian Society whole bacchanals of naked, contorted, writhing, dancing, smelly, mewling, exulting and exulted raunchy nudes! His output was Olympian - literally. Thousands of Rodin sculptures, drawings and paintings, predominantly nudes, exist. That they were called "Ugolino," "Eve," "Minotaur," "Paolo and Francesca," or "Adam," should fool no one. These were/are your next-door-neighbors coupling, the fantasy construction worker no one talks about at the office the next day; perhaps, even, "god" rejecting" woman." Rodin, with great guile, once said, that "The Age of Bronze" was just a simple piece of sculpture without reference to subject." He knew the bourgeois needed a name, a title, preferably Biblical, a safe reference point. Rodin intended that the finished works transcend the nominal subject. He succeeded. He sucked 'em in.

Frankly erotic, ("The Ascendancy" depicts the sex act; "The Eternal Idol", "The Kiss" and "Eternal Spring" come very close) Rodin's nudes are starkly sensual, sensuous, very sexy, hardly Victorian. Sexier still was Rodin's depiction of the most naked of man's acts: "Thought." "To model shadows is to bring out the thought," Rodin said. But the last thing the Church, the State and the Establishment wanted its artists and citizens to do was THINK!



THIN FIRE, from page 17

(err.. gaily) through without a break and constantly surprised myself by my strong identification with the characters and their circumstances; after all, I'm a gay man, not a lesbian. Yet, this novel caused me to experience feelings I hadn't had since I came out myself over sixteen years ago. I believe that it can be understood and appreciated by anyone who has experienced the struggle for self-awareness, self-acceptance, and the fulfillment of love. I have kept the plot details to a minimum because Thin Fire is just too good to ruin by giving away everything that happens. So read it yourself and weep. . . and laugh, and shout, and jump for joy! ΔΔ

Now, Rodin was not a "nice man." Lover and abuser of women, Rodin treated his common-law wife Rose, who posed for many of his masterpieces, as a slave. He abandoned his mentally challenged son. He all but destroyed Camille Claudel, his great love and a brilliant sculptress in her own right, and he was abusive to a whole slew of mistresses. All fell, or were pushed, under the wheels of art. Rodin was totally absorbed in his art; nothing else mattered. His art was himself. He was totally absorbed. "I don't give a damn for anybody. I am interested only in myself,"



The French didn't know what shocked them more, a naked St. John the Baptist or a naked man thinking. Photo courtesy Portland Museum of Art.

Rodin said.

Sic, at some point, despite the modern mistake of attributing all art to sloppy toilet-training or abusive fathers, the viewer must separate the artist from his work. There is a reason why "The Thinker" and "The Kiss" are two of the world's most universally understood and appreciated works of art. Either it's universal and it lasts, without the artist ever-present, or it's Madonna. (Madonna won't last: there's no intellect there.)

Rodin did not much care for the opinions of others. Fame and wealth came quite late in life: "The Balzac," "The Burghers of Calais" and "The Gates of Hell," the focus of the PMA show, were all rejected by their commissioners; "The Kiss" was deemed too rude for the Chicago World's Fair of 1893; Rodin had to mount his own independent exhibit at the Paris Universal

Exhibition of 1900 at the age of 60. But his absorption in his art denigrated, by its sheer power and genius, the correctness, conformity, polish, finish, blandness - the plastic acceptability of the Establishment art. Rodin openly challenged the intellectual vacuity and hypocrisy of the Establishment. His statues not only expressed HIS revolutionary thoughts, but their own. Rodin's revolution was quite pagan.

Rodin may have been born a French Catholic; he spent six months as a monk mourning his sister, and he spoke often of "spirituality," but it had nothing to do with Judeo-Christianity. "Rodin did have his religion: it was the human body." From the "St. John the Baptist Preaching," to "The Age of Bronze," to the naked "Balzacs" and "Burghers of Calais," to the spread-eagled "Iris" to the legions of naked Kentaurs, Bacchantes, Eves, Faunesses and Nymphs, this is pre-Eden Man, pre-Fall woman: a total rejection of Christian demagoguery: a pagan rebirth. It honors Michelangelo, but its roots are in pagan, multi-sexual, tolerant Greece and Rome - the seeds are prehistoric.

Was RODIN gay, bi or multi-sexual? NO! Should Lesbians and Gays

make a pilgrimage to THE PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART and to Rodin? Yes! Rodin expresses the human condition at its most multi-faceted, complex and natural. The "argument against nature," utterly dissolves in Rodin. Additionally, Rodin was the classic outsider who was rejected, but who created so powerful and singular a universe of his own - sticking to his vision of self, never wavering - that the world was obliged to swallow its boorish, prejudiced, ignorant pride and recognize genius. Undaunted by the abuse of critics, the elite, the moralists, the demagogues, the Church and the public, Rodin forced, by sheer obstinacy and genius, his powerful, subversive, pagan, perfect opinion on the world.

It can be done. It won't be done by a Prince or an Elton John; not even by a Warhol or a Mapplethorpe. But it can be done.

RODIN: SCULPTURE FROM THE IRIS AND B. GERALD CANTOR COLLECTION, through October 9, 1994, at THE PORTLAND MUSEUM OF ART. Call: 775-6148, for times, prices and FREE HOURS! For a personal, or group, guided tour, please feel free to call me at: 773-5726. ΔΔ

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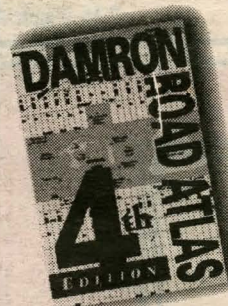


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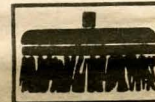
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