

Community Pride Reporter

FREE

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

VOL. 2, Number 6

DECEMBER, 1994

Jury finds Gessner guilty as charged

Tragedy continues for both families

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Mark Gessner, 30, was found guilty of murder, December 3, in the shooting death of Bath florist, Melvin Henderson, 74, May 5. The trial lasted four days. The jury took nine hours to reach its verdict. Gessner faces a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison which can be reduced up to 40% with "good time."

Gessner alleged that Henderson, a closeted homosexual, had raped him when he worked at Henderson's greenhouse 15 years ago. Gessner went to friend Darryl Ricker's house, the night of the murder to borrow a gun for the purpose of shooting the "other queer." Gessner said, "I shot one this morning, I blew him away."

The "other queer's" identity was revealed for the first time at the trial. It is David Robinson, 44, Henderson's lover of 25 years. Gessner implied that Robinson had participated in the molestation. Robinson denied this allegation from the witness stand as well as denying any sexual contact with male employees of Kennebec Greenhouse.

Ricker telephoned Gessner's brother, Luke, and Gessner's father, Herbert right after Mark left his house. When these family members telephoned Mark later that same night, he kept repeating, "Don't worry about it. He was just a fag." Homophobic remarks such as this were made from the witness stand



Balboni Photo

Mark Gessner is taken back to jail following his conviction for murder. The jury did not believe he was insane when he shot Melvin Henderson in the back of the head.

repeatedly throughout the trial.

"We knew he was a fag."

On the first day of the trial, Tuesday, November 28, this reporter arrived early and rode in the elevator with an elderly couple. We exchanged pleasantries about the weather. I asked, "Are you here for the trial?" "Yes, we're the grandparents," responded the man. "Did you know Henderson?" I inquired. "We knew he was a fag," responded the grandfather.

The grandmother hushed him saying, "We're not supposed to comment or say those kind of words, like queer or

fag." The grandfather continued, "I used to go into the florist shop (Henderson's) and they'd pat you on the bottom . . . if you wanted it to go further, well then . . . all that was tolerated around there, everyone knew." These allegations and others like them were contradicted during the trial by longtime employees of Henderson. The next day this same elderly gentleman put a Bible card in my pocket.

The Trial

Judge Thomas Delehanty, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, began the trial by reminding the jurors that the defendant is presumed innocent and that his guilt must be established beyond a reasonable doubt. One wondered if that same presumption of innocence would be extended to Melvin Henderson regarding the charges of sexual molestation, particularly in light of the current hysterical preoccupation with such charges.

Gessner appeared sedated. His movements were slow and deliberate. He wore an ill-fitting gray suit, white shirt and large tie.

William Stokes, the assistant Attorney General who prosecuted the case, pointed out that there are three elements to a murder conviction: a corpse, proof that the defendant committed the crime and proof that he did it knowingly.

Defense attorney, Pat Perino, conceded that Gessner had killed Henderson, but Perino had his client plead not guilty by reason of insanity. An insanity defense in Maine rests on two points: a defendant must have a mental disease or defect at the time of the crime, and that defect must have prevented the person from having the capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of their actions.

The burden of proof for the murder charge rests with the state, and they must prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden of proof for insanity rests on the defense, but they need only prove insanity by a preponderance of the evidence.



Balboni Photo

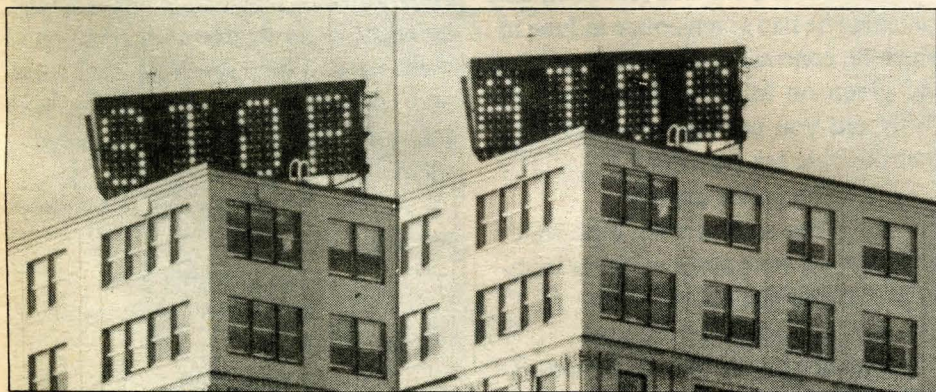
William Stokes, the Ass't. Atty. Gen. who successfully prosecuted Gessner for murder. He insisted Henderson's homosexuality was irrelevant.

According to witnesses and attorney statements, Mark Gessner left his house in Nobleboro about 10:30 am, May 5, 1994, which was the Thursday before Mother's Day. He drove to Henderson's Kennebec Greenhouse on North Street in Bath. He parked his Bronco on the street rather than pull into the parking lot.

There were four employees working that rainy, gloomy morning. There is a greenhouse attached to the shop.

See Gessner, page 2

World AIDS Day 1994



Everett Horr Photo

Portland's popular electric sign spells out a message of hope, December 1, 1994.
Photo essay by Everett Horr on page 8.

GESSNER, from page 1

Henderson chatted with his employees, some of whom had been working for him for over 20 years. David Robinson, de facto manager of the greenhouse, returned from an appointment with his psychiatrist around 11:15 am.

Two of the employees recalled seeing a man fitting Gessner's description come into the shop and enter the greenhouse where Henderson was potting geraniums for the Mother's Day rush. They heard this person leave through the shop door.

The greenhouse is connected to the shop like a "T." There is a connecting door. There is also a door on the far end of the greenhouse.

That morning, Josephine Underwood (Josie), longtime friend and employee, remembers that the radio was playing and that the door between the shop and the greenhouse was closed. Josie walked by the door to the greenhouse. She glanced in and saw what she thought was a foot.

Nancy Darling, cashier, remembers hearing Josie scream, "Melvin's on the floor, there's blood." Josie hollered to Cherie Mosher, assistant manager, to call 911. The call was made at 11:48 am. Darling and Robinson ran to the already dead Henderson.

Robinson testified that he did not touch the body. He moved the geraniums that had fallen to the floor. Henderson was lying on his back in the center aisle of the greenhouse with his feet toward the far door. He had a single bullet hole in the middle of his forehead. His head rested in a large pool of blood.

No one had heard anything.

Robinson removed the bar from the inside of the far door and moved his truck to make room for the ambulance. He did not notice the broken glass. Robinson came back in, covered Henderson with a blanket and called the victim's daughter, Melissa.

Robinson had given his notice to Henderson sometime earlier that week. Melissa Henderson, 38, said, after the trial, that, "From the beginning he (Robinson) did everything he could to destroy my father's relationship with us." Melissa has a brother, Curtis, 34, who is gay.

Robinson would be quitting the business right after Mother's Day. Robinson had shared the better part of the past 29 years with Henderson. They were separated in age by 25 years. Four years ago, Robinson ended the physical part of their relationship. Two years ago, Robinson moved out of Melvin's house which was next to the greenhouse.

Shirley Shaw, a friend of Henderson's for 18 years, said that Robinson was a jealous person and that Henderson intended to change his will. She said that Robinson was the only one who stood to lose if there were any changes.

Henderson left "Happy Hours," a seaside cottage worth \$500,000, to Robinson. Shaw thought it odd that Robinson was in the basement men's room of the shop when Henderson was shot. She thinks Gessner spoke to Robinson in the shop before he shot Henderson. These statements are disputed by Robinson and the other em-

ployees. Perino tried to implicate Robinson in the murder by mentioning their homosexual relationship and by stating that Robinson benefited from Henderson's death.

Perino cross-examined Cherie Mosher. Mosher worked for Henderson for 15 years. She denied knowing that the relationship between Henderson and Robinson was homosexual.

Perino cross-examined Robinson next. (Robinson has the appearance and demeanor of Charles Nelson Reilly.) Perino stated/asked, "You told police on May 7 you had a homosexual relationship with Melvin Henderson?" Robinson replied, "I told police I had gone to work for Melvin Henderson when I was 20 and Mr. Henderson was a father figure to me like I never had. (Henderson was 45 at the time.) I did things of a homosexual nature to please him — he was a good man."



Pat Perino, a former prosecutor, was Gessner's defense attorney. He claimed the murder made no sense unless Gessner was insane.

Perino persisted, "Did you have a homosexual relationship, yes or no?"

A: Yes.

Q: Did you have a falling out two years ago?

A: I don't understand 'falling out'

Q: Did you break up?

A: It was four years ago.

Q: Did you have sexual relationships with male employees of the greenhouse under 21?

A: No.

Q: Over 21?

A: No.

Q: Females under 21?

A: No.

Q: Females over 21?

A: Yes.

Perino then showed Robinson the statement he had given police in June in which he contradicted the statement he had given on May 7. Perino asked, "Why did you use age to distinguish your possible sex partners?"

A: The police did that.

Q: You said in your June statement that you were not completely truthful about your statement on May 7?

A: Yes, I was not truthful.

The courtroom never learned exactly what it was that Robinson had not been truthful about.

On re-direct Stokes asked, "Did

See GESSNER, page 3

Shirley Shaw



Balboni Photo
Originally she thought David Robinson killed Melvin Henderson. Now she's not sure.

During a lunch break I had the opportunity to interview Shirley Shaw (SS) who knew Melvin Henderson for 18 years. She said Henderson was very much a touchy-feely kind of guy, but that she could never imagine him forcing himself on anybody. Josephine Underwood, who worked for Henderson for 20 years, said the same thing.

CPR: What do you know about Melvin's divorce?

SS: Melvin did get divorced from his wife, but I believe the divorce was not because of any homosexual tendency. I can't believe that that was even a part of Melvin's life during the marriage. This came about slowly after he and his wife divorced. As far as David Robinson, who was Melvin's live-in companion, I think it slowly emerged into a sexual relationship. I do not believe, at the time of Melvin's marriage or the beginning of his relationship with David, which was when David was in high school, that there was any homosexual relationship.

CPR: What about the allegation made by Herbert Gessner that Melvin had a reputation for going after boys.

SS: It's not true. There were some rumors about wild parties, but people who knew Melvin for over 25 years said nothing of that nature ever happened. The only thing he did openly was that he loved to go around naked, and so did Winston Churchill. When Melvin was at his cottage, Happy Hours, he would go naked, but he kept towels all around so if anyone came nearby, he'd reach for the towel and cover up. He was comfortable nude, but he would not flaunt his nudity.

CPR: How open was he about his homosexuality?

SS: I would say not at all.

CPR: It was never spoken of between you and he?

SS: Never. And people who lived on the property say that they never saw anything, even between Melvin and David.

See SHAW, page 4

All people of good faith are invited...

Ancient Mystical Faith observed in the Modern Age

the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass according to the Tridentine Rite

Sunday Masses (missa pro populo) - 1:00 p.m.

First Mass of Christmas (missa cantata) - 12:00 Midnight

Mission Parish of St. Camillus


An Old Catholic Mission, Diocese of Michigan & Central States

Services held at the Italian Methodist Chapel (Chestnut Street

Methodist Community Building behind Portland City Hall)

For More Information Call: 780-1438





DRÖP ME A LINE...

MAINE'S BEST
SOURCE FOR
GAY AND LESBIAN
LITERATURE AND
MAGAZINES

PROGRESSIVE CARDS, GIFTS + WRAP

615a CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND 773-5547

Holiday Hours through December 23rd

Monday - Saturday : 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Sunday : 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm

Melissa Henderson



Balboni Photo

Daughter of murder victim, Melvin Henderson, she told CPR what it was "like to live with a man who was living a lie."

During the trial a woman (MH) approached me and said that she understood that I wrote for a newspaper for the homosexual community. She said she wanted our readership to know what it was like "living with a man who was living a lie." Melvin Henderson was her father. I interviewed her after the trial.

MH: I read a letter at my father's funeral which was not a nasty letter. It was truthful. I showed it to my mother and my brother. It was a declaration of independence, an emancipation. The papers, of course, used it. They said that I denounced my father. I didn't denounce him. I loved my father very, very much. But you must understand something. Well, you probably do. My father would not let anyone love him — period, because of the split in his life-style he couldn't love himself. But he was one of hundreds of thousands of men who, in order to achieve the American dream, feel they have to live this way. You can live with a lie only so long before it catches up with you. My mother, my brother and I, and several other people suffered a great deal in a brutal situation.

CPR: Was he physically abusive?

MH: My father was emotionally and physically difficult. He didn't hurt us in the context of a traditional beating. My father would use play time and other normal daytime activities to exert undue force and call it normal.

CPR: For example?

MH: He would take us up into the cemetery at night behind our house when we were little, 4, 5 and 6 and hide and then he'd pounce on you and sit on you and tickle you until you started to choke and then disappear and this was considered normal behavior.

My father would punch me in the chest, hard, as I began to develop. He did it as a greeting.

CPR: Were you aware growing up that he was a homosexual?

MH: Not until my mid-teens and the rumor mill became available to me.

See HENDERSON, page 5

GESSNER, from page 2

you have anything to do with the shooting of Melvin Henderson?" Robinson replied firmly, "Absolutely not."

Lawrence Renault, the medic who responded to the emergency call, decided on first sight that Henderson was dead. "The body was gray - black which indicates no oxygen. He was a non-viable person."

Renault originally thought the hole in the forehead was the entry wound, but when he felt the back of the head, he said it felt like "a bag of marbles." Henderson had been shot once in the back of the head with a .44 magnum Dan Wesson revolver. The gun looked like a cannon. Most of the back of Henderson's skull was obliterated.

The upper right pane of glass in the far door of the greenhouse was broken with glass fragments on the inside of the greenhouse. The possibility of suicide was eliminated because there was no gun, no bullet and no shell-casing found near the body.

Britt Gessner, wife of the accused, testified that Mark telephoned her at work shortly after noon the day of the murder. She said he sounded fine. The next reported contact with the murderer was at 6:00 pm when he telephoned Darryl Ricker, his life-long friend. He asked Ricker if he could come over and talk to him and Ricker agreed. Gessner arrived at Ricker's at 6:20 pm.

He asked Ricker if he could borrow his gun. He told Ricker he wanted to shoot the "other queer." Ricker hadn't yet heard that Melvin Henderson had been shot. Ricker asked Gessner what he meant by "queer." Gessner replied, "I shot one queer this morning. I want to shoot the other one. I went to the greenhouse and blew him away. He was watering flowers, I shot him through the glass, I saw him fall."

Ricker said he couldn't believe what he was hearing. He asked Gessner why he shot Henderson. Gessner said because Henderson was "a homo, a queer." Stokes asked Ricker if Gessner said anything about homosexuals in general, and Ricker replied that he only talked about Henderson.

Ricker then telephoned Gessner's brother, Luke, and found out that Henderson had indeed been shot. He told Luke what his brother had told him. Ricker felt he had to go to the authorities. He went to the greenhouse and was interviewed by Detective James Luce of the State Police. Ricker agreed to allow a telephone call between him and Gessner to be taped.

Shortly before midnight Ricker made the fateful call. The tape of the conversation was played in the courtroom: Gessner said, "Don't talk to anyone about it . . . don't tell anyone. You said go do that." Ricker said, "I didn't say that." Ricker added, "... aside from his sexual preference he was a helluva guy."

Gessner said, "Maybe something happened." Ricker replied, "If something happened why didn't you tell someone. No one would think less of you if it wasn't under your control." The

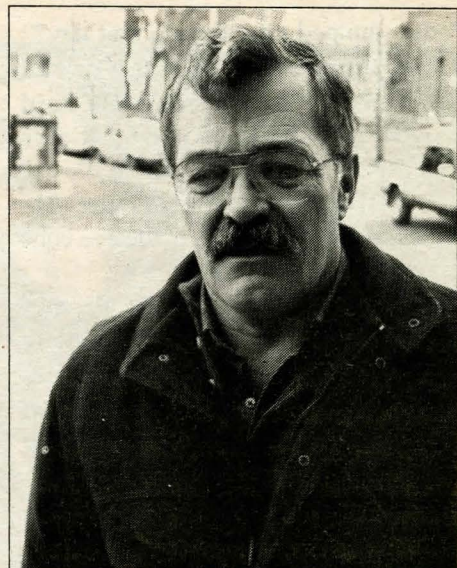
conversation meanders and then Ricker again asks, "Did he try to do something to you years ago?" Gessner answered, "I don't want to talk about that." The conversation continued briefly and Ricker tried to get Gessner to turn himself in.

Stokes then asked Ricker, "Do you recall a hunting trip where you and Mark talked about homosexuals?" Ricker said, "It didn't matter to us as long as they kept it to themselves." Stokes pressed, "Did Mark say anything unusual about homosexuals?" Ricker answered, "No, nothing out of the ordinary."

Stokes asked Ricker if he had ever worked for Henderson. Ricker had worked at the greenhouse when he was a teenager, the summer after Gessner did. Ricker said that Henderson never touched him.

Perino cross-examined Ricker challenging his recollection of the conversation regarding homosexuals between him and Gessner on that hunting trip. "You had a conversation about homosexuals on that hunting trip and about how homosexuals are now coming out of the closet and about how you both felt about homosexuals. You never made the statement they all should be shot?" Ricker replied emphatically, "No, I did not."

Later in the cross-examination Perino reminded Ricker that Gessner had said, "I want to kill that other fucking



Balboni Photo

Herbert Gessner, Mark's father, said his son does not hate homosexuals.

queer." Perino asked, "You thought something happened between him and Henderson?" Ricker answered, "Yes." "And that Robinson was a part of it?" "Yes."

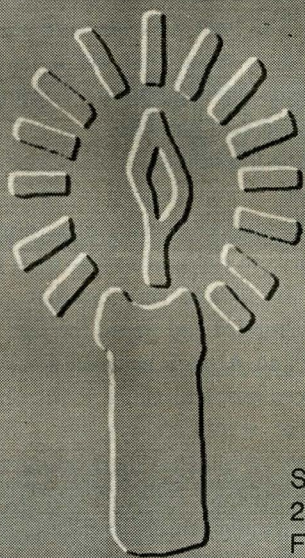
Stokes objected. The judge sustained.

Perino charged ahead, "Do you know if Melvin Henderson touched anyone?" Before Ricker could answer, Stokes was on his feet, "Objection!" The judge sustained.

On re-direct Stokes asked Ricker, "In all the years you knew Mark Gessner he never told you anything happened between him and Melvin Henderson?" Ricker responded, "Not before that day."

See GESSNER, page 4

The Maine Gay Men's Chorus



Light
up the
Night

a winter celebration

Sunday, December 11th
2:00P.M.
Friday, December 16th
8:00P.M.

St. Luke's Cathedral
State Street, Portland, Maine

Tickets available at:
Drop Me A Line
Bookland, Mall Plaza
State Theater (MC & Visa only.)

For more information call: (207) 879-1112

GESSNER, from page 3

Perino jumped up, "But on that day?" Ricker answered, "Yes, on that day he did." Stokes shot back, "He said 'maybe' something happened." Ricker conceded, "Yes, he said 'maybe.'"

Ricker left the witness stand. He and Mark Gessner never made eye contact.

Both Luke and Herbert Gessner talked with Mark on the telephone around 7 pm. after they heard from Ricker. Stokes asked Luke if he asked his brother whether he had shot Henderson. Luke said he had and that his brother answered, "Yes, and you know why." And then hung up. Luke called back. Stokes asked more questions about the conversation, but Luke said he couldn't remember. Stokes showed him the statement that he had given police May 7. Luke reluctantly remembered that Mark had said, "Don't worry about it, he's queer anyway."

On cross-examination, Perino asked Luke, "Did the police ask you if Melvin Henderson sexually molested Mark?"

"Yes."

"Did he?" asked Perino.

Luke replied, "Not to my knowledge."

Stokes then asked, "Did he ever tell you if Melvin Henderson touched him?"

"No."

"Ever?"

"No."

Stokes encountered the same inability to remember that evening's telephone conversations when he questioned Herbert Gessner, the accused's father. Stokes had to read Herbert's statement to him to get him to acknowledge what his son had said the night of the killing. When Herbert asked his son what had happened Mark answered, "Just don't tell anybody Dad. He's a fag, Dad."

On cross-examination Perino asked Herbert, "Did he say, 'Don't worry, he's a fag'?" Herbert said he did say that and that when he asked his son if Henderson had done anything to him when he was younger, Mark gave no reply. Perino pressed on, "Why did you ask him that?" Herbert said, "He (Henderson) had the reputation..."

Stokes shrieked, "Objection."

"Sustained," said the judge. Herbert managed to continue to add to the rumor by saying, "I was basing it on my wife who was a police dispatcher years ago... things I'd heard about him years before."

Stokes then asked, "Had your son ever told you that Melvin Henderson touched him?"

Herbert answered, "No."

"Ever?"

"No."

The insanity defense

Gessner's insanity defense was based on the notion that he did not have

the capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of his actions when he shot Melvin Henderson. This assertion was largely invalidated by Gessner's own behavior immediately before, during and after the shooting. Stokes merely had to point out, using the testimony of the hostile prosecution witnesses, that Gessner went to great lengths to evade, conceal and cover-up what he had done. Such behavior indicates that a person knows what they have done is wrong.

An attempt to incite the jury against homosexuals and to inflame the jury's potential hatred of gay people was counter-productive to an insanity defense. As Stokes said in his closing statement, "It has been suggested that Melvin Henderson did something to Mark Gessner 15 years ago. There is no proof. Melvin Henderson cannot defend himself now. It is impossible to know if anything happened. If anything did happen, it gave Mark Gessner a reason to kill — revenge. Revenge is a motive for murder, not an excuse."

The defense could not simultaneously argue revenge and insanity. However irrational revenge may be, it is not insane.

Stokes was in the rather odd position of calling Gessner's family and good friend as prosecution witnesses. Though these people were compelled to testify as to conversations with Mark the night of the murder, they were reluctant. Luke, the brother, and Herbert, the father, often "forgot," or couldn't "recollect," statements from that night. And all these witnesses, Herbert, Luke and Britt Gessner (Mark's wife) and Darryl Ricker substantiated, during cross-examination by Perino, that Mark was indeed mentally ill.

The state rested at the end of the second day. The defense presented its case on the morning of the third day. Essentially the defense said they were going to show that Mark Gessner had a mental disease and that he did not have the capacity to know right from wrong.

Perino asserted that Melvin Henderson did molest Mark Gessner 15 years ago, and he further asserted that it was the Channel 13, WGME, news special entitled Child Lures that triggered a flashback of the alleged abuse which, combined with other mental problems, drove Mark Gessner to kill Melvin Henderson.

To underline the alleged connection between Gessner's behavior and the Child Lures programs, Perino called Larry Hendricks, WGME's News Director. Hendricks confirmed that the Child Lures program began on May 2 and ran everyday until the 20th. Each segment ran for 2 minutes, 5 times a day. The series was about the way molesters attract children.

Prior to the murder, Gessner could have seen 4 segments. It was never asserted, except by Perino, that he had seen any of them. No one testified that he had seen them. Mark Gessner never took the stand.

The first segment dealt with the overview of abuse in America, labeling

SHAW from page 2

CPR: How could it be common knowledge without him being open about it?

SS: Because of Melvin's generation. It was a personal thing. I think that sexuality is private and Melvin just wasn't the type that would go around and flaunt it.

CPR: Some people say that a climate of secrecy contributes to the incidence of molestation.

SS: No. I don't think Melvin would ever take advantage of anybody in that regard.



Melvin Henderson dressed in his bunny suit delivering flowers. He was well known in Bath for his Easter spirit.

CPR: What was Melvin like?

SS: He was a very caring man. He always wanted to help people. In the social set in Bath, he was on the top of the list.

CPR: What do you know about Melvin's children.

SS: I know how much they hurt him. Melissa has always been a very strange girl. She's hurt her father by some of the things she's done and some of the involvements she's had.

CPR: Like what?

SS: Well, she had a boa constrictor for a pet that disappeared living on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. The mailman opened the door one day and the boa constrictor came down from the transom and the young man passed out. And she's had relationships with the sailors who've come into Bath Iron Works.

Henderson's son, Curtis, didn't attend the funeral because Robinson was there, and Curtis said he would never come back as long as Robinson was in the picture. Curtis Henderson lives in Texas.

CPR: What do you think the public should know about Melvin Henderson?

SS: I think people should look at what he's done for the city of Bath and anybody he's ever come in contact with. The people should realize that the police called in every young man that ever worked for Melvin. Melvin tried to help people, and all these kids, maybe 8 or 9 of them, said that he never went near them. And then this one, out of the blue. I mean we can all make up stories. I dream too.

He should be remembered for all the good he did. I resent all these implications since Melvin can't be here to defend himself. I think they should have called some of Melvin's friends as character witnesses. Melvin wasn't a taker, he was a giver. ΔΔ

GOOD COOKIN' KATAHDIN

We came in from the cold, quiet street and entered the warmth and bustle of Katahdin.

The place was packed. The host, an attractive blonde man apologetically told us that there would be a short wait for a table. "Would you mind waiting at the bar?" he asked. "No problem," I replied. "Smoking or non-smoking?" "Smoking," Allison said quickly.

This was my first time at Katahdin. Allison had been here with friends and had been raving about it for months. "You'll love the food," she whispered as we made our way to a couple of empty barstools. We sat down and were approached from behind the bar by a beautiful and vivacious woman of a certain age. She looked very familiar. "Can I help you?" she asked as she cleared off the empties and wiped the bar.

I asked for a martini and Allison ordered a hot chocolate. While we waited for our drinks I looked around, taking in the place. Nice old quilts on the wall. A candelabra that would have given Liberace nightmares. An orange ceramic fish with rows of lights. Interesting art on display. Eclectic with a capital "E".

"Here you go," the bartender said as she put our drinks in front of us. My martini was served in a small carafe nestled inside a bowl of crushed ice. Very classy. "This is quite a presentation," I said. "That's the name of the game at Katahdin," she replied with a smile. I had to ask her, "You look familiar. Where have I seen you before?" She laughed and said, "My name's Gloria and I've been doing this for a lot of years in a lot of different places. Seems I've met most everyone in Portland. No telling where we might have met." She gave me a friendly wink and went off to wait on someone else.

My martini was perfect. I was so content that if I'd been a cat I would have been purring my head off. As for Allison, I didn't have time to ask how she was doing. She was greedily slurping down her hot chocolate in a manner that didn't become her. I almost resented it when the host came up and told us that our table was ready.

207/774-1740 • Spring and High Streets

Monday-Thursday: 5:00-10:00 PM • Friday & Saturday: 5:00-11:00 PM

See GESSNER, page 5

HENDERSON from page 3

CPR: Had he already been divorced?

MH: Yes, my mother supposedly found him in flagrante delicto.

CPR: With whom?

MH: I can't say. But she found the strength to leave him, and that was in the '50s when that was difficult to do.



Melvin Henderson married at age 30 in 1950. His wife divorced him 10 years later. She still resides in Bath

CPR: How old were you?

MH: Ten.

CPR: Who got custody?

MH: It was decided that we would stay with him on the weekends and with her during the week. That was a bad mistake. My father was a very, very, very controlling man, and he took out his anger on his children. Psychologically and emotionally he was a manipulative genius.

CPR: What effect do you think your father's homosexuality had on your brother being gay?

MH: You know, I'm not exactly sure, except that there were signs that my brother had a different preference from a very early age. Is it nature or nurture? I don't know. I was the tom-boy and my brother did what little girls usually do.

CPR: So, this couldn't be a situation where someone could argue he turned his son gay?

MH: No, but he did everything he could to destroy his spirit.

CPR: Did you ever witness him embracing a man?

MH: My father was the kind of homosexual who touched everybody. He would come up to a guy and goose him. He would touch men on the derriere all the time as a sign of greeting, like they do in football games. And if anyone ever said anything to him he would say, "Oh, don't get your water hot."

CPR: Do you remember the summer that Mark Gessner worked at the greenhouse?

MH: Yes, I do. I was away most of the summer but I remember coming home once and seeing him, but my father had a string of boys who worked for him. And you probably already

know that the State Police interviewed over 45 boys who said he was the nicest man on the face of the earth.

CPR: Yes.

MH: Ironically, I don't think my father was capable of this.

CPR: What do you mean by "this?"

MH: My own personal feeling is, I'm defending him now, he was not capable of molesting a teenage boy because it would have meant he would have had to come out of hiding. You have to understand my father. He was so concerned about his public image that he would never have taken the risk. It would have exposed him too much.

CPR: But he was living with David Robinson.

MH: He was.

CPR: That is such a contradiction. He's concerned about not appearing to be gay, and yet he's living with a young man.

MH: Yes, but that was closed doors. It was unsubstantiated rumor for a very long time, and remember, my father was Bath's boy. He grew up here, his parents lived here, he went to school here, he was football captain, he was in the army.

CPR: I saw Mark Gessner's high school graduation picture. He was very handsome. Were all the boys who worked for your father good looking?

MH: Most of them.

CPR: That summer Mark worked for your father, do you remember anything unusual?

MH: No, because everything about life with my father was so difficult. You were waiting for the other shoe to drop 24 hours a day. Unless it was so blatantly obvious, I wouldn't have known. My father was not capable of molesting a stranger.

CPR: Would Mark Gessner have been considered a stranger?

MH: Absolutely. He was not in the family. My father was so torn in

See HENDERSON, page 24

GESSNER, from page 4

it an epidemic. The second segment focussed on the Affection Lure, the third was the Assistance Lure and the fourth was the Authority Lure. The implication was that one of these must have been the one Henderson used.

Perino called Janmarie Toker, Gessner's workers compensation attorney, to the stand. Through her, Perino traced Gessner's mental illness to when he worked at Bath Iron Works. Gessner went out on a worker's compensation claim based on a back injury. The company disputed the claim. At the time of the alleged back injury, Gessner was building a house for his family in Nobleboro. BIW has a practice of surveilling people out of work on disputed workers comp claims. They videotaped Gessner at his home working.

BIW called him back to work and then laid him off. They also sent him to a psychologist who asked him questions about "unnatural sex." The combination of these events allegedly sent Gessner into a tailspin of physical deterioration, frustration and paranoia. He imagined the BIW surveillance into a conspiracy to get him, complete with tapped telephones and secret cameras.

Gessner received a diagnosis of psychosis at the end of 1992. In February of 1993, he spent three days at AMHI for a psychotic episode. His behavior consisted of pacing, banging his head, pulling out his hair and laughing inappropriately. Toker added that in March of 1994, a Dr. Bourne tested Gessner and diagnosed him as psychotic.

Stokes cross-examined Toker and got her to admit that Gessner's paranoia was justified, since BIW was indeed spying on him. She acknowledged that BIW had videotaped him cutting and loading wood, and on that basis, they disputed his back injury. Stokes asked her if Gessner had ever expressed a dislike of homosexuals. She said no. He asked her if Gessner had ever expressed homophobia to any of the doctors who had

examined him. Again, no. Stokes asked if he had ever indicated that he had been molested by a man. Toker said no.

Perino called Dr. Charles Robinson, Ph.D. in psychology. This expert witness was the linchpin of the insanity defense. Bald, with a braided ponytail, a pedantic manner and overly demonstrative in his gesturing, this witness, educated at the University of South Carolina, seemed not to impress the jury. He flooded the courtroom with jargon and concluded on the basis of three examinations that "his patient" had schizoaffective disorder and delusions, that is, false beliefs firmly held.

Dr. Robinson informed the court that Gessner heard voices dating from the interview with the BIW psychologist who had asked too many questions. He also reported that Gessner claims to have had "a sexual event" during his three days at AMHI. Gessner said he was raped. Dr. Robinson, who works at AMHI, said the chances of that happening there are one in a million. Robinson mused that the ideation of rape could have come from some pain in his butt or hemorrhoids or blood in his stool.

Dr. Robinson testified that during his interview with Gessner on May 17, less than two weeks after the murder, Gessner told him he had been raped by Henderson at the greenhouse when he was 15. By rape he meant anally penetrated. He said he asked Gessner to give details but that Gessner said very little. This report is the first one in which Gessner used the word, "rape."

Perino asked Dr. Robinson if, whether the rape accusation was true or not, does Gessner believe it is true. Dr. Robinson said yes. The doctor added that in the days preceding the murder, Gessner saw the Child Lures program and had heard a story about a party where a guy had passed out and a gay man touched him and was struck and told not to do that because that's rape. Dr. Robinson said this combination of events triggered the murder.

See GESSNER, page 22

Be a guest at your own party!
The perfect solution to easy home entertaining and gift giving...

Number 1
Premium Atlantic
Smoked Salmon
1 1/2 - 2 lb.
Un sliced - \$40
Sliced - \$48

Number 3
Mainly Small Wonders - \$50
1 8oz. smoked scallops
1 8oz. smoked salmon pate
1 4oz. smoked shrimp
1 8oz. smoked mussels
1 8oz. smoked trout pate
1 8oz. smoked bluefish pate

Number 4
The New Englander - \$65
2 8oz. smoked trout fillets
1 8oz. smoked scallops
1 8oz. smoked mussels
1 4oz. smoked shrimp
2 8oz. lemon/pepper mackerel fillets
2 4oz. smoked Atlantic salmon sliced

HORTON'S

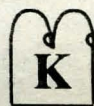
NATURALLY SMOKED SEAFOODS FROM MAINE
P O Box 430 • Waterboro, ME 04087

Seven choice Gift Packs for
the special people in your life.

Number 7
The Executive - \$120
1 lb. smoked Atlantic salmon, sliced
1 lb. smoked sturgeon, sliced
2 8oz. smoked bluefish pate
2 8oz. smoked scallops with our own
ginger sauce
2 8oz. smoked mussels with our own
olive oil and garlic dressing
2 8oz. smoked trout fillets with our
own mustard dill sauce

1-800-346-6066
MC/VISA/AMX/DISCOVER

We carry
13 Kosher items



Number 2
Premium Atlantic
Smoked Salmon
2 - 2 1/2 lb.
Un sliced - \$50
Sliced - \$58

Number 5
The All Kosher Selection - \$75
1 lb. smoked Atlantic salmon, sliced
1 lb. smoked halibut, sliced
3 8oz. smoked salmon pate

Number 6
The Horton's Premier - \$80
1 8oz. smoked mussels
1 4oz. smoked shrimp
1 8oz. smoked scallops
1 8oz. smoked bluefish pate
1 8oz. smoked trout pate
1 8oz. smoked salmon pate
2 4oz. smoked Atlantic salmon
2 8oz. smoked trout fillets

Money Talk: 1994 Tax Planning Tips

By Peter Callnan, CPA

Yikes! It's already December and I haven't done any tax planning! I want to remind everyone as the snow begins to fall and we become busy preparing to celebrate the holidays, that now is the time to prepare for April 15th. I realize April is months away, but after December 31st there will be no more time for tax planning. The reason for tax planning is to minimize your tax liability for 1994.

Tax planning generally involves timing the recognition of income and deductible expenses to postpone the payment of tax. The general rule of thumb is to recognize income when your tax bracket is low and maximize deductible expenses when it is high. Therefore, you will need to consider approximately what tax bracket you will be in for 1994. This can be done by reviewing last year's tax return and comparing its information to what you estimate will be on this year's return. The top rate of tax you pay determines what tax bracket you are in but, be careful if you are close to another bracket or you may be in for an unpleasant surprise. If someone prepares your tax return for you, they can likely tell you what bracket you are in.

Recognizing income when your tax bracket is low also means you should delay recognizing income when your bracket is high. For example, let's suppose for 1994 you are in the 15% tax bracket, but for 1995 you will be in the 28% bracket. Here it would be better to recognize more income in 1995. If this were reversed and in 1994 your tax rate was 28% but in 1995 you expect it to be 15%, then it would be a good idea to delay income recognition until 1995. As you can see, there is a 13% difference in the two lowest tax rates which is the

possible tax savings you could enjoy by doing some planning.

This timing principle applies also to the recognition of deductible expenses but in the reverse of income. Deductible expenses should be accelerated when you are in a high tax bracket and postponed if you are in a low one, but may be in a high one next year. The idea is to put the deductible expenses in the year where they will offset income which would be taxed at a higher rate.

There are many different methods or strategies that can be used to manipulate income and deductible expenses to minimize tax liability depending upon your specific tax situation. If you have a tax preparer, now is the time to sit down and discuss your opportunities with them. If you don't have a preparer, then estimate your 1994 tax return and explore methods to time recognition of income and deductible expenses to keep your tax liability low. Even when there is no change in your tax bracket, delaying the recognition of income will postpone the payment of tax for a year, which allows you to have that cash available for other purposes. Tax planning may seem needless or overwhelming but, with a little review and imagination, it's possible that it could be very beneficial. Good luck! $\Delta\Delta$

If you have specific questions about your money, why not take a minute and write Peter a note. He will be glad to share his expertise with you in this monthly column.

Write to Peter Callnan, CPA, c/o Community Pride Reporter, 142 High Street, Portland, ME 04101.

Twelve new panels memorialize friends & family

World AIDS Day 1994: a gut-wrenching experience

By Faith Worthley, Reporter

December 1st, 1994, World AIDS Day at Loranger Middle School in Old Orchard Beach. Opening ceremonies, which began at 9:00 a.m., brought 4th-through 7th-graders to the gym to participate in the unfolding of the AIDS quilt. Brian Kendall, an active member of the Names Project and former graduate of the school, is the reason Old Orchard Beach students experienced a day they will never forget. With full support from the Superintendent, school board and principal of the school, 136 panels were on display in the gym.

Twelve of those panels are new this year commemorating the deaths of Roy Keller, Terry Dannemiller, David Redford, Dennis Beeler, Nicholas

Knapp, Eddie Wimert, Kevin Bosse, Kim Burch, Daniel Bishop, Vincent Belanger and Kim Marie Smith. As the numbers grow, the loss of each individual is not forgotten as the stories continue to be told and the memories of those who loved them are so eloquently captured on every panel.

Justin, the son of Kim Marie Smith, told his mother's story World AIDS Day 1994, as he often does, to carry on his mother's work. She was an AIDS educator before she died and Justin carries her belief that continuing with AIDS education means that she has not died in vain. Kim contracted the disease through a blood transfusion three

continued below photo



Photo by G. Nightingale

Youngsters lend their creative touches to one of the quilt panels being worked on at the Loranger Middle School Gym in Old Orchard Beach. The Quilt panels were on display in commemoration of World AIDS Day, 1994.



Sunday, December 18th Doors 3:00 p.m. Show 4:00 p.m. THE MIGHTY WURLITZER ORGAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Come Celebrate The Holidays with State Organist Paul Erwin and John Cook along with the Westbrook High School Bell Ringers for this special concert program on the original 1929 State Theatre Organ. All proceeds go toward restoration of the Wurlitzer Organ.

Adults \$12 Children 12 and under \$6



609 Congress St.,
Portland
879-1112

Ticket Outlets for most shows:
Record Rendez-vous in Kennebunk
Good Vibrations in Augusta
Play it again in Yarmouth



JUDY COLLINS CHRISTMAS SHOW

with the Maritones
Come Rejoice with Traditional Carols, Hymns,
and Contemporary Holiday Favorites

Wednesday, December 14th

Cabaret \$27.50

(plus \$10.50 dinner ticket)

General Admission \$22.50

Doors 6:00 p.m./Show 8:00 p.m.

and a half years ago and was persistent in her message that there is no acceptable way to become HIV+. She had a very difficult time getting anyone to test her as her doctor told her she couldn't possibly have AIDS because she was a heterosexual woman.

Kim's quilt is a "Living Quilt" as she was an instrumental part in its creation. Knowing she would be dying soon, Kim mailed cloth stars to friends and family asking them to express their feelings for her and then mail them back. While in the hospital for the last time, Kim began to receive the stars which lifted her spirits and provided strength. Kim died December 11th, 1993.

Invitations were sent to schools throughout Maine inviting students to come see the quilt and hear the stories. Unfortunately there was not much planning time as Brian had only three and half weeks to organize the event and get the word out to others. Students from Windham Real School, South Portland High School, Thornton Academy and Old Orchard Beach High attended on Thursday. Brian was hopeful that more students would come on Friday.

The AIDS quilt was originally scheduled for display at the Holiday Inn in Portland, but construction made it an inaccessible location for this year. Because Brian is so actively involved in AIDS education in the Old Orchard Beach schools, Loranger seemed to be a logical alternative.

Brian has been working with the school district for the past three and half years developing programs for middle and high school students. Jackie Tselikis, the school nurse, is the other driving force behind raising awareness and providing direct education through the health curriculum. Old Orchard Beach is the

Continued on page 7

only district in Maine with a team focusing on AIDS as an integral part of health education. The team is called SAVE, Substance Abuse Volunteer Effort. Superintendent Jay Bartner, Jackie, Brian, teachers, parents, the police department and community members are all a part of this team.

Juniors and seniors are now required to take a 26 week course to graduate. It's called "Listen to the Students" and is a student based program designed collaboratively with the team. Eighth graders participate in a 16 week course, "Reducing the Risk," as a part of their health curriculum. Jackie has successfully implemented AIDS education as early as 4th grade in her Family Life Education and Sexuality curriculum.

In addition to these programs, there are two 3-day retreats for 7th and 10th grade students respectively. The SAVE team feels strongly that teaching children about AIDS should not be a separate entity but rather an integrated part of their learning about all health issues. The district's administration, school board and community all fully support Brian and Jackie in their efforts, and collectively they are making a difference in the lives of their students and children.

Four of the 136 panels at the school gym were signature panels of students from various schools where The Quilt has been displayed. Debb Freedman has been traveling with The Quilt for 6 years. She helps people make the panels and is the storyteller sharing the individual his-

tories. Debb feels it is the most effective tool for educating kids as it makes AIDS real for them. When they see what others have created to honor their loved ones, and participate in sewing part of a panel themselves, they really understand the magnitude and devastation of AIDS. Two of the students who were there on Thursday wrote these messages, "When we try to pick something out, by itself, we find it's connected to the whole universe. . . When AIDS touches one it touches ALL." "For all who are having to live through this terrible AIDS, I say love, strength, hope, courage, and respect is the key. I'll remember you all !!!"

World AIDS Day is the most vi-

sual day of the year for The Quilt, but the NAMES Project encourages individuals and organizations to take advantage of the Project's willingness to transport The Quilt. They will travel to any location in the state at any time in their persistent effort to educate anyone who wants to learn. On World AIDS Day, quilt panels were in 87 locations around the country. The bulk of The Quilt is housed in San Francisco's storing facility where it is maintained and preserved. The San Francisco chapter of the NAMES Project will soon be working with the history department at UMass, Amherst to archive The Quilt. Working with black and white photos and an information base for each panel, the en-

tire quilt will eventually be available on CD Rom. When the program is in place, anyone will be able to access any panel and see it three dimensionally on the screen. Considering there are an estimated 38,000 deaths from this disease right now, and a predicted 50,000 deaths by October of '96, that's rather an awesome undertaking.

David Ketchum, Chair of the Maine chapter, Brian Kendall, soon to be the Co-chair, and Debb Freedman all encourage and invite any individual or organization to call the NAMES Project at 774-2198 and request a display. In their effort to continue education and raise funds for People With Aids, all three show tireless dedication in their work. Last year they raised \$2,000.00 on World AIDS Day for Maine people living with this disease. Hopefully the dollar amount for research and care will increase more rapidly than the number of quilt panels.

Continued support, education and hard work is needed until AIDS is real for each and every human being. There are still too many people who find it easy to ignore AIDS. We can learn a lot from these educators as they invite us to use them as resources for developing programs and viewing the quilt. Brian, who is HIV+, said it best, "I live with the disease. You can have no idea because you don't. I don't care how good a teacher you are, you can't know. I believe in The Quilt as a tool." $\Delta\Delta$



Photo by G. Nightingale

Quilt panel of Kim-Marie D. Smith who began working on her panel before she died. This panel is called a living quilt and is covered with stars containing messages from family and friends of Kim-Marie.

Update on CPR's complaint to the Ethics Commission

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

CPR filed an official complaint, November 16, 1994, with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. Concerned Maine Families (CMF), State Senate candidate Tom Minogue and Maine House candidate, District 138, Pat Lane are the targets of the complaint. The commission does not meet again until the end of January.

There are nine members on the panel which is evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats with one member appointed from outside politics. The current chairperson is Bob MacArthur, Dean of Faculty at Colby College. Marilyn Canavan, Director of the Commission, could not comment on the substance of the complaint, but she did say that as long as campaign literature contains a disclaimer as to who paid for it and who authorized it, almost anything goes. "The Supreme court has defined free speech very broadly. People can say almost anything they want," she said. In a letter to CPR, Canavan said, "I have conferred with both the Commission Chair and the Commission Counsel concerning CPR's complaint, and together we have concluded that the issues raised therein are not relevant to

the Commission's jurisdiction which does not extend to investigating the content of political communications. Hence, your complaint will be placed on the agenda of the next Commission meeting as an information item only."

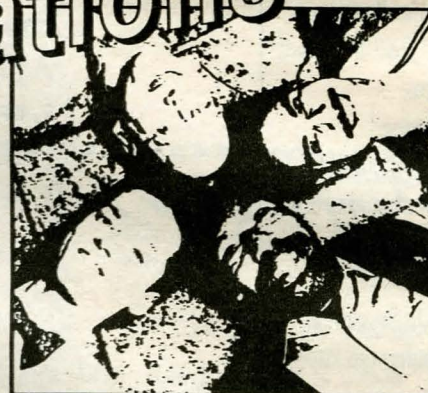
Canavan inquired about CPR's interest in pursuing the issue as a copyright violation, and at this time, CPR intends to file such a complaint.

We will be filing a civil suit in Federal Court for copyright violation against Concerned Maine Families, Tom Minogue and Pat Lane. We are doing this because CMF, and these candidates misused CPR with malicious intent. (See November, 1994 issue of CPR). A civil suit for copyright violation is our only legal recourse since the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices has told us they are powerless in this matter.

CPR will need \$120.00 to file this suit in Federal Court. There will most likely be further expenses and we are establishing a legal expense fund to help defray the cost. If you can help us out, please make your checks payable to CPR and mail to 142 High Street, Suite #634, Portland, ME 04101. $\Delta\Delta$

The Flirtations

America's best loved gay acappella quartet. They'll make you laugh... they may even make you cry...seen in the recently released hit movie *Philadelphia*. They are four of the best voices anywhere. Just fabulous!



"Glorious voices and grand social consciousness."

-New York Press

Join Us for a
"Flirt with the Flirts"
Dinner Party
following the concert

Ashlie's Restaurant
Hallowell
Make reservations
at the box office

Friday, December 9, 1994
Jewett Auditorium, UMA
8:00 PM

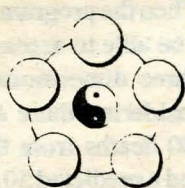
Tickets: \$ 15 general
\$ 12 members (& groups of 10 or more)
Seating is Limited
Not recommended for children.

FORUM Arts in Augusta

A

Call 621-3209

In Maine: 1-800-696-6000



Susan Reed, L.Ac.

**Classical 5 Element
Acupuncture**

Better Health Through
Balance and Harmony
of
Body Mind and Spirit

Free informational brochure
available

828-1799



Natural Skin & Body Therapy

*the inside and earth based approach to
improved health and appearance*

Specializing In:

Adult Acne, Dryness, Eczema
Lymphatic System Cleansing
Stress Relief & Aromatherapy

Merril Abramson, B.A. Lic Esthetician, CA

Casco Bay Essentials

775.5539

Gift Certificates Available

**T E L L
JACK FROST
TO TAKE A
HIKE**

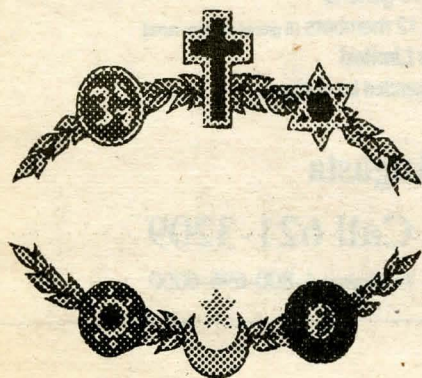
SNOW SLEET COLD
Y U C K
THE JUNIPERS OF
YARMOUTH CAN
MAKE WINTER A
HECK OF A LOT MORE
BEARABLE

- * Heat & Hot Water Inc.
- * Studio, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
- * Fireplaces
- * Free Firewood
- * Free Snow Removal
- * Free 24hr Fitness Facility
- * Ample closets & storage
- * 12 min. to Portland
- * 15 min to Brunswick
- * Fully applianced kitchens
- * Laundry

**the
Junipers
of Yarmouth**

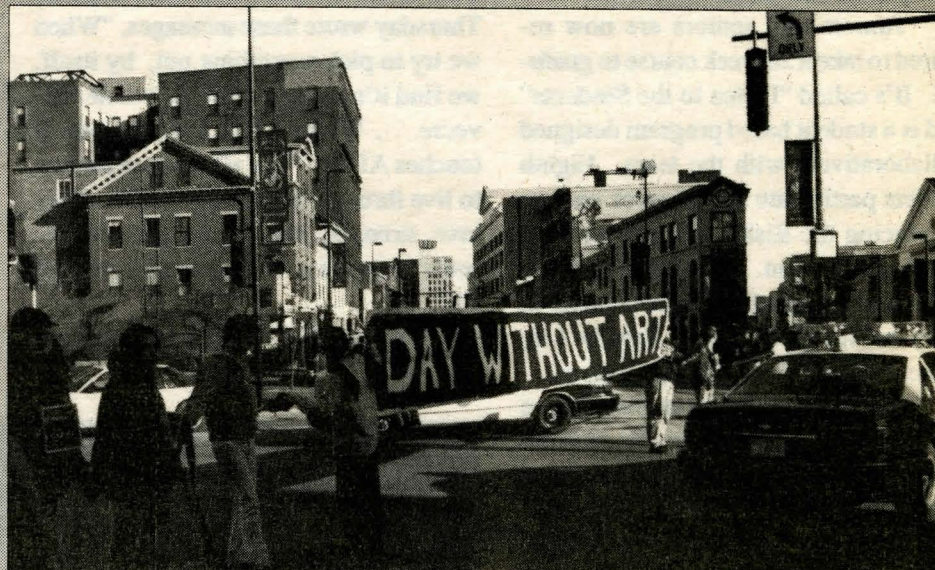
846-3395

professionally managed by
Coastal Management Co.



A Day Without Art - December 1, 1994

PORTLAND: Students from Maine College of Art, and others form a human chain called "The Common Link." It stretched from the Baxter Building down Congress Street to the new Maine College of Art.



Paintings by Bowdoinham artist, Carlo Pittore. This painting and the one bottom center are part of a one-man show entitled, "The Faces of AIDS." The exhibit, in the Lewis Gallery at the Portland Public Library, runs through December 28.

The Portland Museum of Art draped its collection in black in recognition of World AIDS Day - A Day Without Art. The idea for this commemoration was born from the realization that so many of those who died of AIDS were artists.



"'Anonymous' was my Brother . . . (Sister, Lover, Mother, Father, Son, Daughter)" an interactive installation at the Danforth Gallery. When clients at The AIDS Project die, their files get shredded. On December 1, you got to shred your own name.



Painting by Carlo Pittore

All photos courtesy of Studio 101, Everett Horr, Photographer

In These Times: Homophobia and the Holidays

This time of year I hear many groans and sighs about holidays and families. Lots of us have fear and anxiety, for lots of good reasons, about being with others, particularly members of our families of origin, for that holiday feast. Personally, I think holidays are *fabulous dahling!* I just love decorating (or some call it trashing) my home. I have boxes and boxes of Christmas kitsch!

As lesbians and gay men, we do have to be careful around the holidays. So often holidays bring up childhood issues that still haunt us. More importantly, many holidays are seen and magnified through the heterosexual eyes of the dominating culture, as being for families (read heterosexual). Therefore, it is often hard for us to understand where we fit.

So I want to share with you some of the strategies I have used to keep my holidays homophobia-free over the years. First of all, I love to celebrate. Holidays are primarily about celebration and in our patriarchal, sexist, capitalist world there are too few opportunities to really celebrate our lives. I had to learn to love myself, all of me, including my homosexuality, before I could celebrate myself. That took me years of breaking down the closet that I had built. When I did that I found the world was not too friendly and wondered what there was to celebrate.

I began by celebrating the little things. I had been able to tell my friends that I was gay. I was able to tell my family of origin. I found that I *really liked* being gay. When I first came out, I needed a great deal of affirmation, so I spent a lot of time with other gay people. Together we celebrated our lives. I felt good and I realized that my first duty around holidays was to always include a gay celebration or ritual as a part of

David
Smith, Ed.D



the holiday. Sometimes that was just being with other gay people, or calling them on the phone.

I also use a couple of guiding thoughts when I make my holiday plans. I never go where I don't want to go. I never spend time with people who don't value me as a gay man. I am not willing to go anywhere my lover is not welcome (when I have had one!!!). Sure, this caused some difficulty in my life, but I find that if I compromise my values, I will not have a good time and then celebration is impossible.

I made my wishes known to friends and family alike. One Christmas, when I had been in a relationship with my lover Tom for over two years, I received a card from my parents. It was addressed only to me. There was no mention of Tom anywhere. Now I come from a family of seven children, most of whom are heterosexual. My parents would never have sent a card to one of my siblings and not mentioned his/her spouse. I called my parents and told them how I felt. It led to a long stalemate and a reduction in communication. That made me sad. But I had a real life - I lived with and loved a wonderful man. It made me sadder that my parents couldn't or wouldn't recognize that. Having stood for my principles, I felt better. It made for both a more difficult and more rewarding holiday season. Change, for my parents, took time, but it did come after I had initiated that conversation about how their card had affected me.

As I write this article, I am in the midst of making preparations for Thanksgiving Dinner. I am having it at my home. I love to cook a big turkey dinner! I have invited friends who are

lesbians and gay men in recovery to join me. I'm excited about our upcoming celebration. I have often had holiday dinners for my gay family. Nothing is so special and affirming for me. I started doing this about 15 years ago because of what I learned from my gay brother, John. He had told me about the *gay family* (before I had come out to others). As a gay bar owner in the 60's and 70's, he had often cooked and served holiday dinners for gay people who had no other place to go. Many of us don't have the choice to spend a holiday with our family of origin because our homosexuality has made us outcasts in those families. I began by having what I called "Gay Thanksgiving" and it was a smashing success!

During the holidays there are so many gay events happening. I make it a point to be a part of the community at that time. I realize that my family of choice includes many gay men and women who struggle together in our community organizations. A holiday for me is not complete without participating in the celebrations of our community. I make room in my life for those celebrations within our tribe, particularly if I am choosing to visit my family of origin for a holiday.

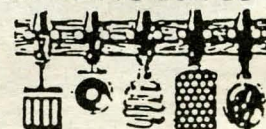
When I celebrate during holidays, I celebrate being part of the gay tribe. I am grateful for our diversity. I am grateful for those who work so hard, with so little resources, to change the larger world we live in. I am grateful that I am able to write for the *Community Pride Reporter* and that people read what I write and give me feedback. I am grateful for the emotional support that I receive as a gay man when I come face to face with society's homophobia. Bust mostly, I am grateful that I am a gay man. And I am particularly grateful for all the men I met, when I was in the closet and terrified, who whispered that it was OK to be gay. It took me a long time to believe that and it was worth the wait.

I celebrate that we are, as a people, so strong and persistent. That against all odds we have been able to make huge changes by hacking away at homophobia, bit by bit. I celebrate the tremendous love that so many of us have fought so hard to express openly.

By focusing on what there is to celebrate in my life, I enjoy the holidays and use them to renew my energy and commitment to our movement. Sure, the battle is still uphill, but we will get to the top. We have become more visible in the past 25 years than I believed possible. Many still wish to silence us. However, individually and collectively, we will not be silenced! And that, my dear friends is worth celebrating. Happy Holidays! ΔΔ

Simple and Elegant
Catering for Everyone

Barbara's



Kitchen

Barbara Winthrop
Chef

- Soups, stews & sandwiches for picnics
- Candlelight dinner for two at home
- Hearty sandwich platters for the office
- Light dips before your own preparations
- Just desserts (from Kristina's in Bath)
- An open house for business clients
- Pre-concert buffets
- Gallery openings
- Rehearsal dinners
- Weddings

For free menus and brochures
call 799-4734

Gourmet Deli opens in Portland's Arts District

By Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor

A standing ovation goes to Standing Ovation Gourmet Deli which opened recently at 142 High Street in Portland's Arts District. It occupies the space previously rented by Queen of Hats.

Featuring two to three fresh, home-made soups daily, this little gem of an eatery offers a unique and comfortable ambiance with a view of the Portland Museum of Art and the Union Station timepiece housed in the little park across the street. In addition to such delectable soups as cream of pumpkin, minestrone, cream of winter squash with ginger, corn and fish chowders, there are a host of sandwiches from chicken salad to a vegetarian roll-up with a most elegant spread, available at reasonable prices.

Sandwiches include lettuce, tomato, purple onion and red pepper slices.

Freshly brewed Green Mountain coffee is available in several flavors to compliment a meal or any variety of breakfast donuts, coffee cakes, bagels, cookies and turnovers. In addition to the variety and outstanding quality of the food served on the premises, (and I can attest to the quality, having eaten at Standing Ovation! on several occasions), they feature a deli case with gourmet desserts from cheese cake to velvet-smooth truffles to various cheeses, meats and salads sold by the pound.

Your gracious host and connoisseur of good food is Newt Curtis who combines his many years of experience in Portland's arts community and his witty and charming personality to bring the consumer a lunch or coffee break with class. Be sure to stop in. Your palate will thank you! ΔΔ



For straight answers
in a gay/lesbian world
Call me...Bruce Burns

Auto, Homeowners
Motorcycle, Life, Health
Business Insurance

55 Foden Road, So. Portland

828-6373

23 Water Street, Saco

282-5756

Serving Southern Maine Since 1977

Burns Insurance Agency

Community Pride Reporter

142 High Street
Portland, ME
04101

Suite #634
Phone
207/879-1342

Winnie Weir
Publishing Editor

Bruce Balboni
Managing Editor

Skip Brushaber
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Rich Austin
Editorial Assistant

Rose Mary Denman
Copy Editor

C. B. Lupien
Graphic Designer

David O. Cook
Computer Consultant
Studio 101-Everett Horr
Photo Processing Lab

**Winnie Weir, Bruce Balboni
& Gloria Krellman**
Distribution

Contributors

Rose Mary Denman
"Chew on This"

Rita Kissen
"Nachas"

Paul T. Bernard
"Out! of Town"

Peaches Bass
"To Your Health"

David Smith
"In These Times"

Michael Rossetti
"Time Out!"

Bruce Balboni
"Movies/Videos on Review"

J. H. Morgan
Book & Event Reviews

Almsel L. Ponti
"Music on Review"

Reporters:

Malcolm Smith
Bangor/Orono area

P. Hayes
Special Features
Rich Austin
Special Assignments

Photographers

David O. Cook
Bruce Balboni
Cathy Poole

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

Well, it's holiday time again. Another year has passed all too quickly for some of us, not soon enough for others. I'm in the midst of a myriad of feelings (oops! feelings!?? agh!), some of which are holiday induced. Those feelings which are not related to holiday stuff center around CPR, which in case you didn't know it, takes up most of my life. I have been doing some reflecting on the progress of CPR, and I want to share some of that with you.

First of all, I am deeply grateful to the men and women who faithfully write the several columns CPR carries each month. This is a major time commitment from these individuals and it is their monthly gift to all of us. I also want to acknowledge Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor of CPR for his commitment and hard work.

This month we welcome our new Arts and Entertainment Editor, Skip Brushaber, and welcome his willingness to coordinate the A & E pages.

They, along with the women and men who are reporters and special feature writers, and those folks who help with distribution and mailing, have my thanks and admiration.

Unfortunately, outside of our Orono reporter, Malcolm Smith, who is a student and working on the UMO paper as well, we receive few, if any, contributions from outside the greater Portland area. This perpetuates the perception that a newspaper based in Portland only cares about what goes on in the southern half of the state. This was and is not accurate. However, the reality is that we are Portland based. Therefore, we must rely on people who live in those other parts of the state to keep us all informed. My hope is that in 1995 we will see contributions covering a wider geographical area.

And then there are the subscriptions. Subscriptions to CPR are holding around 180 or so. The rate of \$25 per year (more if you can, less if you can't) is a method of showing support and covering the expense of producing and mailing the paper. Those who send more than the \$25 are enabling those who can't afford a subscription to receive one. No one, however, is turned away because they can't afford the full cost.

Beginning with the January issue, CPR will no longer be mailed 1st class. This brings up another point. Dates for the calendar listings are free. However, we need to receive them much sooner than we currently do, particularly because of the change from mailing 1st class. We run a twelve to fifteen day listing of dates for the following month so readers don't miss events. By doing this, organizations have a chance to list events twice, and it helps to dispel the mythical notion that CPR is late if it's not out on the 1st of the month. Save the calendar and you won't miss anything.

We rely on a broad base of advertisers for our survival. Any month could find this publication unable to print. That makes me nervous and diverts enormous amounts of energy. We have many faithful advertisers for which we are truly grateful. They understand that they are doing more than buying advertising space. They are supporting a service for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people of Maine. We need more advertisers from a larger geographical area as well as continued expansion beyond our community owned businesses.

Early in 1995, I plan to take the next step in my vision which is the es-

tablishment of a non-profit umbrella organization called **Community Pride Resources**. I will seek 501(c)(3) status which would allow contributions to **Community Pride Resources** to be tax deductible. It would also allow us to write grant proposals.

The major thrust of this non-profit organization would be the establishment of a Community Center in Portland for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. This newspaper would also come under this umbrella organization. As funds are secured, additional parts of the vision will be added until we have the resources we need and want for our lives. These additions include a safe house for battered members of our community, a substance abuse treatment program specifically for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people, a chem free recreation area with library, games, comfortable furniture and community positive attitude, etc.

We, Managing Editor, Bruce Balboni, A & E Editor, Skip Brushaber and I, are committed to the solvent future of CPR. Seeking non-profit status and taking steps to reduce expenses will help insure that future. We also need your support. If you would like to be part of the adventure of **COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES**, give us a call. 1995 is full of potential and promise. Happy New Year to all of us!

In solidarity,

Winnie Weir

CPR MAILBAG

Dear Editor:

I am responding to Bruce Balboni's review of "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" in your October issue. (I meant to write sooner, but a girl can get busy!)

Mr. Balboni must be a bitter, depressed individual. I saw a movie which was funny, touching and very entertaining (everyone I talked to loved it).

I would like to comment on a couple points in the review. Mr. Balboni states "There isn't a scintilla of a chance that these clowns could pass as women." Has he been to a club lately and seen what is in drag? Go to the Underground or to Jacques in Boston and tell me if those performers could pass as women. One or two might fool

someone for a few minutes; most aren't close.

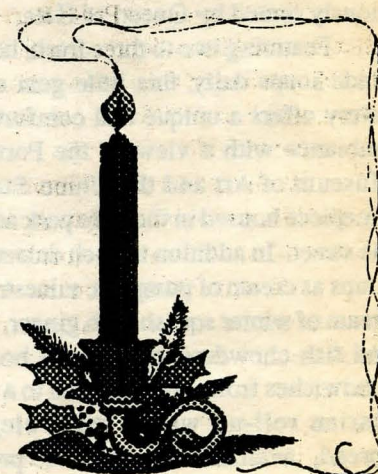
As for his opinion that the costumes are Halloween or Mardi Gras drag, who do you think kept Bernie's in business all those years? During my career, I knew I could walk in and try on any dress. The salespeople understood drag performers were good customers. Nowadays, it seems trampiness is in and glamour is out. What a shame. I would love to see outfits like those in "Priscilla."

His comment that the movie is homophobic is outrageous. The audiences have been mostly gay, and you hear their laughter (I don't think straight people understand some of the humor). I found it easy to relate the traits/personalities

of the characters to people I know. I know someone exactly like the "body-builder" (the character in the movie isn't a bodybuilder, he just has a nice body).

Mr. Balboni, get a life! To be negative about a movie that is entertaining and loved by gay audiences shows you are out of touch.

Christopher J. Winters, Portland



GUEST EDITORIAL

A spin in a different direction

By Michael Rossetti

In this last election, one of the most notable shifts in voting patterns occurred among the gay/lesbian vote. Usually supportive of Democratic candidates, gays and lesbians switched their votes to the Republican candidates. This is an amazing pattern change by a distinct voting group that is not lost on the new House Speaker designate, Newt Gingrich, who has tempered his rhetoric to tell Republicans that they should be tolerant of gays and lesbians. In like wisdom, perhaps gays and lesbians should be tolerant of Republicans, although with justified caution.

Exit polling has revealed other tidbits of wonder. It appears that minus a candidate who is known as anti-gay, lesbians and gays behave as any other voter at the polls, voting on their feelings on other issues. Polling of America in general, which was used to compose the Republican "Contract with America," as evidenced by the final product, has shown no great anti-gay sentiment. The ultimate poll, the election itself, although spun as a Republican revolution or a conservative triumph, showed a minuscule margin of victory over and over again on the national level. The polling results are a source of hand-

ringing only for those with their feet firmly in Democratic Party concrete. For others, it is an opportunity to mainstream civil rights protection in a new world of opportunity.

Another outstanding voting statistic of November 8 is that 62% of all registered white, male voters went to the polls. It turns out that in trying to convince voters to support civil rights issues, this group is the most malleable and largest voting group. Had Democrats put a bit more emphasis on specifically talking to this group, or had Democrats succeeded in getting their other support blocks out, the Congress might still be controlled by Democrats. In light of Maine's anti-gay referendum, it's a lesson not to be ignored.

Along with an absence of anti-gay items in the Republican Contract, the co-sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act gave another sign of mainstream voter temperament. Of 120 co-sponsors, 110 were returned to Congress despite last minute "Voter Guides," some 650,000 of which were distributed by the Christian Coalition.

In the face of anti-gay referendums not only in Maine, but in Idaho, Oregon and several municipalities, some Repub-

licans took pro-gay/lesbian positions and still were elected. In Virginia, Senator Robb, called the "point-man for the radical gay lobbyists," beat the pants off the darling of the Christian Coalition, Oliver North.

The Republican leadership in Congress is, to say the least, odd and abrasive. The move to make prayer in school a Constitutional amendment may be the Republican version of Clinton's "gays in the military." Already the brash and corrosive comments of Jessie Helms and Gingrich are setting off alarms in voter sentiment.

The single most important factor gays and lesbians should concern themselves with in this new Republican world, is the language of labels. People are no longer granted the cerebral complexities of digesting various points of view, but everyone is now either "conservative" or "liberal," "gay" or "straight," or "Christian" or "Socialist," with no shade of humanity falling between, or variance from issue to issue. Those who are pushing the right wing agenda, through national radio talk shows or through local referenda, are virtually unopposed as they build a mental perception of "them" and "us." Gays and lesbians are labeled very effectively, and we in turn are putting labels on those who might provide support against the bigots.

We crucially need to do two things before 1995's referendum and 1996's Presidential election. Because our anti-referendum battles are reflective of Democratic Party power-bases, we need to recognize the shortages of this alliance, and its discriminatory nature. First we need to meaningfully include Republicans and conservatives in real control and participation in a truly grassroots battle for equal protection because there truly is common ground abounding. Secondly, each and everyone of us needs to start calling, writing and faxing our own legislators and town councilors, letting them know we're hear and watching.

Gay and lesbian activists have long worked to change the attitudes of America. Now that we might be on the verge of success, let us not be deceived by mere appearance, nor by our own prejudices. ΔΔ



Mainers await action from their new legislature. The split between Republicans in the Senate and Democrats in the House leaves people wondering how the anti-discrimination bill will fare.

The Face of Maine's New Legislature

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

The Community Pride Reporter (CPR) endorsed 27 candidates for the State Senate and 63 candidates for the House. The Senate has a total of 35 senators and the House has 151 members. Sixteen of the candidates we endorsed for the senate won, which is a 60% success rate, and 20 of our House endorsements won, a success rate of 31%.

By our count the 35 member State Senate has 18 votes in favor of passing L.D. 246, the so-called gay rights bill that passed the legislature last year. The House does not have a majority in favor of the bill at this time.

Asked to comment on the make-up of the new legislature and the chances for passage of a re-introduced gay rights bill, Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian Gay Political Association (MLGPA) said, "There is an awful lot of work ahead of us. The Senate is Republican so that makes our task more difficult." Geraghty said that MLGPA will make sure that the bill is re-introduced next year. She added, "You don't do a civil rights bill because you're going to win. You do it because it's the right thing to do." ΔΔ

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.

Copyright

No portion of Community Pride Reporter may be reproduced in part or whole, by photocopier or in print, without the expressed permission of the Publisher.

Have you renewed
your subscription
to CPR yet?
Check your label for
the expiration
date.

★
Skate
through the
holiday season
with a helping hand
from FRESH 'N UP
CLEANING
Call
926-4365

December 1994 Calendar

Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 8th-11th:

American Renaissance Theatre presents "Love's Labor Lost" at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. FMI, 774-1376.

Thursday, December 8th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM: The Matlovich Society presents, "Discrimination on the Job: Could It Happen to You?" A film and discussion of issues facing sexual minorities in the workplace. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility impaired; free hotel parking.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM: Maine Gay Men's Chorus, Pickard Hall, Bowdoin College in Brunswick.

Friday, December 9th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM: Safe Space Women's Center Open House:

Informal and causal. A time to meet new friends and relax. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI 725-7632.

Saturday, December 10th:

• 11:00 AM: Krackerjack Theatre Company presents "The Gift of the Magi" at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Live children's theatre returns to Portland. \$5. FMI, 774-1376.
ΔΔ 8:00 PM - midnight: True Colors, a group of gay, lesbian and bisexual friends, invites you to A SNOW BALL (dance, that is!) at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, corner of Summer and Winthrop Streets, Augusta. Benefit dance with proceeds going to Dayspring. \$3 per person. Free goodies, sodas 50¢. Smoke free, chem free, perfume free. FMI-Steve @ 623-3820 or Linda @ 621-8352.

Sunday, December 11th:

ΔΔ 1:00-3:00 PM: Northern Lambda Nord Monthly Meeting at the Gay-Lesbian Community Center of Northern Maine, 398 South Main St., Caribou. FMI, Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine, 207/498-2088.

ΔΔ 2:00 PM: The Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents, Light Up The Night: A Holiday Celebration. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Available from chorus members, Drop Me A Line, Bookland at Mallside or charge by calling State Theater Box Office at 879-1112.

Monday, December 12th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM: Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland chapter. St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland. Additional parking available on Park St. in Cathedral lot.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM: Safe Space Women's Center of Maine: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers are always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, December 13th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM: The Gathering, USM's Portland Campus Center presents, Good News and Bad: Christianity, Culture Wars and Sexual Justice with Marvin Ellison, Professor of Christian Ethics, Bangor Theological Seminary.

Wednesday, December 14th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM: Northern Lambda Nord FOLD & STUFF newsletter. Gay-Lesbian Community Center of Northern Maine, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI-207/498-2088.

Thursday, December 15th:

ΔΔ 6:00 PM: Maine Won't Discriminate/Bangor chapter. Peace & Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, 207/990-3420 or 207/223-5630. Get involved!

ΔΔ 7:00 PM: Coalition Committee of Portland chapter, Maine Won't Discriminate meets at the Wallace's, 414 Danforth St. FMI, David - 761-0362 or Maine Won't Discriminate office, 761-1788. Get involved! Join us!

Friday, December 16th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM: WOMEN'S NIGHT at the Gay-Lesbian Community of Northern Maine, 398 So. Main St., Caribou. FMI-207-498-2088.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM: Safe Space Women's Center Open House:
Informal and causal. A time to meet new friends and relax. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI 725-7632.

ΔΔ 7:30 PM: Building Inclusive Community presents, Queer Holidays: Planning alternative celebrations, developing holiday traditions drawing from Pagan, Jewish, Christian and other rituals. Unitarian Universalist Church,

169 Pleasant St., Auburn. It's free. Check us out!

ΔΔ 8:00 PM: The Maine Gay Men's Chorus presents, Light Up The Night: A Holiday Celebration. St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State St., Portland. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Available from chorus members, Drop Me A Line, Bookland at Mallside or charge by calling State Theater Box Office at 879-1112.

Saturday, December 17th:

• 11:00 AM: Krackerjack Theatre Company presents "The Gift of the Magi" at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Live children's theatre returns to Portland. \$5. FMI, 774-1376.
ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM: Safe Space Women's Center of Maine Creativity Night. Holiday ornaments. Bring along ribbons, feathers, bells etc. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

ΔΔ 8:00 PM: Northern Lambda Nord CHRISTMAS PARTY and Yankee Swap in Caribou. Bring a gift, get a gift (maximum \$10 value, suitable for woman or man). Call the Gay-Lesbian Phonenumber of Maine for details. 207/498-2088.

Sunday, December 18th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM: Maine Won't Discriminate/Ellsworth chapter. Unitarian-Universalist Church, Bucksport Road, Ellsworth. FMI, Peter Rees-207/667-2358.

Monday, December 19th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM: Safe Space Women's Center of Maine: Self-help support group. Meetings move beyond specific addictions to focus on healing and recovery. Newcomers are always welcome. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, December 20th:

ΔΔ 7:00 - 9:00 PM: The Gathering hosts a COFFEE HOUSE. Commuter Student Lounge (Campus Center). Featured performers: Cathy Poole and Heartstrings. Catered by Bagelworks and Green Mountain Coffee. FMI: 774-4919.

ΔΔ 7:00 PM: Fund-raising Committee of Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland meets at the offices of PROP, 510 Cumberland Ave. FMI, Glen-874-1140,

ext. 358.

Thursday, December 22nd:

ΔΔ 7:00 - 10:00 PM: Matlovich Society throws a house party for our friends. Join us for a respite from seasonal madness. Bring something tasty to share. 28 Colonial Road, Portland. FMI-773-1209.

Saturday, December 24th:

• 11:00 AM: Krackerjack Theatre Company presents "The Gift of the Magi" at the Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. Live children's theatre returns to Portland. \$5. FMI, 774-1376.

Friday, December 30th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:30 PM: Safe Space Women's Center Open House:

Informal and causal. A time to meet new friends and relax. 67 Main St., Topsham. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, December 31st:

ΔΔ 8:00 PM: Northern Lambda Nord NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY in New Sweden. NLN members free; \$2 cover non-members. Call Phonenumber for details. 207/498-2088.

In addition to these specific listings, please check the COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCE listings (pages 14-15) for regularly scheduled meeting dates of various organizations and support groups. This month only, also check Arts & Entertainment pages for special events dates and times.

JANUARY 1995 PREVIEW:

Sunday, January 1st:

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

Tuesday, January 3rd:

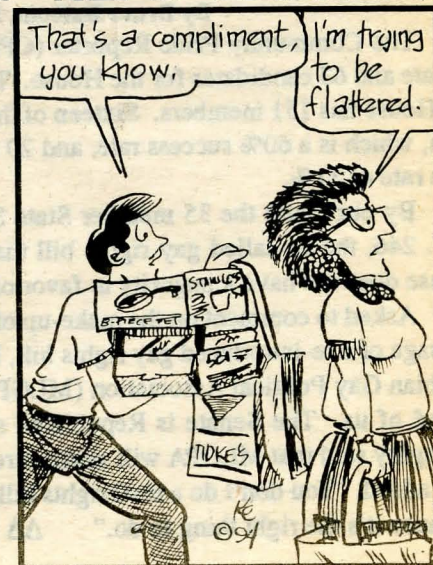
ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Fund raising Committee of Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland meets at PROP, 510 Cumberland Ave. FMI, Glen-874-1140, ext. 358.

Monday, January 9th:

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland chapter. St. Luke's Episcopal Cathedral, 143 State St. Additional parking in lot on Park St., behind church. FMI, 761-1788.

MURPHY'S MANOR

by Kurt Erichsen



CPR Personals

Discreet Phone Contacts By Area Code

MANFINDER™

MAINE AREA

Auburn **MARRIED MESSAGE:** GM looking for others 35, married, enjoy massages, movies, 35, theatre plays etc, looking for a little adventure- #15466

Bangor **RELAX IN MY ARMS:** someone to have some qual time with? just wanna have some fun? GWM 23 125 5'9 would like 2 hear frm you- into camping hiking outdoors, relaxing @ home with someone in your arms, give me a call- #15935

ME **FURRY BLONDE:** 31 hot hungry and eager to meet someone w/sim int blonde/hairy chest give me a call-ready and waiting for you! #15497

ME **CUTE CUDDLE BEAR:** Randall 27 6' full beard/mustache, iso fun int guys, cute romantic loves to cuddle quiet times at home, not a barfly, lv a message for e- #12508

ME **CHARM THE PANTS OFF ME:** Assertive guy can or young married man- GM 6' 185 50 likes long hard and hot want to share for intimacy, non stop conv, music massage cuddling videos your satisfaction assured- #17287

Waterville **HOME COOKIN'** Greg, 39, GWM 5'11 155, brn/blu must lkg 2 meet younger BM or oriental, 21-30, slim, like 2 horseback ride, snuggle, cuddle, sports movies, theatre, bowling, rollerskating, country music, I can cook too! pls call- #10238

Waterville **SLIM SKATER:** Greg, 39 GWM 5'10, 155, slim built brn/blu, must iso other gm pref BM or AM young 18-28 slim/med build, rollerskate, horseback, dance, theatre, arts, like sports, outside activities, int give me a call- #17393

Bennington **AT YOUR SERVICE,** Daniel, would you like to lay back and let someone pls you? 6'1 325, looking for a way to please other people- lv a message- #13430

GRAB THAT PHONE!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- 1) To respond to these ads & browse others
Call: 1-900-884-GAYS
- 2) To record your FREE CPR personal ad
Call: 1-800-546-MENN
(We'll print it here)
- 3) To pick-up messages from your existing ad
Call: the 900 number & Press the star key (*)

Questions Call: 1-415-281-3183

Bennington **COOL HER OFF!** Carlotta Preop TV, I'm really hot- #14360

Burlington **FIRST TIMER,** 38, big guy, sense of humor, well educated person, never done this before, I need a friend, 18-25, keeps in shape, handsome gdlkg, not shy-want to experiment-need to be discreet-Scorpio, if UR into it- #13366

Central VT **MAKE CONTACT,** like to meet guys, pref masc looking, clean, just like to meet, get ahold of you- #13010

Recording your ad:

Figure out what you want to say before calling in. Write down what you want to say. Keep it short and simple. Just describe yourself and what you're looking for. Our computerized system will walk you through the rest. Have a pen ready to write down your box number.

ME **JOG WITH ME, MATTHEW:** looking for a good time in the area, runner, 6' gdlkg- #14017

ME **BREAK ME IN,** Open, virgin, matthew 5'11, 18 love to have a great time with you- #14017

Bangor **DO AS I SAY NOT AS I DO:** Ronnie, I've got a blonde man here who says he's gonna do whatever I tell him, I could use some suggestions- #10614

Casco **KEVIN 27,** looking to meet other men betw 18-36, fun loving guy, easy going like hiking, biking, travelling, outdoors, own a small pet store, lv name and # and I'll call you- #1284

ME **LIKE HIDE THE SAUSAGE?** 5'7 145, brn/hazel, looking for another guy to have fun games with, I'm clean shaven- #10879

Portland **RANDALL,** 27 6' brn/blu, well end'd, have many interests, from music theatre sunrise/sunset quiet eve @ home #12508

Sanford **ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE:** Mark, 39, 5'11 165, dk/dk must, lkg to meet guys in my area-I can get into anything- #11347

Southern VT **GM 5'7 145,** hazel, hairy body, like to meet a man to share friendship with- #10769

Dexter **HARRY 35,** GWM, Divorced, brn beard, must hairy, like outdoors, quiet eyes w/someone special, like to meet in my area for friendship, poss rel- #9878

Kennebunk **I DON'T DO CEILING!** Chris, 5'11 brn/blu, looking to meet a good friend, partner, married, gay bi-curious, I'm a self made renaissance guy, painter, discreet good friend, movies, biking, like long intellectual talks- #9703

ME **ALEX,** 23, 6'1, hisp male, blk/brn, looking for someone to party with, not into the attitude and games, someone to hang around with- #8923

ME **SWM 18,** looking for others to have fun, musc build, hairy, built- #9486

Portland **MAGIC FINGERS:** Mark, looking for men in good shape who want to treat themselves, good at body massages, escape from the world for a while- give me a call- #10477

Seattle **ROLL IN THE HAY:** Alex, 22, 6'1, 170, hisp blk/brn lkg 418-34 clean shaven/smooth/med build/ top this message is for you- let's get together- nothing long term, just play- #8923

Waterville **TEDDY BEARS PICNIC:** GWM looking for other GM teddy bear pref, 6'2, 230, brn/green looking for other big guys 6+ 200+ #9615

Waterville **HOME COOKIN'** Greg, 39, GWM 5'11 155, brn/blu must lkg to meet younger BM or oriental, 21-30, slim, like 2 horseback ride, snuggle, cuddle, sports movies, theatre, bowling, rollerskating, country music, I can cook too! pls give a call- #10238

SONY SEEKING MAGNAVOX: Mike, -like being called Sunday, I'm a TV - 166 5'10 looking for other TV's you won't be disappointed #7012

Brunswick **CHANGE HAS DONE ME GOOD:** Hi, I'm a 5'10 male to female TS 30 red/brn, thin looking for a special person to be a special friend, health care prof'l - out, open, honest and warm - if you're a special person, call me- #6878

Farmington **23 GWM 5'11 lkg** for another 22-36 like to hike, camping, swimming, movies, just lkg for friendship or more- #6712

ME **PAUL,** 29 GBM 165, 5'9 int any men that are men, not fem, pref, hisp or black men, any color, for friendship- poss rel- #8581

N. VT **HELLO!** I'm Tom, I live in Northern Vermont- I'm into hiking biking, boating travelling looking for taller man in late 20's- I'd like to talk to you! #6472

Readsboro **GWM 19 blnd/blu 6'3, 165,** looking for nice looking guy - for friendship and more- #7264

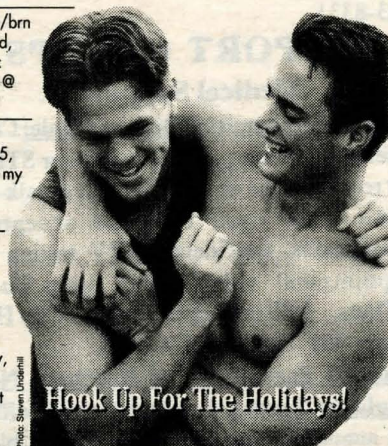
Waterville **I KNOW WHAT I WANT:** 42 yr. old sub male, looking for an assertive male. I am willing to make my and your fantasies come true. #5705

Lewiston **GOOD BI GUY:** Amy yes, I'm looking for a bi man-weird but true- like bi men- they're the greatest- fun enjoy them better than reg men - if you're looking for a friend or whatever, I'm open in my relationships- I'm 18 short blond/blue eyes- #2387

ME **SOME ENCHANTED EVENING:** GWM 18 into fun in the sun, Broadway show tunes seeking anyone for long term rel- #2023

ME **YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL:** Mark 5'11 170 must like big, hard and hot- like as much as I can get- #2786

Roxbury **CRUISE DIRECTOR:** 35 6'1 brn/blu, mustache 175 just moved into area- lkg to meet around my age to get to know the area- #2878



Hook Up For The Holidays!

Rutland **THE GAY OUTDOORS:** Joe-30 5'6 180 brn/blu animals, outdoors, camping, hiking, fishing, boating looking for someone 19-45 to share this with- looking to relocate to the Maine/NH area- #2191

Rutland **MAY/DECEMBER ROMANCE:** Kurt, older man late 40's-looking for a younger man to have hot times with- like to get together with you- #28308

Sanford **BABY, I'M BURNING:** Mark 5'11 170 hot, mustache-like big, hard, hot, men! #3132

VT **HEY BABE-** like to get to know ya big hillbilly guy here in VT like athl clean cut intell disc 18-25 couch potato myself nice guy won't be disappointed- college students welcome go for it dudes! #1925

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

Lesbian Personals

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

DISCREET • CONFIDENTIAL • EASY

OUT OF TOWN!

By Paul Bernard

One of my most exciting trips ever was white-water rafting on the upper Colorado River. I had a group of 5 people who wanted to see the canyons and mesas of the Wild West, so I put together a week-long trip that covered almost 800 miles.

We started in Phoenix, which is quite an urban area. What struck me about Phoenix was the climate and beauty of the area. We arrived in the middle of May and the temperature was already into the mid-eighties. It didn't feel quite as hot as you would think because of the lack of humidity. Phoenix sits on this flat plain area surrounded by some of the most beautiful mountains I have ever seen. Across its flat landscape, it is punctuated by tall mesas - large vertical rocks that seem to sprout from nowhere.

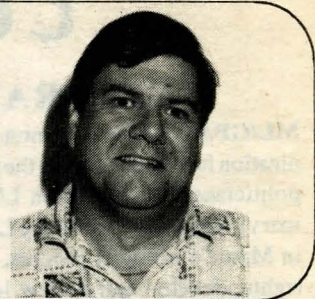
After spending a day exploring Phoenix, we drove north to the Flagstaff area, leaving the flat land behind as we climbed in elevation. On the way there, we sidetracked to Sedona. Sedona is a quaint little town filled with artists, galleries, unique gift shops and lots of tourists. Once we reached Flagstaff, we settled in for the night. Flagstaff reminded me of an old mining/logging/hunting camp. Of course, the town has grown considerably, but it still had that mining camp flavor.

The next morning we set out for the Grand Canyon. It is about an hour drive north of Flagstaff. The park road brings you into the canyon area and follows the edge of the canyon for several miles. There are numerous lookout points along the way. It is the most incredible feeling to stand on the edge of the Grand Canyon and look 180 degrees to see its grandeur. The National Park Service runs several lodges in Grand Canyon Village. These lodges are spectacular - perched on the edge of the Canyon. If you are lucky enough to get a room overlooking the Canyon - it is an unbelievable sight to see out of your window.

From here we started a 250 mile drive to Moab, Utah, where we were to meet the rafting company. The trip, though long, took us through some of the most beautiful territory I have ever seen - places like Monument Valley, the Painted Desert, and the Navajo Indian Reservation. Arriving in Moab is like stepping back in time. Moab is an old mining town and not much has changed. You still see horses being ridden into town and hitching posts located on the main street. Moab is located between Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park and is called the mountain-biking capital of the US. Both of these parks offer excellent mountain biking trails, and the town caters to the bikers. Moab is also noted as the white-water rafting starting point. The upper Colorado swings through the town before heading off toward Canyonlands National Park and eventually to the Grand Canyon.

We had signed up for a 4-day rafting trip. The trip starts in Moab and ends

Paul Bernard



when you hit Lake Powell 125 miles later in Arizona. The rafting trip was beyond my imagination. The rafts are rather large and very sturdy. Each raft can accommodate about 18 passengers and all their gear. You have to remember that you are going to be hundreds of miles from civilization. You have to bring your clothes, sleeping bag, tent, etc. The rafting company brings food and drinks and all of the other equipment including emergency supplies, extra boat motors, etc. The first day of rafting is flat water - fast moving flat water. We spent the first day becoming acquainted with the other passengers, learning emergency procedures, and admiring the 100 foot canyon walls on either side of us. That night we pulled into a sheltered beach area and set up camp. While we set up our tents, the staff was busy preparing dinner. The food on the trip was great - it ranged from chicken to fish to steak - you never lacked for food.

Facilities on the river are non-existent, which means that we carried a "port-a-potty" with us and washing up meant taking a bath in the river. Although the river is "clean", the water is far from clear - it is a muddy reddish brown from all the silt that washes into it. When we left our campsite to continue down the river, we all checked to make sure that we left absolutely nothing behind, especially trash.

The next three days on the river were exciting. As we travelled deeper into the canyon, the river picked up speed and we starting hitting rapids. They ranged from Class I to Class IV in size and difficulty. As we got deeper into the canyon, the walls of the canyon got taller and taller - at points they towered almost 1000 feet above us. During the trip, we would make stops along the way to do some hiking. On these short hikes, the staff would tell us about the area - how the Indians lived along the river, how they stored their grain for food, and some of the early attempts at rafting the river.

The last day was the most spectacular. Just before hitting Lake Powell, we spent about an hour covering a stretch of Class IV white-water. On rafting trips I have done here in Maine, each passenger has to paddle the boat. On the Colorado trip, you basically sit back and hold on for dear life. On this last day, I rode the pontoon on the front end - it definitely was the best ride on the raft. Luckily, no one on our raft went overboard during the entire trip. The last rapid is a Class I rapid. It was here that the staff "suggested" that everyone "fall" off the raft and ride down the rapid on their backs. It was a great suggestion.

See OUT OF TOWN, page 24

Call **1-900-884-GAYS**

To respond to CPR Personals, or to browse the latest ads. Only \$1.99 per minute. 18+

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. See complete listing under PHONE SUPPORT for contact numbers.

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.

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 & ART

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.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League will meet on the third Wednesday of every month. The League is a non-profit, creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. For meeting place, call 775-3420.

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: 729-0519

*Oakland: Steve, 465-3870

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

*Portland: 766-5158

Waldoboro: 832-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Manchester: Hans & Lin, 603/668-0741

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Hanover: Shirley/Tom, 603/643-8331

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

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 603/472-4944.

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

Monadnock Region: Meets 4th Monday from

7-8:30 pm at The Place to Go, 46 Concord St., Peterborough, FMI call 603/547-2545 or 603/623-6023.

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

Plymouth: Meets first Sunday, 7-9 pm, Plymouth Congregational Church. FMI, call 603/968-7254 or 603/786-9812.

Upper Valley Region: Meets second Wednesday, 7 pm. Hanover. FMI, call 603/643-8331.

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

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.

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.

The Appollo Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New England's gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Hellenes. Free speech/civil rights advocacy group offering freedom-from-religion support, religious de-programming and fun! FMI, 773-5726 or P.O. Box 5301, Portland, ME 04101.

Circle of Hope: An inclusive Christian worship group following a model developed by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Meetings are each Saturday at 4:00 pm at 156 High St, Portland (Immanuel Baptist Church). The Circle is not affiliated with Immanuel Baptist Church. FMI: MCC, PO Box 1671, Portland 04104. Join us!

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, & transgendered. 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 UM 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.

Mountain Valley Men (MVM): A group of gay men of all ages in the western Maine, Eastern NH area who get together for pot luck dinners, hiking, canoeing, skiing and other activities. FMI, write to Box 36, Center Conway, NH 03813-0036 or call Paul at 207/925-1034.

"Let's Do Brunch": Potluck social gathering from 11:00 am-2:00 pm on the third Sunday of the month at a York County location. Meet new people, see old friends, exchange news and information. FMI, 985-2784.

Parents

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parents Group: Meeting in the Portland 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 5077, 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.

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS-Transform Education: A project of ACT UP/Portland whose purpose is to fight HIV, AIDS, and homophobia in all Maine public schools; to form empowering groups for teens and queers and to create a context in which pro-teen, pro-queer groups are able to exist and proliferate in Maine. Straight or queer, boy or girl, HIV+/-, black, brown or white. All welcome. Meets first and third Fridays of each month at 5:30 PM, YWCA, 87 Spring St. Portland. Wheelchair accessible. FMI: ACT UP/Portland, PO Box 1931, Portland, ME 04104. Phone/fax 828-0566.

COLAGE: A national support group run by and for the children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 2300 Market St., #165, Dept. P, San Francisco, CA 94114.

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

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

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 Jane O'Rourke 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 Gelinat 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: c/o Mexico Cong. Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.

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

Dayspring: 32 Winthrop St., Augusta, ME 04330. Call 626-3435.

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.

Classified Advertising

FOR RENT

ΔΔ KNOX (45 minutes from Bangor, 35 minutes from Waterville, 20 minutes from Belfast): Wonderful living space in renovated Victorian farmhouse. Great view, cozy, well-insulated. Oil heat, vinyl replacement windows. Kitchen appliances, dishwasher, washer & dryer, TV antenna provided. \$450. 568-3597.

HOUSE TO SHARE

ΔΔ MALE and two cats seeking non-smoking male to share house in quiet, wooded Portland neighborhood. Your own bedroom, study, separate telephone line and space in 2 car garage. Sun deck, oil heat, woodstove in living room. \$200 plus 1/2 utilities. Call 797-8488. ΔΔ

HELP WANTED

ΔΔ Telephone Operators Needed: New gay company opening in southern Maine area. \$7.00 an hour and up. Must have superior verbal skills. Apply to U.N.I., P.O. Box 564, Biddeford, Maine 04005. ΔΔ

ΔΔ Personal Care Attendant: Part-time, paid opportunities for one or two experienced personal care attendants. For more information, call 797-8488.

WOMEN PAINTERS:

ΔΔ Paint magic: We are women painters with 15 years quality experience, tidy and respectable. No job is too small or too large. Call now for a free estimate to brighten up your home or office. 874-6413. 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

PERSONALS

ΔΔ Christian Gay Man seeks other Christian gay man for relationship. Spiritual and love commitment very important. Please respond to P.O. Box 10273, Portland, ME 04104. ΔΔ

ΔΔ GWM wants to exchange massages with other gay men on a weekly basis. I

have had massage training and prefer to exchange with someone who has had some training or experience. 797-3074.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

ΔΔ I am a lesbian graduate student interested in talking with lesbians who currently (or in the past) have hit or physically hurt a female lover/partner. My study will educate helping professionals about this important topic. Your privacy will be respected and your identity held as confidential. If you can help me, please send your name, address and/or telephone number to: Boxholder, PO Box 66732, Falmouth, Maine 04105. Thank you. ΔΔ

ΔΔ OUTRIGHT/Central Maine needs adults to help continue to offer a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning youths to meet. If you are interested in serving as an adult facilitator for the group meetings or serving on a steering committee for OUTRIGHT to help with such activities as advocacy, outreach, fund-raising and planning events, call Ray at 783-2557.

ΔΔ Are you a psychiatric patient/survivor who is lesbian, gay, bisexual? I am looking for people to fill out a survey about their experiences in the mental health care system, being gay, lesbian or bisexual, so that together we can educate mental health workers and self-help organizations about the views and opinions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual consumers. Please help! FMI, call or write: Alicia Lucksted, P.O. Box 210, UMCP, College Park, MD 20742-3999. Tel. (301) 277-8420. ΔΔ

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

ΔΔ The Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Network is looking to expand its membership. We have met three times and are in the process of developing a directory of gay/lesbian/bi owned or friendly businesses. We plan to conduct seminars on issues related to being a business/professional lesbian/bi women. We also are planning to have social times together. FMI, call Carolyn Jalbert, 879-5247 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342. ΔΔ

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
to assist with examining signatures
gathered on petitions by CMF

Volunteers needed from
mid-December through mid-January
Call Maine Civil Liberties Union at 774-5444
Ask to speak to Sally Sutton



Arts & Entertainment

Out On The Town

By Skip Brushaber, A & E Editor

Dear Readers,

I am assuming the duties of the Arts and Entertainment Editor with this issue of CPR. I have an eclectic background, which I hope to use to the papers' advantage. I was one of the founding members of the **Our Paper Collective** and worked with that publication for about five years.

Part of my philosophy is that art is politics, so I will be looking for the political slant of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender art and entertainment.

CPR welcomes contributors and I would like to have a registry of individuals willing to cover the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender scene throughout the readership area. I especially encourage those outside the metropolitan Portland area. There's a lot going on in Maine and New England for us!

I also have a vision of a supplement coming out maybe a couple of times a year as a journal for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender writers.

I look forward to working with CPR and any suggestions or submissions are greatly appreciated.

Have a joyful and safe Holidays! Here is some of what is going on in December:

"The Flirtations" - December 9, Jewett Auditorium, UMA, Augusta.

"I Think My Name Is Scrooge" - December 13-18, at Sisters, Portland.

Maine Gay Men's Chorus - December 11 & 16, St. Luke's Cathedral, 143 State Street, Portland.

Judy Collins with "The Maritones" of MGMCM, December 14, State Theatre, Portland.

"The Gift of The Magi" - December 3, 10, 17, and 24, Oak Street Theatre, Portland.

Art's Lament: Creativity in the Face of Death, through December 23, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick

The Portland Museum of Art has free admission on Thursdays from 5:00-9:00 pm, and on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 am until noon.

"A Child's Christmas in Wales", December 15, 16, 17, 22, & 23 at 8 PM and December 18 at 5 PM, Oak Street Theatre, Portland

"A Christmas Carol", December 8-23, Penobscot Theatre Company, Bangor

BUSINESS PROFILE: The Furies, the newest troupe to join the theatre scene in Portland.

By Faith Worthley, Special Assignment

There's a new theatre troupe in town. Who are they and what makes them different from the other small companies competing for an audience in Portland? They call themselves, The Furies, adopted from Greek mythology, and they have a unique flavor no other troupe can claim. The core is comprised of three women; Marilee Ryan playwright and director, Edie Hoffman producer and Joanna Amato featured actress. If the names sound familiar it's because these are the women who brought us "Intreat Me Not To Leave Thee" presented at the Oak Street theatre in September.

Those of you who are familiar with Greek mythology might wonder why they chose to name themselves after such an angry collective, mythical or otherwise. No these are not bitter, blaming, feminist lesbians, but rather three enormously talented females, whose combined chemistry creates a remarkably powerful message. Recognizing that chemistry, they decided to bring it to the people with the hope that anyone who experiences one of their performances would walk away with something to think about.

So how is that different from any other artist's intent? The intent may not be different but in the case of The Furies the end result is what defines any great piece of art; the ability to reach patrons on multiple levels so that each person's experience is their own while simultaneously understanding the artist's universal message.

More specifically, Marilee's intent as a female playwright is to present women's concerns, issues and beings from the perspective of a woman. "There are so many men out there writing about women and creating female characters who obviously have no clue what we're about. Why do they do that? They create these male biased, unrealistic idiots that I can't identify with and then we wonder why women are so poorly and inaccurately portrayed. I think there's a need for women characters that other women can watch and say "Hey, that's me! I want to write about what I know and hopefully that will empower other women."

Marilee's theatre experience is as a director rather than a writer so I was curious as to how she started writing. "Intreat Me..." was her first effort and although she doesn't think of herself as a playwright, not only did it work, it was enormously successful. I asked her about her creative process and what happens for her when she creates a play. Her response was intriguing; "First I get an idea, then I start writing and then I freak

out. And somehow it all comes together, but it's never the same at the end as it was when I started. The central theme still there but everything around it has changed and it's always much better."

Joanna has been an integral part of Marilee's creative process in her role as sounding board, suggestion maker and endless support person offering Marilee the safety to risk her soul to the masses. During the writing of "Intreat Me..." when Marilee was still in New York, hours of phone consultation to Maine shaped the mood and the message resulting in the strength of the play.

Joanna's role as a featured actress also shaped the character she played as Marilee's understanding of Joanna as a person as well as a performer influenced her writing. I asked Joanna what it felt like for her to be so involved in Marilee's process and an endearing grin crept across her face. "It's really great because then I'm a part of all of it. I haven't been acting that long so this is still new for me. It helps me really know my character so I can do a better job of becoming her for the play." Perhaps Joanna is new at this but if her performance as Didi is any indication of what's to come she won't have to convince anyone that she knows what she's doing.

Edie's contribution is of a more practical and logistical nature although she also has a part in The Furies current production of, "I guess my name is Scrooge." Edie deals with the nuts and bolts aspect of the troupe's existence; getting the word out there, worrying if they're going to have enough money to survive, printing costs and flyer distribution, finding rehearsal and performance space, locating and renting technical equipment, the list goes on.... Why does she subject herself to such stress and headaches? Because she believes in what they're doing. Edie has been a political activist in the community for years and sees this as another way to speak out and be heard. She identifies herself as a feminist and feels strongly that women's issues and community issues need to be addressed and discussed. This is another venue that is perhaps more subtle than others she's been involved in but equally powerful in its effect.

The roles are not so clearly defined that they don't overlap and the understanding each of the three of them has about what the others do magnifies what happens when they come together as a collective. This is the foundation from which they hope to build as their intent to grow and fill a long standing void will be hindered only by a lack of support

See THE FURIES, page 24

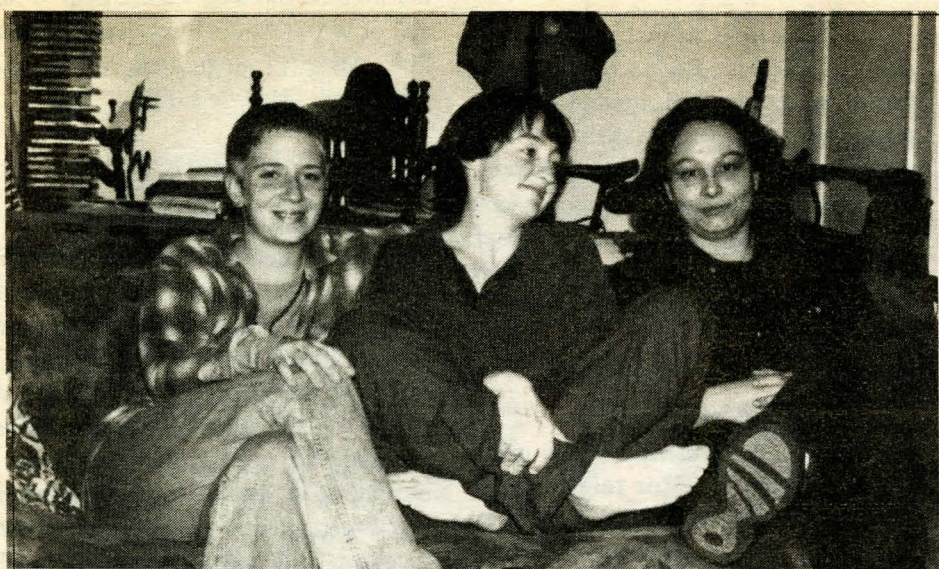


Photo by G. Nightingale

The Furies are, from l. to r. Joanne Amato, Edie Hoffman and Marilee Ryan

THE STAGE AT SISTERS
45 Danforth Street, Portland

*The women who brought you
"Intreat Me Not To Leave Thee" are back!*

THE FURIES
presents

"I Think My Name Is Scrooge"
a lesbian Xmas Carol

December 13 - 18 • 8:00 PM
Sunday Matinee at 2:00 PM

Tickets are \$7 at Sisters & at the door

This ad proudly sponsored by Big Star Video • Laurie Lewis, owner

Books on Review

By Skip Brushaber

Jeb and Dash, A Diary of Gay Life 1918-1945 Edited by Ina Russell

"Jeb and Dash" are the actual and real excerpts of a journal written by a gay man living in Washington during the first half of this century. Jeb is the pseudonym for the writer who worked for the federal government for most of his adult life, and Dash is the great love of his life. Their relationship spans almost all of the twenty-seven years of the diary. Except for a short period of physical intimacy, Jeb's love for Dash is mostly unrequited.

This book is an important historical saga as a gay archive, as well as the unfolding of a tumultuous time in America. Jeb's diary covers the end of World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression and World War II, as seen through the eyes of a gay man. It begins with Jeb as a nineteen-year-old idealist, and follows him from great joy to the depths of despair. His loneliness is pervasive, although he speaks candidly about a wonderful circle of colorful, somewhat eccentric gay men, lesbians, and straight women. Jeb's relationships with heterosexual men, outside of his immediate family, are few.

Jeb's loneliness does not stop him from leading a full and rich life. He wrestles his demons throughout the book against the tapestry of America in the first half of the twentieth century. These are the highly personal, poignant and sometimes angry aspects of a gay man's life during this difficult time period.

I recommend this book highly as the journey of one man and as a historical document of gay life from 1918 through 1945. $\Delta\Delta$

Travels with Lizbeth

by Lars Eighner

Travels with Lizbeth is the first person account of a gay man who is homeless and who lives on the streets from Texas to California. His best friend, confidant and traveling companion is Lizbeth, his dog. Their trials and tribulations make fascinating reading.

Eighner's prose takes the reader on a trip through all their emotions, ever tugging on the heart strings. This book helps to break the stereotype that all homeless people are lazy addicts or insane. Eighner points out clearly that in today's society anyone, by circumstance, can be homeless.

Rumor has it that the author, a well known writer of male eroticism, was told by his publisher to tone down the sexual aspects of this book. One wonders if this is because Eighner is an openly gay man, or because he was one of the homeless untouchables.

From dumpster diving for food and clothing to the struggle for shelter, the author does not gloss over the plight of the homeless. He does not whine or
See TRAVELS WITH LIZBETH, pg 21

Artist Profile: Steven David Mairs Waltman

By Bruce Balboni

Steve Waltman is a Portland artist whose media include painting and sculpting. Steve owns several buildings in Portland and he rents apartments and rooms to tenants who agree to remain alcohol and drug free.

CPR had the opportunity to interview Steve last week. He answered my questions with refreshing honesty.

The first piece Steve showed me was his construction of a rhinoceros head. He explained his interest in these misunderstood creatures by pointing out that, "They are prehistoric, they're endangered, they're very weird looking, their personality has been described as a blend of curiosity and short-temperament. They are really near-sighted so they have to get close to something to see what it is and if they don't like what they see, they'll charge." The eyes in his rhino head are hematite and the eyelashes are Maybelline.

Born in Waltham, Massachusetts, Steve was shuttled back and forth his first three years between there and northern Maine because of a bitter custody battle during his parent's divorce. Steve continued, "Ultimately, my mother prevailed. She remarried an Air Force lifer and we moved to Nebraska where I went to grade school. We moved to California for my junior high years."

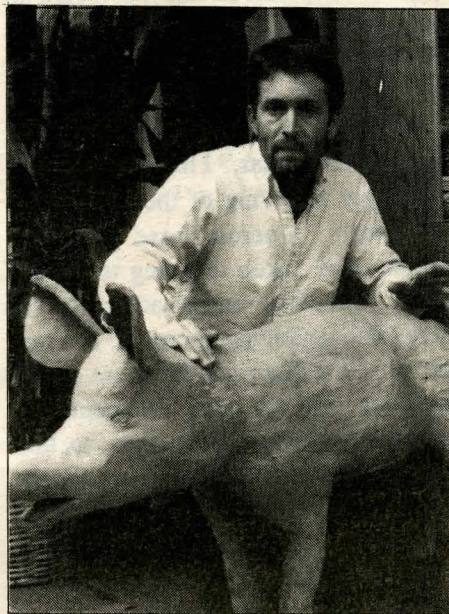
CPR: So you were a military brat?

SW: Yes, but we only moved three times so we were relatively stable. I do lament not having life-long friends.

CPR: When did you become aware of your sexuality, your homosexuality or bisexuality?

SW: I'm glad you gave me an opportunity to distinguish. I think that just because one engages in homosexual be-

havior that does not make one a homosexual. I think it is limiting to slap that kind of a label on somebody. It implies there is nothing else to my life. Even if I had sex every day of my life, it would probably, on average, take up only twenty minutes of my day, so that would



Balboni Photo

Steve Waltman shows off his terra cotta pig. He had to suspend the pig for 2 months so it could dry before going into the kiln.

be ignoring the other 23 hours and 40 minutes of what goes on in my life.

I remember when I was 6 or 7 and said to my friend Tony, "Has anyone ever told you you're cute?" He said "Yes." I was kind of crestfallen because I thought it was something special that only I noticed. Maybe what I really wanted was more of a sign that he welcomed that acknowledgment. Nothing ever came of that, but I know that that far back I had... and I also know that I

had a crush on Gary Cooper and was upset when my mother told me he was already dead.

I had a lot of relationship fantasies with my male friends when I was kid. I didn't really know about sex too much. I was pretty naive.

CPR: How old are you now?

SW: Forty-one. I'll be 42 December 30th.

CPR: Is there a connection between the development of your artistic expression and your sexuality?

SW: I don't think so.

CPR: I'm getting the picture that over time there was an increasing degree of acceptance of your sexuality.

SW: The acceptance came during a time when I received support from a professor I knew in college. He encouraged me and nurtured that part of me partially for selfish reasons because he anticipated a payoff. Nevertheless, I flourished.

CPR: As you flourished did your artistic expression flourish also?

SW: I don't see it as linked because I'll tell you, there are a lot of artists in my family. My brother, Dave, is a drummer who went to the Mass. College of Art. My uncle went there 40 years ago. My great aunt paints, my father drew. I think it's hereditary. I like to express myself in all kinds of different ways. I've done theater, I paint and sculpt, I've taken lessons for drums and piano and I like to dance.

CPR: When did you start painting?

SW: 1971. A girl I met at the University of Long Island in

See PROFILE, page 21

MUSIC ON REVIEW: Melissa Etheridge Live!

By Aimsel Ponti

So, who wasn't at November 17th's Melissa Etheridge show at the Civic Center? If you missed the show, fear not, she'll no doubt be back within a year or so. Perhaps then her label, Island Records, will be more helpful to CPR in trying to set up an interview. This is certainly no reflection on Melissa herself, however, I found it discouraging that phone calls were not returned and agreements not kept to from the folks in New York who represent her. But the show must go on, and as we all know, it did.

Etheridge continues to electrify, captivate, tease, and just plain rock her audience. She is well aware of what a potentially awkward job she has, and she knows how to play with her crowd. She's added a new twist to her show; climbing on the lights and playing her guitar, sporting a wacky microphone helmet thing during "2001".

Somehow though, the magic of a

live Melissa Etheridge show has lost its spark, and I think the way to cure this is not to see her every time she plays in the area. For lack of a better phrase, one must keep it precious. I found myself almost bored even during "the good songs" and realized that I've just plain seen and heard this before. The first time I saw Melissa Etheridge, back in '89, I thought to myself, "This is what live

See MELISSA, page 21



Balboni Photo

Etheridge put her heart and soul into the show.

STATE THEATRE

609 Congress St., Portland

- Dec. 9 Alison Krauss & Union Station w/the Cox Family
- Dec. 10 The 6 Alive Family Holiday Fest with Tim Sample
- Dec. 14 Judy Collins Christmas Show
- Dec. 18 Wurlitzer Organ Christmas Concert
- Jan. 7 Changes: Explorations in JAZZ with the Frank Carlberg Trio and Boston's legendary jazz trio "The Fringe"
- Jan. 6, 8, 9, 10, & 11 "GONE WITH THE WIND"
- Jan. 6 Special dinner presentation
- Jan. 11 Senior's luncheon special

For tickets call: (207) 879-1112
Major Credit Cards accepted

CHEW ON THIS

In the last two issues of CPR, I discussed the importance of our creating a sacred space for ourselves, a space for us to do our sacred work. This issue will be in your hands over the holiday season. Maybe the idea of the holiday season having rolled around again so soon feels good to you or, maybe you, like me, have a rather uncomfortable feeling about this time of year. I certainly don't have a whole bunch of answers about surviving the holidays unscathed, but perhaps my musings can serve as a springboard for your own.

In this article, I would like to discuss the importance of creating sacred times for ourselves . . . or perhaps "re-creating" those times which many still hold sacred, but whose way of observing them simply no longer fits for us. If we have moved outside of the religion of our childhood, along with its rites and rituals, it sometimes comes as a shock to discover just how empty a space is created inside us with the leaving. I know that this fact comes around and hits me right in the heart every year at Christmas approaches.

I still have a Christmas tree every year, and trimming it on the Sunday after Thanksgiving has become a new ritual for me. This year, I will be adding a village under the tree . . . you know, those porcelain cookie jar-like houses with all the little people and trees you can buy to make your own Victorian village. I didn't think about it 'til just now, but perhaps this little village is just my way of having something in place of a manger. I am painfully aware, however, that my tree and village have no real spiritual significance for me. They certainly go a long way in helping me to get into a festive mood, and the fact that

Rose Mary Denman



I make all the gifts I give at Christmas adds to a feeling of good will and spiritualness. It is the spiritual nurturing, those old rites and rituals that meant so much to me for 38 of my 47 years that are painfully absent.

As I have struggled these past nine years with how to fill that empty space labeled "Christmas," I have become increasingly forgiving of the religion of my youth. During these past few months, I've taken to going to what I like to refer to as "smells and bells" on an occasional Sunday morning. For me, the move incense used, the more chanting done, and the more vestments the head honcho's wear, the better. So, that has meant occasionally going to the Episcopal Cathedral. I can't, in good conscience, say the Nicene Creed along with the congregation, and even reciting the Lord's Prayer would be a lie. I simply stand there and wish the rest of the flock well while they repeat these ancient formulas. Yet, there is still something soothing about being there. I love the antiphonal chanting the choir does. The architecture is splendid, and even being there alone somehow stimulates my spiritual awareness. And when it comes time to receive communion, I'm right in line with the rest of them. I don't believe I am receiving the body and blood of Christ, but I do believe I am being spiritually nurtured by a spiritual force much greater than myself. I've sort of taken on a "Star Wars" spirituality

about "The Force" when I receive communion.

Christianity can never be my spiritual home again. It's simply too patriarchal and confining for me. However, writers like Joseph Campbell have helped me to begin to see that I don't necessarily need to throw the baby out with the bath water. Even if only 20% of a "smells and bells" ritual speaks to me, that's 20% I wouldn't have gotten if I stayed home. And, it doesn't matter if every other person in the place takes everything that is said or written as, pardon the pun, "gospel," it doesn't mean I can't sit there and understand it all as mythical.

Yes, often I feel like a woman without a spiritual community. Yet, when I get into one of these "pity party" moods, I remind myself that I'm in good company. Many of us feel as though we no longer have a spiritual home. I can celebrate the solstice with like-minded people. I can cast runes on New Year's eve. I can observe full and new moon rituals . . . and it all feels very good. Yet, no matter how I would like it otherwise, Christmas is a Christian holiday, and I live in a country where trying to ignore this holiday has only served to cause me to feel sad and empty.

This year I am choosing to take the 20% and try to be happy with it. I'll let you know how it goes. In the meantime, I wish each of you success as you seek to make this a meaningful season for your own life . . . and if you come up with ideas about surviving this particular holiday sans family of origin and childhood religion, how about writing to me in care of CPR, 142 High St., #634, Portland, 04101. I'd be happy to share your ideas in the next issue. ΔΔ

Women in Harmony return!

PORTLAND - Women in Harmony, Maine's hottest new all women's chorus, will be presenting their winter concert entitled, "Let There Be Music" at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High Street in Portland on Saturday, January 28 at 8:00 PM.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance, \$6.00 for seniors and students and \$12.00 at the door. They can be purchased at Amadeus Music, 332 Fore St. or Drop Me A Line, 615A Congress St., both in Portland. The church is handicapped accessible and the concert will be signed for the hearing impaired. ΔΔ

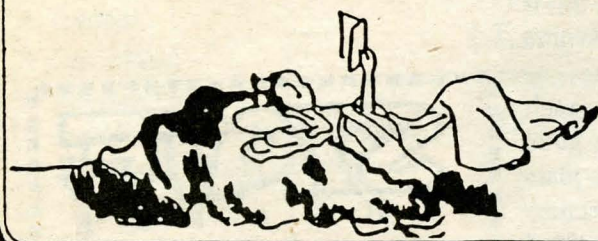
P-FLAG chapter organizes in Central Maine

OAKLAND: A new Central Maine area P-FLAG group will meet in Oakland at 7:00 pm on the last Tuesday of each month. P-FLAG is an organization for parents, families and friends of lesbians and gay men. The meetings, which began in October, will be held in the vestry of All Souls Universalist Church, which is the middle of the three churches on Church Street in Oakland.

The three missions of the organization are support, education and advocacy: support for lesbians and gay men who must cope with an adverse society, education for an ill-informed public, and advocacy to end discrimination and insure civil rights. ΔΔ

Gulf of Maine Books

INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS



61 Maine Street
Brunswick, Maine 04011
729-5083

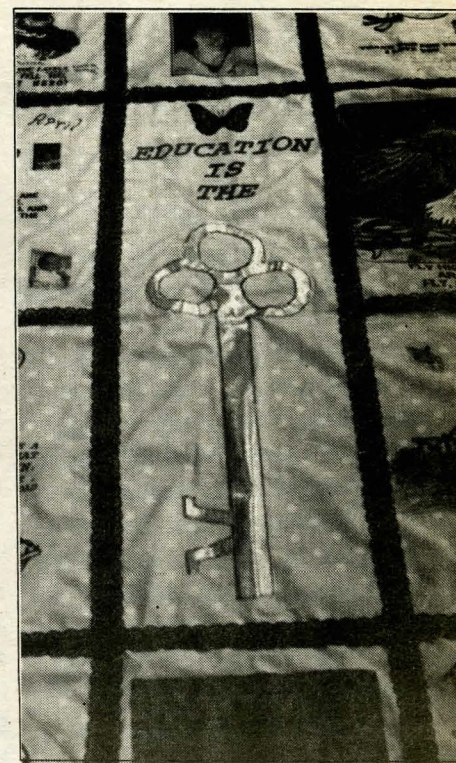
Pride '95 being planned

PORTLAND - Pride '95 is in its planning stage and a call for enthusiastic committee member volunteers is out!

The Portland parade and festival date is Saturday, June 17, 1995. It will include the usual rally and parade with an enhanced and larger festival. The prior week will also include concerts and exhibits, concluding with an interfaith worship service.

The '95 committee has incorporated and is seeking tax-exempt, non-profit status. The committee has also engaged in an educational campaign called "Visibility Works." The project is based on group discussions, forums, special events and a survey all focused on identifying the goals and strengths of Maine's community of sexual minorities.

For a copy of the survey or for further information on "Visibility Works" or Pride '95, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to PRIDE, PO Box 11502, Portland 04103 or call 871-9940 or 772-7325. Plan now to attend the January 8th Pride meeting. ΔΔ



Terry Dannemiller's quilt panel is an ongoing testament to her belief that "Education is the Key" to prevention in the battle against HIV. Her panel was among the those displayed on December 1 at the Loranger Middle School in Old Orchard Beach.

Sisters

All Country on Thursdays

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH
Hats, noisemakers, dancing, fun, wild celebrating!
Tickets \$5

Dance to Top DJs
Fri. & Sat. & Sun.

Light Menu available
Daily Drink Specials

HAPPY HOUR 4-8
50¢ off all beers & well drinks
Sunday Football & Happy Hour
all day. Free pizza at 10:00 p.m.

No smoking area

SUNDAY: Free pool
9-Ball Tournament at 5:PM

Lesbian owned
Wednesdays is Karaoke
beginning at 7:00 PM

Twisted sister shots
\$2.00

NEW HOURS:
Wed. thru Sun. 4 p.m. til close
45 Danforth St. Portland, ME
Telephone - 774-1505

Christmas Celebration
December 23rd & 24th!

Super Bowl Party in January!

IF YOU LIKE IT EARLY...
Friday, 6-9 PM is Oldies
Saturday, 6-9 PM is New Country
Pool table, darts, juke box

POSITIVE ID REQUIRED

To Your Health: Aromatherapy

By Merrill Abramson

Last month, I wrote in my article, *Changing Women, Change Your Practices*, that natural hygiene practices promote and preserve health. Your daily hygienic practices do not need to be limited to mundane, routine cleansing rituals but can incorporate a healthy, botanical therapy to increase your physical and emotional vitality. I believe that most of us would agree that connecting to the earth is a healing, rejuvenating experience. The practice and treatment of Aromatherapy allows us to bring the healing properties and rich invigorating aromas of nature into our daily lives.

Aromatherapy is an ancient healing system which began in Egypt, Persia, India, Greece and Rome, and it draws on the healing powers of the plant world. Ancient cultures used essential oils to re-establish harmony and revitalize systems and organs when there were malfunctions or lack of balance. Today, aromatherapy is used on a physical level to care for bronchitis, indigestion, arthritis and sore muscles, and on an emotional level to care for depression, grief, insomnia, anxiety and stress. In addition, aromatherapy is used to care for skin and body conditions such as acne, eczema, psoriasis and dryness.

Aromatherapy is a healing tool that is both an art and a science which utilizes the essential oils (or essences) of a specialized and highly evolved group of plants. Out of 800,000 botanical species, only 150 of these plants give us available essential oils. The essential oils are extracted from the aromatic plant's roots, bark, resin, stem, leaf, bud, twig, flower, blossom and fruit. Essential oils have many healing properties, serving as antiseptics, immune-stimulators, anti-inflammatories, and fungicides. Daily use of essential oils will detoxinate, oxygenate, and hydrate your skin and physical body, bringing balance and wellness to your general well-being.

As a skin care therapist, I have

been using and treating clients with aromatherapy for five years. This ancient and world-wide therapy has changed my life. Aromatherapy helped me become aware of what I put in my body, on my body and what I smell in my body. In France, aromatherapists and physicians prescribe the internal and external use of essential oils and French health insurance covers aromatherapy prescriptions. Presently, the Royal family uses aromatherapy, and most pharmacies in England carry botanical extracts or aromatic essential oils. According to Aromatherapy educator, Michael Scholes, "In England, 18 out of 20 people know what Aromatherapy is." Throughout history, we have looked to plants for all aspects of our physical, spiritual, and skin care needs. Many parts of the world today are confidently using aromatherapy as a viable tool in health care. I can confidently inform you that aromatherapy is much more than adding a pleasant smell to your shampoo, moisturizer or bath salts.

You can practice aromatherapy by incorporating it into your daily self-care rituals, by adding essential oils to the following: massage oils, moisturizers, compresses, baths, inhalation diffusers, facial saunas, facial masks, facial oils, hair oils, douches, body wraps, and simple foot rubs or soaks. It is imperative that you learn which essential oils are appropriate for intended use. Begin with one oil and continue building your knowledge. Here is one for you to begin your journey.

The Cypress tree (*cypessus sempervirens*) is one of the oldest trees on the earth. It stores its essential oil in its fruit and leaves. The essential oil is most effective for problems with veins and circulation. Cypress strengthens veins and acts as a tonic to the circulatory system. It is helpful for hemorrhoids, stagnated lymphatic system, cellulitis, edema, severe foot perspiration, reduction of heavy menstruation,

especially after pregnancy, relieves throat and bronchial ailments and asthma. For emotional purposes, cypress oil should be used when support or strengthening of the root chakra and increased mental concentration is needed. It is excellent on oily skin and hair. Cypress essential oil is astringent, antiseptic and soothing for the skin. It blends especially well with juniper, spruce, pine, lemon, bergamot, lavender and orange. Historically, Chinese peoples chewed on the fruit to prevent bleeding gums and loss of teeth.

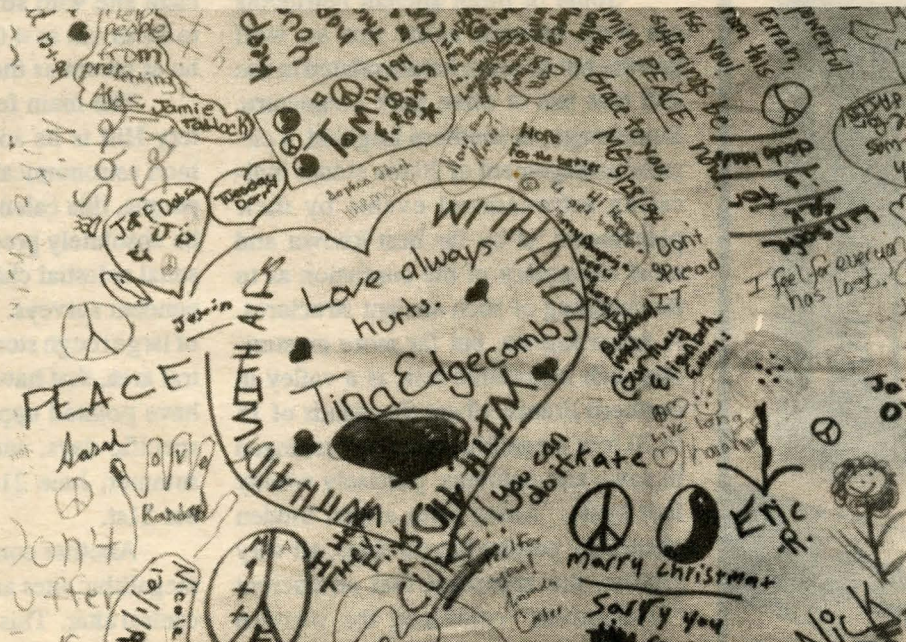
Please educate yourself and open up to a world that is the most delightful and harmless addiction I have ever experienced. Aromatherapy techniques are safe, effective and easy to use daily. Purchase your oils, take workshops, and receive treatments from a certified aromatherapist. Pregnancy, diabetes, low or high blood pressure and heart problems are all contra-indications that need to be considered when mixing and blending formulae. Essential oils are natural, but they are medicines that need to be used with caution and respect.

Next month I will discuss how essential oils are absorbed by the skin and their affects upon our olfactory system. Did you know that hypnotherapists and psychotherapists are using aromatherapy as a way of assisting the healing process of rape survivors? Also coming up, botanical healing routines for women through the winter months.

Merril Abramson is a licensed esthetician and certified aromatherapist, dba Casco Bay Essentials, 775-5539.

CORRECTION: In last month's article, the 2nd to last paragraph stated, "One-half to one-third of your total blood supply goes to your skin which contains 19 years of blood vessels and 9,500,000 cells." It should have read, "... goes to your skin which contains, per square inch, 19 yards of blood vessels and 9,500,000 cells."

... More from The Quilt



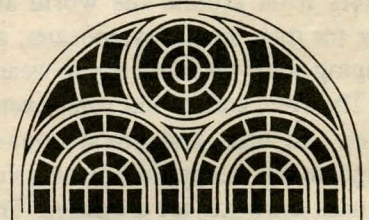
Visitors to the AIDS Memorial Quilt are given the opportunity to leave a tangible sign of their presence by writing messages of sympathy, hope, anger, love, fear and confusion as they witness firsthand the result of HIV and AIDS.

THE
WEST
SIDE
RESTAURANT

58 Pine Street
Portland
773-8223

This month's feature:
Maine Pheasant

Serving dinner
Tuesday - Sunday - 5:30
Casual ambiance



STUDIO 101
PHOTOGRAPHERS

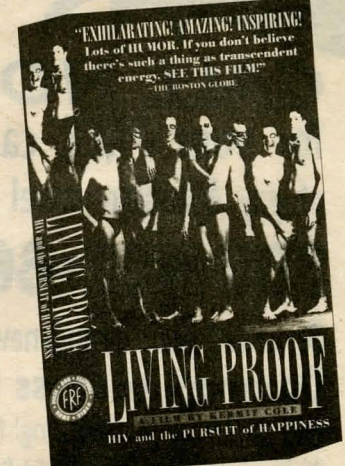
- GAY WEDDINGS / UNIONS
- PORTRAITS (Your way!)
- DARKROOM & STUDIO RENTAL
- CLASSES

879-2560

142 High Street • Suite #315
• Portland •



NEW from FIRS



to order call:

773-1999

Open 7 days

**Lower Lobby
151 Middle St., Portland**

The Transvestites of October

By Frank Girolamo

It happens every fall. Sometime in mid to late October, a fleet of cars and mini-vans glide into Provincetown, Massachusetts. Many of them look just like cars our dads drive to the office everyday, but to the trained eye, these are Trojan horses. One warrior per vehicle—each lost in a diamond lane all his own—complete with cassette deck, cruise control, A/C and more hat boxes than anyone's seen in a year. There's more here than meets the eye as cross-dressers from around the world are gathered for their annual symposium, all champing at the bit and ready to wear.

The event unfolds like some exotic flower. In inns and guest houses throughout the sleepy little fishing village, bags and boxes are unpacked. The scaffolds of fashion go up; change is in the autumn air. Frilly blouses, circle skirts, lentils to fill a figure or feed an army, a wig stand or two, a scarf here,

an accessory there, and a corset guaranteed to stick to the ribs. It's a symphony of polyester blends and a portrait of—well—sugar and spice and everything nice. With eyes to shadow and line, and lips to buff and purse, imagine the joys of her toilet. Hannibal Lechter once said that good things come to those who wait, and after fifty-one weeks confined to pacing in a room of her own—all dressed up and nowhere to go, the silent woman will no longer hold her tongue. The cat, so to speak, is out of the bag. Victoria—more likely Vikki—reveals her secret. The earth twirls slightly on its axis, and, *voila*, a new woman steps boldly, yet gingerly into the world high atop huge, huge shoes. Someone's little girl all grown up.

Like Mount Everest and vertigo, masculinity is something to conquer. Beauty, visual comportment and poise are the crossdresser's mission. It takes a fearless enchantress to take on this uphill battle. A handbag clutched with two fists on Sunday is slung—almost casually—over the shoulder by Friday

afternoon. So many seminars, so little time; the convention is one glorious victory after another.

Consider the shoe. Understand its task. Admire the craftsmanship of its hull. If needed to, it could float for hours. Imagine a shoe this big filled with savings bonds. Imagine the punishment to the unaccustomed foot. Revere the dedication of those who dare to wear them. Consider the shoe that gnarls a toe, that crumbles an arch and nourishes a soul.

If taste divides, it can also galvanize. And behind every crossdresser is a clothes horse with an arrested sense of fashion and a love of the common thread. Solid sweaters and just plain skirts. Print dresses and a curious yen for trench coats. Is it a channeled aspiration, this slightly out-of-it town and country look? A frump's notion of quiet elegance? With few exceptions, the look is a blend, mix and match of Betty Ford and Abe Vigoda. It's Air Force chic and it weaves its spell all over town.

It's a week filled with seminars and base-and-blush workshops, window shopping and lunch, lunch and window shopping and pajama parties. A Miss America Pageant with no runners up; the winners wear their wigs like crowns.

And a wig with a half life can make any gal feel ten feet tall. A mighty coif, as big as Barbie's, it makes a statement.

One peacock coos to another, "Yoo hoo, I'm up here." That they can be spotted from jets is probably exaggeration born of envy.

Provincetown has always been man-in-a-dress friendly; seldom is heard a discouraging word. And the guys are not rowdy or gay. Hosting transgenderists (mostly white, largely heterosexual—a point they're eager to make) is no big stretch. As long as they eat the chowder and take home the taffy, everyone stays giddy.

Time is the great thief and the new woman is its victim. Amidst the hectic highs of fashion and talent (sic) shows and more attention than the caged lady only imagined, the biological clock cruelly ticks. Who doesn't ask, "Is it forever... this feeling of joy?" Imagine the come down when the convention ends. While Cindy Jeanne is dancing at the ball in her Maidenform bra, her pumpkin is turning into a Buick. Last night's pump is tomorrow's hushpuppy. She'll be drywalling a house in the flutter of a lash. But until that too soon good-bye—from siren to schoolmarm—the streets belong to these new women of October. Townies love 'em too. Imagine, such fresh tomatoes so late in the season! $\Delta\Delta$

Frank Girolamo is a writer and long time year round resident of Provincetown.

Gay/Lesbian Travel

"CALL US FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS!"

Quebec Winter Carnival | Coming to Boston in April

February 3-5
\$200 per person
double occupancy

"Angels in America"
Weekend Trip
Call Now for Details

ADVENTURE TRAVEL, INC.

Two Elsie Way • P.O. Box 6610
Scarborough, ME 04070-6610
(207) 885-5060 • (800) 234-6252

IGTA

International Gay Travel Association
Maine's Only Member Travel Agency



COMING SOON:

Damron Accommodations Guide!

Gay & Lesbian B&Bs, Hotels, and more!

NEW!

IMPROVED!

CALL NOW!
for your FREE catalog
of gay & lesbian travel guides

800-462-6654

Or order your brand-new 1995
Damron Address Book

only \$13.95 + \$5 shipping! MC/Visa
PO Box 422458, San Francisco, CA 94142-2458

DAMRON

OVER 8,000
LISTINGS
USA
CANADA
MEXICO

'95

ADDRESS BOOK

same

great taste!

Time OUT! Megalithic Adventure

By Michael Rossetti

Long before the pyramids of Egypt, there were organized communities along the perimeters of the North Atlantic. These were cultures that left remarkably similar artifacts behind, despite the distances that separated them, giving credence to the idea that these ancient people had a common origin and religion. They were not fur-clad, half ape people of bad movies, but were skilled at farming and sailing. They were pre-historic only in that they had no written history. Because they left arrangements of free standing huge stones, known as megaliths, these people are known as a megalithic culture.

Some of these ancient heirlooms are well known, some not so well known, but all seem nature related in use and that use is often pure conjecture. Stonehenge, in southern England, a circular arrangement of 20 ton stones indicating astronomical events by their placements, is by far best known and most exemplary of the confusion as to the meaning of such ancient structures. A lesser known, but far more mysterious such megalithic relic is a valley in northern France where thousands of 15 to 20 foot megaliths are neatly arranged in rows and columns, precisely twenty feet apart. Along with altars, hidden chambers, perplexing carvings, all very similar, the argument that an ancient "civilization" colonized the western world thousands of years ago has real credence.

On this side of the Atlantic there were also pre-historic peoples, not necessarily native Americans. We know, from bits of whale hunting tools, that a highly skilled seafaring culture lived and prospered over 3,000 years ago, primarily along the coast of Labrador, and as far south as Massachusetts. There is also evidence of colonies here classified as clearly of European origin, pre-dating Indian occupation. To add to the confusion, both colonial American settlers and Native American cultures often resettled on the very sites of ancient settlements, adding a difficult mix of evidence.

The best known local example of megalithic culture and the mix of archeological fact with mystery is very much on our doorstep. It's Mystery Hill in Salem, New Hampshire. Also called America's Stonehenge, which is an ancient site with structures carbon dated to be as old as 4,000 years and some to be as recent as the 1700's.

The main feature of note at Mystery Hill is its solar calendar. A common astronomical devise of megalithic people, this calendar has been found to be absolutely precise in predicting seasonal celestial changes by several independent surveys. It consists of a series of large rough stones placed about a central area, that have been shaped so as to have pointed upper areas and marking specific days, such as the first day of summer, June 21st, or winter, December 21st.

Another common feature to many megalithic sites and to Mystery Hill is a central altar. This altar is grooved along its edges to allow run off. The run off

See TIME OUT, page 21

TRAVELS - LIZBETH, pg. 17

blame, but takes full responsibility for himself and Lizbeth. Throughout the book he credits and praises his loyal companion. One of the most poignant parts of the story is when Lizbeth is arrested and impounded. The author's resilience at this time is an amazing feat for a man without resources to bail out his beloved friend.

This is an important book for all. It provides a scathing indictment of homophobia and a rare peek into the plight of the homeless in America today. ΔΔ

PROFILE, from page 17

Southampton, New York gave me some canvas and paints. I did my first painting then and I brought it with me when I transferred to U-Maine, Fort Kent and my art professor there panned it, big time, so I gave it to my grandmother.

CPR: Who are you strongest artistic influences?

SW: A local guy, Kevin Bean, talked to me a lot about telling the truth with color. I don't really have a style. I have no loyalty to any style of painting. I admire the work of a few other local artists, but Kevin made the greatest impact when he talked about color. He said that if you're doing a painting of someone's face and you see purple or green and you know it's not there but it's what you see, you put that in. That's your truth. My teacher, Wendy Kindred, at Fort Kent, said the same thing about telling the truth. ΔΔ

MELISSA, from page 17

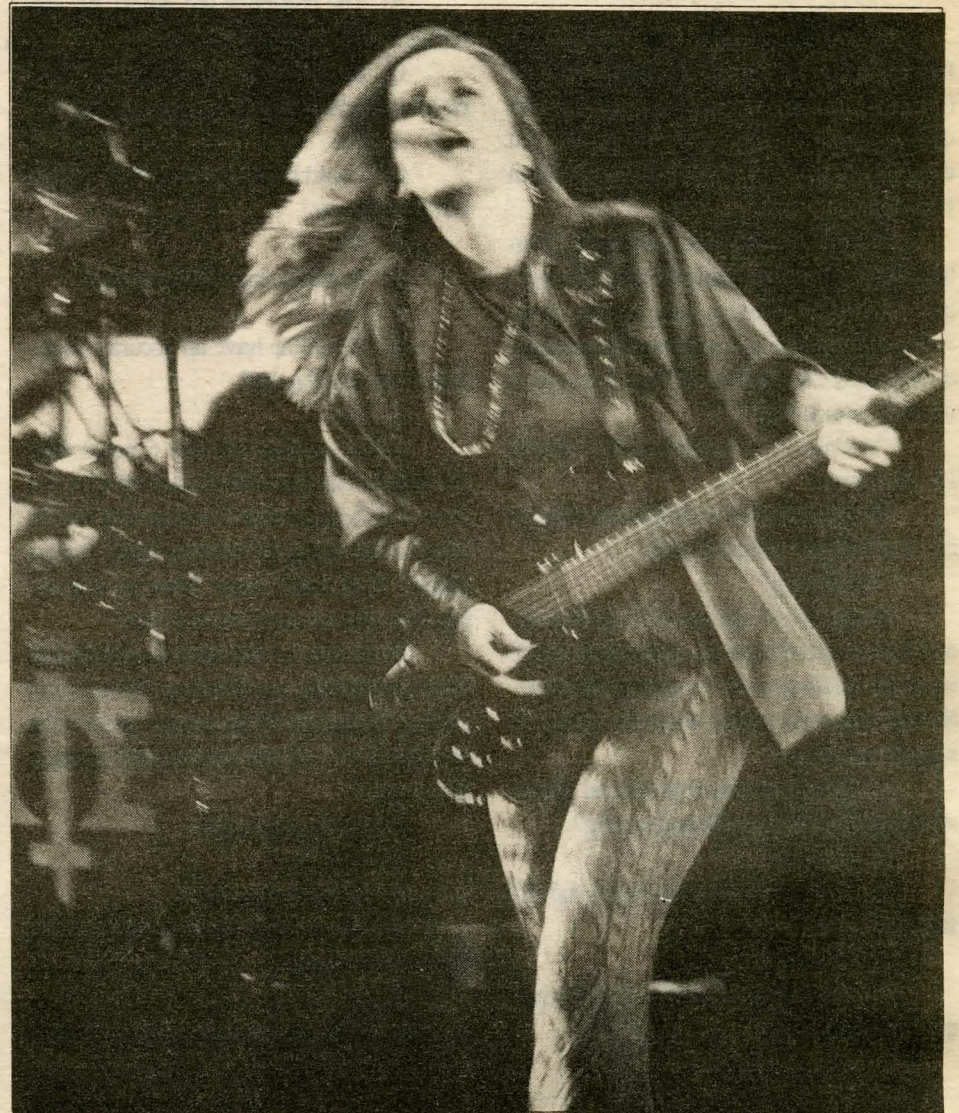
music is all about." But now a Grammy award and two albums later, something seems different. She's now seen as an untouchable goddess, through no fault of her own, but still it's hard to buy into. I almost felt like I was watching a movie, a very good movie, but a movie nonetheless. Melissa Etheridge remains one of my favorite musicians and I'll be anxious to see her in a few years when the dust of all the Melissa-hype settles.

The acoustic version Melissa played of "Never Be the Same" did get me though, and was the highlight of my night on Spring Street. I strolled out during "I'm the only One," but heard she did an excellent cover of "A little Piece of My Heart." She always puts on at least a two-hour show which is appreciated because even though I may be tired of the live show, she does play her guts out night after night, as does her band.

If you've never seen Melissa Etheridge live, by all means do so, and with enthusiasm. In fact, maybe next time I'll leave my ticket for a first-timer.

Enter next week to the Civic Center, the Indigo Girls. . .

One last thing . . . do someone a favor this "holiday" season and get them "Tuesday Night Music Club" by Sheryl Crow. ΔΔ



Balboni Photo

Melissa Etheridge rocked the Civic Center hard, November 17

NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL

For January and February, classified ads will be half price - \$4 for 40 words and 5¢ per word over 40.

Business cards are \$10 off. During January & February pay only \$35.

Copy must be in our hands by the 20th of each month.

TIME OUT, from page 20

grooves are assumed to be an indication that the site was used for ritual sacrifice and calls up images of Druids or Aztecs.

Like many pre-Columbian sacrificial sites, there are chambers behind and below the altar. One chamber allows a person to speak through a tube like trench which makes it seem as though the voice is speaking from the altar. The other chambers are built for short heights, but their uses are not discernible.

The site covers some 30 acres. There are carvings which suggest that

perhaps the ancient Phoenicians had influenced the builders. There are Native American and Colonial artifacts that are of value, all adding to the 'mystery' and giving an amateur archeologist a good days worth of adventure.

Mystery Hill is accessible off Route 97 or Route 111 in North Salem, New Hampshire about 40 miles from the Maine border. The facility has an orientation center and charges a fee. On December 11th, Time Out will be sponsoring a field trip to the site if there is no snow cover. For further information, call 871-9940. ΔΔ

CONDOM
sense! inc.

Romantic holiday gifts

424 Fore Street
Portland, Maine 04101

207/871-0356
We are mail order friendly!

Wuletide Greetings

BIG STAR VIDEO

99¢ MOVIES Good for 2 days

99¢ VIDEO RENTALS EVERY DAY SPECIALS TWO LOCATIONS

Video Picks
"INDIGO GIRLS, Watershed" • MAVERICK"

Corner of Stevens & Pleasant Ave, Portland 780-6150

OPEN
7 Days a week 10 - 10
Owner Laurie Lewis

Rte. 1, Box 359A W. Bath 443-3060

GESSNER from page 5

Dr. Robinson added that Gessner had told another doctor, in January, that he (Gessner) is God and that God's job is to kill queers, though he denied plans to carry out the task. Gessner repeated this statement in February.

Perino concluded the testimony from his expert witness by asking the \$64,000 question: "Doctor, based on your testing, interviews, medical records and the police reports, do you have an opinion on Mark Gessner's mental state on May 5?"

"Yes I do—he was psychotic," opined Dr. Robinson.

"Did this impair his judgment, reasoning and insight?" asked Perino.

"Absolutely!"

Stokes cross-examined Dr. Robinson, and the two of them got into a shouting match over the definition of "sound judgment." Stokes' argument boiled down to a series of simple questions:

Q: Can a person with mental illness distinguish between right and wrong?

A: At times.

Q: Could Mark Gessner know the difference?

A: At times.

Q: How are you able to know when these "at times" are?

A: The pattern of the illness, the rare richness of the medical record.

Q: Did he know the difference when he told Darryl Ricker not to tell anyone?

A: Yes.

Q: Could he understand who Melvin Henderson was?

A: No.

Q: Would he know where he is?

A: Yes.

Q: Would he have an accurate recollection of what he did?

A: No.

Stokes pointed out that 6 hours after the murder Gessner told Ricker what he had done. Dr. Robinson said Gessner didn't know what he was doing, he was psychotic. Stokes asked, "If he didn't know what he was doing, how did he know what he did?"

Dr. Robinson said there is a distinction between memory and thinking. Stokes went further. He asked, "If he doesn't know what he's doing at 11:40 am does he have a reason to conceal?"

A: Not to get caught

Q: Why?

A: Not to be punished.

Q: Doesn't that show he knew what he did was wrong?

A: No.

Q: If he took steps not to be seen when

he shot Henderson, doesn't that show that at the time of the shooting he knew that what he was doing was wrong?

A: No.

Dr. Robinson explained with a question of his own, "Could he appreciate the difference between right and wrong when the voices were telling him he's God, that he needs to kill queers to get the pain out of his ass. Oh, I think not."

Stokes asked, "A lot of people who kill other people aren't thinking clearly?" Dr. Robinson answered, "True."

The state called two expert witnesses of its own, Dr. Ulrich Jacobsohn, Director of the State Forensic Service and Dr. Neil MacLean, Forensic Psychologist. In contrast to Dr. Robinson these two learned gentlemen appeared to be direct descendants of Solomon. They conceded that Gessner has a mental illness. They simply pointed out that there is no connection between mental illness and criminal behavior. There are over two million mentally ill people in the United States who do not commit crimes.

The cautious approach of these two doctors compared very favorably with the over-reaching and exaggerated certainty of the defense's expert witness. They concluded on the basis of interviews with Gessner that he had engaged in behavior that he knew was wrong when he shot Henderson, and that he intended to kill him.

Perino mounted a ferocious challenge to the testimony of these two witnesses, but he was unable to shake them. Perino attacked their caution, but that is precisely what made their testimony believable. He attacked their unwillingness to accept the medical record, but the doctors pointed out that this record was inconsistent at best, and that on one crucial matter, drug-induced psychosis, Gessner refused to answer any questions.

Stokes showed a video of Gessner taken on October 12, 1994, five months after the murder. Jacobsohn is asking the questions. Gessner said he shot the queer bastard and didn't care, "no remorse." He said the voices told him to do it. In response to the allegation of sexual abuse, Gessner said, "I was 14 or 15, I don't remember, I don't know. The series about sexual abuse made me think of it."

Stokes asked Jacobsohn, "Does the fact that someone hears voices telling them to do something mean the person doesn't know it is wrong?"

A: No. A person can hear a voice and still distinguish right from wrong, still not do what the voice says.

Stokes went on, "Doctor, on the tape, Gessner said Henderson molested him. Can you say if that's true?"

A: No, not based on what he told me. And in determining his knowledge of the wrongfulness of his actions, this alleged fact has no impact.

In his summation, Stokes reiterated his strongest points concerning the defendant's capacity to know the wrongfulness of his actions. The defense had never contested his actual guilt. The most damning evidence was Gessner's attempt to conceal and his statements to family and friend to keep quiet about it.

Perino raised the image of the child molester in his summation. He said that Gessner's claim the Henderson did some-

thing to him is not self-serving. Perino suggests we look at David Robinson and see that Henderson used the affection lure on Robinson to get him to have sex with him. So why not on Mark Gessner. Perino claimed that the only explanation of why Gessner waited 15 years to kill Henderson for the sexual abuse is that Gessner is crazy. Perino further claimed that this case makes no sense unless you find Mark Gessner insane. He ended by saying, "I'm not telling you he didn't kill him. I'm telling you he's insane and asking you to find him not guilty by reason of insanity."

Stokes had the final word. He denounced any idea that vigilante justice was permissible in this case because of the allegation of sexual abuse. He asked the jury to return a verdict of guilty and responsible for the murder of Melvin Henderson.

Hate Crime?

On the morning of the third day of the trial, I had the opportunity to ride the elevator with the prosecutor, William Stokes. I asked him why this crime was not being prosecuted as a hate crime. Stokes said, "It doesn't get worse than murder. There are no additional penalties. It's not that it's not a hate crime, but it is irrelevant. We'll never know if Henderson touched him. I don't think this case is about that or that that's why Gessner killed Henderson." I disagreed with his final observation and pointed out that the defense might use society's hatred of homosexuals to try to get Gessner off. Stokes said, "I don't think it will work if they do."

To the defense's credit, they did not exploit homophobia to further their client's interest. But homophobia was central to this case, and yet, it seemed to have little impact.


Maine appears to have come a long way from the Charlie Howard case in 1984 when three older teenagers were given a slap on the wrist for murdering a gay man in Bangor. And Maine has distinguished itself from other states in which murderers of gay men are let off lightly.



Balboni Photo

Britt Gessner, Mark's wife, on the second day of the trial. She sobbed bitterly when she heard the verdict.

After 9 long hours of deliberation, the jury found Mark Gessner guilty of murder. His wife, Britt, doubled over, sobbing. This murder was a tragedy not only for the Henderson's, but for Mark Gessner's family too. Nevertheless, the jury has found Gessner guilty and responsible. It's up to the judge to sentence him appropriately. ΔΔ




Pam Anderson
Over a decade of experience
as a lawyer & educator

SEPARATION OR DIVORCE?
PARTNERSHIP ISSUES?
LEGAL QUESTIONS?

Holistic Legal Consulting,
Mediation & Information Services
A SOLUTION FOR THE 90's! 885-0031

Pro Libris BOOKSHOP

Over
20,000
current and
out-of-print
books in
stock



10 Third Street, Bangor • 942-3019
A reader's paradise since 1980
Eric Furry, Proprietor

Northwest Travel Agency

Specializing in Gay/Lesbian Travel

HOT PLACES AT COOL PRICES

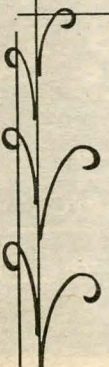
We're your connection to the gay - friendly world!!

Personalized service Automatic flight insurance
Professional & knowledgable

Call us at 1-800-385-3252

Ask for Andrea

969 Main Street, Westbrook ME 04092



I LOVE FLOWERS

320 Fore Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 774-5882

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Frederick B. Wolf, M.Div, S.T.D.
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor



180 High Street
Portland, Maine 04101
(207) 773-0191

LINDA BARTER, L.C.S.W.
CAROLYN BLOOM, L.C.S.W.
Licensed Clinical Social Workers

Individual - Couples - Women's Issues
Family Therapy

86 Main Street, Auburn, Maine
(207) 782-1051

Michelle Bolen
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

General Practice • Individual & Group •
Education & Presentations

Specialties include . . .
childhood abuse issues • anger management • women's issues

(207) 759-0284

 **womenspace**
COUNSELING CENTER

Joanne H. Clarey Ed.D., L.C.P.C.
871-0377
Vivian L. Wadas M.A., L.C.P.C.
774-2403

236 Park Ave, Portland, Maine

Bill Barter, LCPC

Individuals, Couples, and Groups

Offering Therapy in:
• Gender Issues
• Sexual Orientation
• Addiction & Recovery
• Relationships

Sliding scale available to those who qualify

(207) 773-0205

David O. Cook
Consultant

Information Systems
and Technology

Non-profit experience
Flexible rates

7 Deering Street
Portland ME 04102
Tel. (207) 874-0419

Norma Kraus Eule
MSW, LCSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker

*Individual, Group and
Relationship Therapy*

10 Minot Avenue
Auburn, Maine 04210

(207) 784-8747

VICTORIA ZAVASNIK, PH.D.
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Licensed Substance Abuse Counselor

Families
for
alcohol
abuse
Sexuality

775-6595

Back Cove Counseling Center
527 OCEAN AVE.
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103



Fresh-n-Up
Cleaning Service

Residential - Commercial
17 yrs. Experience
Bonded - Fully Insured
Free Estimates

Dori or Beckie
926-4365

Gentle Currents Acupuncture Clinic

Lisa Rothermich, Lic. Ac.

State Licensed, NCCA Certified

Pepperrell Green Bldg, #103
74 State Road (Route 1)
Kittery, Maine 03904

Telephone
(207) 439-3450

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

HENDERSON, from page 5

side, psychologically, between what he really felt and what he felt he could get away with in the society of the '60s, and remember this is Maine. He suffered tremendously, and he wanted everyone else to suffer with him. He and David were alcoholics.

CPR: Is it possible that he got drunk and then molested Mark?

MH: Not during the day. No. Not then. No. My father would have taken too much of a risk, and he never got that drunk that he couldn't perform his work functions.

CPR: So the boys worked day-time hours?

MH: Yes.

CPR: When would they go home?

MH: Sometimes at noon, sometimes at 3.

CPR: So, they were never there at night?

MH: No. There wasn't a whole lot of opportunity to do what he was accused of, ironically.

CPR: Where do you think the accusation comes from?

MH: I think it comes from the fact that Mark Gessner was raised in a fundamental Christian family which talks about absolutism, black and white, no shades of pink and gray. Thou shalt, thou must. And remember, at the trial he already said he had been raped by two other people which turned out to be unsubstantiated. My own personal opinion is that he did what a lot of kids do. He questioned his own sexuality, and whether he had a relationship with my father or not, he felt guilty, even if he just thought it, because of his strict religious background. I think he became extremely split and torn at a very early age over his normal questions and desires.

CPR: Describe your father.

MH: My father was a very handsome man, very talented, graceful. He could dance, he could skate, ride a horse. He changed my diapers, took me driving. We were never separated when I was little. My father had two brothers. One died of cirrhosis at age 32, and the other died of insanity at age 60. Both his parents died of insanity. My father was a gentleman's gentleman.

CPR: Did people think he was gay when they met him?

MH: No.

CPR: Where does David Robinson figure in all this?

MH: David moved in with my father when he was 16 or 17 and did everything he could to get rid of my brother and me. My father hooked him with fear and greed. David's background was terribly abusive. I don't think David was inherently gay.

CPR: Did your father and David ever bring in a third party for sex?

MH: No, they did not. But David probably has a lot to answer for.

CPR: Do you know if David had sex with the male employees?

MH: No, I don't, but David was extremely sneaky and extremely calculating. To David's credit, he is now sober. He used to be a severe alcoholic.

CPR: I have enough information.

MH: I do want you to place this whole thing in the larger context. My family was not singled out by God to be my father's victims. This happens because of society's intolerance for people's sexual preferences. And until that changes, a lot more people are going to pay for it. People are not allowed to experiment and find out what works for them, so they are forced into lives of emotional lies that eventually break up and leave a great deal of damage in their wake. ΔΔ

THE FURIES, from page 16

from the community. And don't believe for one minute that if you're male or straight, The Furies have nothing to offer you because that couldn't be further from the truth. There is a talent in Marilee's writing that transcends cultural specificity in such a way that any theatre-goer can find relevance.

I asked The Furies what the ultimate goal is and where do they want to go? Do they envision themselves expanding or will it always be three of them and everyone else will be guests? Marilee chuckled mumbling something about Broadway and then said there really was no ultimate goal. She wants to continue to write and direct plays that are of substantive value to the community and which provide the opportunity to laugh, to cry and to leave the performance with a different perspective than the one you brought with you. Edie muttered something about paying the rent and said that the three of them will always comprise the core but the hope is that eventually they will be financially viable as a theatre company. Joanna's priority is rehearsal space and to become her character so convincingly that everyone finds relevance through her delivery.

When I inquired about the materials needed to transform the chemistry into physical reality, they compiled a request list. The following is what The Furies would like for Christmas, (or at any other time anyone feels so inclined); theatre space, rehearsal space, 2-scene pre-set light board, lighting equipment, corporate and personal sponsorship, photocopying donations, props and costume donations, technicians of all kinds and most importantly all of your incredible SUPPORT! Joanna writes "We know you're out there - people who want alternative, financially accessible, GOOD theatre. We are YOUR voice, please join us in any way that you can! We welcome it!!".

The Furies are doing their part to provide alternative theatre that we can relate to and enjoy. Their hard work shows in the quality of performance and the exhaustion on their faces as they come closer to their holiday contribution of Marilee's comedic adaptation of "A Christmas Carol." Show them your support as well as giving yourself a festive treat December 13th - 18th at Sisters on Danforth Street. Shows are at 8 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 available before the show or at the door. I guarantee this will be one Christmas celebration about which you will have no regrets. ΔΔ

OUT OF TOWN, from page 13

This trip has to be one of the most memorable and exciting trips that I have ever participated in and I wouldn't hesitate one second to go again. However, you do have to remember that for those four days on the river, you are going to be without the comforts of home. By the end of the trip, I couldn't wait to get

back to the hotel in Moab so that I could take a hot shower, use a real toilet, and sleep in a real bed.

If anyone is interested, I would love to put together another of these trips for May/June of 1995. Give me a call at 885-5060 or 1-800-234-6252. ΔΔ

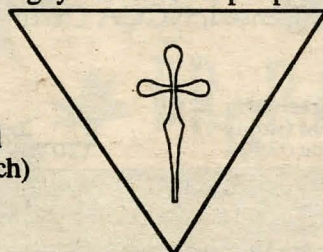


Sue Pierce and her friends from Sisters enjoyed Melissa Etheridge along with the rest of the sold-out Civic Center audience.

Metropolitan Community Church Portland, Maine

A Christian congregation with a primary ministry to gay and lesbian people.

Worship Services
Circle of Hope
4:00 PM Saturdays
156 High St., Portland
(Immanuel Baptist Church)
Join us!



For more information:
Metropolitan
Community
Church
PO Box 1671
Portland, ME 04104

MCC/Portland has applied for membership in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, a denomination founded by Troy Perry, a gay man, in 1968 to make God's love known to all persons.

GRANDMÈRE'S FARM
Buckfield, Maine
207-336-2484



The holidays are coming! Celebrate the Solstice or Christmas with a walk in the woods, hot mulled cider and cutting your own Yule tree.

Call to place your order or for an appointment to harvest your tree.

- *Balsam fir trees - table top to 5' tall
- *Wreaths - 24", decorated or plain
- *Garland - white pine or balsam
- *Lamb
- *Goose
- *Free-range chicken eggs
- *Creamy white and colored sheep pelts