Q: "So, you're saying gay people don't qualify for civil rights?"

Cosby -- "Absolutely! They don't deserve protection.."

Carolyn Cosby, leader of Concerned Maine Families (CMF), an extremist group of religious fanatics, delivered their petitions to Portland City Hall, August 12. These petitions are in support of a state-wide referendum that would prevent the future inclusion of sexual orientation in the Maine Human Rights Act. If Maine voters approve this referendum (November, 1995), discrimination against homosexuals would be legally permitted.

In a wide-ranging interview conducted outside the Clerk's office at City Hall, Cosby said that gay people do not qualify for civil rights nor do they deserve protection. She used the phrasing "special minority class protection" repeatedly, which is in sync with the national, radical right's anti-gay crusade: Use of the word "special" is deliberately designed to confuse people into thinking that gay people are seeking something that others do not have.

During the course of the interview it became clear that CMF is working to allow discrimination against homosexuals to continue and they want that discrimination to have legal protection. In reference to a question about the next phase of CMF's anti-gay campaign Cosby said, "This is the end of phase one. It's a real victory for us that we've accomplished this. We've worked under some of the most difficult of circumstances that probably any petition drive has ever faced in Maine. We've been facing harassment from the very beginning of this campaign. The fact that we have collected 57,000 signatures is really phenomenal. Given better circumstances we would have had well over 100,000 signatures. We had an excellent reception from the public and for that we are very pleased and we feel it positions us to go into this further campaign very strongly."

Crystal Caustie from Channel 13 suggested to Cosby that she had had a bad start because CMF was unable to get enough signatures in time to get on the 1994 November ballot. Cosby replied, "Well, actually we had a good start, but what we ran into was tremendous harassment at the polls in the November elections (1993). It hurt our efforts, but what we found in the June primaries (1994) was that we made up handily for that loss plus we had a lot of people in the field."

Cosby was asked if she thought passage of a state-wide anti-gay law might not result in a boycott similar to the one launched against Colorado following that state's passage of the now infamous Amendment 2. She opined, "Well, the Colorado boycott was a bust."

"The Supreme Court of the United States agrees with us," said Cosby at Portland City Hall, August 15th. "Homosexuals do not deserve protection..."

EPM/Bangor responds to Cosby and CMF

Local businessman, Ed Armstrong, spoke about the turmoil and injustice in the world today, saying, "We need a gov..."
The passage of this referendum will interfere with law enforcement's ability to prosecute those people who commit violent hate crimes against gays and lesbians and will allow known and violent perpetrators to continue to assault and threaten Maine's citizens. This referendum leads the Attorney General's office to an unmistakable conclusion that is that passage of this referendum will be tragic and will be absolutely unacceptable to law enforcement and, we believe, to the citizens of this state," said Stephen Wessler, Maine's Assistant Attorney General.

A coalition was formed in swift response to CMF's (Concerned Maine Families) submission of petitions at Portland City Hall, and at city halls across the state, August 12. CMF is seeking a state-wide referendum to exclude sexual orientation from civil rights protections. Wessler appeared with several other business and community leaders at City Hall, August 15, to announce their opposition to the referendum.

Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, (MLGPA); Tom Ewell, Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches; Laura Fortin, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Lobby; Susan Pierter, Manager of Public Affairs Bath Iron Works, (BIW); George Campbell, a partner in Governmental Services; and Patricia Peard, President-elect of the Maine Civil Liberties Union, (MCLU), were among the speakers.

Moses Sebunya, Vice-president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), arrived late and was unable to read his statement. After the press conference he indicated that the opposition to CMF's campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes.

Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, said CMF's campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes. Geraghty emceed the press conference she indicated that the opposition to CMF's campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes.

Geraghty emceed the press conference and started by reading a statement from MLGPA in which she said, "We have seen that the fear and misinformation that is part and parcel of Concerned Maine Families' campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes. We must not get a small group of radical extremists change the face of the state of Maine. We will work hard in the legislature to see that the amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act passes both houses of the legislature and gets signed into law by the next governor. And we will work hard with our coalition partners to defeat this referendum so that Maine will be a place where we can all live freely and in harmony with one another."

Ewell said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Maine Council of Churches I want to express our opposition to the referendum which proposes in fact to insure that sexual orientation never be considered as a basis for civil rights. For a decade now the Maine Council of Churches has supported legislation which would specifically provide civil rights in the areas of housing, credit, employment and public accommodation for persons who are gay or lesbian or perceived to be so. For us this is a matter of justice, discrimination based on prejudice against some of us threatens the civil rights of all of us."

Fortin announced that, "The Maine Women's Lobby is a state-wide membership organization that has long fought against discrimination in all forms around the state. We are adamantly opposed to this referendum and concur with the reason that you've all heard today. It's passage will contribute to an atmosphere of hatred in our society, it will prevent prosecution of those who perpetrate hate crimes, but more importantly, when you look at recent media coverage of our state motto, "Maine, the way life should be," a referendum like this definitely is not the way we think Maine should be or life should be. People should be allowed to live their lives without fear and threat of violence."

Pierter said that, "Bath Iron Works is represented here today because we believe it is important to provide equal protection regardless of sexual orientation. We amended our equal employment opportunity policy last year beyond the legal requirements to approve such protection."

"As the state's largest private employer we believe that this is the right thing to do. Every employee is entitled to work in an environment free from discrimination. Discrimination erodes employee morale and has a direct negative impact on productivity. We see this policy statement as a symbol of our commitment to fundamental fairness," said Campbell, a small business owner, "For those of us in business who everyday have to meet payroll, support charities and help in any number of causes, this is just one more expense that is totally unnecessary and works against the better good of all. So as an owner of a small business, a business that works with many people across the state, I can assure you that the business community is going to fight long and hard to stop this referendum."

Peard, speaking for the MCLU said that, "Mrs. Cosby and her friends would like to become the gatekeepers of civil liberties in the state of Maine. They would like to be the ones who decide who has civil liberties and who does not. This is not acceptable and we don't believe the people of the state of Maine will accept this. We will do everything, in our power, to defeat this referendum."

Geraghty mentioned the four gubernatorial candidates, stating that they all oppose the referendum. She read a statement from U.S. Senate candidate Tom Andrews, "I'm sorry I could not join you this afternoon. I want you to know that I stand with you today as I see Leaders Unite, page 20."
Police Chief Chitwood denounces anti-gay referendum

Michael J. Chitwood, Portland’s Chief of Police, spoke at a press conference at Police Headquarters, August 18, 1994. Chitwood said, “Based on my experience, 30 years in law enforcement, and looking at it from a public safety issue, I feel strongly when I say — to support discrimination is to encourage outright violence.”

Chitwood said, “In 1990, as a result of minority concerns, the Bias Crime Task Force was formed. This program is now nationally recognized as an effective means of dealing with hatred and bias in this community and its success has resulted in its duplication throughout the state. As a result of this Task Force over 80 incidents of bias were investigated in its first year.”

In 1992 the police received reports of over 20 criminal acts and 10 bias incidents in Portland. He said, “In over half the criminal events, members of the gay and lesbian community were singled out for such predatory violation. And this community was diminished by the simple fact that there were no laws to acknowledge their right to equal protection.

“The City of Portland subsequently passed an act to prevent discrimination and, in my opinion, this has been very, very successful in allowing people from the gay community to come forward and report attacks, physical violence, intimidation and threats without fear of losing their jobs, without fear of losing their homes or without fear of being penalized.”

Alan Stearns hosted the press conference, which was called to announce the spreading opposition to the referendum sponsored by Concerned Maine Families (CMF). This referendum, if passed, would deny civil rights to homosexuals in Maine.

Steams is a member of Equal Protection Maine (EPM) and he spoke on behalf of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) of which he is a member of the Executive Committee as Secretary.

CMF and its leader, Carolyn Cosby, is fond of calling civil rights protections for homosexuals “special” rights. Steams turned the tables on them by throwing the word “special” in their face. Steams charged, “The idea that anti-discrimination laws are ‘special’ is distorted at best. There is nothing ‘special’ about getting fired, or evicted or harassed. There is nothing ‘special’ about having the right NOT to get beaten up.

“In fact, Carolyn Cosby is really campaigning for her own ‘special’ rights, her ‘special’ right to discrimination. Her referendum would repeal the Portland School Department’s anti-discrimination policy. Carolyn Cosby wants to regain her ‘special’ right to expel students from school because they are gay or questioning. Her referendum would repeal the Portland Human Rights Ordinance. Carolyn Cosby wants to regain her ‘special’ right to fire employ-ees who are different from her. She wants to regain her ‘special’ right to discriminate against tenants who are different from her.”

Peter O’Donnell, a former City Councilor and spokesperson for Equal Protection Portland (EPP) reminded the press that the dire consequences predicted in 1992, by those opposed to Portland’s Human Rights Ordinance have not come to pass. O’Donnell was the Councilor who first proposed the ordinance to the City Council in 1992.

O’Donnell also noted the inconsistencies of conservatives in CMF who generally advocate for local control, but who, in this case, are trying to overrule the will of the people in Portland.

Barbara Wood, former City Councilor, said that people should be judged on their ability, not their sexual orientation. She listed a host of prominent Mainers who oppose this referendum and suggested that it was Cosby and her group of radical extremists who are “out of touch with the people of Maine.”

Wood added, “Cosby said that if this referendum passes it will make Maine neutral on gay rights. I have a question for you. If I am fired from my job because I’m a lesbian, is that really neutral? It doesn’t sound that way to me. To me that sounds wrong. It sounds like discrimination.”

Joel Russ, President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Portland Region said, “Two years ago the Portland anti-discrimination laws survived this most recent attack. Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce voted overwhelmingly to support Portland’s Human Rights Ordinance. We believe that the majority of both large and small businesses share the conviction that there is no place for intolerance or discrimination in the workplace.

“Our views have not changed. See Chitwood, page 13

MCLU and GLAD to celebrate lesbian/gay rights at Portland benefit

PORTLAND: The Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) will celebrate the two organizations’ ongoing legal work for the civil rights of Maine lesbians, gay men and persons with HIV with a fundraiser on Sunday, September 11 from 4 to 7 pm at the Katahdin Restaurant in Portland.

Proceeds will help both groups mount a legal challenge to the anti-gay right ballot initiative filed this month by Concerned Maine Families. Proceeds will also support the work of GLAD and MCLU to promote legal rights in employment, housing, family law, and health care for lesbians, gay men and persons with HIV.

“This year’s event is especially urgent as we collaborate to fight the radical right’s attempt to legally prohibit equal rights for gay, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders in Maine,” said Jan Plamer, Executive Director of GLAD, a New England-wide legal rights organization. The party will include discussion of the work of the MCLU and GLAD and will feature a food donated by several restaurants and caterers in Maine. The event will be informal.

“The response has already been terrific,” remarked Sally Sutton, Executive Director of the MCLU. “In this political atmosphere, it is especially important to show a united front. I think people in Maine realize that the importance of our work.”

A donation of $25 per person is suggested. Tickets are available through MCLU, 774-5444. Reservations are suggested. 

"To support discrimination is to encourage violence," said Michael Chitwood, Portland's Chief of Police. He spoke at a press conference at Police Hq. Joel Russ, President of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, at right, said, "The CMF referendum is a message of intolerance."
HUD awards $669,000 for housing for People With Aids

by Bruce Balboni

"I have AIDS," said Bill Toth. He was speaking at a press conference called by a five-member collaborative, to announce the awarding of a $669,000 grant by HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development). The press conference was held September 1, 1994, at the Portland Public Library. The collaborative, known as HAVEN (Housing and Volunteer Enlistment Network), received the grant as a result of an intense HUD competition to fund "Special Projects of National Significance." HUD will award only 15 such grants, totaling just over $12,600,000.

The courage and power of Toth's statement put an all too human face on the facts and figures of the announcement. He approached the lectern in his wheelchair and then pulled himself up to speak. His words brought tears to my eyes:

"I have AIDS, and that's really important because that's what this grant is really all about - people living with AIDS. Over the last five and a half years I've lived at the AIDS Lodging House, which is a tenant-based facility here in Portland for people with HIV and AIDS. Over those years, some 30-odd people have lived there. Around 24 have died and in those cases those people were living on minimum incomes. I've seen first-hand how hard it was for all of us to get along and just scratch by. It's been very difficult.

"With this new grant, there will be more places, more money and a lot more allowance for a normal life-style. As we're meeting here today, we're making plans to bring somebody in from San Francisco. He's a gentleman who is in the latter stages of AIDS who wants to come home to his family. Living at home is not an option in this situation, so we had to find a place for him.

"In the future, Peabody House will maintain an apartment where two bedrooms will be available at all times to accommodate emergency needs for shelter. What we're doing now, because of this man's condition and because my apartment is handicap accessible, is to have this man move in with me until Peabody House opens in November.

"In the future we won't have things like that. People will be able to live on their own, move into a facility, be taken care of with the right care and just live a really precious life. Thank you."

Chris Behan, one of the founding trustees of Peabody House and a therapist at the Center for Training and Special Programs at the Family Institute of Maine, hosted the conference. He emphasized the importance of this grant and said it reflected the fact that the collaborative, "had created a program of national significance." Behan thanked Maureen Connally and Carl Lakari for their technical support in the grant-writing process.

"This grant means we will be having $669,000, over the next three years, in direct client services and support for people with HIV," said Behan. He continued, "I think that's what so exciting about this grant, is that it directly affects the people living with the disease." He pointed out that the acronym, HAVEN, means, "safe harbor, a place of sanctuary," and that the program fulfills the desire of many PWAs to live independently and not in communal housing.

Deborah Shields, Executive Director of the AIDS Project said, "This grant will allow low-income people with HIV to choose from a range of housing options to best suit their needs. These will include everything from an emergency shelter for people at risk of homelessness, to independent living situations, to supported apartments at scattered sites, to residential supported care living."

Rick Bouchard, Program Director of the AIDS Lodging House, said that their share of the HAVEN grant will allow them to double the number of units they administer. Bouchard said that, among other reasons, this grant is important because, "People with HIV and AIDS will no longer have to worry about having affordable housing. The rentals offered by the AIDS Lodging House will include such things as utilities, telephone, furniture, housecleaning services, volunteers to help move in and maintenance."

Cynthia Lambert, Executive Director of the Center for Training and Special Programs at the Family Institute of Maine, referred to her and her husband's recent visit to a leper colony in Hawaii. "We witnessed what can happen to individuals and families who suffer from a illness associated with intense societal fear. We heard surviving family members tell us that even though they are physically well now, the idea of returning to the society, as they knew it, is inconceivable. The walls that were built to protect society from these people, and to supposedly create a healing village for them, became a prison.

"We at the Family Institute are compelled to help create a context that is different for people living with HIV disease. As family therapists we are very aware that the issues facing families living with HIV disease are immensely complex. Few other families in history have known the multiple burdens - chronic illness, the constant threat of death, grief, being torn apart by stigma, secrecy, uncertainty, overwhelming daily demands for medical care, complex financial needs and discrimination in housing and employment."

Lambert said the Institute looks forward to working collaboratively to overcome these burdens and acknowledged how much she and her staff has learned about family from the people who are affected by this illness.

See HUD, page 6
N.W. endorses Andrews for the U.S. Senate

Announcement made Friday, August 26 at the Cummings Center, Munjoy Hill, Portland

by Bruce Balboni

"Good afternoon, my name is Lois Reckitt. I'm a resident of South Portland and a National Board member of the National Organization for Women (NOW). I am pleased to announce today that the National NOW PAC (Political Action Committee) has endorsed Tom Andrews for the United States Senate.

With those words, Reckitt revealed a stunning political development in the Maine Senate race.

NOW almost never endorses men, and in a race where one of the candidates is a woman, the endorsement is all the more shocking.

In a transparent case of sour grapes, the Snowe campaign dismissed NOW's endorsement of Andrews by saying that NOW always endorses "liberal Democrats."

Reckitt further stated, "Tom Andrews is the clear choice for Maine women. The Maine NOW Board unanimously recommended that the National NOW PAC endorse Tom Andrews. Tom Andrews support for women has been unequivocal and rock solid. While he has been in the House, and indeed, since he set foot in the Maine Legislature some years ago, he has proven himself to be a man of courage who stands up for what is right. We know he truly believes in equality for all people, all of the time."

Andrews simply has a better record of supporting the broad range of issues of concern to women. Olympia Snowe has been on the wrong side of many issues important to us, especially issues affecting working-class and lower income women and families.

"In addition, the difference between Tom Andrews and Olympia Snowe is this — Olympia Snowe talks about women's issues, Tom Andrews acts. Tom Andrews leads fights for women and families who are trying to make ends meet."

"Earlier this year, Tom took on the manufacturer of the birth control device, Norplant. It was discovered that women in America were paying $700 for this contraceptive while women overseas were paying $23 for the same device. Tom recognized this rip-off and, at a Congressional hearing featuring Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders, M.D., he took on the pharmaceutical corporation. He pointed out that the manufacturer had developed Norplant with a 16 million dollar taxpayer subsidy.

"In July, Tom led a successful effort to defeat an attempt to eliminate funding for the National Women's Business Council. The efforts of the council have contributed to the recent explosion of U.S. women-owned small businesses, that number 6.5 million.

"Tom Andrews consistently supported universal health care coverage, which includes reproductive health services and research on women's health issues. Both long neglected by the U.S. government."

"In addition, Tom has consistently voted for funding for AIDS research and supports the removal of those barriers to full participation in American society that still plague lesbians and gay men."

Reckitt underlined the rarity of this endorsement (a man over a woman) and concluded her statement by asking the people of Maine to vote for Tom Andrews. She introduced him to the thunderous applause of the mostly female audience. Andrews said, "I want to thank the National Organization for Women for this endorsement. It means a great deal to me personally. It means a great deal to this campaign. As all of you know, this is a grassroots campaign the likes of which this state has never seen, and the involvement of women in communities from all across the state and the National Organization for Women is going to be a major lift to this grassroots effort."

"One of the last things I did before I went to Congress was, I had the idea that mammography screening should be a basic ingredient of all health insurance sold in the state of Maine. When I made that proposal in the State Senate, the insurance corporations just lined up, one after another, after another, to come and fight tooth and nail against the requirement that insurance companies in this state provide coverage for mammography screening. But, because of NOW, and so many other women who were engaged in this fight in communities across the state of Maine, we defeated those insurance companies. We passed that bill, and now mammography screening is a basic requirement of every insurance company in this state."

Andrews characterized his campaign as one that goes against politics as usual and he asked his supporters to stand with him to fight "the wheelers and dealers" and to "take back Washington, D.C."

At the conclusion of Andrews' remarks, CPR asked the candidate to comment on the anti-gay referendum sponsored by Concerned Maine Families. Andrews said, "I think it is horrible. It is short-sighted in the extreme. It is unfair, it is unjust and it should be defeated, soundly."

N.W. endorses Andrews for the U.S. Senate

MCLU to honor former legislators

PORTLAND: The Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) will honor former legislators Susan Farnsworth, Esq. and Jerry Conley, Jr., Esq. by presenting them with the 1994 Roger Baldwin Award at the organization's annual meeting on Friday, September 23 at 6 pm at One City Center in Portland.

The Roger Baldwin award, named after the founding father of the MCLU's parent organization, the American Civil Liberties Union, is presented annually to that person or persons who has made a significant contribution protecting the public's civil liberties.

"Susan and Jerry have made immeasurable contributions to the progress of civil rights, reproductive choice, and criminal justice," said Sally Sutton, Executive Director of the MCLU. "We are delighted to be presenting them with this award."

The annual meeting celebrates the year's work of the MCLU and will also feature introductory remarks by the Honorable Joe Brannigan. The event will include hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, music and dancing. Tickets are $15 per persons. Those giving $50 or more will be recognized in the evening's programs. Reservations are requested by September 19. Call 774-5444 for additional information. 

MCLU to honor former legislators

The Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) will honor former legislators Susan Farnsworth, Esq. and Jerry Conley, Jr., Esq. by presenting them with the 1994 Roger Baldwin Award at the organization's annual meeting on Friday, September 23 at 6 pm at One City Center in Portland.

The Roger Baldwin award, named after the founding father of the MCLU's parent organization, the American Civil Liberties Union, is presented annually to that person or persons who has made a significant contribution protecting the public's civil liberties.

"Susan and Jerry have made immeasurable contributions to the progress of civil rights, reproductive choice, and criminal justice," said Sally Sutton, Executive Director of the MCLU. "We are delighted to be presenting them with this award."

The annual meeting celebrates the year's work of the MCLU and will also feature introductory remarks by the Honorable Joe Brannigan. The event will include hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, music and dancing. Tickets are $15 per persons. Those giving $50 or more will be recognized in the evening's programs. Reservations are requested by September 19. Call 774-5444 for additional information.
The Remnant of Equal Protection Lewiston
by Rich Austin

Lewiston/Auburn—It has been a little over a year since the fight began in Lewiston to uphold a city council enacted ordinance that would have prohibited discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the areas of credit, housing and public accommodations based solely on sexual orientation. On November 3rd, 1993, the citizens of Lewiston voted two to one to overturn the city ordinance. As you read this article, human rights violations against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people are still completely legal in the city of Lewiston, Maine.

Equal Protection Lewiston (EPL) was founded nearly one year ago by a group of gay, lesbian, bisexual Einan and Roland Blais for their observations on the issues of...
Around the Nation

District Judge David Young reduced Thacker’s sentence to no more than six years in prison. Thacker, 26, had pleaded guilty to manslaughter, which carries one to 15 years unless a judge decides otherwise. In reducing Thacker’s sentence, the judge said he was confident he wouldn’t kill again.

More than 100 people attended a rally, August 15, at the Utah Capitol to protest the ruling and call for Young’s removal from the bench.

“What Judge Young has said is that it’s OK to kill faggots. This is beyond insulr,” said David Nelson, founder of the Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats.

Gay leaders cited the Kochel slaying in demanding the legislature to pass a hate-crimes law. They were furious when prosecutors let Thacker plead guilty to manslaughter. He was originally charged with murder.

Cancer claims life of Rikki Streicher, founder of Maud’s in San Francisco. CA. After a four-year struggle against cancer, Rikki Streicher died on August 21st. Streicher opened Maud’s in 1986, and at the time of its closing in 1989, Maud’s had operated as a lesbian bar longer than any other in the world. Its story has been documented in the film, Last Call at Maud’s. This was more than simply a lesbian bar. It was known internationally as a gathering place for lesbians. Some of the events held there became legendary.

According to an article appearing in the San Francisco Bay times, August 25th edition, “The life of every lesbian and gay man in San Francisco has been touched in some way by Rikki Streicher. Rikki was one of those exceptional people who always accom­plish the work of many lifetimes in only one.” She was a contributor of time, talent and finances to many gay and lesbian organizations.

It will be remembered, for the most part, as the woman who was behind all women and gay men, opening up new opportunities to promote their welfare and visibility.

Gay & Lesbian Softball World Series outrages Bible Belters

NASHVILLE, TN: “Nashville will never be the same after they have openly come here,” shouted Ken Massey, minister of a Baptist church located in the same neighborhood where the Gay and Lesbian Softball World Series was held. Massey’s church gathered 3000 signatures (what is it with these signature gatherers anyway?) and presented them to the city in opposition to the tournament. The city ignored the signatures. This tournament brings in bucks to the city’s economy. The Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation Board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Board all stood in support.

CHEW ON THIS

STRESS! Now there’s a word with which we’re all familiar. Most of us live under some kind of stress. Unfortunately, many of us live under constant stress. Our stress can come from many different sources: work, finances, personal relationships, the six o’clock news, even a new puppy who misses the papers spread all over the floor!

Type A personalities deal with stress differently than those luck Type B’s. As are classically described as those folks who pride themselves on being able to concentrate on more than one activity at a time. You know, like being able to do the laundry, cook a meal and do paperwork all at the same time.

Type A’s also tend to measure their own and others’ success in terms of numbers. Here’s the whole list of Type A behavior:

- challenging and competing with others even in noncompetitive situations
- exhibiting explosive and accelerated speech patterns
- believing that if one wants something done right, one has to do it oneself
- becoming excessively irritated when forced to wait in line or when driving behind a car traveling slowly
- developing impatience when watching others do things that one thinks one can do better or more rapidly
- hurrying others who are speaking
- having difficulty sitting and doing nothing
- gesticulating when talking
- engaging in finger tapping or knee juggling
- making a fetish about promptness
- locking up a good deal of free-floating hostility
- failing to notice the interesting and beautiful aspects in the world.

If you have several of these characteristics, you may want to consider trying to work at changing your approach. We’re experiencing the last of summer, and fall will be creeping upon us soon. How about making it a point to notice and appreciate the beauty of the changing seasons? I’ve found that leaving early for work and other activities gives me the cushion I need so that I don’t need to worry about the bridge being up, construction making me late or long lines making my blood boil. AND, if none of these things happen, as is most often the case, I end up with enough time to enjoy my surroundings and actually notice the flowers!

As stated above, the Type A personality reacts to stress differently than Type B’s. We bottle it up, let it push our blood pressure through the roof, get our intestines in turmoil and our mouths into knots. Stress effects so many of our bodily functions. Handling it badly can be the root cause of ulcers, migraines, irritable bowel syndrome, heart problems and a host of other problems. It has even been connected to aggravating such complications as cancer.

Stress is most effectively handled with some very simple guidelines. A stress free diet is important. Foods such as sugar and fat place a great deal of stress on our bodies. Limiting these is a first important step toward wellness. Activities such as walking, yoga, Tai Chi and meditation also go a long way in helping us to monitor our stress levels. One hour a day of combined activities such as those listed above will do the trick.

These facts are not written to frighten or intimidate, but to convince all of us that taking the time to care for ourselves is not selfish. If we take precautions regarding our health, we can live longer, more productive lives.

Next month, I will continue this discussion on stress. In the meantime, I hope you will take the time to evaluate your own stress levels and begin to take action toward a more healthful life-style. #∆

How about giving a gift subscription of CPR to a friend.

National Coalition Building Institute

International LEADERSHIP FOR DIVERSITY REDUCING PREJUDICE AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

Most of us value diversity, but in fact are often uncomfortable with it. NCBI’s unique and internationally recognized model will help you and others in your community or organization learn how to:

- REDUCE PREJUDICE
- DISPEL MISINFORMATION
- BUILD PRIDE
- BANISH GUILT
- INTERVENT EFFECTIVELY in tough situations

This experiential process will include small group work, expertly facilitated storytelling and role play.

Saturday, October 1, 1994 -- 8:30 am - 4:00 pm YWCA, 87 Spring Street, Portland, Maine Fee: $65.00 partial scholarships available for low income registrants and students

For more information, or to register by phone, call: Diane Gilman, 207/882-8022. Send registrations with payment to: D. Gilman, RR #3, Box 502, Wiscasset, ME 04578.

NCBI also presents

BUILDING BRIDGES: 3 - day LEADERSHIP TRAINING October 21, 22, & 23 -- University of New England, Biddeford, ME. Participants will learn steps to manage diversity: intervene to change biased attitudes; develop and lead prejudice reduction programs in their own communities, agencies, campuses, organizations or schools.

The institute will teach an effective model to:

- Identify the information and misinformation we have all learned about many other groups. Undo stereotypes about race, gender, religion, handicaps, and many others.
- Express pride in group identities. Utilize pride to undo prejudicial attitudes.
- Understand how groups experience mistreatment. Learn the personal impact of specific types of discrimination.
- Heal guilt and shame about discrimination and prejudice.
- Interrupt prejudicial jokes, slurs, comments, and harassment to actually change the attitude of the perpetrator.

For more information about the Leadership Training methodology, the facilitators, NCBI, participants and fees involved, please contact Diane Gilman, RR #3 Box 202, Wiscasset, Maine 04578, telephone: 207/882-8022.

Continuing Education Credits available.
Rape Crisis Center offers training

PORTLAND: The Rape Crisis Center will be offering a Sexual Assault Advocacy Training program beginning on Tuesday, October 4, from 6:00-9:00 PM. The 40 hour training, two evenings a week for six weeks, will cover issues of sexual assault and child sexual abuse: medical, police, and legal protocols and a variety of related topics.

Upon completion of the training, you will be prepared to volunteer on the Rape Crisis Hotline, the Board of Directors or to provide administrative assistance. Continuing Education Credits are available and no previous experience is necessary. For more information, please call Anne Marie at 799-9020.

Transsexual protesters allowed to enter Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Janice Walworth and Davina Anne Gabriel

(HART, MI) — Six openly transsexual women were allowed to enter the 19th annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival near Hart, Michigan, Saturday, August 13, 1994, following a week-long protest of that event's "womyn born womyn" only policy. The six transsexual women were: Zythya Anne Austen of Winchester, VA.; April Fredericks and Riki Anne Wilchins of New York City; Risa Ashby Frodson of Philadelphia; Davina Anne GPeriel of Kansas City, MO.; and Jessica Meredith Xavier of Silver Springs, MD.

Accompanying the transsexual women were several nontranssexual supporters who were also taking part in the protest, including authors and activists Leslie Feinberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt, both of Jersey City, N.J., and one intersex individual, Kodi Hendrix of Kokomo, IN.

The protest of the festival's policy of excluding transsexual women from attendance was the third consecutive and largest action staged against the policy since Nancy Jean Burkholder was expelled from the 16th annual festival in 1991.

Thirteen transsexual women—women with their friends and supporters, including 12 nontranssexual women, one transsexual man, one nontranssexual man, and one intersex person—camped out during the week of the festival at "Camp Trans," a national forest land across the road from the main gate of the festival and took part in a variety of activities designed to inform festival participants about gender issues and to protest the festival's exclusionary policy.

The transsexual women at Camp Trans who did not enter the festival were: Hannah Blackwell of Kansas City, MO.; Nancy Jean Burhodler of Weare, NH.; Nancy Anne Forrest of Philadelphia; Wendi Lynn Kaiser of North Berwick, ME.; Lynn Walker and Krispy Wither of New York City; and Arlene Wolves of Ashland, NH.

The protesters began setting up their camp, including a large, bright green banner proclaiming, "Camp Trans: For Humyn-Born Humyns" before festival participants began arriving on Sunday, August 7. The following day, protesters began distributing a schedule of 29 activities to women in their cars waiting for the festival throughout the week, as well as to the many women who came out from the festival to visit them. At the same time, festival workers at the gate engaged in a variety of tactics apparently designed to harass protesters and prevent them from distributing their literature to arriving participants.

The first activity, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 10, was a community meeting on the issue of transsexual inclusion, which Alix Dobkin had agreed to attend. However, Ms. Dobkin sent a message to Camp Trans on Tuesday, August 9, stating that she had changed her mind and that she would not be attending because it might appear that she was in support of the protesters' position. The community meeting, which was attended by approximately 20 festival participants, was held without Ms. Dobkin and sparked a thought-provoking discussion. Workshops were also conducted on self-defense, androgyny, transsexual sexuality, disability rights, transsexuals and the military, sadomasochism, female-to-male identity, gender bending, and other topics.

Protesters were joined on Wednesday by lesbian comedian Mimi Freedman of San Francisco, who performed stand-up comedy and conducted a workshop entitled "The Joys of Marginalization" the following day. A good-humored wienie roast was held Thursday evening, which drew about 25 festival participants out to enjoy relaxed conversation. Workshops were also conducted on self-defense, cooking, and chocolate, commodities not served by the festival kitchen.

Also on Thursday, Charlotte Manheimer of Cincinnati, Ohio, a 68-year-old nontranssexual lesbian, attempted to enter the festival in order to visit a friend but was not immediately allowed to enter because she refused to disclose whether or not she was a transsexual and refused to agree to the festival's condition that she "respect" the exclusionary policy. Because she is over 65 years of age, Ms. Manheimer is eligible to attend the festival free of charge.
charge. Staff offered to escort Ms. Manheimer to find her friend but were reluctant to issue her a festival wristband. After a two-hour period of deliberation among festival staff, Ms. Manheimer, who traveled to the festival for the express purpose of demonstrating support for the transsexual women taking part in the protest, was given a wristband and allowed to enter the festival unescorted and without disclosing whether or not she is a transsexual.

Acclaimed authors and activists Leslie Feinberg, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and James Green joined protesters on Friday, August 12. Ms. Feinberg is well-known for her popular novel Stone Butch Blues, and Ms. Pratt for her poetry. Mr. Green is a postoperative female-to-male transsexual and the publisher and editor of the FTW Newsletter, which is the most widely circulated publication in the world specifically addressing female-to-male transsexual issues, as well as the director of the FTW Support Group in San Francisco. Mr. Green conducted two workshops on female-to-male experience and identity at Camp Trans. Each was attended by 20 to 30 festival participants.

The highlight of the scheduled activities was a speech entitled "Sisterhood: Make it Real!" delivered by Leslie Feinberg in which she discussed the necessity for the women's movement in general, and the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival in particular, to adopt an "all women welcome" policy. Approximately 150 festival participants came outside to hear Ms. Feinberg's address, making it the most well attended event at Camp Trans during the course of the protest.

This was followed by a concert by the Celtic Transsexual Modal Band from Hell, consisting of Arlene Wolves and Beverly Woods of Beyond the Pale, Zzythra (formerly Seth Austen), and Jessica Xavier. Hammer dulcimer, keyboard and guitar blended exquisitely, but the highlight of the concert was the original "Ballad of Nancy B.," which retold the story of Nancy Burkholder's expulsion from the festival in 1991.

Later in the evening, Ms. Feinberg and her lover Minnie Bruce Pratt, conducted a re-creation of their joint reading originally performed at the 1992 Out/Write Conference, which consisted of selections from Stone Butch Blues and Ms. Pratt's upcoming book Sire. She, to be published by Firebrand Books in February 1995. Ms. Pratt conducted further readings from her book the following morning.

A highlight of Friday's activities was the wedding of two festival participants, Kym and Becki, performed by transsexual minister Lynn Walker. James Green and Leslie Feinberg stood up for the couple, who were alternately tended by everyone in Camp Trans and several visitors from the festival, and accompanied by Camp Trans musicians.

On Thursday, Riki Anne Wilchins, who is a member of the New York City chapter of the Lesbian Avengers, was invited by Lesbian Avengers inside the festival to attend their scheduled meeting on Saturday, August 13. Ms. Wilchins agreed to attempt to enter the festival as an openly transsexual woman in order to attend the meeting if the Lesbian Avengers would provide a contingent to escort her, which they readily agreed to do.

On Saturday morning, in an attempt to obtain clarification of the "womyn born womyn" policy, protesters requested to meet with Communications coordinators Lucy Tatman and Sue Doerfer. They were asked whether Leslie Feinberg, James Green, and Kodi Hendrix would be permitted to buy tickets without violating festival policy. Leslie Feinberg introduced herself as a person who was born anatomically female but who passes and lives as a man and has a driver's license showing her sex as male. She asked whether she would be welcome to enter the festival. Ms. Tatman said that "the festival would prefer not," a statement she retracted later after Ms. Feinberg declared that she would tell audiences on her upcoming book tour that she "is not welcome at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival."
EDITORIAL:

At some point during August a packet of materials arrived at CPR's office from the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Educational Project. The envelope contained materials designed to be used in conjunction with National Coming Out Day. For those readers who are not familiar with this concept, the observance/celebration/scare the hell out of yourself and your family event, began seven years ago as a way to promote the visibility of the lesbian, gay and bisexual communities.

It was indeed ironic that during the same two week period in which I received this material, I also attended an informal photo op, courtesy of Carolyn Cosby, and three press conferences at which community and business leaders voiced their strong opposition to the referendum proposal of Concerned Maine Families, which would, if passed, make the coming out day experience akin to pulling the pin on a hand grenade and letting it fall to the ground at your feet. It just isn't done.

I am astounded at how much of this edition of CPR is devoted in one way or another to Concerned Maine Families, Carolyn Cosby and those like her who would legislate to exclude groups they simply don't approve of. I am amazed, and, I admit, a little naive at times, at the way words and manipulation of information that goes on in the name of truth, justice and the American way. I can't help but think of gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth and what National Coming Out Day might mean to them. It is becoming increasingly more unsafe to claim one's gay, lesbian or bisexual identity. Referendum questions have a direct correlation to increased violence against our community. As Cathy Kidman said in one press conference I attended, "it shouldn't hurt to be a child." But it does, and it will, so long as this country does not accord each of its citizens equal protection.

All of the rhetoric around 'special' rights, protected minority status, claims that sexual orientation is changeable, that we, the gay community, have an agenda and that we are wealthy, insatiable sex machines is just so much smoke to hide behind. At the core of this virulent attack against civil liberties lies the big daddy of all monsters, racism.

I have always recoiled at the suggestion of history repeating itself. As I get older and have both a knowledge and an experience of history, it frightens me to see the past become present.

I support National Coming Out Day. I think for the first time in my life I understood what the meaning of the words "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," when I claimed my identity as a lesbian. It had to be on my time-table, and I advocated for that for anyone engaged in that process. Be gentle with yourself and be careful.

We are not going to let up on our demand for equal justice for each member of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. At the same time, knowing who we are as a people, concerned about liberty and justice for all, I take pride in being a lesbian at this time and in this place.

In solidarity,

Alexander Wallace
Portland, ME

CPR MAILBAG

Dear CPR,

I enjoyed reading the editorial about the hijacking of the Republican Party. As I was raised Fundamentalist I-o-n-b before Jerry Falwell et al ever heard the words "born again," I have always known that they have no intention of respecting the Constitution or democracy and that they intend to use the system, as you say, to bring about a tyrannical theocracy.

We'll be the first into the ovens, then the Blacks, then the Jews, then, who knows... Italians?... as they'll always have to have some "minority" not pious enough, to burn in order to keep the faithful terrorized and godly.

Robert A. Taft and Everett Dirksen must be numb from whirling in their graves.

Unfortunately, your editorial will fall on deaf ears and anger others. There are those in the lesbian-gay community who still cling to the idea that the Church can be reformed from the inside out, without realizing that it is the Church that co-opta gays and lesbians by offering them hollow carrots.

As we Catholics say: Religion is the problem, not the answer.

It still amounds me that gays and lesbians continue to be duped by religion - especially by a religion that has no respect for individualism, fairness and law. Religion may be the opiate of the masses: one would like to think lesbians and gays were smarter than that.

Alexander Wallace
Portland, ME

Dear Editor:

I write as the mother of a lesbian, on an issue which affects all mothers. When the AFDC [reform] passes, parenthood will change. Families with single mothers are presently surviving on two-thirds of the minimum income needed to cover the mere basics of life. If the so-called "Welfare Reform" passes, they will have NO income! It's the children who will suffer.

Humble, EFFECTIVE reform would have incentives and tools to build a better life. This [proposed] reform is punishment.

Some lesbians and gays are also parents, compelled by life circumstances to have their children on Aid to Families with Dependent Children, AFDC. Unfortunately it is still ACCEPTABLE, near patriotic, to HATE GAYS and the POOR! When a gay or lesbian is also a low income parent, there is a double whammy of "acceptable American discrimination."

Please wage war to end poverty and stop discrimination. Combat the so-called "Welfare Reform" by making others aware that taxpayers will spend more on this reform than is currently spent on AFDC. The family unit will be torn apart.

Isabelle Carta
Fairfield, Maine

Dear Editor:

Its afternoon and I am getting ready for work at my second shift job. I do my half, put the water on the stove and step out onto the front porch for a breath of fresh air. Three children ride by the house on bicycles. A girl, maybe 8, a boy, maybe 10, and another girl, maybe 12. The 8 year old girl screams at the boys. "FAGGOT!" The girls laugh. The boy doesn't and neither do I.

I recognize this little girl. She lives on the other side of the neighborhood with her parents, older brother and sister and infant sibling. They are a quiet family who do not talk to the neighbors. They leave the house every Sunday morning before eight, not to return till afternoon. I don't think they're shopping at the mall. Wherever they go, I wonder if that is the place where the 8 year old girl learned that word. Or maybe she learned it at her public elementary school. It's the same one I...
Gay Rights: Special Rights or Civil Rights?
An Analysis by D.O. Cook

This analysis concerns the reality behind the initiative by Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families to prevent sexual orientation from being included as a protected class under the Maine Human Rights Act, thereby denying civil rights to any person whose sexuality is different from that of the straight majority. CMF's putative rationale for this initiative depends on two related ideas: first, that gay rights are special rights and, second, that gay, lesbian, and bisexual people do not qualify as a minority.

There are two big problems with CMF's argument. First, the doctrine of special rights simply doesn't hold up under scrutiny. And second, CMF is confusing recognition of all people's rights to protection on the basis of sexual orientation with the notion of recognizing a special class of rights for a special group of people—a far different matter.

First, let's look at the question of "special rights." In a manifesto entitled Special 'Gay Rights' for Maine: A CIVIL RIGHTS OR WRONG," CMF claims that "gays already have the same basic Constitutional rights as anyone else," and asserts that any law recognizing gays as a protected class is tantamount to giving them special rights, above those of other people. By "basic, Constitutional rights," CMF is presumambly referring to the Bill of Rights.

But, as a pedestrian trying to cross a busy street against heavy traffic, it's not always possible to get others to acknowledge your rights. For example, a lesbian couple may be denied housing by a landlord who says he only wants to rent to "a family." Or a competent bisexual man may be fired from his job because he doesn't "have the right image." Or a school district may decide to ban gay pride week because of "concern about the children." Or a lesbian walking down the street may get harassed or even beaten up simply because of who she is. Gay people do not always receive recognition just because they are gay, but neither do they want to be discriminated against just because they are gay.

Acts of anti-gay discrimination can and do occur in Maine and, without legal protection, the victims have no recourse but to grin and bear it. The objective of gay rights, like black rights, women's rights, or any other civil rights, is to compel the dominant majority to recognize and honor the intrinsic rights of the minority, not to give one group special rights over another.

Now, as to the second crucial problem with CMF's argument, namely their confusion between protecting groups on the basis of sexual orientation versus protecting a particular minority of people: The CMF document declares that "the debate should focus squarely on the issue of civil rights and the claim of homosexuals to minority status before we grant Special Protected Class Status to homosexuals.

CMF seems confused about who and what needs protecting. Let me elaborate. The classes already listed in the Maine Human Rights Act include race, religion, gender, etc. These classes are not groups of people, rather they are intrinsic characteristics of all people. For example, all people belong to a race, be it black, white, Asian, or whatever. All people have a religion, even if it's atheist. All people have a gender, male or female. The law doesn't say that blacks are protected; it says that all people are protected on the basis of race. It doesn't say that women are protected, rather, it says that all people are protected on the basis of gender. The result, members of any race or gender (including those not yet identified) are protected. And, of course, this principle extends to all the classes listed in the Act.

On the same basis, gay, lesbian, and bisexual people are not fighting to have "gay, lesbian, and bisexual" added as a class in the Human Rights Act; they are fighting to have "sexual orientation" added. And, if they are successful, it won't be just "homosexuals" who benefit; it will be all people, heterosexuals as well, because the law will mean that no one can discriminate against anyone else on the basis of sexual orientation. For example, a straight employee could file a complaint against a gay employer, if that gay employer discriminated against the employee on the basis of his sexual orientation.

Some people think that these classes are used to get special privileges for some people at the expense of others. The reality is that these classes protect us all. Just as the race provision doesn't only protect blacks (even though it grew out of the black civil rights movement), the sexual orientation provision won't just protect gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

It is clear that Ms. Cosby and CMF need to keep the debate focused on systemic details and not on the simple facts of discrimination and civil rights. It is just as clear that their sophistry about special rights and minority status are just a cover-up to divert scrutiny from the real issue that motivates CMF — namely, disapproval of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals — and from what they really seek to accomplish — elimination of one of the most important legal tools protecting gay, lesbian, and bisexual Americans from discrimination.

One last point: In an article in the 8/27 Maine Sunday Telegram, Ms. Cosby described herself as a "political entrepreneur" and declared, "I'm doing something unique. I'm either going to have a stunning victory or a stunning defeat." From this statement, I think we can infer that she is less concerned about the outcome of her battle against civil rights than she is about increasing her personal visibility, which is an essential ingredient in the diet of the incurably power-hungry. 

If she knew before the election today, would she see the Jesus who died for freedom or the Jesus who died as evidence of man's degree of hatred for his own people? Would she see the Jesus who died to prove to us that that hatred was so wrong, or would she see Jesus at a press conference, holding a petition out before the cameras, saying, "My father allowed them to be created, but I think we should make sure they play powerless and voiceless, right where they belong."

Did Jesus die for the little girl on the bicycle who yelled "FAGGOT?!" Fear drove the Roman nails through Jesus' wrists and feet, and that fear is still alive and well today. It lives in anyone, a 8-year old girl who rides her bike around the neighborhood where I grew up.

Rich Austin
West Cumberland

So, Maine Lesbian Health Project will receive 100% of profits from WOMANKIND GIFTS
215 Lisbon St., 2nd Floor, Lewiston During the weekend of Sept. 17 & 18 Open Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday 12 noon to 5:00 pm For more information: 207/799-5334
September 1994 Calendar

**Thursday, September 8th - Sunday, September 11th:**
5th N.E. Festival for Women - FALLFEST '94.
For more information call CPJ Productions, 207/539-8619.
Workshops, sports, concerts, dancing, and much more. Alit Dobkin, Justina & Joyce, PAT, Mama's Noize, Gail Biron, Jamie Morton. $35 per person.
Day and Concert tickets available.

**Thursday, September 8th:**

**Friday, September 9th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center Open House: informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts and ideas or simply sit back and relax. 67 Main Street, Topsham, Maine. FMI, 725-7632.

**Saturday, September 10th:**
ΔΔ 8:00 PM - Wild Iris Productions presents SUEDE in concert. Portland High School Auditorium, 284 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Tickets $12.50 in advance, $14 day of the show.

**Sunday, September 11th:**
ΔΔ 12:00 noon - Equal Protection Maine/Portland, Coalition Building Committee meeting. For location and further information, call 761-0362.

**Monday, September 12th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - The Maine Gay Men's Chorus hosts new member orientation at First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland.

**Monday, September 12th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Equal Protection Mains/Portland meets at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland (Parking lot on Park St.)

**Monday, September 12th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Seacoast Gay Men meet for Bruce Ignatie Memorial at historic Portsmouth Athenaeum, 9 Market Square. FMI, Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

**Monday, September 12th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 -9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, 725-7632.

**Tuesday, September 13th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - The Gathering: Welcome Back and Movie night. USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland.

**Wednesday, September 14th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - WOMEN IN HARMONY: A chorus of women's voices, will hold first open rehearsal of the 1994-95 season. Immanuel Baptist Church, 158 High St. Portland. All women who love to sing are invited to join us. FMI, 774-4940.

**Friday, September 16th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center Open House: informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts and ideas or simply sit back and relax. 67 Main Street, Topsham, Maine. FMI, 725-7632.

**Friday, September 16th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) will hold its first general meeting. ONE TO ONE, a model volunteer program will be introduced today. 22 Monument Sq., Portland, 5th floor. FMI call 871-9109.

**Monday, September 19th:**
ΔΔ 6:30 PM - First meeting to explore the benefits of forming an urban and bisexual business and professional women's organization in greater Portland or even state-wide. No obligation. Call for location: Carolyn Jalbert, 879-5247 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342.

**Monday, September 19th:**
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Partners of Parents, a support group for lesbian and gay whose partners have children. This self-led group meets for discussion at Woodford's Congregational Church, 69 Winthrop St. Augusta. FMI, 1-800-55-MILGDA.

**Tuesday, September 20th:**
ΔΔ 6:00-8:00 PM - Equal Protection Mains/Bangor meets at Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, P.O. Box 963, Bangor 04402 or call 990-3420.

**Saturday, September 24th:**
ΔΔ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomer always welcome. FMI, 725-7632.

**Tuesday, September 26th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 -8:00 PM - Seacoast Gay Men Candidate Night to discuss the status of the equal rights House Bill and November elections. Unitarian Church, 67 Main St., Topsham, Maine. FMI, Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.

**Monday, September 26th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 -9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomer always welcome. FMI, 725-7632.
If your group or organization has an event coming up, send the information to Community Fridge Reporter by the 15th of the month previous to the event. It's FREE!

Chitwood, from page 3

We're still strongly opposed to discrimination of any kind, including that based on sexual orientation. The Chamber's mission is to work toward a greater Portland community that is conducive to business retention, expansion and growth.

"The Concerned Maine Families referendum is a message of intolerance which we find unacceptable. It is inconsistent with the value that we place on our community's rich diversity. It is said, 'as Maine goes, so goes the nation.' We have been moving toward tolerance and away from discrimination, and it is our hope that we will continue to do so.

Among the most eloquent of statements was made by Cathy Kidman. Spokesperson for OUTRIGHT-Portland, an alliance for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth, Kidman said, "As a community Maine has come to believe that it shouldn't hurt to be a child. But when it comes to our gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth these beliefs go out the window."

She pointed out that when gay youth see the discrimination on CMF referendum promotes they develop a sense of hopelessness and futility. The drop-out rate from school, the suicide rate and the rate of drug addiction is proportionally higher among gay youth, largely because of institutionalized prejudice.

"I am tired of doing suicide assessments for gay youth. I am tired of trying to get gay youth out (of rehab) or trying to convince them that it is important to stay in school because they really do have opportunities," she said. Kidman continued, "It is simply not tolerable anymore to sanction, by discrimination, a form of child abuse, and leave our gay kids out in the cold. I believe Mainers are ready to raise all children safely and with respect. The first step is to take action to stop limiting the horizons of our youth."

Tom Allen, who was Mayor of Portland when Peter O'Donnell brought the Human Rights Ordinance to the City Council said, "I know that the ordinance has made this city stronger, more tolerant and more progressive than it was. This ordinance has been a great benefit to the City of Portland."

He then read a statement from the City Council, in which the former Councilors, in which they declared their unanimous opposition to CMF's referendum. The statement pointed out that Carolyn Cosby led the fight against the Portland law and lost, now they are trying to win, statewide, what she lost locally.

After the formal remarks, CPR asked Chief Chitwood to comment on the effectiveness of the ordinance. He said that the incidence of anti-gay violence has decreased even as the reporting of these events has increased. He credits the reduction in violence to the passage of Portland's Human Rights Ordinance.

Joanna Wood, the former City Councilor, offered CPR some historical background. She mentioned the unanimous passage by the City Council in May of 1991, of an ordinance to protect city employees against discrimination. "The year of experience that that policy provided, paved the way for O'Donnell's city-wide ordinance in 1992."
GENERAL
ML/GPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LG issues. Primary goals are education, lobbying to promote non-discriminatory policies in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and increase support for gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of each month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Meetings are 2nd Tuesday of every month at Pride's Corner Church, Westbrook. For resource and meeting information call Rita at 766-2158.

Northern Lambda Nord is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at Lamont Community Ctr., High St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The PhoneLine in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/498-2084.

The Mallovich Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm in the downstairs club room of the Open Hand, 1200 Scorpio, Portland.

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI, write P.O. Box 8113, Portland, ME 04104.

AA Gay and Lesbian Speaker/Discussion meetings every 2nd Sunday, 7 pm. Great meeting at The Open Hand on School St. Come share your experience and hope. FMI, call 954-5701.

HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS: Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the American Civil Liberties Union, Portland, ME. FMI call 207/773-1299.

MUSIC
Women In Harmony is an ecletic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteer contact the organization. Offers a variety of musical experiences and SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME 04112, or call 772-0013. Mainely Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10991, Portland, ME 04104.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS
Region by region

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**Medical Support**

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: Confidential screening and treatment for STD's for residents and non-residents at a walk-in clinic. Low cost, medical acceptance. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs. 3:30 to 6 pm at Portland City Hall Rotunda. FMI call 784-1784.

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England: Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info & supplies (free condom), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, affordable services, and complete confidentiality. Medical: 700 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 784-1095.

Identity Support

Out and About is a nonprofit, lesbian (over 18) support and educational group. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. Meets Mondays at 7:00 pm. FMI, call 859-0139 or write POB 352, Portland, ME 04102-0332.

Out Among Friends: Meets Thursdays 7:30-8:30 pm, in the downstairs club room of the Open Hand, 1200 Scorpio, Portland.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Peer Support Group: Free or $1 donation to help w/rent. FMI, write O.A.P., P.O. Box 727, Biddeford, 04005, or call 789-0297, or fax 786-4433.

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

Lavender Women: Bisexual/gay women's discussion group. Meets Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm. First Universalist Church, Pleasant St., Auburn, ME. FMI, call 783-8461.

Central Maine Gay Men's Support Group: Meets Mondays at 5:30 pm. FMI, 303-1745.

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

Contacts in Maine (* indicates monthly meetings) August/Atlantic: 623-2349
Bangor/Brewer: 989-3180
Brunswick/Bath: see Waldoboro
Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789
Portland: 766-5158
Waldo: 322-8589

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline: 603/659-6877. Located at Planned Parenthood of Northern New Hampshire, 1777 Main St., Manchester. FMI, call 774-HELP.

Greater Portland area. As well as affirming the non-traditional bisexual family. Meets every 3rd Monday from 7 to 9 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. FMI call 774-5032.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parent Group: Meeting in the Augusta area the Augusta area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, ME 04352-0101.

Renee; A Maine Lesbian/Gay Jewish support group meets monthly. FMI call 784-2970.

Seacoast Gay Men: Meets Mondays at 7 pm at the South Universalist-Universalist Church, 293 Hanover St., Portsmouth. FMI, 603/309-1135 or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-0394.

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

Building an Inclusive Community: Meets to explore ways of building an inclusive and safe community, offering support, activities and education at Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, 41 Lafayette Street, Lewiston. Call for times. 795-5219

Bangor/Gay Support Group: This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They seek to create woman-only, lesbian-positive space to explore issues and affirm themselves and each other as lesbians. Confidentiality, open-mindedness and respect are required. For more information call on the second and fourth Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 pm. Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, 334 Harlow St., Bangor. FMI 947-5377.

Parents

Partners of Parents: A group to support gay and lesbian parents who have children: An informal discussion group addressing issues and situations unique to the non-traditional blended family. Meets every 3rd Monday from 7 to 9 pm at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland. FMI call 774-5032.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parent Group: Meeting in the Augusta area the Augusta area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, ME 04352-0101.

MOTHERS and Kids Group: Social events, activities, and programs for cross dressers, trans & bi & questioning youth under 19 yrs. FMI, 774-TALK. For more info, call 603/63-4603.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Pizza Get-Together: 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month, 6-8 pm at First Universalist Church, 255 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey-394-2975.

Q-Squad: Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgendered youth, serving Franklin County, based at UM Farmington. FMI and call leave message, 778-7380.

TransSupport Group: Meets regularly to explore personal, support, education, and social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, or others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, ME 04104.

Women Survivor of Childhood Abuse: A support group for survivors of childhood abuse and/or sexual assault meets every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, facilitated. For more information and location call 784-6593. Sponsored by USM's Women's Forum.

Maine Bisexual People's Network: Meets to affirm all organs of the bisexual community and work toward greater acceptance in the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and straight communities. Support and referrals available. For more information call 708-0218, Portland, ME 04104.

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

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

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

Seacoast Gay Men: Meets Mondays at 7 pm at the South Universalist-Universalist Church, 293 Hanover St., Portsmouth. FMI, 603/309-1135 or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-0394.

HIV Related Support Meetings

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

The above Portland support groups meet with HIV+ patients from 1:15-2:45 pm. Men墳iving with HIV from 3:30-7 pm.

The Portland Support and Advocacy groups meet at The AIDS Project Office, 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor. Call Sandy Titus at 774-8877 or 1-800-831-2437 for more information.


Auburn: Thursdays: People Living with HIV meet at 7pm at Americas 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 Mymeeting 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+ meet at 7pm at Southern Maine Medical Center, Cafeteria C, 2nd floor. Call Roger LaChance at 284-4105.

Rumford/McArea: Mondays: AIDS Support Group Phonelines from 7-8:30pm at the Central Congregational Church, Main Street, M. Call 364-8053.

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: Thursdays: Support for people with HIV & AIDS at The Inn at Seabrook, 70 Country St., 2nd floor, Auburn. FMI call 786-4867.

Maine AIDS Alliance

Maine AIDS Coalition of Lincoln County: P.O. Box 421, Damariscotta, ME 04545-0421. Call 563-8933.

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

Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 797, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 784-8223.

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

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

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.: P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 563-6608.

Dayspring: 35 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3422.


Eastern Maine AIDS Network: P.O. Box 2013, Bangor, ME 04402. Call 990-3626.

Mymeeting AIDS Support Services: P.O. Box 35, Brunswick, ME 04011-0057. Call 725-4870.

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

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

People With AIDS Coalition of ME: 694 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-8674.

St. John Valley AIDS Task Force: c/o MMC, 143 E Main St., Fort Kent, ME 04743. Call 784-3153. (Care about people with HIV/AIDS)


Waldo-Ken AIDS Coalition: P.O. Box 956, Belfast, ME 04421-0145. Call 334-2427.

HELP WANTED:

Delta “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 Lamba Nord, PO Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990, 207/498-2088 (voice/TDD). Delta

REPORTERS: Community Pride Reporter seeks additional 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. Delta

TRAVEL/VACATION

DELICIOUS PARADISE! A 2000 foot home on 10 acres, 10 minutes to downtown Bangor, maine. Home includes: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, flowing river, two decks, fire pit, firewood, landscaped garden, great for entertaining, 1-3 acres of land, charming outdoors. Pets negotiable. Heat, hot water and electricity included. $500/month plus share utilities. Call Doug or Miriam 443-1211. Delta

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


WATERVILLE AREA: Lovely Executive Ranch, 3/4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Perfect home for entertaining with open kitchen, dining and living areas. Sliders to deck and in-ground pool with many perennial gardens. Will consider lease purchase. This is a great location between two exits of I-95 and has many opportunities for an in home business. $500 plus utilities. References, please. Call 828-1769. Delta

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 plus utilities. Call 737-8153. Delta

MASSAGE


SUPPORT GROUPS


ONGOING Dream Group: This closed experiential group will explore members' dreams through many approaches: Jungian, Gestalt, and Sculpining. 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. Delta

Transformational Breath Awareness Workshop: Feeling stressed, tired, depressed, anxious? At this informal, experiential workshop learn how specific patterns affect your sense of well being. Receive an individual breath analysis, learn exercises to transform energy and accept more joy and ease in life! $10, Thursday, September 15, 7:00 pm, Woodford's Congregational Church. Portland, FMI, Matthew Vire 780-8739. Delta

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

COMPANIONSHIP

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 (? - lyrers, 79 - camping, ?), sailing. I don't like to do these alone all the time! Bring along your friend(s)! Additional requirement: Humor. Call 775-0015.

Do you have your own "Wellness Sampler yet?" Imagination are the only limits to experience 15 different alternative healing methods at 40% off the regular fee! Introducing the Wellness Sampler. Now JUST $29.95 plus tax. Purchase you Sampler at Light of the Moon, 324 Fore St., Portland or by mail from Webwork, RR #1, Box 1145, Woolwich, ME 04579. FMI, call Gloria Krellman, 442-7061.
VIDEOS ON REVIEW: "Out in Suburbia: Stories of Eleven Lesbians"
by Dot McMurtray

"Out in Suburbia" is a video made in 1986 that was presented for viewing on August 25th. It depicted a narrative in which one of the women was pregnant. This was juxtaposed with an interview with a woman who couldn’t imagine that lesbians would want children. Overall, the message I got from this rather white-bread video was that it’s OK to be gay, because sexual preference aside, we’re JUST LIKE THEM.

Now, I’m not about to minimize someone’s pain in coming out or their need to remain in the closet to save their job. I believe this film did accurately portray a growing number of gays and lesbians who only want to walk the dog without harassment, or be just another couple tending their garden. And there’s nothing wrong with that, to a point. What bothers me is the trend toward assimilation that I saw in this film and in our community. While we’re working so hard to lie low and blend in, we lose the drive to fight, to be public about our need for equal rights. I know many apolitical people who don’t see the need for working toward change because it doesn’t affect them. They feel comfortable because they don’t need to have their sexuality known at work, or the neighbors “know” and leave them alone. It’s too easy to forget that we’re still an oppressed minority, that we can’t visit a sick lover in intensive care. A lot of heta, who we try to mimic, think it’s obvious we’re gay and they think it’s cowardly that we’re closeted. Is that acceptance? See VIDEO, page 18

ARTISTS PROFILE
An Interview with the Cast, Writer and Producer of Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee: an original tragic comedy.
by J.H. Morgan, Arts Editor

The Oak Street Theater, located in the Arts District on Oak Street (where else??) in Portland, is pursuing some creative and exciting changes in the burgeoning world of theater in Maine. A press conference has been scheduled in early September to announce some substance to the expectations of theater goers this season. We will carry more details in our September issue. In the meantime, why not plan an evening at The Oak Street Theater to see what promises to be a unique premiere presentation entitled, "Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee," a tragi-comedy about two women living together in New York. The Scene: an apartment in New York. The Conflict: Gogo and Didi are lovers — or at least Gogo loves Didi and Didi loves being loved. This 1990s couple never leaves their apartment and co-dependency runs rampant. The outcome? We’ll have to wait for the September 18th opening to see this original work, presented by a company so new it doesn’t yet have a name. Formed by a group of friends—Joanna Amato, Tammy Duffy, Edie Hoffman and Marilee Ryan—these women show what you can do with good ideas, talent, and a willingness to take risks. I had an opportunity to talk with them about this production, which by the way, is writer Marilee Ryan’s first play.

Beckett fans will recognize the characters’ names from Waiting for Godot, but don’t expect just a rewrite of this classic. Here we have a timely questioning of labels: “Gogo loves Didi, but Didi is ‘straight,'” says Ryan. “Would the situation be different if Didi didn’t have to label herself ‘lesbian’ to love Gogo back?” she asked during our time together. (These women were in rehearsal and graciously took time out for us.) In highlighting the restrictions created by labels, the play shows how language can define and restrict action. The play also gives us local interest: Gogo wants to take Didi to Maine, but Didi “…knows there’s a big difference between love and dependence.” Can Didi and Gogo ever make their escape to Vacationland? Could a change in geography change Didi’s outlook and cure the couple’s problems? Intreat also comments on technology and its potential to contribute to isolation; as seems to be more and more the case with people today. The two are closed off from others, thanks to the technology that allows them to work from their apartment, taking on-line surveys via their personal computer. “The more I do this play the more I can’t leave the house,” joked Joanna Amato, former assistant director for True West at Portland Stage. Amato plays Didi. (Users of the information super-highway beware: you could be turning into PC potatoes!) Gogo, who quips "everyone wears black" when Didi suggests she is depressed, is played by Tammy Duffy, who has just been asked to join the Mad Horse Theater Company. Both Amato and Duffy studied with Cynthia Barnett at Mad Horse. Although not strictly autobiographical, the play developed from Marilee Ryan’s experience during a four month stint in New York. Produced by Edie Hoffman, the play will be performed on Sunday, September 18 through Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 pm at the Oak Street Theater. Tickets are $7.00 at the door, or you may call 775-5103 for reservations. ΔΔ

---

YANKEE TOUR & TRAVEL - AMERICAN EXPRESS
Customized tours for small & special groups

MYKONOS October 4, 7,11,14 $ 965*
ATHENS November 5, 12 $ 995*
BANGKOK November 5, 12 $1,095**
PATTAYA November 4, 11 $1,195**

also available: PHUKET-CHIANG-MAI-KATHMANDU-BALI-ISTANBUL-ISRAEL-EGYPT

All rates are per person in double occupancy, based on departures from Boston or L.A.*

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION
800-292-6533 OR 775-6763-PORTLAND AREA

YANKEE TRAVEL AGENCY
475 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
MUSIC ON REVIEW:
Diana Daniel and Lynn Deves - "Live"
by Aimelle L. Ponte

The bar was packed on a Monday night and most of us had to be at work early the next day. So, why was Sisters the place to be? Two names: Lynn Deves and Diana Daniel. This show had been the "talk of the town" for a few weeks, and having never seen either of these women before, my curiosity, and my craving for live music, brought me down 'to Danforth st. and nearly two hundred other folks to Danforth st.

Erica Gilbert opened the show with her slightly southern sounds, complete with a nice rendition of "Me and Bobby Mcgee." After her very well-received 40 minute set, the duo took the stage.

The setting is dark and seething with undercurrents and eddies of plot, as they chase down leuuh through Manhattan. Theodore Moore, a first woman police officer, and Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, an adolescent male prostitutes of Post-Etheridge songs was undeniably great, in addition to over the phone, in our workplaces and newspapers, on the evening news and in our own workplaces and homes. Because we are told that anything but heterosexuality is unacceptable from the time we are small, most of us believe it and hate or fear anything else. Everyone that in some ways, despite all thing but heterosexuality is unacceptable from the time we are small, most of us believe it and hate or fear anything else. Everyone that in some ways, despite all

BOOKS ON REVIEW
THE ALIENIST
Author: Caleb Carr
Random House-1994, $20.00

Reviewed by: Cynthia A. Farr

The Big Apple, 1896 A.D. A serial killer is on the loose, preying on the adolescent male prostitutes of Post-Victorian Manhattan. Theodore Roosevelt, then police commissioner, recruits an invaluable, but highly unlikely team of investigators to try and solve the case: John Schuyler Moore, a crime reporter for the New York Times, Sara Howard, Roosevelt's secretary who aspires to become the first woman police officer, and Dr. Laszlo Kreizler, an infamous psychologist, or "alienist." The team is locked down upon and thwarted from all sides and strata as they use the new science of Psychology to put all the pieces of the puzzle together and ultimately track down the killer.

Today, we see similar scandals involving so-called "bizarre" sexual practices in the newspapers, on the evening news and in our own workplaces and homes. Because we are told that anything but heterosexuality is unacceptable from the time we are small, most of us believe it and hate or fear anything else. Perhaps this book should be a lesson to everyone that in some ways, despite all of our wondrous technologies, we haven't changed a bit, and need to, desperately. ΔΔ

These body builders appeared in a competition held at the State Theater, August 27. Photos by Everett Horr
Health Care Reform -- What's in it for lesbians?
Part Two
by Peaches Basa

Last month, this column discussed the socio-economic factors that affect lesbians' access to health care and the potential impact of various reform proposals for financing health care. This month, we'll examine the factors that affect the quality of our health care within the context of governmental and community-based health care reforms.

When asked to express their concerns and problems with getting good-quality health care, lesbians have no trouble describing their experiences. These stories range from encounters with well-meaning, but ignorant professionals to blatantly discriminatory treatment. There are heartbreaking accounts of not being allowed to visit one's partner in the hospital or hold her hand in the emergency room, as well as amusing tales of lesbians leaving family planning clinics with unneeded birth control. Mostly, lesbians probably don't require different treatment or special expertise from their health care providers, but under certain circumstances, the lack of knowledge coupled with cultural barriers (homophobia, sexism, etc.) can seriously affect lesbians' health and health care.

Obviously, oppression, fear and closing prevent many lesbians from being open and forthcoming with health care providers. This "closeting" in the clinic is enabled by the heterosexual assumptions inherent in the questions we're asked. When asked if we're married, we simply say, "No." The bias in the question doesn't invite a lesbian to come out.

Unfortunately, that lack of honesty may result in inappropriate medical care. When heterosexual bias is compounded by the health care profession's ignorance of sexuality and sex, a lesbian may not receive needed information on preventing her partner from catching her vaginal infection. She may not be told about latex barriers for oral sex or that she needs to clean her dildo.

One fact that many health care providers do not practice strict patient confidentiality also keeps lesbians closeted. This lack of privacy is prevalent in counseling, clinics, hospitals and even in "confidential" health care settings. It is generally illegal to disclose information about clients or patients. It often occurs unintentionally or carelessly; occasionally it is done maliciously and purposefully.

Getting out also keeps us from receiving holistic care. Whole-person health care involves family and community, one's job and daily activities, diet, recreation - lifestyle! So much of our routine existence is connected to our partners, friends and loved ones that the less our health care providers know about us, the less able they are to advise and treat us.

Another factor that has affected the quality of our health care is the lack of scientifically significant data and research on lesbians' health. The reasons for this are classic. As an invisible, oppressed, disenfranchised population, lesbians hold little interest for academicians, medical researchers, pharmaceutical companies and governmental agencies. Only in recent years have professional journals carried articles that discuss lesbians from a health-related perspective and not just deviance/disease perspective. Little data exists to assess lesbians' risks for breast and cervical cancer, endometriosis, substance abuse, or HIV. The counseling and social work professions have been more attentive than medical care providers. Alternative health care providers have also been relatively uninterested, despite many lesbians' favoring of non-allopathic, non-western, and natural health care.

Lastly, outright homophobia and sexism among health care providers works against lesbians. We don't always have the ability to "fire" a provider and go somewhere else for care. Sometimes lesbians endure exploitative, painful, humiliating treatment. Sometimes we delay or avoid needed care, which may be preferable to enduring abusive treatment, even if it's at the expense of our health.

Next month we will discuss the challenges lesbians face as we conclude this three part series.

VIDEO, from page 16

And what's so great about being one of THEM? I believe in fighting into the larger community but only on my terms, and that includes keeping my lesbian identity intact at all times. It means working to preserve our own community, being proud to be different, going beyond coalition with the larger community but only on my terms.

It was the complicity of some of the women in this film that set me off. No one was angry. Even the teacher who knew she had to keep quiet about her lesbianism to her family because of the shame and stigma. She still didn't want to be out. I guess for some people, there will always be the path of least resistance. But not for me.

Maine Children's Cancer Program 10K WALK

by Winnie Weir, Editor

Just about ten years ago I received the kind of news parents dread. What had been put forth as a possibility was confirmed. My then twelve year old son had cancer. The diagnosis was Hodgkin's disease, stage 2. The particulars of our journey through this terrible ordeal are not relevant to this story. What is relevant is that my son survived and has been cancer free for more than seven years. This is due in no small part to the Maine Children's Cancer Program.

The Maine Children's Cancer Program was developed to provide a comprehensive, community-based program within the state. Hundreds of Maine families have since received treatment from the Program.

Staff and services have increased since the Weir family needed their care. They not only provide the latest in medical care, but with their affiliations with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and the national Pediatric Oncology Group, each child has access to the latest cancer care research as well as treatment. Close to 70% of all children are cured of cancer. This is a 25% increase in the long-term survival rate over the last 15 years.

The Maine Children's Cancer Program's objective is not just to care as many children as possible, but also to heal and support the entire family through its crisis. They do outreach in the school context to help children reintegrate into the classroom. Counseling, emotional and financial, is available, as are support groups.

IMPACT, a parents' support organization, hosts social and educational activities for families who have a child with cancer. They lend critical support to families who have just gotten the devastating diagnosis of cancer.

All of this takes an enormous amount of money. Thankfully, this program has been successful in nurturing a broad base of support. The 10K WALK is part of that base. On Saturday, September 24th, hundreds (maybe even thousands!) of people will step off in Portland, Dexter, Lewiston/Auburn, Rockland and Waterville to raise needed funds. For more information on the WALK, call the Maine Children's Cancer Program, 871-6274 or Community Pride Reports, 879-1342. (Ed. note: Call the CPR office, 879-1342, and become my sponsor or become a WALKer yourself!)
Money Talk: Investments
by Peter J. Callan, CPA

Investing is one of the most extensive and complex topics in personal financial planning. Therefore, this will only be a general discussion of the various components of investment decision making. The main objective of investing is to generate and accumulate wealth. To begin, you need to have money to invest. It can come from many different places. Sources could be inheritances, gifts, pension distributions, property sales or current earnings, to name a few. Current earnings is probably the most common source. You decide to allocate a portion of your earnings for investment on a regular basis. The next step is to determine what investment to choose, or where to put your money. This step can be complicated because it involves assessing several relevant factors. How these include:

• Security of the Investment and Earnings: How safe is the money? What is the risk of losing some or all of it?
• Rate of Return: How much will the investment pay? How much is enough? How do I determine the return I want?
• After Tax Yield: Are free investments better? Do they effectively pay more? How is the after-tax yield determined?
• Marketability and Liquidity: How easy is it to sell the investment later? Will it sell quickly? Will there be a ready buyer? How long should an investment be held?
• Diversification: Should I put all my money into only one investment or several? Why should I diversify and how do I do it?
• Size of Investment: How much money is needed to start investing? How much do I want to invest? How much is enough?

These are the types of questions that must be considered in the investment decision making process. They recur each time an investment plan is made or changed. They can also be used to manage an investment after it is made. Go back over your investments periodically and answer these questions again. Has the original analysis changed? Should the investment be changed?

There are many types of investments: real estate, retirement plans, mutual funds, bonds, stocks, and even small businesses to name a few. Basically, anything that will increase personal wealth can be considered an investment of sorts. Over the next series of articles, I will be expanding on each of these factors and discussing the various types of investments. Choosing an investment and starting to invest can be exciting but also frightening. It is very important to do the necessary research and to get good

In These Times: Living with Homophobia
by David Smith

I was recently informed that my contract with the State of Connecticut would not be renewed on my anniversary date in October. Suspecting that they really wanted to get rid of me, I had been preparing for this. But even I was surprised when they cited an incident that happened 18 months ago as a rationale. At that time, I was doing a site visit with a school district and was interviewing a group of middle school students about what they were learning in health classes. At the end of the discussion, I asked if they had any questions. Not many, but one of them, a boy, said: "Yes, are you gay?" I told him that I was. This was the beginning

I mention this as a way of talking about how virulent homophobia is in our world. It is powerful, and not well understood, even by those who knowingly use it to oppress us. Connecticut has a very clear gay rights bill that will eventually prove that the department was wrong in assuming that my telling students I am gay is unprofessional. Even though non-gay people talk about their personal lives regularly, the people in control at the State Education Department are convinced that they are not doing anything wrong. It's because you're gay. It's because you talked about personal issues with students. Their logic defies understanding.

But what can we expect when the United States Senate attaches an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that says that schools cannot present homosexuality in a positive light. The Smith-Helms amendment apparently sailed through the Senate by a 63 to 36 margin. What were they thinking?

They were thinking a lot of things about gay men and lesbians that are simply not true. They were motivated by certain individuals' religious beliefs that homosexuality is wrong. They ignored the powerful history of the separation of church and state that is the cornerstone of religious freedom in America. They ignored the right to teach students what they need and want to know, a right that is constitutionally protected. They put hundreds of thousands of children at risk because Jesse Helms has a hard time with fags and dykes. Well, it's about time for Jesse to grow up and get over it.

Some think that if we prohibit discussion of homosexuality in schools, then schools will not be dealing with sexual orientation. I would suggest that a major function of schools is to foster and promote heterosexuality. That's why schools are the place to discuss sexual orientation? Why? Because young boys and girls need to know what is normal and what is not. So, why would we want to take away from them the right to learn about their own sexuality?

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

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

For more information call:

STUDIO 101 • 879-2560

Still accepting M/F models • $25.00 hourly
Families of Maine reflects the failure of
tolerance against Maine citizens.
show principled leadership has fostered
Maine a place where discrimination is
CPR had the opportunity to question
not formally a member of any organiza­
tion. He said, "Our position is ... we 're
people who commit violence against
gays and lesbians. My office is charged
that more difficult. We have examples,
be to fall short of our responsibilities as
United Church of Christ clergy in Port­
land made a major statement. And I
fought this referendum in April at the Church of the Nazarene in South Portland. They brought Rever­
end Charles McIlhenny from San Fran­
cisco to encourage anti-gay rights ef­
ts. There were many ministers and pastors who spoke and offered strategy.
TE: Were they all Church of the Nazarene/Assembly of God or were their members of different ...
I think most of them were
Church of the Nazarene ... but they were
quite firm in their opposition.
TE: Well, I'm a Quaker and what's
happened to me personally is that more and
many of which you may know about,
that there is discrimination . . . and,
think that's a trend. I don't think it's
see that people are willing to acknowl­
ding what are the most powerful. I would
courage members of churches who have
parents of gay and lesbian people began
to come forward as parents, that made a
lot of difference. And I would suspect
'same-sex marriage laws because it's possible for a
church to say we will not hire a gay
and have somebody call me on that.
And I do not want to be a part of this or that
group, including church groups .
It is interesting to note here that in
the September 1, 1994 issue of "Church World," Maine's Catholic Weekly, Fa­
tasy Michael Hegarty wrote a piece
entitled, "Understanding diversity means religions, too," that the dignity of
ey every human being exists, "to the
rich and poor, to the old and young,
to sick and elderly and to those with
physical and emotional disabilities, to persons of
all races, genders, religions, and, yes,
to those of whatever sexual orientation,
equal ."
Henchcal wrote, "The Diocese
would welcome a bill which would pro­
tect the rights of persons regardless of
sexual orientation, provided that such a
bill was without the ambiguities we have
pointed out in previous discussions of
such legislation. We believe legislation
is possible which will protect persons
from unjust discrimination while, at the
same time, respecting the rights and moral norms of Catholics, Evangelical
Christians and others, who have not been
able to support previous legislative at­
tempts in this area. " (Those statements
were part of a presentation made, Au­
gu 26, 1994, to the Commission to Promote
the Understanding of Diversity which
was formed by Governor McKernan to
look into "the question of discrimination and bias in the state and to develop recom­
 mendations for the legislature.
Geraghty responded to questions
regarding organization: "I don't know, you
say now, is going to sparkhead the
campaign against the referendum?"
KG (Karen Geraghty): Our coalition,
whatever that coalition becomes
known as. I think we've been loosely working with Equal Protection Maine just because that's the name of our political action committee.

BB: Is that part of MLGPA?

KG: No. This coalition has a working title of Equal Protection Maine but that name is going to change. We just don't know what it's going to change to yet because we haven't all gotten together and voted on what it's going to become yet. It's the coalition including MLGPA, Maine Council of Churches, all those groups. We hope to incorporate them into a big alliance.

BB: Is there any one group within the coalition that you intend to lean on more than any other because you think their support is more strategic, for example, the Maine Council of Churches?

KG: I certainly don't anticipate that. I can't envision that any one group will be more strategic. I think it's going to take every available member of every group to help us fight her.

BB: Have you targeted groups that are not in the coalition that you want to bring in?

KG: Mary, every single group you can think of is on our target list. Every progressive, liberal, queer group you can think of. . . . we're talking about librarians, moderate Republicans, civic groups, Professional Associations . . .

CPR caught Pearl on her way out:

BB: How would you characterize Carolyn Cosby's comment that "homosexuals are not entitled to civil rights"?

PP (Pat Pearl): This is our entire objection to this campaign. Who is she to determine who is entitled to civil rights and who isn't? It's totally un-American. Everyone in the state of Maine is entitled to equal protection under the law.

BB: She claimed some homosexuals came out to her and then proceeded to criticise them. In other words, she's saying there are gay people who signed.

PP: We know there were some gay people who signed that petition who didn't know what they were signing. BB: So, there was misdirection?

PP: Yes. I can't tell you that every one of them was misled, but I know that there were gay men and lesbians who I talked to who were horrified that they signed, but someone approached them and said, "This is a civil rights petition, sign on," and so they signed, thinking that it was a pro-civil rights petition and not an anti-civil rights petition, which is one of the problems with this question. Most people who read it don't know what it means. If you just hand somebody that petition and say, "Here, read this," they don't know what it means.

The petition/referendum question reads, "Do you favor the changes in Maine law that would limit protected classifications or minorities in future state and local laws to race, color, sex, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, familial status, marital status and repealing existing laws which expand those classifications to other groups as proposed by.

PAWS organization to form Board

PORTLAND: Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) is taking the next step in its development and is looking for community-minded individuals to join their board of directors. PAWS is a volunteer group helping to improve the quality of life for persons with HIV/AIDS by offering them emotional and practical support to enable them to keep their pets. PAWS provide love and companionship so necessary to all of us, but particularly for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

If you would like to become involved with a little organization that has the potential of making a BIG difference, you may do so at the September 28th meeting to be held at the offices of The AIDS Project, (TAP) 22 Monument Square, 5th floor, Portland. TAP has offered PAWS the use of its address and a meeting space as well as lots of encouragement, according to Charles Wynott, co-founder of PAWS/Maine. An Augusta company, Hastings D.F. Distributors made a donation of cat food and cat litter. That supply has since been depleted and additional donations are needed immediately.  

TIME OUT!

by Michael Rossetti

Now that summer is folding up and heading south, there is only a little time left to visit one of Maine's best kept secrets — a day tour to Pemaquid. Whether by a car or bicycle, the Pemaquid peninsula is a summer feast of traditional fishing villages, history, and coastal scenery of beaches, marshes and rugged shoreline around the town of Bristol.

Taking Route 130 south from Damariscotta, it's about a twenty mile trip to the tip of the peninsula down Pemiquid Point. Route 130 connects with Lighthouse Road nearly at the Point. This leads to Pemiquid Light. The lighthouse, one of Maine's most photographed, is now an art gallery and fisherman's museum.

Commissioned in 1827, the lighthouse presides over a spectacular vista of rocky coastline. Although now automated, Pemaquid Light still spits out its guiding light across the vast waters. The adjacent community is a typical Maine seacoast town, sporting some interesting old shops as an added attraction.

On the way back up the peninsula is Pemaquid Harbor. By bicycle, one can do a quick loop from Route 130 down Snowball Hill Road, then return via Huddle Road. Just off the harbor is Pemiquid Beach, which for a fee, allows use of beach facilities. At the Harbor itself is Fort William Henry, built in 1689 and restored in the 1960s. It's a round stockade like structure which is also the site of a 1600s burial ground and ongoing archeological dig. Pemaquid Harbor is a gorgeous sight of rugged shore and forested hills with a harbor speckled with lobster and fishing boats.

If still on your bike and if ambitious, go south again down Route 130 from Huddle Road, and turn left onto Route 32. The route will take you up the west side of the peninsula and afford you an opportunity to visit the Samoset Memorial, the Rachel Carson Memorial and, if you take a left back to Damariscotta just before Round Pond, a look at the Old Rock School House, a one room classic.

Fall is still a great time to visit this peninsula, although some of its "touristy" treats are closed after Labor Day. By bicycle, it will take all day so start early and expect to cycle some 50 miles, or start from the intersection of Route 130 and Snowball Hill Road for a more moderate 20 miles of cycling Pemiquid's central and Point areas. By car, it's best to work your way down, catching the Point area about sunset.

Tips for Coming Out Every Day

1) Make a commitment every day to tell the truth about yourself to others.
2) Join a national gay and lesbian organization.
3) Include your partner in all of your holyday and family events.
4) Come out in the workplace and encourage your employer to provide protections and benefits on the basis of sexual orientation.
5) Organize avisibility event on National Coming Out Day.
6) Write letters to local and national elected officials urging them to support fairness and equality for lesbians and gay men.
7) Share your coming out story with your local school, church or synagogue. 
8) Volunteer with and support local and community organizations.
9) Support gay and non-gay companies that support gay and lesbian communities.
10) Help make the identity of the gay community as diverse and colorful as possible by getting involved and being visible — it truly makes a difference.

Gay/Lesbian Travel

"Call Us For All Your Travel Needs!"

Gay/Lesbian Travel

"Call Us For All Your Travel Needs!"

We Can Book:

RSVP Cruises • Atlantis Events • Windjammer Cruises • Olivia Cruises • Dude Ranches • Rafting Trips • Airline Tickets • Hotel Reservations • Car Rentals • Cruises • Much More

ADVENTURE TRAVEL, INC.

Two Elise Way • P.O. Box 6610
Scarborough, ME 04070-6610
(207) 865-5060 • (800) 234-6252

Gay/Lesbian Travel

"Call Us For All Your Travel Needs!"

International Gay Travel Association

Maine's Only Member Travel Agency

Leaders, from page 20

from Huddle Road, and turn left onto Route 32. The route will take you up the west side of the peninsula and afford you an opportunity to visit the Samoset Memorial, the Rachel Carson Memorial and, if you take a left back to Damariscotta just before Round Pond, a look at the Old Rock School House, a one room classic.

Fall is still a great time to visit this peninsula, although some of its "touristy" treats are closed after Labor Day. By bicycle, it will take all day so start early and expect to cycle some 50 miles, or start from the intersection of Route 130 and Snowball Hill Road for a more moderate 20 miles of cycling Pemiquid's central and Point areas. By car, it's best to work your way down, catching the Point area about sunset.

Tips for Coming Out Every Day

1) Make a commitment every day to tell the truth about yourself to others.
2) Join a national gay and lesbian organization.
3) Include your partner in all of your holyday and family events.
4) Come out in the workplace and encourage your employer to provide protections and benefits on the basis of sexual orientation.
5) Organize avisibility event on National Coming Out Day.
6) Write letters to local and national elected officials urging them to support fairness and equality for lesbians and gay men.
7) Share your coming out story with your local school, church or synagogue. 
8) Volunteer with and support local and community organizations.
9) Support gay and non-gay companies that support gay and lesbian communities.
10) Help make the identity of the gay community as diverse and colorful as possible by getting involved and being visible — it truly makes a difference.

Gay/Lesbian Travel

"Call Us For All Your Travel Needs!"

We Can Book:

RSVP Cruises • Atlantis Events • Windjammer Cruises • Olivia Cruises • Dude Ranches • Rafting Trips • Airline Tickets • Hotel Reservations • Car Rentals • Cruises • Much More

ADVENTURE TRAVEL, INC.

Two Elise Way • P.O. Box 6610
Scarborough, ME 04070-6610
(207) 865-5060 • (800) 234-6252

Gay/Lesbian Travel

"Call Us For All Your Travel Needs!"
If you look at the real figures for the financial indicators of that state you’re going to see that Colorado has done amazingly well. In fact, it’s one of the top states performing in the nation, financially, right now. So we don’t expect that there will be any backlash to that in the state of Maine. There certainly hasn’t been in Colorado.” In fact, Colorado has lost millions of dollars in convention money from national groups that have decided to go elsewhere precisely because of Amendment 2.

Community Pride Reporter (CPR) asked Cosby if the effect of the passage of this referendum would mean that someone who is homosexual could be fired from a job just because they are homosexual. She answered by saying, “Well, that’s an interesting proposal because you see the homosexuals keep shifting where they would like to center the debate. Now, I would remind you, certainly hasn’t been in Colorado.” In fact, Cosby has received over $10,000. The real money has been spent by our volunteers who have paid for their own gas to go and collect these signatures, their own meals, their own overnight lodging. We’ve had a crew of about 25 people who have traveled the state petitioning and basically over 500 actual petitioners.

C.Cosby: Very little money. I don’t even know how much, I’m sure it’s under $10,000. The real money has been spent by our volunteers who have paid for their own gas to go and collect these signatures, their own meals, their own overnight lodging. We’ve had a crew of about 25 people who have traveled the state petitioning and basically over 500 actual petitioners.

C.Cosby: You must have a guess of how much you’d need within a hundred or two hundred thousand .. ?

C.Cosby: Ask me that questions again when we take our signatures to the Secretary of State ... That will be some time in the latter part of August. (Ed. note — the signatures were delivered to the Secretary of State in Augusta, Aug 22.)

C.Considering they use the same rhetoric, Cosby was asked if CMF had any association, whatsoever, with similar groups, such as Colorado for Family Values or the Family Research Council of Washington, D.C. Cosby replied, “No, we do not, to answer you flatly.”

Cosby refused to answer whether she thought homosexuality could be cured but she did claim that, “We have bad homosexuals. If they are homosexuals, that is the only way we can know they are, and then proceed to sign our petition and tell us they agree with us. I don’t know if any of these people will stand up and say, ‘I hate homosexuals.’ But I do believe Cosby insists no one was misled as to what the petitions were all about. If so, you do have any war chest at all?

C.Cosby: At this point in time we’re talking about who’s donating to your campaign, paint me as a villain, I will have to emotionalize this campaign, continue to emotionalize this campaign, because it is necessary for them to continue to emotionalize this campaign, because if we get down to the facts of the issue they don’t qualify and, of course, we verified that.”

In the area of finances Cosby claims that Concerned Maine Families is getting funding from national right wing groups and that her campaign is “a Maine initiative.”

Following are the questions and answers concerning the funding of CMF campaign:

C.Canny: I want to ask you a bit about finances. Traditional campaigns are fairly expensive. How much money are you planning on pumping into this campaign?

C.Cosby: Well, we’ll see what we plan to pump into it. We are just going to turn our attention at this point in time to raising money. It’s no secret that a lot of people thought we would make it, and we have succeeded and people don’t fund things if they think they won’t work.

C.Canny: So, do you have any war chest at all?

C.Cosby: I don’t think that list is made public of who’s donating to your ... ?

Banger, from page 1

... Banger

The term that is promoting tolerance and acceptance of the differences between us which makes this country so unique among nations. . . We do not need a government that causes division among us. We do not need a government that causes any of our citizens to feel threatened or alarmed. He went on to speak about the hundreds of thousands of men and women who made the “supreme sacrifice to give us the freedom that our flag represents, a sacrifice made for all of us, not just for some of us.”

He then focused on the potential economic implications of such a referendum. “It is business, capitalism, free enterprise that drives our country and our state and provides employment for our citizens. Anything that even hints of discrimination is very bad for business. My business does business with people of many colors, many religious persuasions, many political views and of different sexual orientations. All my customers have one thing in common — they all are decent human beings worthy of my respect and my employee’s respect.”

In closing Armstrong said, “Those of us in the business community feel the pending referendum is wrong. We stand firm in our resolve to see it defeated. The citizens of Maine deserve better.”

Circumstances prevented Michael Carpenter, Attorney General of Maine, to be present. On a personal note, D.C. Cosby replied, “No, we do not, to answer you flatly.”

C.Cosby refused to answer whether she thought homosexuality could be cures but she did claim that, “We have bad homosexuals. If they are homosexuals, that is the only way we can know they are, and then proceed to sign our petition and tell us they agree with us. I don’t know if any of these people will stand up and say, ‘I hate homosexuals.’ But I do believe Cosby insists no one was misled as to what the petitions were all about.

ΔΔΔ

C.Cosby: It’s always made public.
Camp Trans, from page 9

regarding their medical history or their commitment to uphold festival policy. The protesters were then surrounded by the contingent of Lesbian Avengers and entered the scheduled zero hour, during which a number of other festival participants joining the contingent along the way. At the Lesbian Avengers meeting, both Mary and Judy asked to speak at length regarding the festival's exclusionary policy and received an overwhelmingly positive response. After the meeting, the protesters, again surrounded by Lesbian Avengers and joined by numerous other festival participants, conducted a parade through the festival grounds chanting "Support Our Policy: All Women Welcome!" As promised, no one in the Camp Trans contingent was asked by security to leave the festival.

Following their return to Camp Trans, the decision was made to strike camp because of impending severe thunderstorms and forecasts of rain through the night and into the following day, and because it was felt that the protest action had been highly successful. However, protesters still feel that the curtailing of festival policy as "womyn born womyn" only remains unclear and that it is still uncertain whether openly transsexual women will be allowed to attend the festival without fear of expulsion in the future. Unless there is further clarification of these issues in the interim and the festival abolishes its "womyn born womyn" only policy, activists say they will rejoin the protests next year.

Bangor, from page 22

Fairsould pointed to the bi-partisan scope of opposition to "this type of proposal which increases hate and increases the possibilities of crime." He added, "My concern is that this type of proposal is in contradiction to the character of the State of Maine."

The potential economic ramifications of this referendum once again came up as Faircohl remarked, "It doesn't help the business climate of the state of Maine. We live in a free market economy, which I believe in very strongly... if we're to allow people to fire others for factors that are totally unrelated to their work performance or quality of their work then that is bad for the economy of the State of Maine."

Therefore, I think that those who want Maine to have a growing economy and want Maine to have a continuing low crime rate will oppose this type of proposal. I am here because I am the female head of a household that lives in Maine, and I am a part of a concerned Maine family," said Judy Harrison. She continued, "But I am not concerned about the things Carolyn Cosby is concerned about. I have a 15 year old son who spent some days, when he was around 10, playing games with his friends called 'Bashing the Queen.' I have a son who attended Middle School, who refers to things he doesn't like as being 'gay' and who checks out his friends to see if they are 'homos.' I've had arguments with my son over the fact that he has testified in civil rights cases and want to extend the civil rights act to cover sexual orientation."

Harrison went on to express her concern about the mixed messages we are sending to our children. "I think what we are saying to our kids is, 'Well, you can discriminate over here, but you can't throw people off a bridge... I don't want my kids to get the message that they are less valuable than I. I want my kids to grow up in a place where the message is, 'It's not OK to discriminate against anyone because of who you are.' And that's why I'm here. I also want to send a message to the public that not every female is in a traditional family is a member of or supporter of this referendum."

EPM/Bangor co-chair, Jeanine Crockett wrapped up the press conference with her own story of having witnessed signature-gatherers at work at a local church. "What law then," said Crockett, "was people signing the petition as they entered the church before they had received any information and without asking any questions. As I watched, I wondered how many realized that they were helping to make life more difficult for their neighbors, for their co-workers, and in come cases, for their own family members."

"What we want to ask of the people of Maine is that you hear the ugly myths and stories and false statistics, that you try to remember who we really are. Remem ber that we are people living in our own neighborhood with families, jobs and house payments. We pay taxes. Many of us are people who you know and trust with your children, your health care, your security and your legal in a place where if people are turned away because of their own confidence that the people of Maine will not allow Carolyn Cosby to write a law that forces them to discriminate."

Bangor, from page 2

Graven, from page 2

HATE, from page 2

strengthen security for their patrons in Portland, Maine's most popular gay community.

Stephen L. Wesaler, Assistant Attorney General and Director of Public Protection - Civil Rights Unit, pointed out that 30% of all bias crime incidents reported are from gays and lesbians. He also noted that 15 or 20 cases that have gone to trial, all but a few of which have resulted in convictions for the victim. That one exception was a homosexual attack on a heterosexual father and his 13 year old child for the benefit of the two assailants.

Verbal harassment, stalking, breaking and entering, property damage or assault may or may not qualify as a prosecutable offense against a minority person. According to Det. Lt. Mark Dios, however, such reporting, even if only an anonymous outline of the incident may be useful in stopping a habitual offender. Dios emphasized that homophobic graffiti, minor tears, verbal harassment inevitably escalates.

Mary Ann of Sisters pointed out that gay people, particularly more obvious lesbians, are reluctant to deal with the police because of police officer's often unsympathetic or hostile attitudes toward gays and lesbians. The response was that the police must draw its officers from the pool of citizens as would any business, but like any other business, the police officer or the civil rights officer provides unequitable service, the victim or advocates for the victim, can go to the officers for processing, or to the Attorney General's office.

The Attorney General's office employs Stephen Wesaler well as a biased crimes detective who can apply pressure to the particular police department to move on a report.

Every single police department in the state has a civil rights officer whose job is to report and investigate any bias crime incident that comes directly from a victim or an inquiry from the Attorney General's office as a result of reports from an interested party. The civil rights officer's name may be obtained from the police department of each town or from the Attorney General's Office, State House Station 6, Augusta, ME 04333.

After a poll of the bar owners revealed that none of them felt there were any harassment problems, probing questions from officials at the odd response. It was determined that just in laws and lesbians had accepted a level of homophobia which they discounted or dismissed. Damage incurred, verbal or physical, assaults, even stalking were listed by the owners as "acceptable" incidents.

Assistant Attorney General Wesaler noted that different minority groups had traditionally evidenced certain forms of harassment, even physical encounters as "blind spots" of acceptable endangerment. He emphasized again that all incidents should be reported, even if seemingly inconsequential and reported anonymously, because how many realized that their reports could lead to a situation of violence and prosecutions should escalation to violence happen. Although not mentioned by the law enforcement officials present at this discussion, hate crime statistics are used by law enforcement agencies to document the claim that gay, lesbian and bisexual people need protection or are a discernible minority. We can expect that reports will very likely be mentioned by Coitney, if the reporting statistics are used by the "95 referendum question to define gays and lesbians of civil rights protection. Maine will also deprive us of the excellent legal strength of biased prosecution. If passed, the referendum will remove gay, lesbian and bisexual people from a hate crimes classification."

It is imperative that you report every incident of homophobia or concern about the facts to the attorney general or any crime committed by a stranger, a homosexual, a gay, or a lesbian. In any way you can, you can help strengthen the system.

And finally, this is an opportunity for you to extend the civil rights act to cover sexual orientation in the State of Maine. It is an opportunity for you to extend the civil rights act to cover sexual orientation in the State of Maine. This effort is looking to raise between $75,000 and $100,000. We are being asked to set a goal of raising $100. At $10 a sponsor is $10 only sponsors. Think about it... a fall day in Maine and a five mile stroll with friends, hundreds of friends... AND you get to feel good about your self for raising money for AIDS service organizations. YES!

For more information, you can call The AIDS Project, 774-8877. There will be two informational meetings at Portland High School, the (starting point in Portland) car pool with other walkers.

(Ed. note: The CPR team is looking for sponsors. Call 879-3142 and let us know how much you'd like to donate. Hurry, we want shirts with our names on them!)
SERVICE DIRECTORY

Norma Kraus Eule
MSW, LCSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Individual, Group and Relationship Therapy
10 Minot Avenue
Auburn, Maine 04210
(207) 784-8747

Achiever's Edge Counseling
Individuals • Couples
Stress Management
Sexual Issues
Men's Issues
Women's Issues
Sexual Addictions
871-8134
Nicholas Sefelis Marianne Trottier
MS, L.C.P.C. MS, L.C.P.C.
222 St. John St. • Portland

Victoria Zavaski, Ph.D.
Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor
Licensed Clinical Counselor
Back Cove Counseling Center
527 Ocean Avenue
Portland, Maine 04103
(207) 775-6598

Families
Abuse
Cohab
Use
Sexuality

C O N D O M 
Sense! inc.
"It's common sense"
424 Fore Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 871-0356

Michelle Bolen
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
General Practice • Individual & Groups • Education & Presentations
Specialties include...
childhood abuse issues • anger management • women's issues
759-0284

Bill Barter, Counselor
Individuals, Couples, and Groups
Offering Therapy in:
• Gender Issues
• Sexual Orientation
• Addiction & Recovery
• Relationships
Sliding scale available to those who qualify
(207) 773-0205

Fresh-n-Up Cleaning Service
Residential • Commercial
17 yrs. Experience
Bonded • Fully Insured
Free Estimates
Dori or Becky
926-4365

Women's Space Counseling Center
Joanne H. Clarey Ed.D., L.C.P.C.
871-0377
Vivian L. Wadas M.A., L.C.P.C.
774-2403
236 Park Ave, Portland, Maine

Frederick B. Wolf, M. Div., S.T.D.
Pastoral Counselor
135 State Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 877-0777

Advertisers make it possible for Community Pride Reporter to exist. Please support our friends in the business community.