

# Community Pride Reporter

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

**VOL. 2, Number 3**

**SEPTEMBER, 1994**

**Q: "So, you're saying gay people don't qualify for civil rights?"  
Cosby -- "Absolutely ! They don't deserve protection.."**

by Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

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 think-

ing 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 Canny 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 handsily 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."

See Cosby, page 22



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

## HUD awards AIDS grant



Photo by DOC

Members of the five organizations that make up HAVEN, the collaborative that received \$669,000 from HUD are, from left to right, Maureen Connally, Linda Jipson, Mary Menair, Sandy Titus, Cynthia Lambert, Frannie Peabody, Joe Brannigan, Bill Toth (seated), Charlie Wynott, Rick Bouchard, Deborah Shields and Chris Behan.

See HUD, page 4.

## EPM/Bangor responds to Cosby and CMF

by Winnie Weir, Editor

City Council Chambers of City Hall in Bangor was the scene of the Equal Protection Maine/Bangor Chapter press conference. EPM responded to Concerned Maine Families submission of petitions for signature verification at sites across the state.

EPM/Bangor co-chair, Jim Martin's opening remarks set the stage 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 this state to have a reputation on a national level that says we do not have tolerant people in our state."

He concluded his remarks by saying, "The message that CMF is going to send is that 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-

See Bangor, page 22



Weir Photo

Jim Martin, co-chair of EPM/Bangor, spoke at a Bangor City Hall press conference, August 16, denouncing CMF's referendum.



# Business and community leaders unite against Concerned Maine Families' efforts to deny civil rights to Maine's gay community

by Bruce Balboni

"The passage of this referendum will interfere with law enforcement's ability to prosecute those people who commit violent hate crimes against gays and lesbians and will allow known and violent perpetrators to continue to assault and threaten Maine's citizens. This referendum leads the Attorney General's office to an unmistakable conclusion 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 Wessler, Maine's Assistant Attorney General.

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

Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, (MLGPA); Tom Ewell, Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches; Laura Fortin, Executive Director of the Maine Women's Lobby; Susan Pierter, Manager of Public Affairs 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 Sebunya, Vice-president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), arrived late and was unable to read his statement. After the press conference he indicated that the NAACP opposes this effort to codify discrimination.

Geraghty emceed the press conference and started by reading a statement



Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, said CMF's campaign serves to destroy our community and increase hate crimes.

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

Ewell said, "On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Maine Council of Churches I want to express our opposition to the referendum which proposes in fact to insure that sexual orientation never be considered as a basis for civil rights. For a decade now the Maine Council of Churches has supported leg-

islation which would specifically provide civil rights in the areas of housing, credit, employment and public accommodation for persons who are gay or lesbian or perceived to be so. For us this is a matter of justice, discrimination based on prejudice against some of us threatens the civil rights of all of us."

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

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

"As the state's largest private employer we believe that this is the right thing to do. Every employee is entitled to work in an environment free from discrimination. Discrimination erodes employee morale and has a direct negative impact on productivity. We see this policy statement as a symbol of our commitment to fundamental fairness."

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

causes, this is just one more expense that is totally unnecessary and works against the better good of all. So as an owner of a small business, a business that works with many people across the state, I can assure you that the business community is going to fight long and hard to stop this referendum."

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

Geraghty mentioned the four gubernatorial candidates, stating that they all oppose the referendum. She read a statement from U.S. Senate candidate Tom Andrews, "I'm sorry I could not join you this afternoon. I want you to know that I stand with you today as I

See Leaders Unite, page 20



Stephen Wessler, Maine's Assistant Attorney General, said it is the duty of law enforcement to oppose this referendum.

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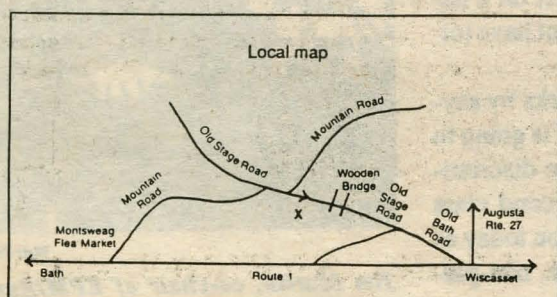
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## Hate Crimes

by Michael Rossetti

On August 24th police officials and lesbian and gay bar owners joined in a discussion sponsored by the Attorney General's Civil Rights Unit (aka Hate Crimes division) to discuss prevention and reporting of assaults and harassment of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Present were Det. Lt. Mark Dion along with Officers Virginio and Gagliano of the Portland Police Department, Officers Baril and Nehiley of the Lewiston Police Department, Officer Al Johnson of the Augusta Police Department, Officer Dave Johnson of Ogunquit, all Civil Rights officers from across the state and Maine's lesbian and gay bar owners.

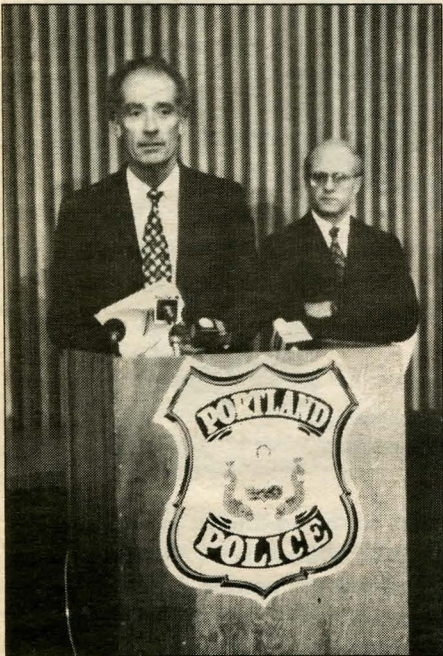
Bar representation included the Club in Ogunquit, Sportsman's Athletic Club in Lewiston, PJ's in Augusta. Sadly, only the Chartroom and Sisters joined the officers in seeking to

See Hate, page 23



# Police Chief Chitwood denounces anti-gay referendum

by Bruce Balboni



Balboni Photo

"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."

## 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 Platner, 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**

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 face. Stearns charged, "The idea that anti-discrimination laws are 'special' is distorted at best. There is nothing 'special' about getting fired, or evicted or gay-bashed. There is nothing 'special' about having the right NOT to get beaten up."

"In fact, Carolyn Cosby is really campaigning for her own 'special' rights, her 'special' right to discriminate. Her referendum would repeal the Portland School Department's anti-discrimination policy. Carolyn Cosby wants to regain her 'special' right to expel students from school because they are gay or questioning. Her referendum would repeal the Portland Human Rights Ordinance. Carolyn Cosby wants to regain her 'special' right to fire employ-

ees who are different from her. She wants to regain her 'special' right to discriminate against tenants who are different from her."

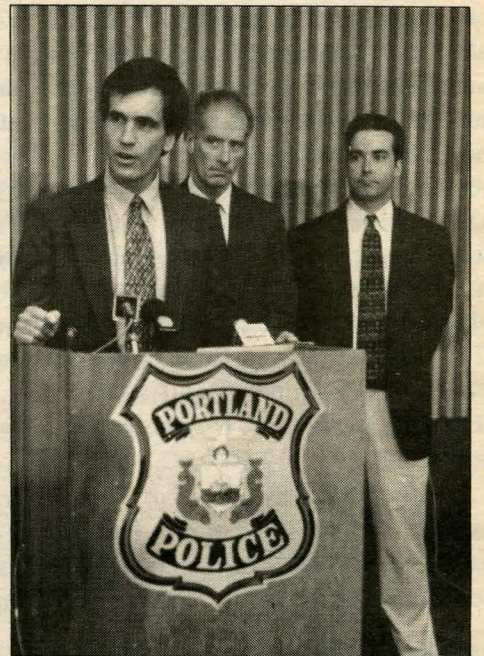
Peter O'Donnell, a former City Councilor and spokesperson for Equal Protection Portland (EPP) reminded the press that the dire consequences predicted in 1992, by those opposed to Portland's Human Rights Ordinance, have not come to pass. O'Donnell was the Councilor who first proposed the ordinance to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

O'Donnell also noted the inconsistency 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



Balboni Photo

Tom Allen, former Mayor and current City Councilor of Portland, said, "We on the council will work to guarantee that Portland's anti discrimination laws survive this most recent attack."

Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce voted overwhelmingly to support Portland's Human Rights Ordinance. We believe that the majority of both large and small businesses share the conviction that there is no place for intolerance or discrimination in the workplace.

"Our views have not changed."

See Chitwood, page 13

## GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

### THE FOOD

Wish we could eat more because everything is so great. • Oysters are worth traveling for! Primo! • Entree servings larger than necessary. • My Dad makes his own ice cream, but Gretchen's is the best! • Best Crab Cakes I ever had. Send me the Recipe! • If there is a heaven, your food will be served there! • The beets as a veggie were a wonderful surprise. • I live for your Lobster Spring Rolls! • The dinners were excellent-Mushroom Ravioli, • Grilled Salmon, and Angel Hair Pasta. • Best Liver and Onions in all of my 49 years! • The Buttermilk biscuits are outstanding! • Like having dinner at Gram's. Loved the potatoes! • The best food we have had on our vacation. • Everything was better than expected. We'll be back!

### THE SERVICE

Camille'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 Katahdin, the food, and Maine. • For such a little guy, Gary sure gets around! • It was good to see my old friend John working here. • Meredith was the warmest and friendliest waitress I've ever had. She treated me like a dear friend. • Gloria makes the best martinis in Portland. I love it when she's behind the bar. Michelle's no slouch either. • We love our Robin! • Sarah is the kind of waitress I like. Gracious, informative.

### THE ATMOSPHERE

Great atmosphere! Great music! • Wonderful place! We'll tell all of our friends about it! • Nice casual atmosphere. Original and creative, just like the food. • This is a great place for people to chill out. • It's become a regular haunt for us-love the decor. • I'm a collector, and am familiar with many of your salt and pepper shakers. Love the hugging ducks! • Adorable place - love the ladies' restroom! • We stop in here twice a year on our way to Nova Scotia. • It's by far our favorite place in Portland! • Coolest stuff! I could live in this joint. • Nice to see that children are welcomed here. • Funky. Love the Fiesta ware and the artwork. • Good atmosphere. Not too prissy. • This place is terrific. I hope you're here for years to come. We'll be back!

*Gretchen & Gary*

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# 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

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 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



Photo by DOC

"Thanks to the additional monies from this grant, Portland-based AIDS services organizations will now be able to ensure that all people living with HIV throughout southeastern Maine will enjoy the benefits of a safe and affordable home," said Deborah Shields, Executive Director at TAP.

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.

See HUD, page 6



Photo by DOC

Frannie Peabody, long-time AIDS activist, and Sandy Titus, former Support Services Coordinator at TAP (and now at Stratogen), celebrate HUD grant.

wheelchair and then pulled himself up to speak. His words brought tears to my eyes:

"I have AIDS, and that's really important because that's what this grant is really all about - people living with AIDS. Over the last five and a half years I've lived at the AIDS Lodging House, which is a tenant-based facility here in Portland for people with HIV and AIDS. Over those years 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 never built anything up. They're 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

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

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

by Bruce Balboni

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

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

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

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

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

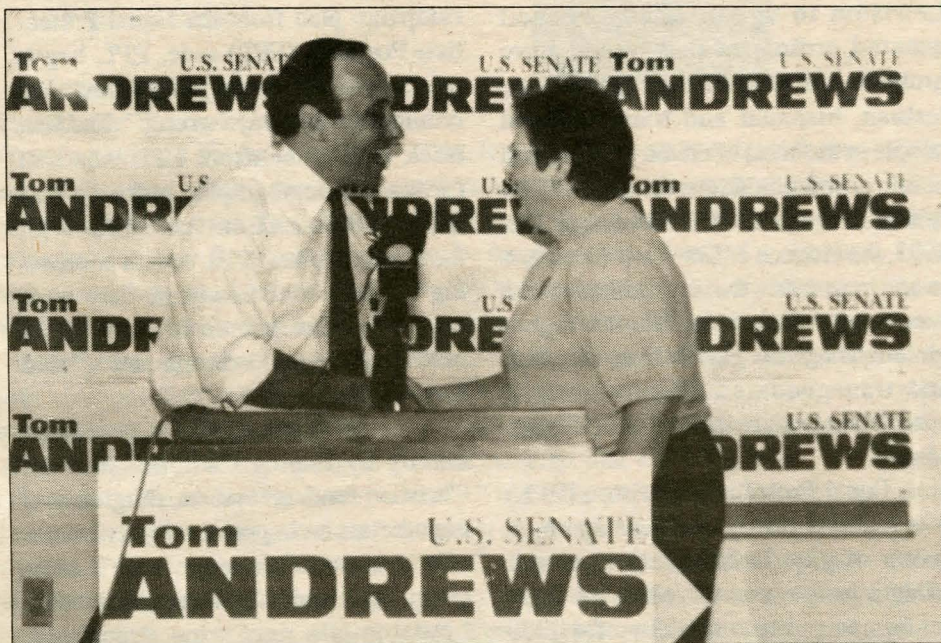
"In addition, the difference between Tom Andrews and Olympia Snowe is this — Olympia Snowe talks about women's issues, Tom Andrews acts. Tom Andrews leads fights for women and families who are trying to make ends meet."

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

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



Tom Andrews receives the NOW endorsement from Lois Reckitt, NOW National Board member.

to full participation in American society that still plague lesbians and gay men."

Reckitt underlined the rarity of this endorsement (a man over a woman) and concluded her statement by asking the people of Maine to vote for Tom Andrews. She introduced him to the thunderous applause of the mostly female audience.

Andrews said, "I want to thank the National Organization for Women for this endorsement. It means a great deal to me personally. It means a great deal to this campaign. As all of you know, this is a grassroots campaign the likes of which this state has never seen, and the involvement of women in communities from all across the state and the National Organization for Women is going to be a major lift to this grassroots effort."

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

Andrews characterized his campaign as one that goes against politics as usual and he asked his supporters to stand with him to fight "the wheelers and the 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." ΔΔ

## MCLU to honor former legislators

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 straight 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 reads 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 Branham, 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 able 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 radically different from Portland's. With 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' that there is."

There was no advance education of the community-at-large that there was, in fact, discrimination in Lewiston. When Paul Madore and CMF initiated the petition drive to put the city 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 as to 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 CMF.

*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 that up 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 774-6877 for more information. ΔΔ

## Around the Nation

### 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 stabbings 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 legal 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.

Dianne 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 survey'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 18, 1994, at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, reported similar findings when behavior was the sole focus: 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 hunted down 31-year-old Douglas Koehler and shot him in the head a year ago. Prosecutors said it was because Koehler was gay.



## Around the Nation

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

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

"What Judge Young has said is that it's OK to kill faggots. This is beyond insult," said David Nelson, founder of the Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats.

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

### Cancer claims life of Rikki Streicher, founder of Maud's

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: After a four-year struggle against cancer, Rikki Streicher died on August 21st. Streicher opened Maud's in 1966, and at the time of its closing in 1989, Maud's had operated as a lesbian bar longer than any other in the world. Its story has been documented in the film, *Last Call at Maud's*. This was more than simply a lesbian bar. It was known internationally as a gathering place for lesbians. Some of the events held there became legendary.

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

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

### Gay & Lesbian Softball World Series outrages Bible Belters

NASHVILLE, TN: "Nashville will never be the same after they have openly come here," shouted Ken Massey, minister of a Baptist church located in the same neighborhood where the Gay and Lesbian Softball World Series was held.

Massey's church gathered 3000 signatures (what is it with these signature gatherers anyway!?) and presented them to the city in opposition to the tournament. The city ignored the signatures. This tournament brings in bucks to the city's economy. The Metro Nashville Parks and Recreation Board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Board all stood in support.

## CHEW ON THIS

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

Type A personalities deal with stress differently than those luck Type Bs. Type 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 As 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 want 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 fetish about promptness
- locking up a good deal of free-floating hostility
- failing to notice the interesting and beautiful aspects in the world.

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

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

Stress is most effectively handled with some very simple guidelines. A stress free diet is important. Foods such as sugar and fat place a great deal of

Rose Mary Denman

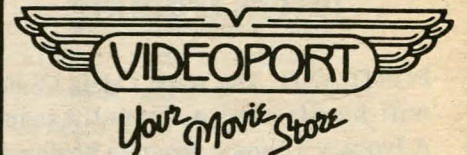


stress on our bodies. Limiting these is a first important step toward wellness. Activities such as walking, yoga, Tai Chi and meditation also go a long way in helping us to monitor our stress levels. One hour a day of combined activities such as those listed above will do the trick.

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. ΔΔ

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



"UPROARIOUS... KILLINGLY FUNNY... KATHLEEN TURNER IS DYNAMITE..."

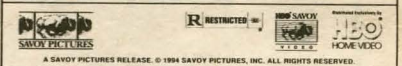


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- Heal guilt and shame about discrimination and prejudice.
- Interrupt prejudicial jokes, slurs, comments, and harassment to actually change the attitude of the perpetrator.

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.



### 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. It is 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 certainly 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.



## 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: Zythra Anne Austen of Winchester, VA.; April Fredericks and Riki Anne Wilchins of New York City; Rica Ashby Fredrickson of Philadelphia; Davina Anne Gabriel of Kansas City, MO.; and Jessica Meredith Xavier of Silver Springs, MD. Accompanying the transsexual women were several nontranssexual supporters who were also taking part in the protest, including authors and activists Leslie Feinberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt, both of Jersey City, N.J., and one intersex individual, Kodi Hendrix of Kokomo, IN.

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

Thirteen transsexual women—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" on national forest land across the road from the main gate of the festival and took part in a variety of activities designed to inform festival participants about gender issues and to protest the festival's exclusionary policy.

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

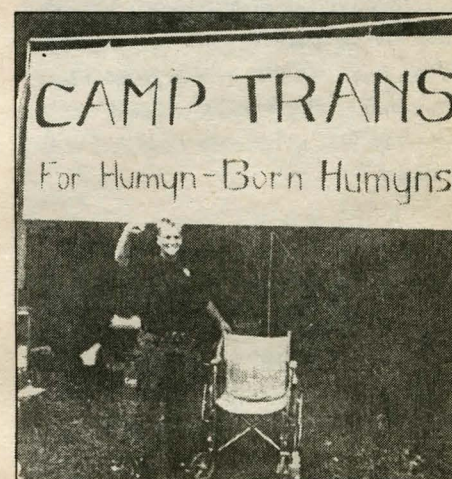
The protesters began setting up their camp, including a large, bright green banner proclaiming, "Camp Trans: For Humyn-Born Humyns," before festival participants began arriving on Sunday, August 7. The following day, protesters began distributing a schedule of 29 activities to women in their cars waiting to enter the festival. The schedule included workshops, speeches, meetings, readings, concerts, religious services, games, and meals, taking place at Camp Trans over a four-day period.

Also distributed to festival participants was 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, who has been actively involved in the festival since its inception.

Protesters received an overwhelm-

ingly positive response, and only very slight negative reaction, to their presence and their flyers. They continued to distribute their literature to women arriving for the festival throughout the week, as well as to the many women who came out from the festival to visit them. At the same time, festival workers at the gate engaged in a variety of tactics apparently designed to harass protesters and prevent them from distributing their literature to arriving participants.

The first activity, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 10, was a community meeting on the issue of



Leslie Feinberg stands in solidarity outside Camp Trans in Michigan

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 = Freed of San Francisco, who performed stand-up comedy and conducted a workshop entitled "The Joys of Marginalization" the following day. A good-humored weenie roast was held Thursday evening, which drew about 25 festival participants out to enjoy relaxed conversation and indulge in meat and chocolate, comestibles not served by the festival kitchen.

Also on Thursday, Charlotte Manheimer of Cincinnati, Ohio, a 68-year-old nontranssexual lesbian, attempted to enter the festival in order to visit a friend but was not immediately allowed to enter because she refused to disclose whether or not she was a transsexual and refused to agree to the festival 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

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charge. Staff offered to escort Ms. Manheimer to find her friend but were reluctant to issue her a festival wristband. After a two-hour period of deliberation among festival staff, Ms. Manheimer, who traveled to the festival for the express purpose of demonstrating support for the transsexual women taking part in the protest, was given a wristband and allowed to enter the festival un-escorted and without disclosing whether or not she is a transsexual.

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

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

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

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

Another 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 pro-

testers 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 sisters were 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 women, 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

See Camp Trans, page 23

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# Community Pride Reporter

142 High Street  
Portland, ME  
04101

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

# EDITORIAL:

At some point during August a packet of materials arrived at CPR's the office from the Human Rights Campaign Fund's Educational Project. The envelope contained materials designed to be used in conjunction with National Coming Out Day.

For those readers who are not familiar with this concept, the observance/celebration/scare the hell out of yourself and your family event, began seven years ago as a way to promote the visibility of the lesbian, gay and bisexual 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 afford each of its citizens equal protection.

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

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

I support National Coming Out Day. I think for the first time in my life I understood what the meaning of the words "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free," when I claimed my identity as a lesbian. It had to be on my time-table, and I advo-

cate for that for anyone engaged in that process. Be gentle with yourself and be careful.

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

In solidarity,

*Winnie Weir*



Balboni Photo

**Peter O'Donnell, Barb Wood and Cathy Kidman, fighting for your right to come out.**

## CPR MAILBAG

Dear CPR,

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

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

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

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

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

It still astounds me that gays and lesbians continue to be duped by reli-

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

Alexander Wallace  
Portland, ME

Dear Editor,

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

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

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

whammy of "acceptable American discrimination."

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

Isabelle Carta  
Fairfield, Maine

Dear Editor:

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

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



# GUEST EDITORIAL:

## Gay Rights: Special Rights or Civil Rights?

An Analysis by D.O. Cook

This analysis concerns the reality behind the initiative by Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families to prevent sexual orientation from being included as a protected class under the Maine Human Rights Act, thereby denying civil rights to any 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 RIGHT OR WRONG," CMF claims that "gays already have the same basic Constitutional rights as anyone else," and asserts that any law recognizing gays as a protected class is tantamount to giving them special rights, above those of other people. By "basic, Constitutional rights," CMF is presumably referring to both the rights we all get from the Declaration of Independence — the "inalienable rights" of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" — as well as the rights specified in our Constitution, which include those described in the first ten amendments, also known as The Bill of Rights.

But, as with a pedestrian trying to cross a busy street against heavy traffic, it's not always possible to get others to acknowledge your rights. For example, a lesbian couple may be denied housing by a landlord who says he only wants to

rent to "a family." Or a competent bisexual man may be fired from his job because he doesn't "have the right image." Or a school district may decide to let a gifted gay teacher go because of "concern about the children." Or a lesbian walking down the street may get harassed or even beaten up simply because of who she is. Gay people do not expect special concessions just because they are gay, but neither do they want to be discriminated against just because they are gay.

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

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

CMF seems confused about who and what needs protecting. Let me elaborate. The classes already listed in the Maine Human Rights Act include race, religion, gender, etc. These classes are not groups of people, rather they are intrinsic characteristics of all people. For example, all people belong to a race, be it 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 protected on the basis of gender. As a result, members of any race or gender (including those not yet identified) are protected. And, of course, this principle

extends to all the classes listed in the Act.

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

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

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

One last point: In an article in the 8/27 *Maine Sunday Telegram*, Ms. Cosby described herself as a "political entrepreneur" and declared, "I'm doing something unique. I'm either going to have a stunning victory or a stunning defeat."

From this statement, I think we can infer that she is less concerned about the outcome of her battle against civil rights than she is about increasing her own political visibility, which is an essential ingredient in the diet of the incurably power-hungry. ΔΔ

recent and historic attempt to strip a segment of its citizens of their human rights. Is it political or personal? Is she just trying to re-insure the untouchable status or her own civil rights, based solely on her choice to be a Born-Again Christian, or is she really attack a branch of the family of humanity that she desperately hates?

What was the name of the gay, lesbian or bisexual person who hurt her in the past? What sins did she turn away from when she laid her life at the foot of Calvary's cross? When she knelt there, in her heart of hearts, and prayed for forgiveness and acceptance from God, a salvation more sweet and fulfilling than she could possibly imagine, did she even think she could raise her head out of the bowed position and look up? Did she dare to imagine that if she did, she would see the real Jesus Christ? . . .

If she knelt before the cross today, would she see the Jesus who died for freedom or the Jesus who died as evidence of man's degree of hatred for his own people? Would she see the Jesus who died to prove to us that that hatred was so wrong, or would she see Jesus at a press conference, holding a petition out before the cameras, saying, "My father allowed them to be created, but I think we should make sure they 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 an 8 year old girl who rides her bike around the neighborhood where I grew up.

Rich Austin  
West Cumberland

## Community Pride Reporter

142 High Street  
Portland, ME  
04101

Suite #634  
Phone  
207/879-1342

## Our Mission

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

## Our Editorial Policy

Views and opinions, political and personal, expressed in Community Pride Reporter are those of the individual authors only. Community Pride Reporter may endorse candidates we feel represent our community most completely. Community Pride Reporter disclaims legal responsibility for errors in editorial, or advertising content, as all reasonable care is taken to prevent such errors. If an error has significantly detracted from the clarity of information presented, the Publisher may consider printing a clarification at her discretion.

## Submissions Welcome

CPR encourages readers to write! Material submitted for publication must be legibly signed and include address and/or phone number for verification. Please keep letters to the CPR Mailbag to 300 words or less. Slightly longer and more composed submissions may be considered for a guest editorial at the Publisher's discretion. If requested, the Publisher may agree to withhold the name of an author for appropriate reasons.

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# 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:

**ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM** - Matlovich Society presents, *Getting the Story Out: The Queer Press in Maine*. A panel discussion with the Editors of *Apex*, *Community Pride Reporter*, and 10% on the challenges of producing newspapers for Maine's lesbian/bisexual/gay/transgender community. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Free hotel parking. Accessible to the mobility-impaired.

## Friday, September 9th:

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

## Saturday, September 10th:

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

## Sunday, September 11th:

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

**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 Falmouth. FMI, Linda Parker, 767-4368/

**ΔΔ 3:00-5:00 PM** - Northern Lambda Nord monthly meeting. Location pending. Call Gay/Lesbian Phoneline-498-2088 for update.

**ΔΔ 3:00-6:00 PM** - Open auditions for the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. To schedule your audition, 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 Katahdin 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 7:00-8:30** - Equal Protection Maine/Portland meets at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland (Parking lot on Park St.)

**ΔΔ 7:00 PM** - Seacoast Gay Men meet for Bruce Igmire Memorial at historic Portsmouth 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 -9:00 PM** - The Gathering: Welcome Back and Movie night. USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland.

## Wednesday, September 14th:

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

## Friday, September 16th:

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

**ΔΔ 6:00 PM** - Gay, lesbian, bisexual Pizza Get Together. 1st Universalist Church, 345 Broadway, Rockland, ME. FMI, Larry Godfrey, 594-2957.

## Saturday, September 17th:

**ΔΔ 12 noon** - Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance Annual Meeting to re-group 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, 500 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 LA 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 NOT TO LEAVE THEE" at the Oak Street Theater, Oak St., Portland. FMI, 773-4698. Tickets - \$7 at the door.

## Sunday, September 18th:

**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 1:00 PM** - Seacoast 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 Jalbert, 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,

Woodford's 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 Eddita 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:

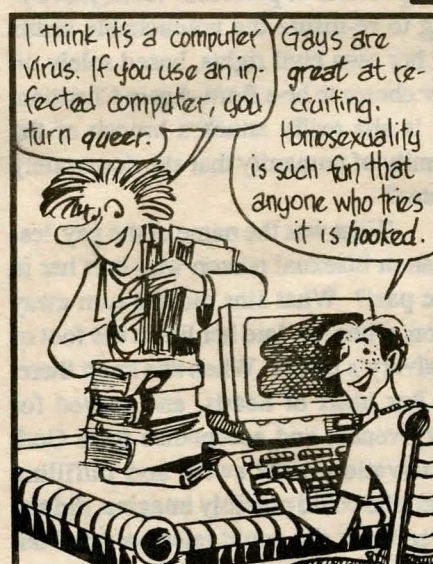
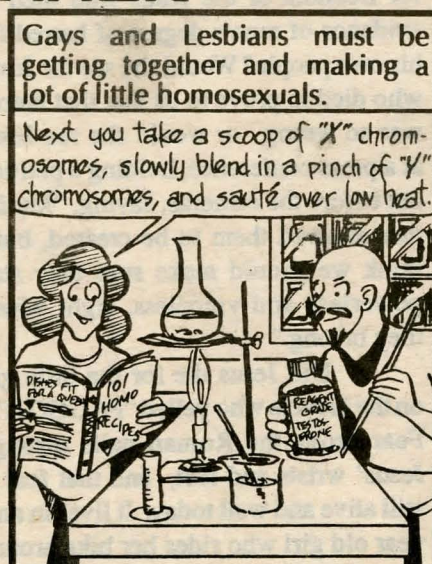
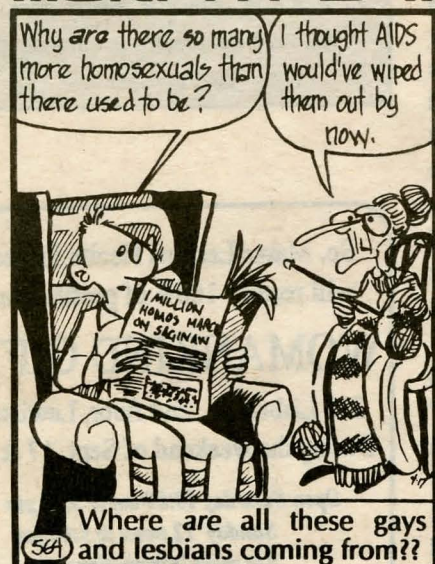
**ΔΔ 1:00-4:00 PM** - Safe Space Women's Center hosts Workshop, *Reclaiming My Past: Building a Foundation for My Future*. We will explore our heritage to reclaim these valuable traditions and strengths as a firm foundation for our own future. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

## Monday, September 26th:

**ΔΔ 7:00 PM** - Seacoast Gay Men Candidates Night to discuss the status of the equal rights House Bill and November elections. Unitarian Church, Portsmouth, NH. 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

## MURPHY'S MANOR



by Kurt Erichsen



# September 1994 Calendar

recovery. Newcomer always welcome. FMI, 725-7632.

**ΔΔ 7:00-8:30** - Equal Protection Maine/Portland meets at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland (Parking lot on Park St.)

**Tuesday, September 27th:**

**ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM** - The Gathering presents Dr. Deborah Anapol, the author of *Love Without Limits: Responsible Non-monogamy and the Quest for Sustainable Intimate Relationships*. She is the founder of IntiNet Resource Center, a national organization advocating freedom of choice in love styles. USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland.

**Wednesday, September 28th:**

**ΔΔ 8-9:30 PM** - Lesbian Movie Night at Sisters, 45 Danforth St., Portland. "All Out Comedy" is a 78 minute knee slapper and non-stop laughter presentation by Poole/Rich Productions. \$5 donation.

**Friday, September 30th:**

**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.

## A GLIMPSE INTO OCTOBER

**Saturday, October 1st:**

**Δ• 8:30 AM-4:00 PM** - Leadership for Diversity workshop presented by National Coalition Building Institute, International (NCBI). YWCA, 87 Spring St., Portland. Cost \$65. Some

scholarships available. FMI, Diane Gilman, 882-8022.

**ΔΔ 10:00 AM-4:30 PM** - FIGHT THE RIGHT - Maine NOW Conference, Bangor High School, 885 Broadway, Bangor. Plenary session, Street Theater with "Freedom Trashcan II", video room, music, vendors, round table discussion, "Fighting the Right" small group discussions, networking. FMI, JoAnne, 989-3306, or Joyce, 825-3962.

**ΔΔ - 8:00 PM** - Wild Iris Productions presents The Lesbian Lounge Lizards and Monica Grant. First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland. \$10.50 in advance, \$12 day of the show.

**Northern Lambda Nord** - Annual membership drive and dance. FMI, call the Gay/Lesbian Phoneline 498-2088.

**Sunday, October 2nd:**

**ΔΔ 1:00 PM** - MAINE AIDS WALK steps off from 10 sites to raise funds for AIDS Service Organizations

**ΔΔ 2:00-4:00 PM** - Equal Protection Maine/Bangor meets at the Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI write EPM/Bangor, PO Box 963, Bangor 04402-0963 or call 990-3420.

**Tuesday, October 4th:**

**ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM** - The Gathering presents *Womyn and the AIDS Epidemic: Personal Accounts and THE FACTS!* USM Campus Center, Bedford St., Portland.

**Δ• 6:00-9:00PM** - Sexual Assault Advocacy Training program begins. This 40 hour training, two evenings a week for six weeks offered by The Rape Crisis Center, Portland. FMI call Anne Marie at 799-9020.

*If your group or organization has an event coming up, send the information to Community Pride Reporter by the 15th of the month previous to the event. It's FREE!*

Chitwood, from page 3

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

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

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

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

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

Tom Allen, who was Mayor of Portland when Peter O'Donnell brought the Human Rights Ordinance to the City Council said, "I know that the ordinance

## CPR Personals

HOT GUYS ARE WAITING...

### MAINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ME **MAINE MAN:** Hi I'm from southern Maine 30's 155 brown hair blue eyes I like to have fun and laugh alot I like to stay in shape. like to meet someone 21-30 to talk and have fun or whatever. #34189

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

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

**SINGLE? YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE.**

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

### INSTRUCTIONS:

To Place Your FREE Printed Ad With VoiceMail, Call 1-800-546-MENN

To Respond or Browse Personals CALL THE 900 # SHOW, THEN:

PRESS: 1. Free Personal Ad With Voice Mailbox.

PRESS: 2. Hear Latest Personals Sorted By Area Code

PRESS: 3. Respond To A Specific Printed Ad Shown Here.

PRESS: 4. Instructions & Tips

PRESS: 0. To Talk LIVE!

PRESS: \*. To Pick Up Messages In Your Mailboxes.

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

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

Waterville **I CAN REALLY COOK:** Student seeks a yng guy under 30 to spend time with. I can cook, too! #28884

Portland **TINGLE ALL OVER:** Seeking men in good mind/body shape. I have incredible techniques and would love to make you feel great. #29064

ME **THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS:** Anatomically, I am a man. You better hurry before I change more than my mind. I am looking for guy to treat me like the sexy lady I am. Call me and experience me. #29420

ME **CENTRAL STATE:** 23 yr old married guy seeks discreet friends for a little adventure. #26412

ME **SOUTHERN COAST:** 5'8", 165, 30. Into guys who like a really good time. Let's get it together. #24573

ME **HAIR HERE:** 30 year old GWM, 5'10", 190 with long black hair, beard and a stache. I am hairy and into camping, hiking and hanging out. #19203

ME **CENTRAL STATE:** Definite tip is hoping to hear from you soon. #19212

Maine **SHOW ME THE WAY:** New to the scene ad interested in a man in his early 30's. I am good looking and in good shape. Help me explore. #16925

Maine **SOUL CONNECTION:** 27 year old is into theater and bicycling in the outdoors. Quiet guy likes to have fun. #13122

Caribou Area **NORTHERN EXPOSURE:** Northern Maine: looking to meet local guys. Let's keep warm. #9254

### Maine Area

Sanford **I NEED IT BAD:** Mark looking for hairy musc well built guy to take care of my needs #43085

Western MA **LEAVE THE SCRABBLE AT HOME:** Rick 6' 175 brn/grn must masculine musc hot tp gdlikng musc serious only no games. #39447

Millard **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:** 22 yr. old, 5'11", Brn hair, goatee, cute, looking for guys 18-35 yrs. old who are in good shape and are looking for encounters. #32673

NH **SOUTH CENTRAL NH:** Looking for guys 18-30 yrs. old for friendship and get togethers. #32636

**Women Seeking Women?**  
FEMALE ONLY PERSONALS

There's no charge to leave a greeting:  
**1-800-326-MEET**

To pick-up your private responses or browse:  
**1-900-884-4297**

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**"If he's out there, he's in here!"**  
**YOU CAN RESPOND TO AN AD BY CALLING:**  
**1-900-884-GAYS**  
TOUCH-TONE REQUIRED. \$1.99/MIN. OVER 18 ONLY. MFI: 415-281-3183

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waterville **FLOWER POWER:** 5'8", Blk/Brn, interested in meeting other men. I am into gardening and weight lifting. #11736

Portland **BOY NEXT DOOR:** 6' GWM, clean cut, all American guy looking for other nice guys 18-30 yrs. old into getting together for a good time. #30974

Portland **REACH OUT AND FEEL SOMEONE:** 20 yr old, 5'8", 155, brn/blk. I want to talk and meet with guys in the area. Call for my number. #28765

Meet MAINE Men Now!

has made this city stronger, more tolerant and more progressive than it was. This ordinance has been a great benefit to the City of Portland." He then read a statement from the City Council, and four former Councilors, in which they declared their unanimous opposition to CMF's referendum. The statement pointed out that Carolyn Cosby led the fight against the Portland law and lost, and that she is now trying to win, statewide, what she lost locally.

After the formal remarks, CPR asked Chief Chitwood to comment on the effectiveness of the ordinance. He said that the incidence of anti-gay vio-

lence has decreased even as the reporting of these events has increased. He credits the reduction in violence to the passage of Portland's Human Rights Ordinance.

Barbara Wood, the former City Councilor, offered CPR some historical background. She mentioned the unanimous passage by the City Council in May 1991, of an ordinance to protect city employees from discrimination. The year of experience that that policy provided, paved the way for O'Donnell's city-wide ordinance in 1992. ΔΔ



# COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

## GENERAL

**ML/GPA** is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on L/G issues. Primary goals are to involve the L/G community in Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)** is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Meetings are 2nd Tuesday of every month at Pride's Corner Church, Westbrook. For resource and meeting information call Rita at 766-5158.

**Northern Lambda Nord** is an educational, informational, social, and service organization serving lesbian, gay, and bisexual people in northern Maine and New Brunswick. Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (N-B), at Lions Community Ctr., High St., Caribou, and can be reached every Wednesday by The Phoneline in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/498-2088.

**The Matlovich Society** is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing person-affirming presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. Portland. Free parking and accessible to the mobility-impaired. Call 207/773-1209.

**National Association of Social Workers, ME Chapter, Sexual Minority Issues Committee** welcomes new social work members. Our purpose is to educate, provide resources, and lobby legislators on issues involving sexual minorities in Maine. Meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm at the Community Counseling Ctr., 343 Forest Ave., Portland. FMI call Perry Sutherland, 874-1030.

**AA Gay and Lesbian Speaker/Discussion** meeting every Thursday, 7:00 pm in Saco. Great meeting at The Open Hand on School St. Come share your experience and hope. FMI, call 934-5701.

**HATE CRIMES & BIAS INCIDENTS:** Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Maine Department of the Attorney General - 626-8844.

## MUSIC

**Women In Harmony** is an eclectic choral ensemble open to all women regardless of age, race, religion, or sexual orientation. If you are interested in becoming a member or volunteering organizational skills, send SASE (including your phone number) to P.O. Box 7944, Portland, ME. 04112, or call 772-0013.

**Maine Gay Men's Chorus** is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 883-8099 or write M.G.M.C., P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME. 04104.

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

## PHONE SUPPORT

### Region by region

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

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

### Portland:

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

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

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

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

**Bangor:** Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

**Belfast:** Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

**Brunswick:** Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

**Bridgton:** Community Task Force on AIDS: 583-6608 -

**Rumford:** Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

**Lewiston:** Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

**Waterville:** Dayspring: 626-3432

**Ellsworth:** Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

### Contacts in Maine

(\* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

\*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: see Waldoboro

\*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

\*Portland: 766-5158

Waldoboro: 832-5859

### Contacts in New Hampshire

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

Plymouth: 603/968-7516

Nashua: 603/880-8709

Manchester: 603/668-0741

Monadnock: 603/547-2545

Hanover: 603/763-4603

Concord: 603/746-3818

### New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

**Concord:** Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/668-0741.

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

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

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Medical Support

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

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

### Identity Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse:** A support group for survivors of childhood abuse and/or sexual assault meets every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3 pm. Free, confidential, safe, facilitated. For more information and location call 874-6593. Sponsored by USM's Womyn's Forum.

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

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

**Lesbian/Bisexual support group:** Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UMaine Orono.

source Center 101 Fernald Hall at UMaine Orono. FMI call 581-1425.

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

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

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

**Building an Inclusive Community:** Meets to explore ways of building an inclusive and safe community, offering support, activities and education at Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition, 4 Lafayette Street, Lewiston. Call for times. 795-6219.

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

### Parents

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

**Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group:** Meeting in the Augusta area the Augusta area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, Me 04332-0013.

**Mothers and Kids Group:** Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopting. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04116.

### Youth Support

**OUTRIGHT TOO:** Sundays, 6 pm at Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center, Harlow St., Bangor. Support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual youth ages 16-22. FMI, call 285-7180.

**OUTRIGHT/Central Maine:** Weekly, confidential meetings for gay, lesbian, & questioning youth 22 years and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

**OUTRIGHT/Portland:** Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5370 Station A, Portland, ME. 04101.

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

### HIV Related Support Meetings

#### Portland:

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



# Classified Advertising

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Maine AIDS Alliance

### Member Organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

## FOR RENT

ΔΔ 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 canoeing and other rural indulgences. \$300 / month plus share utilities. Call Doug or Miriam 443-1211. ΔΔ

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

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

ΔΔ 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. ΔΔ

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

## MASSAGE

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

## HELP WANTED:

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

ΔΔ REPORTERS: Community Pride Reporter seeks additional reporters, particularly in Bangor, Houlton, Lewiston, Auburn, Augusta and Farmington. Please submit letter of interest with writing sample and qualifications to: CPR, 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland ME 04101. ΔΔ

ΔΔ 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. ΔΔ

## TRAVEL/VACATION

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

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

## BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

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

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

## ΔΔ Transformational Breath Awareness Workshop:

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

## COMPANIONSHIP

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

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# Arts & Entertainment

## VIDEOS ON REVIEW: "Out in Suburbia: Stories of Eleven Lesbians"

by Dot McMurtry

"Out in Suburbia" is a video made in 1986 that was presented for viewing and discussion at the Matlovich Society, on August 25th. It depicted a narrow segment of the lesbian community in their struggles to be out to friends and family and to blend into their suburban neighborhoods. The women appeared to be middle-class (though thankfully,

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 or 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 lie low and blend in, we lose the drive to fight, to be public about our need for equal rights. I know many apolitical people who don't see the need for working toward change because it doesn't affect them. They feel comfortable because they don't need to have their sexuality known at work, or the neighbors "know" and leave them alone. It's too easy to forget that we're still an oppressed minority, that we can't visit a sick lover in intensive care. A lot of hets, 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



ZOE LEWIS AND JULIE WHEELER "THE LESBIAN LOUNGE LIZARDS"

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Photo by DOC

The stars of the show, l. to r. Joanne Amato, Edie Hoffman, Marilee Ryan and Tammy Duffy, take a break for an interview with CPRA & E Editor, J. Morgan.

## ARTISTS PROFILE

An Interview with the Cast, Writer and Producer of *Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee*: an original tragic comedy.

by J.H. Morgan, Arts Editor

The Oak Street Theater, located in the Arts District on Oak Street (where else??) in Portland, is pursuing some creative and exciting changes in the burgeoning world of theater in Maine. A press conference has been scheduled in early September to announce some substance to the expectations of theatergoers this season. We will carry more details in our September issue. In the meantime, why not plan an evening at The Oak Street Theater to see what promises to be a unique premiere presentation entitled, "*Intreat Me Not to Leave Thee*," a tragi-comedy about two women living together in New York.

The Scene: an apartment in New York. The Conflict: Gogo and Didi are lovers — or at least Gogo loves Didi and Didi loves being loved. This 1990s couple never leaves their apartment and co-dependency runs rampant. The outcome? We'll have to wait for the September 18th opening to see this original work, presented by a company so new it doesn't yet have a name. Formed by a group of friends— Joanna Amato, Tammy Duffy, Edie Hoffman and Marilee Ryan— these women show what you can do with good ideas, talent, and a willingness to take risks. I had an opportunity to talk with them about this production, which by the way, is writer Marilee Ryan's first play.

Beckett fans will recognize the characters' names from *Waiting for Godot*, but don't expect just a rewrite of this classic. Here we have a timely questioning of labels: "Gogo loves Didi, but Didi is 'straight,'" says Ryan. "Would the situation be different if Didi didn't have to label herself 'lesbian' to love Gogo back?," she asked during our time together. (These women were in

rehearsal and graciously took time out for us.) In highlighting the restrictions created by labels, the play shows how language can define and restrict action.

The play also gives us local interest: Gogo wants to take Didi to Maine, but Didi "... knows there's a big difference between love and dependence." Can Didi and Gogo ever make their escape to Vacationland? Could a change in geography change Didi's outlook and cure the couple's problems?

*Intreat* also comments on technology and its potential to contribute to isolation; as seems to be more and more the case with people today. The two are closed off from others, thanks to the technology that allows them to work from their apartment, taking on-line surveys via their personal computer. "The more I do this play the more I can't leave the house," joked Joanna Amato, former assistant director for True West at Portland Stage. Amato plays Didi. (Users of the information super-highway beware: you could be turning into PC potatoes!)

Gogo, who quips "everyone wears black" when Didi suggests she is depressed, is played by Tammy Duffy, who has just been asked to join the Mad Horse Theater Company. Both Amato and Duffy studied with Cynthia Barnett at Mad Horse. Although not strictly autobiographical, the play developed from Marilee Ryan's experience during a four month stint in New York. Produced by Edie Hoffman, the play will be performed on Sunday, September 18 through Wednesday, September 21 at 7:00 pm at the Oak Street Theater. Tickets are \$7.00 at the door, or you may call 775-5103 for reservations. ΔΔ

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## MUSIC ON REVIEW: Diana Daniel and Lynn Deeves - "Live"

by Aimsel L. 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 *Sisters* the place to be? Two names: Lynn Deeves 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 and nearly two hundred other folks down to Danforth st.

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

Keeping in mind that Diana lives in California, and she and Lynn have only had a day or so to practice together, in addition to over the phone, that is, they really dazzled us. It's been two years since they've played together, but they seemed to have picked up where they left off.

Mind you, even though their choice of Indigo Girls and Melissa Etheridge songs was undeniably great,



Photo by Aimsel Ponti

*Diana Daniels, (l) and Lynn Deeves 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 and Diana took turns doing

solos, and Diana's cover of the Lisa Loeb & Nine Stories tune, "Stay" was better than the original. Lynn's humor kept things light as she scorched on her 6 string through Melissa's, "Like the Way I Do." She commented on how Melissa milks the "nobody aches for you" part of the song for all its worth during her live show. It was especially exciting to hear the duo's acoustic version of Etheridge's, "I Will Never be the Same." Personally, I think the song was meant to be "unplugged."

Perhaps one of the best things about the Monday night show was the support shown by the lesbian community for local music. "A tremendous feeling of support from the women of Maine," is how Lynn described the experience. Diana added, "It was the warmest welcome I've had in a long time." Over the course of 19 songs, Lynn Deeves 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 anytime. 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! ΔΔ

## 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 looked 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 seething with undercurrents and eddies of plot, as they chase down leads through all lev-

els of Manhattan society from the ultra wealthy pre jet-set to the dangerous brothels of the lower east side. They are abducted 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, slumlords 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 cen-

tury 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. ΔΔ

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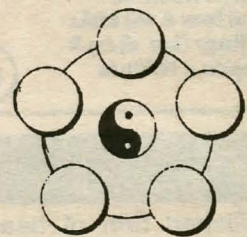
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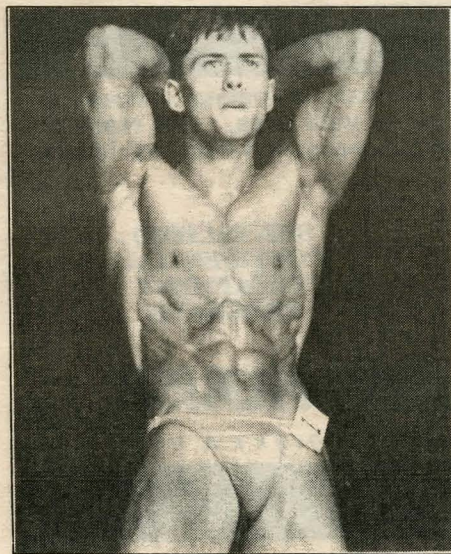
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## Health Care Refore -- Whats in it for lesbians?

### 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 reform.

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 ones' partner in the hospital or hold her hand in the emergency room, as well as amusing tales of lesbians leaving family planning clinics with unneeded birth control. Mostly, lesbians probably don't require different treatment or special expertise from their health care providers, but under certain circumstances, the lack of knowledge coupled with cultural barriers (homophobia, sexism, etc.) can seriously affect lesbians' health and health care.

Obviously, oppression, fear and closeting 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 re-

ceive needed information on preventing her partner from catching her vaginal infection. She may not be told about latex barriers for oral sex or that she needs to clean her dildo.

The 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 "alternative" 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.

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

Another factor that has affected the quality of our health care is the dearth 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 instead of the traditional deviance/disease perspective. Little data exists to assess lesbians' risks for breast and cervical cancer, endometriosis, substance abuse, or HIV. The counseling and social work professions have been more attentive than medical care providers. Alternative health care providers have also been relatively uninterested, despite many lesbians' favoring of non-allopathic, non-western, and natural health care.

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

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

VIDEO, from page 16

And what's so great about being one of THEM? I believe in fitting into the larger community but only on my terms, and that includes keeping my lesbian identity intact at all times. It means working to preserve our own community, being proud to be different, going beyond coming out and living as openly gay people in our daily lives.

It was the complacency of some of the women in this film that set me off. No one was angry. Even the teacher who knew she had to keep quiet about her lesbianism took her silence as a matter of course. I guess for some people, there will always be the path of least resistance. But not for me. **ΔΔ**

## Maine Children's Cancer Program 10K WALK

by Winnie Weir, Editor

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

Until 1981, most Maine children with cancer had to travel to out-of-state medical centers to receive care and participate in clinical research programs. This separated families from loved ones, jobs and community support in times of greatest need. The Maine Children's Cancer Program was developed to provide a comprehensive, community-based program within the state. Hundreds of Maine families have since received treatment from the Program.

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

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

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

All of this takes an enormous amount of money. Thankfully, this program has been successful in nurturing a broad base of support. The 10K WALK is part of that base. On Saturday, September 24th, hundreds (maybe even thousands!) of people will step off in Portland, Dexter, Lewiston/Auburn, Rockland and Waterville to raise needed funds.

For more information on the WALK, call the Maine Children's Cancer Program, 871-6274 or *Community Pride Reporter*, 879-1342. (Ed. note: Call the CPR office, 879-1342, and become my sponsor or become a WALKer yourself!) **ΔΔ**

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## Money Talk: Investments

by Peter J. Callnan, 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. These include:

- **Security of the Investment and Earnings:** How safe is the money? What is the risk of losing some or all of it?

- **Rate of Return:** How much will the investment pay? How much is enough? How do I determine the return I want?

- **After Tax Yield:** Are tax free investments better? Do they effectively pay more? How is the after-tax yield determined?

- **Marketability and Liquidity:** How easy will it be to sell the investment later? Will it sell quickly? Will there be a ready buyer? How long should an investment be held?

- **Diversification:** Should I put all my money into only one investment or several? Why should I diversify and how do I do it?

- **Size of Investment:** How much money is needed to start investing? How much do I want to invest? How much is enough?

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

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

## In These Times: Living with Homophobia

by David Smith

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

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

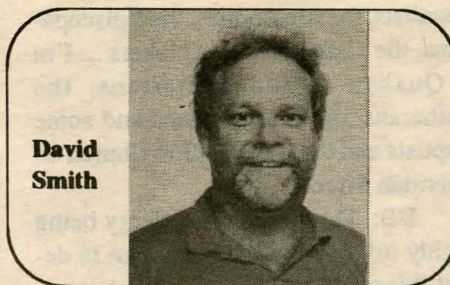
But what can we expect when the United States Senate attaches an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that says that schools cannot present homosexuality in a positive light. The Smith-Helms amendment apparently sailed through the Senate by a 63 to 36 margin. What were they thinking?

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

Let's examine some of the basic fallacies underlying this Smith-Helms amendment:

- homosexuality can be taught
- homosexuality is merely a choice
- the schools are not the place to discuss sexual orientation
- the Federal government should decide what is taught in schools

Somehow Jesse is so afraid of homosexuality he thinks if it is portrayed in a positive light, more people are going to be gay. With the current level of homophobia and oppression in our so-



ciety, few would choose to subject themselves to that. Not only can homosexuality not be taught, heterosexuality can not be taught either. Think of it - In our totally heterosexual society, we all hear, in school, at home and in society, that we are and should be heterosexual. However, many of us discover that we are not - even with all that teaching, and thank heavens that we do!

This relates to discrimination against gay teachers. They think we will "turn" kids gay. If teachers had that power there would be a lot more nuns out there! Helms and others believe we are making a choice when we announce our homosexuality that we are just being willful. This is not true. Sexual orientation is determined by many biological and genetic factors.

Homosexuality is a regularly occurring natural phenomenon. We have always existed in all cultures. Not talking about us, Jesse, will not make us go away.

Some think that if we prohibit discussion of homosexuality in schools, then schools will not be dealing with sexual orientation. I would suggest that a major function of schools is to foster and promote heterosexuality. That's why dating and dances are so much a part of the unwritten curriculum. That's why the culminating experience of high

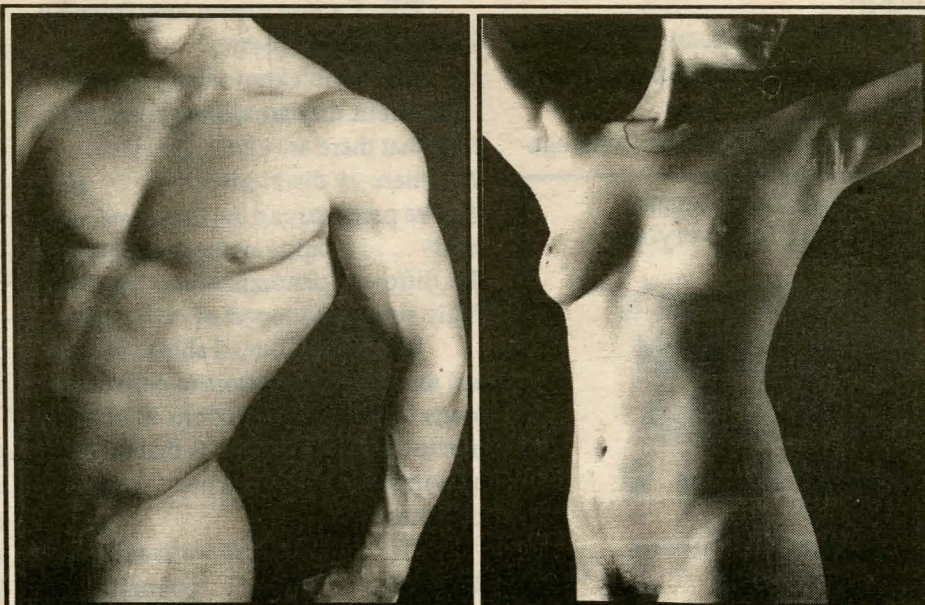
school is a heterosexual prom - with a King and Queen. (How about just two queens???) In fact, schools exist to support the status quo. In this case that means to support heterosexuality.

Not teaching about homosexuality puts many children at risk. It oppresses young gay men and lesbians when they are at a very vulnerable stage of life. Effective, comprehensive, health education demands that we teach human sexuality - all human sexuality. I suppose Helms is really against that too, but hasn't had the opportunity to gain support for such an amendment. He probably wants people only to be sexual when heterosexually married and only in one position. Would he outlaw oral sex if he could? What about masturbation?

We have never had the federal government tell schools what to teach. Local control of schools and education has been a hallowed tradition in America. Can we violate that just because some people are homophobic? Is Big Brother just around the corner? What about freedom of speech? What about the pursuit of knowledge? What about academic freedom? All of these traditions have made America great. The stupidity and hatred of homophobic bigots threatens these traditions.

It's about time all Americans realized that those of us fighting for gay rights are, in effect, fighting the horrible results of a patriarchal and sexist society. Our work is beneficial to all Americans. It's about time more Americans join with us and see the battle against homophobia as a battle that impacts on all Americans.

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## Leaders from page 2

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.

Wessler insisted 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, "Our position is . . . 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 could have prosecuted but the victims were unwilling to come 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 Congrega-

tionalists, 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



Balboni Photo

"I regret that this referendum takes on the name of Christian teaching. We should accept each other as the precious individuals we are, each a child of God," said Tom Ewell, ME Council of Churches.

think it was a very high percentage who were willing to sign that . . . and put money up and sign it . . . and . . . I have a lot of support from the denominational office in terms of civil rights . . . so, I would expect that there will be some involvement . . . I don't know at what level.

BB: Can we expect help from the Roman Catholic Bishop?

TE: I don't know about support . . . but, I think they are willing to acknowledge that there are civil rights issues . . . that there is discrimination . . . and, they're pretty strong on that. And, certainly . . . I would say the leadership of the different denominations has been fairly strong in support of civil rights.

BB: Is the Council able to encourage ministers and pastors to deliver sermons to their congregations in opposition to this referendum? Is that the kind of support we can expect from the churches?

TE: I don't think we would give direction . . . we're . . . committed to engaging people in discussion and dialogue as much as we possibly can. One of the things that I think is very important is that when the churches are safe and gay and lesbian members of the congregation can come out, and families who have gay and lesbian members are able to speak . . . that will be an important part of the discussion . . . the churches are very much involved now in discussions around sexual orientation. It's a source of great division but it's also . . . encouraging because they are talking about it.

One of the things, I think, that is a

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 a gay organist . . . 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. I would 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 McIlhenny 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 . . . ?

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.

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 are 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. In my denomination, when 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; where it puts you in a different status than was presumed. But gay and lesbian parents, their status is not going to change. I think that's one thing I would obviously encourage.

BB: What do you think of the "Hate the sin, not the sinner" approach of CMF to homosexuality and the biblical proscriptions 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 radical acceptance, a much more radical sense of love for another person. This business about making a distinction between orientation and behavior is one that is certainly 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 with the minister. If you did that 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 as far as 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 though that it'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, is always appropriate, or may ever be appropriate, and that has something to do with their personal lives. There's so little we really know about our sexual orientation, where one falls on the spectrum, why one falls on a particular spectrum, at what different times of their lives or at different times of the day. But, to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, to me, is understandable, I guess, on the one hand, because anything that seems to be different in the human society is singled out and often ridiculed, but I think we are at a point now where we can accept those differences and celebrate them as long as they don't impinge on me, at the point that anybody imposes their behavior or their life-style then, of course, I have a right to say I don't want to be a part of this or that group, including church groups."

It is interesting to note here that in the September 1, 1994 issue of "Church World," Maine's Catholic Weekly, Father Michael Henchal wrote in a piece entitled, "Understanding diversity means religions, too," that the dignity of every human being extends, "to the rich and poor, to the old and young, to sick and elderly and to those with physical and emotional disabilities, to persons of all races, genders, religions, and, yes, to those of whatever sexual orientation, equally."

Henchal wrote, "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 ambiguities we have pointed out in previous discussions of such legislation. We believe legislation is possible which will protect persons from unjust discrimination while, at the same time, respecting the rights and moral norms of Catholics, Evangelical Christians and others, who have not been able to support previous legislative attempts in this area." (These 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 at issues of discrimination and bias in the state and to develop recommendations for the legislature.)

Geraghty responded to questions regarding organization:

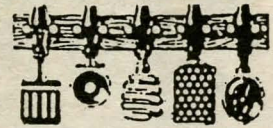
BB: What organization, can you say now, is going to spearhead the campaign against the referendum?

KG (Karen Geraghty): Our coalition, whatever that coalition becomes

See Leaders, page 21

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## Leaders, from page 20

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. But 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... plus... 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 sign the petition. 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, they were misled?

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

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



Balbani Photo

Pat Peard, MCLU President-elect, said, "Who is she (Cosby) to determine who is entitled to civil rights and who isn't?"

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." ΔΔ

## 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. Pets provide love and companionship so necessary to all of us, but particularly for persons living with

HIV/AIDS.

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

## 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 spills out its guiding light across the vast waters. The adjacent community is a typical Maine seacoast town, sporting some interesting old shops as an added attraction.

On the way back up the peninsula is Pemiquid 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. ΔΔ

### Tips for Coming Out Every Day

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



National Coming Out Day is October 11.

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COSBY, from page 1

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, that when 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 she hates homosexuals by saying, "I'm always grieved 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



*Cosby signs CMF petition, as husband, David, looks on. "We've waited a long time for this," she said. Their signing marked the end of CMF's petition drive. She was ebullient and over-dressed for the occasion.*

Balboni Photo

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 they're moving forward to do is emotionalize the campaign, paint me as a villain, I have 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 no 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 could never 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 ...?

Bangor, from page 1

ernment 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 wor-

C.Cosby: It's always made public.

B. Balboni: Are you getting funding from outside sources, from national groups?

C.Cosby: No, we are not and I am very proud to say, and we kept it this way deliberately . . . this is a Maine initiative. This was done by Maine volunteers. We're very proud of that. We have received no funding from any outside sources. In fact we haven't had very much from inside sources (laughs).

C.Canny: How much have you raised so far?

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

C.Canny: You must have a guess of how much you'll need within a hundred or two hundred thousand ...?

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

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

Cosby refused to answer whether she thought homosexuality could be cured but she did claim that, "We have had homosexuals tell us they are homosexuals, that is the only way we can know they are, and then proceed to sign our petition and tell us they agree with us. I don't know if any of these people will be public or not, that's up to them." Cosby insists no one was misled as to what the petitions were all about. ΔΔ

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thy 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, Priscilla Attean, State Representative, Penobscot 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 murder.

Jane Saxl and Sean Faircloth, lo-  
See Bangor, page 23



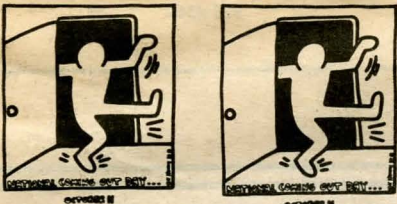
**Camp Trans, from page 9**

regarding their medical history or their commitment to uphold festival policy. The protesters were then surrounded by the contingent of Lesbian Avengers and 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 throughout 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 wording of festival policy as "womyn born womyn" only remains unclear and that it is still uncertain whether openly transsexual women will be allowed to attend the festival without fear of expulsion in the future. Unless there is further clarification of these issues in the interim and the festival abolishes its "womyn born womyn" only policy, activists say they will continue their protests next year.

△△

**Bangor, from page 22**

cal state representatives were present. Saxl accused CMF of trying to usurp the power of the legislature, as well as prevent the legislature from passing laws appropriately protecting all citizens.

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 free market system."

"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 evicted from their homes, or lose their job because of something unrelated to their tenancy or work performance, that is wrong and that is bad for a free market, capitalist system. . .

**HATE, from page 2**

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

Stephen L. Wessler, Assistant Attorney General and Director of Public Protection - Civil Rights Unit, pointed out that 30% of all biased crime incidents reported are from gays and lesbians. He also noted that of 15 or 20 cases that had gone to trial, all but one had been decided in favor of the victim. That one exception was a homophobic assault on a heterosexual father and son who appeared a little too intimate for the two assailants.

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

Mary Ann of Sisters pointed out that gay people, particularly more obvious lesbians, are reluctant to deal with the police because of police officer's often unsympathetic or hostile attitudes toward gays and lesbians. The response was that the police must draw its officers from the pool of citizens as would any business, but like any other hierarchy, if the reporting officer or the civil rights officer provides unsatisfactory service, the victim or advocates for the victim, can go to the officers supervisor, or to the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General's office employs Stephen Wessler as well as a biased crimes detective who can apply pressure to the particular police department to move on a report.

Every single police department in the state has a civil rights officer whose job is to report and investigate any biased crime incident that comes directly from a victim or as an inquiry from the Attorney General's office as a result of reports from

an interested party. The civil rights officer's name may be obtained from the police department of each town or from the Attorney General's Office, State House Station 6, Augusta, ME 04333.

After a poll of the bar owners revealed that none of them felt there were any harassment problems, probing questions from officials as to the odd response revealed that owners, just as many gays and lesbians, had accepted a level of homophobic abuse which they discounted out of hand. Damage to vehicles, verbal assaults, even stalking were listed by the owners as "acceptable" incidents.

Assistant Attorney General Wessler noted that different minority groups had traditionally evidenced certain forms of harassment, even physical encounters as "blind spots" of acceptable endangerment. He emphasized again that all incidents should be reported, even if seemingly inconsequential and reported anonymously, because it will assist in preventing escalations of violence and in prosecutions, should escalation to violence happen.

Although not mentioned by the law enforcement officials present at this discussion, hate crime statistics are used by the radical right wing to discount the claim that gay, lesbian and bisexual people need protection or are a discernible minority. We can expect that reports will very likely be monitored by Concerned Maine Families. The '95 referendum question to deprive gays and lesbians of civil rights protection in Maine will also deprive us of the excellent legal strength of biased crimes prosecution. If passed, the referendum will remove gay, lesbian and bisexual people from a hate crimes classification.

It is imperative that you report every incident of homophobic comment or assault to the office of the Attorney General, 626-8844, or to your local Civil Rights Officer in any town in Maine. As a community, we need to take advantage of the systems already in place to help us.

**1994 Maine AIDS walk scheduled**

by Winnie Weir, Editor

What better way to spend a fall day in Maine than taking a five mile 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 ten sites around the state 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.

There will be pre-walk festivities including entertainment by local artists, refreshments before, during and after the Walk, a few speeches (brief! Very brief!) and grand prizes for the top fund raisers.

The Maine AIDS Walk-Portland is a five mile walk coordinated by the Maine AIDS Alliance and local AIDS service organizations to benefit HIV/AIDS education and care in central and southern Maine. The proceeds will be used by local organizations for direct care, support and education. HIV/AIDS affects all Maine citizens. It's important that we all work together in the battle against HIV/AIDS in Maine.

You can help by volunteering to walk and then getting as many sponsors as you can. Don't overlook family, co-workers, friends. Registration and donor/pledge sheets are included with this copy of CPR and additional copies can be obtained from TAP or other AIDS service organizations. You can also photocopy them for wider distribution. Each person who pre-registers by September 15th will receive a free, commemorative Maine AIDS Walk t-shirt. If you are able to recruit a whole team, your t-shirts will have your team name printed on the back and you will be in the running for prizes to be awarded to the team raising the most money.

This effort is looking to raise between \$75,000 and \$100,000. Walkers are being encouraged to set a goal of raising \$100. At \$10 a sponsor that's only 10 sponsors. Think about it . . . a fall day in Maine and a five mile stroll with friends, hundreds of friends . . . AND you get to feel good about yourself for raising money for AIDS service organizations. YES!

For more information, you can call The AIDS Project, 774-6877. There will be limited free parking at Cheverus High School, (the starting point in Portland) so car pool with other walkers.

(Ed. note: The CPR team is looking for sponsors. Call 879-1342 and let us sign you up on our pledge sheets. Hurry, we want shirts with our names on them!) △△

Therefore, I think that those who want Maine to have a growing economy and want Maine to have a continuing low crime rate will oppose this type of proposal."

"I am here because I am the female head of a household that lives in Maine, and I am 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 being 'gay' and who checks out his friends to see if they are 'homos' . . . I've had arguments with my son over the fact that I have testified in support of civil rights 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 in a place where they hear 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 I saw there," 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 as 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 your legal troubles. . . We have confidence that the people of Maine will not allow Carolyn Cosby to write a law that forces them to discriminate." △△



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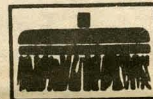
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