
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 Canary 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 public is ready for invited guests to verbalize their unequivocal support for efforts to stop CMF from codifying discrimination in Maine. Martin recounted the story of Charlie Howard’s brutal murder in Bangor some ten years ago and the negative national attention it drew. “It has taken us ten years to try to undo the perception that we are a state of bigoted people.” He said this referendum would, in effect, “force the citizens of Maine chooses to discriminate, chooses to create a second class citizenry. We stand before you today as the beginning of a state-wide, non-partisan group representing gay and straight, young and old, blue and white collar, of all religious denominations to say that we, as citizens of Maine, reject the efforts of the fringe group, Concerned Maine Families, as they attempt to force us into bigotry and discrimination.”

Local businessman, Ed Armstrong, spoke about the turmoil and injustice in the world today, saying, “We need a gov-
referendum leads the Attorney General’s office to an unmistakable conclusion and 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 Wesler, 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. Wesler 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 Pieter, Manager of Public Affairs and Communications for 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 Sekunya, 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 the referendum which he represented to this referendum and concur with the reasons 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.”

Pieter 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.”

Campbell, a small business owner, said, “For those of us in business who everyday have to meet payroll, support charities and help in any number of other ways, 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

Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, said CMF’s campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes. Geraghty encouged the press conference and started by reading a statement from MLGPA in which she said, “We have seen that the four and misinformation that is part and parcel of Concerned Maine Families’ campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes.

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Police Chief Chitwood denounces anti-gay referendum

by Bruce Balboni

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 26 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.

Stearns 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. Stearns turned the tables on them by throwing the word "special" in their faces. Stearns 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 beat up."

"In fact, Carolyn Cosby is really campaigning for her own 'special' rights, for 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 employes 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 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 gays, lesbians and bisexuals 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 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. AA

THE FOOD

Wish we could eat more because everything is so good. • Oysters are worth traveling for! • Fried rice • Extra servings larger than necessary. • My Dad makes his own ice cream, but Gerritsen's is the best. • Best Cobb salad I ever had. Send me the Recipe! • If there is a heaven, your Lobster Spring Rolls! • The best food we have had on our vacation. • Everything was better than expected. We'll be back! •

THE SERVICE

Camillie's a class act. Friendly and informative. • Thanks a lot Jim—you were attentive but not obtrusive. • Doodle was very courteous, fast, personable, helpful, and informative about the best food we have ever had. •

THE ATMOSPHERE

Great atmosphere! Great music! • Wonderful food! • The best crab cakes I ever had. Send me the Recipe! •

"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 HN and AIDS. Over those years I've watched many people try to live on very low, basic Social Security incomes. Some of these people are only 20, 18, 19 and they've been living on the basis of $444.00 a month, you subtract rent, basic living needs and you end up with about $25 a week to live on.

"What this grant is going to do is help people maintain their own apartments. It's going to give them back the quality of life that they should have, the dignity that we all should have. I'm just thrilled that this has finally come through.

"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 through to make ends meet. 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 also 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 apartment 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 amazingly 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."
N.O.W. endorses Andrews for the U.S. Senate

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

by Bruce Balchon

"Good afternoon, my name is Lois Reckitt. I'm a resident of South Portland and a National Board member of 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 supports women's health decisions and 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 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's issues and he wins. That's what we need in the Senate.

"Earlier this year, Tom took on the manufacturer of the birth control device, Norplant. It was discovered that 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 $23 million government grant."

"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 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."
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 and transgendered people committed to the fight for human rights in this city of 41,000 on the east bank of the Androscoggin River. After a long, hard fought campaign, they not only lost, but lost big. What little financial and individual support there was during the campaign quickly evaporated after the November vote, leaving a remnant group of EPL founders, a twelve hundred dollar debt, and the undeniable question: can EPL go on?

Consider at the beginning of this story what difference could be made if every CPR reader who read these words were to send $1 to EPL, c/o Jan Welch, 8 Royal Oaks Drive, Auburn, Me., 04210. In the words of Jan Welch, "If Lewiston ever needed EPL, it needs it now."

CPR asked EPL Spokesperson, Celeste Brannham, Finance Manager Jan Welch, Steering Committee members Ray and Kevin Gagnon, Glen Esman and Roland Blais for their observations on the issues of...

THE CAMPAIGN

What began as the quiet passing of a seemingly common sense ordinance in the Lewiston City Council chambers soon turned into a fire storm of protest. Literature circulated by the opponents of the ordinance called "special 'gay rights' for Maine" a "civil wrong." Paul Madore of Lewiston, supported, guided and funded by Concerned Maine Families, took up the cause in Lewiston. Calling loud and long with claims of affirmative action and legislated immorality, he and his organization insisted that they would not allow such a thing to happen in their community.

Proponents of the ordinance held that it was fair and good. It would not force anyone to "give" gays and lesbians anything. It would only help protect gays and lesbians from having things unfairly taken away. "If a segment of society does not have equal rights with every other segment of society, it's a denigration of that segment of society. We are made to be lesser human beings because we are unable to be legally discriminated against," commented Welch.

EPL entered the arena riding on the wave of the previous November's successful anti-discrimination campaign in Portland. With a slightly revised version of political consultant Al Caron's campaign plan from the Equal Protection Portland (EPP) race, EPL began working to inform the people that "Discrimination is always wrong." The first brick wall to confront EPL was that Lewiston's demographic make-up was vastly different from Portland. On the Portland plan, "EPL wasn't addressing the people of Lewiston, they were addressing the people of Portland, a much broader-minded community," said Ray Gagnon.

While Lewiston is populated mainly by French Catholics and not Christian fundamentalists, religion was nonetheless an important element in the effectiveness of the opposition's campaign. Welch added, "Demographically, Lewiston is a right wing stronghold. Lewiston has every piece of the 'right wing makeup' there is."

There was no advanced education of the community-at-large that there was, in fact, discrimination in Lewiston. When Paul Madore and CMP initiated the petition drive to put the city of EPL ordinance to a referendum vote, residents were easily convinced to sign on. Through the campaign, EPL continued to make the statement "Discrimination is always wrong," without offering any education to as exactly what discrimination was and why it was wrong. Finally, the population failed to learn about the core issue, but instead, they believed the rhetoric of Madore and CMP.

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of this in-depth look at EPL. Part Two will be published in the October edition of CPR.

HUD, from page 4

Joe Brannigan, Executive Director of Shalom House, warned that, "The collaborative model is both difficult and rewarding. It's difficult because people have to give up the usual way of operating. The 'me' way, the authoritative way, the way we learned from our parents — top down. That has to go. People have to give up that and that's very difficult — turf and self and all of those things. And you're going to find that, I can see it, I can feel it (laughter)."

"But also, it is very rewarding, because it is a humane, sharing way to do this kind of work. It fits for us and it gets things done. We all know that we'll have the patience and the courage to make this collaborative work."

HAVEN represents the first formal collaboration of Southern Maine's major HIV/AIDS service providers to obtain federal funding for the benefit of their local clients. The AIDS Project (TAP), in Portland, will coordinate the HAVEN Project, as well as administer the funds. TAP will also add a Housing Coordinator to its case management staff because a major component of HAVEN will be locating appropriate housing for clients in the four county area.

You can call TAP at 784-6877 for more information. AA

Omission of 'sexual orientation' from Texas hate-crime law results in brutal murders

HOUSTON, TX: In Irving, near Dallas, three gay men have been brutally slain this last year in separate incidents. All involved repeated stab-histings well beyond those that caused death.

In Houston, police recently arrested four football stars from a local high school, charging them with the July murder of a gay man outside a nightclub here. Police said the teenagers were looking for money to buy clothes and had decided a gay man would be their easiest mark.

The string of slayings has revived criticism of a broad hate-crime law enacted by the legislature last year. While the law provides for increased penalties for crimes motivated by "bias or prejudice," its use in cases of anti-gay activity remains murky.

An early version of the bill, which specifically referred to bias based on sexual orientation, was revised after several conservative legislators said they would not vote for that. Diane Hardy-Garcia, the executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said that protection against anti-gay violence should be specified in the law because many people still believed that harassment of homosexuals was acceptable.

New survey shows high percentage of homosexuals in population

A study undertaken to help guide policy on AIDS has revealed that 21 percent of American men and 18 percent of American women report having had homosexual experiences or felt attracted to members of the same sex since adolescence. The study's estimates of the potential homosexual population are several times higher than those of previous studies that focused solely on behavior.

Randall Sell, a Harvard doctoral candidate who wrote the research paper, said it wasn't likely that 20 percent of American men are predominantly homosexual. "But it provides a clue as to what the true estimate is," he said.

The study, released August 1994, at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, reported similar findings when behavior was the sole focus of research. In the United States, 3.6 percent of females and 6.2 percent of males said they had had sexual contact with someone of the same sex within the previous five years. Similar proportions were also found in France and the United Kingdom.

Utah judge reduces murder sentence for killer of gay man

David Thacker, convicted of murder of 31-year-old Douglas Koehler and shot him in the head a year ago. Prosecutors said it was because Koehler was gay.
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 lucky Type Bs. 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 jiggling
• making a fuss at 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 Bs. We bottle it up, let it build up, and push our blood pressure through the roof, get our intestines in turmoil and our stomachs in 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.

Denman

Around the Nation

District Judge Denman Young found Thacker’s sentence to be 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 insult," said David Nelson, founder of the Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats.

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

Cancer claims life of Ricki Streicher, founder of Maud’s. Streicher, who died on August 21st, opened Maud’s in 1969, 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 Ricki Streicher. Ricki was one of the exceptional people who have accomplished the work of many lifetimes in only one." She was a contributor of time, talent and finances to many gay and lesbian organizations.

Gay and 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.

CPR September, 1994 Page 7

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

BEWARE OF MISINFORMATION

BUILD PRIDE

BANISH GUILT

INTERVENTIONS EFFECTIVE 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. Use 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 502, 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: Zephyra Anne Austen of Winchester, VA.; April Fredericks and Riki Anne Wilchins of New York City; Risa Ashley Fronksdorin 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, Kobi 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—ten 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 100-acre forested area adjacent to the main entrance of the festival grounds. The camp’s purpose was 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 Burkholder of Waer, NE.; Nancy Anne Forrest of Philadelphia; Wendi Lynn Kaiser of North Berwick, ME.; Lynn Walker and Krissey Wither’s, both of New York City, and Arlene Wolven of Ashland, NH.

The protesters began setting up their camp, including a large, brightly colored banner proclaiming, “Camp Trans: For Humyn-Born Humyns,” before festival participants arrived. The schedule was designed to inform festival participants about gender issues and to protest the festival’s exclusionary policy.

The transsexual women who did not enter the festival were: Hannah Blackwell of Kansas City, MO.; Nancy Jean Burkholder of Waer, NE.; Nancy Anne Forrest of Philadelphia; Wendi Lynn Kaiser of North Berwick, ME.; Lynn Walker and Krissey Wither’s, both of New York City, and Arlene Wolven of Ashland, NH.

The protest of the festival became a joint statement addressing the need for respectful and constructive dialogue on the issue of transsexuals in the women’s and lesbian communities, which was issued by one of the transsexual protesters, Riki Anne Wilchins, and lesbian musician Alix Dobkin, a supporter of the festival’s exclusionary policy, which has been actively involved in the festival since its inception. The protest received an overwhelm-

From the Oracle...

A reader writes: “I got a divorce from my husband recently. It wasn’t contested or anything. I told him the usual about how it wasn’t him, it was me; I just needed my freedom, felt stifled, there wasn’t anybody else, and so on. I said a lot of stuff, but really I left him for a woman. I couldn’t handle living with him when I was in love with someone else. Besides, no matter how guilty I felt, I couldn’t handle having sex with him anymore. The problem is, he seems to know the truth and is depressed. He doesn’t even call me that much. I call him because I’m worried. He’s always been good to me, even about the divorce, and I still care. I feel guilty and horrible about myself. Is it my fault, but I can’t do anything about it. What should I tell him? Is there anything I can do?”

Signed: Happier than I was, but feeling guilty

Dear Happier,

Things can’t always be as clean as we’d like them to be. I’m sure you find yourself wishing he would act like a total jerk so it would be easier for you. The best thing you can do is be straight (so to speak) with your ex-husband about why you left him. Be prepared to listen to him groan about his feelings, which he probably will want to do. You did the right thing for yourself and both you and your ex have to live with the reality of it. As long as you maintain your honesty and personal integrity, you’re doing everything you possibly can. It’s a sad thing, but it mainly isn’t your fault. Try to go on with your new life, and don’t be so hard on yourself.

Pythia

In a dilemma? Have a question about relationships? Ask Pythia by writing to: The Oracle, c/o CPR, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101.

Leslie Feinberg stands in solidarity outside Camp Trans in Michigan

State Theatre

609 Congress St., Portland

State Theatre

Sept. 10 Dinosaur Jr.
Sept. 12 McAulchan
Sept. 17 Jimi Hendrix Festival
Sept. 24 Richie Havens
Sept. 29 The Bobs
Oct. 1 My Fair Lady
NY National Tour
Oct. 2 World Premier Movie
“The Beans of Egypt, Maine”
Oct. 9 David Lindley
w/ Hani Nasi
Oct. 12 Maine CLMA
Regional Conference
Oct. 13 John Anderson
w/ Joan Kennedy
Oct. 14 Simbad
w/ John Anderson
Oct. 21 Eric Bogosian
Nov. 18 Paula Poundstone
For tickets call: (207) 879-1112
Major Credit Cards accepted

Dialog Center and
The Center for Training
& Special Programs present
Generations in Contrast:
Parents of Gays and Lesbians
in Dialogue with Lesbian and Gay-Adults

Saturday, October 15, 1994
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Individuals - $75 per Family - $150
For more information:
Dialogue Center
95 High Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 879-9900

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 = Froed of San Francisco, who performed stand-up comedy and conducted a workshop entitled “The Joys of Marginalization” in the following day. A good-humored weenie roast was held Thursday evening, which drew about 25 festival participants out to enjoy relaxed conversation Ms. Dobkin sent a message to Camp Trans, offering to attend the festival free of charge, 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 staff’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.

Protesters received an overwhelm-
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 in support of 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 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 FTN 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 FTN 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 Mother 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 blende din 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 S/he, 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 highlights 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 in a lantern-lit ceremony attended 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 after Ms. Feinberg declared that she would tell audiences on her upcoming book tour that she had received confirmation that she “is not welcome at the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival.”

Kodi Hendrix then informed Ms. Tatman and Ms. Doerfer that he was born with both male and female genitalia and asked whether “only half of [him] could come in.” James Green stated that he had no desire to enter the festival, and was only there “in support of [his] transsexual sisters,” but wanted to know if he would be considered a woman by the festival owners using the same logic by which they consider male-to-female transsexuals to be men even after sex-change surgery. Ms. Tatman and Ms. Doerfer were unable to provide answers to either of these questions. Protesters then requested that they receive clarification of the policy regarding these three individuals from festival owners Lisa Vogel and Barbara Price.

Less than an hour later, Ms. Tatman and Ms. Doerfer delivered a message from the festival owners declining to further clarify the term “womyn born womyn” and stating that it is up to each individual to decide whether or not she is included in that definition. Communications coordinators also assured protesters that no one attempting to purchase a ticket would be harassed and that none of them would be asked by security to leave the festival, because it was “no longer a security issue.” The decision was then made that protesters who wished to enter the festival would attempt to purchase tickets when the Lesbian Avengers sent their contingent out to accompany Ms. Wilchins inside for their meeting. Ms. Feinberg, who had previously stated that she would not enter the festival until her transsexual sister was allowed to attend, decided to enter if the transsexual women were also allowed to enter.

Upon approaching the box office, the contingent of protesters presented a statement to the box office staff declaring that their group consisted of transsexual, nontranssexual women, an intersex person, and transgendered women, and that each of them interpreted the term “womyn born womyn” to include them. None of the protesters were refused tickets or asked questions.
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/care 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 community.

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 word games 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 ones 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...
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 in- cluded in a protected class under the Maine Human Rights Act, thereby de- denying civil rights to any people 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 tanta- mount to giving them special rights, above those of other people. By “basic, Constitutional rights,” CMF is presum- ably referring to all the rights we all get from the Declaration of Indepen- dence — the “inalienable rights” of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” — as well as the rights specified in our Constitution, which include those des- cribed in the first ten amendments, also known as The Bill of Rights.

But, as a pedestrian trying to cross a busy street against heavy traffic, it’s hard 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 bi- sexual man may be fired from his job because he doesn’t “have the right im- age.” Or a school district may decide to fire a gay teacher because of “concern about the children.” Or a les- bian walking down the street may get harassed or even beaten up simply be- cause of who she is. Gay people do not confuse the concept of protecting 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 objec- tive 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 prob- lem 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 be- fore 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 white, black, 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 pro- tected on the basis of gender (or including those not yet identified) are pro- tected. 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’re fighting to have “sexual orientation” added. And, if they are successful, it won’t just be “homosexuals” who ben- efit; 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, astraight 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 pro- tect us all. Just as the race provision doesn’t only protect blacks (even though it grew out of the black civil rights move- ment), the sexual orientation provision won’t just protect gay, lesbian, and bi- sexual people.

It is clear that Ms. Cosby and CMF need to keep the debate focused on se- mantics 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 bi- sexuallys — and from what they really seek to accomplish — elimination of one of the most important legal tools pro- tecting gay, lesbian, and bisexual Ameri- cans 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 and more about increasing her political 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 wrong, or would she see Jesus at a press conference, holding a petition out before the cameras, saying, “My fa- ther allowed them to be created, but I think we should make sure they stay 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 who rides her bike around the neighborhood where I grew up.

Rich Austin
West Cumberland

COMMUNITY PRIDE REPORTER
142 High Street
Portland, ME 04101
Phone 207/879-1342

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During the weekend of Sept. 17 & 18
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Our Mission
Community Pride Reporter serves as a source of local, state, national and international news, information, ideas and opinion and by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine and seacoast New Hampshire. CPR strives to increase awareness and acceptance of the rich diversity among us, with the intention of infusing the word community with renewed meaning and validity. CPR pledges to present materials that contribute in positive ways to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.
September 1994 Calendar

**Thursday, September 8th - Sunday, September 11th:**
5th N.E. Festival for Womyn-FALLFEST '94.
For more information call CPJ Productions, 207/539-8619.
Workshops, sports, concerts, dancing, and much more. Alix 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 present SUEDE in concert. Portland High School Auditorium, 284 Cumberland Ave., Portland. Tickets $12.50 in advance, $14.00 of the day of the show.
ΔΔ 12:00 noon - Equal Protection Maine/Portland, Coalition Building Committee meeting. For location and further information, call 761-0362.
ΔΔ 12:30-3:00 PM - Mothers and Kids Group offering support and social events for lesbians and their children. Lunt School, Middle and Lunt Road in Portland. For information, call Bruce Fithian, Director, 839-4506.
ΔΔ 4:00 - 7:00 PM - Joining Together for Justice GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders) and MCLU (Maine Civil Liberties Union Foundation) hosts the third annual Maine Party to celebrate the legal work for civil rights for lesbians, gay men, and persons with HIV in Maine. This party fund raiser is to be held at Katadin Restaurant, 106 High Street, Portland. FMI, 774-5444.
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.)
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Seafood Gay Men meet for Bruce Ignier Memorial at historic Portland Athenaeum, 9 Market Square. FMI, Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.
ΔΔ 7:00 -9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers always welcome. FMI, 725-7632.

**Tuesday, September 13th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - WOMEN IN HARMONY: A chorus of women's voices, will hold first open rehearsal of the 1994-95 season. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 158 High St. Portland. All women who love to sing are invited to join us. FMI, 774-9490.

**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.

**Saturday, September 17th:**
ΔΔ 12 noon - Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Annual Meeting to re-grou and elect new officers. UU Church, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta. FMI, 1-800-55-MLGPA.
ΔΔ 1:00 PM - 3rd Annual Memorabilia Celebrity Auction to benefit Eastern Maine AIDS Network (EMAN) Client Services Fund. Holiday Inn, 780 Main St, Bangor. Over 200 items to be auctioned off including autographed photos and autographed scripts of TV shows, and a pair of A.C. Green's sneakers worn in a Lakers game.
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Creativity Night: Bring your latest project to work on or learn new crafts and techniques. Enjoy the energy of shared creativity. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

**Sunday, September 18th - Wednesday, September 21st:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - "INTREAT ME NOTTO LEAVE THEE" at the Oak Street Theater, Oak St., Portland. FMI, 773-4698. Tickets - $7 at the door.
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - The Gathering presents: Single: How to Meet People with Editta J. Felt. USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland.

**Thursday, September 22nd:**
ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM - Matlovich Society presents What is the Status of Diversity in Maine? Hear the Hon. John Jenkins, Mayor of Lewiston and Chair of the Governor's Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity in Maine, discuss the Commission's recommendations. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland. Free hotel parking. Accessible to the mobility-impaired.

**Friday, September 23rd:**
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 24th:**
ΔΔ 11:00 AM-2:00 PM - "Let's Do Brunch!" Eat great food without having to travel to Portland or Portsmouth! Potluck social gathering, third Sunday of the month, at York County locations. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news and information. Call 985-2784 for more information.
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Seafood Gay Men day at Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. (Be on time for special discount rate at gate). For information and directions, call Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.
ΔΔ 5:30 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 benefits of forming lesbian and bisexual business and professional women's organization in greater Portland or even state-wide. No obligation. Call for location: Carolyn Jarlert, 879-5247 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342.
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Partners of Parents, a support group for lesbian and gay men whose partners have children. This self-led group meets for discussion at Woodford's Congregational Church, 69 Winthrop St., Portland. FMI, 774-5032.
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.

**Tuesday, September 20th:**
ΔΔ 6:00-8:00 PM - Equal Protection Maine/Bangor meets at Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St, Bangor. FMI, P.O. Box 963, Bangor 04402 or call 990-3420.
ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering presents: Single: How to Meet People with Editta J. Felt. USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland.

**Saturday, September 24th:**
ΔΔ 1:00-4:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center hosts Workshop, Reclaiming My Past: Building a Foundation for My Future. We will explore our heritage to reclaim these valuable traditions and strengths as a firm foundation for our own future. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

**Monday, September 26th:**
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Seafood Gay Men Candidates Night to discuss the status of the equal rights House Bill and November elections. Unitarian Church, 67 Main St, Portland, ME. FMI, Al Santerre (603) 898-1115.
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomer always welcome.
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. Candidate 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."

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If your group or organization has an event coming up, call us at 1-800-326-MEET or send in the information to Community Prids Reporter by the 15th of the month previous to the event. It's FREE!
**GENERAL**

MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LG issues. Primary concerns include supporting Maine's gay rights legislative agenda, promoting civil rights, and helping the gay community in Maine.

Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of every month in every area. For more information call Kate Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.

**PONE SUPPORT**

Region by region

**National Call for Lesbian Rights Youth Project**

1-800-528-NCLR

Boston Alliance of Lesbian and Gay Youth (BAGYL)

1-800-347-TEEN

Portland:

Ingram Volunteers: Call 774-HELP (4357), ext. 28.


Waldo-Down East AIDS Coalition: 594-1879.

**Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in August. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a support network 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 p.m. (ME), 2 p.m. (NB), at Maine 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 207/488-2098.

The Malvolio 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 are on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 p.m at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessibility for the mobility-impaired. Call 207/773-1209.

National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Lesbian and Gay Issues Committee welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Lesbians and gay/bisexuals are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 p.m at the Community Counseling Ctr., 345 Forest Ave. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030.

AA Gay and Lesbian Speaker/Discussion meetings every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Great meeting at The Open Hand on School St. Come share your experience and hope. FMI, call 934-5703.

**HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS:** Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Office of Citizenship. 1-800-528-NCLR.

**Support Groups**

**Men's Jazz Ensemble**

A new Men's Jazz Ensemble aims to bring women musicians together to sharpen sight reading skills and explore improvisational, compositional and arranging abilities in a fun, competitive, nurturing environment. A little knowledge of music, and willingness to commit to a weekly rehearsal schedule and have fun this summer are all you need.

For more information write Kate Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.

**A New Women's Jazz Ensemble**

A new Women's Jazz Ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you have some knowledge of music, are willing to work and improve your skills in a fun, supportive environment, A New Women's Jazz Ensemble is for you!

For more information write Kate Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.

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**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 insurance accepted. Anonymous, confidential HIV testing by appointment only. Clinic open Tues. & Thurs., 3:30 to 6 p.m at Portland City Hall Redstone Building. FMI call 874-1874.

**Planned Parenthood of Northern New England:** Serving men and women, offering annual exams, pregnancy testing, birth control info. & supplies (free condoms), testing and treatment for infections and STD's, menopause support and more. Evening hours, after-hours services, and complete confidentiality. Medicaid welcome. 970 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call 874-1045.

**Identity Support**

Out and About is a non-profit, lesbian (over 18) support and educational group. Newsletter & calendar of local, current monthly events. Meets Mondays at 7:00 p.m. FMI, call 934-5701 or write PDB 352, Portland, ME 04108-0325.

**Out Among Friends:** Meets Thursdays 1-3:30 p.m. in the downstairs club room of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 Spring St. Portland. FMI and support group are free. FMI call and leave message, 778-7380.

**Rite of Passage:** A support group for lesbians & bisexuals supporting & educating young men and women ages 15-22 in the gay/lesbian experience with creative and educational groups for parents, and transgendered people. Meetings are 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 292 Spring St. Portland. FMI call 934-5701 or write PDB 352, Portland, ME 04108-0325.

**lesbian/bisexual support group for the Lewiston/ Auburn area meets every Monday at 7 p.m at the Unitarian-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.

**BDAC Support Group:** This Lesbian Support Group welcomes any woman who self-identifies as a lesbian. They are a confidential, non-judgmental group, meeting to explore sexuality, relationships and social justice issues. No one is refused entry. Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. FMI, call and leave message. 778-7380.

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For more information write Kate Austin, P.O. Box 7944, Portland, 04112.
P.O. Box 8939, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Deadline is October 1st. ∆

**FOR RENT**

- **BATH/BRUNSWICK AREA:** Seeking third house-mate for old farm house with land, private, roomy and old fashioned. Prefer non-smoker, pets negotiable. Great for gardening nooks and other rural indulgences. $300/month plus share utilities. Call Doug or Miriam 443-1211. ∆

- **WATERVILLE AREA:** Lovely Executive Ranch, 3/4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Perfect house for entertaining with open kitchen, dining and living area. 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. $800 plus utilities. References, please. Call 828-1769. ∆

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

**MASSAGE**


**HELP WANTED:**

- **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 phone-line each located in private homes through the region. Needs to establish central Community Center. Financial backers needed. Call or write for specifics: Northern Lambda Nord, PO Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990, 207/498-2088 (voice/TDD). ∆

- **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 #364, Portland ME 04101. ∆

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

**TRAVEL/VACATION**

- **LESBIAN PARADISE!** 20 charming rooms, 100 mountain acres, pool, hot tub, hiking/skiing trails, yummy breakfasts, peace and privacy. We're your perfect vacation choice year round! Week-long and midweek discounts. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 1180, Bethesda, ME 01574, (603) 875-2978. ∆


**BUSINESS ORGANIZATION**

- **Attention lesbian and bisexual business and professional women.** If you are a business owner, serve in sales, or are directly involved as a professional within the business community, we should get together and explore the benefits of forming our own community organization. The objective of this organization would be to establish an information network to better serve our community and assist each other. (A lesbian/bisexual Chamber of Commerce? WHY NOT?) If you are interested in exploring options around establishing our own business organization, call Carolyn Salbert at 207/5247, or Winnie Weir at 879-1342. ∆

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

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

**SUPPORT GROUPS**


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

**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 Vine 780-8739. ∆

**Generations in Contrast: Portraits of Gay and Lesbians in Dialogue with Lesbian and Gay Adults, (not necessarily from the same family).** Saturday, October 8th, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm, $75/individual, $150/family. Call or write Dialogue Center, 95 High St., Portland, ME 04101, (207) 879-9900. ∆

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

**Have you bought your**

**Wellness Sampler yet?** Image are an opportunity 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 Fier 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 McMurray

"Out in Suburbia" is a video made in 1986 that was presented for viewing and discussion at the Malovich Society, on August 25th. It depicted a narrow segment of the lesbian community in their struggles to be out to friends and neighbors. The women appeared not exclusively white, and lived in well-groomed homes in affluent communities. Much of the film's content involved interviews with the women who told their coming out stories. These included discussions about their relationships with their families and how they coped with sensitive work situations like teaching school.

There was an amusing counterpoint during an interview with a couple 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 to their need to remain in the closet to save their job. I believe this film did accurately depict 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 hide 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 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 tragic-comedy about two women living together in New York.

The Scene: an apartment in New York. The Conflct: 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 panzers!)

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. □ □
MUSIC ON REVIEW:  
Diana Daniel and Lynn Deves - "Live"  
by Aimsel Ponti  

The bar was packed on a Monday night and most of us had to be at work early the next day. So, why was 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 there. 

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.

Diana Daniels, (l) and Lynn Deves outside Sisters. Their surprise performance was a smashing success.

I particularly liked the back-up kazoo players during the cover of the Indigo Girls’ “Least Complicated.” Lynn added, “It was the warmest welcome I’ve had in a long time.” Over the course of 19 songs, Lynn Deves and Diana Daniel connected with us, made us laugh, showed us their intensity and provided us with a night to remember.

Every chord wasn’t perfect, but that was OK because we knew these women were pouring their hearts and souls into the performance. Although Diana’s skill on the 12 string could not go unnoticed, particularly on the Indigo Girls, “Galileo,” Lynn’s well known flute playing, which we didn’t hear enough of, added something new to, “Closer to Fine,” and a few others.

Come back and play for us any time. You know we’ll show up. I would love to hear some original music that rumor says has probably been written by both Lynn and Diana. I guess we’ll have to wait until the east coast again beckons Diana for another visit.

And again, appreciation for Erica Gilbert for opening the show and Lisa Vaccaro for putting the whole thing together. Live women’s music -- we want more!  

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.

The setting is dark and noisier with undercurrents and eddies of plot, as they chase down leads through all levels of Manhattan society from the ultra wealthy pre-jet-set to the dangerous brothels of the lower east side. They are ab ducted by the wealthy John Pierpont Morgan who tells them that several factions of the religious community don’t want the crimes to be solved, to leave the case alone. Stranger still, they gain the aid of a notorious gangster by the name of Paul Kelly, who really doesn’t care which side he’s helping, he only wants to see trouble stirred up in Manhattan.

Through all of the information they amass by interviewing other male prostitutes, family members of the murdered boys, shamroilers and brothel owners, they begin to form a vague and impressionistic picture of the murderer which rapidly is blown up into a chillingly accurate one with near photographic detail as they find out where he lived as a child, his background and eventually his motives for killing.

This is an engrossing read and it impressed me for all of its excellent historical trivia about late Nineteenth century New York City. It was really amazing to realize that although we think of ourselves today as a society that has progressed so much in the last century, we’re still controlled by the media and what it wants us to think. Back in 1896, “gentle people” didn’t discuss other’s sexual-orientation or practices, and we see strong evidence of this in that the religious community of New York would rather have had more young boys murdered than have the general public know that there were brothels that catered exclusively to clients that preferred young male prostitutes.

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.

Supportive • Caring • Challenging  
Therapy group for lesbians.  
Meets weekly in Lewiston  
Wednesdays 3:30 - 5:00  
Facilitated by: Norma Kraus Felder, LCSW  
Rheita Forster, LPCC  
call 784-8747  

CPR ~ September, 1994 Page 17  

Jungian Psychoanalysis  
Discover the unconscious meaning of your issues while focusing on your dreams  
with D. Joseph Manship, IAAP  
Graduate Psychologist of the C.G. Jung Institute - Zurich, Switzerland  
In addition to individual Psychoanalysis he is available for spiritual and psychological consultation and group work. Call for appointment.  
871-0950  

Susan Reed, L.Ac.  
is pleased to announce  
the opening of her practice of  
Classical 5 Element Acupuncture  
Free informational brochure available  
828-1799
Health Care Reform -- What's in it for lesbians?

Part Two

by Peaches Bass

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 their 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 dildos.

To the first point, a 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 well also keeps us from receiving holistic care. Whole-person health care involves family and community, one's job and daily activities, diet, recreation — like­wise! 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 paucity 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 perspective, and even then, it has been reservationist to gay illness or disease/perspective/life style! 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 to holistic health care providers. Al­ternative health care providers have also been relatively uninformed, 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. ΔΔ

Maine Children's Cancer Program 10K WALK

by Winnie Weir, Editor

Just about ten years ago I rec­ognized 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 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 in cancer care and 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 only to cure as many children as possible, but also to heal and support the entire family through its crisis. They do outreach to the school community, have a program 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/Olde 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 Report at 879-1342. (See note: Call the CPR office, 879-1342, and be­come my sponsor or become a WALKer yourself!) ΔΔ
Money Talk: Investments
by Peter J. Callanan, 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 to 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 tax free investments better? Do they effectively pay more? How is the after-tax yield determined?
• Marketability and Liquidity: How easy is it to invest in or sell an 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 more than one? 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 in each of my investment 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 sort. 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 me 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 interviewed by 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. No one 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 vincible 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. In fact, our personal life is our own, and we should be free to talk about it.

How easy will it be to sell the investment? Is enough? How will the yield determine it? Sometimes, investors will want to diversify. They can also use the investment to fund multiple investments or to diversify. How will they 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?

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Basicall, anything that will increase personal wealth can be considered an investment sort. 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

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have everyday in the past in the fight against bigotry and discrimination. The effort launched by Concerned Maine Families of Maine reflects the failure of leaders in Maine like Governor McKernan to take a clear and strong stand against discrimination and unfairness against Maine citizens.

"Governor McKernan's refusal to show principled leadership has fostered this unfortunate referendum effort. We have worked together for years to make Maine a place where discrimination is not tolerated in any form.

"I will continue to stand with you in fighting this effort to turn back the clock. I applaud your willingness to come forward and organize this campaign for justice in the state of Maine."

After the formal announcements, CPR had the opportunity to question some of the coalition members.

We asked that there is no conflict of interest for the Attorney General's Office to oppose this referendum, though they cannot join the coalition. He said, "We're not formally a member of any organization or coalition. We're simply here to put forward our position as law enforcement... that there is a direct relationship between the passage of this referendum and our ability to prosecute people who commit violence against gays and lesbians. My office is charged with enforcing the Hate Crimes Law. This referendum, if passed, would make that more difficult. We have examples, many of which you may know about, cases we have prosecuted but the victims were unable to go forward. Not to take the position we are would be to fall short of our responsibilities as law enforcement."

The following Q & A ensued between CPR and the Maine Council of Churches:

BB (Bruce Balboni): Which denominations are included in the Council?

TE (Tom Ewell): The Congregationalists, the Methodists, the Episcopalians, the Catholics, the Quakers... I'm a Quaker... the Unitarians, the Lutherans, the Presbyterians and some Baptists and the A.M.E. Zion Church on Sheridan Street.

BB: Do you see the clergy being highly involved in the campaign to defeat this referendum?

TE: Well, last time (referring to the Portland referendum, 1992) the United Church of Christ clergy in Portland made a major statement. And I

justified concern for the churches is that we are by law not subject to discrimination laws because it's possible for a church to say we will not hire gay people against... or, we will not hire a lesbian minister, if she's open... but, I think we are very concerned about that, we acknowledge, that we're not hiding behind that. It's not something we can say on the other hand that many of the churches have been very clear, being open and affirming, and I think that's a trend. I don't think it's going the other way.

BB: I attended a CMF meeting in April at the Church of the Nazarene in South Portland. They brought Reverend Charles McGherry from San Francisco to encourage anti-gay rights efforts. 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 religions?

BB: 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 more people have had some level of confidence with me that they can come out, and tell me what their lives are like as gay and lesbian people.

We can accept those personal stories, more than teachings, more than statements coming out of somebody's office or on a piece of paper are the most powerful. I would encourage members of churches who have family members who as gay and lesbian, sons or daughters, uncles, brothers, sisters, or themselves, if they're gay, that they speak out in their churches. That's the way things are going to change. There are denormalizations, where the parents of gay and lesbian people began to come forward as parents, that made a lot of difference. And I would suspect that makes as much difference as somebody coming out.

It's very difficult coming out in a church where you know that you risk your participation in the community; relatives put you in a different situation than was presumed. But gay and lesbian parents, their status is not going to change. I think that one thing I would obviously encourage... What do you think of the "Hate the sin, not the sinner" approach of CMF? To homophobia and the biblical proclamations it is based on?

TE: Well, I've thought a lot about that. That's patronizing. First of all, it isn't really accepting a person for who they are. There's a judgment or a limitation to that kind of acceptance. The Christian gospel speaks of a much more inclusive acceptance, a much more universal, spiritual love for another person. This business about making a distinction between orientation and behavior is one that I certainly is of major concern and is discussed a lot among the churches. There are obvious problems with that. When I lived in India with my Christian brothers we held hands and I think many people in this culture, that would send a different message. A pat on the butt or a hug during a basketball game is perfectly acceptable, apparently. How do you define when I'm going to get in trouble.

Am I going to go up to somebody who just made a foul shot and give 'em a tap and have somebody call me on that. And a fair or patrolling people's private lives, I can't imagine that being a part of what anyone wants to do, but that's really what they're trying to say.

BB: Do you think that there's a political tactic? Is there any real biblical or theological basis for that argument?

TE: Personally, I consider that patronizing because there is an injunction that you're to love people and not necessarily accept their behavior or what they do, and that's noble, I guess. But in this case, it also makes a judgment about people that I don't think, personally, that you can do and expect that makes a lot of difference... Here in this case, it also makes a judgment about people.

KG (Karen Geraghty): The Diocese would welcome a bill which would protect the rights of persons regardless of sexual orientation, provided that such a bill was without the vagueness which was 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 attempts in this area. (Those statements were part of a presentation made, August 26, to the Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity which was formed by Governor McKernan to look into the criminalization and bias in the state and to develop recommendations for the legislature.)

Geraghty responded to questions regarding organization:

KG (Karen Geraghty): The Diocese would welcome a bill which would protect the rights of persons regardless of sexual orientation, provided that such a bill was without the vagueness which was 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 attempts in this area. (Those statements were part of a presentation made, August 26, to the Commission to Promote the Understanding of Diversity which was formed by Governor McKernan to look into the criminalization and bias in the state and to develop recommendations for the legislature.)

Geraghty responded to questions regarding organization:

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

CPR caught Peard on her way out:

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

PP (Pat Peard): 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 explain 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 misinformation.

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 on, 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 these classifications to other groups as proposed by Maine citizen initiative."

BB: If it passes do you anticipate a boycott, like Colorado?

PP: I think it's important that everybody understand that this coalition does not support a boycott of the state of Maine. But, it is entirely possible. As with Colorado, people outside the state of Maine could organize a boycott of Maine. It is possible, I have no knowledge of a boycott, but it is entirely possible that such a thing could happen.

BB: You don't foresee using threat of boycott as part of your campaign?

PP: Absolutely not. This coalition does not want to do anything to hurt the people of the state of Maine.

BB: She (Cosby) also claims to have received a typewritten death threat. What do you think about that?

PP: Well, if it's true, and if she has indeed received one, I think it's terrible. I don't think anyone should receive death threats and I hope whoever wrote it is apprehended and punished for it, whoever wrote it.

BB: What do you think the effect of having the vote in an off-year will be?

PP: I'm not sure. It could go either way. A lot of people just don't vote in off-year elections (except the committed). A part of our campaign plan is going to be to get those people in the middle out to vote. That's who's going to win, whichever side can move the middle to vote for them.

BB: She talked about mounting a traditional campaign, leaflets etc., how will you respond to that?

PP: We're going to do a lot of grassroots organizing. That's going to be the whole basis of our campaign, to really get out into all parts of the state, have house parties and meetings and really try to educate people about what this thing really means. I think she profits off ignorance and fear; that's what she benefits from, people who don't know any better, so we have to overcome that."

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 provides 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 spouts 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 Pemaquid 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.

Gay/Lesbian Travel

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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, if you're from Maine, we're talking about the homosexual proposal for the last legislative session, whatever the law was that they had, I don't remember the name of it, that they wanted sexual orientation included in the Maine Human Rights Act. At that time the governor vetoed it. However, he promised them... offered them a compromise, which they refused. It would have given them protections with regards to their jobs and their homes. They refused it. Why? They claimed that was the whole basis of why they needed the inclusion of minority status within Maine Human Rights Act... so I have to say to you if that's important to the homosexuals, and they claim it is, why did they refuse it. So the real question is, what are the homosexuals after? We don't know, but part of this debate will force that question into the open."

Cosby responded to the charge that he hates homosexuals by saying, "I'm always grated when I'm spoken of in that way because we don't hate them. We've made every move to communicate to them that we do not want to have a campaign of hate. We do not agree with what they are after. We oppose that, but we do not hate them. We've moved to have a campaign that said "No Room for Hate." Obviously, that could be used as campaign rhetoric and there could be charges that that's all that's about, but the whole purpose of my resolution statement, which I initiated and sent to the gay community well over a year ago, was for the purpose of communicating that where we disagree in principle, we must all come together and agree on the right for all of us to debate this in the public arena. I don't think those are actions of hate."

Further, Cosby was asked if it surprised her that people perceived of her campaign as a campaign against homosexuals. She answered, "I'm going to say that this saddens me again, that the homosexual community is not facing up to the facts of the campaign. Now some of their leadership around the country is... Jonathan Rausch, which (sic) is a very well publicized homosexual editor/journalist around the country, has said that the homosexual community should back off from their desire to obtain special minority class protections because they do not qualify for such, and talk about where they could achieve some help if it's proven to be needed in other areas. But the homosexual community hasn't done that yet, so, what we've been moving forward to do is emotionalize the campaign, paint me as a villain, I've been villainized up until this point... and I think that's going to continue 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's 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: At this point in time we're talking to donors. We'll see who steps forward to begin funding this and we'll be expanding our base of people who we write to now.

C.Canny: Will that list be made public of who's donating to your...?

Bangoer, from page 1

A campaign 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, Peccilia Attean, State Representative Penscocket Nation, and David Glusker, Pastor, First Radio Parish Church from being present. However, other community minded people attended the conference and lent their support. One speaker recounted her trip to San Francisco ten years ago as part of the delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Upon deplaning, reporters rushed the delegates who expected questions like, "Who is Mondale going to pick as his running mate?" or, "Do you still support Hart?" Instead the reporters asked questions about Charlie Howard's howler.

Jane Saxi and Sean Faircloth, lo-

See Bangoer, page 23
Camp Trans, from page 9

regarding their medical history or their commitment to uphold festival policy. The protesters were then burned by the contingent of Lesbian Avengers and escorted to the scheduled meeting, with a number of other festival participants joining the contingent along the way. At the Lesbian Avengers meeting, both Ms. Wilchins and Ms. Feinberg spoke 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 continuing violation of festival policy as "women born woman" 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 "women born woman" policy, activities say they will continue the protests next year. 

Bangor, from page 22

cal state representatives were present. Saxl accused CMP of trying to usurp the power of the legislature, as well as prevent the legislators from passing laws appealing for the rights of all gay people.

Faircloth 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 Faircloth 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 business climate of the State of Maine."

If someone is afraid to come forward when they are discriminated against, and because they have been the subject of a hate crime are fearful that they will be targeted in the future, were they to lose their job because of something totally unrelated to their tenancy or work performance, that is wrong and that is bad for a free market, capitalist system... Therefore, I think that those who 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 Queer.' I have a son who attended Middle School, who refers to things he doesn't like as 'heathens.' I've had arguments with my son over the fact that he has testified in civil rights case 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 grow up ignorant of the fact that...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 they are.' And that's why I'm here. I also want to send a message to the public that not every female who 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 some cases, for their own family members. "What we will 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. Remember that we are people living in your 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 money. And you need a place where you are treated with confidence that the people of Maine will not allow Carolyn Cosby to write a law that forces them to discriminate." 

Bangor, from page 2

HATE, from page 2

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

Stephen L. Wexler, 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 of 20 cases that had gone to trial, all but one were won at the expense of the victim. That one exception was a hom­ophbic assault on a heterosexual father and son. Wexler charged that the police force of Portland, Maine, has failed to protect the rights of the two assailants.

Verbal harassment, stalking, breaking and entering, property damage or assaul­t may or may not qualify as a prosecu­tiable offense against a minority person.

Mary Ann of Sisters pointed out that gay people, particularly more obvious lesbian, are reluctant to deal with the police because of police officers' 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, it has the right to set its own standards for the people who refer to things he doesn't like as 'heathens.' I've had arguments with my son over the fact that he has testified in civil rights case 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 grow up ignorant of the fact that...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 they are.' And that's why I'm here. I also want to send a message to the public that not every female who 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 some cases, for their own family members. "What we will 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. Remember that we are people living in your 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 money. And you need a place where you are treated with confidence that the people of Maine will not allow Carolyn Cosby to write a law that forces them to discriminate." 

1994 Maine AIDS walk scheduled

by Winnie Weir, Editor

What better way to spend a fall day in Maine then to take part in a beautiful walk around Back Cove in Portland with a group of friends united in a common purpose? (Chill - it's a rhetorical query!)

On Sunday, October 2nd at 1:00 pm, walkers at the nine sites will begin their annual trek to raise much needed funds to benefit five local AIDS service organizations. They include the AIDS Project, People with AIDS Coalition, AIDS Lodging House, The NAMES Project/Maine and Peabody House.

The nine sites include Lewiston/Auburn, Brunswick, Oxford Hills, Belfast, Ellsworth, Bangor, Waterville, Augusta, and Portland. Call your local area AIDS organization for details as to the specific walk route.

The AIDS Walks are a fund raiser for the AIDS Project, People with AIDS Coalition, AIDS Lodging House, The NAMES Project/Maine and Peabody House.

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