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 inflates 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 affirming action. Herein, CMF alleges, lies the conspiracy.

Steve Wester, 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, monotonically, 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

Maine Won't Discriminate forgoes signature challenge

By Winnie Weir, Publishing Editor
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 that we had planned to review.

In an interview with Sutton, she raised concern that many people who volunteered for this project might not have read the main news it is. Given that

See MWD, page 6

The Oliver succession - -

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

By Reba Richardson
When longtime State Representative, James Oliver, left 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, John Herrick, former campaign manager for Jonathan Carter, announced that he will run for the seat.

Anyone in District 31 who attends two consecutive Democratic committee meetings—held at Reiche Elementary School, on Brackett Street in the West End—can vote on the Democratic nominee at the nominating caucus. The next 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 Majority, Saxl is the son of Jane Saxl (D) who represents House District 120, Bangor.

Michael Saxl, candidate for House District 31
See House Dist. 31, page 6
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 would be 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 Program. There are three other such organizations: K.I.S.S. — Kennebec Individuals for Safe Sexuality (Monmouth Academy); S.A.F.E. — Students Against False Education (South Portland High); and, S.I.A.M. — Scarborough for Latex Availability and Mutual Murder (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:

- F.A.T.E. is a state wide organization that teens are involved in. The group was formed out of ACT-UP Portland.

"F.A.T.E. exists to provide concerned teens with the means to fight 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. 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 and AIDS are, how HIV is transmitted, and the biological effects of what may happen between parents and their kids
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
11. Interesting, non-phobic and explicit workshops, not just once, but every year
12. Non-phobic sessions where students talk about sexual issues such as date rape, body image and partner communication.

CPR contacted the various schools, January 6.

Deering High

Dr. Jan Patton, Deering High Principal, spoke to CPR and said that 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 demers are equal in school suspension.

“If they had planned ahead, we might have been able to accommodate them. The first time 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 school 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. Jan, 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 to us. 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 said she 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 doing 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.

She basically wasn’t too happy about it, and told me that she wouldn’t condone it, that the school could not condone this. I said, ‘Well that’s okay because I didn’t expect you to and I’m not asking you to. I’m just informing you that it’s going to be happening.’ We started going back and forth for a long time with her telling me that it wasn’t approved, and I said, ‘Well that’s okay, I’ll take whatever punishment. I wouldn’t expect that you would approve it. That’s not the type of response I’ve ever gotten at your school.’ Then she asked me if my parents knew that I was doing this…. It seemed to me like she was trying to intimidate me. I said, ‘Well yeah, my parents know’ and then she asked if every other student’s parents knew. I said ‘I don’t know. Some kids are 18 and it’s really their decision; they’re the ones who are going to be punished for it, not their parents.’

So she basically said, ‘What you’re saying is that you’re going to be skipping school for 6 minutes.’ So I said, ‘Well I don’t really look at it that way because what we’re doing, even though we’re not in class, is very educational, and standing up for an issue as important as AIDS, where people in the world are dying, is a skill that’s going to be really important in life. To be able to stand up for what you believe in and your education isn’t going to be much good if you die of AIDS because you don’t know the facts.’

Patton came on the intercom before we came in the building, I heard this and she sounded very angry, and she said many students would be arriving late to class today ‘because they were participating in an AIDS demonstration. They’ve all been awarded one demerit so please do with them whatever you wish.’ Basically, individual teachers were able to punish us for arriving late to their classes.

There wasn’t really anything she could have done about it. She told me she didn’t approve of it, that there would be punishment. The next morning, there...
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.

CPR: 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 demerit for participating in the demonstration.

CM: I think it's really easy for her to say in retrospect that 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...
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1 oz. smoked trout pate
1 oz. smoked bluefish pate

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2 oz. smoked trout fillets
1 oz. smoked scallops
1 oz. smoked mussels
1 oz. smoked shrimp
2 oz. lemon/paprika mackerel fillets
1 oz. smoked Atlantic salmon slices

Number 5

The Executive • $120
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2 oz. smoked scallops with our own

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2 oz. smoked mussels with our own

dill sauce

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1 oz. smoked scallops
1 oz. smoked bluefish pate
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1 oz. smoked salmon pate
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2 oz. smoked trout fillets

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This 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.

Wessler responded to this allegation by saying, "People may say 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 have learned 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 hate 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 crisis' 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 Wessler and Bodoff took extreme exception to this statement. Wessler 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 the 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 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 homophobia family.

See CMF, page 5

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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 Peard, President of the MCLU, 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.

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. Statistics in Oregon and Colorado support the fact that violence against homosexuals increases during these kinds of campaigns.

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. AA

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ity leader, Saxl worked to get the anti-discrimination act passed in 1990, both schools and prisons. Supported by both Dale McCormick and Betsy Sweet, Saxl says he promotes a "diverse progressive agenda." Because of his work on national political level, especially with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, where he worked with the Human Rights Campaign Fund, Saxl says he has "the political savvy to hit the ground running and get the job done."

Bill Fogel, with wife, Dr. Melinda Molin and daughter, Mikhulla

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 especially interested in passing the anti-discrimination act.

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

Garrity has clearly made a commitment to gay rights issues. If elected, Garrity described economic issues and the importance of the business district and of the need to connect homeowners with the economic clout of the Old Port.

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."

See House Dist. 31, page 7 of CPR from page 1

CMF has 8,700 more signatures than required after the review by the Secretary of State's office, "a challenge would . . . squander resources needed for the campaign." She appealed to volunteers to join the campaign in other capacities to defeat the ballot measure and to help pass legislation in Augusta which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit.

"Additionally," said Sutton, "it is time to move forward with the real issue. Carolyn Cosby is asking Maine people, businesses and government to legalize discrimination. MWD is asking them not to."

Preparations are under way to begin the legal challenges to the petition. According to Pat Peard, President of the MCLU, "Five business days after the Secretary of State's office announces the certification of the CMF signatures, we will be filing a challenge to the validity of the question in Superior Court in Augusta."

She went on to say that the broad base of support from people across the state opposed to this referendum is both gratifying and heartening.

According to Jessica Mauer, Chairperson of the MWD Interim Board, there are eight chapters of Maine Won't Discriminate across the state including a newly formed chapter in Rockland and Brunswick. Trainings are being conducted in each area chapter, and trainers are available to assist people looking to form additional local chapters.

For more information and to volunteer in Maine Won't Discriminate, call: Portland - 207/761-1788; Bangor - 207/223-5630 (Jeanine Crockett) or 207/990-3420 (Jim Martin); Hancock County (Ellsworth area) - 207/276-0503 (Ruth Blackburn) or 207/667-2358 (Peter Roos). As other numbers and contacts become available, CPR will pass them on.

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Journal Therapy Groups

Martha J. Barry, Ph.D.

Journal

Journal Therapy Groups

Martha J. Barry, Ph.D.
them that they should come to me about World AIDS Day and how better to get 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, 'It's 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 Legage, 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 it's not happening.

SG: That's correct.

CPR: And is it an issue with the School Committee?

SG: The group of kids who passed 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 proactive 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

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 personally 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 eliminated.

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. Δ
I watched the televised Portland School Committee meeting held at PRRTC 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 knew the score then and even more know it now. 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 youths 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 abundantly out of context — prison.

Men and women in prison have sex. This information is not news. Men and women in prison have had 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 probably ignore that reasoning.

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.)

The Community Pride Reporter is printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks. This practice reflects our commitment to the responsible use of our earth’s resources. Using recycled paper sometimes results in a toned down or grayish tinge on the pages of CPR. However, we feel this is a small price to pay as Community Pride Reporter does its part to “Color ME Green.”
By Carolyn Jaibert/Donna Tennant

The gay/lesbian community has many facets to its energies and business world. Gay/gay businesses are really struggling to continue to provide social gatherings and cultural events that in the past have been unavailable to the community. In order for them to continue to provide these events, community support is needed. 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 indemnify 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 well because 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, not 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 MGPA, The Matlovich Society, Maine Won't Discriminate, TAP, etc. Socially there is CPJ Productions, Womenphere.

In These Times: Living with Homophobia

HAPPY NEW YEAR! With our newly elected Congress, anything is possible and we have to be prepared. Those who wish to silence us have strong allies in Washington. How then do we cope and continue to combat homophobia between now and the '96 elections? Working together and using our strength and allies is one way. Another is to make a personal commitment to be vigilant to every manifestation of homophobia we see. This takes time and effort. Homophobia is an insidious force that threatens us physically and emotionally.

In 1985, I was working in an AIDS organization and we, as a community, were still reeling from the early impacts of this epidemic. I had begun working in the epidemic as a volunteer in 1982 to combat the homophobia I had seen. The attacks on gay men as "too sexual," "too irresponsible," and the cause of AIDS, were mounting from within and without our community. It is so easy to blame the victim in America. We still receive homophobic attacks today. So many simply want to give voice to a rage that because of AIDS we should not see.

They won't help us, if you point out homophobia. This attitude of compliance and appeasement has gotten us nowhere. We must remain vigilant, especially in these times of a Republican Congress. While we continue to work in our political, social and cultural organizations and keep them and the movement strong, we can make some New Years Resolutions to help us all. Here is my list of personal resolutions that I will use to combat homophobia in 1995:

1. I will look inward at myself to see what vestiges of homophobia I have. How do I treat other gay men, lesbians and bisexuals? What do I think we are entitled to in a free society? Am I willing to compromise my values when operating in the larger, heterosexist society?
2. I will work in all organizations to keep the gay agenda focused. So often we are forced to sacrifice our agenda under the guise of cooperation. While I support opposing racism, I do not think it should be the primary focus of lesbian and gay organizations. Gay rights is not the focus of the NAACP's agenda.
3. Working in the AIDS epidemic, I will continue to insist on services for gay men and lesbians. The politically correct have tried again and again to dage the epidemic. Gay men are the most disproportionately represented group in the epidemic. And gay male adolescents rarely receive the education they need.
4. When possible, I will increase my financial contributions to organizations that solely serve our community on the local and national level. There is no better advocate for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth than Hetrick Martin in New York, for example.

I will continue to point out examples of homophobia when I see them, right then, right there. Particularly, the assumption of heterosexuality must be constantly challenged.

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Thursday, January 12th:
\[\Delta\] 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society presents, "Let's Get Away From HOME". 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.

\[\Delta\] 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Fund Raising meeting. FMI, 725-7632.

Friday, January 13th:
\[\Delta\] 9:00-9:30 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:
\[\Delta\] 8:30 AM-4:00 PM - UU Community Church, 69 Winthrop St. Augusta. "Broadening The Dream" symposium in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Day and in support of equal rights gays and lesbians in Maine. Attorney General Andrew Ketterer is Keynote Speaker at 9:00 am.

\[\Delta\] 1:00-3:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Help out session. Miscellaneous tasks need to be done (clean up, mailing, filing, etc.) Stop by to lend a hand. FMI, 725-7632.

Sunday, January 15th:
\[\Delta\] 6:00 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.

\[\Delta\] 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. All Welcome. FMI, 725-7632.

Monday, January 16th:
\[\Delta\] 6:00-9:00 PM - The AIDS Project's Center of Maine - Meditation Group, women & men. 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. FMI, 725-7632.

February 1995
ME MY PLACE FOR INTIMACY. Conversation, music, massage, dancing, very clean, romantic, very young, very fast and easy, get to know fun to be with, older men will find me onboard, older women will get professional, will answer all.

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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 run in. Bill, now and Angus will explain to you how much money you made in 1994. In this month’s article, I will be giving you 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 book-

You are one of the few individuals who don’t qualify for the personal exemption deduction has been increased to $2,450. You are al-

owed 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 $3,800 for Married, Filing Separately. The standard deductions increased if you are age 65 or over, and blind.

Check your booklet if this applies to you.

The standard allowance for business mileage has been increased to 27 cents per mile. It does not consider writing off a regular part of work from your home to be business mileage.

The Earned Income Credit has been expanded to include individuals who do not have children. Individuals with chil-

dren will receive greater amounts. If you have low earned 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 can-

celed check is no longer adequate documentation. The deadline for obtaining a receipt is the date you file your 1994 re-

turn.

More Social Security benefits are taxable. If your Provisional Income (Gross income before benefits + 50% of your Benefits) exceeds $34,000 if Single, or $44,000 if Married, Filing Jointly, then up to 50% of the benefits may be taxable if your pro-

visional income is lower. This is a tricky calculation, but there will be a worksheet in your tax booklet to assist you in deter-

mining if any of your benefits are taxable.

Space does not allow the mention of a few of the new changes to the tax laws. There are plenty of others. If tax returns overwhelm you, consider consulting a qualified professional. The peace-of-mind benefit may well outweigh the expense. Good luck!...
**COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES**

**GENERAL**
MLGPA is a statewide, non-partisan organization formed to educate the general public, politicians, and media on LGBQ issues. MLGPA's goal is to become a visible part of Maine's political process, promote civil rights, develop and review legislation, endorse candidates, build a coalition, and oppose anti-gay legislation and referenda. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of every month in Augusta. FMI call 1-800-55-MLGPA.

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.** See complete list 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. At the New Brunswick Meetings are the 2nd Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. (ME), 2 p.m. (N-B), at Lions Community Clubhouse, High St., Caribou, and can be reached by phone on Wednesday by The Phonebank in addition to hosting special events for recreation and action. Call 207/698-2088.

**The Matlovich Society** is an educational and cultural organization of lesbians, bisexuals, gay men, and friends committed to sharing our history as well as providing personal affirmation, presentations and discussions in a supportive environment. Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday every month at 7:30 p.m at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 160 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. Contact 207/774-TALK. For lesbian, gay, bisexual support, education and social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, and others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 1762, Portland, ME 04112.

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**HATE CRIMES & RACIAL INCIDENTS:** Have you or someone you know been a victim? Call the Civil Rights Section of the Portland Police Department at 287-8500.

**MUSIC & ART**

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

Maine Gay Men's Chorus is a community chorus which brings men together to enhance social tolerance and diversity in the Greater Portland area, as well as affirming the gay/lesbian experience with creative and lively musical entertainment. FMI call 207-883-8080 write P.O. Box 10391, Portland, ME 04104.

The Maine Gay Visual Artist's League will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the community profit creative support network for Maine's gay & lesbian visual artists community. For meeting place, call 775-5420.

**PHONE SUPPORT**

Region by region

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

- **Contacts in Maine**
  - (* indicates monthly meetings)
  - Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180
  - Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519
  - Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789
  - Portland: 756-6158

- **Contacts in New Hampshire**
  - PFLAG NH 24 hour Hotline: 603/623-6023
  - Concord: 603/485-3943
  - Lasell: 603/746-8381
  - Massechuset: 603/638-0714
  - Nashua: 603/880-7809
  - Keene: 603/772-3893
  - Portsmouth: 603/773-7569

- **Out Among Friends**: Meets Thursdays 7-8:30 pm at The Place to Go, 46 Concord St., Peterborough, FMI call 603/547-2545.

- **St. Louis Cathedral Episcopal Church**
  - Meets third Sunday at 5:15 pm at St. Luke’s Cathedral (Emmanuel Chapel). Portland. All are welcome. Fellowship and supper follow 5:15 pm service. We minister to the lesbian and gay community. FMI write P.O. Box 8113, Portland, ME 04104.


- **Bash kBash Bash**
  - A gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets every Monday at 7 pm at the Union United Church, 211 Auburn St. Auburn. Call 207/479-2790.

- **Seacoast Gay Men**: Meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm at the University-Union Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth. Call 603/439-6233 or P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

- **Lewiston/Auburn Men**: A new gay, lesbian, bisexual support group for the Lewiston/Auburn area meets every Monday at 7 pm at the Union United Church, 211 Auburn St. Auburn. Call 207/479-2790.

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

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

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

- **Let’s Do Bruccoli**: Potluck social gathering from 11:00 am-2:00 pm the third Sunday of the month at a York County location. Meet at people, see old friends, exchange news and information. FMI 985-2874.

- **S.N.A.P.** Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests Monthly support group for men and women healing from sexual abuse by clergy of any denomination. Meets in Portland location on third Friday of the month. 207/774-5025 for information and location.
Parents
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Parent Groups:
Meeting in the Portland area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, Me 04332-0013.

Mothers and Kids Group: Social events and group support for lesbians and their children. Emphasis on inclusion of lesbians in the process of becoming pregnant or adopt­ing. Meets monthly in the greater Portland area. FMI write: P.O. Box 2235, South Portland, Me 04106.

Gay Parenting Discussion Group:
Meeting 2nd Mondays in the Bangor Hall, University College Campus in Bangor. We discuss parenting issues. Open to gay men and lesbians. FMI, 862-2516.

OUTRIGHT too:
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, & questioning youths, 8-10pm, under 18. Call “First Call” at 705-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-0205 or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

OUTRIGHT/meet: Meets every Friday from 7 to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church annex building adjacent to the fire station, 206 Court St., Portland, ME 04101. Call 773-0205 or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

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

Community AIDS Awareness Program:
6-12 pm, Monday-Saturday, U.N.I., P.O. Box 564, Biddeford, ME 04005-0041. Call 774-6068.

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

Community AIDS Awareness Program:
6-12 pm, Monday-Saturday, U.N.I., P.O. Box 564, Biddeford, ME 04005-0041.

Community Task Force on AIDS Educ.
P.O. Box 941, Naples, ME 04055. Call 583-6068.

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

Down East AIDS Network:
114 State St., Ellsworth, ME 04605. Call 677-5506.

Eastern Maine AIDS Network:
P.O. Box 2083, Bangor, ME 04401. Call 990-3626.

Meeting AIDS Support Services:
P.O. Box 57, Brunswick, ME 04011-0637. Call 725-4955.

New Project Name/Maine:
P.O. Box 4319, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-2190.

Oxford Hills Community AIDS Network:
P.O. Box 113, Portland, ME 04221-0113. Call 743-7451.

People With AIDS:
P.O. Box 2696, Augusta, ME 04332-0696. Call 774-3534.

The AIDS Project:
P.O. Box 2696, Portland, ME 04104. Call 774-3534.


Thursday's Women Living with HIV meet from 1:15-2:45 pm. Men Living with HIV meet from 5:30-7:00 pm. The above Portland support groups meet at The AIDS Project, 22 Monument Sq., 5th floor. Call 774-6877.

National Parents Group:
Meeting at the Portland area. For dates, places and times write GLB Parents Group, P.O. Box 13, Augusta, Me 04332-0013.

We also are planning to have social times for both, so that together we can help. FMI, call or write: Alicia Lucksted, P.O. Box 4319, Portland, ME 04104-0041.

For a listing, typed or clearly written to:
Community Pride Resources Pages as cheap 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

Office, 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 Barter for tour, keys and scheduling. 773-0205.

HELP WANTED

Telephone Operators Needed:
New company opening in southern Maine area. $7.00 an hour and up. Must have interpersonal skills. Apply to: U.N.I., P.O. Box 564, Biddeford, Maine 04005-0041.

Ambitious Sales Director Needed:
To bring new company to the national market. Prior sales/marketing experience and communication skills are a must. Send resume and references to: U.N.I., P.O. Box 564, Biddeford, Maine 04005-0041.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Be your own boss. Run a Shaklee business out of your own home. Set your own goals and achieve financial security without stress. Earnings depend upon efforts. Rewards include unlimited income, travel, and cars. Prosper by helping others to succeed. Shaklee nutritional, personal care and household products are in harmony with nature and good health. FMI, please call Judy Sauvigne, Roger Wilton: 207-772-5970.

TRAVEL/VACATION

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

PERSONALS

Wells, ME area: Young man wanted to share fun times and for discipline, spanning and dark deep adventures, by GWM dad, 50s, who is into kink, leather travel, the outdoors, rapport, affection and understanding. Ron, P.O Box 1169, Sanford, ME 04073.

MAIL ORDER CATALOG

VIDEOS, rubber & leather toys. Magazines, lubes, incense and more! $3 for catalog, refundable with first order. Heaven Sent Me, Inc. P.O. Box 270, Dept. 64, Elbert, CO 80106. In business since 1986. Gay owned and operated!}

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AA 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 evaluate 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.

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.

Are you a psychiatric patient/ survivor who is lesbian, gay, bisexual? I am looking for people to fill out a survey about their experiences in the mental health care system, being gay, lesbian or bisexual, so that together we can educate mental health workers and self-help organizations about the views and opinions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual consumers. Please help! FMI, call or write: Alicia Lucksted, P.O. Box 210, UMCF, College Park, ME 04742-3999. Tel. (301) 277-8420.

OPEN AUDITION: Portland's feminist theatre ensemble, THE FURIES, seeks performers for an upcoming show. We welcome women and non-women. Please call, Tuesday, January 17th, 8:00 pm. Call 773-4698 for location and information.

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

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 woman. We also are planning to have social times together. FMI, call Carolyn Jalbert, 878-3755 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342.

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 unbeknownst to us, and greeted the busses and started distributing the pamphlet. We tried to reach the number on that pamphlet because we found that some of the information, graphically, was inappropriate. We also felt some of the information was presented in a negative form and that when you try to educate young people, perhaps there's a more appropriate way of presenting information because we firmly believe our kids need to be advised, but the manner in which the group went about it was inappropriate.

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: How 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.

(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, that "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. I'm 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 until I was forced out because I had a… anyone... TA: My parents actually 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 he 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 harassing 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 that person because I don't really get along with him.


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 political scene, getting up there 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 of an organization at the Academy called K.I.S.S.

RC: Well, they're not at the Academy. 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 for any kind?

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

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

RC: No 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.
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: 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 that 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, "honor 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 devon Chris-
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 finest. 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!

Oak Street Productions is offering "New Agelessness" and "The Fever." A new show at the Portland Museum traces 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. ΔΔ

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 "newsmakers" piece with high school drama majors for its parents and a possibly homophobic perspective.

Disclaimers on both the box and the video state that the show is a "fictionalized" account of 14 years in Dahmer's life and that, largely due to their grousing 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 grandfather 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 disquieting 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 the real Dahmer, and his lifeless acting produces scant insight into Dahmer's motives or into the delusional system in which he lived. (If you think he was sane, as the jury decided, then he must have had a role-playing disorder; if I do, that he was a nutty as a fruitcake, then it is clear that he lived in a universe far different from most of us.)

Still, we do learn a few things about Dahmer and what was going on in his head. All the film's hammers are used to present us with a lingering sense of grief and bewilderment and are supported by scenes of conversation with his parole officer in which he speaks with cynicism about his estrangement from his parents. And he acknowledges being disturbed by his own sexuality, a likely result of the middle-America fundamentalist pseudo-morality he was brought up with.

Probably most telling is Dahmer's repeated assertion that he should have "stayed with God," which is strengthened by scenes with his stern and humorless grandmother, a woman he is devoted to, but who we only see either reading the Bible or admonishing her grandson for some petty infraction. While she has turned a mostly blind eye to the goings-on in her own house, she eventually complains to Dahmer's father, who calls to tell him he must leave. It is at this point that Dahmer moves into his own apartment and his career as a serial killer really takes off.

In the new apartment, Dahmer begins to fulfill the string of preparing to 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 being put in a state institution. In spite of this on-record behavior and repeated complaints of weird noises and awful smells emanating from his apartment, Dahmer is not apprehended by the police until numerous killings occur over a period of 14 years. (This fact was the center of a controversy over whether the police had dragged their feet all along in checking out stories about Dahmer, because his victims were mostly non-white and his crimes committed in a lower-class neighborhood.)

From shopping up young men with a hatchet to dissolving them in muriatic acid, his basic M.O. remains the same: pick up someone on the street or a bar, offer to pay them for a nude photo session, bring them home, drug their drink, and when they wake up someone on the streets, or a bar, offer to pay them for a nude photo session, bring them home, drug their drink, and when they wake up.

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BOOK REVIEW
HARLAN'S RACE
BY PATRICIA NELL WARREN
BY SKIP BRUSHABER
Patricia Nell Warren's new novel is the long-awaited sequel to her landmark classic, *The Front Runner*, the quintessential gay love story of the 1970s. The *Front Runner*, now twenty years old, tells the story of young track star Billy Sive and Harlan Brown his coach/lover. Billy is assassinated by a sniper at the Montreal Olympics in 1976.

*HARLAN'S RACE* picks up the story the moment after Billy's death and continues through to 1990. It tells the story of those who were a part of Billy's life, especially Harlan Brown. He is the narrator as we follow him through his grieving process from shock, disbelief, anger, and final resolution. Most of the important characters from *The Front Runner* return in *HARLAN'S RACE*. Vincent Matti, Billy's wild and crazy best friend, is back to struggle with Harlan's conservatism. Betsy, the lesbian athlete and mother of Billy's child, returns to fight for the struggle to protect her son. John Sive, Billy's gay father, is back to both antagonize and support Harlan. Many other characters are revisited, along with a list of new ones.

*HARLAN'S RACE* is also a reflection of the gay experience in the wide open seventies. We follow the characters from New York to Fire Island to Los Angeles and points in between. Patricia Nell Warren expresses the gay experience poignantly from the joy to the breakpoint which was part of the new found freedom after Stonewall.

*HARLAN'S RACE* is a love story. The love of the stoic Harlan for the passionate Vincent Matti. Ms. Warren has the uncanny ability for writing about the love between two men in a realistic, tempestuous, and erotic way. The struggles of Harlan and Vince are played out against the constant threat of the mysterious stalker who weaves his way into their lives. The secret identity of the stalker adds an element of suspense to the book.

Of course, how could any author write about gay life in the 1980s without writing about AIDS. Patricia Nell Warren touches her characters early on with a strange syndrome which starts killing gay men in New York. She presents AIDS in an accurate way that at the onset nobody made the connection. When people started realizing what was happening, it was already too late. By the time the characters in the book begin to put it together, the plague is raging and all are affected in one way or another.

*HARLAN'S RACE* is also the story one man's coming of age as he reaches his middle years. The mistakes and experiences of the past influence today and tomorrow. Harlan stops fighting his demons and his acceptance of life on life's terms is a important reminder to us all.

Patricia Nell Warren said on a recent visit to Portland that she does not aspire to write great masterpieces, but wants to tell stories of the gay experience. When asked why she, as a woman and a lesbian, writes about men, she answered it is part of her healing process. *HARLAN'S RACE* may be part of our personal healing processes. AA

MUSIC ON REVIEW:
Light Up the Night — a winter celebration
The Maine Gay Men's Chorus
By Bruce Balboni
The Maine Gay Men's Chorus distinguished itself yet again with another superb performance. Splendid, uplifting, heartfelt, amusing and tender are among the words to describe their soaring talent and uniquely rendered music. However, the most important for me is not one word but two — gay pride. I feel that ineffable wonder and thrill of pride and honor whenever I am in their presence. Their performance at St. Luke's Cathedral, December 11, was no exception.

There, amid the Gothic splendor of Portland's most beautiful church, was an assemblage of gay men singing, and a largely homosexual audience enjoying them. For me, there is something indescribably special about these events. The Maine Gay Men's Chorus' contribution to the community goes far beyond entertainment. I believe they are actually in the process of providing a piece of spiritual foundation for our lives.

The concert began with men carrying banners and leading a procession from the rear of the church, down the central nave and along the left side, so that the chorus could converge simultaneously at the altar. They opened with the Gregorian Chant, "Alleluia," followed by the Processional, "Alleluia".

See MGC, Page 18

"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 "I Guess My Name Is Scrooge," the remembrance of its many messages will continue to impact you long after Santa has gone.

The girls have done it again through skillful writing and brilliant performances that kept us howling and stunned us into silence. Marilee's elegant production of Dickens' Christmas classic was poignant and powerful in its style and wit. Through direct dialogue, outrageous images and a "soundtrack" befitting each scene, Marilee helped us to laugh at our own foolishness while simultaneously questioning what's important.

Joanna Amato's performance as Carol was again an illustration of her consistent ability to adopt the many faceted complexities of any character she plays. Her powerful delivery as the indiffernt, career-oriented, architect was not challenged in the least by her portrayal of a sensitive, mournful lover or as a young, adoreing adolescent girl asking, "What do soldiers have to do with Christmas?" Joanna's ability to believably become any image Marilee asks her to play, not only illustrates her remarkable talent as an actress, but also offers charity and honesty to her audience. The result is an opportunity to feel the joy as well as the pain and be real in our contemplation of what affects us.

The biggest surprise of the play, however, was Eddie Hoffman, who clearly stole the show as Suzanne, the ghost of Christmas Past. She was outrageous and flamboyant in her role as Carol's ex-lover, yet her animated delivery of one-liners left the audience speechless. Her portrayal of Victoria, an ACT UP activist fighting against AIDS, cut right through the rhetoric of politically correct hoopla with direct honesty and uproarious hilarity. Eddie's silent ghost of Christmas Future set the stage of impending doom while providing the needed contrast to provoke reflection.

Michele Gagnon also gave a stunning performance as Sophie, Carol's ex-lover, through direct dialogue, outrageous images and a "soundtrack" befitting each scene, Marilee helped us to laugh at our own foolishness while simultaneously questioning what's important.

BOOKS ON REVIEW:
Title: *Penitence*
Author: Edward J. Armstrong
Publishers: Luminus 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 See Penitence, Page 18

CPR — January-February, 1995 Page 17
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) may be hostile or dismissive toward their lesbian clients.

A second issue of difference in lesbian health is the risks to our health based on the characteristics of lesbian lives 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 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 more 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 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.

- The lack of conclusive research about most lesbian health issues has led to the use of inconclusive phrases such as "may be" and "probably". Further research will help remove the tentativeness of these findings.

Meanwhile, we can use the current research findings to begin thinking about 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, including 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 more information, write LHPI, 257 SM, PO Box 11048, Portland, ME 04104. (207)772-2699.

Penitence from page 17

Cum Laya" as they entered. The first half of the concert was a mixture of traditional, ethnic and modern holiday pieces. When I heard the first few notes of "Oh How Can I Keep From Singing," I thought, "Oh, how can I keep from crying?" This beautiful song, made famous by Enya, was like clay in the hands of the master sculptors. The arrangement chosen featured the tenor, Timothy Bate. I think all the singers in the chorus are good, and this is no attempt to rank, but Mr. Bate's voice is simply superb. The clarity of his crystal tenor is near perfection.

Intermission was followed by the Maritones whose blend of dramatics and songs were delightful and funny. They managed to create a complete mood with a scarf here, a gesture there and an abundance of attitude. This section of the event progressed, and Steve Fleming provided the last problem I have with this book is the disclaimer on page xiii, which states in full: "No profits from the sale of this book will go to any of the characters mentioned herein including Jim Baines. The author is donating a major percentage of any proceeds to the FEPP 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-segregate all as if this in this book just does not do it.

MGMC from page 17
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! 
- 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 day to day life I live. 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.

---

Scrooge 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.

---

Murphy’s Manor by Kurt Erichsen

Hello my name is dead do re mi wo re do ma pla y me the theory of natural selection. You remember it from school individually best suited to survive are the ones that live to reproduce. This is law of nature that is 98% but 400% changes everything. Now those who breed do not want the risk of their lives. The way to survive is by not reproducing. The way to perpetuate the species is by celibacy.

---

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