Community Pride Reporter, 02/1995

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Concerned Maine Families charges conspiracy, corruption and scandal in the Attorney General's office

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

Concerned Maine Families (CMF) has begun their political campaign for the November 1995 referendum against human rights with a volley of charges aimed at the Diversity Commission and the Attorney General's Office. CMF called a press conference, January 9, in Augusta.

The two most serious charges are that the Attorney General's office inflated hate crime statistics to further an alleged plot between the AG and the so-called "militant gay lobby," and that this data was manipulated so as to provide the Diversity Commission with a basis for supporting some form of gay affirmative action. Herein, CMF alleges, lies the conspiracy.

Steve Wessler, Assistant Attorney General in charge of hate crime prosecution, said that CMF's claims that the Attorney General's office inflates hate crime statistics is "just plain wrong." He added, "It's hard to know how to respond to something so ridiculous. We are law enforcement officers, we are lawyers and we work with investigators and we work with police officers to enforce the laws of the State of Maine."

At the Augusta press conference, CMF displayed an elaborate flow chart showing how recommendations made by the state Diversity Commission could be used to funnel taxpayer money to gay and lesbian businesses. The group says the vicious cycle would be pushed along by unscrupulous politicians. A member of the Diversity Commission said the whole idea is ridiculous. "That's utter nonsense. In fact, the final report of the Diversity Commission makes it clear that, monetarily, the gay community will not make out positively at all." Various members of the Diversity Commission said CMF is fabricating elaborate lies to further its own political agenda.

The Diversity Commission's Final Report, issued December 7, is not Maine law. The commission was created by former Governor John McKernan. Its recommendations may or may not be used by Governor Angus King.

Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson, CMF, begins the battle for her anti-human rights referendum with series of charges labeled "ridiculous" by all concerned.

"The only information given to us were statistics and these statistics are available to anyone and are a part of the Diversity Commission's final report."

See CMF, page 4

The Oliver succession - -

Green Party candidate challenges 'safe' Democratic seat in House District 31

By Reba Richardson

When longtime State Representative James Oliver departs for the Peace Corps in late January, the seat representing Maine House District 31 will be open.

Up until recently, the contest to succeed Oliver was an all-Democratic affair. Green Party activist, Jonathan Carter, announced that he will run for the seat.

Anyone in District 31 who attends the Oliver succession meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 at 7:00 PM.

In a race not particularly defined by contrasting ideals or differing political ideologies, the distinctions between candidates are not initially clear. All candidates are unequivocally in support of the gay rights bill, although past involvement and experience with gay rights issues varies among the candidates.

Michael Saxl (D), 180 Danforth St. 828-8052

As assistant to the Senate Major-See House Dist. 31, page 6

In a memo to Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD) volunteers, Sally Sutton, Executive Director of the Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU), conveyed the news that it was not going to be necessary to spend time, energy and funds challenging the signatures gathered by Concerned Maine Families.

Sutton, speaking on behalf of the MCLU, GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders), and the MWD Steering Committee said, "After a thorough review of the procedures used by the Secretary of State in examining the petitions submitted by Carolyn Cosby and Concerned Maine Families, it has been determined that any examination of the petitions that we would conduct would not produce a sufficient number of invalid signatures to throw out the petitions." She continued, "The Secretary of State has conducted a much more thorough review... examining every major, and virtually every minor, item
Students earn punishment for die-in at Deering & South Portland High

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

"I knew that I had to inform her (Dr. Jan Patton, Principal of Deering High) of what was happening outside her building, but I didn't want to do it too much ahead of time because I was afraid she would go on the intercom and threaten that any students who participated in the action would be punished." So said Christina Mason, a student activist at Deering High. Mason was referring to a die-in staged outside Deering High, December 1, World AIDS Day.

Mason is a member of T.R.A.P., which is an acronym for Teen Risk Awareness. There are three other such organizations: K.I.S.S. — Kennebec Individuals for Safer Sexuality (Monmouth Academy); S.A.F.E. — Students Against False Education (South Portland High); and, S.I.A.M. — Scarborough for Latex Availability and Maturation (Scarborough High). All of these groups fall under the umbrella of F.A.T.E. — Fight AIDS—Transform Education. Richard B. Freed of ACT-UP Portland is the Coordinator/Adviser to F.A.T.E.

CPR met with members of F.A.T.E., January 3, via a conference call to members of the four groups in order to follow up on their World AIDS Day activities.

A letter sent to school superintendents around the state, F.A.T.E. describes itself and lists its demands as follows:

1. Free latex available to all students.
2. Latex machines in bathroom stalls so students can get latex anonymously.
3. Explicit information and directions about how to use condoms and other forms of latex
4. Education that teaches about what HIV/AIDS and homophobia in all Maine schools. F.A.T.E. includes, but is not limited to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. We want you to mandate diversity education which stops homophobia in all Maine public schools. Sexual education is often geared towards heterosexual youth. We demand behavior appropriate as well as same-sex educational material.
5. We Demand In All Maine Public Schools:
   1. Free latex available to all students
   2. Latex machines in bathroom stalls so students can get latex anonymously
   3. Explicit information and directions about how to use condoms and other forms of latex
   4. Education that teaches about what HIV/AIDS and homophobia in all Maine schools are, and the biological effects of the disease
   5. Workshops offered to parents so that worthwhile conversations can happen between parents and their kids
   6. Non-judgmental discussions of HIV/AIDS, including IV needle use and sexual orientation in classrooms
   7. Student groups with student rules in school
   8. Homophobia included in all harassment policies
   9. Safe and confidential sex/HIV counselors in all middle and high schools
   10. HIV/AIDS knowledge test before entering high schools

Deering High
Dr. Jan Patton, Deering High Principal, spoke to CPR and said "Christina Mason called me and said they would participate by going outside every 6 minutes. I told her I could not give her permission and [said] if you do it, you'll be truant; it's not a school activity. We gave them one demerit for being tardy, 5 demerits equal in-school suspension.

"If they had planned ahead, we might have been able to accommodate them. The first I heard of it was the day before. They have no faculty sponsor, we had heard of no planned activity, nobody had mentioned doing anything. When I asked Christina what her objective was, her response was she wanted to get the School Committee's attention to be aware of how many kids are concerned about these issues. I said that since we start at 7:30 am, no member would notice and the late planning made it impossible.

Patton told CPR that there is an AIDS awareness group at Deering High headed by the nurse. She said a group of these students came in to see her to plan some activities around AIDS awareness. "No one from T.R.A.P. is involved in this group," she said.

According to Patton, Mason said, "Dr. Patton, we don't care if you approve this. We're not seeking approval, we're going to do it anyway." Patton said, "This action raised zero awareness at Deering High.

Patton asked this reporter, "Why are you doing a story about this anyway?" I informed her that since the Community Pride Reporter is meant for the homosexual community of Maine, any AIDS-related stories are of interest. She insisted I send her a copy of the paper.

CPR contacted Christina Mason. The following interview ensued:

CPR: How did Dr. Patton handle the situation at Deering on World AIDS Day?

CM: She was not very supportive. There are a lot of kids who are intimidated by threats from the principal, so I didn't tell her too far in advance because I didn't want her to ruin the event. Some kids think that if the principal doesn't support it, they should not do it, and they think the punishment will be worse than it is. They give people too much power over them.

I went down to see Patton the day before . . . I talked to the Assistant Principal, Mrs. Roy, who had seen one of the flyers . . . and she basically said we had a right to do whatever we wanted, but she didn't quite like the way we were doing it. She was very polite and very supportive, and she said that she really admired us for at least discussing something about such an important issue, but that she thought we should have worked more within the bounds of the school. She said that Dr. Patton wanted to talk with me about it.

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Bill Gordon, contact person 207-453-9750
were 60 students outside the school for 6 minutes. We had a bunch of posters and we were lying down, then we went back inside after 6 minutes. We got one demerit for participating in the demonstration because we were tardy.

CM: Did any teachers punish participants?

CM: Most didn’t. Most were cool about it but some did and I know some asked kids to stay after as sort of an individual detention or they at least threatened them.

CPR: I just spoke to Patton. In that conversation, she said that one of her objections was that there was no prior planning, and that if you had planned ahead, she might have been able to accommodate you in some way, that you had no faculty sponsor for this group, and then she kept referring to the AIDS awareness group that is headed up by the school nurse as a responsible group that wants to work within the school. What comment do you have on those statements?

CM: I'd like to think that was true (the accommodation part), but basically one of the reasons we work outside of the school and we don't have a faculty advisor is because in the past anything that is perceived as unpopular or controversial like diversity activities, or anything that might upset some parents, has come back to the advisor who tried to help us out and they've gotten in a lot of trouble, or been given a really hard time by our school administration. These are people that I like, the faculty advisors, so I don't want to get anyone in trouble for my actions... I don't want it to be like the teachers are afraid to lose their jobs because they're helping us to do something important, but unpopular, and since we're outside the school, we don't have to get approval for everything we do...

One of the main things our group supports is condom availability, which I feel very strongly could help prevent the spread of HIV. Our school would never help a group that is perceived as unpopular or controversial like diversity activities, or any student that's really concerned about important issues like AIDS, and is willing to go out of their way to try to make a difference, is doing something wrong. I think giving demerits sends a really bad message. There are a lot of students who skip school for a lot of other reasons. There are a lot of students who are having unprotected sex. Instead we're out there for six minutes trying to really impact the community and encourage and encourage some to maybe make more reasonable decisions, and we're given demerits for it.

CM: Actually, no. I'm not. I'm heterosexual, but I feel that diversity education and acceptance of all sexual orientations is really important.

CPR: What Kind of treatment do you receive from the other students at Deering High who know of your activities in this group?

CM: Basically for me, because I'm active in human rights, animal rights, Amnesty International, diversity education is really important... so I question whether or not she would have worked with us had we wanted to do something, but I think that whatever we did would have to have been toned down a lot and done on her terms. The whole point of our organization is to do what students want, so I question whether or not she would have worked with us. I think that she may have, but it would have been entirely different from what we were trying to push for... we really believe in explicit AIDS education and condom availability, and I think whatever she would have had us do would have been like red ribbon wearing. Everyone knows that AIDS exists and its horrible, but I think that people need to know exactly how they can get it and how they can prevent it, and that's lacking in our curriculum...

Scarborough High

CPR then spoke to the principal at Scarborough High, Sue Gendron (SG), and asked her how S.L.A.M., Scarborough High's group, conducted their observance of World AIDS Day.

SG: There was a group of kids who did advertise themselves as part of the S.L.A.M. group who sent a notice around the school, and they asked the other kids to join them for a six minute observance acknowledging that an individual dies of AIDS every six minutes. This was to happen in the morning, just as school was starting, across the street from school. I did get wind of that and went to the organizers and shared with

See Die-In, Page 7
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The flow chart made by CMF documents the alleged conspiracy between the AG's office, the Diversity Commission and gay/lesbian business. It is based on false and outdated information according to Meyer Bodoff, member of the Diversity Commission.

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CMF, from page 1

CMF has charged that they cannot get the same access to the Attorney General's files that the Diversity Commission had. Bodoff said this is untrue. What CMF really wants is names and addresses of complainers and victims of hate crimes and bias incidents, and that that information is not available to anyone.

Behind the desire on CMF's part to obtain these confidential files is their allegation that bias incidents themselves are trivial. At the January 9 press conference, Lawrence Lockman, vice chairperson of CMF, said "This absurdly broad definition (of bias incidents) invites bogus complaints from activists who have a vested interest in pumping up their numbers."

Wesler responded to this allegation by saying, "People may suggest that bias complaints are trivial, but I don't believe they are for several reasons. When a minority person is on the receiving end of words of hate that aren't unlawful, but are prejudiced, it can be devastating. They aren't trivial at all. Second, we know from tragic experiences, Charlie Howard's death being one of them, serious hate crimes often start some time before that crime as a bias incident. People who are engaged in absolutely despicable expressions of hate and bias at some point tend to escalate, not everybody, but some, to violence. To suggest that incidents of bias and hate and prejudice that aren't unlawful are trivial is, I think, absolutely wrong."

Lockman also said, "We (CMF) find it shocking and irresponsible that attorney's for Maine's AG's office are apparently prepared to record and report grossly misleading official statistics to create the false impression of an 'anti-homosexual hate crime' in Maine. We believe the sole reason for this, is to back-up the 1994 recommendations of the Diversity Commission, which are clearly designed to permit businesses to receive special block grant funding by simply identifying themselves as gay-owned/operated, in accord with minority status, as defined by the Diversity Commission."

Both Wesler and Bodoff took extreme exception to this statement. Wesler said that the Attorney General's office has been compiling statistics for years, long before a Diversity Commission even existed, and that the sole reason for the compilation of these statistics is law enforcement - period. He added that the bulk of such reports are made by police departments and not by individuals.

Bodoff said that CMF's charges are "groundless and ridiculous." He pointed out that Lockman is basing many of his charges on information contained in a preliminary draft report of the Diversity Commission issued in September. Lockman conceded this fact at the press conference.

Bodoff said the only document worth discussing is the final report, and that draft documents are working documents, many parts of which are discarded. He said, "We stand on the final report and in the final report there is no mention of any gay affirmative action and CMF knows this. If CMF wants to talk about what's in a draft report, that simply shows how absurd and desperate they are."

Bodoff believes that CMF is zeroing in on the draft report, "because they can't attack the final report because that document is so good." He added that none of charges made by CMF are accurate as far as the Diversity Commission's Final Report is concerned.

Bodoff was particularly disturbed by CMF's attack because he said, "They attacked the integrity of the Diversity Commission members, and rarely have I served with a more honorable and dedicated group of people." He said that there were many members who were, initially, unconvinced that hate and bias against gays and lesbians was a serious problem in Maine, but after looking at the statistics, they changed their minds.

Bodoff added that rather than being inflamed, as CMF claims, hate crimes and bias incidents are under-reported, and these incidents are even more widespread than the statistics indicate.

Bodoff went on to say that the two main charges made by CMF - inflated hate crime statistics and economic development for gay-owned/operated businesses, "are ludicrous and belong to people who clearly have a different political agenda and who won't look at the truth. Gays are not a part of the definition of who qualifies for minority economic development aid and CMF knows this. These charges have to be made by people who are not telling the truth."

Bodoff said the statement that 'hate crime is not a serious problem,' 'is the product of a sick mind.'

Lockman asserted at the press conference that victimization of homosexuals, "has never been proven by real data." Yet, when presented with the data, CMF denounced it as contrived and inflated. A gay teacher who chooses to remain anonymous to avoid any imaginary victimization said that Lockman should spend some time in the classroom or the school yard where the epithet "faggot" remains the worst insult one child can say to another. Another person suggested Lockman be present when a gay youth comes out to his homophobic family.

See CMF, page 5
Secretary of State Diamond certifies CMF petitions

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

William Diamond, Maine's Secretary of State, has ruled that Concerned Maine Families (CMF) has over 60,000 valid signatures on their petitions to put an anti-gay referendum question to the people of Maine in November of this year.

Individuals or groups have five business days from the date of certification to file a legal challenge. The Maine Civil Liberties Union plans to file such a challenge on behalf of Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD). The legal challenge will, according to Pat Pead, President of the ACLU, be filed in Superior Court in Augusta.

If the legal challenge is unsuccessful, CMF's initiative will go to the legislature where it will either be approved as law or sent to the voters for referendum.

Karen Geraghty, President of MLGPA, fears an increase in anti-homosexual violence because of CMF's referendum.

Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson of CMF, has said that if the initiative goes to referendum, her organization will not try to raise money outside of Maine. But in a recent Portland Press Herald story, it was shown that CMF has financial ties to extremist right-wing political organizations and operatives in Arlington, Virginia and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Karen Geraghty, President of the Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) expressed concern during a recent radio interview about the possibility of increased violence against gays and lesbians in the wake of an upcoming referendum on civil rights.

In a press conference, January 9 in Augusta, Cosby said she believes violence against gays is not a problem and most of it is, "mere name-calling." Law enforcement officials across the state said Cosby is simply wrong. 

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William A. Fogel (D), 101 Pine St.
761-0433

Fogel’s work as a lawyer and his experience in “cutting red tape,” are two attributes that he thinks would lend to his strength as a legislator. He has worked to strategize ways to reduce the financial impact of the anti-discrimination bill so that it can’t be defeated due to fiscal reasons. He feels he has the “ability to advocate for people who don’t have any other means,” and he has promised to spend the legislative salary on maintaining a field office where constituent needs can be addressed. He stressed the importance of the business district and of the need to connect homeowners with the economic clout of the Old Port.

David Garrity (D), 174 Danforth St.
774-5412

Working as press coordinator for both the Portland Human Rights Ordinance and the anti-discrimination bill that passed in the Legislature in 1993, Garrity has clearly made a commitment to gay rights issues. If elected, Garrity seems to have an understanding of the level of time and energy needed to be a legislator. He has both the ability and support of those dealing with them.” While, along with all the other candidates, she supported the idea of condom availability in high schools, she was the only candidate who “had not thought about condom availability in prisons, while all others supported it. She was the only candidate, besides Fogel, who discussed economic issues and the importance of the business district in Portland, commenting that a balance of interests is necessary, especially in order for business to be successful and “give back” to the community.

Kate Neale (D), 8 Taylor St.
761-8040

With her background in public interest law and as an educator, Neale seems to be well aware of the needs of those who are often discriminated against. She currently runs the family mediation program at Youth Alternatives and is a hearing officer for the Department of Education in Special Education hearings. As a lesbian, she was espe

John Herrick (G), 100 Park St.
780-6021

John Herrick says, “I grew up in a Republican household, but I have voted Democratic and, to be honest, I don’t know what each party stands for except opposition to each other.” I like the Green Party’s values and I agree with those values. Herrick listed the Green Party’s platform:

1) Ecological wisdom
2) Grassroots democracy
3) Personal and social responsibility
4) Non-violence
5) Decentralization
6) Community-based economic
7) Feminist values
8) Respect for diversity
9) Global responsibility
10) Future focus and sustainability

Herrick summed up his candidacy by saying, “It’s not a matter of running against this opponent or that, it’s a matter of trying to advance the Green cause.”
them that they should come to me about World AIDS Day and how better to get that message across. So I proposed another activity for them to heighten the awareness of the student body around individuals who died from AIDS.

What we did with the kids was, this group of kids generated a list of names of individuals who might be volunteers and then every six minutes, throughout the day, we announced a name, and that individual left class, came to the office and wore a black arm band for the rest of the day. Then we concluded the day with an assembly with the entire school to acknowledge the approximately 50 victims who had been called down during the course of the day, who could be amongst those who died of AIDS. We had our school nurse talk a little bit about AIDS to heighten the awareness around World AIDS Day.

**CPR:** Were any students disciplined for what they did at the start of school?

**SG:** No one was disciplined for the action. What they did was that if they chose to hold their six minute action once school had started, then they came into school tardy. When I met with the kids I said, 'is that really what you want to do because we do have policies around what time school starts, so why don't we do something that's within the realm of the day, that doesn't put you in a spot where you're trying to present awareness information and then you're going to have to suffer consequences for a worthy cause because you're not coming to school on time.'

So that's when I offered the alternative of having someone called down every six minutes and concluding the day with a school assembly, so that we could acknowledge the day. I said to the kids, 'if you choose to do the other, there will be consequences.' They had advertised that fact up front, that if kids chose not to come to school on time, then the normal consequences would follow, and so I don't know if anyone ended up in any disciplinary action.

What we have is a policy, if you are tardy more than four times then you end up with a detention, . . . it wasn't because they chose to have the demonstration. It would have been just because they violated the tardy policy. There was no disciplinary action as a result of their desire to increase awareness. In fact, we responded by saying, 'Hey, let's work together.'

**CPR:** F.A.T.E. sent a letter to your superintendent, David Legasse, in which they list their 12 demands. Are you familiar with that?

**SG:** No.

**CPR:** One of the demands is condom availability in the schools. What is Scarborough's policy on that?

**SG:** There is no policy.

**CPR:** In the sense that that's not happening.

**SG:** That's correct.

**CPR:** And is it an issue at the School Committee?

**SG:** The group of kids who passed out the flyers around World AIDS Day are asking kids to join them to talk about requesting an audience with the superintendent so they can request the distribution of condoms. When I met with the organizers of that group, I said you need to know that there is a process in which to do this, and organizing and demonstrating would not be the way that I would choose to advise you to do that. I said there's a way of gathering information and taking a request to the Board of Education. . . . I also have prepped our Board of Education that these are issues that we, as a school community, need to begin to have discussions about, around the diversity issues that we as a high school are experiencing. We have more and more diversity and a variety of different social groups, and on January 17 we have a training session entitled Cultural Diversity, but it's really going to be looking at race and gender and sexuality and age discrimination; looking at all those types of issues, because I feel very strongly that as a faculty we need to heighten our own awareness.

I have a contact person in Massachusetts, because Massachusetts has mandated some legislation around forming groups for the gay and lesbian populations within schools, and how you provide the appropriate services, and I've actually extended an invitation to one of the young people in this school to accompany me to Massachusetts to meet individuals to see how they organize the different types of services and so forth. I think we're taking a very pro-active and well-planned approach to looking at how do I make sure that all of the kids in my building are not discriminated against whether it be for race or sexual preference?

My message to my kids is, 'You need to talk to me, you don't need to go out and demonstrate. Just come to my office and we'll have a very educational, intelligent conversation and work together to make sure your needs are met.' There is a young man whom I have approached who has very openly proclaimed that he is gay. He is a young man that I have tried to make very comfortable.

**CPR:** Is that Tim Arnold?

**SG:** Yes. And he has wanted to See Die-In, Page 14

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### House Dist. 31 from page 6

At the Democratic City Committee meeting on Sunday, January 8, the five Democratic candidates and their supporters were in attendance. Through round-table discussions in which the candidates circulated amongst groups of voters, each candidate was given the opportunity to share their political positions as well as field questions.

Because this Democratic primary is a race where many of the voters have been individually recruited due to the fact that it is not a regular election, a large number of the attendees at the meeting appeared to come in order to support specific candidates. This race is unusual, though, in that there must be a majority of votes supporting one candidate in order for that candidate to win the Democratic nomination.

Therefore, there will likely be several rounds of voting, with the candidate with the lowest number of votes in each round dropping out. In the next round, then, their votes would go to a different candidate. Therefore, people who initially support a specific candidate may end up voting for others if their candidate is defeated.

Now that a Green Party candidate is in the race, what was once thought to be a purely Democratic Party matter, will be a real contest. Herrick's candidacy, which split the liberal/progressive vote, may well trigger the Republicans to offer a candidate.
EDITORIAL

CONDOMS — Si ou non?

By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

I watched the televised Portland School Committee meeting held at PRVTC on December 5, regarding condom availability in Portland and Deering High Schools. The public was invited to speak on this issue. As the meeting wore on, my anxiety quickened and I began to feel an attitude that can only be described as, “a curse on both your houses.” Has it actually come to the point where making condoms available in high school can be defended because students need to avoid embarrassment? And on the other side — one had the opportunity to listen to Michael Schools rant and rave about the horror of showing an erect penis in a classroom. I hate to tarnish Mr. Schools’ impression of reality, but somewhere in his background there looms an erect penis, otherwise he wouldn’t be here to enlighten us as he so often feels called upon to do. Further, Mr. Schools should know that in 1964, when I took biology in high school, my fellow students and I waited impatiently for what then was known as the “film of the year.” Finally, the great day came when there on the screen, in a classroom, were anatomical depictions of not only erect penises but, gasp, vaginas as well. We all blushed and giggled, but we learned how these organs worked. Most of us thought we already knew.

That was 31 years ago. Most high school kids know the score then and even more now know it today. I don’t really care whether condoms are available in high school. I know they are available free at the AIDS Project, City Hall’s STD clinic and Planned Parenthood. I guess kids who are sexually active can go there or to the store and get them. But at the School Committee meeting it was said that going to these places is inconvenient and embarrassing. One wonders if the people who support condom availability are willing to concede that these youth who are engaging in sex have any responsibility around the acquisition and use of condoms. (This scenario also begs the question of what sex education is for if not to alert students to the need to overcome inertia and embarrassment in the name of saving their lives.)

The champions on both sides of this “issue” are posturing and grandstanding. Someone actually stood up at the meeting and said, “If it saves even one life then it’s worth it.” I’m sorry, but this transparent attempt to relieve one’s conscience over the AIDS crisis is too easy.

One’s position on this question has become a litmus test for progressive or conservative credentials, respectively. There is clearly a greater agenda afoot but, in any case, I think this is a phony issue.

There is a place where the question of condom availability is real. It’s a place where lives really are at stake, where people have no choices, and where embarrassment and inconvenience are absurdly out of context — prison.

Men and women in prison have sex. This information is not news. Men and women in prison have sex since the first prison. These men and women cannot go to Planned Parenthood or to a store to get their condoms. It is infuriating to listen to the people who support condom availability in high school frame the argument so eloquently in terms involving justice and common sense (along with such specious arguments as the need to avoid embarrassment), and then hear the deafening silence on condom availability in prisons.

One wonders why this is so. People argued against condom availability in high school because they said it would promote sexual activity. Some people say that condom availability in prison will promote sexual activity. In both cases everyone with a brain knows that sex is already taking place. The difference is the kind of sex. In high school, we needn’t consider that question. In prison the kind of sex is one kind — homosexual. So, it is reasoned, giving condoms in prison promotes homosexuality. Put that way, the concern actually seems silly, but the state would find itself in the peculiar position of promoting condoms for a kind of sex that, according to state law, is illegal. Ironically, the riskiest sexual practice for AIDS transmission is anal intercourse, which, regardless of one’s sexual orientation, is a men’s prison, a common occurrence. Also, the community-at-large should consider that the majority of the homosexual acts in prison involve heterosexuals who, upon release, will likely spread the disease to other heterosexuals. Where better then, despite the contradictions, should condoms be made available?

People will argue that men and women in prison should not have sex. To them I say, “Wake up!”

The urgency with which the elites are pushing the condom availability in high schools issue rather than devoting their energies to condom availability in prisons bespeaks of their willingness to join in the “lock ’em up and throw away the key” thinking of the very people they so vehemently denounce at these fanciful School Committee meetings whose outcome is cast by the liberals as a matter of life and death. This oversight stinks of classism. Who, after all, is in prison — the losers, the expendable, the forgotten — those not only at risk, but beyond risk.

Governor Angus King told CPR in October that he supported condom availability in prisons as long as corrections officials could do it in a non-disruptive manner. To all those who use the high brow rhetoric in support of making condoms available in high schools — why not get down in the trenches and fight a battle that is really worth winning? You’ll undoubtedly save more than one life. (Your dilemma will be that you may be saving the lives of people you don’t like.)

Bruce Balboni

 See Chew, Page 19
By Carolyn Jaletter/Donna Tennant

The gay/lesbian community has many facets to its energies and business world. Fig. 2: gay/lesbian businesses are really struggling to continue to provide social gatherings and cultural events that in the past have been unavailable to the community. For them to continue to provide these events, community support will be required. What is wrong with the concept and action of supporting gay/lesbian owned or gay friendly owned businesses? Do we know who they are and where they are located? Do we know the services they provide? Members of our community who visit for vacation, business, or who move to Maine would like to know what kind of community environment to expect and what activities are available.

When was the last time you stepped out of your tight circle to lend support to other gay/lesbian circles? It recently came to our attention that Wild Iris Productions and local night clubs across the state are struggling to generate personal financial losses in order, to maintain some level of social gathering places where members of our community can enjoy an evening out. The Community Pride Reporter is suffering as badly as it is not getting the subscriptions and advertising needed to support the costs of publishing a paper.

We have several hard-working organizations trying desperately to support the community, but there seems to be a lack of communication and planning of events. An example of this lack of communication and planning is the AIDS Auction which is scheduled on the same date that Wild Iris has planned to bring Heather Bishop to Portland. The Heather Bishop concert was planned a year ago! Significant costs are incurred to arrange these functions. Both events are important, and with proper planning, both could be successful.

The time has come to give serious consideration to a Gay/Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. We need to be able to provide every opportunity for cultural and social events to be successful, so much to make substantial financial gains, but to at least break even and cover the expense of organizing events.

Drop Me A Line has been a resource for the community, as was recently revealed in the Portland Press Herald. Such an enlightening article! Their ad appears in the community papers. Jim and Roger are more than happy to answer questions, but often have to say, "I wish I could refer you to someone," but they don't know to whom. It is a reasonable assumption that this happens with other businesses.

There are many of us who are still "out of the closet" for business/family reasons. Even so, we can still support the community anonymously. There are several politically active organizations such as MLGPA, The Matlovich Society, Mame Won't Discriminate, TAP, etc. Socially there is CJP Productions, Women perverse Winter Rotaret out of New Hampshire, Spring/Fall Feast, Wild Iris Productions, Sisters, Women's Softball League, Gay Men's Chorus, The Underground, Citi, P.J.'s, etc. Maybe you are not into alliances, music, dancing or softball. If you have other interests, let's take a look at how something could be organized. We need to participate to support an event by sending a donation in the form of a money order or by having someone else send a check for you if confidentiality is a concern.

No member of the community should feel there is nothing to do or no where to go. Today the opportunities for gays and lesbians to gather in public space are far greater than they were even ten years ago. These opportunities will only remain available if we - the members of the community - support them. Without a place to gather, gays and lesbians all too often become isolated and disconnected from one another. This is a very lonely and depressing existence. Unless we take action, this will continue to occur.

For our community to survive, it must have support from its members. We need to combine our resources to maintain a cultural and social network. Many would like to see us wiped out; culturally, socially and economically. It would appear that we are contributing to our own demise. We need to unite the Gay/Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender communities!

We must do for ourselves what others will not do for us. If you are interested in talking about this issue, call us at 878-3755.

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

The Publisher reserves the right to edit and adapt any material submitted for publication. Please retain a copy of all material submitted, as we will not return it. No portion of Community Pride Reporter are those of the Publisher.

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.

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 the author for appropriate reasons.

Copyright
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Thursday, January 12th:  
Α Δ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "Let's Get Away From It All!" Paul Bernard leads a discussion of travel and vacation ideas especially for our community. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility impaired; free hotel parking.

Δ Α 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine - Meditation Group, women & men. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Friday, January 13th:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Drop in, informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, January 14th:  
Δ Α 8:30 AM - AM: Ski Trip to Sunday River sponsored by Time Out and Blackstone's. Bus and ski ticket packages available. Cross country skiing also offered. FMI, 207/741-4919.

Sunday, January 15th:  
Δ Α 6:30 PM - Metropolitan Community Church of Portland will host a Potluck Supper and Social at Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. All Welcome. FMI, call 773-0119.

Δ Α 6:30 PM - "A Gospel Extravaganza" presented as part of Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Celebration. Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St, Portland. Several church choirs participating. $5 per person, $20 per family 4-6. Refreshments. FMI, 725-7632.

Monday, January 16th:  
Δ 7:00-9:00 PM - WELCOME BACK! The Gathering meets at USM's Campus Center, Portland, Rm B & C. Topic: TeenAIDS Activists discuss their thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, January 17th:  
Δ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

Wednesday, January 18th:  
Δ 7:00-8:30 PM - Cummings Center, 134 Congress St. The Whole Grocer presents acupunctureist Susan Reed in the second in a series of five seasonal talks: In The Spirit of the Season: Winter - The Water Element. Includes strategies for supporting health of body, mind and spirit as seasons change. Snow date: January 19th. No charge.

Δ Α 7:30-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Fund Raising meeting. FMI, 725-7632.

Thursday, January 19th:  
Δ 7:00-8:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine - Meditation Group, women & men. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Friday, January 20th:  
Δ 6:00-9:00 PM - Training session for Peabody House Volunteers. 15 Vaughan St., Portland. FMI, Gloria J. Vetro, 207/774-6281. There are 4 sessions to the training.

Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Drop in, informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, January 21st:  
Δ Α 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM - 3rd session of Volunteer training for Peabody House. (See 1/20 FMI.)

Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - The AIDS Project's 10th Anniversary Celebration kick-off reception. 2 Gannett Drive, So. Portland. Hosted by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine. Entertainment by USM’s String Quartet and the Gay Men’s Chorus. Donations gladly accepted at the door. FMI, 774-6877.

Snow date: January 28th.

Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Crafts 'n Fun. Bring your own crafts to work on or learn a new craft at the Center. FMI, 725-7632.

Sunday, January 22nd:  
Δ Α 8:00 AM - Ski Trip to Sunday River sponsored by Time Out and Blackstone’s. Bus and ski ticket packages available. Cross country skiing also offered. FMI, 207/741-4919.

Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Drop in, informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Monday, January 23rd:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - WELCOME BACK! The Gathering meets at USM's Campus Center, Portland. Rm B & C. Topic: TeenAIDS Activists discuss their thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, January 24th:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

Wednesday, January 25th:  
Δ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

Thursday, January 26th:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine - Meditation Group, women & men. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Friday, January 27th:  
Δ Α 6:00-9:00 PM - 3rd session of Training for Peabody House Volunteers. (see 1/20 FMI.)

Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Drop in, informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, January 28th:  
Δ 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM - 4th session of Training for Peabody House Volunteers. (see 1/20 FMI.)

Δ Α 8:00 PM - Women in Harmony Concert, "Let There Be Music" Immanuel Baptist Church, 156 High St., Portland. $10 in advance, $12 at the door, $6 Seniors/students with ID. Handicapped accessible, signed for hearing impaired. Tickets available at Drop Me A Line and Amadeus Music.

Monday, January 30th:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Support Group every other Monday night. Focus is on healing, recovery and self-esteem. Newcomers are always welcome. FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, January 31st:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - WELCOME BACK! The Gathering meets at USM's Campus Center, Portland, Rm B & C. Topic: TeenAIDS Activists discuss their thoughts and ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

FEBRUARY:

Monday, February 3rd:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Drop in, informal and casual. A time to meet new friends, share thoughts & ideas or kick back and relax. FMI, 725-7632.

Saturday, February 4th:  
Δ Α 9:00-11:00 PM - Women's Pre-Valentine Dance, sponsored by Wild Iris Productions. Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland. Chees-fry, DJ Refreshments. $5 in advance, $6 at the door. Advance by mail only: Wild Iris Productions, Inc., PO Box 17, W. Buxton, 04093.

Sunday, February 5th:  
Δ Α 8:00-6:00 PM - Women's Wolves. "FMI, Faith Worthley - 774-4919.

FEBRUARY:

Tuesday, February 7th:  
Δ Α 7:00-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

Δ Α 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering meets at USM's Campus Center, Portland, Rm B & C. Valentine's Day Party. Bring your sweetheart or come solo. We'll have a blast! FMI, Faith Worthley - 774-4919.

CPR wants to help publicize your organization's meeting time. In order to do this, we request complete information at least one month prior to your event. This is a free service to the community.
MONEY TALK: What's new - 1994 tax returns?

By Peter J. Callanan, CPA

Welcome to 1995! The holidays have passed and the new year has just begun. In this month's article, we will be giving a quick and brief review of the 1994 tax law changes. It may help in reporting to the aforementioned gentlemen what you have for taxable income.

The income tax brackets have been adjusted for inflation, so check carefully if you don't use the table in your tax booklet.

The personal exemption deduction has been increased to $2,450. You are allowed one for yourself and each of your dependents. (Unfortunately, pets are not considered dependents by the IRS.)

Standard deductions for individuals who do not itemize have been increased to $3,800 for Single, $5,600 for Head of Household, $6,250 for Married, Filing Jointly, and $3,125 for Married, Filing Separately. The standard deductions are increased if you are age 65 or over, or blind.

If you are single, married, or head of household and have no dependents, you may file a simplified Form 1040. If you are married, filing jointly, you may file a Form 1040A or Form 1040; Form 1040EZ may not be used.

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If you have low or moderate income levels, this may be an opportunity for you to reduce your tax liability.

• Only 50% of business meals and entertainment expenses are deductible in 1994. Costs of dues at country clubs are no longer deductible.

• Home office deductions for employees have been severely limited by the IRS. Most employees will no longer qualify for this deduction.

• Cash donations of $250 or more will need a receipt and explanation from the charity to which they are given. A cancelled check is no longer adequate documentation. The deadline for obtaining a receipt is the date you file your 1994 return.

More Social Security benefits are taxable. If your Provisional Income (Gross income before benefits + 50% of your Benefits) exceeds $33,000 for Single, or $44,000 for Married, Filing Jointly, and then up to $55,000 for Married, Filing Separately. The standard deductions are increased if your processional income is lower. This is a tricky calculation, but there will be a worksheet in your tax booklet to assist you in determining if any of your benefits are taxable.

If you are married, filing jointly, you may file a Form 1040; Form 1040A or Form 1040EZ may not be used.

• The cost of your home or business mileage.

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• The standard allowance for business mileage has been increased to 19 cents per mile.

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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) 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. New Brunswick Meetings are 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 pm (ME), 2 pm (NB), at Lions Community Center, High St., Caribou, and can be reached by phone on Wednesday by Thad Ponihattin in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/649-2088.

The Matlovitch Society is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing personal 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, 526 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. For information call 207/626-8844.

ое, and social services to victims of sexual orientation and gender-based incidents, and provides support and counseling for individuals and organizations. FMI, call 874-6877. Located at 207 Monument Sq., 5th floor, Portland 04101. Call for information and support group meetings in Portland, Lewiston, Brunswick.

Bans®: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 900-3626

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Burlington: HIV/AIDS Education & Prevention Services: 1-800-495-7071

Bridgton: Community Task Force on AIDS: 538-6560

Burnham: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 1-800-229-7070

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waldoboro: 832-5859

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 7:30 pm. Meet downtown club room of the Portland YWCA, 87 Sprin St. Lesbian support/discussion group. Free or $1 donation to help w/env. FMI write O.A.F., P.O. Box 727, Biddeford, 04005.

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

The Kheel Society: an out-reach, networking and social organization for New Hampshire’s gay and lesbian atheists, free-thinkers, ethical humanists and Heathen. FMI, call 603/247-9472. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of each month, 2:00 pm at the Rev. Dr. John Paul at 207/925-1034.

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.

Circle of Hope: an inclusive Christian worship group following a model developed by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Meets every Sunday at 4:00 pm at 356 Main St., Biddeford, ME 03905.

Mt. Lebanon: 828-1666

Henry: 219-9800

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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.

Gay Parenting Discussion Group: Meeting in the Portland area. For dates, call 786-2516.

Gay Parents Group: Meet monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Physician Building behind Knox-Valley Regional Health Agency Annex. Call Brian Allen at MASS at 725-4955.

OUTRIGHT/Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: Meets 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.

OUTRIGHT/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.

OUTRIGHT/Sundays, 6pm 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, & questioners. Write P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/Seacoast: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church of Newmarket. Call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP for more information.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Monday in Bangor Hall, University Community College in Bangor. We discuss parenting issues. Open to gay men and lesbians. FMI, call 862-2516.


OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 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/Saturdays: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portland, NH. FMI call Teeline at 1-800-639-6053 or write P.O. Box 1040, New Hampshire, NH 03001.

F.A.T.E. Fight AIDS Transform Education: A project of ACT UP Portland, which is focused on HIV and AIDS, and homophobia in all Maine public schools; to form empowering groups for teens and queer 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. Meet first and third Fridays of each month at 5:30 PM, WCSA, 875 Spruce St. Portland. Telephone accessible. FMI, call ACT UP Portland, P.O. Box 931, Portland, ME 04104. Phone/Fax 828-0566.

COLAGE: A national support group run by and for children of gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. FMI, COLAGE, 230 Market St., #165, Portland, ME 04101.

Family HIV Support Related 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 issues and empowerment for those living with HIV/AIDS.

1st Wednesdays: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 3:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynter, Program Coordinator.

The Community Pride Resources pages are as accessible as possible. Every attempt is made to keep listings updated. We would appreciate hearing from you if you have any information about any listing that is inaccurate. We also welcome additions to the listings. They should be brief. This is a free listing.

Send your listing, typed or clearly written to: Community Pride Resources, 142 High St., #634, Portland 04101.

FOR RENT/ APARTMENT:


FOR RENT/ OFFICE:

Δ Open, spacious office. Good for group, individual and family therapy. Also conducive to other types of meetings. This sixth floor office overlooks Portland, the Lakes Region, and Mt. Washington. Located on Congress St. above State Theater. $10 per hour. Call Bill Bartier for tour, keys and scheduling. 773-0205. ∆

HELP WANTED:

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

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Δ 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: Alacia Lucksted, P.O. Box 210, UMCPC, College Park, MD 20742-3999. Tel. (301) 277-8420. ∆

Δ OPEN AUDITION: Portland's feminist theatre ensemble, THE FURIES, seeks performers for upcoming show. Information & Interest only welcome. Tuesday, January 17th, 8:00 pm. Call 773-4698 for location and information. ∆

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION:

Δ 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 Jabert, 878-3755 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342. ∆

MAIL ORDER CATALOG:


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Δ 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, P.O Box 66732, Falmouth, Maine 04105. Thank you. ∆

Δ 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.

Δ 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: Alacia Lucksted, P.O. Box 210, UMCPC, College Park, MD 20742-3999. Tel. (301) 277-8420. 

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Classified Ads: SPECIAL for February $4 for first 40 words $5 per word over 40.
be very open within the school. What I have said to Tim is that I want it to be safe for him. I don't want him to be harassed or suffer any abuse from our student body, so what I've said is I want the staff to be more aware. I want the kids to be more aware, so Tim is the young man I have invited to go with me to Massachusetts.

CPR: I have a brochure from F.A.T.E. in which there is a latex glove, a condom and some graphic pictures...

SG: Graphic and inaccurate I think in some respects. I've seen the brochure. They came on to our school property back in November and started distributing the pamphlet. We tried to reach the number on that flier to see if we could prevent them from distributing the information, to stop distributing the information, to stop distributing the information, to... However, the people handing out this flyer in the back parking lot as the busses were arriving. We have a Board policy that says any group that distributes to students must be pre-approved...

CPR: Were you present during the distribution of the flyer?

SG: I was not. One of my assistants was, and a student came in the office and told us there was a group of people handing out this flyer in the back parking lot as the busses were arriving. We have a Board policy that says any group that distributes to students must be pre-approved...

CPR: Were the people who were distributing the flyer dealt with?

SG: They were asked to please stop distributing the information, to leave school property because they did not have the proper permission. They refused and they continued to try to hand out the information, so the police were called.

CPR: And then what happened?

SG: Then they left.

CPR: Before the police came?

SG: I wasn't there, but I believe the police spoke to them and they left without any altercation.

CPR: It's interesting to compare the reactions of the different high schools at which these demonstrations took place. For example, at Deering High School the students there did not get the same kind of administrative support that you provided.

SG: It was an important message, and that's what I tried to get across to my group of kids, that their message was important for everyone to hear. My question to them was, 'Do you want the day to be remembered for something that was done negatively or something that has a positive impact on the student body and makes them raise their consciousness?' I have to tell you that our kids have said to us that it was one of the most powerful things we've done in a long time.

The kids also felt that they had a commitment to their organization, so they still needed to do their demonstration, and our kids were very good about how they handled that. They were very mature. They gathered as a group at the conclusion of the six minutes. They all came into the building: they came in through the proper channels to their classes without any disruption. They felt they had to carry through with their organized six minutes because they had advertised it.

CPR: Thank you for your time.

SG: I appreciate the phone call.

(Note: During the conference call, Bob Higgins, a student at Scarborough High, said that Principal Gendron, "went totally off the deep end," when F.A.T.E. distributed flyers at the school. Bob added, "Tim Arnold put up a bunch of flyers for S.L.A.M. around the school but she doesn't go along with some of our efforts." Bob said that most of the other students seem to react positively to S.L.A.M.'s efforts, but since he's on the hockey team no one would react negatively to his face.)

CPR then spoke to Tim Arnold (TA), a 16-year-old junior at Scarborough High School, who is out. Tim informed me that he had decided to leave S.L.A.M. because he thinks many of their goals have been achieved.

CPR: I wasn't aware that you had left S.L.A.M. but as I look over the 12 demands F.A.T.E. has made in its letter to superintendents, it's clear that most of this agenda has not been met, particularly condom availability. Do you agree with that part of F.A.T.E.'s agenda?

TA: I just don't think it makes much difference whether they're passed out in school or not. They are available elsewhere. It's not a big, humongous issue for me. I'm not really the rebel type. What I mean is, I don't rebel against things unless I feel strongly about them.

CPR: Do you experience much homophobia in the high school?

TA: Not really that much anymore, though I did at first. I was never beat up or anything. Some people said things, but that was all.

CPR: What was your coming out process like?

TA: It was kind of a long drawn out thing. I first told my best friend a couple months after I turned 14, and I told him I was bisexual, which I later changed, because I don't think I'm bisexual, but I'm still a little confused about it. I just don't have any sexual feelings for women. It wasn't until several months after I told the first person that I told the second person, who was a good friend of mine. It turned out that that person later on told the rest of the school, and it was really weird because I had confided in him and all summer things were OK, but when school started he started telling people behind my back. All that time I had no idea it was him who was telling people. All I knew was that someone was telling all the students. At first I thought it was my brother because by the time school started I had talked to my family.

CPR: How did they deal with it?

TA: I didn't actually come out to them myself. They found out because I ran away from home with my aunt and my grandmother.

TA: My parents eventually dealt with it fine. My mother cried a little bit, but she said she was more upset that I had told my grandmother rather than her. My stepfather was OK with it, and my real father reacted better than I thought because he's a born again Christian. He didn't fully accept it, but he said I was still his son and he loved me. Once it spread around school, there were people who came up to me and said 'fag' and stuff and right around November, December I found out it was my best friend who was telling everyone, my best friend, because we had stopped hanging out when all this started. So that was last year, my sophomore year.

The harassment finally stopped though when I finally, fully came out of the closet in January. For my biology project I did a report on homosexuality and came out to the biology class and from there to the whole school. Besides a couple of isolated incidents it's been quiet, especially this year.

CPR: Because of your coming out, has anyone come out to you, privately...

TA: Strangely enough, no. Well, actually, yes. A couple of friends of mine told me they are bisexual. There is another gay person in the school, but I don't talk to him because I don't really get along with him.

CPR: Does your leaving S.L.A.M. signify any dissatisfaction with that organization or with F.A.T.E.?

TA: Not really.

CPR: It sounds like from what you say that they have taken a more radical position than you're comfortable with.

TA: Yeah, actually, that's fair to say. They are more radical because I'm not into the provocations getting up in the hall and shouting. That's why I'm leaving.

Monmouth Academy

CPR next contacted Roy Crawford (RC) who is the principal at Monmouth Academy in Monmouth, Maine where some students have formed K.I.S.S.

CPR: We're contacting you because your organization at the Academy called K.I.S.S.

RC: Well, they're not at the Academ - that group may exist...

CPR: Are they an official school group?

RC: No.

CPR: They participated in some kind of an action on World AIDS Day, December 1st. I was wondering, from your point of view, what is going on with this organization.

RC: Well, nothing that I know of.

CPR: Are they allowed to exist at the school?

RC: If students are part of an organization, it's their right to be a part of an organization, so it's really not my business.

CPR: Are you aware of them?

RC: I'm aware that they exist. I've talked with some of the members. Students have a right to be a part of any group they want to be a part of. It's not a school organization so it's really not my place to know much about it.

CPR: At the other schools, where similar organizations exist, students who participated in World AIDS Day were subjected to disciplinary measures, so what happened at Monmouth?

RC: Well, first of all, it was outside of school day, and secondly it wasn't on school grounds, so for me it was a non-issue.

CPR: Did the students receive sanctions from any kind?

RC: Oh no, it wasn't my jurisdiction.

CPR: Was there any official schoo l activity to acknowledge World AIDS Day?

RC: Not official school activity, no

CPR: Does Monmouth have a sex...
education program?  
RC: It's not sex education. We have a health program and sexual issues are a part of that program.  
CPR: Has condom availability become an issue in your school?  
RC: No, it hasn't.  
CPR: So this group, as far as you know isn't raising that issue for us at this time.  
RC: At this point they haven't. Nobody has talked to me about it.  
CPR: What is your position on that issue?  
RC: I'd rather not comment. It's not an issue for us at this time.

Students at South Portland High conclude their World AIDS Day observance in a circle. Some members of S.A.F.E. risked suspension in order to participate.  

South Portland High  
CPR then spoke to Beth Waite (BW) a sophomore at South Portland High. The organization there is known as S.A.F.E.  
CPR: Did the school officials take your action acknowledging World AIDS Day seriously?  
BW: No. They all thought it was just an excuse to get out of school.  
CPR: What was the nature of the involvement of your Principal, Jacqueline Soychak?  
BW: At one point they would not let us back in the building. They said, "You're out there, you're out there for good and you can't come in."  
CPR: Who is "They"?  
BW: Ms. Soychak and the Assistant Principal Mr. Drisko.  
CPR: Describe the events of the next day?  
BW: It started in the morning and some people wanted to do pictures and some people had signs and we started protesting, yelling at cars, "Honk for safe sex." So we decided to stay out there. After about an hour they said you can't come back in.  
CPR: So what finally happened?  
BW: After awhile they changed their mind and said, "OK you can come back in, but if you do, you can't go back out," because some people were going in to get coffee because it was really cold, and some people left and went to the die-in for Portland High which was at Deering in the afternoon.  
CPR: Were the students who participated considered tardy once they were let in and if so, what disciplinary measures followed?  
BW: Well, if they went in after the six minutes of just being tardy they would have gotten two demerits which is basically one day of detention from 2 o'clock till 3:30, and the people who stayed out all day got seven days of mandatory detention, which means if you missed one of the detentions you were suspended for one or two days depending on your record.  
CPR: Did any of the students involved in the action actually get the 7 day detention?  
BW: Yeah, we all did.  
CPR: And did you serve out the detention?  
BW: Yes.  
CPR: And did anyone miss the detention and then get suspended?  
BW: I'm sure some people did.  
CPR: How would you characterize Jacqueline Soychak and her relationship to what you were doing?  
BW: I know she didn't like it and none of the people there really wanted to listen to what we had to say. We were considered basically a bunch of trouble makers.  
CPR: Have you had a lot of contact with Soychak?  
BW: Nobody except teachers has much contact with Soychak. She's kind of distant. You're more likely to have contact with the assistant principals but it comes down the line that she's not happy.  
CPR: Has Soychak been supportive at all around any of the things you're trying to accomplish dealing with safe sex education?  
BW: Oh no, not at all.  
CPR: Is there any kind of sex education going on at your school?  
BW: Yeah, but it's the same sex education that they've been teaching since the 1960s. You know, the scientific, sperm and egg, you know, stuff like that. I think we need education about how we can get these diseases. AIDS education for me was the Ryan White movie which was good, but most people don't get AIDS from blood transfusions.  
CPR: It does seem pretty clear that one of the reasons why this society has such a hard time talking about AIDS is because of their attitudes about homosexuality.  
BW: Also I think another reason is that parents just don't want to admit that their kids are having sex. It's hard for them to face the fact that their child is growing up, and part of growing up is having sex.  
CPR: Where does the issue of condom availability at South Portland High stand?  
BW: I don't think it's going to happen, at least not while I'm there.  
CPR: Do your classmates support the idea?  
BW: Most do, but some don't care. One of my friends who is a devout Christian said she didn't care if condoms were in school because she wasn't going to use them anyway.  
CPR: Is there anything you want to tell me in addition to this information?  
BW: About 2 weeks after the protest, me and another person and Richard B. Freed went to the School Board about condom availability and a change in the sex education, and they shot us down because we're teenagers. They said they weren't going to look at these issues because we hadn't gone through a committee, which makes sense, but I'm only 16 and I don't know how to set up that whole process, and in the meantime they won't even look at this stuff.  
Richard B. Freed Coordinator/Advisor to E.A.T.E. said that the principal at South Portland High School, Jacqueline Soychak "was going to expel every student involved in the action, but when she realized how many students there were, she decided again against it, and those demerits that they got, the students were aware of those demerits. They chose to accept those demerits because they felt strongly enough about this particular issue."  
Soychak did not return repeated attempts to call her even after detailed messages were left. She is the only school official of the four schools mentioned here who refused to talk to CPR.
Out on the Town

By Skip Brushaber, A. & E Editor

It's January! The holidays are over. Time to get down to the business of enjoying winter at its best. I haven't received much in the way of press releases for what's going on. I know my energy level is kind of low. I feel more like nesting than being out and about. Let's see what could get me out of the house on a cold winter night besides America's Most Wanted, #1 Male Dance Review at Mark's Showplace. For women only, yeah right!

The AIDS Project is having a reception to commemorate its founding ten years ago.

Oak Street Productions is offering "New Agelessness" and "The Fever". A new show at the Portland Museum shows the history of woodcuts. Toni Wolfe has a powerful show hanging at The Dead Space Gallery.

Don't miss "Little Women", a fine musical.

Plano is in the making for a literary supplement for CPR, so start writing. Any thoughts or ideas about this new edition are greatly appreciated.

CPR continues to solicit material with special emphasis on that which appeals specifically to a gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender audience. This material may include reviews of movies, plays, music, books, etc. We especially encourage submissions from outside the metropolitan Portland Area. Until next time. AA

Indigo Girls

By Almal L. Ponti

It's not often that I mention the "opening act" with such enthusiasm, but this show was an exception. With that said, "K's Choice", a brother and sister duo from Belgium left the audience applauding because they were great, not because we couldn't wait for the Indigo Girls to take the stage. Although no one complained when Amy and Emily joined them during their set closer, Neil Young's "Keep on Rockin' in the Free World."

After all the overwhelming hype of Melissa Etheridge, it was nice to see a show that had a relaxed atmosphere. Civic Center Security wasn't strained out, and the show wasn't jam packed. We had a great evening with the Indigo Girls. The December 8th show differed from the beginning of the Swamp Ophelia tour because the duo was joined by their band, including bassist Sara Lee.

Although the show lacked a lot of the older Indigo music that fans crave, it was a satisfying showcase of tunes from their last album, with the highlights being Amy Ray's "The Fugitive" and Emily Saliers' "The Language or the Kiss". We were asked to join in on "Closer To Fine," and Amy and Emily did take a few audience requests.

It seems that one of the band's favorite songs to perform live is "Chicknmom" from the "Rites of Passage" album of '92. Although I do consider this to be one of their weaker songs, I would have appreciated hearing "Blood and Fire" or "Strange Fire" in its place.

I was very surprised that Ray and Saliers didn't each take a turn at a solo number. In the past, their live shows' finest moments have been Amy singing "Romeo and Juliet" or "Blood and Fire" and Emily singing one of her hits, such as "The History of Us." Hopefully, they'll work these, or other solos back into the show as they are always intense and breathtaking.

Amy and Emily have a very real, and related rapport with their audience. They aren't glamorous, they've never been in the closet, and they keep writing and recording excellent music, which is what it's all about. I hope the so-called spotlight remains on other artists. Indigo Girls don't need it shining on them, they're just fine.

VIDEO REVIEW:

"Jeffrey Dahmer: The Secret Life"

By David Cook

When my lover and I sat down to watch "Jeffrey Dahmer: The Secret Life," it was with the expectation of getting informed or enlightened — or at least titillated. What we saw instead was a middle-brow, made-for-TV "newswastertainment" piece with high school drama majors for its parents, and a possibly homophilic perspective.

Disclaimers on both the box and the video state that this is a "fictionalized" account of 14 years in Dahmer's life and that, largely due to his gruesome nature, many scenes could not be shown as they actually happened. So, presumably to protect our sensibilities from the horror of it all, what we see is a series of composite situations that are abstracted from what Dahmer actually did. The result is a leader, predictable, and relentless repetition of the same crime and its variations.

From the time that Dahmer lives with his grandmother through the period in which he takes his own apartment and commits most of the crimes that were to make him infamous, we are left with a vaguely disgusting impression that we are being shown a series of events edited to represent a certain point of view. We're not sure just what that point of view might be, but real insight into who Dahmer was and the kinds of dark forces acting on all of us do not seem to figure much in it.

The actor who plays Dahmer, is neither so good-looking nor so intelligent as Dahmer actually was. The actor doesn't each take a turn at a solo number. In the past, their live show's best moments have been Amy singing "The History of Us." Hopefully, they'll work these, or other solos back into the show as they are always intense and breathtaking.

Still, we do learn a few things about Dahmer and what was going on in his head. Dahmer's decorators are used to be the real Dahmer, and his lifelike acting produces a sharp insight into Dahmer's motives or into the delusional system in which he lived. (If you think he was sane, as the juror decided, then he must have had a splendid, unassailable case that we were never shown.)

If Dahmer, then our efforts to produce a new Dahmer movie designed to make money out of this sentiment, one wonders just how this portrayal is going to arm anyone against "serial killers like Jeffrey Dahmer." After all, they do have a scarlet letter on their forehead, so do we recognize them?

The answer, of course, is that we can't; serial killers are often the boy next door or the kindly old man down the street. The essence of Dahmer's success as a killer was the ease with which he projected an air of normalcy until his victims realized — too late — that he was far from normal.

Is the intent of this film simply revelation of the darker side of human nature (as with The Boston Strangler and Silence of the Lambs) or is it some kind of neo-morality play, in which good Christian boys are being warned to stay away from other boys, so as to avoid falling prey to the homosexual menace, the "Dahmer epimorphosis?" Or is it just, after all, another lousy movie designed to make money out of personal misery? I don't know, but if my review saves just one wasted evening of the viewer's time, I've done my job.

In the new apartment, Dahmer begins to paint the string of portraits that eventually brings him to the public's attention. An early session with a minor, which is reported by a nosy neighbor, results in Dahmer being arrested on a morals charge (before he gets to do the boy in) and we don't have a scarlet letter on our forehead, so we're not sure just what that point of view might be, but real insight into who Dahmer was and the kinds of dark forces acting on all of us do not seem to figure much in it.

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“I Guess My Name Is Scrooge”

Another winner from The Furies
By Faith Worthley

The holidays seem long gone and ho, ho, ho is merely last year’s yule. But for those of you who were fortunate enough to have experienced The Furies’ production of “Guess My Name Is Scrooge”, the remembrance of its many messages will continue to impact you.

BOOks oN REVIEW:

Title: Penitence
Author: Edward J Armstrong
Publishers: Lyman Madden Associates, Bangor, Maine
Publication Date: 1994 (not yet available to the public)
Cost: $19.95

By Rose Mary Denman

Most CPR readers are old enough to remember that on the evening of July 7, 1984, Charlie Howard was attacked, beaten and thrown off a bridge in Bangor, Maine. He died simply because his three teen-age assailants suspected he was gay.

“Penitence” begins with an account of this senseless act of violence and homophobia and traces the legal steps that lead to the three young men being sentenced for an indeterminate period at the Maine Youth Center. The focus of the book is on Jim Baines, one of the three assailants, and his rehabilitation, which takes place in the infamous “Cottage One” of the Youth Center.

Armstrong attempts to help the reader enter Baines’ heart and mind as he goes from being a frightened fifteen year old boy who believes he doesn’t belong in the Youth Center because the killing was an “accident”, to realizing the depth of his crime and the wake of victims it created. By the end of the book, we are told that Baines’ rehabilitation will continue.

See Penitence, Page 18
TO YOUR HEALTH:
Lesbian Health - What's the Difference?

By Tania Jo Hathaway

This article is intended to highlight some of the aspects of health which are unique to lesbians. To that end, it is necessary to discuss the obstacles lesbians face when seeking health care. Additionally, it is necessary to talk of disease, risk factors, and "unhealthy" life-style choices. Although this can be overwhelming and distressing since it tends to focus on the difficult aspects of living as a lesbian in this society, it is meant instead to clarify the differences in lesbian health issues when compared to other women. Once we understand the differences, we can begin thinking about ways to improve the quality of lesbian lives.

Two issues of difference are discussed here: 1) access to lesbian-knowledgeable health care; and 2) risk to health based on characteristics of lesbian lives.

Access to lesbian-knowledgeable health care is a primary lesbian health issue. In general, lesbians do not receive health care that takes our lesbianism into account. This means that our health care providers are often not aware that their clients are lesbian, nor are they aware of the health risks particular to lesbians. As a result, the quality of health care we receive is greatly decreased; consequently our mortality may be adversely impacted.

Even when a lesbian client comes out to her health care practitioner, many practitioners have homophobic responses. Research on the health care experiences of lesbians reveals that many lesbians have experienced negative responses, ranging from overt hostility to ignoring or dismissing the importance of the disclosure.

Access to health care that takes our lesbianism into account is blocked threefold since health care practitioners are: 1) not aware that their clients are lesbian; 2) not trained in the health needs of lesbians; and 3) not as responsive and sensitive toward their lesbian clients.

A second issue of difference in lesbian health is the risks to our health based on the characteristics of lesbians lived reported in health-related research.

A recent report from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force highlights characteristics of lesbian lives which may increase the risk of disease. After an extensive review of existing literature on lesbian health-related research, the report concludes the following (not a comprehensive list of findings):

- Lesbians probably smoke more cigarettes than heterosexual women. National data indicate that among both the number of lesbians smoking and the number of years spent smoking, as compared to smoking habits of other women. Smoking cigarettes has been associated with lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, osteoporosis, and cervical cancer in lesbians.

- Lesbians may be less likely to use or abuse alcohol and other drugs. Most research on consumption of alcohol indicate that consumption is more common among lesbians than in the general population of women. Excessive alcohol consumption in women correlates with higher rates of cardiovascular accidents, suicide, colon and stomach cancer, and gastrointestinal hemorrhage.

- Lesbians may have greater risk for depression and suicide than other women. Half the lesbian respondents in a national sample had sought counseling for depression. In addition, suicide is the leading cause of death for lesbian youth.

- Lesbians may be more likely to be overweight than other women. While most studies on obesity measure a lesbian's perception of her weight, few studies were confirmed by weight measurement. One study, however, confirmed weight by measurement and found more than 50% of the lesbians in that study were overweight. Significant excess weight is correlated with increased risk for diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, degenerative joint disease, and breast, endometrial and colon cancer. It is important to note that correlation of these diseases with weight may not be as important as correlation with food choices, calories from fat, and exercise.

- Lesbians may be less likely than other women to obtain routine screening exams and to perform self-care activities. This includes pap smears and monthly breast self-exam, the two most successful methods of early cancer detection.

The report by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force reviews the majority of research on lesbian health-related issues and makes conclusions based on that review. The lack of conclusive research about most lesbian health issues has led to the use of inconclusive phrases to describe risk (such as "may be" and "probable"). Further research will help remove the tentativeness of these findings.

Meanwhile, we can use the current research findings to try to correct the shortcomings of health services and health education aimed at lesbians.

The health risks and reduced access to health care outlined in this article point to the need for a lesbian health agenda, inclusive of a lesbian health organization which provides clinical services to lesbians, advocacy on behalf of lesbians, and health education and Information for both lesbians and our health care providers.

Tania Jo Hathaway is working with others to organize The Lesbian Health Project of Southern Maine. For further information or to join, write LHP SM PO Box 11648 Portland, ME 04104. (207)772-2699.

Penitence from Page 17

The Penitence article is so complete, that as a 26 year old free man, he now "counts among his friends, several members of the law enforcement community, who he says, enjoys camping and fishing." This admission almost seems to hurt the credibility of Baines' turnaround. Mr. Armstrong, thou dost protest too much!

"Penitence" is poorly written, with many grammatical flaws and editorial oversights. The dialogues between young boys at the Youth Center, written in prep school English rather than the language one would expect from the average ten-year-old, are unbelievable.

At the end of his book, the author admits that Baines' mother, Marie, would not make herself available to him for interviews. Yet, this does not stop Armstrong from presuming to know what was in Ms. Baines' heart and mind during her son's ordeal.

The fact that Armstrong opens his book by discussing the breakdown of the characters mentioned herein alludes to the fact that perhaps this lack of parental supervision is what gave opportunity for such a crime, does not assist the reader to feel compassion for young Baines' "penitence." Throughout his account of Baines' rehabilitation, Armstrong continually points to Baines' increasing realization of the severity and depth of his crime. While regarding his need to own up to the choices he has made for his life, and of his willingness to take full responsibility for his actions, Armstrong's weak attempt to blame divorce and an often absentee mother who is working two jobs to keep her family together as reasons why young Baines may have fallen in with the wrong crowd, simply does not do justice to his plea for us to believe in Baines' awakening to his own culpability in Charlie Howard's death.

The last problem I have with this book is the disclaimer on page xii, which states in full: "No profits from the sale of this book go to any of the characters mentioned herein including Jim Baines. The author is donating a major portion of any proceeds to the PEPP Program, to the Eastern Maine AIDS Network and to fund a scholarship at Charlie Howard's High School." What constitutes a "major percentage"? Why does Armstrong feel the need to include this announcement in his book? What are the reasons for wanting to make this kind of donation? In his "Appreciation" page, Armstrong thanks his son, (now working in the field of movie production) for changing the author's attitude. What attitude? Who is the real penitent here?

Perhaps Jim Baines really has changed. Perhaps he really is repentant about the part he played in Charlie Howard's death. Perhaps his willingness to accept speaking engagements to talk about his crime really is his way of making amends and seeking to educate others so that crimes like his don't have to keep happening. Armstrong's attempt to cage these pages as a book in this book just does not do it.
In these Times from page 9

I will not allow negative thoughts about gay men and women to slip into conversations. So often broad generalizations such as, "gay men don't know how to be intimate" are heard - in our own communities! Any serious social scientist can make the case that men are, in fact, socialized to not be intimate. But a strong case can be made for the fact that gay men are much more intimate than non-gay men.

I will support all efforts to combat sexism because I know that homophobia is merely a subset of sexism. I will continue to challenge the patriarchy on all fronts.

I will listen to feedback and try to continue and grow as a gay man. I will admit my mistakes and move on in life, trying hard not to form resentments.

I will continue to be out and public in all situations.

By starting with the personal, I have a much better chance to impact the day to day world I live in. Homophobia needs to be dismantled piece by piece in all of our lives. The personal is political. By changing our immediate environments, we change the world. I may not be able to change the composition of the Congress, but I can bring about little changes in the lives of those with whom I interact.

So that's my little list of resolutions for 1995. What's yours? I'd love to hear from you.

Pam Anderson

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ScrC10fe from Page 17

whose chains of regret served to remind us of the importance of letting go. Her quiet, yet intense, delivery as the catalyst for Joanna's growth was both dynamic and instrumental to the power of the play's message.

Although it will be another year before we have the opportunity to experience this particular performance again, The Furies have another production in the works. They will be presenting "Lavender Land Utopia" at the Oak Street Theatre in March. There will be only three performances, so look for the dates. You can be sure that if it's put on by The Furies, it will make you laugh, possibly make you cry, (this one is a comedy of sorts), and most certainly engage you.

Pam Anderson

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CPR January-February 1995 Page 19

Murphy's Manor

by Kurt Erischen

When you remember that school

You're the one that

The way to survive is

The way to perpetuate the

Now those who breed do so, best suited to survive are

murphy's Manor

Hello, my name is dead to re-write my Charles Darwin Theory of Natural Selection.

I've returned to school.

Individuals best suited to survive are the ones that live to reproduce.

That's how I metaphorsically, no small feat in BS, but "40/" changes everything.

The way to survive is by not breeding.

The way to perpetuate the species is by celibacy.

The Twentieth Century is over. I'm going back to Westminster Abbey.

Pam Anderson

ScrC10fe from Page 17

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