

Community Pride Reporter

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

VOL. 2, Number 7

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1995

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 affirmative action. Herein, CMF alleges, lies the conspiracy.

Steve Wessler, Assistant Attorney General in charge of hate crime prosecution, said that CMF's claims that the Attorney General's office inflates hate crime statistics is "just plain wrong." He added, "It's hard to know how to respond to something so ridiculous. We

are law enforcement officers, we are lawyers and we work with investigators and we work with police officers to enforce the laws of the state of Maine."



Steve Wessler, Asst. AG, assured the public that AG's office will continue vigorous enforcement of the law despite CMF's irresponsible charges.

At the Augusta press conference, CMF displayed an elaborate flow chart showing how recommendations made by the state Diversity Commission could be used to funnel taxpayer money to gay

and lesbian businesses. The group says the vicious cycle would be pushed along by unscrupulous politicians. A member of the Diversity Commission said the whole idea is ridiculous. "That's utter nonsense. In fact, the final report of the Diversity Commission makes it clear that, monetarily, the gay community will not make out positively at all." Various members of the Diversity Commission said CMF is fabricating elaborate lies to further its own political agenda.

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

Cosby "lies" about hate crime statistics

In a separate press release, January 10, CMF claimed that, "At committee workshops of the Diversity Commission, official Hate Crimes and Bias Incident records were shown to members

of the committee." Meyer Bodoff, who was chairman of the Hate Crimes subcommittee of the Diversity Commission, said that statement is "a lie." He added,



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



Pat Peard, President, Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) said, "We will file a legal challenge against Concerned Maine Families' referendum question."

that we had planned to review.

In an interview with Sutton, she raised concern that the many people who volunteered for this project might not see this as the good 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 departs for the Peace Corps in late January, the seat representing Maine House District 31 will be open.

Up until recently, the contest to succeed Oliver was an all-Democratic affair. Green Party activist, 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 Major-
See House Dist. 31, page 6



Michael Saxl, candidate for House District 31 is the son of Jane Saxl (D) who represents House District 120, Bangor.

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 Portland. There are three other such organizations: K.I.S.S. — Kennebec Individuals for Safer Sexuality (Monmouth Academy); S.A.F.E. — Students Against False Education (South Portland High); and, S.L.A.M. — Scarborough for Latex Availability and Maturity (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/Advisor 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
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4. Education that teaches about what HIV and AIDS are, how HIV is transmitted, and the biological effects of HIV and AIDS
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 can 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, "Christina Mason called me and said they would participate by going outside every 6 minutes. I told her I could not give her permission and [said] if you do it, you'll be truant; it's not a school activity. We gave them one demerit for being tardy, 5 demerits equal in-school suspension.

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

Patton told CPR that there is an AIDS awareness group at Deering High headed by the 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. Patton, we don't care if you approve this. We're not seeking approval, we're going to do it anyway." Patton said, "This action raised zero awareness at Deering High."

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



Malakie Photo

Christina Mason, student activist at Deering stood up to threats and intimidation from principal, Dr. Jan Patton. Mason participated in a die-in at Deering to mark World AIDS Day.

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 said basically, '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

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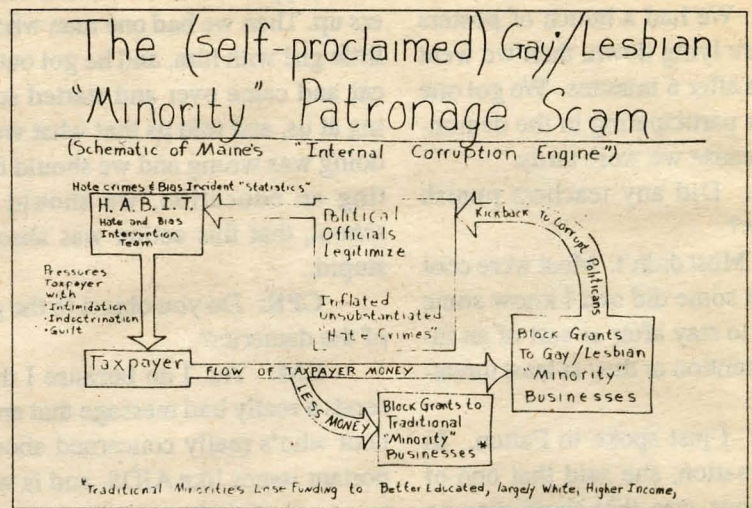
CMF, from page 1

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

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

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

Lockman also said, "We (CMF) find it shocking and irresponsible that attorney's for Maine's AG's office are apparently prepared to record and report grossly misleading official statistics to create the false impression of an 'anti-homosexual hate crisis' in Maine. We believe the sole reason for this, is to back-up the 1994 recommendations of



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.

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 inflated, as CMF claims, hate crimes and bias incidents are under-reported, and these incidents are even more widespread than the statistics indicate.

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

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

See CMF, page 5

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

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

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

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

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CMF, from page 4

ily and perhaps then he would appreciate the human dimension to these problems.

Incredibly, after attacking the personal integrity of the Assistant Attorney General, the Portland Police Department and the members of the Diversity Commission, CMF re-issued its appeal for those involved in the human rights debate to sign CMF's, "Resolution Statement in Support of Principled and Civil Debate which pledges both sides to open and fair debate solely on the issues, free from name calling..." People who have opposed CMF are called, by them, "militant gay lobby." Most of the people so labeled by CMF weren't aware of the militancy inherent in supporting human rights.

Carolyn Cosby, former housewife and current chairperson of CMF, has sent repeated requests to Detective John Virginio of the Hate Crimes Division of the Portland Police Department, Stephen Bunker, Supervisor of the Uniform Crime Reporting Division in Augusta and to the new Attorney General, Andrew Ketterer, demanding access to all hate crime/bias incident reports including, "a description of the individual filing the complaint." Cosby asserts in her request that she has the right to know the names of those filing the complaints, but only wishes to obtain these records for the purpose of "tracking this information as concerned citizens of Maine and (they - CMF) wish to follow the general trends that may be occurring."

The neutral expression of interest in files, so far denied to CMF, raises questions as to CMF's recent assertions that these statistics are inflated, and given CMF's interest in winning the referendum against human rights in November, their desire to obtain this information appears politically motivated.

The Community Pride Reporter (CPR) has made several requests to CMF for information that they routinely give to other media. CMF responded by fax to our request as follows: "Thank you for your request for information which we will consider. At this time Concerned Maine Families is reviewing certain policies of your newspaper which may be cause for our concern. Therefore, we cannot act on your request until the review is completed."

CPR is investigating the possibility of copyright violation in the last election when CMF excerpted portions of separate articles from CPR's October issue, pasted them together, and said they came from the same article, in order to give the false impression that John O'Dea, State Senate candidate, supported certain issues that he did not.

Andrew Ketterer, Maine's new Attorney General could not be reached for comment on these matters, but he is the keynote speaker at a meeting, January 14, sponsored by The Social Concerns Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, 69 Winthrop Street, Augusta. The theme of this symposium is "Broadening the Dream — Justice for all." The sponsors

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.



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

Carolyn Cosby, Chairperson of CMF, has said that if the initiative goes to referendum, her organization will not try to raise money outside of Maine. But in a recent Portland Press Herald story, it was shown that CMF has financial ties

to extremist right-wing political organizations and operatives in Arlington, Virginia and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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

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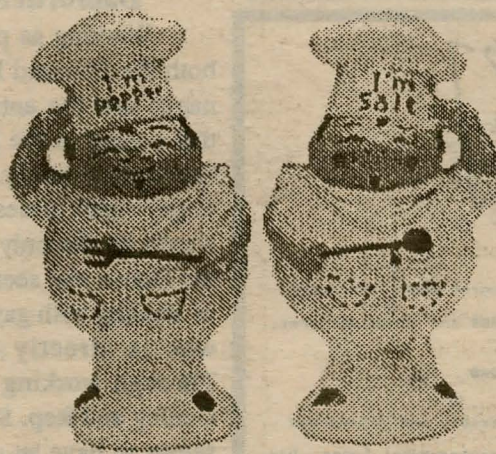


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of the symposium say that, we hope to demonstrate support for legislation which will provide equal protection against discrimination to all of Maine's citizens, and to mobilize efforts to defeat the referendum which seeks to deny equal protection." Ketterer's speech is scheduled for 9 am.

CPR asked Assistant Attorney General Wessler if there was something he could say to the gay, lesbian and bisexual community to calm their fears in the wake of CMF's deceitful charges. Wessler said, "Our office is committed to enforcing the civil rights laws as they apply to all minorities, including gays and lesbians, and we will continue taking reports on hate crimes from anybody who's been a victim or witness to an act of hate, bias or prejudice, and from law enforcement so that nothing that occurred yesterday [at the Press Conference] regarding CMF has changed anything about the Attorney General's commitment to receive complaints and to bring enforcement actions under the Maine Civil Rights Act when necessary". ΔΔ

House Dist. 31 from page 1

ity leader, Saxl worked to get the anti-discrimination act passed in 1990. As a member of the Governor's HIV Advisory Committee, he is an advocate for condom availability and education in 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, Mikhaila

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

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



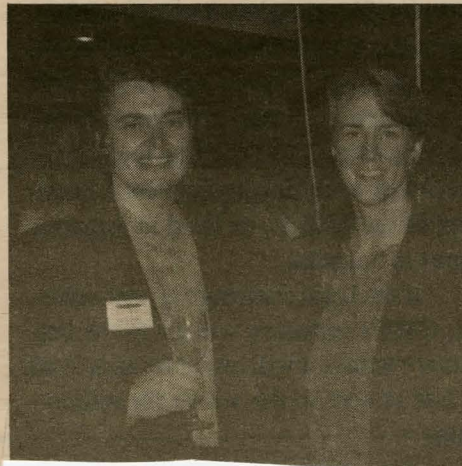
David Garrity, longtime political activist, worked hard for Portland's Human Rights Ordinance.

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

Working as press coordinator for both the Portland Human Rights Ordinance and the anti-discrimination bill that passed in the Legislature in 1993, Garrity has clearly made a commitment to gay rights issues. If elected, Garrity would be the only openly gay man in the House and seems to relish the idea of dealing with gay rights issues as one who is directly affected by them. Through working with Senator Jerry Conley and Rep. Susan Farnsworth, he seems to have an understanding of the level of time and energy needed to be a legislator. He makes it clear that because he is self-employed and his partner is supportive, he has both the ability and the energy to be in Augusta whenever needed.

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

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



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

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

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

Herrick summed up his candidacy by saying, "It's not a matter of running against this opponent or that, it's a matter of trying to advance the Green cause."

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Writing a Personal Journal

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We love you Lee.

Joe Paine
Mary Ann Brown

MWD 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 on 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 Rees). As other numbers and contacts become available, CPR will pass them on. ΔΔ

business district.

yes of those dealing with them." While, along with all the other candidates, she supported the idea of condom availability in high schools, she was the only candidate who "had not thought" about condom availability in prisons, while all others supported it. She was the only candidate, besides Fogel, who discussed economic issues and the importance of the business district in Portland, commenting that a balance of interests is necessary, especially in order for business to be successful and "give back" to the community.

Die-In from Page 3

them that they should come to me about World AIDS Day and how better to get that message across. So I proposed another activity for them to heighten the awareness of the student body around individuals who died from AIDS.

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

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

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

a worthy cause because you're not coming to school on time.'

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

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

CPR: F.A.T.E. sent a letter to your superintendent, David 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 that's not happening.

SG: That's correct.

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

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

I have a contact person in Massachusetts, because Massachusetts has mandated some legislation around forming groups for the gay and lesbian populations within schools, and how you provide the appropriate services, and I've actually extended an invitation to one of the young people in this school to accompany me to Massachusetts to meet individuals to see how they organize the different types of services and so forth. I think we're taking a very pro-active and well-planned approach to looking at

'how do I make sure that all of the kids in my building are not discriminated against whether it be for race or sexual preference?'

My message to my kids is, 'You need to talk to me, you don't need to go out and demonstrate. Just come to my office and we'll have a very educational, intelligent conversation and work together to make sure your needs are met.'

There is a young man whom I have approached who has very openly proclaimed that he is gay. He is a young man that I have tried to make very comfortable.

CPR: Is that Tim Arnold?

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

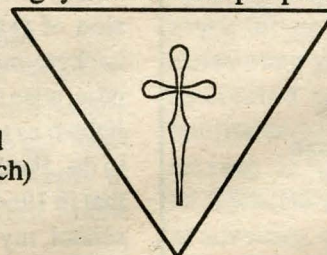


The AIDS Project invites you to a reception Saturday, January 21, 5-7 PM. 2 Gannett Drive, So. Portland. Entertainment provided by USM String Quartet and the Maine Gay Men's Chorus. Donations will be gladly accepted at the door. Join us!

Metropolitan Community Church Portland, Maine

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

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



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

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

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 defeated.

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

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04101

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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."

EDITORIAL

CONDOMS — Si ou non? By Bruce Balboni, Managing Editor

I watched the televised Portland School Committee meeting held at PRVTC on December 5, regarding condom availability in Portland and Deering High Schools. The public was invited to speak on this issue. As the meeting wore on, my anxiety quickened and I began to feel an attitude that can only be described as, "a curse on both your houses." Has it actually come to the point where making condoms available in high school can be defended because students need to avoid embarrassment?

And on the other side — one had the opportunity to listen to Michael Schools rant and rave about the horror of showing an erect penis in a classroom. I hate to tarnish Mr. Schools' impression of reality, but somewhere in his background there looms an erect penis, otherwise he wouldn't be here to enlighten us as he so often feels called upon to do. Further, Mr. Schools should know that in 1964, when I took biology in high school, my fellow students and I waited impatiently for what then was known as the "film of the year." Finally, the great day came when there on the screen, in a classroom, were anatomical depictions of not only erect penises but, gasp, vaginas as well. We all blushed and giggled, but we learned how these organs worked. Most of us thought we already knew.

That was 31 years ago. Most high school kids 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 those 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 absurdly 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 out condoms in prison promotes homosexuality. Put that way, the concern actually seems silly, but the state would find itself in the peculiar position of providing condoms for a kind of sex that,

according to state law, is illegal. Ironically, the riskiest sexual practice for AIDS transmission is anal intercourse, which, regardless of one's sexual orientation, is, in a men's prison, a common occurrence. Also, the community-at-large should consider that the majority of the homosexual acts in prison involve heterosexuals who, upon release, will likely spread the disease to other heterosexuals. Where better then, despite the contradictions, should condoms be made available?

People will argue that men and women in prison should not be having sex. To them I say, "Wake up!"

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

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

Bruce Balboni

CHEW ON THIS

I've never received mail in response to any of my columns before, so I was quite surprised to receive two letters within a week after the December issue of CPR hit the stands. In the past, I have always used my column to address subjects about which I felt quite settled and knowledgeable. However, for my December column, I decided to test the waters and write about an issue that is quite unsettled for me — what to do about Christmas — and perhaps the underlying message was that my dilemma was really what to do about

Rose Mary Denman



Christianity. I wrote this article with the hunch that if the season brought up issues for me, perhaps old wounds were smarting for some of you as well.

The two letters I received are very different from one another, yet they also

have something uncomfortable in common. Each presumed to know my heart and why it is troubled about Christmas and the Church, and each sought to give me quick and easy answers to very complex and painful questions.

In the first, the writer, apparently a member of the Metropolitan Church, opened his letter by stating, "You speak for millions of gays who have been lied to and misled by the haters and dividers who frequent America's pulpits." He then went on to write, "Let me quickly outline the truth." (Underlines, mine)

See Chew, Page 19

GUEST EDITORIAL

By: Carolyn Jalbert/Donna Tennant

The gay/lesbian community has many facets to its energies and business world. Some gay/lesbian businesses are really struggling to continue to provide social gatherings and cultural events that in the past have been unavailable to the community. In order for them to continue to provide these events, community support must be rallied NOW! 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, and indeed suffering 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 so much to make substantial financial gains, but to at least break even and cover the expense of organizing events.

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

There are many of us who are still not "out of the closet" for business/family reasons. Even so, we can still support the community anonymously. There are several politically active organizations such as MLGPA, The Matlovich Society, Maine Won't Discriminate, TAP, etc. Socially there is CPJ Productions, Womensphere

Winter Retreat out of New Hampshire, Spring/Fall Fest, Wild Iris Productions, Sisters, Women's Softball League, Gay Men's Chorus, The Underground, Citi, P.J.'s, etc. Maybe you are not into alliances, music, dancing or softball. If you have other interests, let's take a look at how something could be organized. One way to participate is to support an event by sending a donation in the form of a money order or by having someone else send a check for you if confidentiality is a concern.

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

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

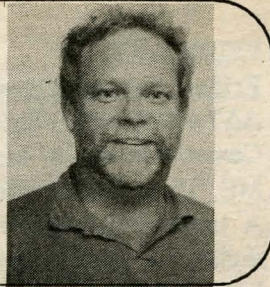
We must do for ourselves what others will not do for us. If you are interested in talking about this issue, call us at 878-3755. ΔΔ

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 the message that because of AIDS we should not be sexual.

David
Smith Ed.D.



And it is precisely our being sexual with members of the same sex that fuels the engine of homophobia in our society. Anyway, back to 1985. The State of New York had just set up its first counseling and testing centers, and a lesbian I know was appointed to head this program. After several meetings with her, I became frustrated. She wanted to force everyone to be tested. There were no treatments available for these people. I favored offering testing, and real counseling, rather than coercion. She complained to my boss that I saw homophobia everywhere! Well thankfully, my boss said "Yes, he does. Isn't that great."

In 1986, I received an award from the Capitol District Gay and Lesbian Community Center. It was for recognizing homophobia everywhere. This is my point. So often, when we build coalitions to do our work, people, from within and without the community, ask us to tone down our vigilance. They want us not to offend the heterosexual community. They fear,

"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:

- 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?
- 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 collaboration. 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.
- 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 de-gay the epidemic. Gay men are the most disproportionately represented group in the epidemic. And gay male adolescents rarely

Community Pride Reporter

142 High Street
Portland, ME
04101

Suite #634
Phone
207/879-1342

Our Mission

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

Our Editorial Policy

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

Submissions Welcome

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

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receive the education they need.

- 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 chal-

See In These Times, page 19

CALENDAR JAN. - FEB., 1995

Thursday, January 12th:

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

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

Friday, January 13th:

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

Saturday, January 14th:

•Δ 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.

ΔΔ 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:

ΔΔ 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.

•Δ 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.

ΔΔ 4:00-6:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Ellsworth meets at the Unitarian Church on Bucksport Rd. in Ellsworth. FMI, Peter Rees - 207/667-2358.

Tuesday, January 17th:

ΔΔ 2:30-3:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

Wednesday, January 18th:

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

ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham,

ME. Fund Raising meeting. FMI, 725-7632.

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

Friday, January 20th:

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

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

Saturday, January 21st:

•Δ 8:00 AM-4:00 PM - 2nd session of Volunteer training for Peabody House. (See 1/20 FMI.)

ΔΔ 5:00-7:00 PM - The AIDS Project's 10th Anniversary Celebration kick-off reception. 2 Gannett Drive, So. Portland. Hosted by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine. Entertainment by USM's String Quartet and the Gay Men's Chorus. Donations gladly accepted at the door. FMI, 774-6877. Snow date: January 28th.

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

Sunday, January 22nd:

ΔΔ 8:00 AM - Ski Trip to Sunday River sponsored by Time Out and Blackstone's. Bus and ski ticket packages available. Cross country skiing as well. FMI, 871-9940.

ΔΔ 7:00 PM - Portland Democratic City Committee meeting, Reiche School. This group will nominate the person to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jim Oliver.

Monday, January 23rd:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland, St. Luke's Cathedral, State St. General meeting for info. & updates first 45 min. Remaining time for committees to meet and do their planning and work. FMI, 761-1788.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. NEW! Book Group meets every other Monday night. Reading and discussing "Women Who Run With Wolves." FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, January 24th:

ΔΔ 2:30-3:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

Thursday, January 26th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine- Meditation Group, women & men. 67 Main St., Topsham,

ME. FMI, 725-7632.

Friday, January 27th:

•Δ 6:00-9:00 PM - 3rd session of Training for Peabody House Volunteers. (see 1/20 FMI.)

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

Saturday, January 28th:

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

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

Monday, January 30th:

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

Tuesday, January 31st:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - WELCOME BACK! The Gathering meets as USM's Campus Center, Portland, Rm B & C. Topic: Teen AIDS Activists discuss their work with F.A.T.E. FMI, Faith Worthley - 774-4919.

FEBRUARY:

Friday, February 3rd:

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

Saturday, February 4th:

ΔΔ 8:00-12:00 midnight - Women's Pre-Valentine Dance, sponsored by Wild Iris Productions. Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave., Portland. Chem-free, DJ, Refreshments. \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Advance by mail only: Wild Iris Productions, Inc., PO Box 17, W. Buxton, 04093.

Sunday, February 5th:

ΔΔ 4:00-6:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Bangor meets at Peace and Justice Center, 359 Main St., Bangor. FMI, 207/223-5630 or 207/990-3420.

Monday, February 6th:

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Maine Won't Discriminate/Portland, St. Luke's Cathedral, State St. General meeting for info. & updates first 45 min. Remaining time for committees to meet and do their planning and work. FMI, 761-1788.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. NEW! Book Group meets every other Monday night. Reading and discussing "Women Who Run With

Wolves." FMI, 725-7632.

Tuesday, February 7th:

ΔΔ 2:30-3:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

ΔΔ 7:00-9:00 PM - The Gathering meets at USM's Campus Center, Portland. Rm B & C. Topic: Dr. Devra Krassner, N. D., discusses homeopathic treatment and holistic health. FMI, Faith Worthley - 774-4919.

Thursday, February 9th:

ΔΔ 7:30-9:00 PM - The Matlovich Society meets. "Love Makes The World Go Round: Matlovich Throws a Valentine Party! Share expressions of love with friends. Dust off those love letters, that special poem, sing or play your favorite love song. An open mike evening. Refreshments. Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland. Accessible to the mobility-impaired; free hotel parking.

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

Friday, February 10th:

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

Monday, February 13th:

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

Tuesday, February 14th:

ΔΔ 2:30-3:30 PM - Safe Space Women's Center of Maine, 67 Main St., Topsham, ME. Teen Parenting group sponsored by CHANS. All teen parents and their children are welcome to come and talk with other teens and facilitator. FMI, 725-7632.

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

CPR wants to help publicize your organization's meeting time. In order to do this, we request complete information at least one month prior to your event. This is a free service to the community.

CPR Personals

Discreet Phone Contacts By Area Code

MANFINDER™

MAINE AREA

Bangor **CHAD, 21**, dk brn/brn 5'9, 180, dk cxion, just joined gym, like movies dancing theatre, summertime, iso friendship poss rel- ☎19641

Portland **LAW STUDENT 22**, new to area, iso a poss rel with someone 18-24, var of int, 6'1, 165, if ur int, leave me a message- ☎19876

ME **OUTDOORS PERSON:** Max, 27, brn/brn, 180, camping fishing, outdoors person, walking and hiking, if ur interested give me a call- ☎20964

Augusta **DINNER AND A MOVIE:** Paul, 6'1 175, iso gm 18-35 int are swimming, movies, dinner, if ur free give me a call- ☎18312

Portland **PANTY BOY:** Bobby subm panty boy, wknds free and eves free to pls u- enjoy pleasing you- ☎21275

Bangor **DISCIPLINE AND TRAINING:** Well end'd married Bi Male, 24, 6', iso subm gay bi or str males or couples need discipline and training, discretion assured- ☎21411

Augusta **TWO MAN TENT:** Paul, looking for GWM 18-35, sports, movies, camping, like fit and trim lv a message- ☎18312

Bennington **FUN DOWN BELOW:** Brn/hzl 5'7 like anything from early 70s music, rock to new country, I'm shaved and looking for a good time- ☎18020

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(We'll print it here)
- 3) To pick-up messages from your existing ad
Call: the 900 number & Press the star key (*)

Questions Call: 1-415-281-3183

Houlton **GET PHYSICAL:** Matt, 6'1, 195, like sports, phys activities, romantic quiet times, affectionate iso someone sim, for a rel- 22, give me a call- ☎18099

Limestone **NICK**, looking for a man, generous, considerate, nice looking, give me a call- ☎18198

ME **TODD** 19 Y/O, blnd/hzl, btm iso some tops, if ur int lv a message- ☎19052

Recording your ad:

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

ME **WANT TO TALK?** are you lonesome? like someone to attend to your needs, if you feel like talking give me a call-Daniel ☎19110

ME **MY PLACE FOR INTIMACY,** Conversation, music, massage, videos, cuddling, much more, young find me easy, get to know fun to be with, older men will find me upbeat outgoing, 6' 185, 50, GM professional, will answer all- ☎19485

Oxford Co. **ATHLETIC GUY DIGS TRUCKERS:** 25 5'9 170 athl build int in meeting walkers, truckers, bikers, hairy, bearded rgged const type, like hiking, biking, camping out, welcome visitors and will travel anywhere- ☎17728

Portland **MONOGAMOUS X 2:** Eric, int in a monogamous minded, indiv 18-35 6'2 135 iso sim to proportion, int in yoga, like to read, if u'd like to hook up lv a message- ☎17870

Portland SPECIAL NEEDS:

WM married late 30s with special needs- 5'8, 150, brn/blu health gd shape musc build, lots of int skiing, hiking, sports, looking for buddy, pref married, but not necess, athl type- let me know about you- ☎18379

S. VT **LOOKING FOR FUN?** Jeff 30 5'10 160, iso some fun, lv a message or give me a call- ☎18168

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

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

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

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

MA/VT/NH

Boston **TIM 34 WM** brn/brn, 6', iso friendship poss rel, lv a message- ☎20033

West Chesterfield **GROW TOGETHER:** Bruce, 38, 5'9, 150 blnd/hzl, int in meeting people, being gd friends whatever else happens between us, just you & I growing & exp life 2gether, love dancing, going out, quiet times, life, living learning, gd conv-

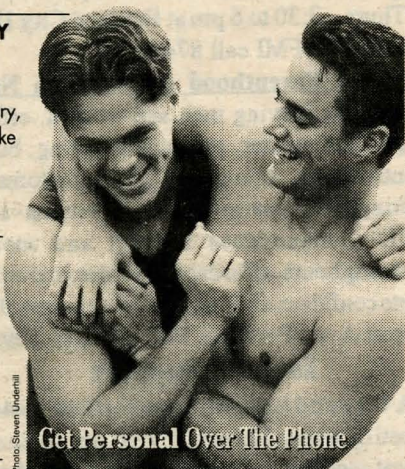
S NH **TODD 28**, looking for some other guys to get together with, 6'1, 175, athl build, lv a message- ☎20317

Boston **LIGHT COMPLEXION GBM:** It cxion 37 6'3 190, into theatre, movies, dancing, iso 30-40 for friendship, poss rel- ☎20474

Boston **THEATRE AND DANCE:** John, GBM It cxion, 37, 6'3, 190, enjoy theatre, movies, dancing, int in meeting 30-40 with same int, int friendship or rel, pls give me a call - ☎20474

Springfield **BLONDE BI WM**, 28, blnd/blu 6'1 180, iso fun loving men who is willing to give me pleasure- ☎20836

Ft. Devins **CUDDLE AND MORE:** Ray, 35, WM 5'10, 150, red/brn into cars,



Get Personal Over The Phone

movies, rides, like to cuddle and more, iso guys 18-35 like to cuddle give me a call- ☎20927

Lowell **CHRIS 24**, 5'4, iso someone who wants to have a good time, interested give me a call ☎21082

Boston **AGGRESSIVE MEN:** Scott, 35 boyish, 5'9 135 ,dk brn/hzl, cln shaven mod hairy, wide int looking to date masc aggr man, interested, lv a message- ☎21090

Boston **LOOKING FOR MEN:** David, 20, looking for men, for some good times, anytime, give me a call- very gdlkg, and hot- ☎21332

NH **GOOD SKATE:** Rick dk hair/blue eyes, like to skate and dance, like to meet new guys, ☎17274

Nashua **ROLLERBLADER:** Rick, brn/blu, like to skate, dance, give me a call- ☎16231

New Bedford **WANNA RACE?** Larry, 5'5, blnd/blu 135, smooth, like sports, theatre, bowling, competitive sports, iso a rel, let's start as friends- ☎17028

S. NH **PARTY TIME:** Jeff 28, iso some guys, 18-35, lv a message and I'll get in touch with you- ☎15943

MA **COMPANY'S COMING:** Antony, 20, looking for good friends, bring them over give me a call- ☎17722

SE Mass **RELAXED AND MELLOW:** Will, SE Mass, 28, brn/blu, 6', just looking for someone who has the same int, movies, hangin out, clubbing, relaxed, mellow like to have fun- ☎14591

Lesbian Personals

FEMALE ONLY PERSONALS

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MONEY TALK: What's new - 1994 tax returns?

By Peter J. Callnan, CPA

Welcome to 1995! The holidays have passed and the new year has been rung in. Now, Bill and Angus want to know how much money you made in 1994. In this month's article, I will be giving a quick and brief review of the 1994 tax law changes. It may help in reporting to the aforementioned gentlemen what you have for taxable income.

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

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

- Standard deductions for individuals who do not itemize have increased to \$3,800 for Single, \$5,600 for Head of Household, \$6,350 for Married, Filing Jointly, and \$3,175 for Married, Filing Separately. The standard deductions are increased if you are age 65 or over, or blind. Check your booklet if this applies to you.

- The standard allowance for business mileage has been increased to 29¢ per mile. The IRS does not consider commuting to a regular place 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 children 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 canceled check is no longer adequate documentation. The deadline for obtaining a receipt is the date you file your 1994 return.

- More Social Security benefits are taxable. If your Provisional Income (Gross income before benefits + 50% of your Benefits) exceeds \$34,000 if Single, or \$44,000 if Married, Filing Jointly, then up to 85% of your benefits may be taxable. 50% of them may be taxable if your provisional income is lower. This is a tricky calculation, but there will be a worksheet in your tax booklet to assist you in determining if any of your benefits are taxable.

Well, these are just 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!

OUT OF TOWN! DEALS! DEALS! DEALS!

By Paul Bernard

January is one of the slowest months for travel, and as such, many travel suppliers (airlines, cruise lines, hotels, etc.) offer some fantastic deals.

As of December 30th, the airlines are having a sale of up to 40% off regular prices. This is for travel between now and May 23, 1995 for all domestic markets except Florida - which is for travel between now and February 15, 1995. Prices are lower for travel Monday through Friday and require a Saturday night stay-over. Tickets must be purchased by January 13, 1995. Here are some sample prices: Portland to: Orlando - \$238/\$278; San Francisco - \$398/\$438; Los Angeles - \$398/\$438; Las Vegas - \$398/\$438; Seattle - \$398/\$438; Honolulu - \$640/\$708; Phoenix - \$398/\$438; New York - \$178/\$218; Washington - \$178/\$218.

Also on sale are selected cities in Europe. Boston to: Paris - \$398/\$438; Frankfurt - \$398/\$438; Madrid - \$398/\$438; London - \$338/\$388. The rules and dates are a little different from the domestic ones, but these are still great prices.

The cruise lines are also experiencing a slowdown during January and February and are offering some great deals on cruises. Some are even offering two-for-one specials.

TNT/Haley out of Boston is run-

ning some last minute air and hotel specials for January travel. For example: Boston to: Cancun - from \$399; St. Maarten - from \$569; Aruba - from \$549; Puerto Vallarta - from \$449. All of these include round-trip charter air from Boston and 7 nights hotel - based on double occupancy. These are for selected dates only. TNT runs charter planes to these locations and when they have empty seats on flights, they discount them to fill the planes.

If you have any vacation time during January, call your travel agent and see what they can do.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- I have been invited to speak at the January 12th meeting of the Matlovich Society. The topic will be GAY/LESBIAN TRAVEL. Come on down - I'd love to meet you.

- I will be mailing out a special packet of gay/lesbian travel products sometime in mid-January. It will contain approximately 25 brochures from companies that deal solely with Gays and Lesbians. If you want to receive one of these packets, please call me at 885-5060 or 800-234-6252 and I'll be sure to mail you one.

- ANGELS IN AMERICA is coming to Boston March 3rd.-15th. The show is closing its New York run and will be on the road going from coast-to-coast. I will be putting together a bus package tour for March 11th. If you are interested, give me a call at the number listed above. ΔΔ

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COMMUNITY PRIDE RESOURCES

GENERAL

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

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is a support, advocacy and educational group for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. See complete listing under PHONE SUPPORT for contact numbers.

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

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

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

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

MUSIC & ART

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

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

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

PHONE SUPPORT

Region by region

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

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

Portland:

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

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

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

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

Bangor: Eastern Maine AIDS Network: 990-3626

Belfast: Waldo-Knox AIDS Coalition: 338-1427

Brunswick: Merrymeeting AIDS Support Services: 725-4995

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

Rumford: Community AIDS Awareness Program: 823-4170

Lewiston: Androscoggin Valley AIDS Coalition: 786-4697

Waterville: Dayspring: 626-3432

Ellsworth: Down East AIDS Network: 667-3506

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

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

Contacts in Maine

(* indicates monthly meetings)

Augusta/Hallowell: 623-2349

*Bangor/Brewer: 989-5180

Brunswick/Bath: 729-0519

*Oakland: Steve, 465-3870

*Lewiston/Auburn: 783-9789

*Portland: 766-5158

Waldoboro: 832-5859

Contacts in New Hampshire

P-FLAG NH 24 hour Helpline:

603/623-6023

Concord: Judy, 603/485-3943

Webster: Betsy, 603/746-3818

Manchester: Hans & Lin, 603/668-0741

Nashua: Nancy, 603/880-8709

Kensington: Nora/John, 603/772-3893

Stratham: Betty, 603/772-5196

Francestown: Cy/Gordon, 603/547-2545

Hanover: Shirley/Tom, 603/643-8331

Holderness: Olivia, 603/968-7254

Center Sandwich: Tish, 603/284-6434

New Hampshire P-FLAG Meetings

Concord: Meets 3rd Sunday from 3-5 pm at 1st Congregational Church, Washington & North Main Streets. (use Washington St. entrance), FMI call 603/472-4944.

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

Monadnock Region: Meets 4th Monday from 7-8:30 pm at The Place to Go, 46 Concord St., Peterborough, FMI call 603/547-2545 or 603/623-6023.

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Medical Support

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

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

Identity Support

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

NA: Just for Today meetings every Wednesday, 8:15 pm, at St. Luke's Cathedral, State St., Portland. Use Park St. entrance in rear. Also Friday meeting, 8:00 pm, Immanuel Baptist Church, corner Deering & High St., Portland. Use rear entrance off Deering St.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TransSupport Group: Meets regularly, providing confidential support, education and social activities for cross dressers, transsexuals, their families, friends, & others interested in gender dysphoria issues. FMI write TransSupport, P.O. Box 17622, Portland, 04112.

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

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

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

Lesbian/Bisexual Support Group: Meets every Tuesday, 7-9 PM, at Women's Resource Center 101 Fernald Hall at UM Orono. FMI call 581-1425.

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

Seacoast Gay Men: Meets Mondays (except holidays), 7 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 292 State Street, Portsmouth NH. Support, speakers, events. FMI call 207/439-1623 or write P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03802-1394.

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

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

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

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

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

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. Call 207/774-5025 for information and location.

Classified Advertising

Parents

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

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

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

Youth Support

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 youth 22 years and under. Call "First Call" at 795-6677 or 1-800-339-4042 and ask about OUTRIGHT.

OUTRIGHT/Portland: Meets every Friday from 7:30-9:30 pm at Williston West Church, 32 Thomas St., Portland. Safe and supportive discussions with and for gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning young people. FMI call 774-TALK, or 774-HELP or write to P.O. Box 5077, Portland, ME 04101.

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

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

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

HIV Related Support Meetings

Portland:

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

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

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

1st Wednesday: PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support), 5:30 pm. Call 775-PAWS. Charles Wynott, Program Coordinator.

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

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

Lewiston: Information & support meetings for People Living with HIV. Call 786-4697 FMI. AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn.

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

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

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

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

Maine AIDS Alliance

Member Organizations

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

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

AIDS Coalition of Lewiston-Auburn: P.O. Box 7977, Lewiston, ME 04243. Call 786-4697.

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

Community AIDS Awareness Program: c/o Mexico Cong. Church/UCC, 43 Main St., Mexico, ME 04257. Call 364-8603.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

People With AIDS: 696 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Call 774-2198.

St. Joseph's AIDS Project: c/o NMMC, 1111 Portland Kent, ME 04743. Call 834-3355.

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

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

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FOR RENT: OFFICE

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

HELP WANTED

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

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

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TRAVEL/VACATION

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PERSONALS

ΔΔ Wells, ME area: Young man wanted to share fun times and for discipline, spanking and deep dark 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. ΔΔ

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

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

ΔΔ OPEN AUDITION: Portland's feminist theatre ensemble, THE FURIES, seeks performers for upcoming show in March. Beginners welcome. Tuesday, January 17th, 8:00 pm. Call 773-4698 for location and information. ΔΔ

BUSINESS ORGANIZATION

ΔΔ The Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Network is looking to expand its membership. We have met three times and are in the process of developing a directory of gay/lesbian/bi owned or friendly businesses. We plan to conduct seminars on issues related to being a business/professional lesbian/bi women. We also are planning to have social times together. FMI, call Carolyn Jalbert, 878-3755 or Winnie Weir, 879-1342. ΔΔ

The Community Pride Resources pages are as accurate 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.

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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 that 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.

SG: I appreciate the phone call.

(Note: During the conference call, Bob Higgins, a student at Scarborough High, said that Principal Gendron, "went totally off the deep end," when F.A.T.E. distributed flyers at the school. Bob added 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 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. I was forced out because I was my aunt's son.

CPR: How did your aunt deal with it?

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 I was still his son and he loved me. Once it spread around school, there were people who came up to me and said 'fag' and stuff and right around November, December I found out it was my best friend who was telling everyone, my ex-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 him much because I don't really get along with him.

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

TA: Not really.

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

TA: Yeah, actually, that's fair to say. They are more radical because I'm not into the protesting thing, 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 of any kind?

RC: Oh no. It wasn't my jurisdiction.

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

RC: Not official school activity, no.

CPR: Does Monmouth have a se-

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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.

tion, 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.

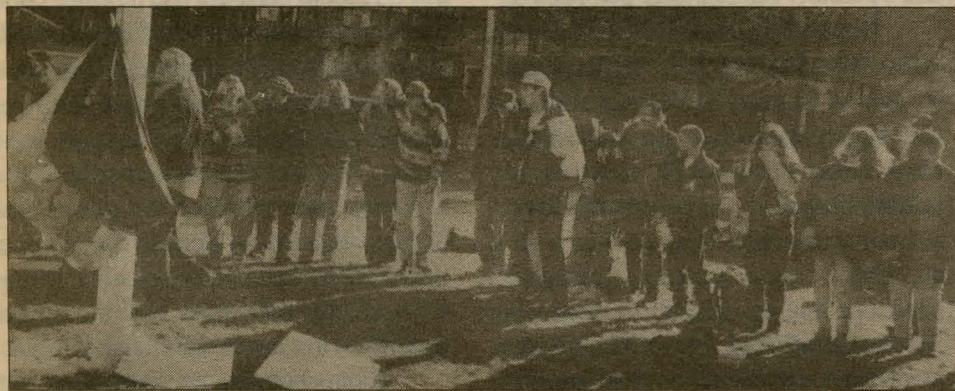
CPR: And did you serve out the detention?

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



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

South Portland High

CPR then spoke to Beth Waite (**BW**) a sophomore at South Portland High. The organization there is known as S.A.F.E.

CPR: Did the school officials take your action acknowledging World AIDS Day seriously?

BW: No. They all thought it was just an excuse to get out of school.

CPR: What was the nature of the involvement of your Principal, Jacqueline Soychak?

BW: At one point they would not let us back in the building. They said, "You're out there, you're out there for good and you can't come in."

CPR: Who is "They?"

BW: Ms. Soychak and the Assistant Principal Mr. Drisko.

CPR: Describe the events of 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, "honk for safe sex." So we decided to stay out there. After about an hour they said you can't come back in.

CPR: So what finally happened?

BW: After awhile they changed their mind and said, 'OK you can come back in, but if you do, you can't go back out,' because some people were going in to get coffee because it was really cold, and some people left and went to the die-in for Portland High which was at Deering in the afternoon.

CPR: Were the students who participated considered tardy once they were let in and if so, what disciplinary measures followed?

BW: Well, if they went in after the six minutes of just being tardy they would have gotten two demerits which is basically one day of detention from 2 o'clock till 3:30, and the people who stayed out all day got seven days of mandatory deten-

tion to what you were doing?

BW: I know she didn't like it and none of the people there really wanted to listen to what we had to say. We were considered basically a bunch of trouble makers.

CPR: Have you had a lot of contact with Soychak?

BW: Nobody except teachers has much contact with Soychak. She's kind of distant. You're more likely to have contact with the assistant principals but it comes down the line that she's not happy.

CPR: Has Soychak been supportive at all around any of the things you're trying to accomplish dealing with safe sex education?

BW: Oh no, not at all.

CPR: Is there any kind of sex education going on at your school?

BW: Yeah, but it's the same sex education that they've been teaching since the 1960s. You know, the scientific, sperm and egg, you know, stuff like that. I think we need education about how we can get these diseases. AIDS education for me was the Ryan White movie which was good, but most people don't get AIDS from blood transfusions.

CPR: It does seem pretty clear that one of the reasons why this society has such a hard time talking about AIDS is because of their attitudes about homosexuality.

BW: Also I think another reason is that parents just don't want to admit that their kids are having sex. It's hard for them to face the fact that their child is growing up, and part of growing up is having sex.

CPR: Where does the issue of condom availability at South Portland High stand?

BW: I don't think it's going to happen, at least not while I'm there.

CPR: Do your classmates support the idea?

BW: Most do, but some don't care. One of my friends who is a devout Chris-

This and that... aka PSA's

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland will host a Potluck Supper and Social on Sunday, January 15th at 6:00 pm at 156 High Street (Immanuel Baptist Church). All are welcome. For more information, please call 773-0119. **ΔΔ**

Support Group for adult female survivors of sexual assault: The Rape Crisis Center will be offering a free and confidential support group for adult female survivors of sexual assault beginning Wednesday, January 18, 1995. The group is co-facilitated and will meet for eight consecutive Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Contact Anne Marie at 774-3613 to register. **ΔΔ**

Womensphere Winter Retreat: February 17 through February 20. Join us and feel the energy created through music and dance, discussions and play, meals and space, when women gather. Concert and dance featuring Justina and Joyce. For more information call 603/942-9941, or write RR1, Box 240A, Northwood, NH 03261.

Announcing a Spring semester course at USM: AIDS: Scientific, Social, and Political Foundations. This two credit-hour graduate-level course (also open to upper level undergraduates and non-degree students) is intended to provide a solid introduction to HIV/AIDS for persons who are likely to be confronting AIDS issues in the context of their professional responsibilities. An emphasis will be placed on the presentation of reliable, scientific information and a focus on applied real-world social, political, and legal problems presented by the epidemic. Special consideration will be given to current issues in the US and Maine. To be held on Thursdays from 4:00-5:40 PM on the USM Portland campus, Room 305 in the Science Building. If you are interested, but are not a student, you may still be able to join the class. For more information, call the USM Registrar's office at 207/780-5230 or Geoff Beckett or Steve Fleming at 287-5551. **ΔΔ**

tian said she didn't care if condoms were in school because she wasn't going to use them anyway.

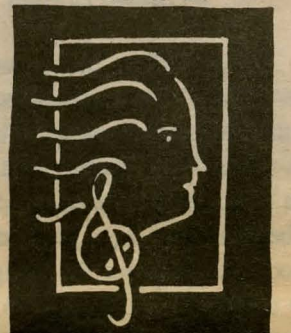
CPR: Is there anything you want to tell me in addition to this information?

BW: About 2 weeks after the protest, me and another person and Richard B. Freed went to the School Board about condom availability and a change in the sex education, and they shot us down because we're teenagers. They said they weren't going to look at these issues because we hadn't gone through a committee, which makes sense, but I'm only 16 and I don't know how to set up that whole process, and in the meantime they won't even look at this stuff.

Richard B. Freed Coordinator/Advisor to F.A.T.E. said that the principal at South Portland High School, Jacqueline Soychak "was going to expel every student involved in the action, but when she realized how many students there were, she decided against it, and those demerits that they got, the students were aware of those demerits. They chose to accept those demerits because they felt strongly enough about this particular issue."

Soychak did not return repeated attempts to call her even after detailed messages were left. She is the only school official of the four schools mentioned here who refused to talk to CPR. **ΔΔ**

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Arts & Entertainment

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 then being out and about. Let's see what could get me out of the house on a cold winter night besides America's Most Wanted, #1 Male Dance Review at Mark's Showplace. For women only, yeah right!

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

Oak Street Productions is offering "New Agelessness" and "The Fever".

A new show at the Portland Museum traces the history of wood cuts. Toni Wolfe

has a powerful show hanging at The Dead Space Gallery.

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

Plans are 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

Indigo Girls

By Aimsel L. Ponti

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

After all the overwhelming hype of Melissa Etheridge, it was nice to see a



show that had a relaxed atmosphere. Civic Center Security wasn't stressed out, and the show wasn't jam packed. We had a great evening with the Indigo Girls. The December 8th show differed from the beginning of the Swamp Ophelia tour because the duo was joined by their band, including bassist Sara Lee.

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

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

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

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

VIDEO REVIEW:

"Jeffrey Dahmer: The Secret Life"

By David Cook

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

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

From the time that Dahmer lives with his grandmother through the period in which he takes his own apartment and commits most of the crimes that were to make him infamous, we are left with a vaguely 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 motive; if you believe, as I do, that he was 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. Childhood flashbacks are used to suggest a lingering sense of grief and bewilderment and are supported by scenes of conversations 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 Jeffrey 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 commit the string of grisly acts that eventually brings him to the public's attention. An early session with a minor, which is reported by a nosy neighbor, results in Dahmer being arrested on a morals charge (before he gets to do the boy in) and is the reason for his parole. 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 chopping 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 then savage them. It all gets pretty tiresome after a while, yet we are still fascinated by it. Why? Is it an interest in the exotic that attracts us (as I think was the case with Hannibal Lechter) or is it rather that we are drawn in by a reality we can't face squarely on — namely that "people like Dahmer" are really people like us, that our own dark urges are kept in check by a socialization process which, in Dahmer's case didn't work or perhaps backfired?

The blurb on the video cassette box states "If this film saves just one life by raising public awareness of the real dangers presented by Serial Killers like Jeffrey Dahmer, then our efforts to produce it will have been worthwhile." Quite apart from the obvious sanctimoniousness of this sentiment, one wonders just how this portrayal is going to arm anyone against "serial killers like Jeffrey Dahmer." After all, they don't have a scarlet letter on their foreheads, so how do we recognize them? The answer, of course, is that we can't; serial killers are often the boy next door or the kindly old man down the street. The essence of Dahmer's success as a killer and of our fascination with him was the ease with which he projected an air of normalcy until his victims realized — too late — that he was far from normal.

Is the intent of this film simply revelation of the darker sides of human nature (as with The Boston Strangler and Silence of the Lambs) or is it some kind of neo-morality play, in which good Christian boys are being warned to stay away from other boys, so as to avoid falling prey to the homosexual menace, which Dahmer epitomizes? Or is it just, after all, another lousy movie designed to make money out of personal misery? I don't know, but if my review saves just one wasted evening of TV-watching by raising public awareness of the banality of "Dahmer: The Secret Life", then my efforts to produce it will have been worthwhile. ΔΔ

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Patricia Nell Warren, author of *Harlan's Race*, the long-awaited sequel to *The Front Runner*

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*. Vince Matti, Billy's wild and crazy best friend, is back to struggle with Harlan conservatism. Betsy, the lesbian athlete and mother of Billy's child, returns to fight fear in 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 heartbreak

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 Vince 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 all our personal healing processes. ΔΔ

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 two sides, so that the chorus could converge simultaneously at the altar. They opened with the Gregorian Chant, "Alleluia," followed by the Processional, "Alle Psallite

See MGMC, 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 month'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



Edie Hoffman, of *The Furies*, as the Ghost of Christmas Past.

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 Ryan's adaptation 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 indifferent, career-oriented, architect was not challenged in the least by her portrayal of a sensitive, mournful lover or as a young 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 clarity 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 Edie 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. Edie'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. See Scrooge, Page 19

BOOKS ON REVIEW:

Title: *Penitence*

Author: Edward J. Armstrong

Publisher: Lucy 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

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TO YOUR HEALTH: Lesbian Health - What's the Difference?

By Tania Jo Hathaway

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

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

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

Even when a lesbian client comes out to her health care practitioner, many practitioners have homophobic responses. Research on the health care experiences of lesbians reveals that

many lesbians have experienced negative responses, ranging from overt hostility to ignoring or dismissing the importance of the disclosure.

Access to health care that takes our lesbianism into account is blocked three-fold 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 indicates an increase in 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 cirrhosis, accidents, suicide, colon and stomach cancer and gastrointestinal hemorrhage.

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

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

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

The report by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force reviews the majority of research on lesbian health-related

issues and makes conclusions based on that review. The lack of conclusive research about most lesbian health issues has led to the use of inconclusive phrases to describe risk (such as "may be" and "probably"). Further research will help remove the tentativeness of these findings.

Meanwhile, we can use the current research findings to help us determine 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, call or write LHP/SM, PO Box 11048 Portland, ME 04104. (207)772-2699.



MGMC from page 17

Cum Luya" 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 song 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 show opened with Robert Diamante doing complete flips down the center aisle — very daring and very skillful.

The holiday spirit grew as the concert progressed, and Steve Fleming provided us all with just the right image of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." I've always thought that the story of Rudolph was an allegory about acceptance and homosexuality, and of course, it is.

The concert concluded with "The Christmas Song," which was just the right touch for me. This show, and the feelings it generated, enhanced my holidays immeasurably. From the smiles, warmth and general sense of cheerfulness amongst the audience, I think the Chorus worked their magic on us all.

Penitence from Page 17

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

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

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

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

The last problem I have with this book is the disclaimer on page 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 PEPP Program, to the Eastern Maine AIDS Network and to fund a scholarship at Charlie Howard's High School." What constitutes a "major percentage"? Why does Armstrong feel the need to include this announcement in his book? What are the reasons for wanting to make this kind of donation? In his "Appreciation" page, Armstrong thanks his son, (now working in the field of movie production) for changing the author's attitude. What attitude? Who is the real penitent here?

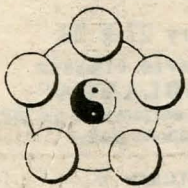
Perhaps Jim Baines really has changed. Perhaps he really is repentant about the part he played in Charlie Howard's death. Perhaps his willingness to accept speaking engagements to talk about his crime really is his way of making amends and seeking to educate others so that crimes like his don't have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

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Chew from page 8

and proceeded to list several biblical passages with commentary on how these have been used by the Church to pass judgment on the gay community.

The second letter came from a lesbian couple who wrote, "How are you supposed to find your sacred space if you fake it until you make it, at some 'smells and bells' place of worship that you don't fit in? So, here's our ideas - get a tree, sing some songs, give some gifts, invite some friends for a delicious dish and live it up for life and for love and know that it's OK to go to church if you want to, but don't try to live half a life in doing so . . ."

I guess what touches me most about the letters is that these folks cared enough to write a response to my column. Yet, I would be lying if I were to leave out the fact that I also felt frustrated that each letter sought to offer a quick fix - and I do know a quick fix when I see one - I used to be the queen of quick fixes!

In another lifetime, actually it was a little more than a decade ago, I was a United Methodist minister serving as a pastor in a local church and offering myself and others what, for me, now feels like quick fix answers. I didn't leave ministry or the Church only because I discovered, at the age of 38, that I am a lesbian, but because the very foundation of my faith had been shaken, and I could no longer be a minister, or even stay in the Church with any sense of integrity.

I found myself questioning everything which, until that point, I had held to be sacred. All my life I had believed in the Trinity; that Jesus was my Savior; that the Church's representation of theology and Scriptures was without dispute; that the Divine had a name, and that name was God; and that the only real way to God was through the Church. (When I use the term "Church", I am referring to all of Christianity, not any one denomination.) So you see, I was having problems with Christianity, not with any particular denomination. And I was having problems with how the Church interpreted the Divine, not just a few passages of scripture here and there.

For the past ten years or so, I have been seeking to find other names for the

Divine, and other ways to understand the Creative and Sustaining Force in the Universe. Rather than looking to interpret these names and way literally, I have been trying to learn how to understand them metaphorically, no small trick for someone brought up and educated in traditions which don't like to think metaphorically or mythically.

For a long time, it has seemed almost impossible to try to go back over old ground and see it in new ways. We can often get so stuck in one way of seeing something, that it almost seems easier to get completely away from it rather than try to appreciate it from another angle. That is why I have sought to fill my spiritual needs through other avenues. It has been through this seeking that I have come to realize, very slowly, that I can find nurturing in some of the rites and rituals of the Church - as long as I can sustain a metaphorical perspective in the middle of it all. This is often difficult, especially when I begin to realize that most, if not all, of the folk around me are listening to the words and understanding them with a more literal interpretation. Yet, during these past weeks and months, I have been finding the going a bit easier.

For too long, I have seen the Church as the enemy - as that which would rob me of the truth, as that which would seek to keep me locked into a patriarchal system that denies the equality of women - as that which would deny the validity of other avenues of spiritual life. These things, as far as I can tell, are all true. Yet, there are people, good people, in the Church who also see these things and want to work to change them. They may be in the minority, but they are there.

I don't know if I will ever find my spiritual home in the Church again. I do know, however, that I need to make peace in my heart with the Church. Twelve Step programs have a motto that goes something like this: "Take what you need and leave the rest." There seems to be a great deal of wisdom in this. If, because of my religious conditioning, I am drawn to ritual, chanting and sacrament, then why not seek to be nurtured by them?

I don't want to, in this column or at any other time, try to offer advice to others. All I can do is share my own

journey as honestly as I know how. If you find something in my journey that somehow enriches or informs your own, well that's great! I am keenly aware that we may be able to walk alongside another as we journey together, but we can never live a carbon copy of another's journey. Perhaps that is why I am willing to continue to struggle with how I perceive my relationship, or non-relationship, with the Church. I once thought we all needed to walk the same walk. When I thought that, I also thought there was nothing for me to do but leave the Church. I couldn't walk their kind of walk any longer. Now I am beginning to wonder if I can walk my own walk and still have some kind of relationship with the Church. I don't know the answers yet, but I am still willing to ask the questions until I find answers that feel right to me.

I guess what I've been trying to say is that if living the Christian faith works for you with just a few very minor adjustments - that's great - but please don't assume that that's all it takes for everyone. And, if you can feel fulfilled by celebrating the holidays sans spiritual or religious input - that's great too - but please try to remember that for some of us, the struggle goes on, and it feels like a very necessary struggle indeed.

I would be remiss to end this column without wishing each and every one of you a most happy and full New Year. May you have in your life whatever feels right and good. May your spirit soar and your heart overflow with happiness. ΔΔ

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. ΔΔ

In These Times from page 9

lenced.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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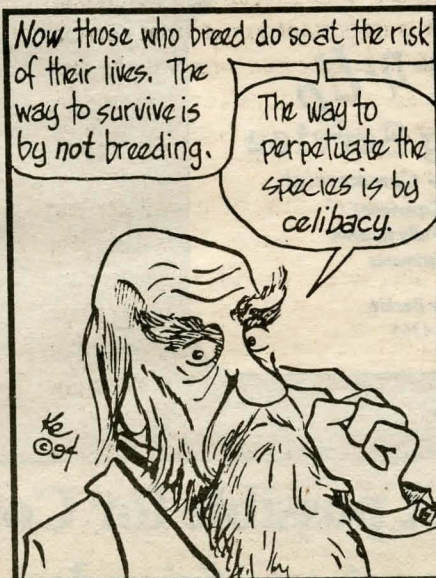
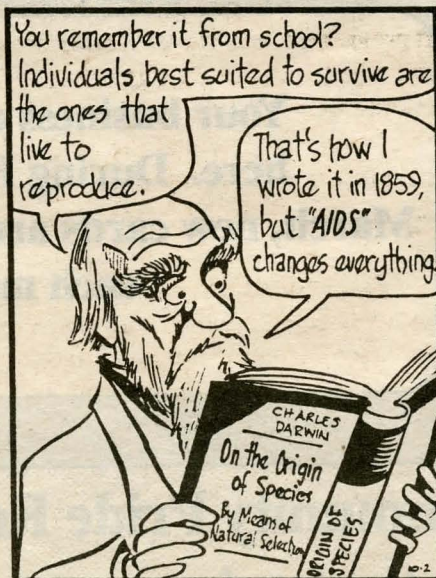
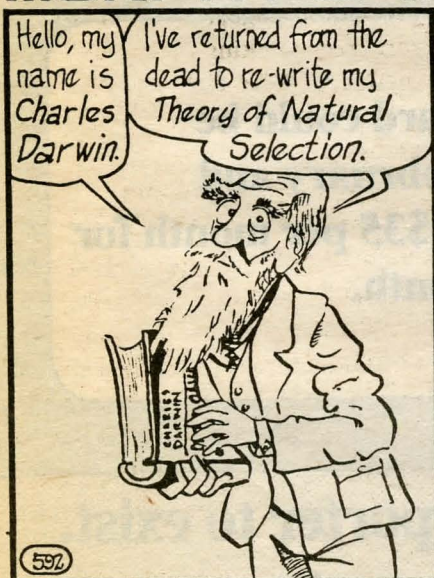
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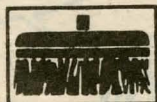
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